

The

Collingtonian

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NEWS & VIEWS

Mr. Nice Man of the Year

Bob Willing

by Betty Clark

Bob Willing, The Collingtonian's first Editor and a faithful contributor, has announced that "the time has come" for him to leave us. His many other interests are claiming him--home life, photography, gardening, his newly-adopted dog, Sweetie McChum, and playing the piano.

Music is one of Bob's great loves. When he served as Chair of the Music Committee he felt that good concerts here should be supplemented by outside cultural events. Accordingly, he started group subscriptions to the National Symphony, the Arena Stage, the Ballet series, the Washington Opera and the Prince George's Philharmonic.

He shepherds us into Washington-bound buses, waiting patiently for the late comer. He ticks us off by name on

the return trip to be sure no one is left behind.

Bob's garden of 17 rose bushes is another great love. He is a member of the Drama Committee. And he walks Sweetie several times a day. So how does he get the time to swim a third of a mile four or five times a week?



Writing and editing are in Bob's blood, and he was a "natural" to be The Collingtonian's first Editor. Actually it was through his news experience that Bob first learned about Collington. When he was Editor of the Grace Episcopal Church Messenger, Norman Mol, Assistant Rector and a member of the Collington Board, asked him to do a story about the new life-care project. He wrote the story and thought, "Okay, but

it's not for us." Later, he and Frances Patten, his wife of 45 years, changed their minds and applied for residence, but Fran died in April 1987, before Collington was built. A year later, Bob sold his Silver Spring house and in August 1988, in 102-degree heat, he moved into Cottage 2210.

At monthly meetings of prospective residents--held in an office building on Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway--Bob had met Marion Wilson and the two started dating. In April 15, 1989, they were married. They settled in a double first-floor apartment with room for Bob's piano and Marion's 21-year-old cat, Seelyea O'Hara.

Bob has strong ties to this area. He was born at Fort Leslie McNair when his father was a Captain in the Army Corps of Engineers. The family, including brother, Wildurr, moved often and Bob went to four high schools and two colleges. He received a degree in Government at Harvard, where he and Jack Kennedy were on the swim team.

During World War II Bob landed on Omaha Beach on July 15--the day of the breakthrough--and reached Paris to celebrate its liberation. When the European war ended, he transferred to the American Forces Network and produced a daily show, "Beaucoup de Music," from its Paris studio.

After the war Bob worked for the Bureau of Mines, U. S. Department of the Interior, as Information Officer and Editor, retiring as Chief, Division of Technical Reports, after 30 years.

Thank you, Bob, for your many contributions to our community.

The D.G. Philharmonic Just "Down the Road a Bit" by Emily Abouchar

Literally a mile or so beyond Watkins Park and Largo is Prince George's Community College, whose faculty supply Collington with divers courses. The College is also home to the Prince George's Philharmonic Orchestra, considered one of the best in the area.

It is composed mainly of amateur musicians who volunteer their time and skills, supplemented by a smattering of professionals and soloists.

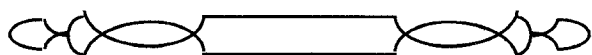
Ray Fowler, Music Director and Conductor, has performed miracles in the 26 years he has served, not only in achieving a near-professional level of

**Right on our doorstep--the
Prince George's
Philharmonic Orchestra
deserves an ear--
and community support.**

performance, but in his imaginative programming. Take, for instance, the November 20 performance. The program included "Galanta Dances" by Zoldan Kodaly, Hungarian composer and noted collector of folkloric music. Then a dazzling performance of Liszt's "Totentanz" by Wu Han, a young and gifted pianist from Taiwan. Her facile technique and warm interpretation of this difficult, emotionally-charged symphonic poem brought the audience to its feet.

After an intermission, came a selection of Symphonic Dances from Bernstein's West Side Story, a welcome change of mood and pace.

This orchestra is supported by grants from various County and State organizations but over 70 percent of its budget is supplied by contributions. And these days, such contributions are crucial to its existence. So, for those of you who dread the trip to town to the Kennedy Center--and the price--I promise you a sparkling performance by the Prince George's Philharmonic Orchestra on February 5, with a piano Concerto by Prokofiev, for \$8.00, with a special price for a full subscription to the remaining four concerts.



Noelle--Glamour Girl

As Noelle trots along on her morning walk, black curls and red sweater, she is the very model of a demure French poodle. Don't believe a word of it. "She's a little demon," says Marian Jenkins, her joint owner with Lorna Hansen.

Still just a puppy, Noelle abounds with energy. For her size--she is a small "toy" poodle--she packs an unbelievable amount of energy. "She's a perpetual motion machine," her owners say.

She is also very "talky." Marian takes her in to visit with Lorna in the morning. While Noelle waits for Marian to dress, she carries on a nonstop chat with Lorna. What is she saying? Does she speak French? English? "Just dog," Marian says.

Noelle came from the same breeder as Scamp, source of peppy poodle puppies.

Noelle lives in terror of the dog on the other side of the sliding glass doors to their terrace. That this monster is nothing more than her own reflection has not yet dawned on the puppy, Marian says.

IN's and OUT's

Al Rosen reminds us that at this time of year we should note, for future guidance, what's done and what's not done.

<u>IN</u>	<u>OUT</u>
Cataract surgery	Smoking
Hip replacement	Jogging
MacNeil-Lehrer	Beards
The National Democratic Women's Club	Birth control
Bananas	Roller Blades
Forgetting	Fat
Scooters	Using VCR's
Looking for things	Hang Gliding
Meetings	New-fangled stuff

Maribeth Westfall of Social Services

To Maribeth Westfall, one of her most meaningful jobs is one she does after working hours--visiting Collingtonians who are in the hospital. She telephones during the day, asking if patients at Prince George's or Doctors need anything. If they assure her that a family member is handy and taking care of their needs, she visits patients who need her skills.

"It isn't always easy to know who is in the hospital," Maribeth admits. "Sometimes we learn through the grapevine. Of course, if the Health Center has called an ambulance, Social Services knows about such admissions through our daily census.

The most common concerns of hospitalized Collingtonians revolve around nursing care. Or, a doctor has prescribed a new medication and the patient has questions about it. Or, if they have suffered a stroke, they are often concerned about post-stroke care. Maribeth works through the social worker at the hospital to try to solve their problems.

Everyone is always concerned about care after leaving the hospital. Maribeth explains that if a patient is unstable when discharged, Collington prefers that he or she enter the Creighton Center for observation until his condition will

safely allow a return home. "We try to put people in a room where they will be happiest," Maribeth says. "Perhaps people don't always appreciate that, but it is true."

One of three Social Services staff members--Janet Eberhardt heads the department and Fairfield Butt is a part-time member--Maribeth came to Collington four years ago as a Social Services Assistant. She has a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland. Working with a small group is of primary importance to her, and she takes into account the importance of small things.

"Take my beeper," she says. "People don't like to talk to a mechanical voice.

They like a real one. And so, when the beeper calls, I tend to pick up somebody else's phone--I'm always using other people's phones," she says with a smile. "You know, it's not always the big problems that bother sick people the most. It's the little things, like needing a

toothbrush or a nightgown."

Social Services shares with the nursing staff, and with families and friends the responsibility for going into residents' units to bring them clothing, toiletries, or other things they may need--always accompanied by a Security guard and always making a list of things they have removed. "But" Maribeth says, "neighbors--caring neighbors--are one of our greatest assets in helping resi-



dents to manage these "small" details.

Maribeth's numerous duties include care planning for Creighton Center residents, and she usually starts her day with an early morning visit there, just to check on resident needs. She conducts an Alzheimer's support group which includes people having no connection with Collington and is involved in other

outreach activities. Her enthusiasm is boundless. She speaks with gratitude for the help she has been given by residents who are experts in her field. She is now studying to become a licensed certified social worker.

Reporting for this story was done by Mary C. MacLean and Frances Kolarek. Janet Eberhardt assisted in its editing.

Taking Care of Yourself

Debbie Titus-Baker has asked the Health Center staff for suggestions for New Year's Resolutions. Pick one--or pick them all. You can't lose.

Have a Happy, Healthy New Year

From P. Gail Whitehead:

Maintain a good balance of rest, activity, intellectual stimulation and spiritual reflection.

From Margaret Brice, LPN:

Share a smile with a friend, a stranger . . . even with an enemy.

From Ida Tate, RN:

Share your wealth and or health with the community through volunteering or donations.

From Debbie Titus-Baker, CFNP:

Communicate your desires and suggestions in a timely manner to those who can help.

From Lorna Foley:

Be sure to take consult forms to all outside physician appointments and return them to Collington.

From Anna Pennington, RN:

Contact the Clinic for a home safety evaluation.

From Sandy Geter:

Take a Defensive Driving Safety Course.

From Linda Guttman, RN:

Remember to schedule appointments for shots, physicians and nurses in the Clinic.

From Nanette Evans, LPN:

Remember to use prescription Drop Off Box and allow enough time for refills.

From Jeff Kelman, MD

Remember to say "THANKS" for a job well done.

**“Our Rebels Now have Ended . . .”
The 1993 Christmas Party Captured in Pictures**



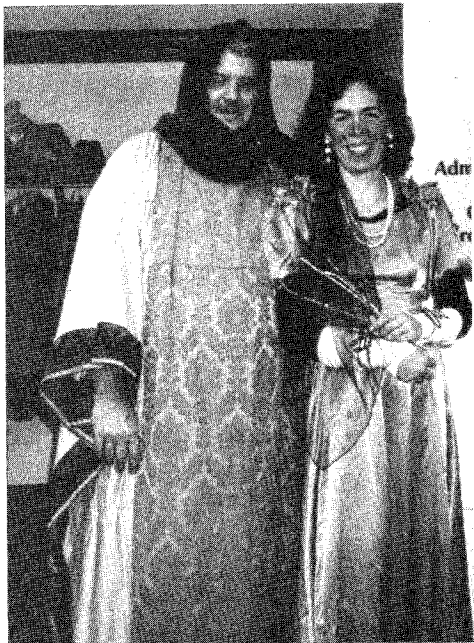
Mary and Jim MacMartin converted Creighton Center into Castle Collington with a very real “portcullis.” Everybody ducked.



In the absence of Collington’s King and Queen on a tour of their realm, Milady Gail Kohn and Sir Al Rosen served as surrogates. Sir Al’s red robe was fur trimmed.



Lady Penny Vickery, Mistress of Ceremonies, was resplendent in cloth of gold. She bade all make merry with the help of her medieval microphone. Sir Hugh, now flourishing, lay ill abed throughout the festivities.



Without the talented touch of the Master of the Dining Room, Sir Rich Baker, and his magician of a chef, Milady Ann Marie Noss, the evening would not have reached such a pinnacle of perfection.



As royalty processed throughout the hall toward the High Table, Waldy Gimenez and Jim Cole helped bear the charger carrying the Boar’s Head.



Hilda Jay's gown was richly trimmed with golden embroidery.



George Dankers (right) wore his "Coat of Mail." Baker Port, (left) vending bread at half-penny a loaf, escorted the lovely Lady Anne.



Bishop Browning with Goodwife Ruth Dixon. Could this be the cause for gossip?



What is a party without gossips? The Ladies Caroline Browning and Mary MacMartin play their role to a "T".

Our thanks to Emily Baker, Roger Dixon and Parker MacCarthy for the photographs which record this memorable event for posterity.



Muriel Parry plays Robin Hood. Edna Lingreen might be Maid Marion.

A Board of Directors Looking for Stellar Members

Collington's Board of Directors has come a long way since the early days of that "rookie" Board" Larry Harris spoke of in last December's Collingtonian.

One interesting new facet of the selection process is that Churches are looking outside their own congregations to find people versed in administration, health care, finance, fund raising, or the law as a need arises for such skills on the Board of Directors.

A case in point is Lorraine Sheehan whose experience and abilities--she has served as Maryland's Secretary of State and is a conspicuously successful fund-raiser for Melwood--made her a highly desirable Board member. St. Christopher's, New Carrollton, accepted her as a representative of that Church, although she is not a member of its congregation. She heads Collington's Fellowship Fund Advisory Group, suggesting possible avenues of pursuit in its constant efforts to increase the Fund.

At Melwood, an organization that trains young people with learning disabilities, she has found jobs--no, she has created jobs--for Melwood alumni, enabling them to lead financially-independent lives, becoming members of our taxpaying community rather than charges of the state.

Vice-President of the Board is Dr. Sandra Charles, a member of St. Barnabas' Church. The Charles family lives at Woodmore, making them near neighbors of ours. Their two children attend Queen Anne's School and their five-year old daughter has announced her intention to marry the Rector, Larry Harris, at some time in the future.

As a practicing physician whose husband, Wilfred, is a dentist, Dr. Charles brings to the Board an array of skills and experience that would be hard to duplicate.

Hilda Pemberton is one of the new Board members. Until the end of 1993 she was Chairperson of the Prince George's County Council and presently serves as representative from District Seven. She is a social worker and educator with long experience in Prince George's County politics. She was appointed to the Board by Holy Trinity Church, Collington, although she is not a member--indeed, she is not an Episcopalian. This is another instance of a church willing to name a non-member to give Collington's Board the benefit of the talents of an outstanding member of the community.

"We are blessed and we are grateful that people of this status and high caliber are willing to serve on our Board of Directors, giving of their time and skills," Gail Kohn, Executive Director, says.

Churches are reaching beyond their own congregations to choose new Board members

Greenwich Village in the Twenties

by Frances Kolarek

Greenwich Village in the Twenties: the words evoke Bohemia Rampant--prohibition, bathtub gin, speakeasies, and daring flappers in short dresses.

A number of Collingtonians who lived there in those days--strangers to each other--have set me straight.

Malvina Schweitzer Balogh was a young teacher at New York University, "which was just across the street from where I lived. I had a small apartment--it was only one room. My rent? Who can remember. Maybe fifty dollars a month."

Romance plays a big role in this story. Malvina was being courted by Erno Balogh, an exciting young Hungarian pianist fresh off the boat from Berlin, a place he forsook when inflation got so bad that the streetcar fare to a performance cost more than his pre-arranged fee. Discretion was imperative; Malvina feared her teaching career would be jeopardized by any hint of a liaison.

But Michael Nadel, who lived on Patchen Place, the home of poet e.e. cummings, insists he did not technically live in the Village.

Born in Glasgow and reared in Montreal, Michael found himself in his late teens trying to carve out a writing career along with scores of aspiring young people. What he remembers very clearly is the strange house in which he had a room "with a fireplace--it probably cost \$50"--that looked out on a triangular courtyard. "That courtyard was an ideal spot for fencing," he remembers, and he loved fencing.

Annabelle Cook floated into the Village in October 1929, the month and year of the historic market crash. Fresh out of the University of Montana's School of Journalism she was fired by the ambition to be a New York Times reporter despite the misgivings of male relatives, a few of whom were flourishing in her chosen field. The only female in the business then was Dorothy Dix whose column for the "lovelorn" appeared weekly, Annabelle believes, in the New York Herald Tribune.

The Lafayette, a Village fixture, was one of Annabelle's favorite restaurants. It was there that she gave a dinner party for three members of the French Davis Cup Tennis Team: Jean Borotra (dubbed "The Bounding Basque"), Pierre Langli and Christian Bossue. "What a dinner Lafayette's chef prepared for the occasion," Annabelle recalls.

And, it is likely that that dinner was prepared under the supervision of the late **Radames Masaro**, man of mystery. He was a French chef--that much is known--and it is believed his venue was the Lafayette. Radames spent the final months of his life here at Collington. "I always remember," Malvina says, "how he praised our food. Imagine that! A French chef and he liked our Dining Room!"

My notions of John Held flappers in cloche hats escorted by young men in raccoon coats who sipped hooch from hip flasks have gone up in smoke.

An Honor for Collington

by Edward Behr

What do you call a 128-acre property just outside the Capital Beltway that is home to a few hundred humans plus deer, foxes, raccoons and birds ranging from hawks to hummingbirds? The answer might well be "Urban Wildlife Sanctuary."

That title, at any rate, is likely to be bestowed on the wilder, woodsier parts of the Collington property some time next spring by the National Institute for Urban Wildlife, located in Columbia, MD. The institute seeks to enhance wildlife habitat and promote appreciation of urban wildlife. Toward that end, it recognizes landowners who dedicate their properties to wildlife uses. So far, a few hundred properties have qualified.

For doing the spadework needed to win this recognition, Collington will owe special thanks to two people--Sally Sanders and Jennifer Frace. Sally is a Collington landscaping assistant who knows plants. She and Jennifer, who knows animals, are University of Maryland seniors majoring in natural resource management. In a collaboration between Collington and the University, they are serving as interns here to pursue the sanctuary project, and they are busy assembling the facts needed for Collington to qualify.

To be certified as a sanctuary, Collington must meet several criteria. Its application must describe the natural foods available (berries, nuts, nectar,

seeds, shrubs), the year-round water on the property, the cover (trees, shrubs, grass) giving wildlife places to hide, and the available living space, including trees with cavities, nesting boxes and masses of shrubs.

So Sally and Jennifer have been hard at work documenting the variety and extent of wildlife habitats, including hollow trees, ponds and streams and the natural areas connecting them. They are listing berry-producing trees and shrubs. The interns have spotted the remains of crayfish eaten by raccoons, and they have taken photos of deer and raccoon tracks. They have watched the muskrat swimming in our present mini-lake. They are recording bird sightings with the help of a list of 130-odd species seen here by residents. Among other flora, they have found an exotic plant called the devil's walking stick.

In their research, the two have had some expert help from Laura Kinch, an environmental planner who designed the plantings at the Collington gatehouse, and from a wildlife biologist, Erin Deneke of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Even when Collington has been certified in part as a wildlife sanctuary, that won't be the end of the story. Collington will be expected to create a special committee of residents and staff members to help maintain its status. Yes, that would be still another committee, but it would be working in a noble cause.

Three "Women of Achievement" Recognized by Prince George's County

Three Collingtonians--Peg Chatten, Mildred Gray and Cynthia Hannum--will be included in a book entitled "Women of Achievement in Prince George's County History" to be published in March. The book promises "to chronicle the lives of exemplary women whose contributions and accomplishments have been instrumental in shaping the County's character and development."

Peg Chatten, who was born near Philadelphia, had a long and varied working career. She finally found her niche at age fifty when she entered the real estate field and within a year ran off with first prize in a sales contest. She lived for years in College Park, the hub of her real estate activities, and became active in civic groups concerned with the beautification of the area. She organized the College Park Business and Professional Women's Club to help make women aware of the opportunities available to them in the professions. Numerous awards followed.

Mildred Gray is a Prince George's Countian through and through. She was born into a family of thirteen on a farm off Central Avenue and began her career in education in a remote one-room school house in Croom. There was no plumbing, no running water and no transportation, but Mildred's pupils attended steadily. During the winter a pot simmered on the back of the wood-stove with a hot lunch for everybody.

From that point until her recent recognition as Prince George's County Woman of the Year, Mildred rose steadily

in her field, serving for many years as director of the Special Education Center at Ridgely. She worked successfully to preserve the old church at Ridgely when it was threatened by a road-widening project, and found support for her project in Annapolis.

Cynthia Hannum, a native of Boston, considers the Lobby Corps of the League of Women Voters her "life's work, aside from family." Cynthia was recently honored by the League as the founder of the Lobby Corps and the person who taught their members how to take on a piece of legislation from its inception and follow it up until passage by the Congress. She has been quoted as saying: "Defeats are just way stations on the road to reform."

Her special interest was affordable housing for low-income families. In 1967 Cynthia was appointed a Commissioner on the Prince George's County Housing Authority. She worked with the group for twenty years, serving as Chairman for a long period of time.

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WE WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you cannot come up with any ideas for New Year's resolutions, The Collingtonian offers the following prayer. Submitted by Aileen Adderton under the title "17th Century Nun's Prayer," and by Judy Kidney, attributed to "Alta Becker, a delightful lady who managed to avoid the traps she describes," some readers may have yet another attribution.

SO much for the spirit. As to the body, you may want to adopt a few resolutions based on suggestions from Debbie Titus-Baker and the staff of the Health Center. See page 5.

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself
That I am growing older and will, someday, be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking
I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.
Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody;
Helpful, but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all.
But Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
Give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains.
They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.
I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains;
But help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory,
But for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness
when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet;
I do not want to be a saint--some of them are so hard to live with--
But a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places,
And talents in unexpected people.
And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.