

Looking At Affiliation with Kendal

By Robert Elkin

Considering what affiliation with Kendal could mean to Collington served as the focus of the January Community meeting. With an overflow crowd of residents, Collington and Kendal VIPs answered probing questions from residents as all strove to better understand affiliation and the process leading up to it.

Paul Cooney, Collington Board Chair, described the process in which we are now involved as an organic one, with both organizations learning how we would benefit from an ongoing relationship. Paul said three considerations motivated the Collington Board: our philosophy, the interests of current residents, and the interests of future residents. He reported conversations were ongoing with our bankers who appear initially positive about an affiliation with Kendal. Paul emphasized there remained much work to be done before any final action by the two boards.

Following his introduction by Paul Cooney, John Diffey, Kendal President and CEO, said that his Kendal team felt encouraged by how the pro-

cess leading up to affiliation was going. While there is more work to be done, he believed certain fundamentals were much alike: our cultures, missions, and values. During his later comments, he emphasized these underlying beliefs as basic to any sound relationship. John spent the rest



Collington Board Chair Paul Cooney (Left) introduces John Diffey, Kendal President and Ceo

of the meeting responding to questions from residents, aided by Kendal representatives: Judy Braun, Director for Affiliate Services, Sean Kelly, Director for New Business Development, and Bill Silbert, Director for Marketing and Public Relations. Responding to residents' questions, John Diffey commented on the following areas, in part:

Kendal now has ten affiliates; Collington would be the eleventh affiliate.

It is not necessary for Collington to change its name to include Kendal. Three of the current affiliates maintained their former names. Collington's name as part of the Kendal system is the responsibility of the Collington Board.

Each affiliate continues its own marketing efforts; however, Kendal affiliation would provide consultation and ongoing access to help from

peer marketing directors.

Kendal will continue to place system-wide advertisements.

Kendal maintains groupings of affiliate's peers. For example, executive directors meet regularly through conference calls to discuss common issues. This group constitutes an important resource by encouraging email contacts around special problems that may arise.

Kendal staff supports affiliates in many ways. For example, Sean Kelly works with organizations that are repositioning themselves or perhaps acquiring new properties. Judy Braun works with system-wide initiatives such as diversity, sustainability, and philanthropy. Continually, the question is asked, how can Kendal staff assist the affiliate? They ask affiliates what kind of help they need. Recent illustrations involved turnover of staff in one service or starting a new effort. Some affiliates want a consultant to come in each year.

When asked what is left to be done, John Diffey explained that everyone who can play a constructive role needs to be contacted and supportive of the effort, and that conversations with the banks are completed satisfactorily. Decisions need to be made about precisely how and when an affiliation would take place. Finally, actions by Collington's and Kendal's Boards will be required.

Residents left the meeting feeling enthusiastic about the possibility of affiliation and what it would mean for Collington. All were impressed with John Diffey's open, frank, and full responses to their varied questions. Many responded well to John's comment, "You've got a gem here." and his interest in learning residents' reactions along

with his respect for their questions and comments.

After the meeting, Board Chairman Paul Cooney reported to residents that a meeting with the bankers had been held on January 13. Paul said, "...the key element we are seeking from the bank group is a two-year extension of our existing financing arrangement. The banks indicated their general agreement with just such an extension, and we discussed the specific terms and conditions of such an extension. Over the next week or two, those terms will be refined and then presented to the credit committees of each of the banks. Although this is a process that will take 6-8 weeks to run its full course, everyone on the Collington team emerged from the meeting yesterday with a sense of optimism that we are much on track with regard to this crucial aspect of our efforts to reposition Collington in the context of a possible affiliation with the Kendal Corporation."

There is sure to be more news after February 1 when The Collingtonian is published.

The Collingtonian

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Origins of Valentine's Day

by Robert Elkin

Are the roots of Valentine's Day found in early Christian or in pagan history? It's complicated. Seeking the origins of Valentine's Day brings us to the murky past, in Rome. While historians can't find a strong relationship between Christian saints and romance, many attractive stories emerge to intrigue us. One historian said, "We'll never be able to disentangle all of the cultural and religious threads to reconstruct a complete and coherent story, but the pagan connections to the date are much stronger than the Christian ones."

In Ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honor Juno, Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Feast of Lupercalia started the next day. One story holds that the young people had a custom that began on the eve of the Festival of Lupercalia. The girl's names were written on pieces of paper and inserted into jars. Each boy then drew a girl's name from the jar and they were partners throughout the Festival. After being paired, the children would often continue to see each other throughout the year and on occasion even fell in love and married.

According to a related story, Emperor Claudius II of Rome was having a difficult time recruiting men as soldiers. He believed that the men did not want to leave their sweethearts and cancelled all engagements and marriages throughout Rome. A separate historically based story is that a priest named Valentinus was executed on February 14, presumably for performing wedding ceremonies against the Emperor's laws. While historians are unable to associate the two stories, myth has taken over and St. Valentine's Day became a saint's feast day for many years.

Moreover, no romantic elements are present in the original early medieval tales of St. Valentine. The first recorded association of Valentine's Day with romantic love is in a poem (1382) by Geoffrey Chaucer who wrote, "For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate."

The speculative explanation of sentimental

customs, posing as historical fact, seems to have had their origins among 18th-century antiquaries, notably Alban Butler, the author of Butler's Lives of Saints, and have been perpetuated even by respectable modern scholars

It was much later that Valentine's Day gradually became acknowledged as a secular holiday affirming love and affection. By about 1800, printers had already begun producing a limited number of cards with verses and sketches, called "mechanical valentines," and a reduction in postal rates ushered in the less personal but easier practice of mailing Valentines.

Paper Valentines became so popular in England in the early 19th century that they were assembled in factories. Fancy Valentines were made with real lace and ribbons, with paper lace introduced in the mid-19th century

In the United States, the first mass-produced valentines of embossed paper lace were produced and sold shortly after 1847 by Esther Howland (1828–1904) of Worcester, Massachusetts. Howland took her inspiration from an English Valentine she had received from a business associate of her father. Intrigued with the idea of making similar Valentines, Howland began her business by importing paper lace and floral decorations from England. Since the 19th century, handwritten notes have largely given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

In the second half of the 20th century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to all manner of gifts in the United States. Such gifts typically include roses and chocolates packed in a red satin, heart-shaped box. And later, jewelry

Valentine's Day is fully entrenched in American culture as a secular holiday. The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the US.

The rise of Internet popularity at the turn of the millennium is creating new traditions. Millions of people use digital means of creating and sending Valentine's Day greeting messages. About 15 million e-valentines were sent in 2010.

Collington Women: Pioneers In Military Service In WW II

By Jeanne Barnett

Women in the military? Horrors! Unthinkable! Although, of course, through the centuries enterprising women have managed to participate in wars in various ways, sometimes as heroic warriors or, perhaps more often through subterfuge and disguise, actually to slip into the ranks of fighting armies. It was not until WW II that women became part of the armed forces. Some of our intrepid "Collington gals" leapt at the opportunity.

PHYLLIS DENT: - ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service, Great Britain). Phyllis grew up in England in a family with a history of serving in the armed forces. With the looming threat of catastrophic onslaught on Britain, young Phyllis enlisted in the ATS on her 17th birthday, in its anti-aircraft division, the only "active duty" allowed women beyond ancillary jobs such as "drivers. Phyllis was on the front lines at home, serving in anti-aircraft pits with four large guns and gunners. ATS women functioned as height-finders, spotters, predictors and later with radar, wore heavy flak jackets and sometimes worked in situ for as much as 24 hours, grueling and intense work of enormous importance. She recalls developing a really "great voice" because she had to shout orders across the water. She became a group leader, Lance Corporal Phyllis Woods, serving until she was demobilized in 1946. During the war, she met an American GI (a Yank from DC) stationed in a nearby airfield, whom she eventually married, moving to the DC area where they made their home and raised a family, while Phyllis also redirected her considerable energy and skills into various enterprises including library work and Boy Scouts.

SUE EMBREE: (WAVES - established 1942) For Sue, WW II began in 1939 with the fall of France. Her mother was French and Sue regularly went to visit her maternal family there. In addition, all her family members signed up for service, including her mother and aunt who

worked for the Red Cross. In 1943, her senior year at Wellesley, Sue watched Wellesley President Mildred McAfee sworn in as head of the WAVES, clearly an inspiring image. Already approached secretly by persons recruiting for cryptologists to serve in the military, Sue signed up and went off to midshipman school. One of the "60 day wonders," she ended up in DC working on Japanese codes, often around the clock, clearly very hush-hush work. "It was really great fun," she says, enjoying living in DC and working near Dupont Circle. Sue remembers working the midnight shift when the D-Day announcement came through and standing near Ford's Theatre to watch the somber cortege following President's Roosevelt's death. Sue left the WAVES as a Lieutenant JG, Naval Communications, in 1946 for further education, marriage to Ainslee, volunteer work focused on reconciliation, and a long and fruitful career, mainly in education.

MARY WITT: (WACS., established 1943) Enter Mary Witt's delightful apartment and see her framed photographs of her WWII service in the WACS. Graduating from college in 1942, just after Congresswoman Edith Norris Rodgers introduced the legislation creating the volunteer Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), Mary signed up. When the following year, the Women's Army Corps (WAC) replaced it under the command of Oveta Culp Hobby. Mary resigned from the WAACs and re-enlisted as a WAC, thus becoming part of the official military. As WACs moved from administrative, food preparation and transportation services into other areas such as flight control, she began rigorous training. The WAACs/WACs would grow to over 150,000 women who served in WW II. Mary became a MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) Unit Commander. She headed a WAC squadron for the 4th Air Force. Perhaps, not surprisingly, she met her future husband, then serving the Army Air Force, in 1943, and they were married in Portland, Oregon, enjoying a long marriage and full life thereafter.

Next month, the Collingtonian will report on more women in WW II.

Life is good

By Ginny Mintz

There's hardly enough time in one life for all that recently arrived Collingtonian, Admiral Kay Leighton has done – despite numerous bumps in the road.

After college, with no particular career in mind, Kay accepted a Navy recruiter's suggestion to join the Navy. He must have recognized her cheerful, can-do spirit and figured the recruiter had caught a "live one". That she was. She retired 34 years later as one of the Navy's first female Admirals. She was the first woman to have operational control of ships and had the tracking ships for the first shuttle launch. "It was scary because of delays and other problems, for it had never been done before. She also was the first woman to head a non-administrative division on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Her last job was as commander of the Naval Space Command, where she was in charge of the ships that tracked the solid rocket boosters for the Columbia, the first shuttle launch. This was the first time a woman was in charge of a Naval component for strategic warfare. "But, I must have done something right" she says, "because I held that job for two-and-a-half years." In the beginning, there had been little opportunity beyond administrative duties for the 500 women officers.

Her family experiences were good training and her strong faith carried her through the rough patches; she had to shoulder a lot of the burden of running her family's house and caring for her little sister because her mother worked. Still, she found time to read voraciously, participate in school and church activities and excel academically; "I was never afraid to get really involved," she said. Along the way, she married a fellow Naval officer, lost one of her five kids and one of her six grandchildren. They have six great grandchildren

Although a cancer survivor she says cancer is

a six-letter word – nothing more; what kills you is sitting back and sucking your thumb. "We tend to forget that life is fun when we focus on problems," she says. "It's what you do with what you're faced with that's important."

After retiring from the Navy, she became a Group VP at Mantech, an international technical engineering organization. However, a year later, in 1998, her career took an abrupt turn toward health care when her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and she became his caregiver. She also ended up caring for her sister-in-law at home and her mother in a nursing home. But, true to form, she also became chair of the first Founda-



ation Board for the Charles County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and got deeply involved in senior issues locally and nationally. "It's important to look upon seniors as people – not things to be taken care of. They have a huge amount they can contribute but society tends to focus on youth," she says. "They want to pretend aging and attendant health issues don't exist." In

addition, she taught Bible study in the Charles County prison system and she heads up a prayer shawl ministry where she and others knit shawls for the residents of the Charles County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to express warmth and caring. At Christmas, they gave 51 shawls.

But always uppermost in her mind is her Navy Pilot husband. "I was so blessed," she said, "he was able to put his ego in a box; he always pushed me and told me I could do it. We took joy in each other's successes." After she was promoted to Captain she arrived at their 47-ft Chris Craft home and found it festooned with balloons and two poster boards on the bed – a large one with four stripes (Captain) and a little one with three stripes (Commander), her husband's rank. "It makes it easy to care for him now," she says.

Beethoven Takes The City of Acre

By Don Peretz

Acre, the holiest city of the Baha'i, is one of the most ancient urban centers in the Middle East. It was an Arab town until conquered by Israel in the 1948 war. During the war most of the Arab residents fled or were expelled by Israeli forces with only a handful remaining. Since then several thousand Jews have moved into the New City outside the walls, leaving an Arab minority within the wall of the ancient Old Town.

Napoleon failed to take Acre after subjecting it to a sixty-day artillery bombard and siege. Beethoven took the town in two hours one Saturday evening in 1949. I was then a volunteer with the American Friends' Service Committee (Quakers), a representative of UNRWA providing assistance to Palestine Arab refugees. In addition to relief work our Quaker team started a community center within the walls of the old Arab town.

One of the first programs was a concert of Jewish musicians from Haifa that we organized. The occasion was probably the first time in the old town's history where Jews and Arabs sat together at a classical concert. A Jewish teacher who was recently discharged from an Israeli commando unit sat next to an Arab doctor whose wife was a refugee in Beirut. In French, they discovered that this was the first concert that either had attended since the start of the war. Another Arab doctor explained to one of his neighbors who has a concentration camp number ingrained on his arm that he had not experienced anything like this since he was a medical student in Leipzig; they spoke German. A Muslim storekeeper and our Muslim friends sat at ease with Christian neighbors and the Jewish military governor of Galilee. Most of the Christian Arabs brought their wives. Some Christian women even came alone. Most of the Muslim wives stayed home.

In 1998, the AFSC sent Maya and me back to Israel to observe changes.

Acre was now largely a Jewish town, although within the walls of the Old City the population was mostly Arab. There was no longer any sign of the Quakers and our community center had long ago closed. Only the dilapidated building of the former center remained.

Just Looking About

By Jeanne Gart

Visitors to Roberta Decker's cottage are often surprised when she tells them that the handsome brass objects they're admiring are stirrups. This kind of beautiful, decorative stirrup was used in South America, particularly in Columbia and Venezuela, in the Spanish colonial period. Weighing nearly five pounds, it is decorated with horses' heads, and may have been used mainly for ceremonial occasions. Smaller ones, of course, were made for women and children. This piece is signed by M. Depose, a well-known stirrup maker.



Another Editor's Error

Jeanne Gart found the following headline in the New York Times on December 28, 2010 on page A14.

"Republican Drops a Tack in Alaska Senate Race"

Watch out where you walk in Alaska.

Need A Fix? See The Woodshop

By Jean Getlien

Volunteers at Collington's Woodshop serve as super handymen for residents. And, what would we do without them? The lamp flickers? The leg of a chair comes unglued? Shelves need to be built? The scooter tire blows? Call on the Woodshop. Residents pay for this help with a donation to the Residents Association.

Last year, volunteers at Woodshop-on-the-Hill completed more than 100 projects, the oddest of which perhaps was gluing the leg back onto a giraffe. In addition, they held two well-attended knife sharpening events, and Jim Whitaker, who heads the group, fashioned a number of footstools, paper towel holders, puzzles, and games to sell at Collington's annual bazaar, which netted \$320. After paying for supplies, the Woodshop was able last year to contribute a grand total of \$2,000 to the Residents' Association.

No, not a cast of thousands—all this is accomplished by a handful of volunteers: Chairman Jim Whitaker, Herb Anderson, Chris Cobb, Ron Hawkins, Bill Cosgrove, and recently, Grant Bagley. Newcomers would be most welcome, says Jim That is, "If they are willing to follow safe practices with the Woodshop's equipment The spacious shop area is equipped with some 15-power tools and a great assortment of hand tools.

These days, a five-foot-long skipjack has been taking shape at the Woodshop. Chris Cobb is building it with the help of other Wood shoppers. Herb Anderson is working on the electrical system. So far, the hull, ribs, and keel are in place and waiting for the hatches and then the decking. The boat will be ready by spring, in time to take part, they hope, in a regatta in June on Collington's Lake—depending on how many other skipjacks and their skippers are available,

The Woodshoppers are also renovating and making new bluebird houses, for a total of eleven, to go along the perimeter walking trail. If all this were not enough, the Woodshop supports the

pool room, where every Wednesday afternoon is set aside for playing and instruction by Curtis Langford. They also support the model train exhibit, which Warren Pearse opens several times a year by appointment.

"If you like working with wood and with tools on a variety of projects, here is your chance to participate at the Woodshop," says Jim Whitaker. The group meets at the shop on the first Monday of each month at 10 am. And, oh yes, residents may find job request forms on the stand by the Clocktower's main bulletin board.

Reading the Collingtonian Sideways

Collingtonian staff member Gloria Ericson has come up with a unique suggestion for Collingtonian readers. She suggests we read the Collingtonian sideways. Well, no, not read, but look at it that way – and, well, not every issue, but certainly the January one. This suggestion is the result of something I read many years ago; that the original totem pole carvers got their inspiration by turning their heads sideways and noting how river or lake shorelines and their reflections in the water appeared. This may be a true story or apocryphal. But either way it's a fun thing to do, and I've been doing it for years.

So when the January Collingtonian issue appeared with Bob Elkin's lovely photograph of our Lake Collington shoreline on its cover I had to take a sideways peek, and was richly rewarded. Coming down from the top I could make out several animal "heads" and in the middle section a very human, albeit pixie-ish, one. Two hands partially cover its wide-open mouth, followed by a torso and pelvic area, and finally two long feathery legs.

Check it out. True? Or have I been O.D.ing on Eli's Mimosas? Tip: To keep from getting a kink in your neck, try twisting the page instead of your neck so that the date is toward the top and Vol.23 toward the bottom.

Will Collington “Go Solar”?

By Peter Pfund

A task force of Collington residents and staff are exploring how Collington can “go solar” and reduce our reliance on fossil-fuel based electricity. Solar energy can be captured by photo-voltaic roof panels producing electricity, or by a solar installation that heats water, or both. Collington has many southeast- and southwest-facing roofs that are suitable for such installations.

Collington could procure and provide for installation of such equipment itself, requiring considerable money up front but providing fairly rapid amortization, possibly qualifying for federal incentive funds, and benefitting from renewable energy credits and many years of power production (the life expectancy of solar panels is about 25 years). Another option would be for Collington residents to establish and invest in a limited liability company that would install its solar equipment on Collington roofs, benefit from federal incentive money, accelerated depreciation and sale of renewable energy credits, and might sell the produced power to Collington at a very favorable rate. This second alternative would provide attractive benefits to Collington, provided that investing residents were prepared to consider their investment primarily an investment in Collington’s future and in “going green” rather than an investment in the usual sense. These alternatives and the available incentive grant and credit possibilities are being examined and residents will be kept informed.

There are, however, further steps to going green – many not requiring large investments. The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) has studied and reported on various steps that can be taken for the Collington Center and apartments to become more energy-conserving. A corresponding study of Collington cottages by the MEA is necessary before measures to be taken can be prioritized based on cost and how effectively they would reduce electricity consumption.

Collington residents and staff already can help to reduce energy consumption by: turning off unnecessary lights, shifting from incandescent to

compact fluorescent light bulbs, using exhaust fans sparingly, and turning their thermostat down in winter or up in summer – especially at night and when away.

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!



Feb. No.1: This child matching the scowl of her pet dog, later canoed down the rocky Allagash river in Maine, inherited her love of plants and flowers from her Swedish Mother, and was involved in a hilarious event when she and a male rescuer fell on top of each other in a rescue mission on a Collington hill.



Feb. No. 2. Looking like butter wouldn’t melt in his mouth, this little boy lived in Mexico when his picture was taken, lost the brush that reminded him of his grandfather, and was a former city manager of a New Deal historic city.



Feb. No.3. About this charmer, we ask, who is this child so at home in her wheels. Ninety years go by and she is still riding through life, she is a former reporter and researcher for Time magazine, and she is anything but silent, yet very helpful.

Keeping Up at Collington

By James Giese

Do your children or grandchildren want to be better informed about what's going on at Collington? They can easily do so by getting on line on the Internet and going to our residents' website, www.keepingupwithcollington.org. There they will find reports on the latest happenings and much more about Collington, including the latest issue of The Collingtonian. Photos of Collington events are regularly posted. So is general information about our community and other items of interest, all in an easy-to-use format. Keeping Up with Collington is equally useful for residents and workers of Collington who have Internet access.

The website came about because of a concern expressed by Peter Wilson's daughter, Edie, in the fall of 2009. She felt that residents' children were not kept well enough informed about what was happening here. She brought her concern to the Residents Association and proposed creating a support organization for family members. After meeting with her, the planning committee of the Residents Association decided that rather than forming such a committee there should be a website that family members could access.

Curt Bury, Frances Kolarek and Edie agreed to set up the website. While they could agree on most aspects, they could not think of a name for the new website. Kolarek says she thinks better in front of a keyboard and she did so upon going home. There, she came up with the name that says it all – Keeping Up with Collington. With it she also provided the website's logo, the image of a running man (now a man and woman).

Bury, a part of the original personal computer group at IBM, Inc., has extensive computer knowledge and experience. He also has a big

book on how to design and maintain websites. Thanks to Bury, Keeping Up with Collington soon became operational and he has been maintaining it ever since. The Collingtonian committee, chaired by Editor Bob Elkin, serves as the support committee to the website. Bury says he receives a digital copy of the Collingtonian as soon as it is sent to the printers. While the website has archived all the issues published since it was established, he hopes one day to have all issues posted. So far he has posted the first two issues and a few others.

To date, Keeping Up with Collington has received more than 3,800 hits, that is, number of times any computer accesses the site. While specific information is not available, a monitoring website reports that our website has been hit by computers in 20 foreign countries and 37 states.

Maintaining the website takes up an hour or two of Bury's time every now and then. Although he handles this add-on to his many other activities, he would like others to help. In particular, there needs to be someone to provide back up for him in times of absence or illness. If you are interested, let him know.

Residents can also help by providing Bury with pictures, particularly colorful pictures. Unlike The Collingtonian, which has limited space available for color pictures, the website can post every picture it gets in color. To date, the website has utilized less than one percent of its allocated space on the web and more space is readily available.

Any other ideas for the website? Bury notes that there is a place to click to send him an email with your suggestions.

Chatter Box

The Valentine photo behind the logo on page one comes from a Valentine postcard that Mary Witt's mother received, postmarked February 14, 8:00 P.M., 1910. Her mother had just graduated as a teacher and taught in Tomah, Wisconsin as her first assignment. An illustration of a young man in scholarly robes points to the Valentine message:

"I Love, You Love, He Loves.
"Cupid Teaches Conjugation
Of the Verb, "To Love", by line
I have Learned the little Lessons
Here it is, My Valentine!"

The anonymous note handwritten on the postcard near its one-cent stamp says, "Dear little Teacher, You have taught me some of life's best lessons."

Isn't it interesting that Mary's mother kept this Valentine for so many years and passed it on?



Have you heard about the toilet paper caper? The most recent chapter started when one of the storekeepers asked Herb Stone to watch the country store during her stint, while she went to the bathroom. She came back, much perturbed, holding high several sheets of tissue-thin toilet paper. She wanted Herb to see what was being supplied in the Ladies Room. Herb, with all his clout as President of the Resident's Association, immediately contacted Dwindle Robinson, Direc-

tor of Environmental Services, to show him the questionable quality of the toilet paper.

Dwindle swung into action and secured several samples of new, potentially better toilet papers. He asked Herb and Karen Cheney to give the samples a finger test and recommend a paper. Then, in the most democratic way, Herb brought the samples around to others to give the samples a touch test and recommend the best. Dwindle checked out Herb's recommendation with Lydia Pugh, our interim CEO, who agreed with his choice.

At last report, Dwindle had purchased a supply of the improved toilet paper and new dispensers for all public toilets at Collington. The Collingtonian trusts that soon all residents and visitors will conduct their business with impunity and in comfort.



Who Am I? Answers: Feb. No. 1: Pat King, Feb. No. 2: Jim Giese, Feb. No. 3: Frances Kolarek. Did you guess all three? Better luck next month.



I Remember

By Jeanne Gart

When I was a kid in Kansas, our telephone was a party line. Rich people had private lines; others had a two-party or four-party line. Ours was a two-party. That meant you very well might hear someone else talking when you picked up the receiver. The responsible, polite thing to do, of course, was to hang up immediately. Which I certainly did if my mother was close by. Or, if one of the people conversing broke off his conversation to say, "hang up."

But in case I was alone and no one noticed,

what a beautiful opportunity to listen in on two strangers. Who knew what they might say! When I was using the telephone, I listened very carefully for the telltale click of someone else picking up his or her receiver. Especially if I was talking to my best friend of the moment about what that cute new boy in class had done today. I have to think hard now to remember my telephone number before I came to Collington, one that I had for 25 years, but I still remember my number from childhood, 35823.

Residents with short, interesting remembrances are invited to call Jeanne Gart at extension 7217 to tell their stories. Jeanne will type them for the Collingtonian.



Louise Huddleston is back from her trip to Antarctica in December, beaming with delight and full of good and bad news. She found the terrain most beautiful, describing it as brilliant white glaciers, brooding black mountains, and stunning blue sky. And, she could see “forever,” probably hundreds of miles of stunning peacefulness, on a sunny day, and most of her days were sunny.

The cold was quite tolerable, 32 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but the strong cold winds made special clothing a must. The crossing from South America was on calm seas, while the return crossing was through 20 foot waves, which didn't bother Louise at all. While she delighted to see the penguins, she was sad to learn that much of that population seems doomed because of the fast melting snows due to global warming.

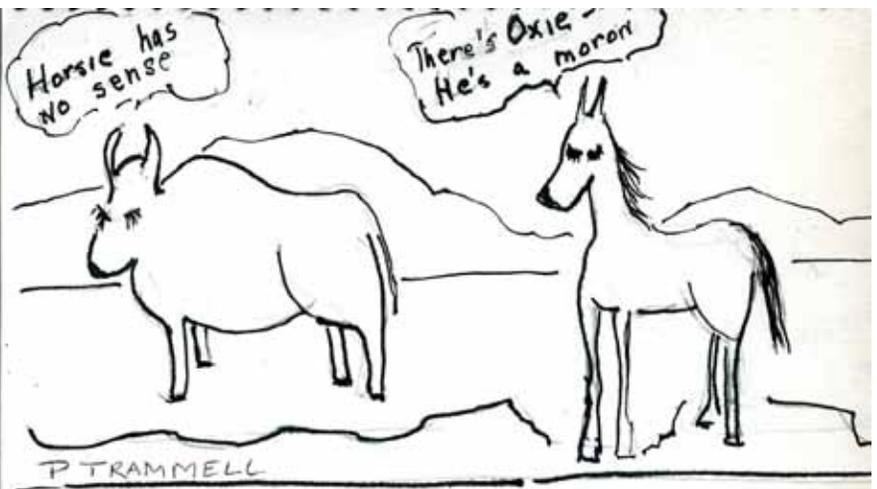
The penguins have to go so far for food that the

chicks don't survive. It was a great trip..



The Drama Committee, headed by Nancy McGhee brought Candace Ridington back to portray yet another character--Louisa Mae Alcott came alive under Candace's tutelage. In addition to writing “Little Women,” Louisa led an interesting life in Concord, Massachusetts, knowing the greats of that transcendental period: Emerson, Channing, Thoreau, and her father, Branson Alcott. Although her father Branson was a towering intelligence and innovator, he was not a good provider and Louisa found herself the breadwinner of the family. She wrote many novels under pseudonyms but “Little Women” made her rich. That book also brought hundreds of visitors to “see” Louisa. She became a celebrity of her times. Her health turned bad after she was given mercury for an ailment she got while nursing during the Civil War in Washington DC. We're looking forward to Candace's next presentation that she says is about the underground railroad.

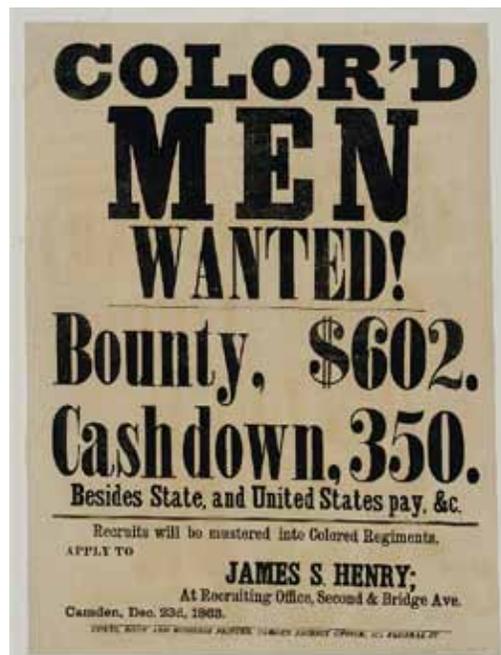
Pat's Puns



African-Americans in Civil War Military

A Preview of Black History Month

By Ernie Blake



William H. Carney was awarded the medal of honor by the President and the Congress for his valor in the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry in its assault on Fort Wagner, South Carolina. When the Color Sergeant was shot down, this soldier grasped the flag, led the way to the parapet, and planted the colors thereon. When the troops fell back, he brought off the flag, under fierce fire in which he was twice severely wounded.



(Left) Sergeant Major Lewis H. Douglass, son of Frederick Douglass. Lewis was the first Black Sergeant in the army. (Center) An artist's conception of an escaped slave in the Union Army. (Right) Robert Smalls, who learned riverboat piloting and navigation as a slave. In 1862, he stole a Confederate gun boat, The Planter, and delivered it to the Union Army. In 2004, a U.S. Army Logistics Support Vessel-8 was named for him, the first named after an African-American.