



Sailing The Downwind Route; Karl Edler's Voyage to Australia

By Margaret Bagley

What could possibly be more romantic than sailing solo, for the most part, to Tahiti? Karl Edler combined the romantic, in the sense of high adventure, with the dogged routine of preparation, once he decided to do just that. And then he continued on to Australia and New Zealand. But wait, let me back up a bit and chart Karl's life up to this journey.



Karl Edler in Scuba gear

Originally from Great Falls, Virginia, Karl has a strong identification with the natural world and respect for the resources contained therein. He graduated from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he met his future wife, Barbara. After they married in 1952, academic choice took them to the University of Indiana, where Karl took his master's degree in parks and recreational administration. Having begun rearing a family, they came east to give their children grandparent enrichment.

Karl first worked in Prince George's County for the Recreation Department in Riversdale.. Later he undertook engaging work with the youth center at Andrews Air Force Base. Then a slight shift transferred him to special services with the De-

partment of the army and adult civilian programs. He retired in 1986, while working at the Pentagon.

Back in 1975, Karl and Barbara began sailing with friends and that set things in motion. With their sons now at the University of Maryland, the time was right. Karl bought a friend's boat and named it the ***Hilde M*** after his only daughter. He took sailing classes at Annapolis and gained more familiarity with the Delmarva region, Newport News and the Chesapeake Bay.

One of his first exciting adventures was coming into Ocean City without power and his sail down. Lesson learned, never enter a mooring that way. (Continued on page 3)



***The Hilde M2 at anchor at St. Croix, V.I.
—Photos courtesy Karl Edler***

Collington's Bargain Basement

By Jeanne Barnett

Need that special tool? Or perhaps a jacket or dress? How about some kitchenware? Your first port of call is the Opportunity Outlet Shop, known as the OO to most residents. A treasure trove of all manner of things, the OO is located on the first floor, accessed by using the elevator by the clinic.

Its origins go back to early days in Collington, when residents began to pass from the scene and the contents of cottages needed to be dealt with, furniture being a particular focus. Hilda Jay was in at the beginning and, with some church funds, began to hold periodic sales in the Auditorium. By-and-by, the Residents Association took over with Hilda as "CEO." She first set up shop in a back room of the kitchen storage area. The shop's merchandise was soon expanded to offer a selection of items, with business hours set to meet the convenience of staff as well as residents.

As the enterprise grew and matured, it moved to its current location on the first floor. Mary-Ann Pellerin took over. In its new phase, the OO shop expanded to an even wider and more inclusive range of merchandise. It is now a favorite place to browse for almost anything.

The OO is open on Fridays for the pleasure of residents, staff and guests. Clothing is currently the best-seller, with a wish list for more men's garments, tools and generally anything of good quality.

One of Mary-Ann's goals is to "make things that we sell visible" by having a wide range of items displayed in various sites. Some of the finer items are displayed for sale in an alcove off the library corridor. RoAnne Hartfield has been managing this display, now with the help of Joe Sheffey.

Pricing is often referenced from internet sources and, periodically, "left-overs" may go to places such as the Salvation Army or, with particularly high quality items, to consignment shops. All proceeds go to the Residents Association and

are the main revenue source for funding the association's and residents' needs.

Future goals? Perhaps for the OO to look more attractive, to have better signage, and maybe to develop its own "Saks 5th Ave." knock-off somewhere on the first floor. In addition Mary-Ann would like to have donors be able to provide special directions for their donations if applicable.

Hilda, Mary-Ann and the many volunteers involved with this enterprise from the beginning have made and continue to make an enormous and indispensable contribution to the Collington community.



Opportunities Outlet Committee Members Lillian Langford, Mildred Wyckoff & Mary-Ann Pellerin. —RE

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Internet: Read this issue and selected past issues at keepingupwithcollington.org

Sailing to Australia (Continued)

The sailing journeys were extended up to Long Island, Block Island and Mystic Connecticut. In 1979, a new boat was acquired, the ***Hilde M2***, a Southern Cross 31. Sailing “blue water,” meaning the ocean off shore, was now a reality and new horizons beckoned.

Now the skills he acquired in 1979 as a ham radio operator came into play. At first, it was to keep in contact with Barbara, when he sailed without her.

Upon retirement, Barbara was still working for the Internal Revenue Service and their sons, Jan and Karl, were out of college. He intensified his preparations to take a long journey. He polished his skills to high gloss. Scuba diving came into play, celestial navigation, all that would be needed for a cross-ocean adventure. Barbara made sail covers, dodgers (to keep items in the cockpit dry) and signal flags.

Why Tahiti? “Why not,” Karl answered.

In November, 1986, a bad time to set sail by most standards, Karl and Barbara sailed out of home port at Cobb Island, Maryland, for Beaufort, North Carolina. There, Barbara said her goodbyes and took the bus back home while Karl set off alone for the Virgin Islands.

Then came a 32-hour storm that nearly swamped the boat, coupled with a ruined motor due to bad fuel, leaving him at sea without power except from a battery. This reality led him to make his first big decision. Should he return to port, at this juncture 30 hours of hard sailing away, or keep going to Puerto Rico? After initially turning back and realizing the difficulties of doing that, Karl decided to keep going.

He safely arrived in San Juan after sailing 20 days, without Barbara having heard from him since the storm. After getting needed repairs, Karl was left to perform a labor intensive desalination procedure of the boat’s gear. The storm had soaked everything and, as he found out, salt-soaked gear never dries on it’s own.

Karl sailed on, making harbor at exotic places

such as Christiansted, St. Croix, San Blas, Panama, the Panama Canal (where Barbara’s cousin helped him crew the boat) and the Galapagos Islands. The longest leg at sea was 22 days. Barbara flew down and sailed with Karl among the Marquesas Islands before he sailed on to Tahiti and Australia.

He explained that to make the Pacific navigable, there exists the Pacific Maritime Mobile Net. It tracks vessels and responds to traffic inquiries, provides vital weather information and makes possible links to home via phone patches, Honolulu being the relay point. Hookups provided by operators based in Washington State made it possible to have almost daily phone contact with Barbara. He learned of the birth of his first grandchild, Cory, while rowing back to the boat with groceries.

As the journey progressed, there were needed flights back home and visits from Barbara to explore the beauties of New Zealand, Australia, and the North Islands. Karl had definitely lived a dream adventure and been able to share it with Barbara through her visits, the telephone and his logs sent back to her for posting on the internet for their friends to follow.

What were the scariest parts of the journey? A small island surrounded by a coral reef is all the danger one needs especially when coupled with swift tides and control of the boat hard to come by.

Karl decided that time with Barbara and his children in the states couldn’t be equaled. He sold the ***Hilde M2*** in Townsville, Australia, and returned home in 1988, knowing that for this long journey he had never chosen the easy path. It was the challenge that enabled him to eagerly look forward to each day’s offering.

Many of us could be challenged to stretch a bit further in our golden years—to explore and master new challenges.

For Karl and his late wife Barbara’s meticulous log of his journey, go to www.edlers.org.

Happenings

Five Stars for Health Center

Congratulations to Director of Health Services Beth Neel and the Creighton Center staff for receiving Medicare's prestigious five-star rating for the fourth quarter in a row. As a result, Collington is listed in the U.S. News and World Reports magazine's top-rated listing of nursing care facilities within the country. Fewer than one in eight nursing care facilities receive the rating. The categories are health inspections, nurse staffing, and quality of care. For further information go to www.CMS.gov or health.usnews.com/senior-housing. on the internet.—JKG & MB

Joe Sheffey's Life Under Water

Newcomer Joe Sheffey was the featured speaker at the February 17 Know Your Neighbor talk. He talked of his 31-year career as a submariner aboard nuclear powered vessels armed with nuclear weapons. Based in the New London, Connecticut area, Joe could be out to sea under water without surfacing for 110 days at a time. Sometimes life on a submarine could be "pure unadulterated hell," he said. But it also gave him the time to study in order to get an advanced education, which later enabled him to teach English literature upon retirement from the Navy.

Before becoming a submariner, Joe had to pass tests that determined he was not claustrophobic.

While on the sub, there was always the "two-man rule," he said. "You are always looking at someone else and someone else is always looking at you." Submarines used to always carry a psychiatrist on board, but Joe said they would "drive the sailors crazy."

Under water there was little chance for communication with home and family. The sub would come near the surface once a day, but only to re-

ceive messages. It did not need to respond, Joe said. Wives could send a 15-word e-mail which the captain would read first.

Joe gave kudos to his wife and other Navy wives for tending home and family. "They had to do it all by themselves," he said. He did note, however, that on-shore sailors would act as surrogate fathers to the children while their own were out to sea. —JKG

Dr. Bakker Talks on Memory Loss

Dr. Arnold Bakker of the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Hospital spoke here in February on memory and memory improvement. While there may be other causes, Alzheimer's is the most frequent reason for memory loss in persons over 65. By 2050, he predicted, 16 million Americans will be suffering from this disability, with treatment costs exceeding a trillion dollars a year.

While there are no medical treatments to prevent or stop Alzheimer's, there are ways to slow its onset, he said. He urged seniors to keep physically active (exercise), keep performing mental tasks such as balancing your checkbook or crossword puzzles (cognitive health), and, most important, keep engaged and involved.

Ten warning signs are memory loss, difficulty performing familiar tasks, problems with language (coming up with the right word), disorientation to time and place, changes in judgement (such as going outside without a coat), problems with abstract thinking, misplacing things in inappropriate places (such as car keys in the refrigerator), changes in mood or behavior, changes in personality and loss of initiative.

Much research is underway to determine what causes Alzheimer's, what are the early signs of the disease and what medications might be used to treat it. Johns Hopkins is doing clinical research on a drug, Levetiracetam, which is already FDA-approved for treatment of seizures and deemed safe.

Bakker's department is seeking seniors to participate in the second phase of the study. A number of Collingtonians have already participated in the first phase. After his talk, some residents agreed to participate in the study, which is eight weeks long and requires four visits to Johns Hopkins. Interested persons may contact Caroline Speck at 410-955-5057.

Door Prizes Won at Balance Test

Congratulations to Martha Smith who won a lunch bag and to Faith Jackson who won a \$25 gift certificate at the March 8 Flagship Therapy sponsored Balancing Your Day event. Residents were tested for agility and balance by standing up and sitting down, standing on one foot, walking fast and balancing on a giant ball.

Unna Relates His Experiences in Asia

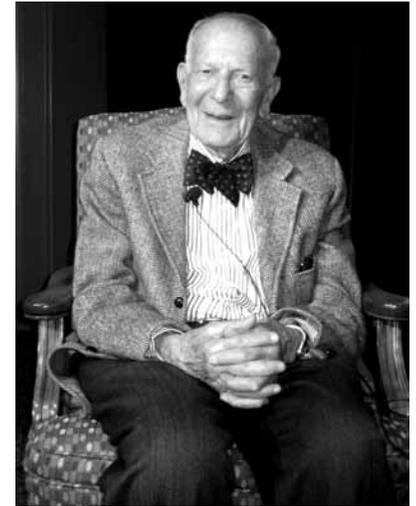
The March 21 guest speaker was no guest at all, but 12-year (almost) Collingtonian Warren Unna, who spoke of his experiences with celebrities from presidents to foreign heads of state while he was a newspaper reporter.

Warren graduated from the University of California, Berkeley and first worked for the San Francisco Chronicle. The Institute of Current World Affairs gave him the opportunity to travel-study around the world for a year. He concentrated on how countries achieved neutrality.

He then obtained employment at the Washington Post because, he said, the chronicle's management didn't want to pay the Newspaper Guild's required salary for a senior reporter. For the Post, he primarily covered Asia. Warren rattled off a list of famous people whom he had met, beginning with then past-president Herbert Hoover who was chairing the Hoover Commission for President Dwight Eisenhower. He found Hoover quite pleasant to deal with.

Not so Ike, who did not seem to like doing press conferences and kept the press at bay when he traveled. On the other hand, a John Kennedy press conference was "just a joy." Lyndon Johnson, who believed that "every man had his price," was the best politician of the presidents, he thought. "He got his votes," Warren said.

Warren attributed his success in conducting interviews to being friendly and listening to the person being interviewed. It is also important to sit so as to make eye contact, he said. In Indonesia, he managed to obtain a difficult interview by learning that it was the local custom to not turn away any visitor who arrived in the late afternoon.



Warren Unna --JKG

In his travels about Asia, Warren recounted many experiences and listed the many prominent people he met: Indian Prime Minister Jawaharial Nehru who answered 17 questions for him, thereby generating two major stories with Warren's byline; the King of Bhutan who sought advice on educating his son; an Indian health minister who walked briskly back and forth in a garden while he trailed her trying to take notes; President Lee Kuan Yew of the Republic of Singapore with whom he argued about the Viet Nam War; the daughter of a Japanese Prime Minister for whom a gift of stockings got him an interview and a nice meal in a restaurant; the wife of the president of South Korea who tried to find eligible ladies for him to marry; Madame Chiang Kai-shek whom he watched squirm as her support from the "China Lobby" in America dried-up and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who rejected his questions.

Of particular interest to residents was his accompanying G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams, then assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, on a whirlwind tour of 16 countries in 31 days for President Kennedy. In Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia, he met and lunched with Collingtonians Bill and Nancy McGhee, who were then stationed there. He apologized to them (they were in the audience) for impertinently asking if they "always ate that well."

Black History Month's Jazz Dance



The Captain Fly Band provided Collingtonians with a delightful evening of danceable music. The program was one of the many February Black History Month events.



A tasty snack buffet and beverages added to the evening's enjoyment. —JKG

Episcopal Bishop's Cross and Ring Designed by Collingtonians' Son

To design her pectoral cross, an appurtenance of bishops in the Anglican Episcopal Church, Mariann Edgar Budde, its first female bishop, (see November 2011 Collingtonian) chose Michael Schwartz. Michael is the son of Collington residents Alfred and the late Marylyn Schwartz.

Michael, who has worked with jewelry and metals all his adult life, opened the Creative Metalwork School of Design in 2006 and since

then has counted among his clients the White House as well as the Diocese of Washington. The bishop and Michael discussed numerous designs, deciding upon the one shown in the picture. Michael also designed and executed Bishop Budde's ring identifying her as bishop of the Washington Diocese. FK



Bishop Budde wearing Pectoral Cross and Bishop's ring.

—Courtesy Michael Schwartz

Tuskegee Airmen Close Month

Collington's celebration of Black History Month concluded with a program honoring the Tuskegee Airmen, African-Americans who served with distinction during World War II in a then segregated Air Force. Master of Ceremonies Ernest Blake introduced J. Byron Morris, immediate past president of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., who, after giving an opening prayer, introduced featured speaker Bill Broadwater. After showing a film, *Wings for the Man*, about the airmen who trained at an airfield near Tuskegee, Alabama, and then provided highly dangerous fighter escort to long-range bombers over Germany, Broadwater told of his own experience. He began his effort to enlist six months before he became of eligible age. Quickly learning how to fly, he eventually became a B-25 bomber pilot, but late in the war.



Attending the program was Collingtonian Joseph Jefferson, who served on the ground crew with the original airmen. A contingent of young African-American members of the U. S. Air Force

stationed at Andrews Air Force Base also attended to show their respect for the brave fighters who helped destroy the racist Hitler regime while breaking down barriers to race here in America. ---JKG



Flanked by men and women in Air Force blue are speakers Bill Broadwater, J. Byron Morris and M.C. Ernie Blake. Collingtonian Joseph Jefferson is seated in front. —Photos by JKG

Workers Raise the Roof



On Wednesday, February 22, while the monthly residents Council meeting was taking place, workmen descended upon the Clocktower and tore the roof apart. They removed the asphalt shingles from part of it, replaced rotting timber and sheathing under it and installed new roofing as needed. Back on Thursday, to finish the job, Ria Hawkins caught on camera the men working

beside the clock. JKG

Get in the Swim, but Stay Dry



Pool sharks? No, just Collingtonians Joan Hult and Barbara Lubowicki enjoying our billiard room. It's located off the alcove beside the Library where the finer OO shop items are displayed. Neophytes and pool sharks are all welcome to drop in on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. to learn or play. MP

Area Restaurants Recommended

Food critic Todd Kliman of the Washingtonian magazine recently offered his list of 100 favorite restaurants for cheap eats. Five area restaurants are listed. KBQ Real Barbecue, 12500 Fairwood Parkway, Suite 100, in Bowie is rated as having the best ribs in the Washington area. He found La Serenita at 4911 Edmonston Road in Bladensburg to be a scruffy diner that is an authentic Mexican cantina.

Two dozen varieties of muffins and curry dishes are featured at the Muffin Man Caribbean Café, 9434 Lanham-Severn Road, Lanham. Shagga, 6040 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville, is recommended for its lattes and Ethiopian dishes such as doro wat, a sweet spicy stew. Taquiera La Placita in Bladensburg's Little Mexico, 5020 Edmonston Road, has 20 fillings for tacos. JKG

Satisfaction Survey Results Reviewed

By James Giese

At the February 16 Community Meeting, Executive Director Marvell Adams spoke about the results of a satisfaction survey undertaken by research consulting firm Holleran Consulting. Holleran has conducted similar surveys in 248 communities in 36 states. Distributed last July, 73.5 percent of Collington's independent living residents responded sending their answers directly to Holloren.

Some of the results: 95 percent of the respondents expressed satisfaction with Collington, 83 percent rating their satisfaction as excellent or good and 81 percent would recommend Collington to a friend or relative. In response to a list of specific qualities, residents rated highly the quality of food, the courtesy and friendliness of the wait staff and dining room service. Collington residents were in the 10th percentile of all survey respondents for safety and security of independent residences, buildings and grounds.

Adams said that management was taking the survey results very seriously and that work groups to include Resident Association planning committees along with members of the Collington Leadership Team would deal specifically with addressing such concerns as may have been raised by residents in their responses and to achieve even higher satisfaction ratings in future years. While it will be a joint effort, "at the end of the day, it is up to management" to make sure that resident perceptions of Collington reflect the highest levels of satisfaction, he said.

The survey was taken before Collington affiliated with the Kendal group of life care facilities. Survey results indicate Kendal residents have higher levels of satisfaction with their communities than those of other surveyed communities. Kendal's input to the Collington work group will be most helpful.

A copy of the summary is in the library.

Working Here Attracts Families

By Frances Kolarek

That a familial atmosphere pervades Collington—after all, this is our home—is no surprise. But that so many of our staff are related to one another is a surprise.

Let's start with Siaka Fahnbulleh, the pastry cook and fruit sculptor in Dining Services. He is married to Joy Ijomoh, whose mother Bridget Ijomoh is a member of the housekeeping staff. Server Sheik Fahnbulleh is his cousin. All have come to us from Liberia.

Denina Trotman began work here 18 years ago as a dining room server and through hard work and intelligence has become an assistant to Roger Barnes in Social Services. Denina used to fill in for Priscilla at the Clocktower reception desk and says she misses seeing residents there. Her daughter, Jazmine, attends high school and works part time as a server at dinner time. Denina's brother, Michael Markham, is a staff member few residents see. He works midnight to 8 a.m. on the Security Desk.

Dining Services supervisor Dana Cowan-Stewart's son, Tyrone Caldwell-Cowan is an Environmental Technician who drives from cluster to cluster picking up trash. He also helps set up our meeting rooms, arranging chairs and tables as we request. His wife, Chanel, is a Dietary Aide, working in the Health Center.

Alexander Aguilar, recently a server in the Dining Room, is the son of Maria, a housekeeper in the Health Center. Alexander left Collington to become a personal trainer. Seaneh McGill, another housekeeper, is the mother of Harry who runs the dish washing machine in Dining Services. And Ana Amaya of our housekeeping staff is the mother of Ana, a server in the dining room.

Two sisters, Anna Flores and Morena Abundez, are on the housekeeping staff. Anna works in the 5000 district and Morena on the third floor of the apartment building and in the 1000 cottages. Sisters, Jocelyn Campos and Memie Reyes are both geriatric nursing aides. We have a brother-

sister pair in Adelle Flomo and Khadefi Flomo, both dietary aides.

Brothers Emmanuel and Albert Omari do their best to keep ahead of the tons of trash we residents generate. Emmanuel, who has been with Collington 12 years, works the day shift and Alfred is on duty evenings.

Steve Streeter, Retread Paleontologist

By Jeanne Barnett

When asked that initial question of how he might describe himself. Steve immediately responded—with something of a grin on his face—as a “retread paleontologist,” a passion he claims emerged when he was six. It appears that at a very early age his mother trundled him off to a local Bookmobile in Minneapolis, where he immediately gravitated toward books on ancient “life forms,”



Steve Streeter ---RE

He became both fascinated and “hooked” by a subject combining history and science. Or to put it in another way, reconstructing the earth’s history before there were humans on it. Such as, at one period in his career, studying shells in deep ocean revealing changes in the circulation of deep ocean waters corresponding to known climate changes that took place during the last glacial-interglacial cycle.

Clearly this life passion—and ensuing expertise—appeared very early for Steve. He devoured books and read everything of interest he could lay his hands on.

Growing up in Minneapolis and Kansas City, Steve went to public schools then on to four years at Harvard, studying with British paleontologist Harry Whittington, and finally to seven more years at Columbia University and a PhD.

Along the way, he met and married Sandie Lavery, who died prematurely in 1963, leaving be-

hind their young son, Christopher.

Tragically this was about the same time that Steve’s sight began to give way and eventually to dramatically alter his life in ways that challenged him to adapt and train his highly intelligent, fertile and complex mind to new purposes and strategies for a fulfilling and capacious life.

Steve taught at Oberlin (Ohio) and Queens (New York) Colleges, followed by his paleo-climate research while back at Columbia. But as funds for academic research began to shrivel, in 1980, Steve moved to California to take a job at Chevron Research Lab. There he evaluated and developed computer software programs for use in geologic research. Fortunately in those days, even being self taught, he was able to get a job in this field.

Most recently, after considerable thought and exploration Steve decided on Collington as his new home, arriving on campus in July of 2010. Earlier scientific explorations in the Chincoteague area with a friend – and a long ago research trip near Savannah with Jared Diamond—“a real genius”—had already introduced him to this part of the country. He is now greatly satisfied with his choice. He notes that at Collington with its shuttle to the Washington area Metro and the New Carrollton Amtrak Station, he is able to travel to anyplace in the world.

Former and ongoing passions for reading (all of Henry James among others), now made increasingly possible for vision impaired persons, as well as an interest in music, completes a full and interesting life. A life that has made Steve become, for others, a truly engaging person.

As he wrote in the Harvard Yearbook, Class of 1959 “update,” “I cannot remember ever being truly bored since that morning in September 1954 when I stepped off the train from Chicago at South Station”....to begin life in Cambridge. Anyone who knows Steve can understand why.

—RE

Chatter Box

Did you see Herb and Anne Stone featured in the full page Kendal advertisement that has appeared in the *New Yorker* and *Smithsonian* magazines? Our photogenic former 'first family' of the Residents Association looked great standing among cherry blossoms before the Tidal Basin and Jefferson Memorial. Wonder how Kendal got the cherry blossoms to bloom for a mid-winter ad. . .

@

See you later? Well not this alligator. We ate it!

One of the many splendors of the Mardis Gras celebration at Collington was being treated to a Cajun specialty, fried alligator. No, that wasn't chicken served at the buffet along with the fried shrimp, hush puppies and other delicacies. Dining head Eli Ayoub said he served over 120 pounds of alligator. It is becoming a popular restaurant menu item, he said, particularly in New Orleans where the bayous are filled with the beasts. It tasted a little like chewy chicken at first, but then developed into more of a fish-like flavor.

@

This year's Smithsonian calendar, featuring photos of treasures from the Smithsonian Institution, has a photo, "Three children in a wicker baby carriage with an American flag, c. 1900-1912," from the Faris and Yamma Naff Arab-American Collection at the Archives Center of the Smithsonian American History Museum. The Naff Collection grew out of a major research project undertaken by the Naffs' daughter, Dr. Alixa Naff, now a resident of Collington. Her project

was the study of the early Arab immigrant experience in the United States from about 1880 through World War II. Appropriately, the photograph of the three young Arab-American children showing their patriotism (the carriage is decorated with patriotic bunting as well as carrying the flag) is opposite the calendar page that included Independence Day.

@

Bob Elkin recently returned from a month in southern Florida visiting his sister and brother and their families and playing bridge. Despite the cool weather, Bob had a great time. One highlight was a visit to a Seminole village in the Everglades and its splendid new cultural museum paid for by their casino earnings. Bob didn't say whether he also made a "contribution" at the casino.

@

No one has claimed getting all the answers to last month's Presidential Quiz right. Nor does Bob Chessler. But he does wish to nitpick the appropriateness of one answer. Harry Truman was named by his parents without a middle initial, Bob says. However, the future president decided his name would sound better with a middle initial, so he added "S." He used the middle initial in running for office. So, for your score you may add a point either for the "S" or for not having a middle initial.

@

Margo Starr Kernan is beaming with pride in her two grandchildren. James Kernan, 19, completed a one-year Generation Peace Academy service in Japan, where he helped remove debris and personal effects left after the tsunami. Now his sister Elizabeth, 21, is leaving for Peru to help build aqueducts.

Answers to Who Am I? 1. Bill McGhee. 2. Paulette Tino. 3. Grant Bagley. Did you get all three? Better luck next month.



Remember those great flavored tomatoes when we were young? Actually, the flavor came mostly from the pulp. But we wanted firm tomatoes for slicing. So we got firm tomatoes but with less flavor. Then we wanted the heirloom tomatoes back again, and the seed companies responded. Those old varieties had little or no disease resistance, and subsequently all kinds of tomato diseases became established in gardens everywhere. Well, goodbye Marglobe, Brandywine, Rutgers, Bonnie Best! Look for large, firm, tasty, disease-resistant Scarlet Red, Solar Fire, Primo Red, Celebrity, and Pony Express. The Garden Committee will sell these improved varieties to you in mid-May.

Many of us have read about virgin forests here in America where you can look way, way up to the tops of the trees. Did you realize that we live only six miles from the Belt Woods Natural Preserve, where no trees have been cut down since at least 1632 when Europeans first arrived here in Maryland? But wait—look closer! The woodland above the tennis court has all you would expect in a mature oak and tulip tree forest. Follow along the dirt trail until you find a decent entry into the woods, then look up, way up. These majestic trees are 100 to 130 feet tall!

We love our cheerful daffodils, and they are deer-proof, too. See them at the cottage gardens. There are many interesting and beautiful kinds: trumpets, large-cupped, small cupped, doubles, multiflowered, split cups, ruffled doubles, poeticus, tazettas, jonquillas, triandrus, cyclamineous, and miniatures. Order some bulbs from the fall catalogs, then plant and enjoy them. You can hardly fail with daffodils.

Who Am I?

By Marian Schubauer

Take a look at these early photos of current residents and see if you can guess who they are using the clues we've presented. When you get back to Chatter Box, you'll find the answers. Have fun!



No. 1. He married his college sweetheart. Attacked by natives in Africa, he also lived in China, Japan and the Philippines. Now, he is an outstanding drama performer.



No. 2. She studied at the Sorbonne. Her favorite sport is bicycling. She was an actuary for many years at the IRS.



No. 3. A doctor, lawyer, Indian chief, etc. who is equally handy with hammer and spatula. He is an important cog in the Collington wheel.

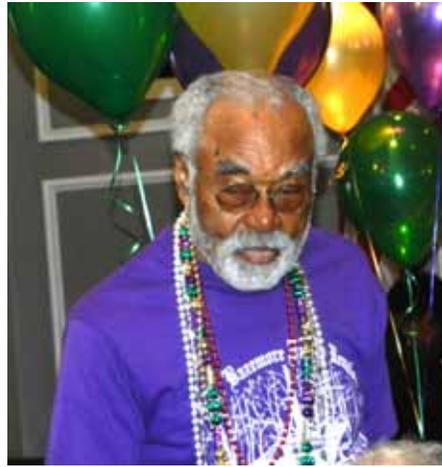
County Receives Top Honors

All three bond rating firms have once again given Prince George's County their highest rating score, AAA. A good credit rating indicates that the county's financial outlook is strong and that its bonds are considered a safe investment, thereby enabling new bonds to be sold at the lowest interest rates.

Prince George's County was ranked sixth among counties over 500,000 in population for its use of communication and digital technology. The annual survey is conducted by the National Association of Counties and the Center for Digital Government, a California-based research institute. JKG

MARDI GRAS!

By Pete Peterson and Jim Giese



Mardi Gras brought beads, masks, music, great food specialties and color to Collington on February 21. From left, top row: our King Junior Fadare and Queen Mary Jane Hart, chosen by lot from among employees and residents, Grant Bagley, Curtis Langford and Mistress of Ceremonies Kay Laughton. Middle row: Lyn Bernstein, Marvell Adams and Marcia Giger. The Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark All Star Blues Band is at left.