

The Collingtonian

Vol. 9, No. 6

A publication of the Collington Residents Association

June 1997

The Life of Reilly

by Wendell Brown

"I sometimes wash a bus." Judy Reilly offered this bit matter-of-factly, after responding that, yes, she frequently drives Collington vehicles. "But nothing much over 11,000 pounds," she added.

Transportation, Collingtonians are always surprised to learn, is a function of the Health Department. This was not an erratic, administrative whim. It simply reflects the realization that getting residents to hospitals and doctors' offices is the most crucial job transportation is called upon to perform. Control

should be where this is a priority.

Judy is the Health Department employee who hires and supervises drivers and makes similar management decisions in the field of transportation. Unfortunately, several drivers have been on and off medical leave during the past couple of years, making the demands of that corner of Judy's job particularly demanding, and increasing the frequency with which Judy must put herself behind

the wheel.

It is not to transportation, however, that Judy devotes the largest block of her time. Her title is Leisure Services Coordinator, and "coordination" is at the heart of her job, e.g. helping individuals, organizations, clusters, and ad hoc

groups do what they want to do, and doing it without getting in one another's way. Among other tasks, this includes the assignment of meeting rooms, making sure that Housekeeping sets up the

rooms properly, and publishing the time and place of meetings in the weekly Courier. Preparing the activities portion of the Courier, which is Judy's job, takes place simultaneously with making necessary inquiries, and concluding necessary arrangements for events reported therein. The whole process takes from 3 to 7 hours per week.

How Judy can manage all that is required of her defies understanding. That



Judy returns calls, too.

she can even remember all the tasks and keep them straight in her mind seems awesome to one who has trouble remembering a four item grocery list. Here are some of her tasks:

- Arranging trips and maintaining trip books for bus reservations. One of Collington's most familiar scenes is Judy, a bus, and a group of residents in front of the Clock tower.

- Meeting regularly with the Recreation, Hospitality, and Trips and Transportation Committees and helping with projects. Acting as resource person to the Library, Creative Arts, Drama and Music Committees.

- Securing movies. Some are loaned by residents. She obtains the others from Blockbusters.

- Providing liaison with P.G. Community College for the registering of Collington residents in college courses.

- Arranging for residents' purchase of tickets to the Shakespeare Theater. Assisting, where necessary, in purchase of tickets, to the Symphony, the Ballet, the Opera, etc.

- Providing assistance to clusters and the Hospitality Committee in arranging monthly Birthday Celebrations.

- Supervising the Talking Books program.

- Spending several hours on Fridays with the Leisure Pursuits Program . When the group goes on a trip, Judy always drives the bus.

- Supervising Carrie Fein in the management of the swimming pool.

Judy was born in Pennsylvania and lived in several other states before moving to Maryland in 1972. She has a Bachelor's degree with a major in Soci-

ology from the University of Maryland. Her graduate education includes obtaining a Master's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation and a Master's Certificate in Gerontology, both also from the University of Maryland. Just prior to coming to Collington in 1989, she worked at Thomas House in Washington, D.C. in a capacity very similar to what she has here.

When she came to Collington, her name was Judy Gambill. Then, in 1991 she married Jim Reilly, a Collington resident whose active presence in our midst is noteworthy, but that's another story.

When asked about the strangest thing she was ever called upon to do, her memory goes back to her early days at Collington, long before Carrie Fein's arrival here, when supervision of pool activities comprised a larger portion of her duties. When, for a time, the pool became infested with tadpoles, it was her job every morning to skim off the dead ones floating on the surface. "That was my weirdest assignment" she says.

The Collingtonian is published monthly (except July and August) by the Collington Residents Association, Inc., 10450 Lottford Road, Mitchellville, MD. 20721-2734.

Editorial: Edward Behr, Dorothy and Wendell Brown, Frances Kolarek, Tom Street, Anne Cadman-Walker, Glendy Pabst, Clem Welsh, Margaret Werts, Conna Shaw.

Layne Beaty, Editor

Publishing: Aline Grayson, Catharine Seybold, Frances Kolarek.

Editorial Board: Edward Behr, Frances Kolarek, Margaret Werts, Tom Street.

The copy deadline for The Collington is the 20th of each month. The publication goes to press on the 25th and is distributed on the 1st of each month, except July and August.

“Home Groan” Table Gets a Face Lift

by Glendy Pabst

If you noticed that a table often used by your neighbors looked grungy and needed first aid, would you (1) look the other way; (2) call the management or (3) go out and buy a can of paint?

If your answer is (3), you are certain to feel kinship with Olivia Miller, who can't resist brightening any corner in which she finds herself. That's why Collington has a clean and shiny, new-looking counter in the scooter park, ready for fresh vegetables soon to be offered by hilltop gardeners.

The table, last painted some years ago and whimsically lettered, and now re-lettered, by Pat Trammell, was looking a bit jaded. Olivia was moved to action proving that she can paint, too. She had ac-

quired much of her gardening skill from her husband, the late and fondly remembered Lee Miller, a pro who also gardened just for the fun of it.

The Millers, operating as a team, together tamed the hilltop even before they actually moved to Collington.

Their garden was well under way when the Millers moved to their retirement cottage in 1991, and the pair were productive gardeners until sickness intervened, but after a short period of adjustment, they went back to the active

life they had always led. Lee died in 1994. From a bench built in his honor atop the hill, there's a view over all Collington to which he contributed so much.

But while he lived, Lee was a practical man. “If you can't eat it, it's not worth raising,” was his motto. Olivia couldn't quite agree, which is why she turned to landscaping when well again, starting with the hilltop where Lee had grown their vegetables.

With a gift of \$500 from her brother, she bought a variety of flowering bushes: snowball, Rose of Sharon, lilac, as well as hibiscus which Lee had raised from seed. She also bought—and lugged personally—over 100 bags of mulch each year. Forsythia was

brought in from the nearby woods, completing one of Collington's handsomest plantings.

But there's no rest for a natural-born beautifier. “I always have to be doing something, here and there,” Olivia says—and does. Cluster 4200, where she lives, is one beneficiary, with flowering bushes added to the far side of the central green.

“What's next?” She isn't sure. But a corner in need of brightening is sure to turn up. When it does, Olivia will be ready.



Olivia, We Love Ya

Nancy, It's Fancy You're Here●

by Frances Kolarek

Nancy Enright has been coming to Collington for so long she feels right at home here. She came originally seven or eight years ago to teach an exercise class for Prince George's Community College. Then she started bringing young pupils from a dancing class she teaches in Bowie to help entertain us at celebrations, branched out into line dancing, and keeps on thinking up ways to help amuse us at parties.

Her cheerleading act at the New Year's Eve party was her most recent Collington hit.

If she looks familiar, there may be a reason. She was a child model in New York but moved up to be the little "Look Mom, No Cavities" girl in the Crest Toothpaste ad on television. She played a child's role in the Broadway production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

After taking dancing lessons at the American Ballet Theater School she soon began appearing in TV specials like the Jackie Gleason Christmas Spectacular and the Perry Como Easter Special.

As a chorus dancer she toured the east coast with shows like Brigadoon, Kismet and a revival of I Married an Angel, and remembers appearing in this area at the

Shady Grove and Painters Mills theaters.

Then it was dancing with the Radio City Music Hall Ballet Chorus.

Marriage and the birth of her two children took her out of the dancing business.

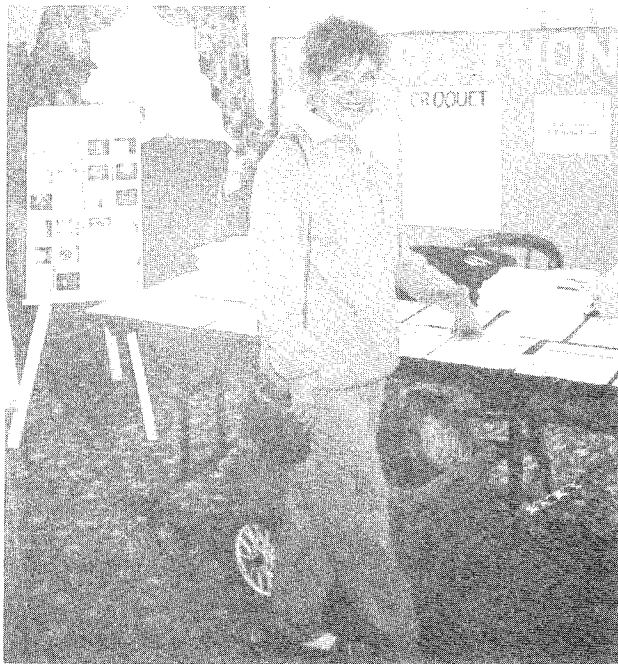
Her husband's job soon brought the family to the Washington area where she got an offer to teach dancing in a small local school. With two daughters at Bowie High school--one a prize winning gymnast--she soon became deeply involved with the theatrical productions for which the school is so well known.

But Bowie High does not have an adequate auditorium so community pressure to build one has resulted in the formation of a Board to get the project under way. Nancy now serves on the

Board of Directors of the Future Auditorium of Prince George's County.

She continues to teach dancing at a private local dance school. Her exercise class at Collington meets two days a week--Tuesday and Thursday. And the line dancing class meets once a week.

But most Collingtonians know Nancy as a welcome friend with a flair for helping us have a good time, leading us in modified line dances that are not too demanding and occasionally performing for our delight.



Our Own Terpsichore

•A Tour of our Green Scene•

by Edward Behr

As June dawns, nature is reminding us once again of the glories of the Collington landscape--not just our gardens but also the splendid sometimes-overlooked trees that grow around our environs.

A brief tour offers a glimpse of all that's out there. Start on the west side of our entrance road. About midway along stand two fine oaks, each about 70 feet tall. These, with leaves distinguished by a long central prong, are southern red oaks.

And just about there south meets north. Some 50 feet to the north, where the road crosses the stream, is another landmark tree, equally tall and wide-spreading. This is a northern red oak, with conventionally shaped oak leaves.

(The southern and northern varieties overlap in our area.) Kevin Shaver, Collington's landscape coordinator, has had unsightly vines removed and has installed a cable support to keep the divided trunk from splitting.

Continue north and east on the perimeter path to the hilltop near the old grave yard. There stands a classic vase-shaped American elm, a survivor of the dreaded Dutch elm disease. The only elm seen on or near Collington property, it may have been planted by members of the Waring family who long owned the land hereabout and are buried in the graveyard on the hill. Not far away is a huge black locust tree, one of the many that brighten our green scene each spring with their drooping white blossoms.

Stroll on as the path dips to the east and you find an impressive ash-leaved maple, so called because its leaves resemble those of an ash tree, not a maple. There, too, are handsome spring-blooming pear trees and a large

"princess" tree, properly called a royal pawlonia, known for its deep purple flowers. This import from China has long been multiplying in the southeastern U.S.

Continue eastward on the path to higher ground and look to your left; there, north of the 3000 cluster, the perimeter path takes you past majestic oaks -- white, red and black varieties -- along with the more common tulip trees and locustandan occasional ash. Biggest of all may be a beech nearly 100 feet tall; happily, its smooth trunk is undefiled by the carved initials often seen elsewhere.

Pursue the perimeter path toward the northeast corner of the Collington property and on your left you see what may be our mightiest oak --surely a 100-footer, species uncertain. This tree served once last year as a resting place for a rare northern goshawk, a bird more common in Canada than in Maryland.

Push on southward to the loop trail and you find still more variety. There are some fine river birches (this species is our only native birch) plus a few more beeches and scores of red maples, large and small, in the wetlands below the dam. The maples often provide a riot of color in autumn.

Finally, head on westward past the lake and into the woods beyond it. There, along the south side of the path, stand two mighty black walnut trees almost as wide as they are tall. If you stop by in the fall, you may be able to pick up a few of the nuts. Wait until the shells have been split by the first real frost and you'll find them easy to open and well worth eating.

Well, How About That?

Folks who received a recent catalogue of Orvis, an upscale outdoor firm, did a double-take when they saw in vivid color on the cover what looked very much like our own Bob Browning, a well known outdoorsman. It was, with his granddaughter, on Smith Island. Not only that, but in the main concourse of BWI airport Bob and two granddaughters charm hurrying passengers from a large photo mural. How come? Bob and Carolyn's son-in-law is a professional photographer.



In a few lean words Katherine Kendall told the Residents Council meeting May 19 that the Collington Board had at its April 25 meeting accepted the Task Force recommendations on the Perimeter Walkway and that work on it will start in June. It had been a hotly contested issue in the Council, finally requiring a vote of the entire residents' membership.



OOPS!! We missed telling you last month that Bob Kramer was the champion lap swimmer in the April pool party. But in May he became the acknowledged champion in the men's division at the Fun-da-Thon competition. Maybe some of us could learn a few strokes from this former law professor. Also, as though attempting the impossible, we managed somehow to misspell the name of Carolyn Fair, our assistant director of dining services. It's sackcloth and ashes time.



Pet peeve: Pencil erasers that don't erase.

We have long regarded our executive director, Gail Kohn, as a friendly, dependable, solid support. Now, she has indeed become a chair, having been elected to that position by the Mid Atlantic Health and Housing Services for the Aging at its convention in Atlantic City last month.



Our Dr. Christopher T. Bever was handed a Community Service Award by the Washington Psychiatric Society at its annual dinner March 20.



At last month's birthday celebration Elliot Richardson suggested privately that an award should be given to the best dressed male. Some of us then agreed that the ever-dapper Alba Martin, just turned 90, would win hands down.



Possibly Caroline Farquhar has been every place else, so in May she attended an Elderhostel in Malta.



Kelsey Saint, a career architect, says he learned about poverty while working with the National Youth Administration in West Virginia in the 30s.



Talking to plants may be beneficial but talking ABOUT them could have its effect. One clematis that played dying for two years perked up and produced a dozen blossoms after Environmental Services had been asked to remove it.



Space Mouse, alighting from space ship: "Take me to your Liederkrantz."



A Muse of Her Own

by Glendy Pabst

Win or lose, Helen Bellman is blessed with equanimity, a word she can certainly spell even though she was edged out of first place in Collington's recent spelling bee.

"It was an honor to lose to Elliot Richardson," was her comment, typifying the graciousness that has lasted into her 93rd year. Perhaps it comes to her easily because so often she's been a winner.



Elliot Richardson and Helen Bellman sit for a spell.

In Ottawa, Kansas, Helen was valedictorian of her high school class as well as editor of the school paper. Although she sometimes worked in her father's candy store, nothing interfered with her studies, including the phonics which make her a good speller still.

While attending the University of Kansas, Helen met Earl Bellman at a "Y" conference in Estes Park, and made such an impression that he brought her to College Park, as a bride when he finished his graduate study. To supplement his instructor's income, she took a job playing the organ in a silent movie theater until maternity intervened.

A serious musician, Helen also founded the Washington Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, an honorary music group which recently celebrated its 70th anniversary here at Collington in tribute to Helen. Apt as a founder, Helen also started the first Collington book club, later turning it over to her friend Mary Agnes Heinze, whom she

had known for nearly 50 years in College Park.

And, of course, she founded a family, which now consists of son, daughter, six grandchildren and six greats, all in frequent attendance here.

Handicapped now by arthritis, and with Earl living on Level II of Creighton Center, Helen has arranged her environment to enhance her enjoyment of things she loves.

Words are second only to music on that list. Her comfortable chair is flanked by a two-tiered table harboring dictionaries (Webster old and new plus Crossword) along with collections of word puzzles, especially double crostics. A few feet away, a small piano compliments her components for an active life. Mentally active, that is. Which she considers the action that matters.

Board Election

An election to choose a new member of Collington's board of directors will be held at the Residents Council meeting on Tuesday, June 16. Horace (Tully) Torbert, Ardyce Asire and Clem Welsh are proposed by a nominating committee chaired by Tom Street. Winner will succeed retiring Bob Browning on the board.

A Big Crop of Goslings

by Edward Behr

Once again, our Canada geese have been doing their spring thing, and in the past month no fewer than 19 newborn goslings have turned up on Collington's lake.

This 1998 becomes the tenth straight year that geese have produced young ones at the lake, and this year's crop may be the biggest yet.

It started in late April when one pair of geese established a nest on the highest spot on the island in the lake. By early May six goslings had emerged and were soon swimming with their parents. But by May 16 only two of the young were still to be seen. The fate of the others remains mystery.

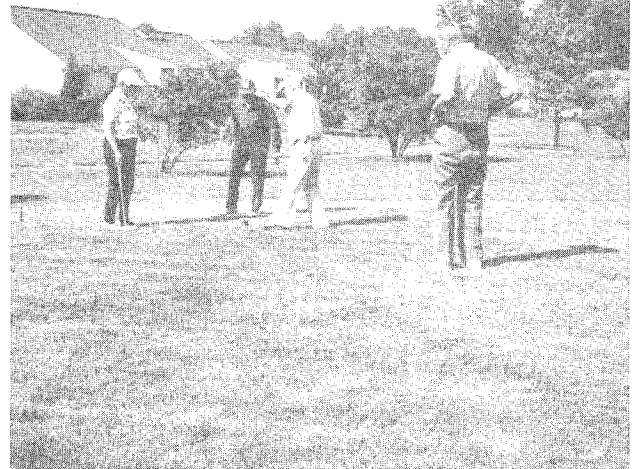
But soon there were more. On May 17 Penny Vickery spotted another Mama and Papa Goose on the lake shore with 13 tiny goslings parading along with them. I was a big brood indeed--perhaps the offspring of two pairs of adults rather than one. The parents must have nested somewhere nearby, but no one seems to know just where.



No fixed address, but perfectly at home.

With Mallets Toward Some

by Wendell Brown



Parker, Knox, Walker with Imperial Wicket Brown

For the next year, Cynthia Parker will have custody of the handsome silver bowl, a new trophy for the winner of the annual Fun-Da-Thon croquet tournament. Playing in the intervals between rain storms, frequently on ground ideal for growing rice, 23 contestants battled it out. At the end, only Cynthia was left standing.

The "end" was supposed to come on May 9 with the three-way finals match timed to coincide with the magnificent Fun-Da-Thon tea. So it rained.

Anyway, only one semi-finalist, Gordon Knox, had been determined by that time. The two semi-final matches did not come off until May 14. That day was also memorable as being the first in recent memory when Collingtonians saw the sun.

Cynthia Parker and Randal Walker joined Gordon Knox as finalists. The three waged a close contest, each winning one game before Cynthia decided the match by whomping her opponents in the fourth game.

Professional Friendship

by Frances Kolarek

A psychiatrist, asked by David Frost in a television interview once to describe what he did, replied: "You could say that I offer professional friendship."

At Collington your social worker is your "professional friend." Every resident has a social worker, assigned upon arrival. Maribeth Walsh, who heads Social Services, finds it difficult to believe that there is any resident who does not know who his or her social worker is. If you are one of that small number, she would be grateful if you would get in touch with Social Services, visit your social worker and become acquainted. It is useful to the staff and in your own interests to establish a relationship with your social worker, filling him or her in on your interests, your concerns, your family situation, or any nagging problems you cope with periodically.

The social worker's job is to offer you help of many kinds. Help in time of grief at the loss of a spouse, a relative or a close friend. Or your concern may be as trite as a neighbor whose television is too loud. Or perhaps you are having trouble making new friends. Your social worker can make suggestions, put you in touch with others who share your interests.

And, if you are faced with the difficult decisions involved in moving out of independent living quarters and into assisted living, your social worker can be a source of strength and practical assistance.

- But perhaps the most valuable service Collington's social workers perform is visiting the hospital. The purpose of

these visits is twofold. First, to afford reassurance and a little company. Second, to establish what kind of care you will need when you return to Collington. Then your social worker is in touch with Health Services to be sure either Home Health Care is alerted or a bed in the Creighton Center is available.

Once a week Collington's five social workers meet with representatives from dining, environmental, and health services to exchange notes on any behavior that would indicate illness, disorientation or other problems that might need treatment. The social worker follows up.

Collington's staff of social workers has been remarkably stable. Maribeth Walsh has been here nine years and in addition to a master's degree in social work has attained the status of a Licensed Clinical Worker Certified; Marcia Hinkle, who once served on the Board of Directors and has a degree in pastoral counselling, has been here seven years. The entire staff is highly qualified and certified. Susanne Talbott and Roger Barnes have master's degrees in social work from the University of Maryland and Jennifer Garner, who comes in on weekends, is pursuing her masters there.

Janet Eberhart and Fairfield Butt of the original staff both retired within the past two years.

G. B. Shaw is said to have deplored the wasting of youth on the young.

In the Good Ole Tenth Summer Time

As the celebration of our tenth year continues, Mary Olmsted, coordinator of the events, has announced a concert by the Oratorio Society's Community Group in our auditorium at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, August 16. Watch for more details in the weekly Courier.

In late September an exhibit will open in the Clocktower galleries honoring some of the men and women who contributed to the establishment of Collington by inspiration, gift or hard work or all three. A special event at the opening will be the presentation of the anniversary book written by our Frances Kolarek and loaded with pictures. Each resident will receive a copy.

The "grand gala" will be held Saturday afternoon, September 26 with several hundred people expected, along with Governor Parris Glendening, political and community leaders and representatives of the Episcopal Church. More later. L.B.

Well Done, Melva

Melva Wence, who has two grand pianos in her apartment and a long career of giving lessons, has retired as membership chairman of the Washington Music Teachers Association after 37 years in that office. She still teaches two pupils, one aged 12 and another, 61, and performs frequently for events here, often with her daughter.



Huggins? Good Therapy

Write an essay, win a trip? That's exactly what Carolyn Huggins, Certified Nursing Assistant on Level 2 did. She went to Madison, Wisconsin May 19 and 20 to attend the National Symposium on the Quality of Life in America's Nursing Homes, accompanied by another staff member, Gail Kohn, Executive Director.

Here's Carolyn's essay:

"Quality of life is when one should be able to live life to the fullest, never to be made to feel alone, abandoned, used or abused. Never should one be humiliated and made to feel ashamed of any condition that is a hindrance to them and most of all, at all times they should feel loved and wanted. They should know they are appreciated as a useful human being that contributed to life."

She also participated in a popular skit in the Staff Show of Collington's tenth year celebration. L.B.



Claire Cole and Carolyn Huggins in skit "Living at Collington." Staff show.

•The Roman Way•

by Tom Street

A popular tourist site in Rome is the Via Appia Antiqua, the old Appian Way. It is a Roman road, still solid, in good repair, still usable. There are remnants of Roman roads throughout the old Roman Empire, some in England, still solid, still usable.

So it should come as no surprise that when Collington saw that the old yellow gravel fire road was a hazard to foot and scooter traffic because of loose pebbles, the decision to do as the Romans did in rebuilding it came naturally. All right, no question it costs a lot to build it with hand labor, one paving stone at a time. Macadam would be much cheaper. Doing it the Roman way makes it cost 1.75 times as much. But here's the clincher. An asphalt road has to be resurfaced every 15 years. A properly constructed paving block road is good for 100 years. Go figure.

This project actually started, with a different contractor, in August 1996, from the apartments parking lot to where the trash bins are. But some of the places paved developed unevenness with wear. It had been excavated to a depth of 12 inches, had 10 inches of gravel and one inch of sand. The contract had to be cancelled. It took a while to find a contractor who would do it right. Out of three bids received, this one was about in the middle, not the lowest, but the possibility of satisfactory performance looked promising.

So this excavation was 15 inches deep. The soil was then covered with a geotextile fabric of nylon and polyester to keep the gravel from sinking into the soil. Gravel to the level of 13 inches came next, was thoroughly compacted to

the satisfaction of the firm's nuclear density test, and covered with 1 inch of sand.

The so-called "pavers" come next. These are concrete blocks, though they look like brick. They are called "Country Cobble" pavers. They are slightly rounded, for aesthetic and water run-off purposes, and are slightly multi-colored. If one has to be replaced it won't stick out as an odd color. They are laid in a "K" pattern, one rectangular, one square. This is reminiscent of the "Flemish Bond" pattern in which bricks were laid in early days.

O.K. what keeps them from sliding sideways? It is those plastic strips you see alongside the paved area. They may not look like much, but they are secured by 12 inch galvanized nails driven into the gravel base which, with all that compacting, has become like concrete.

One hears rumblings from what we used to call "sidewalk superintendents," onlookers like yours truly, who say things like "Boy, wait till the first firetruck runs over that, what a mess it will be."

But in any case, this baby is guaranteed to withstand weights of 4,000 pounds per square inch (psi to the trade), far more than any truck known to any highway can bring to bear. Kevin Shaver, our project manager, says that on his trip to Austria last year he saw roads being built this way, including in the courtyard of Schönbrunn Castle in Vienna. And if it's good enough for the former Austro-Hungarian Empire it's good enough for us.

For Fellowship--A Winner

by Glendy Pabst

Unquestionably, the main ingredient for a successful fund drive is funds. In that respect, Collington's recent Fun-da-thon was a winner, generating nearly \$3,000 more this year than last to net \$15,754 for the Fellowship Fund.

But was it FUN? Not so easy to measure, but the smile quotient seemed high as 211 Collingtonians walked, swam, hit balls large and small, identified objects, counted pennies and otherwise exerted themselves vigorously under the watchful eye of Ruth Coale-Turner, this year's energetic chairman.

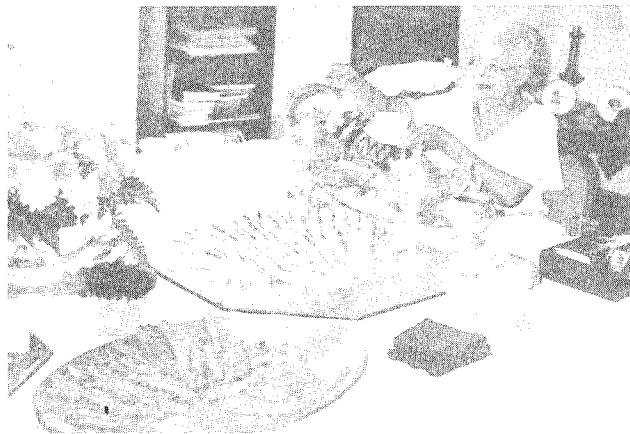
Brain and brawn were about equally tested, but mental contests drew the largest crowds, concluding with an overflow audience gathered to hear Elliot Richardson prove himself as Collington's best speller. Old-fashioned strawberry shortcake may also have contributed to the popularity of this event.

Earlier in the final day, that male victory was offset by Cynthia Parker's win over Gordon Knox and Randy Walker in a breathstopping final round of the croquet tournament. Tom Street, meanwhile, was winning the golf-chipping competition on a nearby improvised green, edging out Charlotte Patterson. Last year Tom utilized brain power to win the Trivial Pursuit match,

but this year Art Longacre stole that show.

Brain power also propelled Marian Schubauer into the top spot for Scrabble. A brain with brawn, Margaret Martin, a stellar speller, placed first in muscular strength and second in muscular endurance. Roger Dixon came first in the latter test. His wife Ruth added to the family distinction by tying Loretta

Dankers and Becky Elefante for most laps swum by a woman. Bob Kramer didn't have to share his laurels as lap winner in the men's division. Nor did Edna Lindgreen nor Art Longacre, the most flexible female and male swimmers.



Fannie Jeffrey "Pouring"

Winners by virtue of luck rather than muscle were Ruth Dixon, Mary Evans, Louise Eckerson and Arnold Klick, all of whom received food or wine in a drawing. Jean Maxey identified the most "treasures" in a photo identification contest, while Judy Street came closest to the actual number of pennies in a jar.

Prizes were Collington cups to women and T-shirts to the men. "House tours" were a popular feature again this year, with selected apartments and cottages open to visitors. Martha Cox and Esther McCann, the organizers, reported a good turnout both days.

New to the Fun-da-thon this year was a tea-and-julep party in the Game Room sponsored by Fran Meloy, who formerly resided over a Maryland estate.