

ISLE OF KENT - 1631



NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

Isle of Kent is published quarterly by The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation, P.O. Box 321, Stevensville, MD 21666. Every effort is made to publish accurate information, but no responsibility can be assumed by The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. or the Editor in the event of claim of loss or damage from any contribution. Statements attributed to individuals do not necessarily reflect official policy of the K.I.H.S. Send Isle of Kent correspondence to Jerry C. Myers, Editor, 2809 Cox Neck Rd, Chester, MD 21619

President's Message

*A huge **THANK YOU** to all who took part in this year's KENT ISLAND Day! The weather was beautiful and the estimated crowd of about 2200 was most enthusiastic.*

The children's area was full of activity, making crafts, taking advantage of the petting zoo, and enjoying the Punch and Judy Show. Special thanks should go to: the Denny's whose lawn was the site of many of the artisans; Mr. Billy Baxter with such an interesting array of artifacts from the Bay waters; Bobbi Nash with the wonderful vintage clothing display; and June Palmer furnishing a walk down memory lane with the Old Stevensville High School mementos.

The Silver Bell and the Wildersons were most gracious to let us once again use their electrical outlets. Emma Thomas, Becky Ringgold, Gail Rumenap, the Kent Island Garden Club, Myrtle Bruscup, Audrey Hawkins, John and Chris Smigo, Bill Denny, Maurice Sanger, Donna Jones, Carole Frederick, Eva Thompson, and Sandy and Ron Price were among those who made the day a good one. Florence Dunn and her committee are to be commended for obtaining patron ads, without the generous donations of these patrons (listed elsewhere in the newsletter) the Kent Island Day could not be held. Once again, Bill Denny exercised his salesmanship in securing sponsors for the event. We are most grateful to all those who participated in this 24th annual event.

Next year Kent Island Days will be celebrated on May 20 and 21, 2000. Mark your calendar!

*Nancy Cook
President, Kent Island Heritage Society*

Wish List - Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers
(Docents for the Train Station and Old Stevensville Post Office, event planners, fund raisers, article writers for the Newsletter)

Thanks Liz!

As a member of the Historic Sites Consortium of Queen Anne's Count, Kent Island Heritage Society has acquired much information on restoration of historical buildings, museum and docent workshops and has had the privilege of networking with other historical societies, which has proved invaluable. During the last two years the Consortium has been under the competent hands of administrator, Elizabeth Seidel. She announced her resignation at the May meeting. Liz will be missed; her creative ideas, enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to aid the historic sites promote their projects has made the organization a vital conduit through which we might serve our residents and visitors to the area. As one of Liz's last Consortium duties, she was present at Kent Island Day to provide information about the results of the archaeological dig conducted by Dr. John Seidel and his students from Washington College. Liz was a participant in that dig. Again, Liz, Many Thanks.

KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1999

President	Nancy Cook	758-2502
Vice President	John Smigo	643-4609
Corresponding		
Secretary	Carole Frederick	643-3776
Recording Secretary	Donna Jones	827-7106
Treasurer	Audrey Hawkins	643-5969

Incumbent Board Members

William E. Denny III	1998-2000	643-5869
Charles "Gil" Dunn	1997-1999	643-5414
Mrs. Barbara Nash	1998-2000	643-5196
Ms. Gail Rumenap	1997-1999	643-4245
Mrs. Barbara Siegert	1997-1999	827-7988
Franklin Smith	1997-1999	643-2258
Mrs. Emma Thomas	1998-2000	643-5584
Mrs. Eva Thompson	1998-2000	643-5368

New Members

Ms. Carole Frederick	1999-2001	643-3776
Peter Holland	1999-2001	643-8481
Maurice Sanger	1999-2001	643-6465

Assistant to KIHS: Michael Foster, Esq. Legal Advisor

MEETING DATES - 1999

GENERAL MEETING KENT ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tuesday, June 15, 1999
Refreshments 7:00 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.

*Dr. John Seidel and Ms. Elizabeth Seidel
will discuss the results
of the Cray House Archaeological Dig*

ANNUAL MEETING

KENT ISLAND YACHT CLUB

Saturday, December 11, 1999

Christmas Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome New Members

*John and Diana Bonner
Richard and Cindy Chirumbole
Robert C. and Deborah Towers
Larry and Mary J. Hansel
Dan and Sharon Hopkins
Mona M. Chilote
Louise M. Price
Mrs. Martha P. Olson
Mr. Edward L. Phillips, Jr.
Charles Ford
Wayne Humphries
Claudia Jewell
Lewis Raszewski*

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Old Stevensville Post Office Meeting Room
(All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.)

January 12
February 9
March 9
April 13
July 13
October 12
November 9

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc. Financial Report for January 1, 1999 - May 31, 1999

Submitted by - Audrey V. Hawkins, Treasurer, May 31, 1999

Balance in checking account 1-1-1999 \$25,279.39

Accounts Receivable

Dues	3,320.00
Donations Building Fund	2,790.00
Bank Interest	247.72
Sales Income	628.71
Sales Tax collected	33.04
KI Day Patron	1,220.00
KI Day Vendors	640.00
KI Day Sponsors	1,900.00
KI Day Cake Table	260.00
KI Day Strawberries	153.50
Train Rides	50.00
Train Depot donation	15.00
Cake Table donation	23.00
Petty Cash	50.00
Kirwan Stock Dividend	3,549.52
Scholarship Fund	220.00
Memorials(Charles Kogel & Dorothy Crouch)	490.00
	<u>Total</u>
	<u>\$15,591.29</u>
	<u>\$40,870.68</u>

Disbursements

Purchases to Sell	350.00
Cray House Sewerage	213.20
Cray House Architect	498.20
Train Depot & Cray House(Grass/Electric)	689.65
Postage & Mailing Expense	332.15
Printing & Office Supply	597.67
Kent Island Day Expense	1,673.12
Post Office(HQS) Expense	379.87
Storage Fee	901.52
Miscellaneous	1,215.93
Sales Tax Pd	75.35
Insurance	366.00
Rent Box Fee	59.00
Dues	84.00
Donations,Memberships,Memorial	175.00
KI Day 1998	50.00
Petty Cash	50.00
Kirwan Property Expenses	359.75
	<u>Total</u>
	<u>\$6854.66</u>

May 31, 1999 balance in checking account \$34,016.02

Regular Savings Account Balance \$12,897.79

CD Savings Account 736.03

CD Savings Account \$14,661.72

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS THIS YEAR,
YOU MADE KENT ISLAND DAY SUCCESSFUL !**

**Angler's Restaurant
Annie's Paramount Steak House
Baker's Liquors, Inc.
Centreville National Bank of Maryland
Century 21 - Rosendale Realty
Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
Fisherman's Inn, Inc.
The Friel Foundation, Inc.
Foster, Thompson and Braden
Hogan's Insurance Company
Holly's Restaurant
Island Inn
Kent Island Floor Covering
C.J. Langenfelder & Son
Queenstown Bank of Maryland**

**THANKS ALSO TO THOSE WHO GENEROUSLY
SUPPORTED KENT ISLAND DAY AS PATRONS**

Bobby and Lorraine Aaron
George and Phyllis Abendschoen
Michael and Joann Anderson
Patty Baker
Janet M. Barton
Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Bassford
Carol and Bob Bateman
Harry E. and Nancy C. Bly
Mary Louise Boettcher
John and Doana Bonner
Meg and John Borders
Mr. and Mrs. Theophilus Breeding
Myrtle and Roland Bruscup
Ida Jean Buckel
Elizabeth Bukowsky
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Bullen
Lynette T. Burton
Pat and Francis Carnes
Jim and Katharine Carter
Mrs. Eunice Chance
Richard and Cindy Chirumbole
Mrs. Lois Cockey
Lynne L. Riley Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Collier
Nancy and George Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dadds
Jean Darcy
Hal and Libby Davidson
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Davidson
Norman and Gayle Davidson
Bill and Janet Denny
Duck n' Stuff
Claude DiGiovine
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Doeler
Alta Dunn
Gil and Florence Dunn
Isabel and Jim Ewing
In memory of Thomas R. Ewing
Jeff Ferrell
Charles Ford
M. Ester Foster
Bertha and Wilbur Garrett
Mr. and Mrs. Hugo G. Gemignani
Dot and Mordy Gibson
Jane Grafton
Harry and Eileen Grifith

Mrs. Sol Grollman
Larry Hansel
Mary Hansel
Jerry and Pat Harris
William and Violet Harris
Audrey Bruscup Hawkins
John A. Herndon
Peter Holland
Mrs. Jaqueline Horney
Robert and Lois Horney
Nick and Sharon Hoxter
Mrs. Thomas Olin Hoxter
Constance K. Hurley
Lulu Mae Hutchison
Virginia H. Ingling
Island Garden Club
Joseph and Augusta James
Michael and Helen Katinas
George A. and Barbara R. Jones
Ginger Jones
David A. and Claire Kelley
John and Barbara Kellman
Lee Kessinger
Harry and Ellen C. Klages
Charles J. and Ellen Lacijan
In memory of Dorothy White Crouch
by "Miss Mary"
Dave and Jean Leathery
Marion and Mary Jane Leaverton
Karla J. Larrimore
John W. and Ruth Legg
Edna M. Lewis
Brent F. Lewis
Olive B. Lowe
Mrs. Elmer L. Mankin
Jerry C. Myers
Charles W. and Mary J. Miller
Karl and Carol Milligan
Nathan Morris
Wendy Forbush Morrow
James and Barbara Kettler Mills
Stewart and Barbara Nash
Alfie and Delores O'Brien
George M. O'Donnell
Arthur and Karen Oertel
Dr. and Mrs. Harry C. Rhodes

June Palmer
Thomas G. and Dorothy D. Oyster
Mr. and Mrs. William Patton
Merna and Michael J. Pelczar, Jr.
The Reverend Roy B. and Thelma Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Pierson
Angela Price
Mr. and Mrs. James O. Pippin, Jr.
Harry and Isabel Porter
Mr. and Mrs. Royden Powell, Jr.
James W. Price
Mrs. John T. Price
Louise M. Price
Mr. Edgar Lyston Pyle, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ringgold
John and Jane Robbert
Mary A. Rouchard
Gail B. Rumenap
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Sandusky
Maurice and Ellen Sanger
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Severa
John and Shari Smigo
Mr. W. Franklin Smith
Mrs. Elaine Snyder
Jane G. Sparks
Frances L. Taylor
Willard and Emma Thomas
Kathryn S. Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Thompson
Mrs. Margaret Thompson
Lemeul and Eva Thompson
Ruth C. Thompson
Mrs. Dorothy Tolson
Mrs. Sara Towers
Mrs. Marian Usilton
Mike and Mindy Voelker
Honey Voermann
Mr. and Mrs. Art Wall
Pauline K. White
Peggy A. Whittingham
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wilderson
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Wills and Family
Mary and Ed Yealdhall
Charles and Bonel Zakarian

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS

On May 27, 1999, official documents were signed with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to accept the grant of \$35,000 to begin the first phase of a five-stage restoration of the Cray House. Gregory D. Torchio is the architect for the project. The Society is busily planning fund raisers to acquire the approximately \$150,000 needed to complete renovation of the 1809 unique post and plank constructed building.

The Kirwan House in Chester has been given a new coat of paint and the shutters repaired. Our thanks to Jane McCullough for obtaining estimates and overseeing matters pertaining to the House. Plans for a museum, one of the stipulations of Catherine Kirwan's will which made Society of benefactor of house and property, are in progress with much research and thought being taken in renovation procedures.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CENTER IS OPEN !

by Theresa W. Kilian

On Sunday, 11 April 1999, the beautiful new Percy Thomas Center was packed full of enthusiastic supporters for its official opening. A dream of our community has now been realized after many years, and we finally have a wonderful building for the senior citizens on Kent Island. The Kent Island Volunteer Band under the direction of Emil La Civita was on hand to provide music appropriate to this lively and joyous event.

**HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR
RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE
BIG CRAB FEAST
GIVEAWAY?**

**CALL A BOARD MEMBER IF YOU
WANT TO BUY
OR
SELL TICKETS TO
SUPPORT THE HERITAGE SOCIETY**

10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD WORK ON YOUR FAMILY HISTORY BEFORE THE YEAR 2000!

By Teresa W. Kilian

1. Old books are falling apart from being Xeroxed by other people who are finding their roots already.
2. Old people who are your relatives or who could tell you stories about your ancestors are dying or becoming too ill to talk to you.
3. Original birth, marriage, and death records are costing more to copy or are being closed to the public altogether by overburdened government agencies.
4. The paper important family information is written on is disintegrating and crumbling into dust because it is loaded with acid from the trees out of which it was made.
5. Old ink and early photocopies are fast fading from sight.
6. Old photographs and family portraits are being attacked by PVC (polyvinyl chloride), humidity, light, bugs, mice and other greedy people.
7. Aged, yellowed, brittle newspaper clippings with unique family data are going astray and being ruined.
8. Your children and grandchildren who need to know about your family saga are getting busier and harder to rope into a conversation.
9. You aren't getting any younger either!!!
10. I saved the best reason for last – Right now is the perfect time for everyone to work on their family history because most of the web sites on the internet that have to do with genealogy are still free of charge to use. Our library has a computer for you to use for free. If you would like to know more about genealogy and how you can learn how to use the internet for research, call Terry at (410) 643-6787.

**BRING A FRIEND TO THE NEXT
MEETING ON
JUNE 15, 1999**

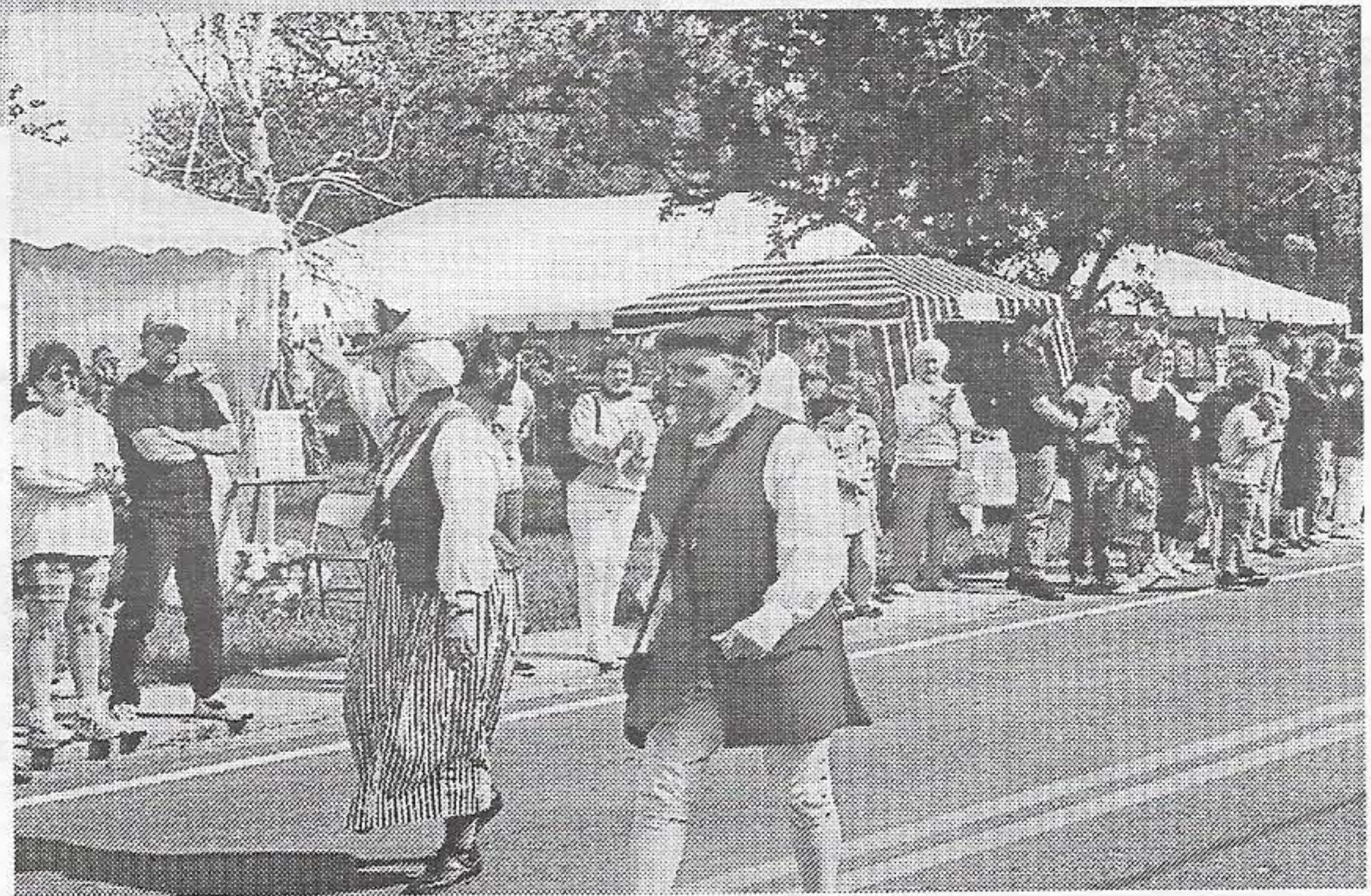
Celebrate Kent Island Day Through Pictures

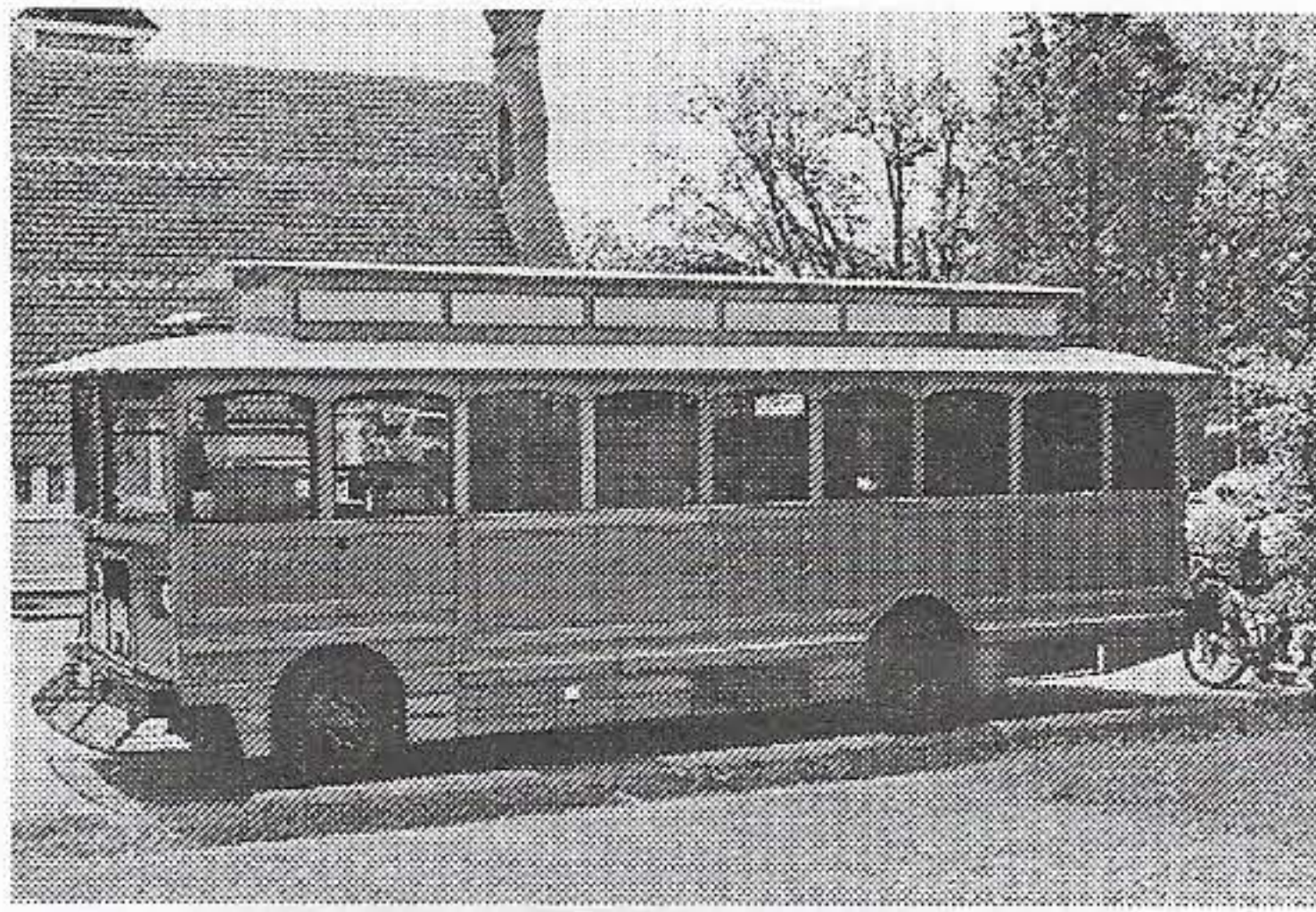


THE BEGINNING.....

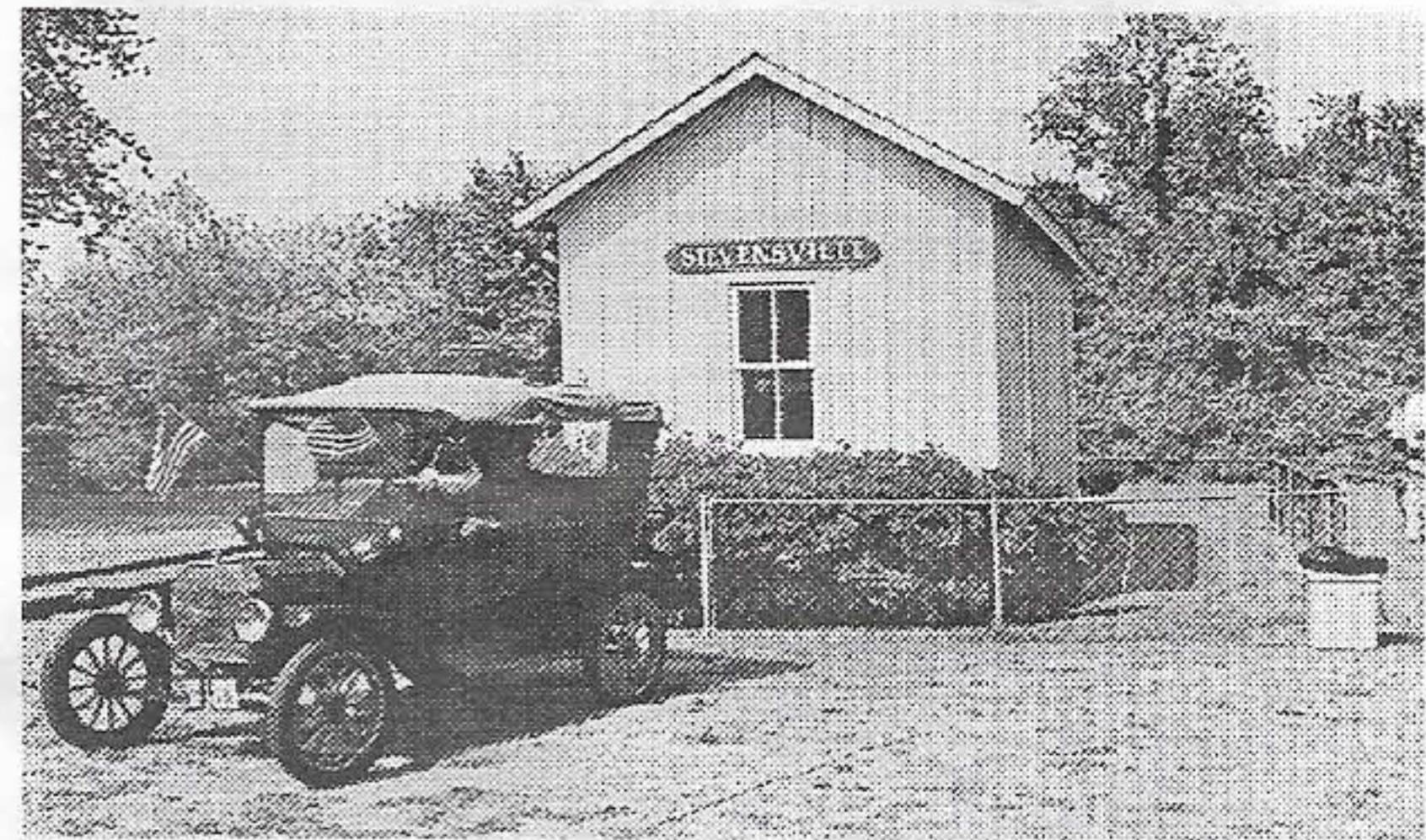


THE PARADE....





THE EXHIBITS



FOOD AND DRINK

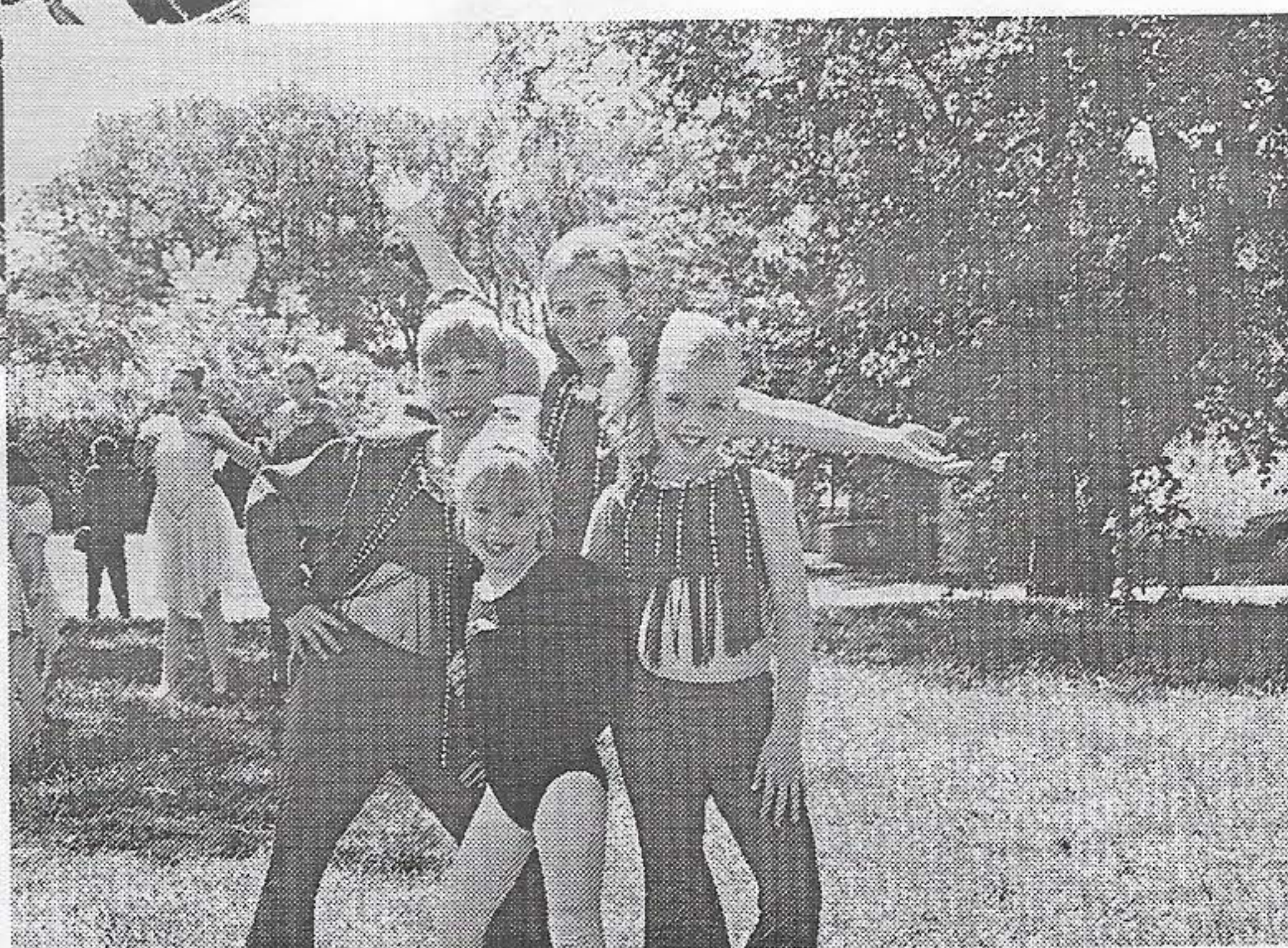




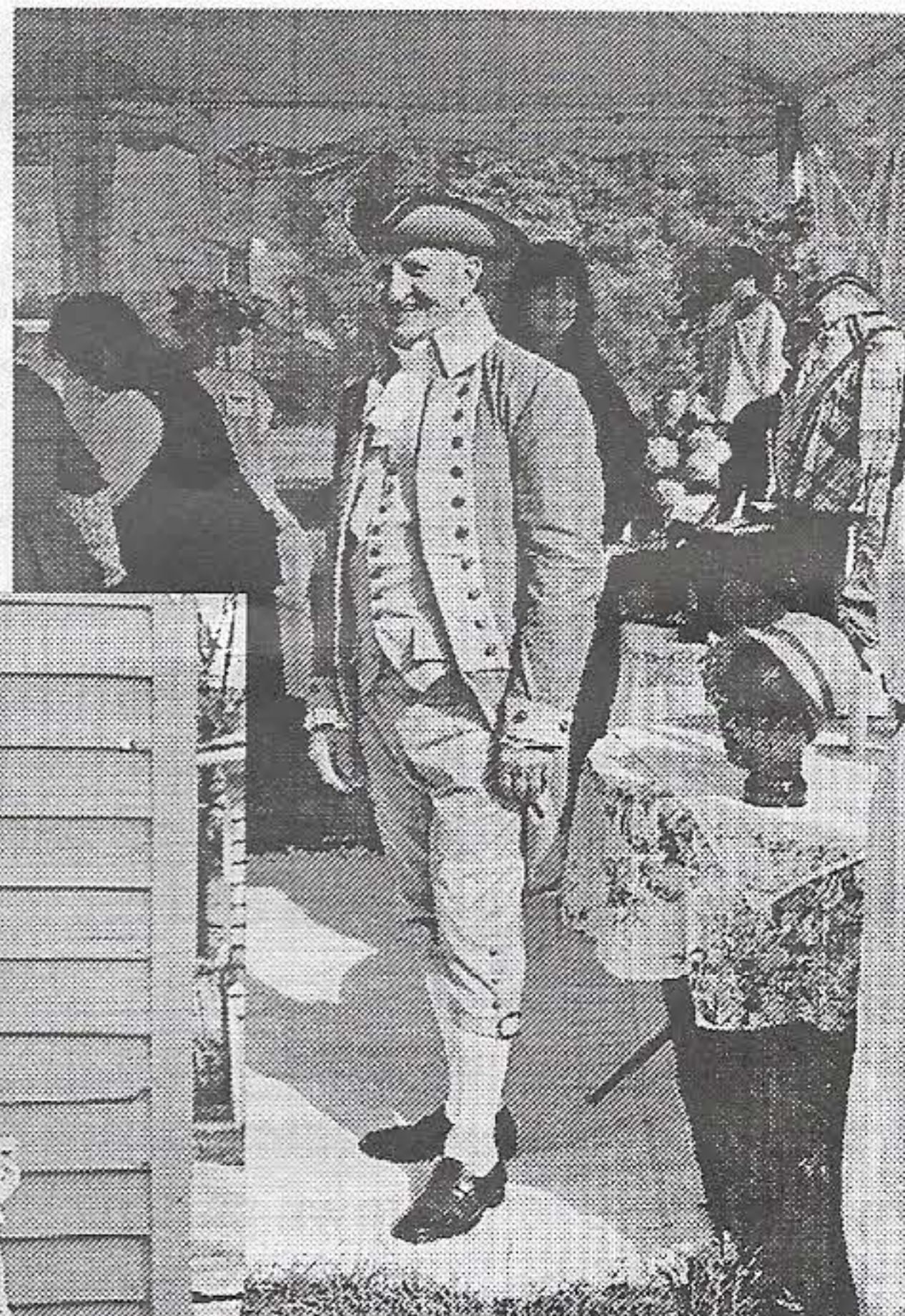
INTERESTING PEOPLE



ENTERTAINMENT



JUST FOLKS



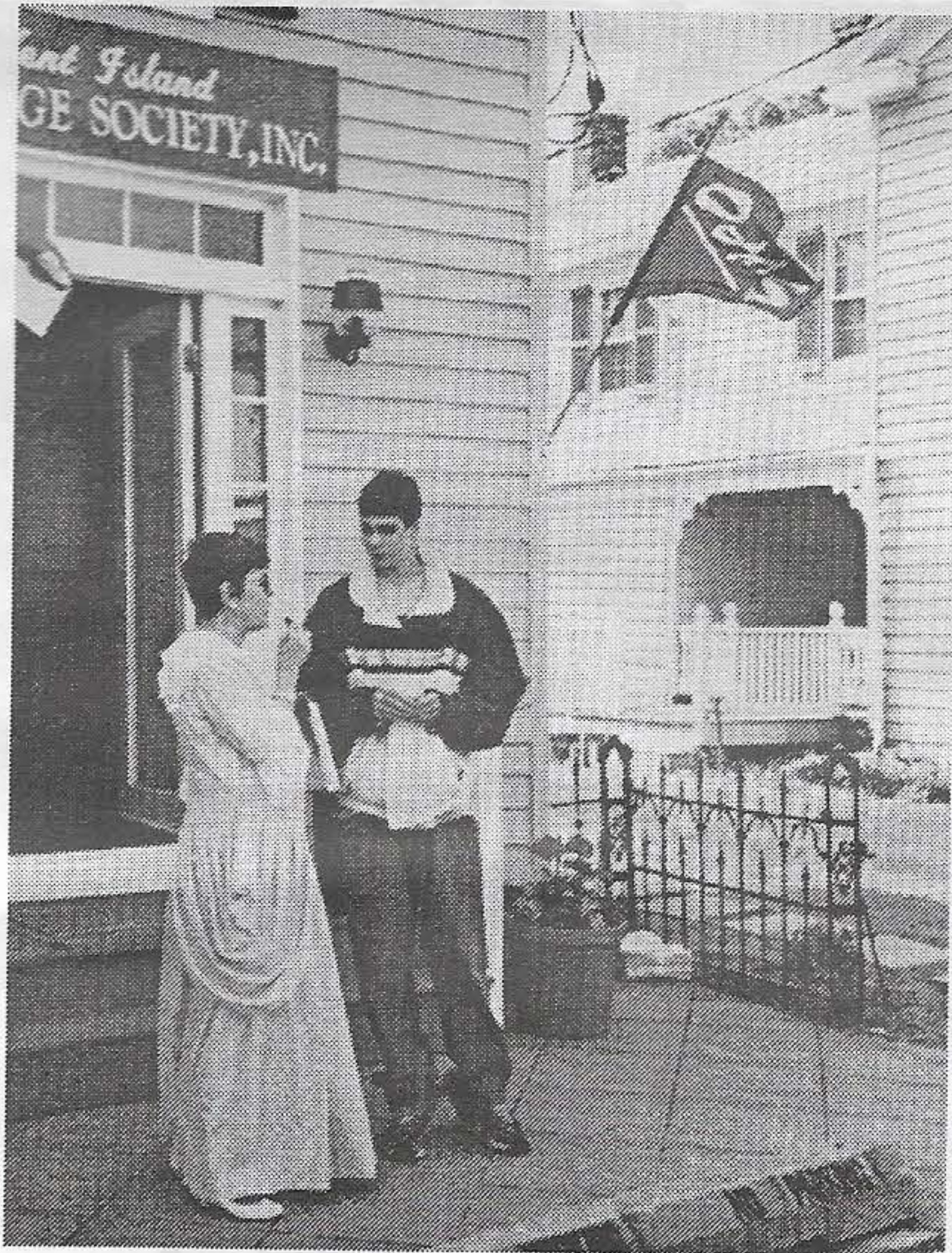
RESTORATION OF THE OLD STEVENSVILLE POST OFFICE GROUNDS

Our thanks is extended to Michael Vinch of Stevensville for his restoration of the grounds of the Old Post Office. This young man completed this project as part of his requirements for earning his Eagle Scout Award.

Michael had to submit a project description, complete with methods, materials to be used, project helpers, a time schedule and any safety haards he might face and how he would ensure the safety of those carrying out the project.

Most of the work was completed in time for Kent Island Day on May 15. The decorative wrought iron fence has been cleaned and painted black, the white picket fence has been repaired and painted, the picket fence gate was also repaired. Michael arranged to have a sign made to hang over the front entrance to the building saying "United States Post Office, Kent Island, Maryland". (Try as we might, we still cannot ascertain when the building was erected and first used as the Post Office; if our readers know of the exact dates, please notify us at the Heritage Society.) Since we have had difficulty with visitors to the town parking in the Post Office area, Michael painted "No Parking" on the spaces in front of the building. Stepping stones have also been placed along the right side of the building leading to the back parking lot.

The Society is very pleased and most appreciative of Michael's efforts. The project which he undertook has done much to enhance the area around the Post Office as well as that of the town.



CRAY HOUSE RESTORATION FUNDS NEEDED

One of the most important projects of the Kent Island Heritage Society is now taking place - plans to restore the Cray House, reportedly one of only two existing post and plank buildings dating from the early nineteenth century (circa 1809-1817) in the state of Maryland.

An architectural survey conducted in 1994 indicates the collapsing of the first level floor system, especially on the front side of the building due to rotting plates, sill and beams. As of February 15, 1998 the Cray House was declared unsafe and is no longer open to visitors.

The Cray House preservation plan consists of five phases which will occur over the next four years, the total cost estimated to be about \$200,000. Grants from Maryland Historic Trust and other sources are being sought, but your financial aid is greatly needed in order to begin the important first phase of the preservation plan, the foundation and chimney repair at the cost of \$46,000. We do need to seek matching fund monies in order to complete the task to save this very important example of nineteenth century history.

The immediate goal of the Heritage Society is to raise \$20,000 in order to provide matching funds for our grant requests. At the present time we have no monetary resources to underwrite this project.

Won't you participate in a project which will assist visitors to and the residents of Kent Island in understanding their historical and cultural heritage?

Name _____

Address _____

\$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ Other _____

**The Kent Island Heritage Society
PO Box 321
Stevensville, Maryland 21666**

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 321 - Stevensville, Maryland 21666-0321

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to become a member of the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.
Enclosed is my check to cover dues of membership indicated below:
Life Membership ... \$250.00 Single Membership... \$10.00

Name _____

Name _____

Street _____

Town/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Dues and contributions are deductible on income tax returns.
Membership period January 1- December 31



ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN TODAY

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 321
Stevensville, MD 21666

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Stevensville, MD
21666
Permit #11