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Health Chief Welcomes Challenges

by Frances Kolarek

An executive position that has remained vacant for more than a year is bound to present some challenges, and Ashley Walters, our new Director of Health Services, is ready, willing and able to meet them.

“If we attack them one at a time, the job is doable. If we work together we’ll get the job done.” “We” in Ashley’s vocabulary means residents and staff working together to fix what is broken.

Mindful of the need for “a more compassionate and caring approach from some staff,” as noted in Executive Director Adams’ recent report on Health Services, Ashley is focused on improving customer service and enhancing clinical skills. She believes that if staff can establish rapport with residents, greet us with a smile and a cordial word when we enter the Clinic or any other area, we will have made a productive start.

Yes, she admits that sometimes residents can be “belligerent” and she assures staff dealing with the difficult that “we have their backs.” Her advice: “Remain calm. Hang in there. Respond positively and continue to keep a positive approach.” And she is well aware of the need to



Ashley Walters

keep response times in emergencies at acceptable levels.

Ashley began her job with us in January of this year, coming from seven years with NMS Health Care of Silver Spring, where she started as a social worker and left as Director of Administration. With a Bachelor of Social Work from Virginia Union University in Richmond, she is

today a licensed nursing home administrator in the State of Maryland.

She promises an early improvement in the appearance of the Creighton Center’s fourth floor facility, which hasn’t enjoyed a facelift in some time. This, she believes, will increase staff morale and make a more positive impression on visitors.

Ashley and her husband are the parents of a daughter, 8, and a son, 2. The family lives in the Waldorf area.

In her own words, Ashley promises to bring us “experience, professionalism, and expertise.” And she anticipates “innovation and modernization” in our Health Services. Welcome, Ashley Walters.

Collington Foundation 101

By Mike McCulley

The Collington Foundation may be something of an unknown quantity, especially for relatively new residents, of whom there are many. As we learned at a recent community meeting, 65 percent of us have arrived within the last five years. Hence this brief Foundation primer.

The Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Collington. That designation can be confusing because it's not the only source of fund solicitation. The Residents Association seeks donations for its operating programs and the Employee Appreciation Fund. But it is a separate entity from the Foundation, which is the focus of this article.

Our community enjoys robust contributions supporting a wide range of activities under the Foundation umbrella. Incorporated in 1996 as a non-profit 501(c)3 foundation to support the Collington community, it maintains five distinct funds. The Fellowship Fund, by far the largest portion of the Foundation at more than \$2.2 million, was founded in 1984 (12 years before the Foundation) with a \$250,000 donation from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. This fund is a safety net for Collington residents. It insures that if residents outlive their financial resources through no fault of their own, they are able to remain here.

The Scholarship Fund provides financial support to Collington employees who are continuing their education, mostly on a part-time basis at nearby colleges and universities. There are about 40 students, known as Collington Scholars, who receive total support of about \$50,000 per year.

In addition, there are two small funds of

about \$17,000 each: The Music Fund supports the Candlelight Concert series on Sunday afternoons, and has helped in the acquisition of pianos. The Future Fund was created in 2013 to commemorate Collington's 25th anniversary and supports ongoing campus projects.

Finally, there are unrestricted funds totaling about \$400,000. These are the sources of support for various projects promoted by Resident Association committees. For example, the Buildings Committee received a grant to install automatic door openers at restrooms and apartment laundry rooms. The Grounds Committee has received grants for strategic planting around our campus.

Residents serving on the Foundation Board are Sara Case, Ted Hawkins, Helen Lauck, Mike McCulley, George Newman and Anne Stone. Any of us would welcome questions you may have about the Foundation.

The Collingtonian

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10450 Lottsford Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721
Phone: 301-925-7349

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Editor: George Newman; News Editor: Frances Kolarek. Additional staff and contributors for this issue: Pat Bozeman, Ann Davie, Marian Fuchs, Jim Giese, Joyce Koch, Peggy Latimer, Mike McCulley, Lee McKnight, Jessica Milstead, Bill Preston, Marion Robbins.

Distribution Manager: Ernie Blake.

This issue and many past issues of the Collingtonian are now online at collingtonresidents.org.

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.

Our Poetry Group: A History

By Lee McKnight

Editor's Note; This is National Poetry Month, an appropriate time to present a history of Collington's Poetry Group by its leader. A longer version of this article is in the Archives Room of the Library.

Because the foundations of the Collington Poetry Group were so informal, details of its origins are lost. But the group existed as early as 2005 and remains active today. No one kept notes of the early meetings but it appears they began when a poetry class given by Jim Link of Prince George's Community College ended and several members wanted to continue to discuss poetry.

At first the group considered having members write and discuss poems, but it soon became clear that this was more than they could handle and they decided to concentrate on published American and English poets.

The names of the original members have been lost to memory but the group was started by Chuck Dell of Collington and included Jim Link, the PGCC teacher. The group began with only four or five members and without any formal structure. Eventually one member would choose a poet for the next meeting and then lead the discussion. Gradually, members learned that they needed to pass out written information on the selected poet and poems at the beginning of each meeting. As time went by they learned to use the Internet as a source.

Over time the little group began to attract other Collington residents. By 2015 some 20 members were receiving the preprint handed out a week before every meeting. Meetings continued to begin with a discussion of the life (and sometimes the times) of the poet and then members took turns reading the poems in the handout. After the formal part of the meeting we often continued the discussion in some comfortable space where we

could have a glass of wine with something to eat.

Recently there have been four members fluent in Spanish. This was especially appropriate for a meeting featuring the work of U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera, who wrote in both English and Spanish, with one poem in both languages. Fortunately one of our Spanish speakers was able to translate the Spanish parts so we could see how the poet had mixed the English and Spanish. Most of the poets continue to be American or English, but we have covered poems in translation from other languages, including Chinese and French.

We have found that the group benefits if one person leads the discussion, but all members are encouraged to contribute to the selection of the poet of the month as well as contribute to the discussion. Recently, different members have assumed responsibility for some of the details. Arnold Klick, in particular, began pulling together data on the poets, and Bill Conklin assumed responsibility for distributing the preprints. The late Steve Streeter, whose knowledge of poetry and poets was exceptional, was an especially important contributor, even though his vision had deteriorated to the point where he could hardly read the preprint distributed for the meeting. He often astounded us by the breadth of his knowledge and his ability to recall poems he had learned years earlier.

More recently we have had the benefit of Robert Mezey, who came to Collington after having spent many years writing, teaching and translating poetry. His insights have been invaluable, especially in regard to modern poetry.

We Welcome Our New Neighbors

By Pat Bozeman, Ann Davie and Marion Robbins

Robert Reid: World War II Veteran, Government Admin- istrator, Church Official

Apt. 104, Ext. 7385. Robert Reid's age – he celebrated his 96th birthday a few weeks ago – is belied by his energy and his graciousness as a host.



Robert was born and raised in South Carolina. When his father was offered a job in the Navy Yard in 1937, the family moved to Washington.

During World War II, Robert served in the 82nd Infantry for three years in Italy and France. After the war he moved to the Air Force in an administrative capacity. Simultaneously, he served in various administrative positions in the U.S. Postal Service. He and his wife, Edna, lived in Washington for most of their working years while Edna worked as a tailor for the Army at Fort Myer in Arlington, Va. But after Edna suffered an injury that required a one-story home, they retired and built a house in Mt. Rainier, Md., where they lived for a long while.

Robert and Edna Reid raised one daughter, Brenda, who lives with her husband in the Forestville area of Prince George's County. Brenda has retired from her career as a teacher in Washington and an Assistant Principal in the Prince George's County schools. Robert's sister and her large family live in and around Baltimore, and he feels fortunate to have so many nieces and nephews to check on him.

Responding to Brenda's wish for them to be closer, Robert and Edna moved to a condo in Cameron Grove, but after her mother's death

in 2013, Brenda encouraged her father to move even closer. Collington won their commitment in spite of his being pursued by another CCRC.

Robert is very pleased that Curtis and Lillian Langford, long-time friends from Asbury Methodist Church in Washington, are Collington residents. At Asbury Robert has served in various capacities since the early 1960s. He drives in most Sunday mornings.

Robert particularly likes Collington's variety of spaces and the quiet campus. He walks every day, is interested in the geese outside his first floor apartment near the lake, and finds pleasure in the convivial atmosphere of the dining rooms.

Helen Svensen: Dancing Her Way to Adventure

Cottage 2110, Ext. 7275. Music and laughter greet you when you enter Helen Svensen's home. Chances are she's barefoot, and perhaps she's dancing.



Helen, an only child, was born in Des Moines, Iowa, with a cleft palate. Her wise mother put her, at age three, in a dance class where talking wasn't important. The cleft palate was repaired, and she thrived. She started on toe shoes when she was seven. At 15 she went on the road, seven thousand miles through Canada in a "Grand Stand Show." Her mother, who played the piano, went along to chaperone. Soon after, Helen reached out to youngsters in the farming area around Des Moines to teach them ballet, tap dancing and acrobatic movement.

Helen studied Home Economics at Iowa State University. There she met her husband, who was getting a degree in Forestry. They married in 1957 and proceeded to move to Arizona, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin with his work. They had four children, now living in New Carrollton, Md.; Colorado; Connecticut;

and Virginia.

Dancing was her passion, and despite four broken arms, two hip replacements and two bouts with cancer, she continued to dance when she could. While living in Arizona, she taught dance on Saturdays, much to the delight and enrichment of her Mormon community. After living in Aberdeen, Md., where her husband was based with the Army, Helen and her husband moved back to Iowa. She became active teaching life saving and swimming in the YWCA programs. There she also had the opportunity of working with children in a black community, bringing them to dance competitions and seeing them become dancing champions. During that time she also marched for civil rights.

While living in Michigan, she found a job in a local radio station and ended up having her own talk show for four years, interviewing people who came to ski in Ironwood, where 280 inches of snow falls each year. Among the personalities she interviewed were Merv Griffin and Dick Gregory. Later, in West Virginia, she opened a studio and taught dance for two years. In Pennsylvania she joined a group that did Flamenco dancing.

At age 50 Helen became a travel agent, and owned the Greenbelt Travel Agency in Fairfax, Va., for many years. Being a travel agent requires hard work and a knowledge of geography, she says. She now still teaches travel and tap dancing at Prince George's Community College. Here at Collington she enjoys performing when she can, as well as doing water aerobics. "I love to teach," she says, "but more than that, I love helping others. I'm a very happy person... I laugh my way through my mistakes."

One more fact about Helen: At age 14 she made the front page of the Des Moines Register and Tribune as one of first women to canoe down the Des Moines River, a three-day trip and a big deal for a girl!

Ruth Schrock: A Love of Art and Design

Cottage 2216. Ext. 7296. Ruth was a nurse, an artist, and an interior designer in her pre-Collington life. She is still the last two of these, as her art, photography and cottage décor clearly show.



She was raised in the Harrisonburg, Va., area, as were fellow Collington residents Bill and Nancy Lively. "All three of us were born in the same hospital within months of each other, but did not meet until here at Collington," she said. Ruth received her B.S. in nursing from Eastern Mennonite College (now University) and worked as a psychiatric nurse for a time in Hagerstown, Md. "But," she says, "my heart never really was in nursing."

It was in this hospital setting that Ruth met her first husband, who was working in the business office. His work would take them to Lancaster, Pa., where their two sons were born. The family's next move was to Goshen, Ind., where her husband became controller at Goshen College. While caring for her two young sons, Ruth began taking all the art courses she could at the college, as well as at Western Michigan University and Indiana University at South Bend. She eventually completed enough credits to declare a major in fine arts from Goshen College.

Following her course work, Ruth was hired as the college's photographer and photographic developer but finally, she was able to "break into my first love, which was interior design." Her skills complemented a local furniture store's business for several years before she began a freelance career. She counts among her own clients a number of people who were in the process

see Newcomers, p. 10

Our Indomitable Weed Warriors

By Peggy Latimer

If it weren't for the "Weed Warriors," Collington might be overrun with thickets of brambles, downed trees, accumulating litter, and impassable trails.

A subcommittee of the Grounds Committee, this stalwart group

of residents bushwhacks, slashes, yanks, saws, chops, digs, and unclutters the sizable portion of Collington's 125 acres that are woodlands, lake, and trails. No wonder the National Wildlife Foundation has designated Collington a "Certified Wildlife Habitat." And no wonder resident Ken Lee, its recently retired chair, has been honored for his exceptional dedication over the past two years.

In 2001, residents established the Lake and Trail Committee. Its mission: "Monitors the condition of Collington Lake; maps, marks and oversees maintenance of trails on Collington property." It became a subcommittee of the Grounds Committee in 2008, and its name has changed periodically.

Shortly after the Lees arrived at Collington in fall 2014, Ken saw a notice that the "Weekend Weed Warriors" would meet in the parking lot



The Weed Warriors: Peter Pfund, Dennis Klass, James Yuan, Jane Engle, Larry Harris, Pat Zelman, Margaret Malone, Don Zelman, Ken Lee, Liz Barbehenn, Dorothy Yuan. Absent: Charlotte Melichar, Mike McCulley
Photo by Peggy Latimer

the following Saturday. He got hooked, and in 2015 took the lead.

"We've got such a dedicated crew that shows up week after week," Ken says.

Since a number of the volunteers also work midweek, he's dropped "Week-

end" from the name.

Among the Weed Warriors' ongoing tasks and accomplishments: Cleaning out the vines and overgrowth from the copses adjacent to the perimeter road, basic cleanup and maintenance of the walking trails, pulling out the invasive Bittersweet as well as Poison Ivy and Wild Grape (on a selective basis), removing downed trees that fall on the trails, addressing critical erosion problems, and collecting mountains of refuse, plastic, tin cans, bottles, tires, and gas tanks. Ken sometimes canoes across the lake, and with a fishnet, picks up debris that washes up on the far side. The Grounds Committee has obtained some funding to plant trees in visible wooded areas, and occasionally facilities staff is called on "when we can't deal with something."

After two years Ken stepped down as chair. Dorothy and James Yuan have taken on the task. Ken, however, is far from retiring.

The Play's the Thing for Drama Group

By Pat Bozeman

Tim Sabin has proven to be a natural to lead Collington's theatrical offerings, as he and his cast and crew have already shown during 2016. The 2017 season of productions began in February, with a popular caberet night, a first for Collington.

Delighting residents last month were two one-act

plays by the Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw. Performances were under the heading, "2 by 4 by Shaw," suggested by Tim's partner, Jim Holmes, because each of the two plays had four characters. The first, *Overruled*, Tim described as a "marital farce," played out by two couples during a world tour. Shaw himself quipped that the comedy is about "how polygamy occurs among quite ordinary people innocent of all unconventional views concerning it."

The second offering, *O'Flaherty V.C.*, featured Dennis O'Flaherty, an Irish soldier who returns from the World War I battlefields, having won the Victoria Cross for bravery. In this anti-war play, Shaw argues that most soldiers enlist through a desire for adventure or to escape a restricted home life, not for patriotic reasons. Tim says he was drawn to the play "for its wit, anti-war message and the beauty of language." He also notes, "I sensed that residents had been under a lot of stress in recent months and decided



Tim Sabin not only directed the Shaw plays but starred as the Irish soldier Dennis O'Flaherty in "O'Flaherty, V.C." The red hair was part of his preparation for the role. At right, Joyce Garrison and Ken Lee played one of the troubled couples in "Overruled." Photos by Joyce Koch

we'd give them two Shaw comedies. They aren't trivial plays, but they *are* light."

Marilyn Haskel on piano, a small men's chorus and Don Zelman on clarinet provided the evening's musical themes. Clarita Ricketts's colorful floral panels were evocative of a formal garden.

How did Tim come to be the theatrical mover and shaker at Collington? "Marion Henry

approached me at the spring 2016 Collington Foundation dinner and said, 'Tim, wouldn't you like to help us produce *Steel Magnolias*? We don't have a director.'" He is well-suited to the task, having minored in English, "most of which involved drama, and I spent about thirty hours weekly in the theatre, much to my professors' chagrin." Later, he helped school-teacher friends with Greek and other dramas, and founded the Doubting Thomas Players at St. Thomas' Parish, Dupont Circle, which performed classical Greek tragedy, Shakespeare, Arthur Miller and Shaw.

Tim's goals include expanding theatrical events – plays as well as cabaret, charades and trivial-pursuit evenings. His approach addresses "not only the spoken word, but music and the visual arts. But," he quickly added, "Pauline Matheo is responsible for already bringing high

see Drama Group, p. 8

Your Thoughts for a Penny

By Jim Giese

A penny lies in the middle of the sidewalk near my cottage. Perhaps it fell out of my pocket as I retrieved my house keys. It has been there for weeks, undisturbed, unwanted.

In my youth, I would have swiftly picked up a penny and used it to buy candy. As a young man, I would have heeded Poor Richard and used the penny to modestly build my fortune. Now, in my late years, the five minutes it would take for me to bend over and grab it and then straighten up again is just not worth – well, worth a penny.

But wait, you might say, a penny is worth more than a penny; and that's true. I recently read that the metal in a penny is worth more than the coin. And if it's a copper penny, wow, you've struck gold, or at least copper. But I'm pretty certain this isn't a copper penny, and whatever its current value, bending over is not worth it for me.

However, you would think somebody else would have picked up the penny by now. The sidewalk is daily trodden by my neighbors, the housekeepers, the aides, the maintenance men, the remodelers, the trash men (well, they ride), visitors and Tux, the neighborhood attack dog (he likes strangers to think that, but he's really a pussycat).

I can understand why my neighbors don't pick it up. Half of them can't see it that well and the other half, like me, have trouble bending over that far. But what about the others? Don't they want to enrich themselves? Or is it that they walk so well they don't need to look down to see



where they're going?

My neighbor's young grandchildren came to visit. They seem to be bright as a penny. One would have thought that they would have carried the penny away. But no, I guess a penny doesn't buy candy anymore.

By the time you read this, more weeks will have passed. Even so, the penny still might be there. So, if you pass by way of my cottage, keep your eyes to the ground. Look for it! Build your estate! You might need it for your old age.

Remember, as Poor Richard said, "A penny picked up is a penny saved and a penny saved is a penny earned." And if you're in for a penny, you're in for a pound! That is, unless you are penny wise and pound foolish.

Drama Group from p. 7

quality scripts to Collington, and she has acted in many productions over the years. She's a true lover of the theatrical arts, which are very important to her as an expression of the human endeavor. Pauline's been a very good shepherd of our Drama Committee members."

And what might be in the offing for the future? "I've handed out to the Drama Committee nine mid-to-late 20th century plays by Noel Coward, Tom Stoppard and Sam Shepard," Tim says. "The general tone would be dramatic or lyric comedy." He's looking to produce three dramatic presentations, spaced four to six months apart, for the remainder of this year and moving into 2018.

Dietician Aims for Natural Nutrition

By Frances Kolarek

Corinne Pearce, Collington's dietitian, grew up in Harpers Ferry, W.Va., amidst an apple orchard and a vegetable garden, enjoying a diet that she calls "completely natural." And she remains faithful to her roots.

At Collington since 2011, Corinne holds a B.S. in dietetic science from Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., followed by an internship at the University of Delaware in Newark. She passed the exam qualifying her as a registered dietitian in 2000.

She tends to dismiss fears about food being "too salty," or "too greasy." "Life is to be enjoyed!" she says and is a firm believer in "food that is natural" – the kind she grew up with.

However, she respects special diets that require restrictions in ingredients and is available to consult with residents with problems.

"If our Clinic has recommended a special diet, the doctor will usually call to let me know," she says. But she adds, "I would prefer to talk to the person, him/herself about their needs."

She is listed in the telephone book as a member of our Health Services staff, where she supervises the work of 20 dietary aides who oversee the food consumed by Health Services residents, many of whom need soft foods while others need to be fed.

She is high in her praise of Culinary Services Director Christian Ramsey and Executive Chef Stephanie Tolson, whose approach coincides with her own -- "We only use the freshest ingredients for the preparation of our meals" is



Corinne Pearce

noted at the foot of each week's menus. As soon as these menus are drawn up, Corinne reviews them from the nutritionist point of view.

Corinne is available for independent resident consultation for any and all special questions regarding the menu and diets. Consultations can be scheduled with her at x5019.

Weed Warriors from p. 6

One of the most recent efforts involves relocating a trail that ran almost along the back lawns of the 5000 district. After several residents paid to tidy up the woods behind their villas, the Warriors are constructing a new trail farther up into the woodlands.

Dorothy and James want to continue cleaning up the most visible areas around the trail and, perhaps with enough resident donations, hire a contractor to build a boardwalk across the wetlands area. The Yuans also are updating the trail descriptions.

Dorothy is pleased that the next generation moving here will be able to enjoy the fruits of the Warriors' work. "There's no other life plan community like this with so many walking trails," she says.

Want to become a Weed Warrior? On many Saturdays, just bring any tools you may have and be prepared for some hard labor along with frequent group deliberation ranging from the techniques for eliminating invasives to

see Weed Warriors, p. 10

Newcomers from p. 5

of downsizing, as well as being hired to design spaces for a CCRC in Indiana.

Ruth's husband died of cancer at the age of 44 when their sons were 15 and 17. The next years were spent in getting them through high school and college, supporting the family, and planning the design for her new condominium. After being single for eight years, she married her sons' former English teacher. Caregiving became a large part of her life in later years as she helped with the care of her second husband's mentally ill daughter and her young son, as well as caring for her aging parents. During her last seven years in Goshen, Ruth became principal caregiver for her husband, who had suffered a stroke. Even with a career and several family obligations, Ruth sang in her church and community choirs, exercised regularly and took part in a book club. As a stress-reliever for both her and her stepdaughter, she got involved in adult coloring at the local library, which proved to be creatively pleasing and a welcome antidote to heavy responsibilities.

With her parents gone and her husband's death early in 2016, she began to think more seriously about moving to a CCRC. A friend had told her about Kendal communities, and when she checked into them she was impressed. Collington turned out to be a natural fit. "It's near my son and his family, who live just nine miles away in Prince George's County." Ruth's other son and his family live in Connecticut. Collington had other selling points as well. "I love its country feel, even though it's close to the city," and she likes the "warm, friendly and casual atmosphere."

Already, Ruth is involved in activities here. She sings alto in the Collington Singers, serves

with the Interiors Group, takes part in the Coloring Club and participates in several SAGE exercise classes. She also enjoys the bus trips Collington offers, especially those to art and history museums.

Correction

The profiles of new residents in the March issue were incorrectly credited. They were written by Marion Robbins.

Weed Warriors from p. 9



**Ken Lee, left, hands the "tools of office" over to Dorothy and James Yuan.
Photo by Peggy Latimer.**

philosophical ruminations on the natural world – often with a little politics thrown in – and, of course, lots of laughter.

So just what's in a name? In early 2017, the Weed Warriors considered changing its name to "Trails and Lakes." But no one really wanted this – it sounded too passive, and the existing designation remains. There, however, is one additional name: the new trail behind the 5000s is now called the "Ken Lee Traverse," an apt designation paying tribute to a genuine "weed warrior."



Garden Committee Sows New Plans

The Garden Committee is expanding its plans for 2017. Yes, we will still grow and sell bedding plants and tomato plants that have been so popular in the past. But we also plan to grow more cut flowers and gourds for the Flower Committee. These will be grown in the hilltop garden plots, located in the fenced area surrounded by the 5000 cottage group.

A special large-flowered zinnia called Benary Giants will give us four- to five-inch blooms on plants that will reach six feet by summer's end. Another productive smaller-flowered zinnia named Oklahoma will be grown; it was a very successful crop last year. Zinnias thrive in hot sunny locations.

We plan to grow giant-flowered marigolds with yellow or orange blooms. These plants will grow to five feet and require full sun, moist soil, and supports. Sunflowers of several colors will be planted this year. Colors will include lemon-white, orange with yellow tips, bright yellow, and dark red.

Strawflowers in various colors will be a new crop this year. The blooms are beautiful when fresh but can be dried for colorful fall and winter bouquets. Statice is used as a colorful filler in bouquets, and we plan to produce it in white, blue, and pink colors.

Gourds grown on the south garden fence were successful last year, but some fruits were

too big or too queer, so this year we are growing small attractive types that the Flower Committee can use.

I expect we will grow cockscomb and celosia again this year. These plants produce millions of seeds, so they can become weeds. They are related to the troublesome red-root pigweed. On this topic, we grew beautiful morning glories on the north fence, with plants growing 8 to 10 feet and producing hundreds of large-flowered blooms daily in blue, red, white, pink, purple and striped. They were spectacular, but will we have to control these as weeds for the next 50 years?

To see more of Bill's work, turn the page.

Our County's Founding

This is one of a series of vignettes of Prince George's County history compiled by Pat Bozeman. The source is Alan Virias's "Prince George's County: A Pictorial History."

By the time of the American Revolution, Bladensburg, established in 1742, was second only to Upper Marlboro in population and importance. It was one of the most active tobacco ports in Maryland.

By 1790, the free population of Prince George's County had reached 10,000. It would fail to grow larger as long as slavery and the plantation system survived.

Next Month in ***The Collingtonian***:

A guide to exploring the area on foot and bicycle.

Bill Preston's Bounty of Flowers

By Peggy Latimer

Every year, Garden Committee Chair Bill Preston rewards Collington with a glorious abundance of flowers: daffodils for spring; a burst of zinnias, marigolds, celosia, and sunflowers for Flower Committee summer arrangements; and dozens of gourds that adorn holiday displays.

Don't miss visiting the Hilltop Garden to see awe-inspiring garden plots by Bill and many residents – and the masses of butterflies that savor the flora. At the Greenhouse, Bill and volunteers have prepared more than 2,000 annual and tomato bedding pots. So keep a lookout for the plant sale announcements!

At right, Bill's zinnias and sunflowers. Photo by Marian Fuchs. Below, the greenhouse interior in preparation for the plant sale. Photo by Peggy Latimer.



A Great Day for the Irish, and the Rest of Us



Collington's St. Patrick's Day celebration March 17 was under the patronage of the snake scourge himself, in the person of Bill Cosgrove. Photo by Joyce Koch.

