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The Year that Was: Collington in 2014

by George Newman

It may have lacked the 25th-anniversary cachet of 2013, but 2014 saw its share of milestones for Collington. The community won national accreditation, added residents at a record clip and welcomed new leadership in the Executive Council and the OO Shop. Here's a summary of the year's events, as recorded in the Collingtonian (excepting July and August, when the Collingtonian doesn't publish).

January: The Collingtonian published the first in a series of crossword puzzles crafted by resident Nina Rulon-Miller, whose work has appeared in the New York Times. A harsh winter inspired Judith Shaw to this limerick: "A certain non-Collington corridor/grew warmly, consistently torridier/with no freezing pipe-breaks/or bone-chilling floor lakes./This hallway was surely in Florider."

February: The American Bar Association honored Richard Zorza with its Louis M. Brown Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also the subject of a resolution by state chief justices



praising his "thoughtful, unique and dedicated service." The stories of Collington's African-American military veterans marked Black History Month.

March: The "Collington Scholars" program was established under the aegis of the Collington Foundation to provide support to employees seeking to continue their educations. A "Green Collington" initiative sought to reduce non-renewable energy consumption on the campus. The Collingtonian marked 25 years of publication with a "Silver Anniversary Extra," a collection of pages from the past.

April: A recently arrived resident, Bob Milford, opened a picture-framing shop at Collington, succeeding a long-standing initiative by Hilda Jay. Jackie Reed and Sarah Veerhoff announced that they would be married on campus the following month. It was to be the first same-sex wedding at Collington, and probably the first for a retirement community in Maryland.

May: CEO Marvel Adams led a celebration of

see 2014, p. 2

Collington's accreditation by CARF, the national standards body for continuing care communities. More than 150 people attended a gala dinner that raised over \$40,000 for the Collington Scholars program. Roberta Decker won the top door prize, a Holland America cruise. David Deel, co-director of Facilities Services, guided his model boat to a second straight Memorial Day regatta victory on Collington's lake.

June: The 100th anniversary of the start of World War I also saw Pat Brubaker's 100th birthday. In an interview she remembered hearing the bells marking the armistice in 1918 and recounted how the Great War had affected her family's life. The Outreach Committee organized a science program at Kettering Elementary School. At Monarch Academy in Anne Arundel County, Delores Hawkins and Madeline Wilson spoke with students about the civil rights movement.

September: The Collingtonian reported that Nancy Eichert won the July 4 regatta, the first woman to do so. Joe Howard took over the Opportunities Outlet – another enterprise that bore Hilda Jay's stamp – and together with a fresh corps of volunteers, expanded hours and offerings. The Fitness Center boasted new equipment, thanks to a grant from the Collington Foundation. Julia Freeman was named to a resident seat on the Collington Board of Directors, succeeding Roanne Hartfield.

October: Mike McCulley was elected president of the Residents Association, succeeding Janet Jones. Other new Executive Committee members were Pat Howard, first vice president; Cate Richie, second vice president, and Mary McCutchan, secretary. Anne McCulley continued as treasurer.

November: Jeanne Barnett wrote of her meeting in China with President Jimmy Carter, who gave the annual Barnett-Oksenberg lecture, named in part for Jeanne's late husband, a renowned China scholar. Multiple profiles of new residents testified to the Marketing Department's success. Collington's veterans gathered to mark their day.

December: The Collingtonian revived two categories that had been dormant, carrying a childhood Christmas memoir by Jeanne Slawson and a restaurant review by Carl Koch. The annual placement and decoration of the Clock Tower Christmas tree was enhanced by a model railroad resurrected from storage in the Woodshop by a crew that included Nancy Eichert and Herb Anderson. Staff and residents were preparing a gala New Year's Eve celebration.

Happy 2015!

The Collingtonian

**Financed by Residents,
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The Collingtonian invites all Collington residents to submit articles, photographs and story suggestions, preferably concerning Collington and its people. We also welcome "Letters to the Editor" commenting on the Collingtonian and its content. Submissions may be e-mailed to collingtonian@gmail.com or placed in the Collingtonian mailbox. All submissions are subject to editing for length, clarity and style.

‘Wedding of the Century’ at the Willard

by Morris MacGregor

This is the fourth in a series on little-known Washington history by the former deputy chief historian of the U.S. Army.

In March 1883 the Rev. Placide Chapelle officiated at the so-called “marriage of the century” when the legendary western heroine, Elizabeth Doe (nicknamed “Baby Doe” by miners celebrating her beauty and true grit), wed the super-wealthy Horace Tabor, Colorado’s Silver King.

In a costly display of poor taste at Washington’s Willard Hotel, the ceremony featured a lavish reception amid all the cut flowers obtainable within a hundred-mile radius of the Capital. President Chester A. Arthur and the country’s political leaders were among the privileged guests. By chance Chapelle overheard the bride’s mother remark to her daughter, “Well, Lizzie, this is cer-



Baby Doe



Horace Tabor



Washington’s Willard Hotel as it appeared in the 19th Century.

tainly a finer wedding than your last one.”

A press war ensued amid discussions of bigamy and church doctrine. Chapelle professed ignorance of Baby Doe’s marital status; the clearly irritated groom argued that the wedding party was ready to answer any questions, but no one, clearly including the priest, had ever bothered to ask the couple about their past.

The affair became a great news feature and was later immortalized in Douglas

Moore’s opera, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. At the opera’s premier Beverly Sills sang the title role. The opera also features the brief appearance of a puzzled priest in the wedding scene.

We Welcome Our New Neighbors

by Jeanne Slawson and Irene Wood

Beatrice Jones

Apartment 369, Ext. 5148.

Beatrice has been a life-long resident of Washington. After losing her husband in 2010, she sold her family home of 60 years and eventually discovered the greener fields of Collington. She boasts that her daughter “lives just around the corner in Mitchellville.” Together her daughter and her son have presented her with six grandchildren.



Beatrice worked as an administrative assistant for 20 years at the Library of Congress in the Congressional Research Service. She spoke glowingly of how she admired the Library’s “magnificent building,” which she enjoyed as much as her job.

Beatrice is spending much of her time pursuing her avid interest in mystery stories from John Grisham to Nora Roberts, as she settles in. She says that perhaps she will return to gardening and her beloved oil painting when she becomes more settled in Collington.

Don and Wanda Olson

Apartment 349, Ext. 5132

Don was born and raised in Montevideo, Minn. In 1943, just shy of his sixteenth birthday, he borrowed his 17-year-old brother’s birth

certificate, requested the first and middle names be switched and, with the recruiting officer appointed his legal guardian, joined the U.S. Navy. He became a Radioman, landing with the troops and setting up communications. He experienced several major engagements, the first being Iwo Jima, assisting the Marines as they stormed the beach. While there, he witnessed the famous flag raising. Next came Okinawa, where his ship came under Kamikazi attack, with many fatalities.



After the war and his 1946 marriage to Wanda, he served in Guam and San Francisco and then Washington, D.C., where he ran a mobile communications unit, traveling with dignitaries to ensure their messages were secure. Eventually he was commissioned as an ensign in 1960 and assigned to Fort Meade, Md. Later he was sent to wartime Vietnam for four days, to train ships’ communications personnel in secure messaging. It was the briefest tour of his 30-year Navy career.

After his retirement in 1973, he began a new career as a bank manager, ten years for Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan, then with two other banks.



Wanda was born in Kingfisher, Okla., then moved with her family to North Hollywood, Calif., in 1942. That Christmas her brother brought home his radio school classmate, Don, who proved he was already a good communicator; Wanda waited for him for four years. Then began a 68-year marriage that has brought them eight children, 20 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. In addition to her many motherly duties, Wanda served as

a substitute teacher in the Severna Park, Md. schools.

Both Wanda and Don have given many volunteer hours to their communities: They took AARP tax aide training, assisting taxpayers each year for the last 20 years, and were made Life Members for their service. They were Auxiliary Officers for 11 years with the Ocean City Police Department's "Play It Safe" program for high school seniors; they even helped run the "Movies on the Beach" program during the summers. Their senior cat, Ginger Annie, has made herself at home, too. Six of their children live in Maryland, one in New York and another in Texas. The Olsons are pleased that Collington brings them nearer to most of their children and grandchildren, and to Washington, D.C.

Alice Weatherby

Apartment 104, Ext. 7385.

Born in Somerville, Mass., Alice lived there through high school, then left for the University of Maine in Orono. Wanting to repay her father for her education, she worked for two years after graduation, teaching English and History. Though appreciative of her education, she recounts as "the most significant event in my college life" meeting the man who later became her husband and with whom she spent "seventy wonderful years."



As newlyweds they went into business together, buying the fishing resort his parents had run for thirty years. Running it was a challenging operation, with a big lodge, 50 individual cabins, and a large building to house employees. Working as a team, they provided classes, excursions,

meals, and accommodations. After 20 years of hard work, they sold the business to a couple with innkeeping experience, assured the family business would continue to thrive.

Alice and her husband lived in a small retirement community near Bangor, Maine, for a number of years. Following his passing, she remained there until moving to Collington to be nearer her daughter. She misses her old home, but since she "loves people" she is eager to get to know Collingtonians and make new friends.

Cuban-Born Collingtonians Back Obama Policy

Most news reports described President Obama's opening to Cuba last month as unpopular with older Cuban-Americans. Not so among Cuban-born Collington residents.

"It's about time," was a sentiment shared by Noemi Escandell, Maria Padron and Clarita Ricketts.

"It's a positive moment for the people of Cuba," said Noemi. "The only movement [toward a more open Cuban society] has to come from the U.S."

Maria added, "I see this as something that can help the Cuban people," and Clarita urged, "Let's get on with it."

All three emphasized that their approval of wider diplomatic ties didn't mean support for the Castro government. And they acknowledged that friends and family didn't necessarily agree with them.

"I have a cousin in Miami who was very hard-hit by all that happened in Cuba," said Clarita. "She's a staunch Republican. I'm not asking her about this." -- **GN**

Baby Boomers Coming Our Way

by Frances Kolarek

Baby boomers are beginning to retire in large numbers. People in general are living longer. These trends result in media warnings to retirement communities to be braced for a new influx of residents.

Collington has been “braced” for the past couple of years for this “influx.” Cory Hall, a marketing counselor, attributes our success in part to Collington’s flexibility in meeting the needs of the many who want much more space than our original cottages and apartments provide. “Incoming residents are invited to modify or expand living quarters to suit their own particular life styles,” he says. He tells of one couple who combined three smaller cottages into one capacious one, and others who have chosen to combine two adjoining units into one.

Among those with a double cottage are Professor Carl Brown, a Middle East authority recently retired from Princeton University, and his wife, Anne. The Browns learned of Collington from longtime residents Suzanne and Ainslie Embree, old friends they ran into at a conference on foreign affairs. After a visit, Carl and Anne were sold on our wooded acres and our lake and trails.

Having just celebrated its 25th anniversary, Collington occupies a unique position in an area where numerous new continuing care retirement communities have sprung up. Not yet at capacity, we are nearing that point, and hope to welcome additional members to the community in the coming months.

Tia Ervin, another of our experienced marketing counselors, explains that she tries not



Carl and Anne Brown and a view of their expanded living room. Photos courtesy of Marketing.

to waste the time of visitors to our community. “Before setting out on a tour of our 125-acre campus, we sit down and explore their interests and their backgrounds. Then we show them what we have that matches what they might be looking for. Our indoor pool may be a selling point for some, whereas our extensive library will captivate others. The wide choice of living arrangements from villas to apartments is a tremendous asset.”

And yes, we are “braced” for the influx. It’s already here.

This letter speaks for itself. Although it's addressed to Mike McCulley and the Executive Council, Mike describes it as a salute to every resident who contributed to the Employee Appreciation Fund.



December 8, 2014

Mike McCulley
President
Collington Residents Association

Dear Mike & The Residents Association Executive Council:

I'm writing to thank you and all of the Residents for their tremendous support of this year's Collington Employee Appreciation Fund. I understand Residents and family members contributed in excess of \$211,000 to the fund! I'm sure the Collington employees will be overjoyed with gratitude and appreciation! Your passion and commitment are astounding and truly a testament to the wonderful support all staff receive from all residents.

As you well know, never before in Collington history, have residents contributed at this level for the employees. What a wonderful accomplishment for you and the Residents Association for the outpouring of support and appreciation to the many Collington employees!

The entire Collington Leadership Team offers our heartfelt thanks!

All the best,

Marvell Adams
Executive Director

*We are so fortunate you & Ann
have joined our family!
Susan
Awesome job!
Thank you!
Karen*

*Amazing job!
Ellie*

*Thanks a bunch, Mike!
Tempig job!
Pam*

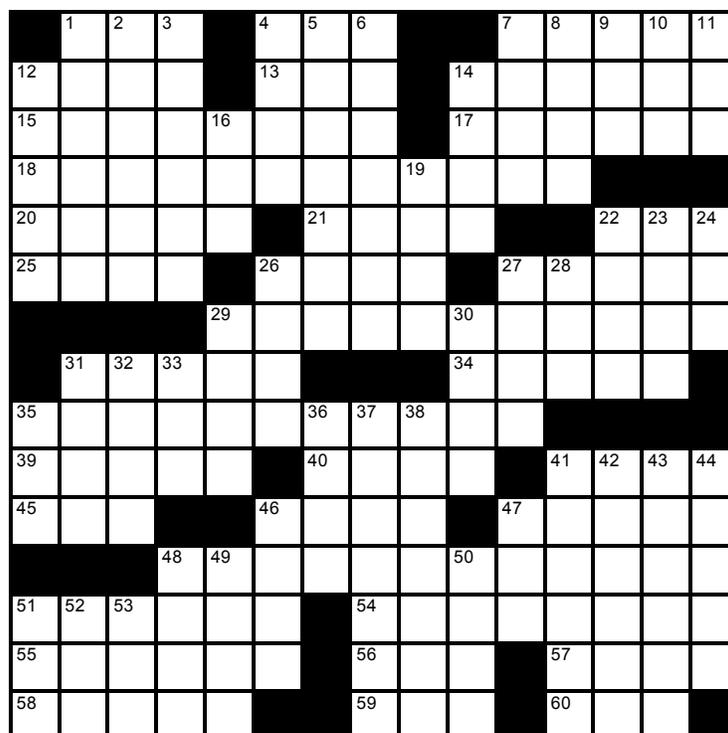
*Collington Residents ROCK!
Thank so much!
Amy
Thank you!
Gin*

*Wow!
Thank you so
much for your
efforts!
Judie*



"Take a Seat"

© Nina Rulon-Miller



Across

- 1 Workout target
- 4 Bad news from a bank: Abbr.
- 7 American finch
- 12 Novelist Shirley Ann _____
- 13 Tin _____
- 14 Like the Torah, traditionally
- 15 In flight
- 17 Smooches
- 18 1960's SDS member, often
- 20 Make some dough?
- 21 Dumbfounded
- 22 Constrictor
- 25 Baghdad's _____ City
- 26 Curators' degs.
- 27 "Ode to Psyche" poet
- 29 Dennis the Menace's child care provider
- 31 Dance style
- 34 Home of the Black Bears

- 35 B-Team member, maybe
- 39 French 101 verb
- 40 Koh-i-_____ diamond
- 41 Concoct
- 45 Light brown
- 46 Move
- 47 Threefold
- 48 Mona Lisa, for one
- 51 Flowering shrub
- 54 Touts
- 55 Chair person? And the theme of this puzzle
- 56 Chin ender?
- 57 Golden Globe Grant
- 58 Ribbon holder
- 59 Danger signal
- 60 Good looker?

Down

- 1 Albus Dumbledore is her brother in the Harry Potter books
- 2 Forbidden
- 3 Not so good

- 4 Famous fiddler
- 5 Capital of New Mexico
- 6 Green dumpster?
- 7 _____ de vivre
- 8 The Beatles' "Back in the _____"
- 9 "If I Ruled the World" rapper
- 10 Ltd., in Paris
- 11 Training academy for prospective officers
- 12 Stupid stares
- 14 Business school subj.
- 16 Former California fort
- 19 Slugger Sammy
- 22 Actress Barbara
- 23 Other, in Oaxaca
- 24 "Switched at Birth" speech
- 26 Feline line
- 27 "The King and I" co-star
- 28 Sense of self

- 29 Prof.
- 30 Suffix with theater
- 31 Hindu god
- 32 Aware of
- 33 _____-Fi
- 35 Louisville Slugger
- 36 Against
- 37 Make merry
- 38 Kind of block
- 41 Soups
- 42 Wedgie
- 43 Pizazz
- 44 Hollywood's Raquel
- 46 Common flag symbol
- 47 IBM and AT&T, e.g.
- 48 It means "high" in Italian
- 49 Virginia dance
- 50 Hied
- 51 Biblical Balaam's mount
- 52 Nada
- 53 From _____ Z

Restaurant Review

Old Ebbitt Grill: Piece of D.C. History

By Carl Koch

In the midst of downtown Washington's hustle and bustle is the historic Old Ebbitt Grill. Known as the city's oldest saloon, dating from 1856, it has hosted at least seven presidents. The animal heads over the bar are reputed to have been shot by Teddy Roosevelt. With a replica of the original mahogany bar, a Victorian interior with vintage steins, gaslights and marble stairs, it remains a virtual saloon museum. In 1983, the Old Ebbitt moved around the corner to 15th Street NW between F and G and expanded to three bars and five dining rooms.

We recently visited the Old Ebbitt Grill via a 25-minute Metro ride. Parking downtown is difficult; parking at Largo Metro – a few minutes from Collington – is not. The blue, silver, red and orange lines all stop at Metro Center two blocks from the restaurant.

The Old Ebbitt features very fresh raw oysters. The day we were there the menu offered oysters from six different U.S. locations (\$29.95/dozen). We selected the Katama Bay oysters from Martha's Vineyard accompanied by wine. These deeply dished bivalves were brimming with the meat and its associated liquid, which was crystal clear and deliciously salty.

For entrees we selected the specials of the day, chili braised pork osso bucco and grilled hot steak salad. The osso bucco was served on a bed of pureed sweet potatoes with grilled spinach on the side. The dish was not too spicy but had a firm chili flavor and was surprisingly meaty. The grilled hot steak was perfect,



medium rare and juicy, and the Roquefort dressing was outstanding. We finished with a hot, very nutty pecan pie with vanilla ice cream and coffee. The bill was just under \$100, including two glasses of wine.

Twenty-two entrees were offered at a median price of \$19. Burgers, soups and sandwiches are also available. Sixteen wines are available by the glass and more than 160 only by the bottle. Fifty bottles are priced under \$30. We sat at a table for two in the main dining room and enjoyed the energy of a full restaurant and staff scurrying around. We had no trouble with conversation but if one required a quieter atmosphere there are abundant booths in three of the five dining areas.

Price is in the eye of the beholder, but the beautiful ambiance, excellent service and outstanding food makes recommending this establishment easy.

Old Ebbitt Grill, 675 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C., (202)-346-4800 Open Monday – Friday 7:30am – 1:00am, Weekends – 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. www.ebbitt.com

Chef's Experience Belies Youth

By Frances Kolarek

Christian Ramsey has packed a prodigious amount of experience into his 25 years. Propelled by youthful energy he has held three jobs at once, worked while earning a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, and has worn the hat of Collington's Executive Chef since June.



Relevant to his responsibilities here is a four-year period spent at Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay, a retirement community in Virginia Beach housing more than 700 residents. His job there involved ordering all supplies for their food department and assuring conformity with the standards set by local health regulations, experience which recommended him highly to Eli Ayoub, our Dining Director.

Inspired by a beloved aunt who catered events for family and friends out of pure love of the activity, he enrolled in the Virginia Culinary Institute in Norfolk while it was in its infancy and earned an associate's degree.

How he has managed to cram a personal life into this busy schedule is hard to picture. However, his fiancée, whom he met in Virginia Beach, is now in her third year of law school at Howard University. The couple plan to marry in September of this year.

"I'm crazy about cars," he admits, and when he can find time, he works on a Mustang that he predicts "may be finished in a few years."

He also brews beer, making batches in his apartment. His most recent venture, a Mexican-style quaff, bottled and capped at home, "found favor among my friends," he says.

And during his six months here, Chris's *cuisine* has found favor among Collington residents.

Keeping Fit

by Tony Harris



Happy New Year!

It's 2015 and many of us are embarking on our New Year's resolutions. With the most common resolution being weight loss, many will work to tighten up those abs or fit into that outfit from years ago. However, only one in eight will manage to keep their resolution for the year. Many will find that their New Year's resolution is either too difficult to achieve or will just lose interest. Not having a clear, concise goal with a plan commonly leads to us straying away from our New Year's resolutions. Tips to stay on track:

- Make your resolution as specific as possible
- Make your resolution measurable
- Make your resolution attainable
- Make your resolution realistic
- Make your resolution with a timeline

If your resolution is to lose that spare tire, make it specific by researching what a healthy weight is for you. Keep it measurable by having an actual number/size and weighing or taking hip/waist measurements to keep track. Consult with your primary care physician, a fitness specialist, or a dietician to determine if your ideal weight is healthy and realistic in your current condition.

Lastly, have a feasible timeline for both your short- and long-term goals.

Most importantly, don't be afraid of challenges! Setbacks or missed deadlines are opportunities to re-evaluate your goals. Let 2015 be the year we discover our best.

Good Times and Good Works



Collington residents celebrated the holiday season with abundant good cheer and good fellowship, while also making time to help those less fortunate. Top left, Bill Preston and Eloise Branche liven up the dance floor at the New Year's Eve gala. The event drew a full house to an Auditorium christened "Midnight in Paris." Principal organizers of the event were Marlane Liddell and Greg Gay, top right.

At left, Community Outreach Committee members Bobbie McCuskey, Helen Lauck and Herb Stone wrap presents for needy families at Kettering School.

Below left, a vintage model train, unearthed from long storage by the Woodshop crew and displayed in the Clock Tower, delighted children of all ages – Collington residents included.

Photos by Joyce Koch, George Newman, Peter Pfund and Jeanne Slawson

