

Isle of Kent - 1631

"To Discover, Identify, Restore and Preserve the Heritage of Kent Island"

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE KENT ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY, INC. ■ WINTER 2011
www.kentislandheritagesociety.org

OFFICERS

President

Jack Broderick

Vice President

Nancy Cook

Corresponding Secy

Carole Frederick

Recording Secy

Kay Roser

Treasurer

Lynne Riley-Coleman

DIRECTORS

Joel Berger

Butch Collier

Linda Collier

Nancy Cook

Bill Denny III

Toni Gibson

John Gibson Jr.

Dan Hopkins

Lynne Riley-Coleman

Nancy Sadler

Flora Sossi

Gary Walters

Josh Willis

Hal Wilson

Joyce Woodford

PAST PRESIDENTS

Marian Stuart 75-77

Gordon Seward 77-79

Julius Grollman 79-81

Mary White 81-82

Walter T. Denny 83-84

Eva C. White 85-86

C. Gilbert Dunn 87-89

Audrey Hawkins 90-92

Charles Koegel 93-94

Hugo Gemignani 95-98

Nancy M. Cook 99-08

President's Message

With just a few more weeks of winter to go, we can't help breathing a sigh of relief. So far so good; no comparison to last winter's historic blast. Let's keep our fingers crossed. Last year was a time of change for the Society, as outlined in our last newsletter. We lost a key veteran in Ms. Audrey Hawkins but had two strong leaders step up to take charge of our treasury and our docents. Thanks again to Lynne Riley-Coleman, our treasurer.

In December, we came together at the Kent Island Yacht Club for our annual holiday dinner meeting and elections. We honored departing board member, Jean Leathery, and thanked her for her many years of service. We are grateful that Jean will continue in her valued role as our photographer and as a docent. We also thanked outgoing Delegate Dick Sossi and Commissioner Gene Ransom for their unwavering support during their years of public service. We also welcomed new board member, Flora Sossi, who will rejoin the board after an absence. Her extensive Kent Island Day experience will be greatly appreciated. We also elected the officers for the coming year, the notable change being Nancy Cook who will serve as our new vice president. Nancy's energy, leadership experience, and extensive corporate knowledge will be

Continued on page 2

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND "THE ROAD NOT TAKEN"

By Harold O. Wilson

What, you might ask, does strategic planning have to do with the Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken?" And what, you might also ask, is "strategic planning" anyway? For the Kent Island Heritage Society, strategic planning is a look into the future. It is setting organizational goals and then choosing all the roads not to take to achieve those goals — knowing what they are is the strategic part and should lead us to the road that will make all the difference.

Strategic Planning is not an uncomplicated task for any organization to undertake and for that reason The Maryland Historical Trust has given KIHS a \$4,000 grant to hire a consultant to help us evaluate and choose the right road to goals.

A Strategic Planning Committee composed of Dan Hopkins, Linda Collier, Hal Wilson, Nancy Cook, and Toni Gibson has interviewed potential candidates and is reviewing a contract with Dean Krimmel to help us

Continued on page 8

Mark Your Calendar

Kent Island Heritage Society Publick Forum

7 p.m., Wednesday, March 16
Christ Church
Historic Stevensville

Presents

A dialogue with Miss Clara Barton
Civil War battlefield nurse and
founder of the American Red Cross

See details on page 8

DOCENTS★

★ Eileen Dadds
★ Janet Denny
★ Chris Kilian
★ David Leathery
★ Louise Price
★ Flora Sossi
★ Fran Taylor
★ Hanna Wall

HISTORIC STEVENSVILLE

Cray House

★ Bill Denny
★ Barbara Marmion
Post Office

★ Butch Collier
★ Fran Peters
Stevensville Train Depot & Caboose

★ Florence Dunn
★ Gil Dunn
★ George Marmion
Stevensville Bank

★ Bill Denny
★ Jay Gibson
Christ Church

★ Joanne Anderson
Ernestine Kepley

CHESTER

Kirwan Museum

★ Linda Collier,
Curator

★ Myrtle Bruscup
★ Bill Denny
Dan Hopkins
Midge Kirwan
★ Barbara Marmion

Jane Sparks
★ Toni Gibson
Emma Thomas
Hal Wilson

CABOOSE RESTORATION

Tom Willey
Dick Dadds
"T" Humphries

Wayne Humphries
CEMETERY LOCATION AND PRESERVATION

Josh Willis
DEVELOPMENT

Hal Wilson
KENT ISLAND DAY

★ Jack Broderick
★ Toni Gibson
★ Joyce Woodward
Gary Walters

HISTORIC RECORDS

★ Myrtle Bruscup
★ Fran Peters
Sally Morgan
Nancy Sadler

MEMBERSHIP

★ Mae Hutchinson
ORAL HISTORIES
Brent Lewis

PUBLIC RELATIONS
John Bonner, Editor
★ Jean Leathery,

Photographer
QAC HISTORIC SITES

★ Nancy Cook,
Coordinator

WEBSITE

★ Carole Frederick
Josh Willis

President's Message

Continued from page 1

invaluable. We thank Dan Hopkins for his service as vice president, especially his efforts in securing the MHT planning grant. Dan resumes his previous position as board member.

At our dinner, we also repeated the successful silent auction fundraiser with more wonderful antiques and unique items. We added about \$1,800 to our treasury to help support our coming efforts. Thanks to Linda and Toni for making that event such a success, and a special thanks to all who donated such great items. We urge you to review the list of generous donors and to support our local businesses who contributed. We hope to make it even bigger and better next year.

Last year was a challenging but successful year for the Society, and we thank all our board members, society members, and many patrons for your support throughout the year. This year we plan to continue our successful Kent Island Heritage events with even more involvement for kids and youth, especially at Kent Island Day, and during spring cleanup day for high school students. We also plan to add a new spring event, a flea market on Saturday, May 7 at Kirwan Farm in Chester. It will coincide with the first day of our historic site open house tours. Look for local announcements and consider participating. The full schedule of 2011 events appears later in the newsletter. Our major focus this year will be the strategic plan. See the article on our planning effort by Hal Wilson, our planning chair. We will also continue creative fundraising efforts and ongoing maintenance and improvements at our unique historic sites. We invite Heritage Society members to consider offering your time and talents if you think you can help in any of these areas.

We note with sadness the passing of Ms Mary White, at the glorious age of 96. Miss Mary was our last surviving founder. We owe a great deal to her foresight and leadership. I recall her riding with us in the Kent Island Day Parade just a of couple years ago, with her smiles and waves and flowing colonial dress. She loved it and deserved to feel good about what she had done for Kent Island. Please see Brent's moving tribute to Miss Mary on page 2. Thank you Miss Mary.

We hope you'll attend our exciting new Public Forum (general meeting). See box on page 1 for time and place and page 8 for full details. Bring a friend. We hope to see you there.

Jack Broderick

A Tribute to Mary White

Mary White passed away on February 12, 2011.

Mary was the last surviving founder of the Kent Island Heritage Society and was a driving force of our organization for many years. She was a critical component in the efforts to write the society's bylaws, form our first committees and establish goals. Mary worked hard to obtain our group's tax exempt status and started this very newsletter. She was a meticulous record keeper and amassed a collection of photos, documents and clippings that she graciously used as a foundation to help build our genealogical and historic archives located at the Kent Island Library. Mary's interest in history and her keen eye enabled her to see the value in the everyday items and events that others overlooked. Over the years, she rescued many old-time farm and household devices that would have otherwise ended up on a junk heap, but now provide rare glimpses into a long gone lifestyle.

Born Mary Jones in December 1914, she moved with her family from Cecil County to Centreville when she was 10 years old. Her father was a Water Street merchant, and Mary graduated from Centreville High School in 1931.

Faith and music were always big in Mary's life. She was the organist at Christ Church for 40 years. As a young woman, she met Alfred White, a Kent Island farmer, at a community dance and the couple married in 1932. They were blessed with two daughters, Mary Jane and Pauline. The family spent many happy years on the Kent Island farm known as Bellevue.

Mary White lived an active life. Besides being such a vital component to our group and her church, she was also a member of the Upper Shore and Maryland genealogical societies, Love Point and Chester Homemakers Clubs, the Kent Island Federation of Art and the Kent Island Yacht Club, among other civic organizations. In 1982 she received the Governor's Citation for Outstanding Service Award and in 1987 the Queen Anne's County Court of Honor from the Queen Anne's County Historical Society, another group fortunate to have her as a member.

Mary White was not the type of person to watch the world pass by. Always energetic, always outspoken, she was an inspiration, a very special person, who did much for many. We were lucky to have Mary in our lives. She will be greatly missed.

— Brent Lewis

We Need Your Help!

By Nancy Cook

Donuts for Docents

There will be a Docents Workshop on Saturday, March 5, from 10 a.m. to noon at Kirwan House. We will be serving a variety of donuts, fruit, coffee and tea.

We are in dire need of additional docents to fulfill one of our most important tasks of welcoming and informing visitors at our six historic sites. Scripts and creative use of our historic apparel assist docents in these tasks.

The Historic Sites Consortium of Queen Anne's County, of which we are a member, has requested that all county sites be open on the first Saturdays of May through October. We also open our sites for school visits, tour buses and special requests. Visitors are remarkably pleased with our docent's friendly greetings and the interesting information they provide.

If you like meeting people and are interested in history, please call Nancy Cook*. Come join this special group.

Historic Christ Church

Christ Church was built in 1880. It was preceded by four churches at Broad Creek, the first built by William Claiborne in 1631 and affiliated with the Church of England. It became Episcopal after the American Revolution. Christ Church housed one of the oldest continuous Anglican parishes in the U.S.

Queen Anne's County acquired the church and meticulously restored it. In 2003 the county established the Friends of Historic Christ Church Board to promote and oversee using the church for community events.

The sanctuary seats 125 and has been the site of several weddings. An attached facility seats 232 theater style or 108 set up for dining. The board needs persons who have an interest in history and can provide creative assistance in attracting events appropriate for this historic jewel.**

Please call Nancy Cook* to discuss the possibilities.

Oral Histories

The Society's Oral History Project has created more than 60 oral histories, capturing the memories of mostly Kent Island natives for posterity. It is overseen by Kent Island native and author Brent Lewis, who selects a comfortable, quiet and well-lighted place, starts a video camera rolling and sits down for a long trip down memory lane with the subject.

History buffs with vivid memories of past events are especially sought, as are women and African Americans whose numbers are under-represented in our collection.

Please call Nancy Cook* or Brent Lewis at 443-262-8320 if you or someone you know would like to share your piece of Kent Island history with us and future generations.

* 410-758-2502; cookings@verizon.net

** The Kent Island Garden Club will have a flower show at this church on Wednesday, June 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. Theme is "Let There Be Music." Admission is free.

For Many, Retirement Is A Time to Give Back to Community

For many of us who grew to dread our long commutes to Baltimore, D.C. or — worse of all — destinations in Northern Virginia, retirement was a relief. I could sense the weight dropping from my shoulders as we crossed the Bay Bridge back to Kent Island after every long workday. Our kids were conditioned to greet us with glasses of wine and ask no questions until our glasses were empty.

It's not that I didn't enjoy my job. But having held jobs continuously since eighth grade, I thought it time to move on to personal things that always got postponed for lack of time.

Turns out I'm constitutionally incompatible with idleness. My theory is that the brain is a use-it-or-lose-it organ. So when Nancy Cook offered me the Isle of Kent newsletter, I jumped at it.

Kent Island Heritage Society has lots of opportunities to offer the bored and the restless. It has tasks that are ongoing, that are episodic like the newsletter or annual like Kent Island Day, that require specialized skills and knowledge or that can be readily learned. Some are solitary; some interact with the public. All are vital to our community.

Our most visible public faces are those of our docents. They wear the distinctive garb of Colonial times and greet the public at our Historic Stevensville sites and at our headquarters at Kirwan Farm in Chester. They make history come alive.

We have tasks that require specialized knowledge and skills such as writing, auditing, marketing, researching, transcribing, graphics arts, Website maintenance and structural maintenance.

On rare occasions, we need advice that only a professional can provide. Examples would be the service of an architect familiar with ancient construction practices, the service of an accountant familiar with the special tax treatment afforded nonprofit organizations, an appraiser of antiques, an attorney familiar with liability law, an agricultural expert to advise on running a large farm.

Whatever your skills, knowledge, talents or interests, we probably can find a niche that fulfills both our needs. Call Nancy Cook at 410-758-2502 and talk it over with her. Chances are, she can find something that would be mutually beneficial.

— John Bonner, Ed.

We also need new members . . .

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of our 2011 flyer. After you have marked our events on your calendar, please give the flyer to someone you think would enjoy attending our fabulous Fall Heritage Picnic for members and their guests or our informative and entertaining Public Forums. Check out the next one on page 8.

2010 Annual Meeting



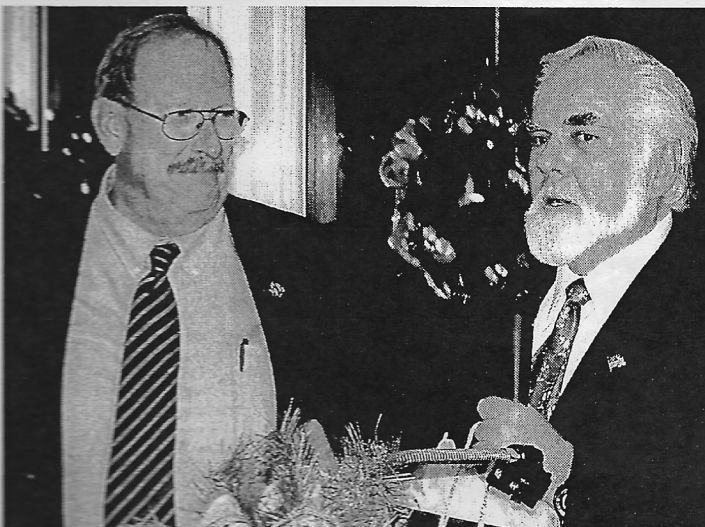
State Del. Dick Sossi swears new officers: President Jack Broderick, Corresponding Secretary Carole Frederick, Vice President Nancy Cook, Recording Secretary Kay Roser, Treasurer Lynne Riley-Coleman, Director Flora Sossi. Missing is Director Dan Hopkins.



Left: Pres. Jack Broderick expresses gratitude to Commissioner Gene Ransom (top) and Delegate Dick Sossi (bottom) for their unwavering support of our Society as they depart public service.

Photos by Jean Leathery and John Bonner

Below: (clockwise) Bill Denny, Ernestine Kepley, Florence and Bob Morris enjoy the moment.



FANTASTIC SILENT AUCTION

The Dynamic Duo of Linda Collier and Toni Gibson outdid themselves, eclipsing even last year's outstanding auction. This was no easy accomplishment in today's faltering economy when many small local merchants are struggling. We hope that our members will remember that they supported us and will, in return, patronize their establishments.

Paula's Fine Jewelry

Blue topaz necklace and earrings (\$520)
Karren Tippett, \$130

Paula's Fine Jewelry

Blue topaz ring (\$150)
Gary Ransom, \$85

Kent Island Jewelry

Pandora-style charm bracelet
GlassBug

Teapot snatchers

Kirwan Collection

Blue vase and ginger jar
Karen Tippett, \$35

Jack & Liz Broderick

Floating crab fest on Warehouse Creek

Daena Feldman

Rowboat painting
Mike Willey, \$80

Jack & Liz Broderick

Bushel of crabs

Country Petaller

Crab mug and hangers
Bob Morris, \$65

Freddy Baxter

Bushel of oysters

Daena Feldman

Numbered, signed, framed fish print

Glass Bug

Glass fish

Ye Olde Church House

Fisherman

Rena Dye, \$55

Rustico

\$50 gift certificate

Ernestine Kepley, \$55

Baker's Liquors

Basket of wine, vacuum sealer, glass charms
Jack Broderick, \$40

Love Point Deli

Basket of wine, 4 wine stems
Jack Broderick, \$50

Chesapeake Veterinary Hsp.

Dog treats and vet visit (\$40 value)

Karen Tippett, \$35

Stevensville Antiques

Dessert dishes, 4

Ava Honeycutt

Applesauce cake
Kay Roser, \$35

Hardee's

Coupon

Kirwan Collection

Hand-painted "Chesapeake Bay" mugs

Mike Willey, \$45

Hardee's

Coupon

Kirwan Collection

Victorian girl plate, 2 saucers
Billy and Janet Denny, \$20

Hardee's

Coupon

Kirwan Collection

Pink floral, gold plates, cup & saucer, herbal tea & cookies
Mary Lou Pierson, \$20

Author Janet Freidman

Her book: *Kent Island - The Land That Once Was Eden*
Mike Willey, \$30

Big Bats

\$25 gift certificate

Jinx Liquors

Bottle of wine

Safeway

Wine cooler figurine

Mary Lou Pierson, \$40

Carpentry Class, QACHS

Pair wooden folding chairs
Flora Sossi, \$50

The Narrows

\$25 gift certificate

Ernestine Kepley

Decorative goose plate

Ye Olde Church House

Ice bucket

Kirwan Collection

Etched geese ordials, 8
Aloyse Demuth, \$40

Nash's Plant Farm

\$25 gift certificate

Western Auto

Quick-release water hose

Kirwan Collection

Garden statue of Eros
Aloyse Demuth, \$40

Daena Feldman

Wonton soups, plates, teapot

Kirwan Collection

Ginger Jar

Marilyn Wilson

Daena Feldman

Sailboat Painting

Gary & Joanne Walters

Cruise for 4 (inc. bev.)

Linda Collier, \$80

Gary & Joanne Walters

Basket of microbrew beer

Linda Collier, \$40

Carole Frederick

Roses Ravensberger puzzle

Kirwan Collection

Botanical plates, 6

Joanne Gerg, \$45

Ye Olde Church House

Large water pitcher

Kirwan Collection

Miniature cream pitchers, 3

Joanne Gerg, \$20

Kirwan Collection

Book: *The Scented Room*

Assorted blue transferware

Joanne Gerg, \$60

Island Athletic Club

3 mo. gift certificate

Cracker Barrel

\$25 gift certificate

Daena Feldman

Wedgewood plate

Joanne Gerg, \$60

Minuteman Press

Personalized note cards/env.

Country Petaller

Calendar

J. Anderson

Apple paperweight

Hardee's

Coupons

Ye Olde Church House

Teapot

Joanne Gerg, \$55

Kirwan Collection

Bowl (Krister Germany 1831-1900)

Black glass dish group

Joanne Gerg, \$55

Kirwan Collection

Imari plates, 3 and a bowl

Marilyn Wilson, \$30

Service Star

Screwdriver bit set

Western Auto

Quick hose

Joanne Gerg, \$15

Ace Hardware

Socket set

Kent Island Car Wash

Deluxe car wash

Joanne Gerg, \$30

Bev's Grooming

Basket of dog goodies

Marilyn Wilson, \$20

Nancy Sadler

Basket of Kirwan holly

Crocheted Christmas tree

Joanne Anderson

Banana dish

Sara Doetsch

Pomegranate tree

Jack Broderick, \$25

Murdock's

Christmas wreath

Barbara Kellun, \$50

Linda and Butch Collier

Wicker & wrought iron sleigh

Periwinkles

Ornaments package

Nancy Cook, \$82

Wye Knot Framing

10 historic Kent Island photos

Alex Johnson

Model of caboose

Jean Leathery, \$46

Kirwan Collection

Pair painted wooden display pedestals

Lynne Riley Coleman, \$65

Stevensville Antiques

Century divided dish, Fosteria

Navarre creamer, sugar bowl

Kirwan Collection

Heisey Waverly relish bowl

Marilouise Dodge, \$32

Tangles

\$36 gift cert, hair care prod.

Kirwan Collection

Christmas vase

Diana Bonner, \$45

Profile: Elizabeth Reamy Haddaway

Brent Lewis

Elizabeth Reamy Haddaway is among the most elderly citizens of Queen Anne's County.

Born in 1908, just a few years after the invention of the airplane but before World War I, Elizabeth was a Kent Island Farm girl, one of seven children born to Augustus Klebo Reamy and Mary Ella Graham. The Reamys were a typical farm family of the era — hardworking, self-sustaining and close.

A Cox Neck tenant farm was home for the first 13 years of Elizabeth's life. Oil lamps lit the night, and the day started early. A one-room community schoolhouse anchored a front lot. Everything the Reamy children could ever need was within a one-mile radius.

Though there was no such thing as disposable income, life's necessities were provided in abundance. Everyone was loved and well cared for, there was warm, protective shelter, and always plenty to eat. "We'd have two or three hogs," Elizabeth says. "Kill them for meat. Grow every kind of vegetable you can think of. Patches of this and patches of that. There was a big orchard with apples, peaches, pears. And we always had watermelon."

In 1921, Elizabeth's family moved to a farm outside of Stevensville, what was then the Snyder property, but dates back to a tract of land originally deeded by William Claiborne.

It was here she milked cows every morning before her mother drove her to school in a Dayton, a horse drawn covered buggy. She graduated from Stevensville High School in 1926, but continued to work on the Stevensville farm. She says, "I milked cows every day from ages 13 to 26."

Elizabeth loved school, and liked her teachers — except for one she thought wasn't very good at his job. She even

won the county spelling bee at a competition in Centreville.

But she gleams a bit when she remembers her classmate, a little girl, saying offhand, out of nowhere, "You know, we don't have to go to school today." Elizabeth gives you a sly sideways grin, "And then she took her foot and kicked the top right off that old flat stove. . . ." big smile, "and we had the whole day off!" she laughs.

Elizabeth says she loved her early life growing up on farms. She sits up straight and says with such authentic determination that she would "live on a farm right now," that you believe she not only would, but could.

Then she tells you how her parents met. "Father and Uncle Garrison came up on a boat loaded with logs. They hauled those trees into Kent Point and stayed up to Benny Grollman's store. And that's where mom and Aunt Mina met pop and his brother. Two sisters that married two brothers!"

Elizabeth attended Sunday school at the Stevensville Methodist Protestant Church where Bill and Janet Denny now operate Ye Olde Church House Antiques. Went to the movies in town about once a year and remembers once or twice seeing a show onboard the famous Adams Floating Theatre, the barge-like auditorium that visited villages and towns up and down the Chesapeake Bay.

When asked about the holidays she says quickly, "Mom's mother died on Christmas day, Mom never was a whole much for Christmas. Pop had to do all about it. He brought the tree in and got the things to tie on it. He was the Santa Claus. Mom would stand at the window and cry. He'd tell her, it's going to be all right." Elizabeth's voice is soothing and reassuring.

"We had two big lard cans mom filled with different kinds of cakes. Mom made the cakes but never fooled much with the rest. From Santa Claus we got

socks, candy, rubber boots. Things we needed. Always a toy, but I never much was for dolls.

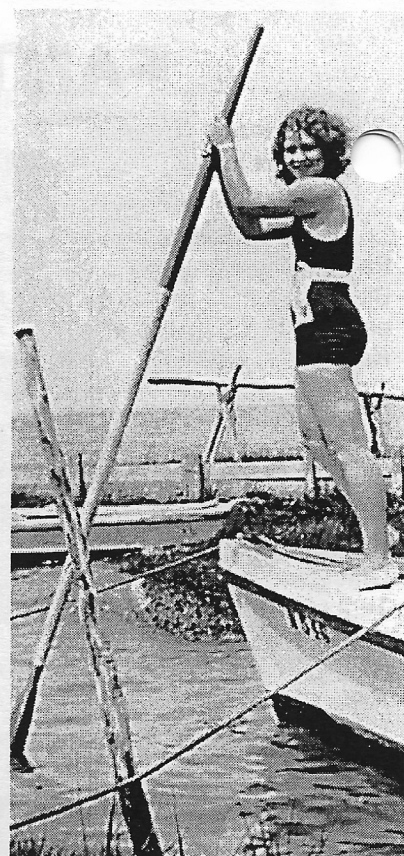
"Yes," she says, "Christmas was always your own doings. You made it what it was."

Elizabeth married Grasonville's George Haddaway in 1934 and had two children, Ruth and Kenny. George worked in construction. Carpentry mostly, though he was on one of the crews that helped build the first bay bridge.

During World War II, Elizabeth went with her husband to Baltimore where he worked in a shipyard. Stayed five years and came home as soon as they could. The young couple was willing to rent an apartment over a Stevensville garage until they could get a home of their own in Grasonville. George and Elizabeth had a reputation for loving to dance and rarely missed a chance to cut a rug. George suffered a stroke in 1974 and passed away ten years later.

Elizabeth was employed at the Stevensville post office for a bit, but most of her working years were spent at the Perfect Garment Company factory in Grasonville. The well known business had a local female workforce and made all kinds of clothes. Elizabeth was not a seamstress, as most of the employees were, but a utility player. For 27 years, she did everything from bookkeeping to changing the belts on the machines.

"Never liked to go too far away" she'll say. "I never got a driver's license. Our farm lane was about a mile long, Carroll Davis used to leave his coupe in our yard. Had a crank start on it. He told my sister Pearl and I we could use it to go out to the mailbox. Got down to the



Elizabeth Reamy Haddaway

first little bridge. We were just creeping along and a walked out in front of us and wouldn't move and I bumped her. Old cow said "Moooooo" and fell over. Finally she got up. But not before the car cut out. I wasn't going to fool with that old crank. I got out and walked back and never did get my license."

Elizabeth recently had the opportunity to take a car ride and look around her old stomping grounds. When her driver got to where the old Cox Neck place used to be, it wasn't any growth in residential development that amazed her. It was the farm's reclamation by Mother Nature. "It looks like a forest," Elizabeth says with some displeasure; as though someone had neglected the old home place, let it go to seed and grow over.

She remembers what this place used to be, and she remembers with such personal warmth it's stirring. A century can change a lot of things, but it can't negate the memories of this Kent Island farm girl.

Kent Island Garden Club Members Decorate KIHS's Historic Downtown Stevensville Sites for Christmas Holidays



Front row: Palla Schreurs, President Linda Elias, Sally Boden, Aileen Talley, Linda Armiger, Phyllis Wilson, Genie Fitzgerald. Back row: Kathy Ciambuschini, Denise Swayne, Lois Rys, Diana Bonner. Ernestine Kepley was decorating Historic Christ Church when photo was taken.

PHILPOT'S FRONT PORCH

Name That Nickname

By Skeeter Philpot

I've been called Skeeter by everybody I've ever known for as long as I can remember. Hardly anybody remembers why. Maybe I'll tell you someday.

In the meantime, let's talk about other people's nicknames.

If you ever spent any time out on the water, down the slips, or around the packing houses, your chances of ending up with a nickname were strong. Eddie Walters is called Seaweed. Willis Seward they used to call Fish. I grew up with a kid they still call Hardcrab. Every generation of Islanders has probably counted a Tadpole or two among their numbers.

Inland you can wind up with a nickname, too. Benton Gardner was one of the first four or five guys to start the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department. Went everywhere in his big black gumboots and was an enthusiastic recruiter for the fire company. Mr. Gardner was known for

his wise-cracking grouchiness. He was Crust.

Some island family trees have harvested a bumper crop of nicknames. Off the top of my head, the Leggs I remember include Chick, Jinx, Baby Jane, Zeke, Plug, Tidly, Guinea, and Nip. The Hoxters? Dimples, Brose, Corner Clay, Hopper Clay, and Shep. The Thompson clan produced a Butterball, a Rocky, a Lummy, a Bummie and a Choo Choo.

I have known at least five guys in this county called Buck. Add in the Dukes and Tinks you'd have an easy dozen. And there were, of course, the Cap'ns. Always the Cap'ns.

Teeny wasn't. Barrel Head was. Turkey. Stringbean. Tater. Mater. Watermelon. Pickle. Pie.

Muskrat George. Parson Island John. Dick Turkey. Bull Johnnie.

Kitty Duncan's dad was called Babe until he went to school, at which point his teacher told him he would not be allowed to register until he was provided a real name. He returned sporting the very dignified handle of Charles Lindbergh Collier. Most

everybody still called him Babe.

I believe the way we talk is who we are. Even if they're unflattering, nicknames are a term of endearment within our circle, a sign of being included. And I guess by nature, of being shut out, too.

There aren't as many of us with lifelong nicknames these days. Maybe it's because people aren't as lifelong close as they used to be. People move from here and from the names we give them. Or maybe it's because fewer people work the river and the farms. Just try telling your state-job coworkers that your friends call you Dingle Hooper, Fatback, Jerk, or Hitler.

But there are a few of us left. I was at a party a while back and introduced someone to Chopper, Tucker and Squeeze. It was suggested they sounded like a team of plastic surgeons.

They're not, they're Eastern Shoremen.

But the whole exchange made me think about Islanders that I have known by nickname, and that just made me smile.

The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.
Post Office Box No. 321
Stevensville, Maryland 21666

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Stevensville, MD
21666
Permit # 11



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Continued from page 1

in our planning process.

Krimmel is a Baltimore-based museum consultant specializing in strategic planning, exhibition development, and interpretive planning for history and heritage organizations. Over the past 25-plus years, he has helped small organizations rethink their mission and purpose, planned three new museum facilities, curated numerous permanent and temporary exhibits, developed bus and walking tours, and presented educational programs to a broad public audience.

His list of recent clients is extensive and include: New Windsor Heritage Committee, Baltimore Museum of Industry, York County Historical Trust, Anne Arundel County Historical Society, Visit Baltimore, St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum, Calvert Marine Museum, Sotterley Plantation, Historical Society of Frederick County, Historic Medley District, Charles Carroll House of Annapolis, Preservation Society of Federal Hill and Fell's Point, and the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House.

Krimmel will help KIHS develop a written framework for the strategic plan by creating a process that encourages participation of KIHS members, facilitating planning meetings, and helping to draft the final plan. It is anticipated the work will be carried out in four phases: developing a common understanding of KIHS and the environment we work in by identifying our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as well as defining important issues facing the organization; establishing a vision of the future for KIHS by defining goals and creating a strategy to reach them; and finally making the plan work and defining success.

He will be paid with grant funds received by KIHS from the Maryland Historical Trust for that purpose.

The last lines of Robert Frost's, "The Road Not Taken" are familiar to most people, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—/ I took the one less traveled by, / And that has made all the difference."

Choosing the right road is what strategic planning is all about.

Publick Forum

Our third KIHS Publick Forum brings you award-winning actress Mary Ann Jung, who breathes life into famous women whose courage and determination helped change the political and social mores of the still-unfulfilled promises of our young democracy.

Ms. Jung becomes the long-stilled voices of both famous and some overlooked heroines, such as Clara Barton, whom you will meet and speak with at the Publick Forum; Margaret Brent from Queen Anne's County, who advocated strongly for women's right to vote; Rosalie Calvert, who speaks of the War of 1812 and the burning of Washington with familiar intimacy; and Amelia Earhart, who demonstrated that women could do just about anything if they wanted to bad enough. She also speaks for Queen Elizabeth I, regaling her subjects with tales of life in Renaissance England; and she even becomes a pirate-queen for her PeeWee Pirate Show. Perhaps more hysterical than historical, but a new Julia Child show is also in the works.

Please note that the venue has been moved to Historic Christ Church in anticipation of this program attracting a larger crowd. Ample off-street parking is available.

