

# The Collingtonian

## ~ News and Views ~

Vol. 3, No. 3

Mitchellville, MD

March 1991

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Gail L Kohn

#### Contributions of Furnishings and Other Objects

Many of you gave treasures to Collington when you moved here. In fact, a third of the furnishings in the Creighton Center public rooms were contributed. As a result we rightfully take pride in the resulting interest in the furnishings of spaces shared by all.

Hilda Jay has been helping us to get to know these objects by collecting fascinating information from the donors. She has also initiated an effort to protect pieces needing special care to preserve them for the future. Please join me in extending a special thank you to Hilda Jay for her much appreciated good work.

#### The Use of Advisory Committees to Examine Issues and Recommend Solutions

The Board of Directors has created two new groups composed of Residents, Board and Staff members, and others to examine issues and recommend solutions to Board committees.

One, Resident Care Advisory Committee, will concentrate on ethical issues affecting Collington. Physician and Board member, Sandra Charles, chairs this group which also includes residents Judy Kidney, John Huizenga, Burt Dougherty and Mildred Ridgely Gray; Jeff Kelman, Collington's Medical Advisor; Bettie Flack, Education Coordinator; Janet Eberhardt, Social Services Coordinator; Marion Rodriguez, Clinic Coordinator; Tom Andrews, Rector of Holy Trinity, Collington; and Catherine A.

Bouchard, an attorney who works for Prince George's County. (A copy of the Resident Care Advisory Committee mission statement is available in the Board of Directors minutes of Meeting No. 93 in the Collington Library.)

The other, the PTZ (Public Transportation and Zoning) Advisory Committee will focus on future development in our area of Mitchellville. Residents Erwin Hannum, Mary MacMartin, Ed Behr, Judy Kidney, Dick VanWagenen and Kelsey Saint have begun working with Board members Curt Reiber and Harry Smith and me. When issues emerge, residents will be informed, and we will be ready to take action if necessary. (A copy of the PTZ Advisory Committee mission statement is available in the Board of Directors minutes of Meeting No. 93 in the Collington Library.)

### VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES COLLINGTON STYLE

By Helen Wood

Volunteer activities are a highly important feature of life at Collington. They help to make this a community of neighbors, and they contribute to the quality of life here in seemingly endless ways.

The greatest amount of volunteer work is done by the committees of the Residents Association, with leadership from Burt Dougherty, our Volunteer Coordinator, and the officers of the Association who themselves give a lot of time to their jobs. There are now 23 such committees which serve the community in ways ranging from flower arranging to helping with chapel  
(cont. on next page)

services, offering hospitality to new residents, and reviewing Collington's financial situation. Other committees are concerned with Collington's health services, manage our Library, arrange for concerts and other recreational events, work on environmental problems in cooperation with officials of the County government, and handle a wide variety of other activities and problems.

Most Collington residents are working on at least one committee. Last fall, the 18 Residents Association committees then operating had 287 residents on their membership lists.

A committee which deserves special mention because of the financial contribution it makes to the Residents Association, as well as the demanding job it handles, is the one which runs the Gift Shop. The 22 volunteers who work on this committee not only staff the Shop during the three afternoons when it is open each week but also spend a lot more time keeping records, stocking shelves, and noting needs for reordering. Shopping for new merchandise is also a very demanding job. But this investment of time and effort pays off. The Shop is not only a convenient place for residents to buy needed items at reasonable prices. It is also the largest source of income for the Residents Association, with net profits providing about one-third of the Association's total income.

Though the majority of Collington volunteers are serving as committee members, a number of others work as individual volunteers, especially in the Health Center. There are three different categories of Health Center volunteers. One group are Friendly Visitors, who make regular visits to Health Center residents and may also help them in other ways, such as opening mail and writing letters. Other volunteers assist in or sometimes lead activity programs for groups of residents, such as the weekly Sing Along program.

One volunteer led a group program by telling stories about foreign countries. In addition, volunteers provide much needed help in taking Health Center residents to Chapel services or other community activities they would enjoy. More volunteers would be most welcome for each of these three types of services.

Other places in Collington where volunteers give needed help are the Reception Desk at lunch time and on Saturdays, when it would not be open without them. And they do quite a lot of typing and other clerical work in the Administrative Office. In addition, volunteers make it possible for us to receive the **Courier** on the regular weekly schedule. A group duplicates it every week and then puts the copies in our mail boxes. And other volunteers provide much needed help to individuals -- for example, by reading to visually impaired residents, doing sewing as needed by people in the Health Center, and helping Spanish-speaking members of the Collington staff to learn more English.

So far, we have been concerned only about volunteer activities on our campus. But volunteering by Collingtonians does not stop there. A significant number of us are still involved in the volunteer activities in which we were engaged before moving to Collington. Some of us continue to go in to D.C. for activities as diverse as the Altar Guild at the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Institution, the Columbia Hospital for Women, the Public Policy Committee of the Woman's National Democratic Club, and the Academy of Sciences Committee on National Statistics.

In addition, a good many Collingtonians are active members of near-by churches and/or are involved in other services in Prince George's County. For example, several do volunteer work at the Woodmore Elementary School, including tutoring students and assisting in the library. Some others help

deliver Meals on Wheels in near-by communities. And one of our residents continues to be involved in a unique combination of community activities. She is a member of the Landover Citizens Advisory Board, which deals with zoning and planning issues affecting the community. She is also an active member of her church and a member of the local, State, and national historical societies. And she works both individually and through the Association for Retarded Citizens as an advocate for retarded children and adults.

Let us all be proud of the contributions Collington volunteers can and do make to the quality of life both within and outside our community!

#### PERIODIC REPORT TO RESIDENTS

By Art Longacre

The Collington budget for the year April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992 is now final. The budget assumptions were basically made several months ago. One of these was a conservative average occupancy of 91%, which is close to being achieved. Salary increases were assumed at 5%.

New organizations often operate at a deficit for some years. Collington policy and planning provided for this. In order to balance the budget now, current residents would have to pay much higher fees. However, the cash flow budget is balanced, actually positive. The difference between the two is that the operating budget includes non-cash income and non-cash costs such as amortization of project development expense; and depreciation of buildings and equipment. The cash-flow budget excludes these items and includes the net receipts of entrance fees. Future residents will have lower debt service costs and eventually much lower non-cash costs. Then the operating budget may be balanced. Fairness and affordability to current and future residents is the policy aim.

For the year ending March 31, 1991, the deficit (which includes the non-cash costs above) was budgeted at minus \$924,680. The actual deficit will be about \$1,000,000 because occupancy was below assumptions until recently.

The projected deficit for the year beginning April 1, 1991, is minus \$1,342,297 in a total expense budget of \$12,115,862. But occupancy is likely to be higher than the 92% assumed. Thus the deficit may be less than budget. If an actual \$1,000,000 deficit again occurs, current residents have benefited each year at an average \$3509 per year per unit (285 units at 95% occupancy). That is the additional sum that current residents would be required to pay if the budgets were balanced.

A further note: the Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority (MHHEFA) requires special reserves (cash) and debt service coverage ratios, which are being met. That requirement is to protect the bondholders, which include many residents. The 6.9% raise in fees beginning April 1 was mandated by these requirements and by the practical need to maintain a positive cash flow. Note that this raise is in line with health service worker inflation, which is higher than the rise in the general cost of living. A future report may include details of various cash and non-cash costs if there is interest in such numbers.

#### TRAVELS OF A WOODSHOP PRODUCT

By Margaret Martin

Last week I took a gavel made for me by Bill Saunders in the Collington Woodshop out to a meeting in California. It was a handsome gavel, made of solid walnut, simple lines, elegant graining, and smooth as silk, enhanced by some oiling and polishing.

The meeting in California was conducted by a committee of the National Academy of Sciences, the Committee on National Statistics,  
(cont. on next page)

now entering upon its 20th year. In honor of the occasion, I gave the gavel to the Committee's Chairman, who, in turn will pass it on to his successors. The current Chairman, Burt Singer, is a professor at Yale, but in another role chairs the Committee on Tropical Diseases of the World Health Organization. He not only made good use of the gavel at the U.C. Irvine campus, but said he would be taking it to Geneva in a few weeks to help keep the WHO committee in order.

Meanwhile, Bill has made another gavel to help Judy keep order in the Collington Residents Council, and another member of the Committee on National Statistics has asked for one for use at the University of Chicago. Perhaps, Bill has discovered a new career.

#### SIGHTINGS BOOK -- FIRST YEAR

By Edward Behr

The findings are in for the first year of Collington's **Sightings Book**, and they confirm what many suspected: our fields, woods and wetlands harbor an impressive variety of wildlife.

Residents recording their observations in the book at the Clock-Tower Reception Desk since early February 1990, have seen deer, foxes, rabbits, woodchucks, raccoons, turtles, frogs, snakes, butterflies and no fewer than 83 species of birds, ranging from hawks to hummingbirds. Eight varieties of warblers appeared here during the year, six of ducks, five of hawks, five of sparrows, five of woodpeckers, four of herons and three of flycatchers.

Which were the year's most notable birds? One unusual visitor was the American woodcock, a plump, long-billed member of the snipe family, seen September 30 behind cottage 4104. Another was the American pipit, a sparrow-like bird rather hard to spot; flocks stopped by to feed in grassy areas in late December and again in early January. Several experienced

birders here had never seen pipits before.

Far more colorful was the indigo bunting, rivaling the more familiar bluebird in brilliance; it was seen near the dam in June. Equally striking was the scarlet tanager, which turned up in June and July along the entry road and the loop trail.

Other standouts among land birds included: a yellow-billed cuckoo seen near the loop trail in June, a pair of purple finches observed in the woods below the employee parking lot in October, a yellow-breasted chat seen in May and June near the entry gate and along the perimeter path, and a barred owl heard early one July morning and again on a dark afternoon.

Among the water birds attracted to the Lake even at its summer lows, the most spectacular were the white egrets, the great and the snowy, which stayed for several weeks from late summer into early fall; one September morning there were nine egrets in all. Often these were joined by one or more green-backed and great blue herons. Once, in late September, a great blue actually perched on the Apartment roof.

The lake scene was otherwise dominated by the Canada geese, which came and went during the year, ranging in number from two to 100-plus. Several kinds of ducks showed up last winter and spring when the water was high; among them were common goldeneye, ring-necked, blue-winged teal, hooded merganser, the handsome male wood duck and the more common mallard, which was reported nesting in the wetlands. Later on, ducks were far fewer. But one or more kingfishers often patrolled the Lake between June and January.

The year's hawks included an uncommon visitor -- a northern harrier, or marsh hawk, seen March 31 along the entrance road -- plus two sightings each of a Cooper's hawk and a red-tailed hawk (once seen carrying a snake). Far more regu-

lar were our resident red-shouldered hawk and the kestrel, or sparrow hawk, which often perched on the purple-martin house.

The outstanding woodpecker, inevitably, was the big red-white-and-black pileated, seen several times in wooded areas between March and January. The less common hairy showed up once, on the loop trail in May, and the yellow-bellied sapsucker appeared on the entry road in October and near the dam in December. Much more common were the flicker, the downy and the red-bellied.

To many residents a highlight of any year is the bluebird, and this Collington favorite apparently grew in numbers last year. As early as February 12, the birds were trying out the nesting box behind cottage 1105 and two broods of young were raised there by late June. Bluebirds continued to turn up repeatedly around campus right through January.

Smaller birds are often overlooked but our sharp-eyed observers found many to report. Among the flycatchers, the phoebe distinguished itself by nesting on the living-room porch. The less common wood pewee was seen twice last summer.

Several kinds of warblers brightened Collington's woods during spring and summer. Most notable were the black-and-orange male redstart, the black-masked male yellowthroat, the hooded, the golden-winged and the unusual hybrid called Brewster's. More common was the yellow-rumped, which can be seen year-round.

Other noteworthy mites were the winter wren and the ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglets, all seen briefly last fall skulking in underbrush along the loop trail. And, of course, the tiny ruby-throated hummingbird patronized feeders and garden flowers from April until September.

Of our year-round birds the most common seemed to be house finches, goldfinches, mourning doves, crows, bluejays, bluebirds,

mockingbirds, flickers, song sparrows and cardinals. Of winter-only residents, juncos and white-throated sparrows. Of spring-summer visitors, cowbirds, chipping sparrows, phoebes, kingbirds and red-winged blackbirds.

Thanks go to Mary MacMartin for helping to compile these findings -- and to all who have contributed to the **Sightings Book**. Please continue!



#### PRISCILLA ATKINSON RECEPTIONIST

By Margaret Werts

At first, Priscilla was reluctant to be interviewed. She felt that she and her job were not sufficiently important to be of interest to **Collingtonian** readers. Nothing could be further from the truth. I would venture to say that there is not one resident who has not benefited more than once from Priscilla's cheerful help. Her presence is indispensable to our feeling of well-being.

A staff member of long standing, Priscilla first worked in the temporary food service that emanated from cottages 3116 and 3117, in the days before the dining room was open, for the benefit of those who were not able to do their own cooking. After that, when the dining room opened, she worked on salad preparation and baking. Many

(cont. on next page)

of us remember how good her pies were!

For the past year and a half, she has worked as Receptionist and general custodian of packages and of mail for residents who are away. She is also a reliable source of information on the whereabouts of the residents; she usually knows who is away, and for how long, and who has been admitted to the Health Center and who has been discharged. When I can't locate a friend, Priscilla can almost always help me out.

As we all know, in addition to her regular job, Priscilla is now working five evenings a week in the Dining Room, at the reception desk. This is a temporary arrangement, until June. She has quite a knack for putting congenial people together, thereby making a further contribution to our general well-being.

After attending elementary school and junior high in the District of Columbia, Priscilla attended the M. M. Washington Vocational School, where she studied food and nutrition. Before coming to Collington, she spent two or three years working for Marriott in salad preparation and baking.

At present, Priscilla is happy to be single and sharing an apartment with her widowed mother. For the past 15 years, she has been an active member of the Temple Church of God and Christ, a Pentecostal church, taking part in their outreach programs. She has recently joined the choir.

Priscilla thoroughly enjoys her job here, and hopes to stay until she retires. She says that the residents are very easy to get along with, always ready with a smile, and -- what particularly impresses her -- always helpful toward and concerned about each other. She says her job is made easy, because it's always easy to return a smile. Her philosophy is to leave at home any worries or troubles she may have, and turn a sunny countenance to the world around her (my words, not hers).

## LIBRARY NOTES

By Anna Dougherty, Librarian

The Library Committee is purchasing recently published books -- mysteries, fiction, a few biography, history, and drama books, and a couple of reference books -- in paperback when available.

That the budget makes these purchases possible is fortunate at a time when the Bookmobile service upon which residents have depended for current reading has been curtailed.

A listing of these new books will be posted in the Library.

## COLLECTING

by Muriel Parry

There's always a story behind personal collections, be they dolls, antique cars, depression glass, stamps, -- or boats. In my case, boat-loving parents nurtured a boat-oriented child. So, when deciding to research indigenous watercraft, I indulged in the superb excuse to travel to places where such boats can still be seen. Even with special planning, however, there has rarely been enough time to scout waterfronts, delve into maritime museum archives, and poke into back-street shops for models. But with some luck I've managed to locate models that would fit into a suitcase, if too large could be dismantled to do so, or were of sufficient interest to warrant the risk of having them shipped home. And, of course, cost was a factor, considering the fact that "they didn't take American Express" in Tikopia.

About half of the models on display in the Clock Tower lounge are extant boats. The lovely **dhoni** still sails among the 2,000 islands comprising the Maldive archipelago; the Creole **pirog** remains popular with Seychellois fishermen; Titicaca reed **balsas** can still be seen plying the lake; the Dutch boats, although no longer working, are enjoying a revival as pleasure craft.

The little lateen-rigged **caravela latina** is long gone, but

the model is a simplified version of the type used by Columbus, although in the Canary Islands he re-rigged the favored **Nina** to square sails, finding Atlantic conditions unsuited to lateen sails. The **junk**, though purchased in Hong Kong, is reasonably representative of the type that fished and traded off the south China coast. Surprisingly, wooden sailing **junks** continue to work out of the many lesser ports along the entire coast. **Junk**, incidentally, is not a Chinese word, but a generic term Westerners apply to large eastern craft; the Chinese have individual terms for their many hundreds of vessel types and don't call them **junks**.

Some people are not collectors, but to others collections can bring three-fold pleasure -- success in the "hunt," in having the object, and in thinking of the places and/or people surrounding its acquisition. And in this case, the pleasure of sharing the collection with others.

#### A CONCERT OF FRENCH AND GERMAN BAROQUE MUSIC

By Martha Blakeslee

On Sunday, January 27, Collington residents enjoyed a program of music entitled "Pastoral Delights," presented by Sounds & Sweet Ayres, an early music ensemble.

For some listeners, accustomed to music of the 19th and 20th centuries played on modern instruments, it may take some adjustment to be able to relax and listen comfortably to music of this earlier era, written for softer sounding instruments, such as harpsichord, baroque (wooden) flute, and recorder, and intended to be heard in surroundings more intimate than concert halls.

The Baroque period of music is generally considered to cover the 17th century and the first half of the 18th. As concerts moved from smaller rooms into larger areas, and chamber groups became orches-

tras, instruments of limited range of sound evolved into or were replaced by those of much wider range -- the harpsichord gradually gave way to the piano, the baroque flute and the recorder to the modern (metal) flute, etc. Performance of the earlier music, therefore, had to rely on a variety of tempos and timbres to be interesting to the listener as well as to the performer.

The program of "Pastoral Delights" -- a literal translation of Jean Hotteterre's "Delices Pastorales" -- admirably carried out this variety in the selection and rendition of the pieces used. We heard many types of dances -- rondo, passepied, gigue. Slower, sustained movements -- grave, largo, affettuoso -- alternated with gay, vivace and allegro. Variety was also effected by different combinations of the three instruments and soprano voice.

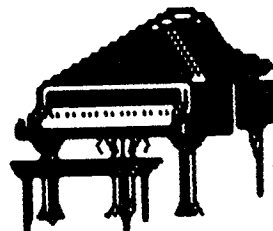
The artists acquitted themselves well in the rendition of the program. The harpsichord, heard perhaps with difficulty in the rear of the Auditorium, was expertly played by Adelaide Edelson. Suzana Cooper and Werner Neupert on recorder and baroque flute gave exciting readings of some very intricate passages, and Jenny Harriman's lovely soprano was a splendid contrasting addition to the instrumental sounds and was heard with pleasure.

We are grateful to the four artists for their fine contribution to our Collington music program.

#### OVERHEARD ON CAMPUS

By Helen Eisenhart

From a six-year-old who has visited campus many times: "Grandma, I am so proud of you for choosing such a nice place to live!"



## RESIDENTS COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 20

By Margo Labovitz

President Kidney announced the date of another meeting of the Resolution Task Force with the subcommittee of the Board to consider resident representation on the Board of Directors. She said she expected some positive achievement.

Malcolm Wall, Chair of the Fiscal Review Committee, reported that the Board has passed the budget for the coming fiscal year. A copy is in the Library and any resident may obtain a copy on request to Kathryn Brod of Administration.

A large part of this Council meeting was devoted to discussion of the first of four "emergency event" drills to be held during the year to prepare for disciplined response to crisis situations. Executive Director Gail Kohn explained the procedures. Housing Representatives agreed to act as "communicators." Jason Felder, Security Director, coached them in the use of walkie-talkies, an exercise in which they did not excel.

Emily Abouchar submitted a report from the ad hoc committee appointed at the last Council meeting to obtain community feeling about birthday parties -- their continuation and nature. After a survey of resident opinion the committee recommended that birthday parties continue, that their format be simplified and that they remain the responsibility of the Hospitality Committee, with cooperation and assistance from housing areas. The report was accepted by the Council to be forwarded to the Hospitality Committee.

Our disappearing lake may yet be reborn. Charles Trammell of the Lake and Trails Committee gave the Council reason to hope. A Task Force of Board, staff and residents is working with County authorities on this subject. While no agreements have been signed, prospects

are bright. The causes of the loss of water are now known to be permeable veins of sand under the surface as well as an inadequate inflowing stream. The proposal under consideration is to drain the lake, dredge out a new lake bed, cover it with an impermeable material and add a well to keep the level constant. There will be negotiations with the adjacent Fox Lake development about easements, trails, liability, screening, etc. The County will undertake some landscaping.

Elizabeth Dougherty's Gift Shop report for the fiscal year received applause.

The former House Committee is now the Property Committee, Baker Port announced. The change of name is to distinguish it from the Housing Representatives.

## CIRCUS POSTERS

By Margaret Werts

The late Edward Taylor was manager of the Erie Lithograph Company in Erie, Pennsylvania, one of a half-dozen companies which made all of the circus posters for the entire United States. They maintained a permanent staff of accomplished artists, some of whom specialized in clowns, some in acrobats, some in various animals. These artists created the paintings from which the lithographs were made. This exhibit consists of both paintings and posters. Robena Taylor, widow of Edward Taylor, now married to his brother, Lauriston, has generously made this exhibit possible.

Circuses usually remained in town for only one day, giving two performances. Advertising was of the utmost importance, and the main advertising tool was the poster. Small size posters -- 28"x42" -- were placed in store windows. Larger posters were pasted on the wall of buildings and on fences. Sometimes the billposters would build a board fence around a vacant lot and paste their posters on it.



Large circuses need 5,000 to 8,000 sheets per town.

The great days of the circus poster were between 1880 and 1930. The circus was a subject that lent itself well to colorful and exciting designs. The magnificent work of the artists, the plate makers and the pressmen is demonstrated in this exhibit.

The advertising crew traveled two weeks in advance of the show. Posters were installed sometimes 15 to 20 miles out from the towns in all directions. Separate sheets giving the name of the town, the date and the time, appeared beside the posters. Large railroad circuses sent their advance crews ahead in railway cars, with 20 to 30 men in each car. The first car would arrive two weeks ahead of the circus, the second a few days later, to cover additional territory. Small wagon circuses sent their crews ahead in horse-drawn vehicles, always keeping two weeks ahead of the show.

The exhibit speaks for itself, with no further words from me, except for a big thank-you to Robena and Lauriston for organizing and hanging it.

### THE MOST SHAMEFUL THING I EVER DID

By Jacob Fisher

In the course of a lifetime all of us have had at least one experience that fails the test of our sense of right and proper behavior. My week as a strikebreaker was one such experience.

In the summer of 1922, when I was seventeen, I hitchhiked with a friend to California, seeking adventure and new experiences. We had both in plenty, living as we did on what we could earn working at odd jobs, sleeping in barns, in abandoned shacks, and sometimes in the ditch of the primitive road of those days, eating in the cheap cafes (pronounced "kafes") that were the equivalents of today's fast food chains. The dollar went a long way then. At a farmhouse in Kansas at which we stopped one

morning for breakfast, we were served three eggs, bread, butter, milk and stewed pears, and when we asked the farmwife how much we owed her, she said "Fifteen cents," adding quickly, "Is it too much?" Later, in a cafeteria in the part of Los Angeles frequented by transients and single unattached laborers, we found that most meat dishes cost seven cents, and a complete dinner, pie and all, could be had for twenty-five cents.

The further west we went the poorer was the road we encountered, the fewer were the cars, the people, the odd jobs, and the thinner our funds. By the time we got to Wyoming we were down to a dollar or two and a diet of sweet rolls and coffee twice a day. We were constantly hungry. We hadn't picked up the experience or wisdom of the drifter and hobo who knew where to go for a handout and how to ask for one.

In Laramie we were told to go for a job to a storefront employment office that was hiring almost everyone who applied. The railroad shopmen were on strike, and the jobs offered were for mechanics of all kinds to replace the strikers in the big Union Pacific repair shops located just outside town. I had qualms about working as a strikebreaker, but so acute was our need, so attractive the unbelievably high wage offered -- five dollars a day for a mechanic's helper, the slot I drew -- that my doubts were quickly resolved.

We were loaded into a big vanlike truck, along with a dozen or so other men, a motley sampling of the bums, casual laborers, and harvest hands who wandered the West in those days, living, as we did, off the temporary jobs the season, the locale and the times afforded.

The compound in which the railroad repair shops were located had the feel of an armed camp. A dozen or more picketing strikers, kept at bay by as many sheriff's deputies, six-shooters on hip, lined the road as we approached the

(cont. on next page)

entrance, cussing us as we passed them. I was assigned to the shop that repaired the locomotive steam engines, the huge monsters that pulled the fifty-car freights of the time, mounted on wheels taller than a man. My boss was a mechanic or so he claimed, doing repairs on the half dozen or so engines in various stages of dismemberment all about us in the big cavernous shop in which we worked.

My job was to locate in the boxes and bins that lined the wall the tools the mechanic wanted -- hammer, mallet, wrench (half a dozen varieties), pinchbar, pliers (in variety), screw driver, hacksaw, chisel, drills, etc. He had a foreign accent, a poor command of English, and a short temper, a combination that didn't make it easy to work with him. More than once he would throw down the wrong tool I had brought him and cuss me out in English and in his native tongue, Spanish I think. There were long periods when I stood around idle while the mechanic hunted for a part he couldn't find.

The food was coarse, greasy, but plentiful, the bedding primitive but lice-free. The men's talk was dominated by sex hunger, only partly satisfied by the Mexican prostitute who had been smuggled into camp and was cleaning up by taking on ten, twenty or thirty men a night. There was gambling, dice mostly, on payday.

The air on the high plains of Eastern Wyoming is as pure as any in the world, but we breathed little of it, locked as we were day after day in that monstrous cave of a railroad repair shop with its smells of oil, grease, and hot metal. I got to hate that smell with every fiber of my being, as I did the stuffy air, heavy with cigaret smoke, of the track repair car in which we slept. After days of gritty cinders underfoot I thought longingly of the feel of dirt or gravel and the solid support of a cement sidewalk. And I felt more and more guilty about

the extravagant pay we were getting for doing little or nothing, and about the idea of being a strikebreaker.

Somewhere in the course of my moral education I had learned to regard strikebreaking as a sin, in the same class as stealing, cheating, and cruelty to man or animal.

After a week we had each earned 30 or 35 dollars, and we decided to quit. We had enough now to keep us going until we got to the Coast.

The whole experience was an education in the price employers were willing to pay to break a strike -- the high wages paid the strikebreakers, far higher than the rate earned by the shopmen when working or the rate they had struck for, the low quality of the scabs' work performance the Union Pacific tolerated, the cost of the armed security force (Pinkertons?) supplementing the law and order of the small local police force -- the sheriff's deputies all around the place.

Contributing later to my sense of guilt was the loss of the strike by the shopmen's union, setting back unionism in that area of railroad employment for many years. I couldn't help feeling that I was responsible in some measure for the union defeat.

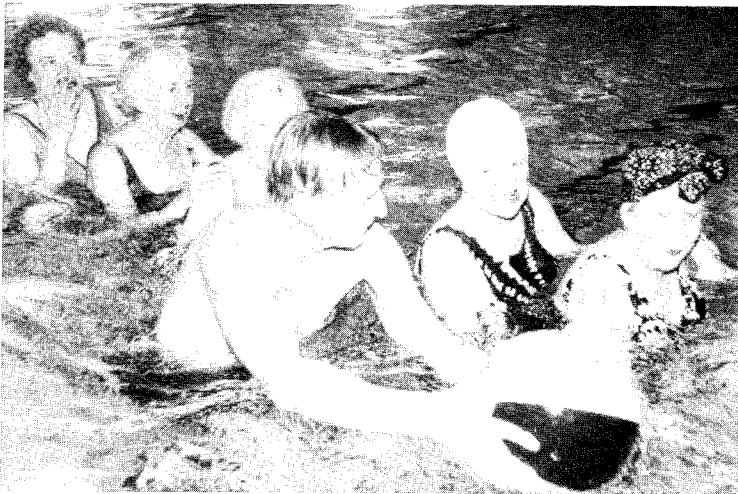
I was so ashamed of what I had done I never mentioned it for years. Even today, salutary and educational as the experience was in retrospect, I think of it with regret and self-reproach.



**COLLINGTON LAKE NOW OFFICIAL**

Mr. C. Robert Gossett, President of the Collington Board of Directors, has been notified by Mr. Roger L. Payne of the United States Board on Geographic Names that the name Collington Lake has been officially approved by the Board. The entry will read as follows:

Collington Lake: reservoir, 0.16 km (0.1 mi.) long, on an unnamed tributary of Western Branch, 3.2 km (2 mi.) ESE of Glenarden, Prince George's Co., Maryland; 38°55'12"N, 76°49'37"W; USGS map Lanham 1:24,000.

**THE COLLINGTON SWIM & BEACH PARTY**

By George Dankers, Pool Committee Chair

In the Collington pool at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, 23 February, our Executive Director, Gail Kohn, was wearing her new waterproof radio cum earphones so she could listen to her favorite music while swimming a tad more than a half mile. She had been joined by 26 other swimmers and walkers, some starting at 8:00 A.M. to fulfill predicted performance in this our first Collington Swim. The longest swim of 37 laps (one mile) was clicked off by Steve Bertolo, one of our life guards. At the other end of the scale octogenarian Irene Heppner expected to walk one lap which she then stretched to four. By the end of the morning, 415 laps (11.5 miles) had been covered, to which 156 residents, relatives, and

friends had pledged more than \$4100.00 to benefit our Fellowship Fund. Marion Camp and Janet Jenkins assisted by a group of willing hands were responsible for the success of this first part of the all day program.

In the afternoon we gathered for a Beach Party with emphasis on what we would like to be wearing and doing in the good old summer time. A highlight of the affair was the parade of ladies and gentlemen in swim and beach wear dating from about 1910 to the sun shunning styles of later years. Winners of audience applause were:

Funniest: Lynn Baker  
Most Spectacular: Ann Brewer  
Mack Sennett Bathing Girl:  
Leila Wilson

Martha Washington (bathing in Bedford Springs): Martha Cox

Most Sunproof: Conna Shaw

While the 103 residents and guests were enjoying our juice bars and soft drinks, a group of water rats were playing simple games. Helen Bellman successfully defended her title as our basket shooting champ by fending off strong challenges by Dorothy Morthorst and Isabel Gerhard. Our poolside audience tested their abilities with water pistols extinguishing candles on our fire ship moored in the water. Lois Young is our super squirter.

During a serious interlude Red Cross awards were presented to four swimmers who in the past year logged distances of 50 miles to Martha Cox, 50 to Isabel Gerhard, 100 to Bob Willing, and 100 to Robert Kramer.

A beach ball relay was won by Dorothy Morthorst, Conna Shaw, Betty Rice, Leila Wilson and Art Longacre. The best bucket relay team was Betty Rice, Leila Wilson, and Dorothy Morthorst. Two races in the sailboat regatta were won by Dorothy Morthorst and Art Longacre, a couple of blow hards if we ever saw them. A new game this year, the Block on Block races were won by (dare we say) champ block heads Emily Baker and Ken Muldoon. The

(cont. on next page)

most treasure was plucked from the pool bottom by this reporter. And finally the Wet Clothing Relay, a favorite from last year, closed the program crowning Emily Baker and Ken Muldoon as winners.

To Emily Baker who chaired the party with help from a great gang of hard workers, and to Marion Camp, Janet Jenkins and the Swim group, Bob Willing our master of ceremonies, and Judy Gambill, coach and advisor par excellence, Collington thanks you for a most worthwhile and entertaining day.

**SOLUTION TO FEBRUARY PUZZLE**

E	M	A		C	A	R	T	E		A	P	O	D	
D	I	E	T		P	R	O	U	D		U	R	G	E
O	N	T	H	E	A	I	S	L	E		D	I	R	E
M	U	R	E	D		L	E	I		T	I	M	E	D
	S	O	N	I	C		S	P	I	R	E	A		
		S	C	O	T			C	A	N	V	A	S	
I	L	L		T	U	R	T	L	E		C	E	I	L
G	O	O	N		R	U	R	A	L		E	R	D	A
O	T	T	O		T	E	A	B	A	G		A	S	P
R	A	T	T	L	E		E	N	O	S				
	S	H	A	D	O	W		D	R	A	M	A		
B	E	F	I	T		R	O	C		S	C	E	N	E
A	V	O	N		P	A	R	A	D	E	R	E	S	T
B	E	R	G		U	L	T	R	A		A	S	O	N
E	N	D	S		B	E	S	O	M		L	E	N	A

**LETTERS TO THE EDITORS**

We welcome letters. This is the first one we have received. We are sorry that it expresses a negative opinion, but we welcome it nevertheless.

**TO THE EDITORS**

3.4.91

**RE: BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

I am dismayed and deeply saddened that Black History Month was acknowledged in such a manner.

The purpose of the observance is to portray and emulate achievements of Blacks in every facet of society -- science, medicine, art, literature, music, etc.

The three column article could have revealed a wealth of information on the many contributions of outstanding Blacks now revered or some recent achievers as history is ongoing. For example, the State of Maryland and Prince George's County, in particular, is rich in the contributions of African-American outstanding achievers; it also has an Historical Society which is an authentic source.

Respectfully,  
Irma H. Perry  
#2014