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NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND  
HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC.

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Winter, 1991

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TO DISCOVER, IDENTIFY, RESTORE, AND PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF KENT ISLAND

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Audrey Hawkins*

As the end of the calendar year approaches, I want you to know I appreciate your interest and involvement in the matters that are of vital concern to the Kent Island Heritage Society. My sincere thanks to all officers, directors and members for your assistance and guidance, in one way or another. We will continue to make every effort to resolve any matter or accomplish any goal that is in the best interest of the Kent Island Heritage Society.

The numbers on the membership roll continue to grow. Catherine Kirwan, our Number One recruiter, is the main reason. Also Bill Denny recruited several new memberships as he made his visits to many business places to sell advertising in our 1991 Kent Island Days booklet. Thanks, Catherine and Bill, for 43 new members!

The work on the original Stevensville Railroad Station is progressing and when completed the Cray House-Train Depot site will offer an interesting piece of Kent Island history. Thanks to Gil Dunn and his helpers.

Our meeting programs have been interesting and informative and my special thanks to Vice President Charlie Koegel for his efforts in this regard. Roland Bruscup, publicity chairman, and Bettye Speed, newsletter editor have printed all our activities and kept us well informed.

Our annual December Dinner meeting is one of the Society's top flight events. Eva Thompson and Mary White have completed the arrangements for Thursday, December 12th at the Kent Island Yacht Club. Please return your reservation promptly, it is important, we need

to know the numbers.

Installation of officers and directors for the coming year (1992) is part of the program. Entertainment for the evening has been arranged and everything points to an enjoyable meeting of our society. I will be looking for you!!!

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

#### Officers

President-	Audrey Hawkins
Vice-President-	Charles S. Koegel
Recording Sec'y.-	Carolyn Koegel
Corr. Secretary-	Eileen Dadds
Treasurer -	Lois Cockey

#### Directors

William E. Denny III	1991-1993
J. Fountain Davidson	1991-1993
Richard Dadds	1991-1993
William Goodhand	1991-1993
Emma Thomas	1992-1994

Special thanks to the members who served on the Nominating Committee:

Linda Jefferson, Chairman  
Robin Jefferson  
Harold Legg

### NEW MEMBERS FOR 1991

We want to let all old members know of the expansion of our interested members with the following list of new members. Welcome to the Kent Island Heritage Society family. We are delighted to have you, your interest, and your in-put in our Society.



Pastor Chuck Braband, Galilee Lutheran Church,  
Chester

Robert C. Bennett, Chester

Terry Bond, Centreville

John & Meg Borders, Stevensville

Kenneth & Wanda Bullen, Chester

Irene Caughy, Stevensville

Glenna Cave, Baltimore

John Chamberlin, Stevensville

Ed & Betty Coughlin, Chester

Lynn Winchester Craig, Medford, N.J.

Norman & Gail Davidson, Stevensville

Alta R. Dunn, Stevensville

Alice Fillhart, Stevensville

William E. Gardner, Chester

Prof. Hugo Gemignani, Stevensville

Barbara Gray, Stevensville

John & Ethel House, Stevensville

George A. Jones, Jr. Chester

Ginger Jones, Stevensville

Morris & Jeanie Jones, Stevensville

Leonora D. Kessinger, Stevensville

Sandra Krutilek, Pacific Palisades, CA.

David & Beatrice Bartlett Lee, Chester

Katherine Marlow, Catonsville, MD.

Frank Marzullo, Stevensville

William Onderdonk, Chester

Suanne Peach, Stevensville

Rev. & Mrs. Roy Phillips, Chester

Mary Lynn Reardon, Darnestown, Md.

Dorothean Sadusky, Centreville

Bill & Alice Slot, Stevensville

Richard & Marilyn Smith, Grasonville

Mike Supcoe, Stevensville

Charles & Dawn Thomas, Centreville

Thomas J. Thompson, Harlingen, TX

William M. White, Queenstown

Catherine Zadoretzky, N.Y.C., N.Y.

Kay Lee Dunn, Dallas Tx.

William E. Tinsley, Pflugerville, TX,

Esther Smith Halbert, Houston, TX.

Winifred M. Hooker, Kirkland, WA.

M/M. Michael B. Casey, Chester

Editor's Note: Some of these "off Island" members must be attributed to Mary White and her committee's diligent work on KIHS's genealogical files at the Library. She has been busy all year answering queries from folks with Island roots. I might add, few of us would know our own were it not for Mary's abiding interest in documentation of Kent Islanders.

As an added fillip to the results of our volunteers' extra special efforts, and as a kind of feather in our cap, we also have added the

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library in Washington to our membership list.

The DAR owns one of the nation's principal genealogical libraries, and though, *The Isle of Kent* is an historical newsletter, with the added touch of some genealogical and related historic research by Mary White and Bettye Speed, they asked for copies of all our back issues and to be admitted to the rolls.

Meanwhile, the very distinguished State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison also wrote to ask for a sample copy of our newsletter in October. We have no idea how they knew of us, but it is very flattering for one of the nation's renowned collections to ask for our little quarterly.

Wisconsin's Historical Society, of course, houses the Lyman Draper Collection of the recollections of the veterans or their sons accounts of the Revolutionary War experience among other special collections of interest to this nation's genealogists.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

August 23, 1991 to November 7, 1991

Balance in Checking Account	\$11,231.35
Receipts	1,418.38
TOTAL:	12,649.73
Disbursements	1,157.83
Balance in Checking	11,491.90
CD Accounts	\$7,442.12
	3,176.60
	10,618.72
Total Assets	22,110.62

Submitted: Audrey Hawkins, Acting Treasurer

Copy of bill received from **CHUCK'S ELECTRICAL SERVICE, P.O. Box 368, Stevensville:**

"Installation of wiring for depot 10/17/91

Labor	\$311.05
Material	105.69
Total	416.74

Please accept this as a contribution from Chuck's



Electrical Service, Inc.

Total amount of this bill: \$000.00"

KIHS wishes to express our grateful appreciation and acknowledgment to Chuck's Electrical Service for this generous contribution. Please call Chuck at 643-5314 if you need electrical work done.

Goehring Printing, used exclusively by KIHS and *The Isle of Kent* has moved to 1010 Butterworth Court, Thompsen Creek Business Park, Stevensville. Be sure to bring your printing needs to their new location.

### FOR SALE

- *KIHS'S Colorful T-Shirts featuring the KIHS seal.*
- *Great Christmas presents for every family.*
- *KIHS T-Shirts will be on sale at the Dinner Meeting*

Or for Xmas, call Bill Denny at 643-5869

### MINUTES

*Bill Goodhand for Carolyn Koegel*

The Board of Directors met Thursday Nov. 7. Attending were Eileen and Richard Dadds, Paul Wilderson, Bill Denny, Bill Goodhand and Audrey Hawkins. (The Koegels are still in Ohio on assignment with Westinghouse.)

Paul Wilderson, Chairman of the Archaeological Survey Committee reported that the state grant is still percolating. Final results should be available at the Dinner Meeting.

Member Janet Ellis outlined a proposal for a "Colonial Weekend" for Fall 1992. Janet proposed an 18th Century weekend centering around the Cray House and Train Depot. This could possibly be attended by the "South River Settlers" holding a weekend camp-out on the Cray House grounds.

They would wear the styles of the period and perform authentic daily activities of the 18th

century; including making cheese, candles, lard, and pottery. Also available are a Town Cryer, a chiurgeon (doctor), and shepherd with sheep, as attractions.

The Board thanked Janet for her presentation and discussed her proposal at great length. It was decided to withhold our decision until more pertinent information is available.

Several other activities were discussed for the coming year including a parade in Stevensville, and Kent Island Days-1992.

*The Cray House* gratefully acknowledges the donation of a wrought iron fireplace set from Julia Norman Kibler, former Home Ec teacher. Mrs. Kibler is the daughter of John Norman of Parson's Point.

### GENEALOGY

*Mary White*

We recently received a letter from Mrs. Frances G. Martin of Grenada, Miss. requesting information on the Blunt and Smythe families of Kent Island. She was especially interested in Julianna Blunt who married William Hughlett Adams in 1811. Julianna was the daughter of James Ringgold Blunt II and Henrietta Marie Fitzsimmons, and granddaughter of James Ringgold Blunt and Anne Smythe.

We have quite a lot of information on the Blunt family but the only Julianna on record was Julianna Winchester who married John Smythe Blunt. In 1838 Julianna deeded two farms - one near Starr, the other on Kent Island to Christ Church, Stevensville.

This particular piece of property was granted to Richard Blunt in 1649 and was known as "Great Neck" or "Blunt's Marsh". Christ Church Glebe is located on this property. (Editor's Note: A "Glebe" (Old English) was a farm to support the minister and church school expenses.

Christ Church Glebe is off Rt. 8 on Thompson Creek, now owned by the Thomas Oyster family. There is an old family graveyard there.) The only remaining stones are those of "John Smythe Blunt, who departed this life at Great Neck, his late residence on Kent Island, Sept. 4, 1837, aged 66 years, 5 mos, 15 days. This memento of affection was placed here by his affectionate widow, Julianna Blunt." The other stone was for "Elizabeth Blunt, daughter of James Ringgold Blunt and Anne, his wife, aged 74 years, 4 mos."

We were able to send Mrs. Martin photo





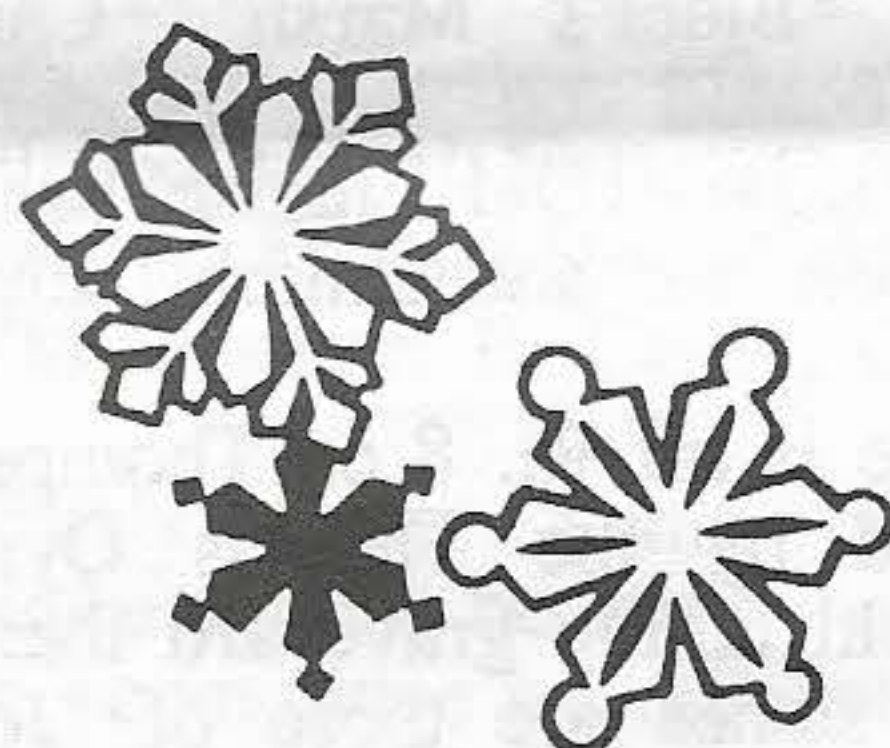
**MYSTERY TONGER.** Dan Tabler sent this 18- year old photo of a lone oyster tonger at the Kent Narrows, with a request that we help identify the boat "Medicare". Notice the undeveloped shore, where The Narrows Restaurant and the yacht brokers now exist, with the Fisherman's Inn sign in the center rear.

copies of Bible records, abstracts of several wills and deeds, etc. In return, she sent us some very interesting information from which we could assume that her Julianna Blunt was named for her aunt Julianna Winchester Blunt.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Martin for this information and for her generous offer to be of future assistance to anyone researching this line.

We have also received requests for information on the **Richardson**, **Sturman** and **Yowell** families and are in the process of accumulating the necessary material to respond.

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## LIBRARY

We have acquired two very special books to add to our collection for the library. They are: "Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens" by Henry Chandlee Forman, and "Maryland Militia, War of 1812" by F. Edward Wright.

## THE UNFORGETTABLE MAN MEETS THE SHAGGY DOG- Part II

*Mary White*

In our last issue we learned about our unforgettable man, Fill Kemp, and now we turn to the Shaggy Dog story.

Alfred and I lived at Bellevue Farm when we were first married. At that time, he had two dogs; one a (to me) fiesty, obnoxious, little rat terrier and the other a beautiful Chesapeake Bay Retriever named Pat. Pat had the dark, reddish brown curly coat, yellowish eyes, and broad powerful chest as a result of the legendary inbreeding of a Newfoundland type of dog with a species of Irish Water Spaniel widely used in Colonial Maryland.

I'm not sure the family knew all of this when they named the dog Pat, but the name was certainly appropriate. Pat was a real gentleman, an excellent retriever, a good family pet, and a worthy friend.

A quote from Earnshaw Cook's book, "Hollica Snooze" states that "By the age of two they (the Chesapeake Bay Retrievers) learned the stately high tailed welcome for friends of the family, the tolerant reserved acceptance for employees and regular tradesmen; the firm, aloof bark appropriate for strangers; and the partricular, bedlam loosed upon tramps, stray animals, and anything with the temerity to venture near the



house, barns, or other outbuildings after dark."

Pat assumed all of the responsibilities required of him in a calm, dignified manner. He assisted Alfred in getting the cows in from the pasture. He would chase a squawking hen out of the yard and even deigned to keep an eye on the little curly haired female person who was allowed to play in the yard if Pat was there to guard her.

She would walk along beside him with her fingers clasping his curly coat of hair and he would keep his body between her and anything he might consider hazardous. Pat was tolerant of the other farm animals, even accepting the barn cats as friends.

There were times when Alfred would finish his chores at home, then hook up a team to the farm wagon, load whatever equipment was necessary and drove to "White's Heritage", some 4 or 5 miles away, to help his father with seeding wheat, cutting corn, or whatever the season required.

Pat considered it his obligation as protector and companion to escort the wagon to its destination.

As I have indicated, he was a very easy going animal, dedicated to minding his own business. He would ignore the dogs that came out of their yards to see what was going on as Alfred and Pat went by. He paid no attention to their barking, but if they became too threatening, he would whip them thoroughly and send them yelping back to their own yards, having learned their lesson not to bother him on his return or on subsequent journeys.

There was one dog in Chester, who, on one occasion, ran back and forth inside his yard fence barking furiously as much as to say, "If I was not fastened in this yard, I would come out and beat you up." That dog was so busy barking and running back and forth, he didn't even notice that the gate was wide open!

Alfred always said that he knew better than to come out and confront Pat anyway.

One evening late in the fall, Alfred had invited Fill Kemp to go duck hunting with him. When Pat saw Alfred get his double-barreled shotgun, shells, and other paraphernalia and head for the Bay shore, his day was complete. This was what Pat lived for and was born to do- this was his whole purpose in life.

As the men walked down the back lane to the shore, Pat was so excited he scampered ahead, snuffling in the bushes, flushing out birds and rabbits; running back to the men, then dashing madly ahead again, overjoyed that he was finally

going to participate in the activity he loved best.

There was a tidal pond surrounded by cattails and myrtle bushes close to the shore which was a favorite of the black ducks the men were looking for.

The little party finally reached the blind Alfred had built on the bank and prepared to wait for the arrival of the ducks. While it was calm and cold with the threat of bad weather in the air, the men were comfortable in their, heavy flannel shirts, gunning pants, boots, and heavy jackets. Pat was as happy as could be and trembling all over with excitement.

Fill, never having hunted with Pat before, remarked to Alfred, "White," he said, "That dog is cold." "No, Fill", Alfred replied, "He's not cold. Look at that heavy coat of hair. He's just shivering with excitement."

This discussion continued for several minutes with Fill finally declaring, "D---it, White, you can see the dog is shivering from the cold. I'm going to put my coat on him."

In spite of Alfred's strong suggestion he not do such a foolish thing, Fill removed his coat, and not only put it around Pat's neck, but actually buttoned it up to keep it secure!

Shortly thereafter, some ducks flew in. Both men fired, hitting their targets, and Pat, without any prompting, knew what he was supposed to do, jumped overboard, coat and all, retrieved the ducks, then settled down, panting and shivering with excitement to wait for the next round of shots.

We won't divulge the content of Fill's colorful remarks as he removed his sopping wet coat from around Pat's neck. Afterwards he became very quiet because, as so often happens on Kent Island, a strong biting wind blew in from the northwest and the temperatures plummeted. While Alfred was cozy in his nice dry coat and Pat didn't need one, Fill almost froze before they got back up to the farm house.

Fill learned a valuable lesson from Pat. "Never lend your coat to a shaggy dog!"

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Note: The Chesapeake Bay Retriever originated in Maryland in the early 1800's. It was designated the official state dog in 1904.

## OLD STEVENSVILLE HIGH

### *The Last Classes*

#### *Bettye Speed*

It was a time of family, of community, respect for authority, whether it was parents, grandparents or teachers, and it was a time for high jinks in the perennial rivalry with teams



from Sudlersville High. Centreville High was too large for Stevensville in those days. "They'd slaughter us," says **Buddy Sparks**.

For a generation of parents raised on Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman, the beginnings of Rock and Roll from Bill Haley, Buddy Holly, The Platters, Fabian, Duane Eddy, Fats Domino, Little Richard, Roy Orbison, Elvis Presley, to Frankie Avalon, Paul Anka, Connie Francis, Petula Clark, and later the Beatles was pure cacophony, as parents chaperoned the well-attended Friday Night Dances, Square Dances, and Junior-Senior Proms at Stevensville High. As always, these affairs were record hops—no "live music" was available.

As art imitates life, the play "Grease" captured the flavor of drag racing's appeal to the boys.

The road to Romancoke had been improved for future development, and the boys actually staked off quarter mile markers for drag racing down the practically empty road. According to **Stewart Nash**, **Willard Jones** of Chester, one of the first to move to Romancoke, complained, "I can't even get up the road for those boys racing!"

**Bobby Norris**, now of Centreville, remembers getting a nickle and walking to and from Romancoke to Batt's Neck Store for a candy bar without ever seeing a car! He says that, as Rt. 50 was being built to exit the Bay Bridge, two-abreast drag racing on the empty road was part of the rites of passage and testing the mettle of the boys' first cars, acquired from after-school and weekend earnings. State Troopers were hardly noticeable on Kent Island in the 1950's while the Sheriff's Deputies were likely to be someone's big brother.

School plays, May Day, concerts, and athletic events were always well attended by the parents who made up the P.T.A. from 1st grade right through the 12 years of their children's growing-up years.

Mothers, home ec. teachers, and the girls all helped make the costumes for the annual pageants, plays, concerts and operettas, pitched in to cook and serve the food at proms and dances. The kids themselves took up hammers and saws to build the Prom Pavilions or Lighthouses, whatever the theme called for, while the girls collected greens and bunting to drape the walls.

The kids helped work in the school office and the cafeteria. Helping out the favored old school custodian, "**Captain**" **Marvel**, who was disabled by arthritis and diabetes, the kids did his work.

No one had money to burn. They were the sons and daughters of watermen and farmers,

store keepers and mechanics, boatbuilders, restaurateurs, and teachers from Stevensville, Chester, and Grasonville.

Attending local elementary schools together from first grade until they wound up together at Stevensville High School, they were brothers and sisters, cousins, or distant cousins-once-removed; their family and community ties were the kind that bind, honed from early childhood by extended family, church, school, and community activities.

Few parents uttered that ominous television admonition of the late '60's and early '70's: "It's 11:00 p.m. Do you know where your children are?" Nine times out of ten, if they had the leisure time, they were either at **Peggy's Diner**, where motherly **Peggy Perry** oversaw the coke and hamburger crowd, the **Redwood Restaurant**, **Shields Restaurant** next door, the **White House**, in Queenstown at the movies, or later at "**The Freez**" where the kids got jobs for spending money at the few shops springing up on Kent Island after the Bay Bridge opened in 1952. Sometimes to Easton to buy the latest 45 rpm records or to **Dean's Restaurant** after the Big Night for every class—The Senior Prom.

These were the boys who combed their hair with Wildroot or Brylcreme, who and practically lived in cords or chinos and open collared plaid shirts with the sleeves carefully rolled just twice; the girls who rolled their jeans up and their bobby socks down, who created the sweater and skirt "uniform" with pushed-up sleeves and round collared blouses, even as hems rose or fell, ending in the bouffant 60's hair styles.

Their main transgressions would be Hallowe'en pranks, such as hauling someone's outhouse out into the center of the road or to a neighbor's yard; boys who were apt to pick up and carry a girl hall monitor upstairs, where another group was just as likely to come along and carry her right back down again.

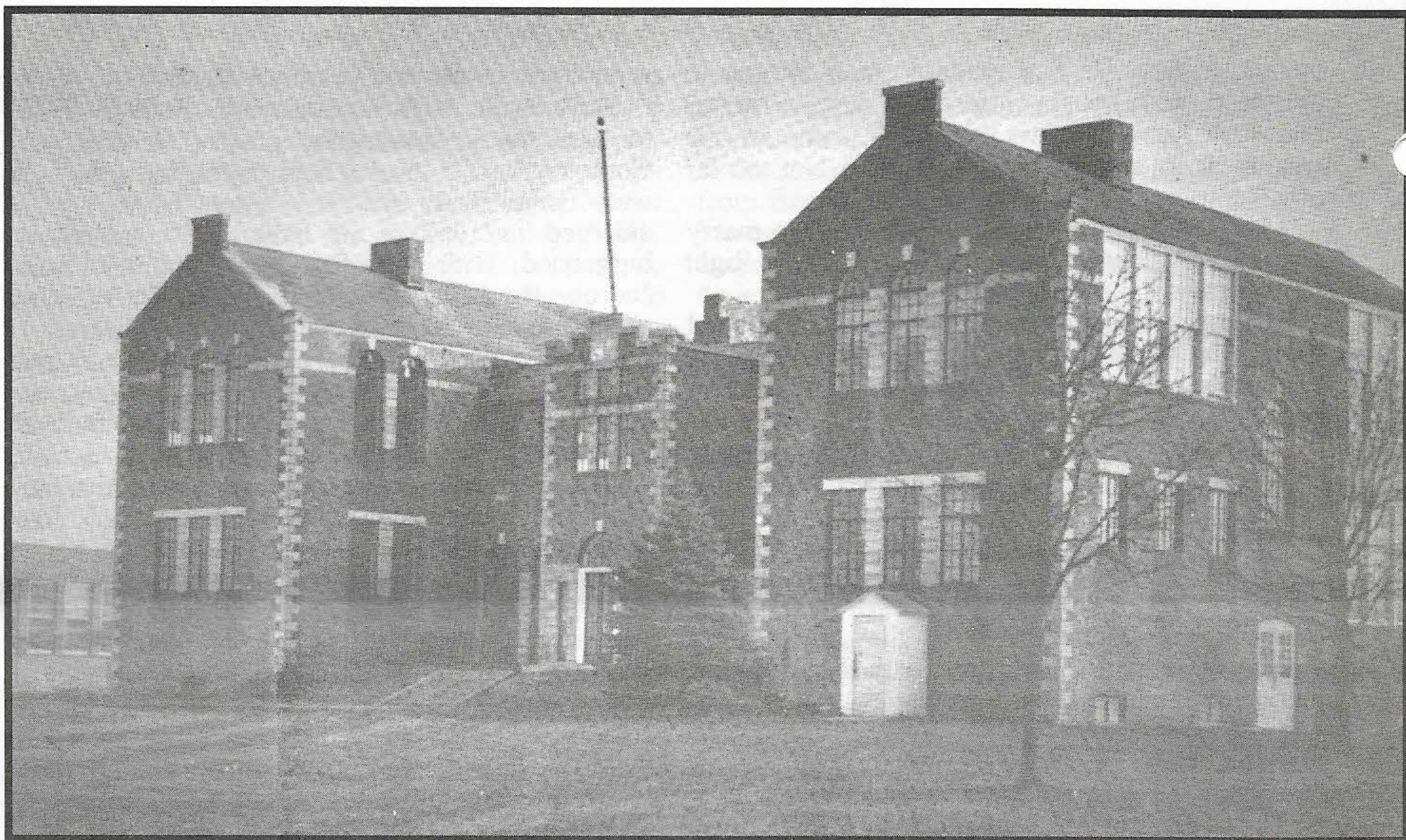
One rite of passage in the '50's was driving down the Romancoke road, parking along a hedgerow so they could sneak up on the Camp Wright girls after dark, nine times out of ten being chased into the water and swimming for their lives fully clad!

Drinking was mostly left to adults, and drugs were unheard of. These youngsters learned to save by collecting U.S. Savings stamps in \$25 books.

How very well these Island kids knew each other is illustrated in the class prophecies of 1951:

"**Sonny Schulz** wore an enormous diamond ring





congratulated the Class of 1966: "(for)...your interest in recording the history of Stevensville High School through a special feature of *The Islander*...I hope you will...recall...the twelve years of fulfilling experiences which you have had, that they will be among life's most memorable years.."

Morris Jones added: "There is a special importance attached to the Stevensville High School graduating class this year. Since it is the last Class which will graduate from our school, it must represent all the best that has been developed here over the years."

But for the sense of what SHS is for those who lived it, Morris' 1957 message to the graduates is more pertinent: "Cooperativeness is a trait your class has learned well. Many are the memories you will cherish of the activities which you have undertaken and completed successfully ...As you leave... Stevensville High School behind you, promise yourself that "You'll Never Walk Alone." They won't, Morris, not ever.



The Isle of Kent is published quarterly by the Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc., a non-profit corporation, Stevensville, MD. 21666.

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Effort is made to publish accurate information, but no responsibility can be assumed by the Kent Island Heritage Society or The Editor.

Membership dues are \$5.00 annually. Send applications to:

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Chester, Md.

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**