

The Collington

~ News and Views ~

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EASTER NOSTALGIA

For me, one of the very special things about moving to Collington and the Washington area from afar has been the "remembrance of things past."

At this time of the year I remember with fondness the many Easter holidays I spent in Washington as a child. My grandmother and my mother's two sisters lived in N.E. Washington near Lincoln Park, at that time a very pleasant middle-class neighborhood -- rows of well kept four-story brick homes, old trees arching over the streets, well clipped hedges outlining the front lawns with wrought iron benches freshly painted each year.

For my brother and me, living in the New York suburbs, it was a most exciting place to visit. Dressed in our new Easter finery, we traveled south on the Pennsylvania R.R. Pullman cars, each of us in our own prickly green plush chair with its high back and fresh linen antimacassar. I can still hear the ice-filled water glasses, the silver coffee pot and the heavy china clinking against each other in the dining car where we lunched while watching New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware slip by.

We were leaving behind a gray cold city with stark brown tree branches and perhaps just a hint of crocuses in bloom. We arrived in cavernous Union Station, stepped out the doors -- and suddenly it was Spring. Magically, trees were in bloom, hedges were bursting with forsythia and daffodils filled the parks. What a difference 300 miles made!

Then, there was Grandmother's house to explore once again, all

four floors. There were Adams-type mantels in every room with interesting carvings, crystal chandeliers which tinkled in the spring breeze, and a tall pier glass in the hall which reflected the etched glass front door and the black and white tiled vestibule with its china umbrella stand. (I prefer not to remember what the house -- and the whole neighborhood -- looked like when we drove by not too long ago.) Back in the Twenties, one of the delights of the house was a precursor of the modern day intercom. We could whistle through the small speaking tube on the top floor and speak to someone all the way down in the basement kitchen. But, best of all was the dumb-waiter on which meals on Grandma's best china rode up to the dining room and on which my brother and I rode up and down when no one was looking.

Easter Sunday always found us dressed in our best for services at the little nearby Episcopal Church, desperate to rush back to find our Easter baskets ingeniously hidden in a new place every year, filled with a dozen colored eggs, hollow chocolate rabbits, marshmallow bunnies and, deep in the green paper grass amid the jelly beans, a miraculous egg of sparkling spun sugar with a hole in one end through which we could see, by closing one eye, the view of a fairyland scene within.

Not even the excitement of finding the baskets, however, was as special as the events of Easter Monday. That was the day when, carrying our baskets and laden with a picnic hamper, we boarded the street car on East Capitol Street
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EASTER NOSTALGIA (cont.)

for the ride to **The White House Egg Roll**. The street car company put on its summer cars that day -- with straw seats and open sides. We were accompanied by our two aunts, on a day's leave from their government offices, as adults could only enter the White House grounds if accompanied by a child. I always felt sorry that Grandma and my mother missed the fun. As I look back now, I can understand why they were glad to have the aunts take over.

We always arrived early to stake out a picnic spot on what we children thought of as a hill, though I can't believe there really was a hill on the President's grounds. We really did roll our eggs and tossed them back and forth, along with hundreds of other youngsters, all intent on making the same mess. By the time Mrs. Coolidge or Mrs. Hoover had waved from the portico and we were ready to leave, the well-kept green lawns were a sea of the remains of blue, purple and yellow egg shells, the children were smeared with chocolate, and I imagine the adults were more than ready to catch the street car back home.

Even now, some sixty years later, I can still hear the screech of the trolley's wheels, remember the thrill of seeing the President's wife, and recall with perfect clarity the greening of the trees and shrubs and the parks filled with the yellow of forsythia. No other Easters have been quite like those early ones when Washington was still a delightful small Southern city, and my grandmother's home.

Peggy Wilhelm

SIGHTINGS

During the springlike winter just past, Mary MacMartin found skunk cabbage sprouting as early as February 1.

She and Peggy Croft saw the first phoebes returning here on March 6.

Deer were spotted along the

Collington entrance road in broad daylight in early February by Russell and Mabelle Pease.

No fewer than 70 Canada geese, perhaps the peak number so far were seen on the lake by Isabel Gerhard one day in early February.

These are samples of the early entries made in the Collington **Sightings** notebook, a month-by-month record of sightings of birds, animals and wildflowers on the community's property. The book is kept at the Reception Desk at the Clock Tower Entrance to the Creighton Center. It is a project of the Lake and Trails Committee.

By contributing to the book, Collingtonians have begun to write a small but meaningful work of natural history. By early 1991, the book should provide a revealing glimpse of a full year in the natural life of our area, reflecting not only the usual seasonal changes but also the happenstances that can bring surprise visits of unusual wildlife.

Starting with a few December entries, more than 20 residents have reported their findings so far. If there are no great surprises on the list, there still are several noteworthy reports apparently linked to our incredible winter warmth.

For instance: On February 15, several weeks before bluebird nesting usually starts, Dick and Francesca Steere found a bluebird scouting out housing possibilities at a nesting box near their cottage. On the same day, Jessie Richardson saw an early robin. Dorothy Morthorst reported the annual debut of the tree frogs on February 19. Stanley and Edith Jackson spotted a towhee on the woods trail on March 10. Spring beauty was in bloom by March 12, and spicebush by March 19.

The book tells still more about our natural environment, especially our birdlife. Along with the geese, six kinds of ducks have been seen on the lake: Mallard, goldeneye, ring-necked, hooded
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SIGHTINGS (cont.)

merganser, wood duck and a mallard-muscovy hybrid. Three species of hawks have been reported: Red-shouldered, Cooper's and kestrel (sparrow hawk). Black vultures and pileated woodpeckers, along with the more familiar house finches, goldfinches, cowbirds and mourning doves have been seen.

The animals listed have been fewer. But, Irene Ammann (Brownie) saw an opossum in mid-December and since then deer, fox, squirrel, chipmunk and raccoon have appeared on the list. More recently, painted turtles have been roosting on stumps in the lake and sulphur, cabbage and mourning cloak butterflies have brightened our roadsides and trailsides.

There is much more to be seen and reported in coming weeks as more wildflowers unfold and bird migration hits its spring peak. For a good record, the **Sightings** book needs still more sharp-eyed observers to keep watch and tell us what they see.

Edward Behr

WOODSHOP IN FULL SWING

I am pleased to report that the Woodshop is now well-equipped and in full operation. A full range of hand tools is available as well as power tools such as a table saw, radial saw, band saw, jointer, drill press and lathe. Practically all of these hand and power tools were obtained for the Woodshop through generous donations made by some of our residents.

The Woodshop is now serving its basic purpose of providing an outlet for the woodworking skills of our residents and the production of imaginative and functional projects. At any one time, for example, the shop floor may be the scene of antique furniture repair and restoration, the design and construction of model planes and boats, or the building of more mundane projects, such as kitchen or closet shelving or racks for the hanging of pots and pans.

We are anxious, however, that all interested residents take advantage of the shop and its equipment. Your participation is welcomed regardless of your experience or lack thereof. We emphasize safety, and active shop members skilled in the operation of woodworking tools and equipment will gladly teach, monitor, or otherwise help those in need of assistance.

While we in no way intend to limit our invitation, a special one is extended to the ladies of Collington. Those of you who have an interest in developing woodworking skills or in working on a particular project of your own choosing may wish to attend our Monday morning sessions beginning at 9:00 a.m. While I regret to inform you that shop discussion is not always stimulating or interesting, we nonetheless solicit your attendance and participation. If you have a particular project in mind you will find the group available to help with the design and production processes.

We are sincere in inviting all interested residents to join us. Full realization of the many benefits to be derived from the Woodshop will occur only when all take advantage of its operation, and participate in the opportunities it presents for the development of new skills and the production of worthwhile woodworking projects.

Junius L Jeffries
Chair, Woodshop Committee

LIBRARY NOTES**John Voorhees -- In Appreciation**

John Voorhees has been Collington's "Librarian" from the time when Collington and the Collington Library were nonexistent. His resignation as of April 1, 1990, takes him through that dream time into more than a year of reality.

In 1986, John was appointed Chair of the Library Subcommittee of Judy Kidney's Activities Committee and he continued as Chair of the Library Committee after the Activities Committee was disbanded.

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JOHN VOORHEES (cont.)

Under his aegis, plans and policies for Collington's Library were developed, stacks and furniture were ordered, and selections for the Library's initial collection were made from the multitude of donations from future residents.

In early 1989, as soon as the bookstacks were erected after the completion of the Creighton Center, John's Library Committee and resident volunteers installed shelves, transferred books from boxes to shelves and arranged them in designated categories and order. Location signs were prepared and placed, and the Library was ready for all to use. Additional gift books have been incorporated from time to time; subscriptions were made for several newspapers; a small reference section was created; and an exciting periodical collection -- all gifts from residents -- was established.

John can be proud of these accomplishments which provide Collington residents with a source of enjoyment.

Anna E. Dougherty
Chair, Library Committee

MARTHA FURMAN

The Collingtonian lost one of its most valued Editorial Board members on March 23, when Martha Furman died suddenly at Prince George's Hospital Center of an air aneurysm brought on by emphysema. Martha was an early resident, having moved here in June of 1988. Her outgoing and sunny nature brought her many friends. She signed on at **The Collingtonian** at its very beginning, and became an enthusiastic and indefatigable worker. She not only contributed articles, but she also took on the terrible task of waxing up the copy for the printer until John Jay figured out an easier way to do it on the computer. We will miss her at **The Collingtonian**, as will her many friends throughout Collington.

Margaret Werts

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER**Fellowship Fund**

It is not too late to reserve seating at the Fellowship Fund Banquet on April 28. The purpose of this special event is to augment the Fund that exists to help residents who need financial assistance to reside at Collington. Call Janet Jenkins (2121).

Touring Collington

Thanks to the many residents who have beautified the lawn around their units, it is a special pleasure for all of us to tour Collington. Spring has brought a pleasing variety of blossoms for us to enjoy. If you haven't taken a walk recently that includes cottage clusters and apartment patios, now is the time.

Expanding Cottages

Building Permits have been sought so that interested persons can choose to expand selected cottages if they prefer the One Bedroom/Den with a powder room rather than the present One Bedroom layout. The additional space features a cathedral ceiling with a circulating fan and palladian window. The design was produced by Collington's architects, Cochran, Stephenson and Donkervoet, and has been much admired.

Bowie State University

The nursing students from Bowie State have concluded their first semester at Collington, and their professor has decided that learning about the care of older persons here is a most effective type of training. Several staff members and residents have spent many hours working with these students to help them develop their gerontological nursing skills. This assistance is likely to have impact on many lives in the future as these students graduate and select jobs from among the numerous openings in the health care system. All of us are grateful to those who participated in this educational effort.

Gail Kohn

COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 21

"We've grown up to be a mature organization with stature," said President Malcolm Wall. Applause greeted his request that the Residents Council choose a task force of its members to prepare a resolution stating that it is the sense of the Council and of the community that the Residents Association should be represented on the Board of Directors. These task force members were elected: Aileen Ader-ton, Burt Dougherty, Judy Kidney, Cornelia Marshall, Walter Ristow, Elma Tidwell and Caroline Wood. They will present a statement to the Council for approval; it will then be circulated to all residents for their signatures before being sent to the Board.

Treasurer John Jay presented an Association budget for the coming year. It was approved unanimously for presentation to the Association in April and will be on file for inspection in the Library. The Association is in the black, with reserves of about \$15,000.

A letter was received from the Board of Directors refusing the Council's request that retroactivity of Health Center charge changes be reconsidered. No changes will be made until April 1.

Three Nominating Committee members will be needed to replace those whose term is ending. The Executive Committee will recommend names to the April Association meeting.

A Wellness Task Force is being formed from the Health, Lake and Trails, and Pool committees, and from staff. Another task force will review requests from outside sources for financial and other assistance and will develop criteria for evaluating them.

Ken Muldoon, Chair of the Hospitality Committee, announced that birthday parties will hereafter be managed by Housing Representatives; general community parties remain with the Committee. The Hospitality Committee is working to improve welcoming procedures for

newcomers to Collington. A revised **Welcome Book** is in preparation. The Environmental Services Department will assign a person to work out problems in housing units and will improve prior inspection. Housing Representatives will extend neighborhood welcomes to new arrivals. The practice of asking newcomers to write personal profiles will be revived so that their participation in activities may be suggested.

Representatives from Clusters 4200 and 2200 expressed concern about the possible fallibility of the projected security gate arrangements, which will replace a security guard at the entrance with television surveillance from Security in the Creighton Center. Cluster 4200 wishes to keep a guard on duty in the guardhouse for at least a shakedown period.

Margo Labovitz

NOTES OF "CAPABILITY COLLINGTON"

Here begins a short series from a Collington gardener who is (a) unscientific, (b) bone-lazy, and (c) a convinced Darwinian -- let the fittest plants survive!

Collington Soil: Strange stuff, this. Dry, it's cementish, and you plant with a jackhammer. Wet, you can use a trowel and never perspire! And it will grow an amazing variety of rewarding plants.

The one and only answer is mulch, Mulch & More MULCH! Almost any type is good. I prefer the shredded hardwood which holds moisture better, lasts longer, and is far cheaper than those beautiful chunks (use chunks to "top up" for a nice appearance). But straw, or anything else that will hold water on the soil, will do.

Prince George's County soils have been adjudged by experts to be among the poorest in the country -- worn-out tobacco land, mostly. So much for the experts. To begin, decide upon the size of your planting bed. Pile on mulch (don't use a teaspoon; slather it on 3"-4" deep). Then, keep it soaking wet (cont. on next page)

for at least four days (God may give us rain, but your hose will give Him a helping hand).

I'm no fan of peat moss, perlite, other soil conditioners, or even fertilizer -- am I parsimonious as well as lazy? Nor do I follow the accepted rule to "dig the hole twice as big as the root ball." Dig a reasonable size hole, crumble up the removed soil, stuff in your plant, mound the plant up a bit and make the usual low "saucer" of dirt to hold water, replace the soil, and lay on the mulch, Mulch & More MULCH!

Water again, but this time don't drown the poor plant; some, like yews, will repay overzealous watering by dying before your eyes. Then, stand back and enjoy!

So much for planting "technique." Next: Which plants do well at Collington?

Anonymous

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

William Parker replaces Irving Dow as Chair of the Fiscal Review Committee.

Anna Dougherty replaces John Voorhees as Chair of the Library Committee.

James Reilly is Chair of the newly formed Recreation Committee.

THE "COLLINGTON WILDLIFE REFUGE"

I believe that I have estimable vision. I know that I do not have sharp eyesight. My brief sojourns in the vicinity of the Collington wetlands lead me to the view that parts of the Collington property consist of what can be known as a wildlife refuge. Many Collington residents have seen the Canada geese and the ducks on the abortive lake. Mary MacMartin, in some of her bird counts in this oasis has spotted many birds and a respectable number of species.

What attracts these birds to this particular area which might be described as the "Collington Wildlife Refuge?"

I am not a naturalist. I am not an aquatic biologist. I am not even a soil conservation expert. But I do have a sense of ecology.

I believe that if we can get an interested party from, say, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, or the appropriate natural resources department of Prince George's County, or the State of Maryland, to make a survey of this oasis in our midst, we might learn something about the ecological consequences of what we do here.

Casual walkers as well as enthusiastic birders can amplify their senses by observing the numbers and species of the wildlife they observe, and noting at the same time the season, time of day, weather, vegetative changes, water level changes, etc., plus any recent physical changes or additions made around the lake, pond, or wetlands. These data, added to the records being kept in the register set up by Mary at the message center, will add romantic spice to our whole view of this exceptional spot.

Michael Nadel

ADOPT A DRAIN

Does a pancake-shaped concrete drain intrude on your view? Jean Pennock, Landscape Committee Chair says "Nothing we can do will make it go away, but perhaps it can be disguised or incorporated into something with more eye appeal." Near neighbors could develop a plan to camouflage these eyesores, she advises. (Of course, there are some drains, smaller and half-buried in the soil which may not be considered obnoxious.)

One possibility is to paint the light concrete-colored drain a darker shade to blend with the grass. Another choice could be to plant (NOT vines) around the drain, remembering that its side opening must not be impeded. A third alternative might be to place potted plants, or sculpture (man-made or "found") on top of the drain. Care must be taken not to interfere with access to the metal manhole. Also, such designs should be simple and inexpensive, so that losses occurring by work on the drain will be bearable.

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In any event, after neighbors agree on a plan for improving the view of their drain, they should write out the plan, with a statement of approval from the drain's nearest-and-dearest enemies. Then, the plan should be submitted to the Landscape Committee which will review it with Environmental Services.

Jean Pennock says the Landscape Committee is prepared to prime the pump with some very small grants, as for a quart of paint or a low-cost plant for these hide-a-drain projects. Environmental Services will, for a fee, supply labor for such projects when work schedules permit.

Betty Clark



ANDY VARNER
MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Andy's office is behind the maintenance shop at the end of the long hall past the elevators on the Courtyard Level of the Creighton Center. The shop is full of equipment and supplies, but Andy's office is nearly innocent of furniture. The bare desk is too small, and although the pair of chairs match, they add little to the decor. You need, however, only sit there a few minutes to know that Andy's administrative functions put him at the hub of maintenance activity. Perhaps, if he were less busy, he would have time to order proper office furniture.

Andy believes it is proper for a son to follow in his father's

footsteps when it comes to a career choice, and he has done just that. Indeed, his first job was with his father. Three years later, when he sought employment elsewhere, he looked for ways to expand his experience. He has worked for several firms, and each time he moved, he looked for a job which would allow him to gain expertise in new areas; sometimes he accepted a pay loss while he learned the new skills. As a result, the diversity of his job at Collington is not daunting but provides him with a challenge which he loves.

When Andy first began talking about his job, I was reminded of an experience I had just before Christmas. There was a frozen pipe in my cottage. Repeated efforts to thaw it were to no avail, so Andy was called in. He arrived, lunch sandwich in hand, and suggested where the blow torch should be applied. Soon we had water again. Supervising and advising the maintenance staff is only a more visible part of his work.

Collington continues to undergo inspections by health officers, the fire marshall, and others. Fire drills must be run, three each month so that each shift is covered. At least once each year a disaster drill must be held. Andy is working on ways to vary the fire drills so that those who participate will not become complacent and lax.

As he went on describing his work, I began to realize that we may not associate him with much that he does. "What," I asked, "are some of the other things you do which are behind the scenes?" He spoke of the need to build up a supply of spare parts; it takes time and thought to determine what will be needed. There has to be a schedule of routine maintenance to ensure that machinery and vehicles are in good working order and buildings in good repair. He gave examples of construction features which should be corrected. When contractors give estimates which seem unreasonable, he must deter-

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mine whether he can get the job done more economically. Talking to contractors and assessing bids is a big part of what he does. He also spoke of other ways of saving money for Collington, giving as an example some changes which would permit cuts in insurance premiums.

When I asked him what he likes best about his job there was a thoughtful silence. Then, with considerable pride and confidence he spoke of the fact he is listened to and his opinions are valued. He clearly feels that he is being given an opportunity to use his expertise and that it is worthwhile to spend time considering whether or not there is another and better or less expensive way to deal with any given situation. Andy is a man who has developed his career thoughtfully. He looks for new opportunities each time he makes a job change. We can hope that Collington will provide challenge for a long time to come.

Mary C. MacLean

RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS

Calvert House Inn, 6211 Baltimore Ave., Rt. 1. Riverdale, Md. 864-5220

Open for lunch and dinner Monday thru Friday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday for dinner, 4:30-10:30 p.m. Lunch entrees: \$4.50 to \$9.95; dinner entrees: \$11.95 to \$20.95. Appetizers, soups and salads are ordered separately. Reservations suggested.

Just below East-West Highway (Rt. 410) on Rt.1 and south of College Park there is a wonderful little restaurant called **Calvert House Inn**. If you are looking for delicious seafood served in an informal friendly atmosphere, try this restaurant. Parking in the rear may be difficult as the space is somewhat inadequate to accommodate the clientele, but you can usually find a spot to park across the street in the bank parking lot.

My wife and I met friends there for dinner on Valentine's Day, and the restaurant was packed. But it was well worth the wait for

our table. I ordered swordfish, which was broiled to perfection and served with French fries, zucchini and carrots (\$14.95). Being hungry, I also ordered the Calvert House Salad (\$2.50) consisting of romaine, iceberg lettuce, tomato, cucumber, green pepper and onions, topped with feta cheese. It was delicious. My wife ordered Mahi Mahi (\$14.95) stuffed with crabmeat. Our friends opted for Broiled Crab Cakes (\$13.95), two crab cakes of backfin lump crabmeat broiled golden brown and served with baked potato and a vegetable. The most expensive entree on the menu was Surf and Turf at \$24.95, premium petite filet and lobster tail. There are many crabmeat, scallop, shrimp and oyster combinations, including a Seafood Linguini at \$14.95, as well as such dinner entrees as New York Strip Steak (\$16.95), Chicken and Broccoli (\$11.95) and Veal Marsala at \$14.95.

Appetizers range in price from \$4.25 for Stuffed Grape Leaves to \$7.25 for Shrimp Cocktail. There is a Soup of the Day at \$2.95 and Maryland Crab Soup at \$2.25. Desserts include Haagen Dazs ice cream at \$2.50 and Super Sundaes, such as Orange Blossom (\$3.50) of vanilla ice cream surrounded by whipped cream and topped with Grand Marnier and oranges.

For lunch, various salads and sandwiches are offered: Shrimp Salad Platter at \$6.95 and a Riverdale Club at \$4.95. Hot entrees include: Oysters Imperial (\$8.95), Crab Omelette (\$7.25) and Chicken Rossborough (\$8.95) with tender pieces of chicken breast sauteed with green pepper, mushroom, onions, cream, butter, lemon and wine. All entrees at both lunch and dinner are served with the vegetable of the day, bread, butter and choice of cole slaw or calcuminto. Wine, beer and hard liquor are served.

To reach **Calvert House Inn** take Landover Road (Rt. 202) West to the Baltimore/Washington Parkway (be sure to stay in the left lane to make the left turn onto the

Parkway going toward Baltimore). Take the second exit off the Parkway Riverdale Road (Rt. 410) or East/West Highway. Drive west several miles until you reach Baltimore Avenue (Rt. 1). Turn left and you will see the restaurant on the left in the middle of the block. Turn left at the next intersection and left again until you reach the parking lot in the rear. Or, use the Citizens Bank parking across the street.

Bob Willing



BANDIT PORT

Bandit, the handsome black and white American short-hair cat you may have seen being carried by one of his helpers to the mail boxes, or leading the way home on his leash after getting the mail, has like any other Collington resident a checkered past involving quite a different life.

He was born on a huge (250 square mile) cattle ranch where, along with 50 or so siblings, cousins and other kin, the mice and other vermin were kept under control by the entire feline population. In short, he learned his profession well enough so that when he was coerced into joining the household of Eva Mae and Baker Port on their 5 acre pecan orchard, he was in sole charge of mouse control. Although locked into the garage most nights, he was able to keep his paws active, since the garage was not mouse proof. He would line up the night's catch on the top step leading to the attached garage and appeared to thrive on the praise he accumulated.

After one full year of this life, and when his helpers decided Collington would be in their

future, he went into an intensive training program on being a house cat. He also taught Baker a full measure of PATIENCE. Seemingly the least enjoyable part in his change from an outdoor cat to an inside-living cat at Collington was the airplane trip during which his cage was within inches of a dog's cage. However, all's well that ends well.

His daytime walks are like the mail runs, but nighttimes he leads the way on long hikes all around the campus. Although the dogs he meets here appear to be friendly, Bandit does not trust them when they want to smell of him. From time to time, he is able to practice his first line of work, especially in the fall, by catching mice in the Port cottage (2110). He is extremely shy about meeting new friends and usually retires under the bed or behind the refrigerator when guests or Collington staff members call.

Baker Port

TOWN MEETING, MARCH 30

The Auditorium was well filled for the Town Meeting of March 30. In disciplined participation residents presented these concerns:

What progress is being made toward representation on the Board of Directors?

Staffing at Collington is very sparse after working hours and on weekends. Someone knowledgeable should be available at all times. On weekends no one seems to be in charge.

Should not residents be able to find out if friends are in the Health Center or in the hospital without jeopardy to medical information?

Patients from the Health Center who are unable to care for themselves are wandering about unattended.

Will no guards be present at the entrance to Collington once gates are erected? Many are uneasy about the projected system and do not have complete faith in electronic security.

The numbering of floors on the elevators in the Creighton Center

TOWN MEETING, MARCH 30 (cont.)

is confusing. Could not the "Courtyard Level" be floor one, and the others two and three?

Can Earth Day be celebrated at Collington by the planting of trees by residents in common areas?

President Wall called the meeting "an expression of opinion to accelerate movement on some things." He will convey questions and suggestions to the Administration, and concerns will be considered by the Executive Committee and, as appropriate, by the Residents Council.

Margo Labovitz

Better trust all and be deceived,
And weep that trust and that
deceiving,
Than doubt one that if believed had
Blessed your heart with true
believing.

Fanny Kemble

THE "MIRACLE MACHINE"

The Xerox/Kurzweil Personal Reader is a technological "miracle machine," as described in an earlier (November 1989 issue) article by Ida Merriam. She spelled out the machine's ability to read almost any form of printed or typed copy and transform that into synthesized speech which the vision-impaired person could hear, and if desired, tape-record or interface the copy with a computer for more permanent storage and use.

This "miracle machine" would make a valuable addition to Collington's reservoir of resources, arsenal of aids, according to a Joint Resident-Staff Personal Reader Task Force that is currently

organized to seek funding for the purchase of this \$12,000 state-of-the-art equipment. The Personal Reader would serve an active role here at Collington as residents began to put it to use, breaking through some of the initial, natural resistance or reluctance, for example, to admit to having vision impairments or to needing help in reading. Every aid must go through a trial period to make it "user-friendly."

A further role the Personal Reader might play at Collington might be a one-to-one outreach to vision-impaired persons in the nearby neighborhoods on a scheduled time-available basis.

The Joint Resident-Staff Personal Reader Task Force is chaired by Ida Merriam (2005) and includes Malvina Balogh (3104), Marion Camp (2208), Burt Dougherty (1202), Janet Eberhardt (staff), Edith Hunter (4104), Janet Jenkins (staff) and Jack McTernan (235).

The Task Force is contacting various funding sources and at present is seeking assistance in acquiring the purchase price. Some initial favorable indications from those sources look promising. Of course, resident participation in the funding process is essential. The Task Force invites any residents who wish to make a personal contribution to this project to do so by making the check payable to "Collington" and marking it for "Personal Reader." Such contributions would be tax-deductible and may be turned in to any member of the Task Force or to the Residents Association Office.

Burt Dougherty

