



The  
*Collingtonian*

Vol. 9, No. 10

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•Retirement: Doing What Comes Naturally•

by Glendy Pabst

“Work-a-holic? You bet! That’s just what my children claim.” Thus courtly Courtney Evans confirms himself to be one of those dedicated careerists who daily trade the comforts of Collington for an office desk.

Although Courtney appreciates the amenities of a “retirement community,” this 83-year old attorney and one-time FBI executive doesn’t take the R-word seriously,. “I can’t remember a time when I didn’t prefer the office to a party,” he claims.

When, fresh from Detroit College of Law, young Courtney braved Washington in mid-depression, he was glad to postpone his anticipated law practice for a few months by signing on with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Twenty-four years later, when he actually did leave to found a firm, Courtney was Assistant Director and owner of amazing memories. As liaison between J. Edgar Hoover and the Kennedy brothers, he has been consulted by numerous historians and still hesitates to tell all he recalls.

He doesn’t hesitate, however, when he describes how enjoyable it has been, those big corporate confrontations of

yore, and the smaller but satisfying current triumphs, avoiding tax disasters by forging solid trusts.

When Dr. Paul MacLean reviews his own years of achievement he doesn’t talk about “work” but speaks rather of “asking questions.” Yet he’s done that since childhood, this 84-year old scientist recalls. Son of a minister who encouraged cosmic questions at the dinner table, Paul continued to ask them at Taft and Yale, then decided they might be answered by science rather than philosophy.

After graduating from Yale Medical and practicing in Seattle, Paul realized that even medicine was too narrow for his curiosity. In the labs of the National Institute of Mental Health he has explored many specialties collecting data for his magnum opus, published in 1990 as The Triune Brain in Evolution. His theory postulates the development of a three-part brain over countless millenia, through reptilian and early mammalian forms to its present complex sensibility. And he’s still wondering if there are some data he has missed.

That’s why you won’t find his car  
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parked in the 1200 cluster most afternoons. Look instead at St. Elizabeth's Hospital where NIMH maintains labs--and where Paul continues to ask questions.

These busy Collington residents reflect a trend recently reported in The Washington Post. Contrasting current goals with those of the 1970s has shown that in 1997, more Americans are clinging to their alarm clocks.

Chris Bever, Collington's eminent retired psychiatrist, deplores the trend. He believes that retirement is good for the health. Of course, it took him several years to achieve that himself. Protocols for psychiatry preclude abrupt termination of treatment, so Chris wound down his case load gradually. Now that he's free of individuals' problems--except in emergencies--he enjoys reading about the weighty problems of the world. In that respect he's not so different from Courtney Evans and Paul MacLean.

## Guides through History

Once or twice a month for more than 20 years, Carolyn and Bob Browning have stepped a couple of centuries back in history to guide visitors through a brick mansion built about 1760. They are docents at London Town House and Gardens on South River in Anne Arundel County.



The Brownings in Colonial Dress

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The building served as both a tavern and residence for ferrymaster William Brown. Owned by the County, the house surrounded by extensive gardens in a 23-acre park, has attracted tourists since it was restored and opened to the public in 1973. Now, according to Carolyn, visitors "come in droves. The big attraction is the dig." Professional and amateur archaeologists began "serious digging" at the recently discovered site of another tavern which closed in 1725.

Before moving to Collington, the Brownings lived across South River from the house and could see it from their community.

D.B.

## •What Got Our Geese?•

by Tom Street

Those hollow plastic birds were not there to benefit hunters. We had five on duty in Collington Lake, each attached to an aerator outlet so that it would be pulled up for servicing. First one decoy disappeared several months ago. Then a few weeks ago another, then a few days later four were missing from their tethers and the fifth listing badly, Titanic-like.

This called for stern measures, so George Dankers, chairman of the Lake and Trails Committee as well as champion model skipjack racer, set out in our dinghy to see what was going on.

He found one sodden goose decoy on the far shore where Jim MacMartin thought he had seen it. And he found three others by hauling in the lines that attached them to their anchoring weights. But the fifth, the one that originally disappeared, still eluded his detection.

Always resourceful is our George, so equipping himself with a long garden rake, he dragged the lake bottom in the vicinity of the aerator. Nothing doing for a while, but thinking to try onemore pass, he extended the rake to its fullest length and Eureka! He felt a drag and fished up the soggy goose.

The reason for its disappearance and the sodden condition of theothers that were still anchored became clear on close examination. All had small holes in their plastic skins, enough to let them get waterlogged. The one on the far shore had its anchoring line severed. By what was not apparent. Beaver? Otter? Other? So far the parties responsible for this act of *subaqueous vandalism* are unknown.

John Leitch has provided replacements as he did the originals. Kevin Shaver of environmental services filled them with foam flotation material so that if whatever caused the little holes in the plastic does so again, they will stay afloat. Also the former rope tethers have been replaced by bronze cables so the decoys will stay on their bubbling water stations.

## The Land Next Door

Executive Director Gail Kohn reported to residents at the November 14 Community Meeting that an effort is underway to explore the potential of buying the 17.5 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the Collington entrance road, the availability of which was reported in the October and November issues of this newsletter.

The initial asking price is \$2 million for the tract. Mrs. Kohn stressed that any purchase would be dependent upon the results of a professional market appraisal and any possible uses of the land by Collington would be fully explored in an upcoming feasibility study. Also purchase of the land would be dependent upon our ability to secure charitable contributions, both large and small. Some residents have already pledged sums toward the possible purchase, we are told.

Questions about the tract and its availability should be addressed to Barry Smale, Director of Development, on Extension 2124. L.B.

## Let There Be Music

More participation in music activities by residents is a goal of the Music Committee, chaired by Harriet Simons.

She says, "If your committee--whether it be concerned with a special event or with ongoing activities--plans to include music, we wish you would let us know. Perhaps we can help."

The Committee, of course, continues to stage concerts in our auditorium, and is looking for fresh performers. From its annual budget, provided by the Residents Association, it is prepared to pay a modest fee to professionals whose livelihood depends upon performing. Grants from cultural organizations cover some performances, and many are provided gratis as outreach to retirement communities.

With members like Jo Bever whose contacts with the world of music in this area, Bob Willing, who has kept us in tune with the world of music for many years, Virginia Beaty and others, the Music Committee is equipped to address Collington's musical needs. It welcomes requests for help.

Harriet acknowledges the years of generous help from Caroline Farquhar, Virginia Colony, Emily Abouchar, Melva Wence, Al Folop, Aileen Aderton and a host of others to the Music Committee's numerous activities.

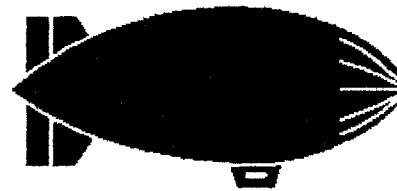
New members are welcome to participate in the committee and Harriet invites your call at Ext. 7311.

The Collingtonian will bring further musical notes in future editions, including news of Virginia Beaty's efforts to get performing musicians together for informal concerts here.

## Remembering Blimps and Dirigibles

by Muriel H. Parry

The proximity of the new Redskins stadium is providing close sightings of the Goodyear blimp on game days. Whenever I see one I'm reminded of our trip aboard one in the mid-1930s. There was



a blimp field in Brooklyn, and passengers could book a sightseeing ride over New York City. To ensure that we'd not get too complacent over this adventure, the blimp immediately flew low over one of the Brooklyn cemeteries--low enough to read names on the larger monuments.

Riding in a blimp is quite unlike riding in an airplane. It is much quieter, especially as compared with the less well-insulated airplanes of the period. The blimp seems to float serenely, slowing rising and falling with the air currents rather than knifing through the air. It is a wholly pleasant feeling.

Each of us has been party to some historic occasion. On May 6, 1937, the family was dressing for some school event when an unusual sound caused me to lean out of my window. Immediately over our New York City house was the *Hindenburg*. My, she was big! Less than two hours later she burned at Lakehurst, N. J. The mental picture of her going overhead and the subsequent newspaper coverage of the accident remain vivid. I doubt that we would have made the earlier flight had our participation been *after* the *Hindenburg* disaster.



When Collington's drama group puts on a play, there's always more to the production than meets the eye.

Consider the history of November's "The Male Animal," that diverting comedy by James Thurber and Elliott Nugent that a capacity audience enjoyed last month. The project began last spring with the choice of the play by Marcia Behr, our talented and dedicated director.

Then came the job of cutting the script from the original 45 pages to a manageable 30, without eliminating essential characters or upsetting the plot line. Five roles were deleted, leaving just eight.

Casting began soon after choice of the play. Marcia relied mainly on our experienced "pros," people like Tom Street, Chuck Dell, Ken Muldoon, Ed Behr and Dorothy Mayer, who can wrap themselves in a part and can be heard without benefit of mikes. They were joined by "Tully" Torbert, Glendy Pabst and Art Longacre.

Then there was the planning of the stage set and the marshalling of furniture, etc. A heavyweight desk-bookcase had to be transported from the Opportunity Outlet and the planners had to round up a clothes tree, telephone, pitcher and glasses, artificial flowers and three tape players. And Marcia made two fruitless expeditions--to Hyattsville and to downtown D.C.--in search of a recording of the song "Who," complete with vocal, before settling for a lesser version, found available from a neighbor.

Rehearsals began in mid-October; there were nine in all, two of them on one day, and one stretching out for more than three hours. Some were monu-

mentally boring, with frequent repeats of certain scenes. The director says: "Let's do it again...Try it once more...That's almost it...do it again...Now you've got it." Another time: "Take your entrance again--we've got to get Dorothy out of the way."

Once a character trudged onto stage burdened with a hat, flowers, a bottle and his script. Director: "Do it a little faster or the audience will go home." Actors sometimes scrambled the pages of their scripts--and were warned to get them straight before coming on stage.

At times, though, a rehearsal seemed almost as entertaining as the performance itself. In one scene, Ken, standing, was told to sit. "But I'm jealous," he protested. Director: "Can't you sit and be jealous?" The result: he sat.

So it went almost up to performance time. And then, just 17 hours after the curtain closed on "The Male Animal," many in that cast began a script reading for this month's production of "Once in a Lifetime" by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart.

All the actors cast in each of these plays merit our applause, but extra credit goes to the seven appearing in both. Marcia, of course, has been an off-stage star both times. In "The Male Animal" Edna Lingreen did unseen but much-appreciated, essential work with props and sound effects. Two others deserve to take a bow: George Dankers and Bob Browning in charge of lighting for both plays, and Mary Ann Pellerin, who records our productions on video for posterity.

## One Big, Happy Family

Ask anyone--doctor, lawyer or merchant--and you'll learn that finding good staff is the problem of the hour. The Collingtonian wondered how, with a national unemployment rate of 4.9%, our directors fill vacancies. And we asked whether staff members ever recommend relatives. Aphrodite Peters came up with a surprisingly rich "family tree."

For instance Marthalene Hawkins has a sister, Alberta Whitson, a daughter, Pauline Wallace, and a daughter-in-law Elvira Wallace all working in housekeeping.

We have four sisters, two of whom, Maxine Barry and Kathy Cole work in dining services, another, Kathryn Deville, in housekeeping, and Tanglea Proctor, who works as an activities staffer on Level Two of the Creighton Center, serving meals and filling in where needed.

And then there's Willie Chapmon of Maintenance who came to us through the graces of his mother-in-law, Josephine Flakes of dining services. Mary Smith of dining services is the mother of Charlene Smith of housekeeping; Earnestine Robinson of housekeeping has a daughter, Debra Ford, also in that department as well as a daughter, Barbara Lowe, in nursing.

Security Guard Michael Markham's sister, Denina, is an activities staffer; Joyce Allen, once of dining services and now in activities, has a daughter Patrice in dining services; and Ivyette Graham of dining services has a sister, Santrell, in activities.

Aphrodite concluded that "much of Collington's togetherness lies in the fact that many people who work at Collington are related." F.K.

## But It's Better to Give

by Judy Street

Christmas time: a time to give and a time to receive.

The Community Outreach Committee is again collecting gifts of toys, books and clothing to be distributed to two agencies in Prince George's County. The Community Ministry, which runs the Warm Nights, Sharing Fund and Community Cafe programs, has been a recipient of our generosity for a number of years, and will be a participant again this year.

New to our program this year is the Aging Division of the Department of Family Service in Prince George's County. This agency has a program for grandparents who take care of their grandchildren, because the parents are not able to do so.

One saying we all know is: "How nice it is to hear the patter of little feet from from my house to theirs." Imagine the patter of a pair of feet of two-year old twins and their six siblings (in one family), pattering around your house all day, every day. Imagine the frustration of trying to guide, understand and counsel two teen age boys (in another family) at your grandmotherly age. There are many other stories of this type. The boxes will be out on Dec. 1. Let's fill them up.

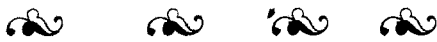
## Cherchez la Femme--We Did

Residents continue to ask about Christina Taylor, the personable youngster from nearby Fox Lake and part time student at Prince Georges Community College, who started here as dining room server, won promotion to hostess then to the accounting department. She has moved on to a position as coordinator in a beauty salon in Reston, Va.

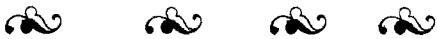
## Well, How About That?

The fame of our Ann Hammond grows. Now she is featured, with photo, in the new catalog of Strayer Business College, Washington, where she completed the Bachelor of Science degree course in Business Administration this year. Ann is Collington's admissions coordinator and probably guided you through your inspection tours and move-in here.

As if balancing all those dealings with dozens of applicants at a time wasn't enough, she has now put on the additional hat of catering manager for the special events we have here so often. Well, she seemed always to know what's cookin' anyway.



Among a sizable group of regular Monday nighters whose tastes in movies (comedies, especially) never quite kept up with the calendar, there is much appreciation for Franklin Newhall's maneuvering recently to bring us the Marx Brothers in "Monkey Business," a 1931 production. Slapstick, yes, but 100 times funnier than most current "humor." Belly laughs are good for the belly.



Phyllis Sternau has received another certificate from the Jewish Braille Institute of America, this time for the most recent of the volumes she has typed for blind readers. She has done six or seven, she reports, since she learned the technique in 1941 from a Red Cross course rather than learn to play bridge. It is tedious work, done on a special machine with special paper, but the demand for such books has diminished somewhat, Phyllis notes, since the advent of books recorded on tape.

## Hiking Into Matrimony

by Anne Cadman-Walker

Handsome, white-haired, white-mustachioed Lauren E. Brubaker, Jr., and his attractive, white-haired wife, Patricia Barnett-Brubaker met at an Appalachian Trail conference in Vermont in 1985.

Bru was from the South, Pat from the North. Were they into reconstruction? Both were hikers, both liked camping, ice-skating, cross-country skiing, swimming and canoeing. So, they got married in 1994, in Bethesda, and honeymooned back-packing in Wyoming. Naturally.

Now Pat lives at Collington and Bru is her frequent "guest" when he can get away from his professional duties. When he visits they spend long weekends enjoying outdoor recreations. This winter they will ski with about ten Brubaker kin at Lake Placid, N.Y. They are both in their eighties and their enthusiasm for the outdoors laps over to the attractive trees and patio addition to her #4207 cottage.

Alabama native Bru won his Doctor of Theology degree at Union Theological Seminary in 1942. He served as pastor to the First Presbyterian Church in Parkersburg, W. Va. and three years as a U.S. Air Force chaplain overseas. In 1949 he was named chaplain and teacher of Religious Studies at the University of South Carolina, is now retired but still active there.

Vassar graduate Pat attended the Institute of International studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and her long career as an intelligence analyst in Asian Affairs led to the directorship of the State Department's Office of East Asian Affairs, from which she retired in 1980.



Left to right: Shalimar, Adrian, Carlos, Altamese, Josephine and Nutima

A pleasant surprise met diners in early November when hostesses and servers greeted them in snowy shirts, gleaming black trousers, tuxedo ties and maroon accoutrements on the order of cummerbunds.

They lifted the tone of the scene following the fashion lead of the trendsetters, like Bill Blass and Ralph Lauren. Casual is out, elegant is in as evidenced by the staff members in the photo at left.

Marc Evans of Collington's Security staff has been on the job for about 15 months. He is finishing his sophomore year at the University of Maryland majoring in Human Resource Management. To a quizzical question from a codger as to whether that is what we used to call personnel management he replied affirmatively, with good grace. He was born and raised in the District of Columbia, and now lives in Hyattsville.



Marc Evans at the Security Desk

### "Know Your Neighbor"

This initiative of the Hospitality Committee had its debut with Horace "Tully" Torbert leading us on a tour of his tours of duty in the United States Foreign Service. From its inception as an assistant Commercial Attache doing a variety of assignments including reporting on production of herbs in Spain, his career progressed through a variety of increasingly responsible posts. He concluded with two commissions as U. S. Ambassador, one to Somalia and one to Bulgaria.

Watch for more in this series. T.S.

Dear Lord,

So far today, God, I've done all right. I've kept my mouth shut, I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Thank you, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

*St. James Church  
Kent, Washington*



## The Love of Three Corgis

Every Saturday morning about 10:00 Karan Huffman walks in to the main Collington entrance holding a leash to which are attached three Corgis. These are short, lively, friendly dogs that came originally from Wales. They are Queen Elizabeth's favorites.

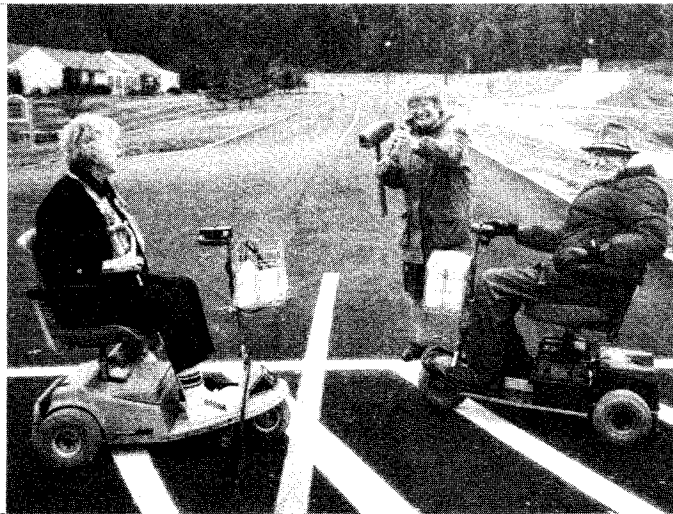
Miss Huffman belongs to "Pets on Wheels," an organization that brings dogs to places where people have difficulty getting around and can't have dogs of their own. These endearing pooches bring pleasure to people who see them and who have a chance to pet them.



Karan Huffman with her three dogs

## Golden Spike Redux

The equivalent of the driving of the golden spike that signaled the meeting of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railroads, thus making possible transcontinental rail travel, has finally been realized here. With the paving of a section of the grassy strip between the perimeter road and walkway and the establishing of a crosswalk between it and Broadway extended past the 4200 cluster to the road, a scooter or wheelchair, as well as a walker, can now do a circular promenade on paved walkway from the security entrance to the scooter park. The distance is about one kilometer.



Scooter riders Frances Kolarek and Peter Heinze meet at the conjunction as Judy Mutty prepares to "drive the golden spike."

Paving this junction was a spin-off (and cost-free) of the contract to pave a section of the trail that had been badly eroded and made hazardous for walkers by years of flooding and freezing. The contract included establishing ample culverts to carry off storm water to make the trail passable and long lasting. Now a trail walk can include a dry shod tour through some of our wetlands.

These enhancements of our trail should entice devotees of the outdoors, of fitness and pleasant rambling equally, to

their mutual benefit.

T.S.

## •Five Who Chose Collington•

by Dorothy Brown

New Jersey Natives Mike and Mildred (Becky) Elefante are finding plenty of activities at Collington compatible with their interests.

Soon after moving into Cottage 1108 on October 15, Mike, an opera buff, joined the Collington singers. The Elefantes intend to take advantage of the music programs here and availability of concerts in the area. Becky played the viola in community orchestras in Summit, N. J. and Ocala, Fla. where they lived before coming to Collington.

Long-time participants in Great Decisions groups, they will pursue their interest in public affairs by attending the lectures and discussion series. Becky has joined the Outreach Committee and hikes with the Saturday morning group. Mike's "main hobby" is reading.

He was a hairdresser before attending Rutgers University and taught for 15 years at Union County (N.J.) Vocational and Technical School.

Becky describes her career as "checkered." A graduate of Middlebury College in Vermont, she was sworn into the WAVES on D-Day. After the war, she was private secretary to the dean of the New York University Law Center. Then it was back to college for a masters and employment as a special education teacher in New Jersey.

The Elefantes have five children from previous marriages.

Eliza and Marcia Miller, sisters, had lived in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area almost all their lives before moving into Cottage 2205 on August 20.

A graduate of Hood College in Freder-

ick, Md., Eliza's work in the laboratory of the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, focused on tumors in animals. Hobbies include reading, family history, and knitting, an interest she shares with her sister.

Marcia's current project is an intricately patterned sweater for which she employs the Fair Isle knitting technique. She is a Swarthmore graduate and before retirement was a librarian at the U. S. Department of Labor. She's interested in gardening and has joined the Landscape Committee.

The third occupant of Cottage 2205 is Abijah, a handsome black cat, whom Eliza describes as "a hobby in itself."

Margaret Haynes is settling into Cottage 2205, having arrived on September 29.

Born in Cincinnati, she worked for five years as a secretary before her marriage. She and her husband lived in Ohio and Wisconsin until his retirement 14 years ago. Craving space, they moved to a house on five acres in the south-central Virginia town of Rocky Mount.

After his death in April, Margaret and her daughter, who lives in Potomac, visited a number of CCRCs before choosing Collington. She describes Collington as "a Fountain of Youth. They do an amazing job here of trying to keep people happy."

Margaret plans to join a book discussion group. Other interests are antiques, gardening and antiquities.



A room in a LaPlata, Md., church is named for our Gertrude Mitchell.

## •Responding to our Medical Emergencies•

by Wendell Brown

How do we make Collington aware of our medical emergencies, and how does Collington respond? Here is a delineation of the complex system Collington has put in place.

There are four ways by which Security may learn of an emergency in your unit:

1. You may call Health Services Emergency Number, 2222 and tell them about it. If you don't remember that number, call the usual Security Number, 2020.

2. You may give the pull-cord a tug. There are pull-cords in all bedrooms and bathrooms.

3. You may purposely or accidentally move the telephone receiver off the hook. If the receiver is not replaced in 30 seconds, Security is alerted. Note that Security is not alerted if you simply fail to hang up properly after a telephone call.

4. Smoke in your unit may activate the hard-wired smoke alarm which is connected to Security. But note that you may burn the toast with impunity (except that your battery operated smoke alarm will go off with a blood curdling scream). Small amounts of smoke will activate only your battery operated smoke alarm, which is not connected to Security.

Important components of the Security apparatus for responding to emergencies are the Safety/Security Assistants. There are nine full time and seven on-call people who answer to that title, though understandably, they are more often referred to as "rovers." These are the people with packs that you see perambulating all the walkways and corridors at Collington. During their eight hour shifts, they alternate two hours perambulating and two hours

sitting behind the Security desk. Their packs are emergency medical bags containing thirty-seven variety of items useful in a medical emergency.

Immediately after receiving a pull cord alarm, Security will telephone your unit. If you answer and report a medical emergency, or if no one answers the phone, Security will dispatch a rover and a nurse to your unit. The rover should arrive within eight minutes of receiving the alarm, a nurse within fourteen minutes.

If the telephone is off the hook for more than thirty seconds, a rover, but not a nurse, is dispatched to your unit immediately. When the rover, who is trained in CPR but not in First Aid, finds a situation requiring medical assistance, a nurse is called. On the night shift, however (10 p.m. to 6 a.m.), the nursing staff is alerted immediately at the end of the thirty seconds and responds in the same manner as in the pull-cord situation.

Cooperation between Security and the Residents' Association Property Committee makes possible a monthly check on the efficiency of this system. Each month, three residents are recruited to act as monitors, one for each eight hour shift. All three monitors come from the same cluster or corridor, and each month a different cluster or corridor supplies them. The duty of the monitors is to alert Security from their own units by pulling the pull-cord or by taking the telephone off the hook, and then noting the length of time until a rover, and when called for, a nurse arrives.

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The actual recruiting of the Monitors has devolved upon Property Committee member Marian Jenkins, who holds no office and has no title, but who cheerfully does the job month after month.

The rovers are not greatly inconvenienced by the tests since, when alerted, they are already on a walkway or corridor somewhere. In fact, on a cold day, they may be grateful for the opportunity to duck inside for a moment. The situation is different for the nursing staff when they must respond on the night shift. The clinic is closed at night so the only nurses on duty are in the Creighton Center. Detaching a nurse to visit a residential unit on a busy night, (the rules says it must be a Charge Nurse) may leave the Center quite short-handed. Nevertheless, ensuring prompt response to residents' emergencies is important and worth the inconvenience it may cause.

The apparatus and procedures for responding to our emergencies are under the capable supervision of Jason Felder. I am indebted to him for taking a considerable amount of time to answer my questions. I also consulted with Marian Jenkins who was most cooperative.

## Our Prince of Tides

When Walter Smith's son was here recently and was surfing the TV channels one evening he picked up part of a program about naval activities during WWII. The program referred to a Lt. Richard Steere whose knowledge of ocean waves and tides had enabled the U. S. forces, including General Patton's third army, to

land at Casablanca on November 7, 1942, for the beginning of the campaign that in time defeated the German Afrikakorps. Young Smith had known a Lt. Richard Steere Jr. currently in the Navy.

Sure enough, the reference was to our own Captain Richard Steere, USN ret., now a resident of Creighton Center. As a young lieutenant serving with Admiral H. Kent Hulett, he was with the invasion forces that sailed from Norfolk, Va., gambling on a small window of weather favorable for landing at Casablanca on the west coast of French Morocco. As they approached the continent they were advised by radio from headquarters not to attempt a landing, citing official reports of rough seas expected.

Steere had studied aeriology (a specialized branch of meteorology) and gained some knowledge from friends at the Scripps Institute of Oceanology in California who had calculated the size and forces of some tidal waves coming down the Pacific coast from Alaska to California. He applied that knowledge to the similar configuration of the Atlantic tides, etc. coming south from the Iceland area to Africa, and so reported to the Admiral that he considered it safe to land.

The landing was accomplished in passable weather. Otherwise the forces would have had to sail through the Strait of Gibraltar to the north coast where the danger of enemy attack was much greater.

The story has been chronicled in war records and books. It won Steere a promotion to Lieutenant Commander. Later he made Captain in his field of ocean and weather behaviour.

L.B.

