

The

Collingtonian

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Ground Is Broken For Expansion

By Glendy Pabst

Normally, one shovel will loosen enough dirt to justify a groundbreaking ceremony, but Collington wasn't taking any chances. Not one but four shiny new spades were plunged into the turf behind the Creighton Center on October 5 to launch the long-heralded expansion program.

All residents plus 17 confirmed future residents and a long list of potential residents were invited, and several hundred came to watch a quartet of dignitaries dig into the future. Led by

executive director Gail Kohn, the diggers included Fran Volel-Stech, president of the Collington Episcopal Board of Directors; Dorothy C. Bailey, chairman of the Prince George's County Council; and Sue Ward, secretary of the P.G. County Department of Aging. All of the diggers prophesied a rosy future for the expansion project.

The guest of honor, who didn't dig, was the Right Rev. Ronald H. Haines, Episcopal Bishop of Washington. He did deliver an invocation.

Speakers and audience then embarked on

a highly movable feast, served from four loaded buffet tables placed strategically to show off Collington's various charms while avoiding traffic jams at any one pit-stop.

Along the four separate routes, guides wore

buttons proclaiming "I'M A COLLINGTON FACE" as they encouraged smooth traffic flow. Individual audience members were initially directed into one of the four routes by marked maps. Route one led down to the lake, where hot dogs and soft drinks symbolized the U.S.A. in the diverse culinary program

devised by catering chief George Ryffel.

Route Two proceeded into and along the main floor to a spread of Italian antipasto with wine in the living room. Route Three led through the clocktower entrance and out into the courtyard for Sangria and such delicacies as mussels marinara and fried shrimp, while the fourth group



Breaking ground: l-r Sue Ward, Dorothy Bailey, Fran Volel-Stech, Bishop Haines and Gail Kohn

Continued on Page Two

by-passed the clocktower to enter the scooter park and consume French cuisine. This table offered assorted cheese, mini-quiches and champagne--the domestic variety.

The only ingredient lacking in this impressive hospitality was real live sunshine, but figurative sunlight emanated from residents, some of whom conducted friends along the routes. Chuck Dell escorted a former Dartmouth classmate, Bud Dutton of Upper Malboro, who is also an acquaintance of Collington's new security assistant, Hilton Green.

Although the newly broken ground was quite a distance from the hilltop where real digging for cottages will begin, that discrepancy failed to dampen the celebratory tone of the party. At each pit-stop the cheerful spirit was enhanced by one or a pair of lively musicians who seemed to be enjoying their job.

As for those shiny shovels, they may never have it so good again. After their ceremonial dig, they were reclaimed by the contractor who owns them, and hereafter may have to do some serious shoveling.

Meet Our Board President

Fran Volel-Stech, president of Collington's Board of Directors, donned a hard hat and wielded a shovel at our recent ground breaking, calling the occasion "very well done, very tasteful -- as is everything at Collington."

She came to Collington's board as a representative from St. George's Episcopal Chapel in Glenn Dale, one of the original group of five Episcopal churches and two parishes which supplied the 23 board members that launched Collington.

As a resident of Glenn Dale for the past ten years and a member of its neighborhood association, she has an interest in the fate of the old tuberculosis sanitarium there, once owned by the District of Columbia. She believes, however, that any involvement in this project on Collington's part lies well in the future.

Her professional life is involved in "telecommunication and data networking," quite a mouthful. More simply, she describes her work as having to do "with helping corporations use their computer and telephone systems to maximum advantage."

Mrs. Volel-Stech is serving her second term on the Board, having filled the job of treasurer during her first term.

She is aware that her unusual name piques curiosity. Volel, her maiden name, she brought with her from her native Haiti and pronounces it with the accent on the second syllable. The -Stech half is, of course, her husband's name. F.K.

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Guess what 100 percent of lottery winners do.

They gain weight!

Comings and Goings

By Anne Cadman-Walker

Once again Collington residents are going places this fall -- distant places, that is.

Traveling farther than anyone else is Ainslie Embree, who has just left on a three-week trip to seven Asian Countries: Jordan, Nepal, Tibet, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia and Uzbekistan. He is part of a team of expert lecturers accompanying a group studying architecture and religion. Ainslie, a Columbia University professor emeritus, was a long-time history teacher in India. The group will use a private jet, but he has noted, "there will be a lot of walking." Although the trip is billed as "The Timeless Lessons of History's Lost Cities," Ainslee has commented with a smile that "none of them are lost -- but it's a good slogan."

Also traveling halfway around the world are Pat and Bru Brubaker, now in the midst of a three-week Elderhostel trip to see the historic sights of Thailand.

Others are headed for more traditional goals in Europe. Susan Embree will be in Paris this month with her daughters and will see a French cousin there. Another European Country, Spain, is winning several of our travelers this fall -- Catherine Chillman, Dorothy Brown and Chuck Dell. Margaret Martin recently returned from a trip to Germany, where she visited Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and Munich. Emily Baker -- as well as Gordon Knox -- visited three scenic cities, Vienna, Prague and Budapest last May. In June Marcia and Edward Behr spent two weeks in Paris and Provence with their children and grandchildren to celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Anne and Randal Walker are headed in other directions. After holiday visits to family in New York and Boston, they will leave for a post-Christmas Caribbean cruise under the aegis of

Prince George's Community College.

Here in the U.S., Penny and Hugh Vickery, with Penny at the wheel, drove over 1,000 miles in mid-October viewing "gorgeous foliage" in New England, "especially in Vermont," as Penny put it. The trip took them through the Catskills, the Adirondacks, past Lake Placid and by boat across Lake Champlain.

At the Port of New York, Frances Kolarek attended the christening of a 2,000-passenger cruise liner while her daughter broke a bottle of champagne against its prow and officially named it.

Other residents are staying closer to home but finding places well worth visiting. Earlier this fall Elisabeth FitzHugh took a dozen residents on a mile-and-a-half hike at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, about 15 miles north of Collington. It's a place where you can see lots of waterfowl and an occasional eagle.

Updated Map of the Bowie Area

Not just for newcomers! There are a lot of long-time residents who could benefit from the new edition of a map showing where shops and services are located in the Mitchellville and Bowie areas.

You may have seen the first edition of this map, drawn by George Dankers. He has now updated it to include the Bowie Gateway Center, 7.6 miles from here at Route 301 and Mitchellville Road.

George insists we say that this is a diagram-- not a map, since it is not to scale.

You can pick up a copy in the Business Center.

Election 2000--The Local Side

By Ruth Dixon

When Collingtonians go to the polls on November 7 they will receive a ballot with familiar names for national offices, and names of candidates for local office and local ballot questions which leave us in a quandary. There is a plethora of ballot questions. Question A through H would amend the County Charter; Questions 01 and 02 would amend the state constitution.

The hottest local issue is repeal of term limits for the county executive and the county council (Questions A and B). Good government advocates, including the Prince George's League of Women Voters, oppose term limits, preferring to remove officials by voting against their reelection. Many jurisdictions which adopted term limits have since repealed them. In Prince George's County the issue is complicated by the awareness that removal of the limits would enable the present executive and council to run for reelection. A "Yes" vote on Questions A and B would rid the county of term limits.

There are five bond issues (Questions C - G) which would improve facilities for public safety, the community college, the libraries, public works and transportation, and county buildings. Question H would impose a new commercial rate for garbage and trash collection and disposal. Judy Mutty, Director of Environmental Services, is looking into how this could affect Collington.

Constitutional Amendment Question 01 would permit Cecil County to hold elections every two years instead of four, this allowing the county to have staggered terms. We vote on this because it amends the state constitution.

Constitutional Amendment Question 02

would permit Prince George's County to take property between Suitland Federal Center and

Silver Hill Road for redevelopment with compensation to land owners at fair market value.

The only contested local election which appears on our ballot is for the District 6 school board seat. The incumbent, Kenneth E. Johnson, has answered the League of Women Voters' questionnaire for its Voters Guide and his answers are posted on the bulletin board. Denise Williams is the challenger and she did not answer the League's questionnaire.

Nine judges are up for reelection. None has an opponent.

Japanese Teachers to Visit

Five Japanese teachers on a visit to the United States will tour Collington in November to observe how Americans cope with aging. The University of Maryland's Center for International Study is making the arrangements.

The group will arrive on Thursday morning, November 9 and plans to have chats with residents before and during lunch.

On the November 10 the teachers want to participate in the typical activities that occupy the time of Collington residents. On November 14 our guests would like to reciprocate with a some comments about the lives of older people in Japan.

The final program on November 15 will include songs and music representative of the two cultures. Collingtonians are invited to entertain the visitors with music and dance.

The visit to Collington was arranged by Ian Brown, Vice President of Organizational and Community Relations. He would like to hear from residents who wish to participate on Ext. 4766.

A Visitor in India

By Morris Weisz

Foreign Service Officers are frequently visited by Americans who present us with cherished news from home, as well as memorable experiences to be reflected upon fondly after we retire. One such incident -- albeit a bit embarrassing to my wife Yetta and me -- occurred when I was a Counselor for Labour Affairs in the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, during a most enjoyable tour of duty there from 1965 to 1972.

My diary for July 7, 1970 notes how one such visit began. I received a telephone call from a man named Jeremy Lerner, whom I had not met nor even heard of. The caller identified himself as a friend of a friend of ours in the States who had suggested he phone us for assistance during his visit to India. I could supply details on the Indian trade-union and political situation for his use and that of a friend then in Delhi as part of a world tour they had embarked on.

My immediate response: "Fine. Why don't you come over for dinner this evening and we'll chat about that situation in all its ramifications?" He hesitated and finally explained that he was accompanied on this tour by a friend, also anxious to learn all he could about Indian affairs, and could he be asked to join us? I assured Lerner that his friend would be welcome.

That evening Lerner arrived with his companion, who was Bill Bradley. I introduced both to our daughter Ellen and another American visitor.

The dinner was very pleasant: Lerner and Bradley asked well-informed questions and probed our responses intelligently. I failed to notice, however, that both Ellen and our other visitor watched Bradley with polite awe. I simply

kept the conversation going. Yetta asked Lerner: "And what do you do for a living?" He replied: "I'm a writer," and that seemed acceptable since he had come at the recommendation of a magazine editor. Then she turned to Bradley and asked the same question.

"I'm a basketball player," he responded, and her reaction was proof of her reputation for frankness: "Do you mean that with all of the problems facing the world, you spend your time playing BALL?"

Yetta's question evoked a kick under the table from our daughter, who knew that Bradley was famous in our country as a top athlete, and a Princeton graduate who had gone on to a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford. Bradley and Lerner were now touring the world studying political systems.

Our Collington neighbors may wonder how a political activist like me could turn out to be ignorant of such a domestic hero as Bill Bradley, and here is the explanation:

My duties at the Embassy involved not only reporting on Indian labor and social matters to the State Department but also to publish a monthly account of U.S. labor issues, distributed all over India. I also lectured on these subjects to labor, management and other organizations. These duties did not leave much time for following the non-labor American press. This may not excuse my ignorance of Bill Bradley's fame, but may at least explain it.

Bradley and Lerner went on touring Delhi the following day. Then they resumed their world tour, which served as a base for Bradley's career in the Senate and his candidacy for president. While he did not win that campaign, he framed issues on the economy, international policy and especially campaign finance reform that are affecting the Gore-Bush campaign.

The Last Rows of Summer

By Tom Street

The Hilltop Garden area was cut to half its previous size in the summer of 2000 and the fence was moved because the new cottages to be built there will take up some of the land previously available for gardens. In addition, ornamental planting by the landscape contractor took away further space which had been available for vegetable planting. (These plantings died for lack of adequate care).

The very rainy season we had brought new drainage problems to light. This, combined with the fact that the ground had not been properly prepared, made planting late for the gardeners who had chosen plots. Seeds were washed away before sprouting. Twice. Cucumbers, however, burgeoned enough to fill half of Collington. And from Faith's small plot, for whatever reason, the cosmos, pale and deep purple, grew remarkably lovely and high as an elephant's eye.

Hallelujah, there is good news about the drainage. Pat Tracy,

Collington's Groundskeeper, has informed the Hilltop gardeners that there is now 18-inch trenching around garden plots, which were dug deeply and filled with compost and absorbent material to aid drainage. Herbicides were used to kill a lush crop of nut grass. These measures will make it possible to start spring planting in good time.

New gardeners are needed for the extra plots that are available next to wide sodded paths. Art Longacre has transplanted blackberries, Jerusalem artichokes and asparagus which were outside the fence. Faith Jackson has started an herb garden and is looking for currant and gooseberry bushes.



Art getting ready for next year

Aline Grayson is adding asparagus and rhubarb to her plots. The Aldriches had a productive plot. Everyone interplanted zinnias and marigolds between their vegetables.

The message is that gardening is lively, productive and fun, and new gardeners are urged to get in on the action to keep the "Home Groan" board filled with quantities of tomatoes for those who aren't quite up to planting and weeding and harvesting.



Faith admiring her cosmos

Our Groundskeepers

By Bill Simpich

Grooming Collington's 128 acres is a job split between our Environmental Services Department (ESD) and an outside contractor, the Brickman Group. On a man-hour basis, Brickman handles roughly 75 percent of the load, reporting to ESD's Grounds Supervisor, Pat Tracy.

ESD staff members tend our trails, lake, Hilltop Gardens and snow removal. Brickman tends the rest, including mowing, planting, deep-root fertilizing and other chores. Mulching is contracted out to another company.

Brickman is a three-generational firm with Scott Brickman, President, reporting to his father, Scott, Chairman of the Board. From main offices in Langhorne, Pa. and Chicago, it operates 85 branches in 28 states, with the Prince George's County branch one of its largest.

Craig Stitche, the handsome young superintendent for Brickman's work at Collington (along with 75 other P.G. sites), says Collington is one of his branch's largest customers. Others nearby include Largo Plaza, Mitchellville Plaza and Kaiser Permanente.

Bruno Sagastume spends full time for Brickman on Collington needs, meets weekly with Pat Tracy, and supervises a mowing crew, a "plant health-care crew" and a "detail crew" (for seeding, pruning and small planting jobs).

Bruno is a Guatemalan, as are all Brickman employees here, except two from Mexico and two from Salvador. But in Brickman's Baltimore branch, the employees are 100 percent Mexican.

Bruno, father of four, works here with a hard-to-get "Permanent Resident Card." All others have a "Temporary Work Authorization Card." Bruno's English is not bad--better at least than

Craig's and Pat's idiomatic Spanish.

Brickman's "snow season" here is also a short one, from Christmas to mid-February, when about half its workers will visit home. Year-round, Bruno fields all landscape and garden requests that aren't in ESD's bailiwick. Residents need not concern themselves with who does what; just phone your requests to Carlson Gray at 2151 or Ralph Williams at 4793.

A Baker Par Excellence

Dawn's Fruit Cake popped up on the dessert menu a few weeks ago much like Dawn Wade, chef, popped up at Collington some five years ago, a recent graduate of the Baltimore Culinary College.

On her way home to Largo one day, she drove past the Collington sign, wondered what the place was, found out, applied for a job and got it. But it took a while before her talents as a baker came to light. When Carolyn Fair discovered what fabulous wedding cakes Dawn was making for friends, she put her skills to work for us.

Dawn says she learned the secret of her butter cream frosting from Master Chef Bandula--"one of the greatest chefs in the world," she says proudly. Butter and 10X sugar, for starters, plus a little of this and a little of that.

She spent the final three weeks of her education at a hotel in Ireland where the Baltimore Culinary College puts the finishing touches on its graduates. Her training ended with a final examination in which the candidate must prepare in two short hours

Continued on page 8

four appetizers, four entrées and a dessert from a miscellaneous collection of ingredients. Time for most cooks to push the panic button! But Dawn loved the challenge.

She bakes our sugar-free fruit pies using Equal or Sweet and Low, occasionally adding apple juice. If there is sugar-free cherry pie on the menu, she explains, all

the pies served that day has been made with artificial sweetener.

She gives high marks to Collington's kitchen staff. "They're the best kitchen help anybody could ever want."

Dawn Wade loves to experiment, hoping we will enjoy her latest surprise. Maybe she'll even name the next one "Wade In" dessert. And we surely will.

Gallery Exhibits Present and Past

Baskets from around the world, in astonishing variety and skill of construction, are the current attraction in the two large glass-enclosed exhibit spaces in the Clocktower Gallery, all contributed by our far-ranging residents. This sort of display has been a constant attraction since the virtual beginning of Collington. An early and fondly remembered staff member, Mary Mills, asked Dorothy Skillman to take on the challenge of arranging display items that would be interesting for residents to see. Al Folop lent a hand, as he is wont to do when he spots a need. He also delivered newspapers in a wagon in the early days (i.e. pre-computer).

One of the first exhibits showed Southwest Indian artifacts supplied by the late Mike Nagel, a top-flight collector. The items were so valuable that they had to be insured by Collington.

Mary Parrish took over the curatorial responsibility in 1990 with what she describes as an outstanding exhibition of

Aileen Aderton's extensive collection of copper and brass works of art and utility.

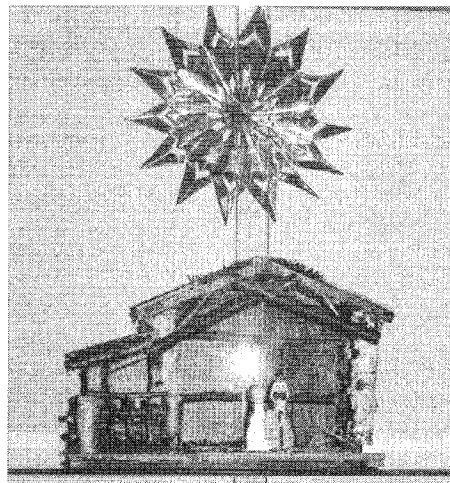
In 1991 Betty Saint joined in to help produce a number of striking collections. The procedure for making up the exhibit has not varied: the curators put a notice in the Courier asking for donations of examples of whatever theme they have decided would be timely. They are always astonished at the torrent of donations that come in for previewing.

Mary regards this as the best volunteer job in Collington. She relinquished it to Elizabeth FitzHugh in March, 1999.

Mary recalls as among the many outstanding exhibits one of fifty crèches from Lois Dozier, an exhibit of Dickensian scenes belonging to Dr. Doerer, the area dentist, and one of raku hand-thrown pottery.

One of Mary's favorites is a snow-covered village made up of wooden figures her husband Henry Parrish made. And then there were the amazing Easter eggs and an exhibit of dolls, including a Whitney Houston

doll belonging to Priscilla Atkinson.



A crèche from the collection
of the late Lois Dozier

Our Computer Wizard

By Glendy Pabst

Al Folop doesn't like to talk about himself, but he does enjoy talking about computers. The result has been a technical education for several dozen fellow-Collingtonians who have listened in awe to his explanation of how the tricky critters work.

His hour-long classes, held in the auditorium every Friday, are free; wanting to learn is the only requirement for admission. You don't even need to own a computer. Images of the typical computer face are projected on a giant screen. Morning classes entail projections from a Macintosh computer, while the mysteries of the PC are explored on Friday afternoons.

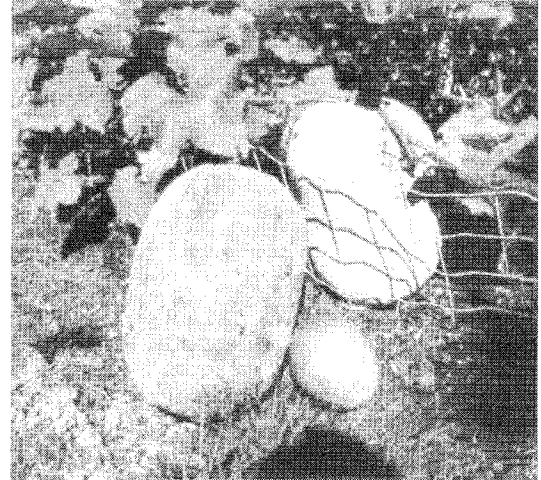
In both categories, student appreciation reached a peak in October when "a grateful Collington Residents Association" surprised Al with a "Certificate of Appreciation," presented at the association's annual meeting.

Al's specially framed certificate thanks him for six contributions to the welfare of the community, starting with his "granting the secret wish of so many Collingtonians to understand how computers work," by "holding classes to explain the arcane complexities of their operation" and even "purchasing a Macintosh to instruct those who have strayed from the PC path."

Further praise was awarded for "helping these new owners of this complex mechanism to carry it into the house, for plugging it in and getting these Newbies started." Finally, as well as most importantly, Al's certificate praises him for "all the other things you do in this regard that remain unknown." Credit for this unique phrasing goes to Frances Kolarek, the certificate's author.

A Bumper Crop

Many Collingtonians have gardens to be proud of, but no one can match the harvest Elsie Seetoo has produced behind the cottage in the 2200 cluster.



There she has grown five Chinese squashes (also known as Winter melons) weighing from 20-plus to 32 pounds and all of them on a single plant.

Elsie has offered one of the melons to Carolyn Fair, director of dining services, for possible use in a soup as part of a special menu.

George Carr's Art

A son of Collington residents has achieved rare distinction in the art world. He is George Carr, son of Jo and King Carr, and he has designed a remarkable, 38-ton marble relief titled the Universal Call to Holiness, which now adorns the rear wall of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Basilica is in Washington, about eight miles east of Collington.

Some residents have made the trip to admire this work. For those who haven't, there is an opportunity: on Nov. 2 WETA will show it on Channel 26. (Time not yet known.) E.B.

A Canoe Trip into the Unknown

By Arthur Longacre

You can go downstream in a canoe and get over and around a few obstacles. Pretty soon it becomes unthinkable to paddle back upstream to get out. No choice except to go on - no matter what.

My dumb judgment got Faith Jackson and me into that pickle last summer when we headed down the Western Branch of the Patuxent River some miles below Collington. The Western Branch widens at Upper Marlboro, is in open country and looks very canoeable. But soon it runs through a forested stretch of Patuxent River Park, where old trees, and big ones, seemed to prefer falling across the creek. We had not scouted that section, since it is almost inaccessible by foot.

We could go under some tree trunks by scrunching down. Sometimes we could shoot over submerged logs. At others Faith climbed onto the slippery trunk or clung to the bank and held the bow line so the canoe remained in our possession, while I stood in the water and boosted the canoe to tip it downstream. Then Faith would get in and crawl forward. The first time, the bow was not far enough forward, and when she got in, the damn thing slipped back upstream. Boost again. We became proficient at reading the current and speeding past or over shallows and small obstacles.

The smart thing was to carry a cell phone. The original plan, using Collington transportation, dropped us and our craft at the Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, to be picked up some three miles away at the Mount Calvert Historic Site on the Patuxent River. However, the driver, reached by phone, picked us up about halfway to our destination, where

the creek crosses the road to the Billingsley estate (Fran Meloy Klein's old home).

A great experience -- not to be repeated -- even though, Faith says, the creek was very beautiful in spite of the hazards, with overhanging foliage, filtered light, water a good color. We flushed a covey of ducks and other birds, and watched leaves falling gently.

I was not very interested in beautiful. I was wet to the waist and it was cold.

Collington!!!

Here we are, a community of about 400 kindred souls widely varied in backgrounds.

Why are we here? Well, to get the best of the rest of our lives. Prospects for that are pretty good.

How are we doing? Some are bedridden. Some play a lot of tennis. Some even whitewater-rafted down the Colorado River recently. Some engage in the arts and literature. Peripatetic would describe a lot of us.

Whyfore are we Collington? Never mind. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

Why is Episcopal a part of our name? Easy. Local dioceses were given the land and they arranged to build Collington on it. But we are multi-faith and multi-managed.

Why are we adding new facilities? Good question. But can you think of any successful enterprise that is not growing? And competition is keen.

Pardon our dust, but grow we must.

L.B.

Borrow money from pessimists. They don't expect it back.

An Updated Library

By Ed Behr

The Collington library isn't quite what it was. In fact, it's better than it was. Recent additions have broadened its appeal, especially for people with low vision.

In past weeks the library has started building a collection of audiotapes; some 35 of them now offer fiction and nonfiction. There are popular novels like Sue Grafton's *N Is for Noose*, John LeCarre's *The Night Manager*, Rosamunde Pilcher's *September* and Tom Wolfe's *A Man in Full*. There are two very different best-selling autobiographies -- *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt and *A Good Life* by Ben Bradlee, former editor of the *Washington Post*. And there are classics including *Beowulf* and the Bible.

This innovation came about almost by chance. Some of the tapes were given to the library, residents wandered in to look at them and the committee decided to make it formal, putting Cynthia Parker in charge. "It is the beginning of a collection," says library co-chair Elisabeth Martin. Nearby in the rear reading room is the start of another tape collection that so far includes such varied items as *Cowboy Poetry* and Bing Crosby singing *White Christmas*.

Other shelves there now contain certain large-type books kept separate from the regular collection. These are *Reader's Digest* editions of great biographies and condensed versions of recent novels plus copies of the large-print magazine itself. Until lately these were discarded. And the library has barely begun collecting videotapes. One item now available is the Classic French movie *Un Singe En Hiver* (*A Monkey in Winter*) in French with English subtitles.

A godsend for readers with low vision has been the recent acquisition of a new, improved

reading machine called the Ambassador. Compared with the older model used for the past few years, this one is more accurate, user-friendly and easier to work with. One happy user is Gordon Knox, who says the machine "talks to you," giving specific, easy-to-understand instructions for use. By contrast, he says, "the old one is like a Model T."

More good news is coming. The late Bill Wood had his own Ambassador machine and left it to the library. So there will be two of them to meet readers' needs.

Another innovation is making reading easier for those needing help. This is the Aladdin Lamp, a magnifier especially useful for reading short items like letters and checks. The magnifier is "marvelous," says Cynthia Parker.

Yet another addition to the library is one that might be easily overlooked. On a wall in the rear reading room now hangs an official topographic map, printed in 1992, that for the first time shows the buildings of Collington.

Along with the innovations, the library's collection beckons to readers as always, with thousands of books including prize-winning novels, classic histories and biographies, great poetry and a scattering of Western and romance fiction.

Sweet Mandolins

Almost as sweet as a fat pay raise is the music of the Baltimore Mandolin Orchestra, which played a program of old and new pieces here last month. About 20 members with all sizes of mandolins delighted the audience at their concert, their first here since last year.

Poll Results

The results of the Collingtonian Presidential Candidates Preference Poll, as provided by Tully Torbert and Emily Baker, are: three non-voters; six undecided of whom five are former Democratic voters and one a former Republican voter, 15 Bush, 81 Gore and one for Nader.

In the 1996 presidential election, 101 voted, five did not. Eighty-eight voted for Clinton; 15 for Dole; one ballot was blank, one voter won't tell and one was for Perot.

In this election, 101 intend to vote and four do not. One won't tell.

Substitute Servers

Why are Denina and Vern who work in Administration and help us with the duplicating machine working in the dining room these evenings? A lot of residents have asked that question.

These two have joined eight other women on the Collington staff who have answered the call for help in the dining room. With unemployment at record lows, it's hard to find part-timers who want to work as servers. So Dining Services made an offer a lot of our staff couldn't refuse: work some overtime, make some holiday spending money, keep our residents happy.

Thank you, Patrice, Bernice, Lovey, Jackie, Nicole, Tamika, Charlotte, Linda--and of course Vern and Denina.

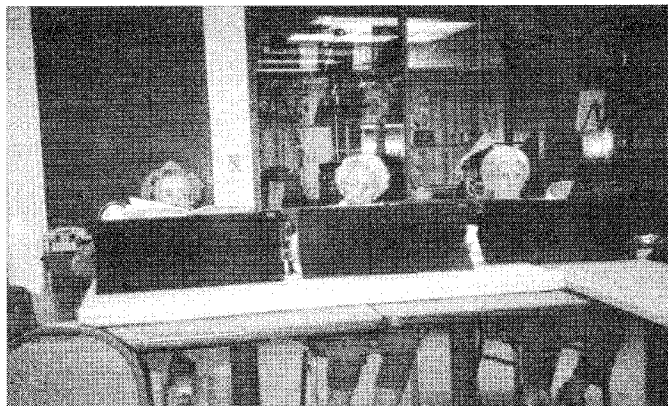
Superstitious? The Friday October 13 annual meeting of the Residents Association was its thirteenth, president Margaret Martin announced.

Thumbs Up for Basic PC

Edna Lingreen, after six sessions with the PC Seniors computer classes being held in Apt. 318, is enthusiastic about the course. Gwen Matthews, a retired volunteer, teaches the group and Edna gives her high marks for contagious enthusiasm. Although the class runs from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Edna says the time goes by quickly.

M.E. Wallen, a fellow student, shares Edna's enthusiasm and adds that each student has a computer to work on which is an enormous help in mastering the art.

A great deal of material is covered in the class, more than one can be expected to remember, so students take practice material home to help reinforce the classwork.



Treble bellringers Margaret Werts, Virginia Colony and Harriet Palmer rehearsing for a January concert, are almost hidden behind their books of music.

The heavy sheets of plastic on the table dampen the sound of a bell at the end of its ring.

"Time waits for no man," we're told. But it does here, as we await the arrival of an essential rare part for our long-somnolent Clocktower beacon. Happily, the chimes and the recorded music in the tower have ignored the hiatus and continue to alert us cheerfully to the daytime hours and mealtimes.