

Isle of Kent - 1631



Newsletter of The Kent Island Heritage Society, Inc.

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

This issue of *Isle of Kent* has taken on a new look. With the recent close of Kent Island Days, the Board and Advisory Board thought it might be nice to share our annual fund-raising book with members. This insert is for additions and general information we do not include in the fund-raising book. Hope you enjoyed Kent Island Days; and if you couldn't make it, hopefully this issue of *Isle of Kent* will shed some light on the wonderful weekend we all had. — The Editor

Hostesses Needed for The Cray House

Through October

Call Eva Thompson at 643-5368 to help out.

Letter from Eva White Thompson:

The "Museum In Miniature" was spectacular due to the efforts of so many!!! Where do I begin to say "Thank You?" If I in error delete someone, please forgive me.

The grand show of the gowns, etc. of the 1900s organized by Bobby Ann Nash and her assistants (a delightful town crier and her daughters) was so special. Schools of yesteryear were shown and explained by June Palmer and her coworkers Avaleen Thompson, Lois Horney, Alva Palmer Hutchison and Mildred Price. Churches of bygone days were exhibited by Emma Thomas, Becky Ringgold, Florence Dunn, Harold Higgins and Mildred Deshields. Delores Timms, who was assisted by several ladies of the Auxiliary, presented the Kent Island Fire Company history in majestic style.

Another novel exhibit this year was a salute to local champion boat racers: "Hydroplanes," Alton Pierson, (deceased, but so remembered); Lemuel A. Thompson, Jr.; Calvert Thompson; Wheeler Baker; Robert Baxter; Larry Lauterbach and Sandy Thompson. The racers were represented by trophies, photographs and printed materials... the gentlemen were and are champions. The unusual display framework was built by L.A. Thompson, Jr. The exhibit was explained by Lem, Bob,

Eunice Pierson and Gail Baxter Rumenap.

The antique farm equipment was brought to us by John Claude Lowery, Sr. This display created much interest especially with the young folks. Loaned to us by John (Jack) Gardner, the exhibit of original documents of the land grant from the King of England to the Gardner Family in the 1600s was fascinating and beautifully penned. The complete small scale farm by Shirley Cahall of Church Hill was indeed a delight and caught every eye from one to 80.

My coworkers and hostesses were such a joy: Elaine Palmer Scharnus, Donna Grimes Jones, Henrietta Grollman, Barbara Kettler Mill, Bertha Garrett, Shirley Severa and Fran Taylor. The special gentlemen who made signs, Gary Pyle and Willard Thomas, were also greatly appreciated; as was Bill Denny who cleared out a wooded pathway to the museum. And a very special thank you to Holly and Becky for the display and for lending the tables.

The Cray House hostesses, our own Perle Mestas, are indeed gracious and lovely in their period gowns. Thank you to each of you: Linda Legg Jefferson, Margaret Ann Jefferson, Marilyn Wilderness, Claire Coursey Kelley, Erin Kelley, Catherine Casey, Olive Bryan Lowe, Jean Eckstorm, Virginia Hawkins Ingling, Violet "Sis" Harris and Louise Price. Mary Jory Ewing, bless your heart and thank you for giving your time and sharing the stories of the Cray family. You are indeed our teller of stories!!!

If I have forgotten anyone, believe me, I thank you from my heart. — Eva

**Next Membership Meeting on June
20 at the Library, 7:30 p.m.**

**John Fountain Davis & Bill Denny will
continue their walk down memory lane.**

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Minutes

In addition to finalizing Kent Island Days, these other topics were brought up for discussion. Vice President Nick Hoxter (who was filling in for President Hugo Gemignani) informed us that members from local organizations have been organized to select/vote for colors, mascot, etc. for the new Stevensville High School. He then told us no one from the Heritage Society or the Stevensville High School Alumni Association was mentioned as being present on the Board. He said he spoke to Sonny Schulz about taking care of getting the Alumni Association represented and he would talk to the Heritage Society about our involvement. Nick asked for input from Heritage members, and all thought both the Alumni Association and the Heritage Society should be allowed to participate in the decisions. Nick said he'll handle it from there.

Nick also informed us of a zoning hearing he attended. There is a proposal in front of the county to build another body shop by the old Stevensville High School. A medical/office complex has already been approved by the county to be built across the road from the old High School site. This complex would take on "the look" of the old buildings and old Stevensville. Nick, as vice president in representation of the Heritage Society, said we do not approve of building the auto body shop. He informed the meeting attendants that it is against the law to build on grave sites/cemeteries; and that it is believed that there is a cemetery on the proposed location of the body shop. The attorney and inspectors present at the meeting were not aware of this and informed their client (Duty's Body Shop) that this poses problems and may even halt the project. Before the project approval came to a vote, it was also mentioned that this area should be dedicated as a historic district. A vote was then called for, the motion was passed, and they're going to go ahead with the construction of another body shop. Nick suggested we contact Mike Foster and see what if anything we can do. Bill Denny made the motion to talk to Mike to get his advice; and if Mike proposes going forward with stopping the project, then we should. Eva Thompson seconded it. The vote was unanimous. Nick asked Billy to call Mike, and he agreed.

We need your TREASURES

**We need your treasures for our annual
Christmas dinner meeting silent auction.
We're collecting your unwanted treasures
now. Just call Elaine Scharmus at
643-6495 to make arrangements.**

**Remember... your helping a good cause &
your donation might be tax deductible!**

NEW MEMBERS

Darric W. Inselman	Robert Olds
Brenda Belcher	Bob & Joan Weaver
Carol A. Markham	Mrs. Agnes Wyatt Chance
Nona M. Roll	Harold B. & Rebecca P. Ringgold
David Mears	William & Sarah Morgan
Donna Jones	Christina Walters
Elise Zajac	Tracy Schulz (Life Membership)
David Olds	Arthur & Suellen Ruby

THANK YOU BAKERS & HELPERS

Our cake sale for Kent Island days was a great success due to all who baked the goodies (you know who you are) for our table. Also, a big THANK YOU to Virginia Donaldson, Mae Hutchison and Grace Jones who worked with me at the cake tables. Again, thanks to all... and remember, same time, same place next year.

Myrtle Bruscup, Chairperson

THANK YOU to Our Members and Volunteers for Helping to Make 1996 Kent Island Days a Success!

- President Hugo Gemignani: Chairman, restaurants, businesses, airport, banners and program book
- Vice President Nick Hoxter: Co-Chairman, entertainment, opening program, tables & chairs, banner hanging (general help)
- William E. Denny: Co-Chairman, trash, electric, use of property, banner hanging
- Lois Cockey: Parking and street closing, county stage, meetings
- Mike & Cheryl Hoffman: Program book, petting zoo, crafters and publicity
- Kathy Magruder: Publicity, radio, TV
- George & Jane McCullough/Billy & Jamie Miller: Tables & chairs, barriers and new member David Olds, helper
- Bobby & Stewart Nash & Helpers: Children's programs, beautiful potted flowers used in museum & headquarters
- Eva Thompson & Helpers: Kent Island History Museum exhibits located in the Christ church Hall, hostesses for Cray House
- Myrtle Bruscup & Helpers: Very profitable bake table
- Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Denny/Stewart Nash/Robert Walters: Duck decoys in headquarters
- Mr. & Mrs. Warren Sadler: Waterman's exhibit
- Tilghman Hemsley: Waterman's statue
- Darrin Lowery: Due to an illness in the family, our faithful friend was not able to participate with the archaeology display
- Audrey Hawkins: The very profitable "The Little Trains Rides" and duck decoy painting. Also for the items for sale and helper
- Willard & Emma Thomas, Dick & Eileen Dadds, Gail Rumenap, Jerry Myers, Elaine Scharmus, Chris Walters & Jane McCullough