

# Emmitsburg NEWS-JOURNAL

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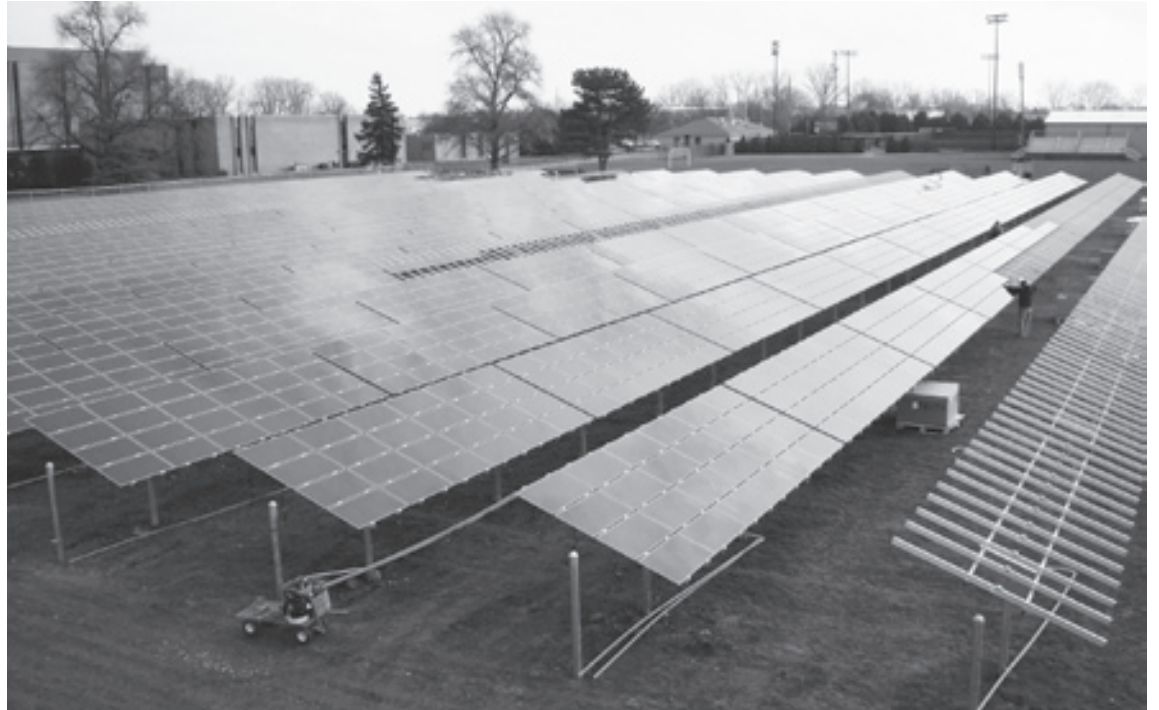
# Mount St. Mary's to be site for \$60 million solar power farm

James Rada, Jr.

Mount Saint Mary's University will soon become the site for Maryland's largest solar power farm. Constellation Energy of Baltimore announced on Dec. 8 that it had entered into an agreement to build a 17.1 megawatt thin-film solar power plant on 100 acres of Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg. The plant is expected to be completed by 2012 at a cost of \$60 million.

The State of Maryland has signed a 20-year agreement to purchase energy from the plant, according to Constellation. The plant is expected to produce 21 million kilowatt hours of electricity each year.

"Constellation Energy is pleased to be partnering with the state of Maryland on the Generating Clean Horizons initiative to develop new sources of clean power and stimulate the economy through the growth of the clean energy sector," said Mayo A. Shattuck III, chairman, president and chief executive officer, Constellation Energy. "This large-scale solar facility will make a significant contribution to our shared goal of a cleaner energy future."



Example of the type of solar arrays that will form the Mount Solar farm

The solar energy farm "would be the largest solar photovoltaic installation in Maryland. Only two photovoltaic systems currently in operation in the U.S. are larger," according to Constellation Energy.

Constellation Energy will construct, own, operate and maintain the facility while leasing the land from Mount Saint Mary's. The

university will also purchase 1.2 megawatts of the 17.1 megawatts that the facility will generate.

"This unique partnership with Constellation Energy strengthens Mount St. Mary's University's commitment to the promotion and creation of clean energy," said Thomas H. Powell, president, Mount St. Mary's University. "It continues the

'greening' of the Mount. Our students will be on the forefront of responsible land use and creation of renewable energy resources. Frederick County will benefit not only from our generation of clean energy but also from the reduction of dependence on more traditional use of coal, natural gas and fossil fuels."

continued on page 3

# Carroll Valley works to repair leaking dam

James Rada, Jr.

Lake May sprung a leak recently that was too big for even a helpful Dutch boy to stick his finger into, but it was also located in such a way that residents below the dam were in no danger.

During routine maintenance work at the lake in November, Carroll Valley Borough workers discovered a hole next to the spillway. At first they thought it was a gopher hole, but when they investigated, they saw that below ground, the hole opened up much wider forming a small cavern.

The hole was widened and water could be seen gushing from a crack in the spillway into the hole. The borough engineer was called in to examine the leak. Borough workers also began lowering the level of the lake so that it was well below the spillway. They also put sandbags at the top of the spillway to divert water away from the crack.

Upon further investigation, it

was discovered that a seam between two pre-fabricated pieces of the spillway had opened up allowing the water to leak underground. The erosion caused by the water have undercut the ground beneath the spillway and created the cavern. Given the size of the erosion, it was estimated that the leak had existed for quite some time.

Borough Manager Dave Hazlett told the council members, "We don't know the full extent of the damage." That will come when the solution to the problem is designed. Hazlett said he expects it to involve pumping grout into the undercut beneath the spillway so that the spillway is once again resting on a foundation.

The Carroll Valley Borough Council was briefed on the problem during their December meeting. If things go smoothly, the borough hopes to have the problem fixed by late spring 2010. It has to be designed let out for bid and approved by Pennsylvania Department of En-



vironmental Protection before construction can begin.

A couple citizens at the meeting asked why the 2010 budget had no money set aside for the project. Council Member Ken Lundberg told them, "If we don't know what the cost is going to be, how can we have funds for it?" There is money in reserve funds that can cover the costs, but nothing can be allocated until

the amounts are known. The council members did their best to reassure the residents that repairs would be made as soon as they could be.

"Ultimately, the no. 1 priority is to make sure no one gets hurt," Hazlett said.

As part of their move toward making the repair, the council award CMX the design bid for the dam repair for \$13,389.

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## NEWS

## Letter to the editor

To the Editor of the Emmitsburg News-Journal:

As the Board of the Emmitsburg Food Bank enters a new year, considering the challenges we met and overcame in 2009, we would like to thank everyone who helped us in our mission to serve people who need our assistance in feeding their families.

As all of your readers are aware, the "Great Recession" hit this area early in 2008. That is when the numbers of food bank users began to go up and stay up. 2009 brought ever-increasing numbers of clients to our doors. The Emmitsburg Food Bank has always been supported generously by the people of Emmitsburg and Rocky Ridge, but this economic crisis hit so many of our friends and neighbors, and our own family members, that we wondered if the community would be able to answer the need. All we could do was ask, through our churches, and among

our friends and acquaintances, to please give more, food and money, if that was possible.

And the donations increased, from the churches and civic organizations, from professional associations and our schools (including our local university, The Mount), and the employees and students at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Individuals continued, and stepped up, their giving. And so we thank, in no particular order: the staff and students at the Mount St. Mary's University, especially the sports teams; the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association; the American Legion and its women's auxiliary; Mother Seton School and Emmitsburg Elementary School; the VFW and their ladies' auxiliary; the Emmitsburg Lions Club; our local Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts; the Catocin High School Soccer Alumni; Jubilee

Foods and Weis Market; local businesses; all of the Emmitsburg area churches and Mt. Tabor Church in Rocky Ridge; and many, many families and individuals too numerous to name here.

The local organizations mentioned above are made up of individuals, of course, and so we would like to name the people of Emmitsburg, Rocky Ridge, and surrounding areas, as "unsung heroes" in their support of the Food Bank. Surely they embody the Golden Rule and the words of the gospels, giving to their brothers and sisters, doing as they would have others do, providing a model of understanding, compassion, and generosity.

Sincerely,  
The Emmitsburg Food  
Bank Board

Emmitsburg  
NEWS-JOURNAL

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Letters to the Editor, notice of upcoming events, news stories, and interesting and creative articles are welcome and may be submitted via regular U.S. Mail to P.O. Box 543, Emmitsburg, MD 21727, by email to [editor@emmitsburg.com](mailto:editor@emmitsburg.com), or at our office on the square - 1 East Main Street.

## Borough news

James Rada, Jr.

The Carroll Valley Borough Council is going to have the borough planning commission review the borough's noise ordinance where it pertains to dogs.

Resident Ron McClain told the council that when a complaint is phoned in about a barking dog, a warning letter is sent the for the first complaint and a citation is sent for the second offense. However, no police officer ever comes to investigate the complaint. Because of this, the ordinance can be used by one neighbor to punish another.

Councilman Neal Abrams said that for the complaint to be valid the dog must be barking for 10 minutes continuously or 30 minutes in-

termittently and that would be hard to prove. He did note that the ordinance can be used to get back at a neighbor and that he had been a victim of such a complaint.

"Any noise ordinance if fraught with all kinds of problems," Abrams said.

The council acknowledged the problem with ordinance and passed it on to the planning commission for review and recommendations.

## Tax rate and budget adopted

The Carroll Valley Borough Council unanimously adopted the tax rate and budget for the borough for 2010. The tax rate will remain the same at 8 mils. Most of the fees will remain unchanged except for some of the fees associated with the sew-

age enforcement officer. The approved \$1.65-million budget shows a 4.09 percent decrease from last year's budget. The council approved all of these unanimously.

## Town attorney leaves

The Carroll Valley Borough Council said goodbye to its attorney of seven years, Tom Campbell. Campbell was recently elected as an Adams County judge and will no longer be able to pursue private clients. The mayor and council presented him with a flag that had flown over Carroll Valley to thank him for his service.

With Campbell's departure, the borough council needed to select a new attorney to represent them. Their choice was Salzman Hughes Attorneys at Law. The firm has 20 lawyers at four regional offices including Waynesboro and Chamber-

sburg. The firm also has experience in Pennsylvania land use, zoning, and environmental issues, commercial and residential real estate, municipal law, business and commercial matters, estate planning and administration, and general litigation.

## Help with DUIs

Though Gettysburg Hospital will no longer test the blood for DUI and drug cases for police agencies, the hospital administration has agreed to continue drawing the blood and shipping it to either Na-

tional Medical Services or the Pennsylvania State Police for testing.

Late last year, the hospital announced that after 18 years, it was no longer certified to be testing blood for court cases. The change meant that police officers would have had to bring the driver into the hospital to have the blood drawn and then transport it back to to the borough office and store it securely until it can be shipped to the laboratory.

Carroll Valley Borough Mayor Ron Harris said the will help the borough because it will shorten the chain of custody for the police officers.

## Around town

James Rada, Jr.

Emmitsburg officials are concerned that the Frederick County fire tax could jump significantly for town residents and residents outside of Emmitsburg who are serviced by Vigilant Hose Company and the Emmitsburg Ambulance Service.

Town Manager Dave Haller told the mayor and town council that under a proposal put forth by county commissioner John "Lennie" Thompson, Jr., Emmitsburg's fire tax rate could jump from 12.8 cents per \$100 of assessed property value to 22.8 cents or a 78 percent increase.

Thompson's proposal keeps all fire-tax revenue collected within a company's first-due area within that area. Currently, the fire-tax goes into a common fund for suburban and urban areas and is allocated from there. This means a company like Walkersville that pays \$1.3 million

in fire taxes in its first-due area only receives around \$300,000 annually.

Haller points out that Walkersville's assessable base is much larger than the assessable base for Vigilant Hose Company. The Emmitsburg fire and rescue services also have a larger budget than the Walkersville fire and rescue companies. Because of this, Emmitsburg area residents would have to pay a far higher rate to generate enough money to cover the fire and rescue service budgets.

Haller told the mayor and town council that he would be drafting a letter to the county commissioners expressing the town's opposition to the proposal. Haller's thought is that county should make fire and rescue services part of county operations as it is counties east of Frederick.

## County seeks authority over municipal planning

The Frederick County Commissioners recently voted to limit develop-

ment inside of municipal boundaries when the schools that would educate students in the new developments are over capacity. This control of municipal development has caused Emmitsburg and other municipalities within Frederick County to appeal the decision.

"We don't believe that there's a threat to the health, safety or welfare of residents and it needs to be for the county to be able to do this," said Emmitsburg Town Manager Dave Haller.

The appeal means a judge will review the commissioners' vote and see if met the legal threshold that needs to be met.

Haller doesn't think it will be. "Two of the schools that were the worst impacted are not in a municipality or fed by a municipality," Haller told the Emmitsburg mayor and town council.

The commissioners extended their school test in their adequate public facilities ordinance to apply to development within municipal boundaries. Municipal officials believe this

gives the county control over development within municipalities, which is a municipal function.

The commissioners say that since the county must provide schools for students, they should be able to stop them from being overcrowded. Municipal officials see it as the county usurping their elected authority.

Haller also warned the mayor and council that it appears the county will also try to do the same thing to exert control over development based on the water supply section of the adequate public facilities ordinance.

## Town gets a clean audit

The Emmitsburg mayor and town council were given the results of its annual financial audit during its Dec. 21 meeting. Draper McGinley of Frederick gave the town a clean audit. The audit also noted that the town's rainy day fund was \$672,991 as of June 30, 2009, which was up 18.8 percent over the prior year.

## UpCounty review

The Emmitsburg mayor and town

council heard from acting UpCounty Center Director Nicki Jesse about how the town's \$12,000 annual contribution is used by the center.

She said the contribution is used to fund GED registrations fees, scholarships for drivers education classes, program and lifeskills supplies, educational field trips, educational speakers, supplies and staffing for birthing and childcare classes, food and playground upgrades.

The UpCounty Center became a Frederick County agency this year. Previously, the town had given the UpCounty Center the use of its current building rent free. Under a new five-year agreement with the county, the county pays the town rent for the use of the building and the town, in turn, donates that money to the UpCounty Center.

## New employee

Brenda Ruopoli has started employment with Emmitsburg as the new administrative assistant to the town manager.

## Solar panels

cont. from page 1

coal, natural gas and fossil fuels.”

The solar power farm will use thin-film photovoltaic solar panels situated on approximately 100 acres of university land. The thin-film panels use extremely thin layers of semiconductor material applied to a low-cost backing such as glass, flexible metallic foils, high-temperature polymers or stainless steel sheets. Thin-film panels require less energy to manufacture than silicon-based solar cells, but they are slightly less efficient. Thin-film solar panels can now convert 19.9 percent of sunlight into electricity while silicon-based solar panels can convert up to 20.3 percent.

Jeff Simmons, Mount environmental studies professor says “this agreement, advances the Mount several steps closer toward its goal of a sustainable university. Converting sunlight energy into electricity is one of the cleanest and environmentally benign methods for producing electricity on a large scale. Plus,

having the solar panels right here on campus will provide extraordinary learning opportunities for our students.”

The Maryland Energy Administration, in partnership with the University System of Maryland and the Department of General Services approved the award of four renewable energy projects under the Generating Clean Horizons program launched in February to spur the development of large-scale, commercial renewable energy projects like this one. Under the initiative, the state issued requests for proposals for long-term power purchase agreements from renewable power sources delivering clean power to the grid by 2014.

Both Constellation Energy and Mount Saint Mary's have shown interest in developing renewable forms of energy. Mount Saint Mary's has three buildings that use geothermal energy. Constellation Energy is also pursuing a wind-power project in Garrett County, and has other solar and geothermal installations for customers throughout Maryland.

# Cougars are Maryland high school football champs

It's been a long time since Catocotin High School had a state championship football team. That all ended on Dec. 5 with the Cougars 37-12 victory over the Joppatowne Mariners at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore.

“It still seems like a dream,” said Coach Doug Williams. “The biggest thing I feel is for my assistant coaches and the players, they worked so hard to get to where they are and it is wonderful to see their hard work pay off.”

Although both teams came to the championship game undefeated, the Cougars dominated from the beginning. By the time Joppatowne ran its first play from scrimmage, Catocotin already had 18 points (touchdowns by Paul Barbour, Eric Barbour and Nick Maxey) in 14 plays.

Joppatowne did manage to score two touchdowns and pull the game to its closest point at 18-12. However, senior Dylan May threw a 73-yard touchdown pass to Nick Nowaczyk to open up the lead

to 24-12 at the half. In the third quarter, Nowaczyk caught another pass extending the lead to 30-12. Austin Carter scored Catocotin's final touchdown on an 8-yard run.

Catocotin finished its dream season undefeated 14-0 and the Maryland High School 1A Football State Championship.

“We knew we were pretty good before the season started but it was after we beat Walkersville and Middletown we thought we had a shot to go deep into the playoffs,” Williams said.

The perfect season was a big turnaround for a team that went winless as freshmen.

“What turned them around was all their hard work they put in the last four years,” Williams said. “Hopefully the younger players will learn what it took to get to where this year's team got and copy their work ethic,” Williams said.

About half of the varsity team is expected to return next

year, which means the Cougars should have a good foundation to build on.

Joppatowne had been to the state finals more recently but had lost to Dunbar in 2004. This year the team had hoped to become Harford County's first undefeated state football championship team.

It was reported that around 1000 local residents showed up in wintry conditions to cheer Catocotin on to their win.

“The community has been unbelievable in their support and appreciation,” Williams said. “After the game the town of Emmitsburg and Thurmont had a parade for us through town that was outstanding. We will never forget it.”

Just before Christmas, Williams was named “Coach of the Year” by Maryland sports media. Catocotin's May, Nowaczyk and Sean Reaver were also named to the all-state first team for small schools. Catocotin's Brady Ride-nour was named to the second team.

# Casino plans for Gettysburg are back

In the search for more revenue, Pennsylvania is considering expanding its gambling laws to include table games and more sites. As such, Gettysburg could once again find itself embroiled in a debate over whether or not to have a casino in town.

“As long as Gettysburg is threatened with a casino close to hallowed ground, there will be major local, national and international opposition,” Susan Star Paddock wrote in an editorial in the Hanover Evening Sun. Paddock is the head of No Casino Gettysburg, one of the major opponents to LeVan's original slots parlor proposal.

David LeVan who was unsuccessful in getting a casino in Staban Township in 2006 is now seeking to get a state license for a slots parlor in Cumberland Township.

The new casino would be located along Emmitsburg Road at the Eisenhower Inn and All-Star Sports Complex. If LeVan and his partner Joseph Lashinger, a former Penn National executive, could get a license for 600 slot machines and 50 tables games, they would purchase the inn and redevelop it as a resort. A water park is also being proposed near Boyd's Bears. The location is still near U.S. 15 and closer to the Maryland border.

It is expected that for the proposal to move forward, major improvements would have to be done to the road in order for it to handle the expected traffic a casino in that area would put onto the road.

It is also expected that opponents will once again rally not only against the problems of gambling but this location uses the route that Gen. Robert E. Lee used in his retreat from Gettysburg.

“The current opposition is already growing significantly because the Eisenhower Inn property is even closer, just over ½ mile from the border of the Gettysburg National Military Park. It is located on two-lane Business Route 15, the nationally designated ‘Journey Through Hallowed Ground,’” Paddock wrote.

It will be an uphill battle for LeVan, though. At this point, the Pennsylvania legislature dropped plans to add more gaming licenses to the bill that will legalize table games in Pennsylvania's casinos. Without the additional licenses, LeVan doesn't have a chance of turning the Eisenhower Inn into a casino.

LeVan spokesman, David La

Torre, told the Harrisburg Patriot News, “We're patient, and we're willing to wait and form our opinions when the legislation is passed by both chambers.”

The expansion of gambling in the state was part of the state budget agreement earlier this year. Table games were added to the slots parlors in an effort to raise an additional \$200 million for the state.

LeVan's previously proposed slots parlor would have been located near the intersection of U.S. 15 and U.S. 30 and would have included 3,000 slot machines as part of the resort. Supporters talked about the jobs and taxes the resort would generate. Opponents talked about the problems gambling



would bring into the area and that a Civil War battlefield was no place for a casino.

One of the reasons the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board reject the plan was because it would be the

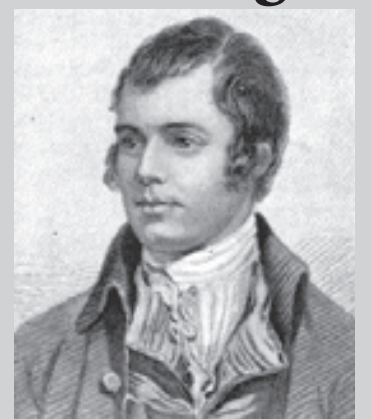
least profitable of the proposed slots parlors in the state if Maryland approved slots, which the state subsequently did. Also, the Gettysburg area wasn't seen as populated enough to sustain a slots parlor.

## The Seventh Annual Emmitsburg Burns Night

The Seventh Annual Emmitsburg Burns Night will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 6 p.m. in JoAnn's Ballroom of the Carriage House Inn, 200 South Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Maryland. (Snow date is Sunday, January 24, at the same time and place.)

Come celebrate with us the 251st anniversary of the birth of the great Scottish poet and composer, Robert Burns (born January 25, 1759), and support a very worthwhile cause at the same time! Proceeds go toward the Phase II Building Fund of the Emmitsburg Osteopathic Primary Care Center in Emmitsburg. Tickets cost \$50 per person, of which approximately half is a tax-deductible donation to EOPCC. Seating is limited to the first 125 guests.

Chef John Hovde will prepare various Scottish dishes, including Haggis, to de-



light your palate. In case you don't like Haggis, Shepherd's Pie and Haddock with Shrimp Sauce are also on the menu. A bagpiper will attend and guests are invited to recite or sing their favorite Burns poems or songs.

For further information, please contact Bill O'Toole, PO Box 368, Emmitsburg MD 21727, phone 301-447-2690 or 301-471-1551, email otool@msmary.edu or visit our website www.burnsite.com.



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## NEWS

# Hundreds attend an Evening of Christmas spirit

James Rada, Jr.

Bob Hance was all smiles on Dec. 7. It was because the Carriage House Inn was full of people who weren't paying anything for the food they ate, but they were having a good time. That's what was important to Hance that night as he surveyed the crowd at the 21st Annual Evening of Christmas Spirit.

"I absolutely love it," Hance said. "And now we're talking generations of people who come. They came as children and now they're bringing their children."

The night's events began at the Emmitsburg Community Center where the Incarnation UCC Church led a gathering in singing Christmas songs and carols. Then families stood bundled against the cold as Mayor James Hoover led the countdown for

the lighting of town Christmas tree.

The Emmitsburg Lions Club also got a Christmas gift from the Emmitsburg Business and Professional Association. The EBPA gave the Lions Club \$600 to be used to put together food boxes for needy families in the area.

"You guys do a fabulous job and we're looking forward to working with you," EBPA member Bob Rosensteel told the Lions Club.

The group then moved down the street to the Carriage House Inn and dozens of people soon became hundreds. They enjoyed free hot dogs, cookies and live entertainment including choirs from St. Joseph's Church, Mount St. Mary's University and the Fairfield School Show Choir. Hance said he orders 800 hot dogs and 20 gallons of hot choc-

olate for the event.

Children flocked around the live sheep in the pen near the Nativity scene, which had children actors playing the parts. Kids also told Santa Claus their Christmas wishes and adults and kids alike took tractor-pulled hay rides around town.

Elizabeth Blickenstaff of Carroll Valley comes to the celebration every year with her family. "I like the hay ride and the music."

An Evening of Christmas Spirit was started by Hance's parents as a way to invite the town into the Carriage House Inn and enjoy the décor. It's always been a free event, but now it has grown from a Carriage House Inn event to town event.

"This is the best event in town," said Bob Laudano. "It all-around well planned and put together."



Hundreds attend an evening of Christmas spirit

Hance credits the help of many volunteers for making the evening an enjoyable one for evening. Some of the volunteers have helped all 21 years of the event, including Frank Schmersal (Santa) and Brian and Jeff Glass who drive the tractors for the hay ride.

Justin Caballero of Emmitsburg believes that An Evening

of Christmas Spirit is representative of small-town life should be. He and his family moved to Emmitsburg from a larger town five years ago. It was their second year attending An Evening of Christmas Spirit.

"This is something that is really good for a small town to have," said Caballero.

# Liberty Mountain enjoying the winter snow

Liberty Mountain in Carroll Valley, Pa., opened on Dec. 12 just in time to welcome the big snow storm a week later. The winter storm on Dec. 19 dropped 20 inches of powder on the mountain and allowed the resort to open all its skiing trails and 15 snow tubing lanes. The natural snow added to the two feet of snow the resort had been manufacturing in preparation for the opening.

The resort has also started hosting events, such as the Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge.

Liberty Mountain Resort cov-

ers 275 acres, of which over 100 acres are set aside as trails for skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing. The resort has 16 trails with the longest run being 5,200 feet. The difficult levels of the trails are relatively evenly split. The resort's nine different lifts can take 13,400 skiers uphill per hour.

The resort sees about 200,000 visitors a season with an average of 5,000 on weekends, according to Carroll Valley Borough officials. As a local benefit, the resort employs more than 50 full-time personnel and as many as 1,500 seasonal jobs.

"Most of the jobs provided by Liberty are to local residents and students who find Liberty their first-ever employment," said Carroll Valley Mayor Ron Harris.

When the skies are scarce of snow, there is now more automated snow making to help Mother Nature keep the trails open. Four of the trails have new automated snow guns. This brings 60 percent of the mountain into automated snow making so there should always be trails with plenty of snow during the season. When the weather conditions are right for snow making, the computers start the snow guns and keep them run-

ning at optimal efficiency.

Visitors will also find plenty of improvements to help make their visit enjoyable. The Alpine Room, the Bakery and Alpine Market have been given a makeover. The Alpine Patio was enlarged to accommodate more people and give them a better view of the slopes.

Many of the visitors also enjoy the businesses in nearby Carroll Valley and Fairfield.

"As a ski resort and conference center, they attract thousands of people to the Fairfield area which benefits other businesses such as hotels, restaurants, gas stations and convenience stores," Harris said.

The resort also acts as a good corporate citizen lending personnel, money and supplies to help with many Carroll Valley events, such as the Carroll Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and the Fairfield School Parent/Student Challenge.

"Liberty makes significant voluntary contributions to local charities and organizations. Over the last five years, Liberty's cash contributions totaled over \$380,000," Harris said. "Seldom, if ever, has Liberty said 'no' to a request by Borough of Carroll Valley," he added.

The ski season is expected to last until sometime in the middle of March.



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# One hundred years ago this month

## January 7

### Runaway Wrecks Three Vehicles

On Monday afternoon a junk dealer's horse standing unhitched in front of Dr. ' became frightened and ran off down East Main Street leaving a trail of wrecks behind it. The two back wheels of Mr. Sander's buggy were demolished and the one rear wheel of a buggy belonging to Mr. Ignatius Lingg, hitched in front of the home of Mr. Harry Gross was dished. In front of Mr. Troxell's store the horse fell and broke the shafts of the wagon.

### Horse Falls

Of horse belonging to Boyle Brothers fell in front of the Chronicle office on Wednesday morning. The timely assistance of Messers. Elmer Eyley, James Arnold, and Robert Burdner saved the wagon from injury from the animal's struggles. The horse was unhurt.

### A Family Reunion

A family reunion was held at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Jacob Ohler, on Friday, December 31. A dinner consisting of oysters, chicken, cake, ice cream and many other things which go to make up an appetizing meal, was served in honor of their children and grandchildren.

### Water Main Burst Under Creek

The large main that conveys the water from the reservoir to town burst on Tuesday where the pipe goes under Toms Creek.

### Almost Frozen to Death

On Tuesday morning workmen on the new station at St. Joseph's Academy carried from the snow near the race bridge on the pike that have frozen body of a tramp, who afterwards gave his name is James Mitchell. The man was almost dead from exposure and it was not with a little difficulty that Dr. Brawner brought him back to consciousness. The afternoon of the same day he was taking to the Maryland General Hospital, Baltimore for treatment.

The man said he had come from Frederick the day before and had spent the night in the Cretin Barn. When found he was almost dead. A large icicle had form below his nose from the frozen moisture of his breath and many spots of his body were frozen. He was found lying in the snow besides the road. From appearance it is judged that he is between 65 and 70 years old.

## January 14

### "Q.R.S." Ten Years Old

The January meeting of the Q.R.S. was held at the home of Mr. James Helman on Tuesday evening, and as this meeting marked the 10th year of the society's existence the subject for the evening was the 10th anniversary of the Q.R.S.

The parlor was beautifully decorated with black and orange pennants the color of the society. All the programs of the past 10 year's meetings were on exhibition and displayed many artistic ideas and a wide range of subjects. An elaborate program was prepared for the evening and ably rendered.

### Efficiency of Our Night Watchman

Mr. Cornelius Buckingham, who for the last six weeks has been the Emmitsburg's efficient night watchman, has in that period notified five persons that their premises were not properly closed for the night, recovered several horses that had broken from stables and surprised one unknown party who is helping himself to coal.

### Accident to Charles Harbaugh

Charles Harbaugh met within accident while sledding on the ice. He fell and struck his head on a stone fence cutting a gash in his scalp 4 inches long. Dr. Jamison dressed the wound.

### Ice Cutting Begun

They are cutting ice from the upper part of Kemp's damn on Middle Creek, 14 inches thick and clear as crystal. Every wagon load of ice that is brought to town it is hoped will take a slice off that \$.75 householders were obliged to pay last summer.

## January 21

### "Alf Day" dead

Alfred Dade, colored, better known around here as "Alf Day," died at the home of Mr. Ed Craig, along the old Mountain road, on Wednesday of this week. The age of the deceased was about 70 years. He came to Emmitsburg as a soldier in the Union Army during the war, and remained here ever since. He was employed by St. Joseph's Academy until a few years ago. The funeral was held this morning at St. Anthony's Church at nine o'clock, Reverend Tragresser, officiating. The interment was made in the cemetery on the hill.

### Thermometer Registered Zero

The thermometer registered flat zero on Sunday morning at half past seven. In the country a lower temperature was registered in several places.

### New Telephone Pole

The Chesapeake and Potomac telephone people have placed a pole on Main Street in front of the marble yard of Hoke & Ryder.

## January 28

### Ice Gorges In Recent Flood

Last Friday the ice left the creeks, but little damage was done to property along their banks. The warm rain in considerable quantity and the melting of the accumulated lat-



Back in the days before refrigerators, ice was a precious commodity. Because of its value, ice was harvested all winter long from Tom's Creek and its tributaries. Once the ice had achieved sufficient thickness (usually 6 inches), it was cut into sheets and carted off to ice barns. Ice barns, or ice cellars to be more accurate, were large pits in the ground below normal barns, surrounded by thick layers of straw for insulation. Once the pit was full, another thick layer of straw was placed over the cold treasure. Ice, of sufficient quantity, and properly insulated, would last well into the hot summer months.

est snow caused very high water. Toms Creek was so rampant that all travel along the pike was stopped. Flat Run also caused not a little inconvenience. Middle Creek covered before the high water, in some places, with eighteen inches of ice, tore the ice loose and the meadows along its courses are piled high with cakes and debris. At the mouth of Toms Creek the ice gorged for about a mile and kept the stream high much longer than usual.

### Local Tramp Nuisance

The people of Emmitsburg will gladly welcome any legislation that will lessen the local tramp nuisance. From early spring until late fall this neighborhood is overrun with Knights of the road-man most of whom are able-bodied, who will not work and who beg for and except alms and food without sometimes even returning meager thanks.

Nearly every pittance they get goes for rum, and every drunken tramp becomes a public nuisance and a local charge. It is to be regretted that Maryland has no law on her statute books enabling the proper authorities to put tramps to work on the roads, and it is to be hoped that when a new charter is drawn up for Emmitsburg there will be a provision in it empowering the Burgess to compel them to work on our streets and alleys.

To learn more about the history of the Greater Emmitsburg area, visit the Historical Society section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## GOVERNMENT—NORTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

# From the desk of County Commissioner Moreno

I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to share with readers a project that the County has been working on.

In 2007, the County's external auditors, Zelenkofske Axelrod recommended the County perform a financial health study. The Board of Commissioners sought financial help to do this by applying for a grant through the Department of Community and Economic Development, and was successful in receiving an Early Intervention Grant.

A team was formed to review the proposals received, and Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) partnering with the Pennsylvania Economy League (PEL) was selected to begin this process on behalf of the County.

The staff of GFOA and PEL interviewed many county employees to get a better understanding of current county processes. From those interviews and information compiled the "Intermediate Management Audit and Financials Strategies" was developed.

This financial health study brought about many recommendations to improve upon the county processes and to help the county better deal with the economic challenges that we face today.

Some of the recommendations made were:

- Hiring a chief administrative officer. As the community grows larger, a professionalized manager can enhance the administration of county services. Similar to leading service organizations everywhere, a dedicated professional manager would free up the board to focus on strategic and policy issues, and would provide greater continuity between changes in elected officials.
- A process for more regular property reassessments. Pennsylvania is unusual in that properties are not reassessed on a regular schedule. Failure to perform regular reassessments can lead to unfairness in valuations among similar properties. A policy for regular reassessments would improve fairness and could streamline the costs associated with conducting reassessments.
- Develop financial policies. New governing policies can help the County manage its reserves and capital planning in accordance with recognized best practices in public financial management. Inventory county services. A program inventory will help the County understand the full costs of providing each County service

and, consequently, make more strategic budgeting and management decisions.

Many more recommendations were made to the Board of Commissioners by GFOA. The full report can be found on the County website [www.adamscounty.us](http://www.adamscounty.us). County personnel continue to diligently work on projects for this plan.

Another great project happening in county government is dealing with the Courts. The three Court of Common Pleas Judges Kuhn, Bigham and George have just completed Phase 1 of the Adams County Court Assessment Transformation Project. This project is also examining the business practices among the Court related departments, which in turn, will make those departments run more efficiently and save costs now and down the road.

We do need to remember Adams County is changing rapidly. The housing market has slowed down here, just as we have seen all across the country, but will eventually pick back up again.

The 2010 Census is right around the corner, and that most definitely means the change from a 6th class county to a 5th class county.



What does that change mean to Adams County? Well, one of those changes is the addition of a Controller. This elected position is required of a 5th class county, and will replace the three elected County Auditors.

2009 has been met with many challenges, and the tough financial

times made us all take a look at processes and how to be more efficient. The state budget impasse affected many throughout Pennsylvania.

I look to 2010 with hopeful optimism that we will not be facing the exact same budget crisis as seen this past year. Happy New Year to all!

# From the desk of Carroll Valley Mayor Ron

Winter is here and the utility bills are up. You may want to attend the January 5th Planning Commission meeting being held at the Borough Office at 7:00 p.m. America Hearth, a local vendor, has been invited to present and discuss the benefits of installing residential renewable energy generation technologies such as solar panels and wind turbines.

If you are considering installing alternative energy device, you should first determine how much energy you need. If you are a member of Adams Electric, you can borrow a Kill A Watt electricity use monitor. This monitor can be used to track electric use by the day, week, month, or even an entire year.

There are also a number of websites, for example, [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), you can visit to perform a home energy audit. Find where the air leaks are in the house such as around window and door frames and window mounted air conditioners. The information on some of the websites indicate that you can save 24 kilowatt hours a month just by turning down your home thermostat two degrees. Or you could fix that leaky faucet and possibly save 20 kilowatts a month.

While these are small savings, they do add up over time. If you buy major appliances, you should consider purchasing those that have an "Energy Star" sticker. This sticker shows the appliance meets or exceeds the standards set by the U.S. Department of En-

ergy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

After you have reduced your carbon footprint as much as you can, you are now ready to decide on the type(s) of alternative energy technologies that best fits your need. Come to the Planning Commission meeting and discover what's out in the marketplace.

Are you aware of the Mission of Mercy program? Mission of Mercy provides free healthcare, free dental care and free prescription medications to the uninsured, underinsured and those who have little money to afford healthcare.

During this economic downturn, this may be a program you might want to look into, especially if you lost your full-time job and don't have any insurance. Their mission as stated on their Home Page is "to restore dignity to all people by being an instrument of healing through Love..."

This mobile program provides free: primary care, episodic and long-term treatment of chronic illnesses, prenatal care, physical therapy, prescription medications and dental fillings and extractions. Checkout their website at [amissionofmercy.org](http://amissionofmercy.org) or call (717) 642-9062 for more information.

The organization depends on volunteerism and community contributions to operate. So, after the holidays, if you have a few extra dollars, think about making a donation to this program that takes care of others in need.

Thank you Mission of Mercy for all you do for our community.

I am happy to report that all Fairfield area cell phone towers are operational. Through the close collaboration and coordination among the Boroughs of Carroll Valley and Fairfield and the Townships of Hamiltonban and Liberty, Congressional Representative Todd Platts, State Representative Dan Moul, the Adams County Emergency Services, Fairfield Fire and EMS, local Police Departments, Fairfield Area School District, Fairfield Regional Emergency Management Agency, Ski Liberty Resort and Conference Center and Carroll Valley Resort, enabled us to present our requirements to the wireless service community. AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon responded to our need. Liberty Towers and Sprint built the towers and two years later we now have cell phone service in our area. From what I have been told, this was quite an achievement.

As of today, AT&T transmitters are on the tower behind the Fairfield Fire Department and on the tower located off Steelman Marker Road in Liberty Township. A Sprint transmitter is on the tower located on Ski Liberty mountain in Carroll Valley. The Verizon transmitter is on the Jacks Mountain tower. On behalf of the Fairfield area citizens, I would like to thank everyone who helped bring cell phone service to our area.

Two significant decisions were

made at the December Borough Council meeting. They were the passage/approval of the 2010 Budget with no tax increase and the selection of CMX Mechanicsville to provide geotechnical engineering services to address repairing the Lake May spillway. As was mentioned during the meeting, the actual cost of Lake May repairs will not be known until the scope of work is determined and the contractor is selected to perform the repair work.

Yes, 2010 should be a very interesting year. The reassessment should be completed. The United States Census 10 question form will be mailed to you to fill out. Based on the updated census data collected, political boundaries may change, allocation of federal and state funds could be affected and decisions regarding health care and other services will be made.

One thing is for sure – change is constant. I am confident change can be good if we work together for the common good. I wish you and your family a Happy New Year!

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## GOVERNMENT—SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE

# From the desk of County Commissioner Jenkins

Live from New York!

I recently accompanied Commissioners Gardner and Gray along with County staff on a visit to the bond rating agencies in New York City. This is the story of that trip. When the County borrows money for the purpose of completing capital projects (school renovations, water and sewer projects, roads, etc.) it issues bonds (debt), much like a mortgage on a home. Bond rating agencies give the County a score, usually in the form of AAA, AAa, AA1, AA2 and so on. Each agency has their own unique identifier. The better the rating, much like a credit score, the lower the interest rate the County pays for the debt it issues. Bonds are paid back over a twenty year period.

The agencies we visited were Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's, and Moody's Investors Service (Moody's). The other participants were: John Kroll, Director of Finance; Richard Duthoy, Deputy Director of Finance; Michael Marschner, Director of Utilities and Solid Waste; Laurie Boyer, Director of the Office of Economic Development, and Barry Stanton, Assistant County Manager. We were joined by Sam Ketterman of Davenport & Company, the County's financial advisor.

We arrived in New York via the Acela Express from Baltimore to New York's Penn Station (underneath Mad-

ison Square Garden in mid-town Manhattan) on a Wednesday afternoon and made our way downtown to the Financial District where our hotel was located). While a group dinner was planned, Commissioner Gray and I were lucky enough to get two tickets to "Jersey Boys". A tremendous show and I highly recommend seeing it if you ever get the opportunity.

Presentations generally lasted two hours, sometimes a little longer and we began with Fitch Ratings on Thursday morning. Commissioner Gardner made general comments about the condition of the County and was followed by detailed presentations by Messrs. Duthoy, Kroll, Marschner and finished by Ms. Boyer. Following the presentations, the analysts would ask us questions pertaining to what they had just heard or didn't hear. After Fitch Ratings and lunch, we headed over to Standard & Poor's and the process repeated itself.

A bitterly cold and blustery night had the whole group walking about 1/2 mile to dinner along the East River with The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in view. Friday morning we travelled a short distance to Moody's. This was by far the most emotional visit for me. Moody's is located at 7 World Trade Center, immediately next to Ground Zero. I have not been to New York since the Twin Towers were fallen. Hearing

about Ground Zero and seeing video images on television does not in any way convey the horror of what you see. Despite my attempts to focus on our presentation my thoughts kept going back to the deaths that occurred right next door to me. From the twentieth floor looking down on workers rebuilding from the ground up was a sobering experience.

After we finished with Moody's we loaded up and headed back to Penn Station for the train ride home. The last time I took a train ride (other than Walkersville's Ghost Train) was in 1983 when I joined the Navy. The Acela Express is a great way to get into New York. The ride up was three hours and only two and a half hours back into Baltimore. It sure beats driving!

We asked all three bond rating agencies if they could let us know the status of our "score" by December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The bond sale is scheduled for January 5, 2010. The most important message I can give you, citizens of Frederick County, is that your County government is fiscally responsible and well managed. We have so much to be proud of, including unemployment rates lower than the State and well below the national average; the lowest property tax rate of our five peer counties (Washington, Howard, Carroll, Charles and Harford); a zero percent business property tax rate on everything



except power stations; and relative to population growth tremendous job growth (since 1970 the population has increased 163% and job growth has grown 250%).

In addition, compared to the state average of 53%, 60% of Frederick County residents work in the County where they live. By keeping our taxes low we remain a great place to do business, something very important to folks on Wall Street who have influence on how much we pay when we borrow money.

As I have been for the past three years I remain proud to represent Frederick County as one of your County Commissioners. These are difficult financial times and some of you reading this may be experiencing hard times. I'm sorry if you are. When you're down it's easy to become cynical. When I watch the

national news and the money being spent I become cynical as well. At the local level we simply don't have the ability to print money and make future generations pay for today's follies. I left New York even more convinced Frederick County is a wonderful place to call home.

I hope all of you have a happy and healthy and rewarding 2010. As of yet I remain undecided about my plans. I announced back in January (2009) that I would be a candidate for the House of Delegates in District 3B (currently held by Rick Weldon). The prospect of new Commissioners undoing the Waste to Energy decision by this Board has me reconsidering my announced run for the House of Delegates. It may sound like a cliché, but it is truly an honor to represent you. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

# From the desk of Town Council President Chris Staiger

I hope everyone has had a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season! We should be thankful for the many individuals, groups, and businesses who have volunteered their time and energy to provide food resources, activities, decorations, and holiday cheer to the Emmitsburg area community.

It's nice, for example, to be able to take the kids to the fire house or Mother Seton School to see Santa (and a magic show or have breakfast with your friends and neighbors) instead of standing in line at a mall in Frederick. This is what makes Emmitsburg more than just a collection of housing developments or a bedroom community - and, on a personal note, helps fortify me against the cynical commentary that can crop up throughout the season!

So winter decided to come early this year, not even waiting for fall to come to an end! I think the town road crews did a fantastic job - having every road cleared the next day, Sunday, and the remaining snow cleared from the parking spots on Main Street by the close of business Monday.

For those of us who have lived in Baltimore or Montgomery counties, you know it can easily

take twice as long to get the job done. Who knows what all this portends for the rest of the season? I think we all suspect we're due for a big winter after five years of minimal snow! As we've seen, the town crews are up to the task.

Okay, so now down to a little business... The Town has decided to join with numerous other municipalities to challenge the County Commissioners' recent change to their Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO). This change was an attempt to limit annexation powers granted to municipalities by the State government.

My expectation is that the municipalities' challenge will be upheld in court because the county failed to prove that the action was necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of citizens in the unincorporated areas of the county. That being said, the Town must, regardless, adopt an APFO in order to establish clear guidelines for the requirements and impacts of any annexation and growth. I am committed to finalize a municipal APFO before the year is out.

Frederick County Commissioner Lennie Thompson has also proposed a change to Fire Tax calculation and distribu-

tion which is projected to result in an 80% increase of the fire tax assessment for Emmitsburg area tax payers (an increase from 12.8 cents to 22.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value). Currently, the fire tax is collected county wide and distributed based on local service requirements.

The Thompson proposal requires the local district to fully fund the local service requirement on its own. The cost of service within the district is divided across the assessable tax base of that district. While this might seem an equitable plan, in that you are theoretically responsible for paying for what you're using, it contains a not so hidden burden for Emmitsburg area tax payers: a significant level of service goes to large institutions not subject to the fire tax due to their tax exempt status.

The cost of service to these tax exempt institutions, however, is still divided over the remaining tax payers. Under the current system, this type of burden throughout the county is shared among all county tax payers. Under the new system it would be borne solely by our small, local tax base. Commissioner Thompson's proposal is currently under consideration by the full County Board.

I believe the Town will oppose this proposal and I encourage you to contact the Frederick County Commissioners to ex-

press your own opinion.

Thank you for your time, Chris Staiger

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## COMMENTARY

# Words from Winterbilt Technology and free television?

Shannon Bohrer

Technology is, or can be wonderful thing. Computers, cell phones, satellite internet and television have the potential to connect individuals to the world. The electronic revolution has changed the world we live in, whether or not we want to change. I like the change, at least the parts I understand, but there are other issues that confound and perplex many people including myself. Frustration has new meaning to many of us.

My wife and I have had a computer for several years and when it works, it's nice. When it does not work, frustration does not really describe the feelings. I have a cell phone, provided to me by my employer. Sometimes I turn it on. Several years ago we went to the dark side, as my wife says, and got satellite television. It was not really much of a choice as we could no longer receive television from an antenna and cable is nonexistent where we live.

My wife and I have been married for 37 years and our first television worked fine with a rabbit ears antenna, for at least the first ten or twelve years. When the inside antenna no longer worked, we hired a local installer to put an antenna on the roof. The roof antenna worked for a while and after several years, it no longer worked. The local installer came out and put a booster on the antenna and it worked again. After several more years the dial on the television no longer worked and it was not repairable; they did not make them anymore!

We then purchased our second television, a wide screen (27inch) color television. For several years this worked fine, then the no-reception infection returned. I don't remember what the local installer said, but the problem perplexed him and he mentioned something about a dead zone. My wife's theory is that all of the cell phone towers interfered with our reception.

She may be right since the only thing to change was the addition of cell phone towers.

We then purchased the services for satellite television. The installer showed up and put a ladder to the roof. The installer said he was going to install the system on the roof. I said NO. The installer then replied he did not have a pole to set the system on. I furnished the pole; I dug the hole and I dug the trench for the wiring. The installation was free. After the installation was complete, the installer called someone at another location, probably Dave in India, the same Dave I talked to about computer problems. The installer then scanned the receivable channels in the television. According to our contract we were suppose to receive the local channels. However, the satellite provider gave us the Washington D.C. local channels? I requested the installer to call Dave back and provide us with the Bal-

timore channels. I also advised him that WE LIVE IN MARYLAND. They did give us the local channel in Hagerstown, but that's it.

My wife and I decided that when the contract was up we would switch to the other satellite television provider. This was a decision based on the fact that my wife's sister lives just north of Taneytown and they have the other provider and they receive the Baltimore channels.

Fast forward two years – high definition television is the norm so my wife and I purchase a third television, probably our last. We decided to change to the other satellite television provider and a friend told us we should be able to get an outside antenna to pick up the Baltimore channels. I advised my friend that the satellite provider would furnish them. He said no. I called the satellite provider, but I got an answering system and had to push buttons. That's impossible with a rotary dial telephone. I changed tactics and tried to use the internet to go through the process to purchase the service. While there, and I was there a long time, I clicked on the icon for local channels. I put in my zip code and enter. Our local channels with

the new service will be the Washington D.C channels! I emailed them and requested the Baltimore channels. They responded that I was not allowed to have the Baltimore channels – because of a marketing law. Local channels are determined by law, and are based on zip code. They referred me to a marketing web page and I emailed them – no response.

The new service has not been installed yet and in the interim we have had two high definition antennas installed. The first one did not work at all and the second one gave us Channel 11 in Baltimore, but that's it. Also the second antenna resembles a skeleton of a T-Rex. Recently I read that a professor from Harvard said that a kitchen toaster has more federal regulations than some of the financial instruments (why do they call them instruments?) that almost collapsed our financial system. I employ all of my readers (both of you) to write and call your congress representatives and tell them to repeal the law that prevents me from receiving the Baltimore channels.

To read other articles by Shannon Bohrer visit the Authors' section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net)

# Pondering the puzzlement

Jack Deatherage, Jr.

I didn't recognize the owner of the panicked, hoarse whisper that came out of the darkness between houses along Main Street. I did recognize the reason behind the words and the tone. I'd been there before, not in that particular black gap between buildings, but in similar places, among similar people.

"Who is it? Did he see us?"

I felt sick to my stomach as I walked on, not changing my pace, not looking left or right – just another deaf citizen in the light, unseeing, but not unknowing. My body definitely knew! Fear raced through me urging me to get away quickly. I had to be cool. I had to be uncaring. I had to think of my responsibilities to my family. It didn't matter if 10,000 hits of speed were changing hands. Nor did it matter if someone was about to have a bad acid trip. Or had a vein popped, ready for the heroin needle. Or had just sucked up a line of cocaine and was wild with the head rush. I had to pass by as if nothing were out of the ordinary. In past years of my life such moments had been very ordinary.

"It's Jack. He's alright."

The second voice I actually knew and felt some relief. I'd get by without trouble. I'd heard those same words calmly spoken by the same person several times over the years, always to people seeking to harm me because I was not quite one of them. Following immediately behind those words was a wash of sadness. What I thought

might be happening in that dark place was confirmed by the voice that granted me safe passage. How many deals had that voice brokered?

For a wild moment, I was caught between getting away and stopping to face the dark. Not to chastise, or berate, but merely to ask, "It's been thirty years. Why are you still doing this? Why haven't you found a way out?"

It's difficult writing about dark things that occur where one lives. Even avoiding the use of names doesn't keep one safe if an event

is described with too much clarity. Some detail trips a moment long forgotten and a face suddenly comes to mind. A word is spoken and a reputation is called into questioned. A past, believed forgotten, is dragged uncomfortably into new light and people who have put such miseries behind them are hurt again.

Silence, if it accomplishes anything, perpetuates. Silence helps nothing.

Thinking back on the time I moved in the shadows, or arrogantly staggered about in the light,

I can't recall much that could have turned me from the paths I chose. I didn't fear the Law, though I knew it could prevent me doing as I pleased, if it managed to capture me. So I hid, or ran from it. Religion had proved itself false. Family had failed, not from lack of effort to turn me, but from ignorance of how to deal with what I'd gotten into. (There was also some fear that too much hidden might be revealed.) A psychologist I'd run into spent a fair bit of time questioning me, hoping to get me to understand why I did what I did. In the end, I just couldn't take the physical or mental pain of dying slowly from the toxins I consumed. I was forced to reconsider my choices.

I was also fortunate to have found people who had survived choices similar to the ones I'd made. People unashamed of having chosen wrongly, and wise enough to know such choices could be unmade. People who bared their souls to show me there were levels below where I'd sunk. People who urged me to spare myself any more misery. People who realize that silence only allows the misery to continue.

I'm not one of those people. I walked on by and let someone sink deeper into the shadows.

To read past editions of *Pondering the Puzzlement*, visit the Authors' section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).



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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

# The Epiphany

Father Vincent O'Malley, C.M.  
St. Joseph's Church

Almost one-third of the world's 6.8 million people will celebrate the Christian feast of the Epiphany. The gospel reports, "After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem of Judea during the reign of King Herod, astrologers from the east one day arrived in Jerusalem inquiring, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.'" (Mt. 2.1-2)

These astrologers, along with the chief priests and scribes of Jerusalem, understood from Old Testament prophecies (2 Sm. 5.2) that the Messiah was to be born in the little town of Bethlehem. Leaving Jerusalem, these astrologers followed the star south to the little town of Bethlehem. At the feet of the infant Jesus, these learned men placed gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The wise men joined the shepherds in adoring Jesus. (Lk. 2.8-20) Old Testament tradition adds that a cow and donkey would warm the stable. The angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk. 214)

The transliterated Greek verb "epi-phai-ne-o" means "to make manifest." Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the whole world. The Messiah has come for the salvation of all people: Jews and non-Jewish Gentiles.

This Nativity Story is re-presented worldwide with statues in Christmas crèches, plastic figures in lawn displays, and scenes on Christmas cards. A year before I arrived at Emmitsburg, I traveled home from India through China. At Beijing, the spacious lobby of the hotel where I stayed had a Christmas manger with almost life-size figures of Mary, Joseph and Jesus, plus representative shepherds and wise men with their accompanying animals. Irony of ironies, I enjoyed this magnificent display of Christmas pageantry in a Communist country!

## Origin of the feast.

Initially, 3rd century Eastern Gnostics celebrated on January 6, Jesus' birth, baptism and visit by the Magi. Eastern Christians chose this date to counter the pagan feast of the Egyptian sun god Aeno. A century later, orthodox Christians kept this feast but restricted the celebration to Jesus' birth. A dilemma arose because the Church at Rome in the 3rd century had chosen December 25 to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Rome did this to counter the pagan feast of another sun god. These differing dates for celebrating Christmas became resolved around the 4th century, when the East accepted December 25 as the feast of the birth of Christ, and eventually celebrated January 6 as the feast of the visit of the Magi; all three events, however, namely, Jesus' birth, baptism and visit by the Magi, are regarded as epipha-

nies, i.e., visible manifestations of divine interventions.

## Manifestation of Jesus to the whole world.

Records indicate that by the 5th century, the Church at Gaul, Spain, Northern Italy, Rome, and Carthage were celebrating the feast of the Epiphany on January 6. The Magi symbolize the Savior's reception by whole world. Traditionally the three wise men have represented each of the three known continents: the dark-skinned wise man represented Africa; the yellow-skinned wise man, Asia; and the white-skinned wise man, Europe. In the 8th century, the wise men had gained names: Balthasar, Gaspar, and Melchior. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are expensive gifts for the newborn king. Gold is a precious metal. Frankincense is a gum resin which when burned emits an aromatic perfume. Myrrh is an aromatic spice.

Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Jesus to the whole world. Jesus' good news is intended for all of God's people. Christians are to have a global vision which sees all people as children of God, as brothers and sisters, with Jesus as the Savior of all humankind.

## The Vitality of the Christian Church

To help us to grow in a global vision, it might be beneficial to learn about the origin and present vitality of the Christian Church in the seven most populated countries of the world, which collectively represent 54% of the world's population.

China (pop. 1.339B). Nestorian missionaries brought the gospel to China in the 5th century. In the 7th century, Catholic missionaries translated the New Testament and Psalms into Chinese. For the next thousand plus years, Christianity experienced oscillating periods of toleration and persecution. Franciscan and especially Jesuit missionaries made great inroads. Russian Orthodoxy entered Manchuria in 1715. The earliest Protestant missionary in China, Robert Morrison, arrived in China in 1807. Christianity experienced significant growth at the five major port cities because Western nations had demanded protection for Western missionaries. Virtually all mainline Protestant denominations contributed to the rapid expansion of Christianity.

The newly founded Pentecostal and Assembly churches arrived in the early 20th century and enjoyed much growth. Communists in 1949 began expelling foreign missionaries and closed Catholic and Protestant schools, orphanages, and hospitals. Christians went into hiding, and formed underground house-churches. The Cultural Revolution (1967-77) enacted harsh penalties against Christians. The Vatican under Pope John Paul II and the Communist Government agreed to appoint bishops of

whom both parties approved. Today, the Catholic Church prefers to speak about not the government's Catholic Church and Rome's underground Catholic Church, but one Catholic Church. A fair estimate seems to be that 40 million Chinese are Protestant, and 20 million are Catholic. All Christians suffer government-sponsored religious persecution.

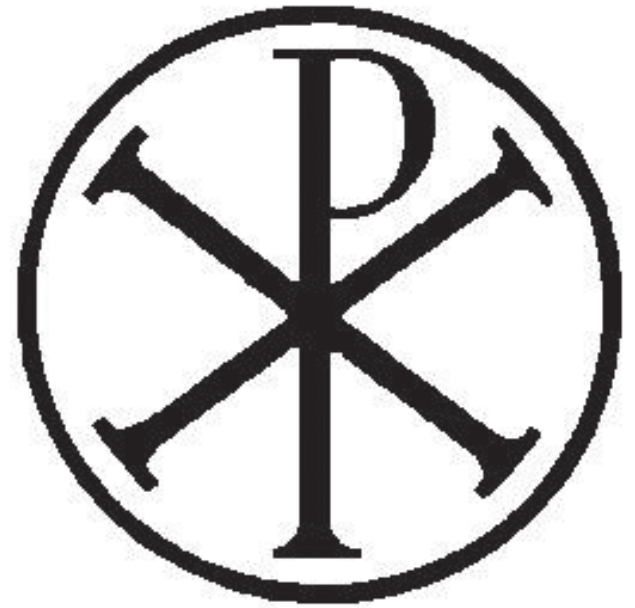
India. (pop. 1.157B) St. Thomas the Apostle brought the gospel to India in 52 AD, and St. Francis Xavier came to Goa, near Bombay (now, Mumbai) in 1542. During these two millennia, Catholics and their later Protestant cousins sponsored schools and medical institutions. Protestant missionaries arrived from Denmark in 1706 and from England a century later. Mainline Protestant denominations united to form the Church of South India in 1947 and the Church of North India in 1970.

Currently, Catholics represent 2% of the population, and Protestants, less than 1%. Because Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Pope John Paul II have attracted millions of admirers, the government imposed "anti-conversion laws." Persecution is real. In the last ten years, the BJP party has incited the burnings of hundreds of churches, and murders of dozens of laity and clergy, both Protestant and Catholic. Interestingly, persecution breeds a deeper faith. Of all the countries in the world, last year, India had the most ordinations to the Catholic priesthood.

USA. (307M) Missionaries from Spain brought the faith to the territorial southeastern and southwestern states in the early 1500s. Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance in 1531 to Juan Diego led to the conversion from paganism to Catholicism of 9 million Native Americans within 6 years. Before 1600, 50 priests had been martyred in the US, and by 1776, martyrs totaled 150, almost all of whom were priests. The first priest martyred was killed by Native Americans at Kansas in 1544. The first city founded in the current territorial USA is St. Augustine in 1565.

Puritans came to Plymouth Rock in 1607; they sought freedom of religion for themselves, but prohibited Catholics from doing so under penalty of death. French missionaries brought the faith along the St. Lawrence River to the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi to New Orleans by the early 1700s. In 1776, Protestants represented minimally 98% of the US free population. The Catholic Church burgeoned in numbers and socio-cultural services during the waves of European immigration in the mid to late 1800s. Today, 51% of US citizens identify themselves as Protestant, and 24%, as Catholics. Today, the Protestant and Catholic churches suffer from the crisis of faith which afflicts Western Civilization.

Indonesia. (240M) Portuguese merchants and missionaries brought Catholicism to Indonesia in the early 1500's. Today, Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any country. Indonesia is 90% Muslim, 6% Protestant, and 3% Catholic. In



1975, the Moslem-dominated Indonesian government invaded and annexed the Catholic-dominated island of East Timor.

Throughout the 1990s, violent fighting occurred between Muslims and Christians. Churches were burned. Christians were slaughtered. Christians struck back at the Moslems. The local Catholic bishop and a lay leader shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 for speaking on behalf of social justice and religious rights. In 2002, East Timor regained its independent status.

Brazil. (190M) Portuguese missionaries brought the gospel to Brazil in 1500. At that time and ever since, Catholic missionaries heroically defended Native American tribes of the Amazon against government and business leaders. Today, Brazil suffers from great disparity of wealth and power, and lack of women's rights. The Catholic and Protestant churches promote social justice. In religion, a significant syncretism of religion occurs by the mixing of Catholic liturgical rites with magical occult rites. Evangelical Protestants have made great inroads throughout traditionally Catholic Brazil and Latin America. Today Catholics represent 74% of the population, and Protestants 15%, with the Pentecostals being the fastest growing group.

Pakistan. (175M) The percentage of Catholics in Pakistan is 0.09%. Protestants are almost non-existent in this land which had enjoyed Christian faith until the 8th century when Moslems took control. Catholic missionaries renewed evangelization in the 19th century.

Bangladesh. (156M) Portuguese Catholic missionaries arrived in the 16th century. Even though Islam was declared the national religion in 1988, religious freedom is permitted. Christians account for 3% of the population, of whom 2% are Catholics and the rest Orthodox and Protestant. Mainline Protestants began evangelization in the late 18th century, and Adventist and Pentecostal joined them in the 20th century. Today, 80% of the population is Moslem, and 11% is Hindu.

Nigeria. (124M) Portuguese Catholic missionaries introduced Christianity to the coastal region in the late 15th century. Organized evangelization into the interior began of sub-Saharan Africa began in 1849, thanks to the great Protestant missionary,

David Livingstone, and in 1867 by the Catholic cardinal, Charles Lavigerie. Islam dominates the northern part of the country, and Christianity the southern part. Islamic sharia laws have been imposed especially in the north. Catholics represent 14% of the population, and Protestants, 27%. Most Christians live in the south.

Globally. Out of 6.8 billion people, 1.1 billion are Catholic, and 1 billion belong to Protestant denominational or non-denominational churches. Almost one-third of the world's population is Christian. Also, 1.3 billion are Moslems; 1 billion are Hindus; and 250 million are Buddhists. The fastest growing religions numerically are Islam and Bahai.

## Questions

Epiphany celebrates Christ's desire that the entire world might know, love and serve God and neighbor in and through Jesus. Interesting discussions might flow from the following questions: Why does India remain just 3% Christian despite 2,000 years of Christian presence? Why does China remain just 3% Christian after 1500 years of on-again off-again evangelization?

What factors have contributed to Islam having arisen from being a moribund religion in 1700 to becoming the world's fastest growing religion in 2009? What factors have contributed to Christianity being the slowest growing among the world's major religions?

Among the Christians, Jesus founded the Catholic Church 2,000 years ago, and Protestantism began 500 years ago; why do they have virtually the same number of adherents; what factors have contributed to the rapid and sustained growth of Protestantism? What may Catholics and Protestants learn from each other for their mutual benefit? What may Catholics and mainline Protestants learn from Islam and Pentecostalism in appealing so effectively to the masses?

The opening prayer for the feast of the Epiphany says, "Father, you revealed your Son to the nations." We Christians have much work to do in manifesting Jesus to the world. May we Christians manifest well our faith, hope and love in praise of God and in service of Christ and all humankind.

## THE MASTER GARDENERS

# After Christmas...holiday plants

Mary Ann Ryan  
Adams County Master Gardener  
Coordinator

After Christmas, many people are unsure about what to do with the plants they received. Common holiday plants are amaryllis, cyclamen, Norfolk Island pine, Christmas cactus and poinsettia. Here are 'how-to' instructions on the care of these holiday plants.

### Amaryllis Bulb

First, you'll need a pot large enough to support the size of the bulb. The bulbs are typically quite large, so a 5 or 6 in. pot is probably best. The container should be heavy, like clay or ceramic. As the flower spike grows, the plant can become very top heavy and fall over.

When planting the bulb in the container, leave 1/8" - 1/4" of the bulb out of the pot, and bury the rest in the soil. The soil should be a good quality potting soil. Water the bulb well after planting and place it at a sunny window. If the plant isn't in the sun, the flower spike will stretch.

First the flower spike will appear, producing a large beautiful flower. After the flower is finished blooming, clip the spike. Depending on the size of the bulb, it may produce another flower spike or two. When all the spikes are finished blooming, large leaves will grow. These leaves are often referred to as "straps". Allow these straps to grow. Treat your amaryllis as you would any other houseplant. Water when it is dry, and continue growing it in a sunny window.

When spring approaches and the nighttime temperatures are above 55 degrees F, plant your bulb outside. It can be maintained in the container, or you could plant in a flower or vegetable garden. It will continue to grow its leaves throughout the summer. Keep the bulb well watered and fertilize heavily. When fertilizing, use a fertilizer with a ratio of 10-10-10 or 5-10-5. Feed every other week, and mix according to the label. During the summer months is when the bulb receives its strength to produce its next set of flowers, so proper care and feeding are very important through this growing time.

After a hard frost, dig up the bulb, knock all the soil from the roots, and store it in a cool, dry location to provide the required dormant period. Keep a close eye on the bulb, because when the flower spike begins to appear, it's time to pot it again. After about two months, re-pot the



Red Poinsettia

bulb and begin watering again. If all goes well, you'll have flowers again for another season!

Some problems that you may fumble into: If just the straps are produced and no flower spike the following year, this is an indication of not enough fertilizer through the summer months. Few pests bother the amaryllis. If insects, like aphids, bother the plant, use an insecticidal soap. Be sure to read the label before applying. This is an easy plant to grow and with patience and proper care, you can enjoy the amaryllis flowers year after year!

### Norfolk Island Pine

The Norfolk Island Pine is another common houseplant gifted over the holidays. This plant requires bright light. Water the plant when the soil is dry to the touch. Feed it regularly, about once a month, with a well-balanced fertilizer. This plant tolerates a cool room as well as a warm room. However, dry air isn't a good idea. It prefers humidity. Keep the plant away from fireplaces or heaters.

A common insect problem with the Norfolk is mealy bugs. They will hide in the scales of the leaves or needles. If you see these insects, insecticidal soap or a horticultural oil spray will take care of them. Often more than one application will be necessary for good control. Once again, be sure to read the label before applying any insecticide.

### Cyclamen

Cyclamen is a winter flowering plant and not the easiest to grow, but certainly rewarding to see bloom all through the winter months. The most important thing to remember when trying to grow a cyclamen is to realize that it grows best in cool temperatures and likes plenty of sunlight. A cool sunny window in a cool room would be the best location for this plant. Temperatures that get above 68°F are not benefi-



Early-Christmas-Cactus

cial for prolonging the life of a cyclamen. Watering the cyclamen can be tricky. Be careful not to over water; this will cause roots to rot. Water when the soil is dry to the touch. Be sure to discard the excess water that drains into the saucer about 15 minutes after watering.

The cyclamen will bloom from October through April. When the temperatures become warmer, the plant stops producing flower buds. As the summer progresses, often times cyclamen will go into a state of dormancy. The plant will stop growing leaves, and often appear to be dying; but continue to keep the plant alive through the summer months, keeping it as cool as you can, and giving it plenty of sunlight inside and continue watering. When the fall months approach and the nighttime temperatures begin to drop, you will see an improvement in your plant's behavior. Its leaves will perk up and it will begin to produce flower buds again. Before you know it, the plant will be back to its old self and ready to perform for you during the winter months!

### Christmas Cactus

Christmas cactus is enjoyed by many over the holiday season. It

also prefers a good sunny and cool location. It requires a dryer soil than many houseplants, so let it dry out between waterings. In order to get this plant to re-bloom, it requires a cold period in the fall. The plant can be set outside during the summer in a shady location. After a few cool nights (temperatures dropping to 45°F) in the fall, bring it back inside and put it in a sunny location. It needs the cool temperatures to trigger the flower buds to set. Before you know it, the Christmas cactus will be blooming for you again!

### Poinsettia

Keep your poinsettia away from cold and drafty places. Hot spots, such as by a fireplace, near a heater, or above appliances are areas that you should avoid. Poinsettias like the sun, so lots of light is a must for the plant's health and survival. Near a window that is not drafty is the best location for your plant. Water your plant well when the soil is dry to the touch. Be sure not to over water the plants.

If there is any water in the saucer 15 minutes after watering, be sure to empty the saucer as the excess water can cause rotting of the roots. It is best to discard the foil or plastic that is surrounding the pot. Proper drainage is necessary to the health and survival of the plant. If you want to keep the paper on for festive color, one to two weeks is the limit. Many garden centers offer a multitude of containers that you can sit you plant in.

Keep an eye out for insect infestation. Whiteflies, spider mites, mealy bugs and aphids are common insect problems. Scout the plant frequently, and if any are detected, spray with an insecticidal soap. More than one application is normally necessary to control these insects. Be sure to read the

label on the bottle before applying.

After the holidays, poinsettias can be thrown away or maintained for next year's holiday season. It's not easy, but it is possible to keep the plant alive and get it to re-bloom.

First, you'll want to cut the plant back hard in late March or early April. Water regularly and fertilize once every two weeks with a balanced fertilizer.

When the weather begins to warm, about 55° F nighttime temperature, you can put the plant outside. Keep it in a container; don't plant it in the ground. To keep the plant bushy, prune it during the summer months. When September swings around, watch for the temperatures again. It will need to come inside when the nighttime temperatures begin to drop.

Around the first of October, the plant needs to be lit at particular intervals. During the day, when the sun would normally be out, the poinsettia needs sunlight. But at night, when the sun goes down, it needs uninterrupted darkness. An easy way to achieve this is by covering the plant with a box that will allow no light into it at sun down, and uncovering it at sun up. When the bracts begin to color, usually at the beginning of December, your plant is again ready for holiday display!

Enjoy your holiday gifts. Take good care of them and they will reward you year after year with beautiful flowers and a healthy environment!

To learn more about how to become a Master Gardener call Mary Ann Ryan at 717-334-6271

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## ROBERT CHAMBERS' The Book of Days



January is the open gate of the year, shut until the shortest day passed, but now open to let in the lengthening daylight, which will soon fall upon dim patches of pale green, that show where spring is still sleeping. Sometimes Between the hoary pillars—when the winter is mild—a few wan snowdrops will peep out and catch the faint sunlight which streams in coldly through the opening gateway, like timid messengers sent to see if Spring has yet stirred from her long sleep.

But it is yet too early for the hardy crocus to throw its banded gold along the pathway; and as for the 'ratite primrose,' it sits huddled up in its little cloak of green, or is seen peeping through its half-closed yellow eye, as if watching the snow-flakes as they fall. Only the red-breasted robin—his heart filled with hope—sings his cheerful song on the naked hawthorn spray, through which the tiny buds are striving to break forth, like a herald proclaiming glad tidings, and making known, far and wide, that ere long 'the winter will be over and gone,' and the moonlight-coloured May-blossoms once again appear.

All around, as yet, the landscape is barren and dreary. You pass the village churchyard, and almost shiver to think that the very dead who lie there must be pierced by the cold, for there is not even a crimson hip or haw to give a look of warmth to the stark hedges, through which the bleak wind whistles.

There is no sound of the voices of village children in the winding lanes—nothing but the creaking of the old carrier's cart along the frost-bound road, and you pity the old wife who sits peeping out between the opening of the tilt, on her way to the neighbouring markettown. The dog walks under the cart in silence, as if to avail himself of the little shelter it affords, instead of frisking and barking beside his master, as he does when 'the leaves are green and long.'

There is a dull, leaden look about the sky, and you have no wish to climb the hill-top on which those gray clouds hang gloomily. You feel sorry for the poor donkey that stands hanging his head under the guide-post, and wish there were flies about to make him whisk his ears, and not leave him altogether motionless.

A walk in the country on a fine frosty morning in January gives the blood a healthy circulation, and sets a man wondering why so many sit croodling' over the fire at such a season.

The trees, covered with frost, are beautiful to look upon, and the grass bending beneath its weight seems laden with crystal; while in the distance the hedges seem sheeted with May blossoms, so thickly, that you might fancy there was not room enough for a green leaf to peep out between the bloom.

This is the time of year to see the beautiful ramification of the trees, for the branches are no longer hidden by leaves, and all the interlacings and crossings of exquisite network are visible—those pencilling of the sprays which too few of our artists study.

Looking nearer at the hedges, we already see the tiny buds forming, mere specks on the stem, that do but little more than raise the bark; yet by the aid of a glass we can uncoil the future leaves which summer weaves in her loom into broad green curtains.

That was the golden-crested wren which darted across the road, and though the very smallest of our British birds, it never leaves us, no matter how severe the winter may be, but may be seen among the fir-trees, or pecking about where the holly and ivy are still green.

Now the blue titmouse may be seen hanging by his claws, with his back downward, hunting for insects in some decaying bough, or peeping about the thatched eaves of the cottages and outhouses, where it will pull out the straw

to stir up the insects that lie snug within the thatch.

How these birds manage to live through the killing frosts has long been a puzzle to our ablest naturalists, and after all their research, He alone knoweth without whose permission not a sparrow falls to the ground.

There is no better time than during a walk in January to get a good view of the mosses that grow on and around the trees, for at this season they stand boldly out in all their beautiful colourings, falling on the eye in masses of rich red, silver-gray, umbered brown, and gaudy orange; while the yellow moss is almost as dazzling as sunshine, and the green the most beautiful that gladdens the earth.

In some places, we see it fitted together like exquisite mosaic work, in others it hangs down like graceful fringe, while the green looks like fairy trees, springing from a cushion of yielding satin. The screw moss is very curiously formed; it grows plentifully on old walls, and looks like dark-green flossy velvet.

Snow in the streets is very different from snow in the country, for there it no sooner falls than it begins to make more dirt, and is at once trampled into mud by a thousand passing feet on the pavement, while in the roadway the horses and vehicles work it into 'slush,' which, only a brisk shower of rain can clear away. In the country snow is really white; there is none of that gray dirty look about it.

While watching the snow fall, you can almost fancy that the flakes are white blossoms shaken from a land of flowers that lies somewhere above the sky; those that touch the river are gone in an instant, while some, as they fall slantways, unite together before they touch. the earth: Science has seized upon and pictured the fantastic shapes the falling snow-flakes assume, and they are 'beautiful exceedingly.

The gorse, furze, whin, or 'fuzz'—country people sometimes calling it by the latter name—is often in flower all the year round, though the great golden-bellied baskets it hangs out in summer are now nearly closed, and of a pale yellowish green. Although its spikes are as sharp as spears, and there is no cutting out a golden branch without wearing thick gloves, still it is one of the most beautiful of our wayside shrubs.

Many a time have we cut a branch in January, put it in water, and placed it in a warm room, when in two or three days all its golden lamps have lighted up, and where it stood it seemed to 'make sunshine in the shady place.'

Where gorse grows abundantly,

and bees have ready access to the bloom, there the finest-coloured and sweetest honey is produced. In a very mild season, we have seen, under sheltered hedges that face the south, the celandine in flower in January. Even when not in bloom, its large bright green leaves give a spring look to the barren embankments; but when out, its clear yellow star-shaped flowers catch the eye sooner than the primrose, through their deep golden hue.

The common red or dead nettle may also occasionally be found in flower. Let those who would throw it aside as an unsightly weed, examine the bloom through a glass, and they will be amazed at its extreme loveliness; such ruby tints as it shows, imbedded in the softest bloom, never graced the rounded arm of beauty.

The blue periwinkle is another beautiful flower that diadems the brow of January when the season is warm. It must be looked for in sheltered situations, for it is not at all a common wild-flower: once seen, it can never be mistaken, for the twisted bud before opening resembles the blue convolvulus. Nor must the common chickweed be overlooked, with its chaste white star-shaped flowers, which shew as early as the snowdrops.

The large broad-leaved mouse-ear chickweed flowers later, and will be sought for in vain in January, though it sheds its seed and flowers frequently six times during the summer. Many other flowers we might name, though they are more likely to be found in bloom next month.

Flocks of wild-geese and other water-fowl, also visit our reedy marshes and sheltered lakes in winter; far up the sky their wild cries may be heard in the silence of midnight, as they arrive. Rooks now return from the neighbouring woods, where they have mostly wintered, to their nest-trees; while the smaller birds, which drew near to our habitation during the depth of winter, begin to disappear.

Those that require insect food, go and forage among the grass and bushes; others retreat to the sides of stagnant pools, where, during the brief intervals of sunshine, gnats are now found. Others hunt in old walls, or among decayed trees, where insects are hidden in a dormant state, or are snugly ensconced in their warm cocoons, awaiting the first warm touch of spring.

### Historical

The earliest calendars, the Jewish, the Egyptian, and Greek, did not place the commencement of the year at this point. It was not done till the formation of the Roman calendar, usually attributed to the second king, Numa Pompilius, whose reign is set down as terminating anno 672 B.C.


Numa, it is said, having decreed that the year should commence now, added two new months to the ten into which the year had previously been divided, calling the first Januarius, in honour of Janus, the deity supposed to preside over doors, who might very naturally be presumed also to have something to do with the opening of the year.

Although, however, there was a general popular regard to the 1st of January as the beginning of the year, the ancient Jewish year, which opened with the 25th of March, continued long to have a legal position in Christian countries.

In England, it was not till 1752 that the 1st of January became the initial day of the legal, as it had long been of the popular year. Before that time, it was customary to set down dates between the 1st of January and the 24th of March inclusive, thus: January 30th, 1648-9: meaning, that popularly the year was 1649, but legally 1648.

Our Saxon ancestors originally called this month Wolf montt—that is, 'Wolf-month—' because people were wont always in that month to be more in danger to be devoured of wolves than in any season else of the year, for that, through the extremity of cold and snow, those ravenous creatures could not find beasts sufficient to feed upon.' Subsequently, the month was named by the same people After-Yule—that is, After Christmas. It is rather odd that we should have abandoned the Saxon names of the months, while retaining those of the days of the week.

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## THE (retired) ECOLOGIST

# Optimism in an uncertain world

Bill Meredith

*Optimism: The doctrine, or belief, that everything is beautiful, including what is ugly, everything good, especially the bad, and everything right that is wrong. ...Ambrose Bierce, 1911. The Devil's Dictionary.*

Anno Domini 2010 is here. The other day I heard someone remark that the "00's" are over, and we're starting the "teens" decade. Technically, the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century won't end until this year is over, but most of us don't think that way when we are scratching out incorrectly-written dates in our checkbooks. Time means different things to different people. For example, you'd think younger folks should be looking forward with hope while oldsters look backward with nostalgia, but it doesn't seem to work that way. My middle-aged kids are starting to refer to the 20th Century as the good old days, while my contemporaries look at the demographic tables and realize that we have passed the age listed as our life expectancy, and we look forward with dismay when it dawns on us that 10% of the 21st Century has flown by. The remaining 90% does not look conducive to optimism... a matter of concern, even though I will not see most of it.

I'm not an optimist of the type Ambrose Bierce defined, but I do like to keep a positive outlook on things. As I left church one Sunday last month I was pondering the increasing difficulty of being optimistic when I happened to notice a small plant growing out of the side of the building. It was a common garden weed called henbit, a member of the mint family, and in a sense an illegal alien; its European ancestors were stowaways on a ship some 350 years ago. It has reddish-purple flowers which produce large numbers of tiny seeds; they can survive for years until they're blown or washed to a place where they can germinate. Evidently a seed that was blowing around in the dust last fall happened to stick to the brick wall of the church, and started to grow.

It couldn't have picked a worse place to start its life; it is on the southeast side of the building, where the sun is hottest and the water evaporates fastest, and the nearest soil is three feet below it. Nevertheless, it managed to force a thread of a root into a crack in the old mortar, and to produce a two-inch stem with four dime-sized leaves. It can bloom even in cold weather, so if something doesn't knock it from its perch it will start making its own seeds before long. If it were capable of thinking, we could argue about whether it was stupid or auda-

cious to pick a place like that to grow; but regardless of the verdict on that point, we would have to agree that it is optimistic to keep trying.

Thinking about that cheered me up as I went on home, so I decided to go for a walk that afternoon. The path toward the creek was overgrown with briars, so I was making more noise than usual. There is a place in the creek where some branches and debris got trapped against the bank and created a pool of still water, and as I approached it three ducks took flight. Visibility was poor because the afternoon sun was low and directly in front of me, but their whiny squawks identified them as wood ducks. They are the most colorful of our local ducks, and I knew what they looked like even though I couldn't see them very well, so I watched them fly off across the field and circle back toward the creek farther upstream. Even a cynical curmudgeon like Ambrose Bierce would have agreed that they were beautiful.

When they were out of sight I glanced back at the water, and there on a partly submerged log was an otter. It was watching me as I watched the ducks. It was the size of a large cat; the fur was dark gray-brown on its body but lighter gray on its face, and it had heavy white whiskers. Otters are supposed to be nearsighted, but this one had an alert, quizzical expression and seemed as interested in me as I was in it.

We stared at each other for a full minute, and then it turned around with eel-like smoothness

and flowed into the water. Its tail was thick and heavy at the base and tapered to a point as it disappeared. In a lifetime of studying stream ecology, that was only the second one I had ever seen (the other was in Florida, about 10 years ago).

I first learned about otters in a book by Ernest Thompson Seton, which I read when I was about ten. Seton described vividly how they would run through the snow and slide on their bellies for the sheer fun of it, and how they slid down banks to dive into the water. They were once common in forest streams throughout the country, but trapping and degradation of streams by mining and agriculture eliminated them from most of their original range. They still occur naturally in the tidewater areas of Maryland, and were re-introduced several years ago in Allegheny County; the one I saw might have come from either of those areas via the Potomac and Monocacy rivers.

It was probably a young one that had been kicked out of its parents' territory last fall and wandered off to seek its fortune, as happens with many wild animals. It will find fish and crayfish to eat here for a while, but probably will not stay around. More likely, it will wander about the local streams, stopping frequently at logs and tree trunks to leave pheromone-laden messages, like dogs at fire hydrants, in case another of the opposite gender should happen by. In view of its population size locally, this is unlikely to happen; but, in the kingdom of otters, you have to be an optimist

to survive.

Turning toward home, I was stopped in mid-amble (I don't stride any more) by the hooting of a great horned owl. Usually they are heard at night, but this one must have got up early, and it sounded fairly close. Its call was answered by another, slightly lower in pitch, and farther away. The two were surely a mated pair; the one with the deeper voice was the female, which, like many birds of prey, is larger than the male. I tried to answer them by imitating their calls; it was a poor effort, but it must have made them curious, for I saw one of them after a few minutes. They establish their territory and start courting in December, and lay their eggs in January.

At first glance this seems like a strange schedule; it takes a lot of energy to maintain body heat for brooding eggs in the winter, and occasionally storms may destroy nests. But, they're optimists; if all works as planned, the eggs will hatch after a month of brooding,



and there will be enough prey animals to sustain small nestlings. They will grow fast, and demand more food by March, but by then there will be plenty of mice, squirrels, rabbits, and skunks to meet their needs.

I went home without further incident until I reached the back yard; one of the owls was there in a tree watching me. I guess it was aroused enough by my attempt to imitate its song to make sure I wasn't an owl in disguise, threatening to move in on its territory. After all, even an optimist can't be too careful.

To read past editions of the *Retired Ecologist*, visit the *Authors' section* of *Emmitsburg.net*



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# MY LIFE IS MY CAREER

## Great Souls

Christine Maccabee

It is hard to believe so many years I have passed since the tragic deaths of John Denver and Princess Dianna, two people I greatly admired. That same year, 1997, my dear father also passed from this world to the next. They were all great souls.

There is a theory, and even a book written, about famous persons dieing in threes. Well, famous or not, those three deaths in 1997 affected me deeply, so deeply that I began writing a song for solo and chorus called "Great Souls". It is still not completed and may never be, as I simply cannot come up with appropriate words beyond the few I started with. I suppose the reason words allude me is because there really are no words to express the inexpressible.

Whenever I write, I know that it has already been said in many, many ways by countless others. I know there is really nothing new under the sun, simply unique expressions of the very same things. So now with the recent deaths of two wonderful women in our community, Pat Bell and Peg Franklin, I struggle with words again. Over and over, like a mantra, I find myself singing the incomplete lyrics to my song. I suppose by doing this I am honoring their passing and yet keeping them alive in my heart.

"Great souls convening in Heaven, Great Souls no longer on earth, Great Souls convening in Heaven..."

For those of you who never knew Peg, all I can say is that even up to the day she died at age 94 she had a heavenly soprano voice. She became more self-conscious as her voice changed with age, but she never stopped singing. She went from the purest of tones to occasional cracking, and always complained when the soprano part went too low. However, whenever she hit those high notes with the greatest of ease and utmost beauty it was Pat who always said to her "Oh Peg, that was so perfect." Great souls...

I had the great privilege and honor to be the choir director for these past 6 years of the little choir these two ladies were in as members of the Emmitsburg Presbyterian church. I say I directed them, but in truth, it was they who directed me into greater faith, courage and positivity. I will never forget them and I feel them with me even now. They are just beyond the veil, rooting for us all!

Ever since the death of my father in '97 I have become more fully aware of that thin veil which separates his spirit from mine. Some days, out of the blue, I find my spirit peeking through to the other side of the veil and inquiring "Well Dad, how am I doing?" Usually the answer comes back to me, not in words, but in feelings of love, acceptance, and encouragement, making my struggles here on earth lighter and more meaningful.

Over the years the veil between this world and the next has become more transparent and my connection with other souls who have passed to the other side is more like a conversation, and never one sided! I find myself thanking my Aunt Marion for her generous love and her answer is always "Of course, Christine, for we believe in you".

An Episcopal Priest I once knew, who loved me and wanted to marry me, though I blindly refused, has been looking out for me and helping me from the spirit world ever since he died. His job in Heaven has not been an easy one as he has many loves. Still, I know that he is watching out for me. Then, there is my grandmother, and now I have Peg and Pat there pulling for me and saying "All is well with our souls." Wisdom does indeed come with age.

So, does this all mean that I am engaged in a form of ancestor worship? No, not really. I do not worship my Aunt, or the Priest, or my father, or my grandmother. I simply am grateful for them and continuing to love them and acknowledge them as living souls who are now convening together with the Godhead in a perfect place where all their aches and pains and problems have been washed away by pure Divine light, and where they are continuing to make a difference in my life. I feel their love and turn to them for advice, for direction, and for reassurance that I am indeed on the right path even though it at times is strewn with thorns. Whose isn't?

To atheists and agnostics out there I make no apologies for my belief. As a musician and having sung in and directed several choirs, I have experienced directly the harmonies of heaven through the human voice. It has always been my experience, whether hearing a magnificent well-trained choir performing in the chapel at Gettysburg Seminary, or our tiny three part harmony choir at church,

when the hearts and the voices are in tune, and the song is worthy, we can and do experience the harmony of the Divine. More often than not it is the very inspiration I need when my heart is heavy, and it is a direct reflection of a more perfect world in this life and the next.

So, thank you Peg and Pat for all the great times together, both the laughter and the tears. We are now down to two people in our little choir, are open to new-comers, but for now my tenor and I will carry on with the heavenly harmonies as best we can.

As I type these thoughts this snowy day, the Saturday before Christmas I continue contemplating the realities of life and death. Yesterday my friends little dog chased and injured one of our Argentinian chickens that had escaped the enclosure due to unclipped wings. Wings had been clipped twice since birth, but a third time was needed as they loved flying up to the top of the fence and perching. The desire to fly is as real an instinct in a bird as is the desire of a dog to chase and kill a little animal and so, today, as she rested by my wood stove on a bed of wild grasses, my beautiful golden girl passed away.

As a young child I very much loved my animals, especially my dog. One day I asked my minister if my dog would go to heaven when he died, and the answer was a quick "absolutely not". I was greatly saddened, but not altogether convinced that he was right.

In fact, as time went on, I grew into a deeper understanding of soul and spirit. Today I firmly believe that all living things contain the spark of the Divine. I have experienced more love through the eyes of my dog or the purring of my cat than I have with some people, and I know I am not alone in saying that. Are not all living things a mystical part of this miraculous Earth creation and do they not all play a part in some Divine plan?

What do you believe?  
I just learned of a book I plan to



read called "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. It is about one man's quest to discover belief after having lost it, and learning the deep truth of the Divine spark (soul) in each of us.

The book starts with an unusual request of him made by an 82 year old Rabbi in his home town. He asked Mitch to deliver his eulogy when he died. As Mitch interviewed him in an effort to learn more about him he asked the Rabbi two questions. The first was, "Do you believe in God?" to which the Rabbi replied "Yes." The second question was

a bit trickier: "Do you believe in life after death?" to which the Rabbi replied: "The good news is, by the time you read my eulogy I will know. The bad news is that by the time I know I won't be able to tell you."

To read other articles by Christine Maccabee visit the Authors' section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net)

Editor's Note: For more on the question: 'Do Pets Go to Heaven?' read Pastor Wade Martin's article on [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net).

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## PETS LARGE AND SMALL

# The down horse

Dr. Kim Brokaw, DVM

I frequently joke with clients that one of the main reasons I decided to become a vet is so that I could treat my own pets. Truthfully I have been fortunate to have relatively healthy pets. Aside from the small lacerations, various joint injections, and routine health care, I haven't really had to do that much for them.

I keep my horses at the vet clinic. They can be seen throughout the day by staff and by everyone who comes and goes from the vet clinic. Bart and Ray love to take naps on the hill facing the road. While Ray tends to sleep sitting up, Bart tends to stretch out and sleep with his mouth open. Passersby often think that they are colicky or dead. The clinic has gotten numerous calls. The usual conversation involves a very worried driver who says a horse in the field doesn't look good, and "you need to send a vet out to look at the horses immediately." Everyone "knows" that horses sleep standing up. (Truthfully they nap standing up but for deep REM sleep they have to lie down.) But because of this "knowledge" kind hearted people mistake a sleeping horse for a dead horse. I do appreciate knowing that people are watching out for my pets. It provides comfort in that I can't always be there to observe them and make sure they are okay. A down horse could be a sign of anything ranging from sleepiness to gastrointestinal disease.

Bart and Ray have favorite sleeping locations and based on the weather (wind direction, amount of sun), they will sleep in different spots in their pasture. I have learned where they like to sleep. However, the other night I went into the barn to feed the horses dinner. Ray was lying down in the center aisle. I wasn't even half way down the barn aisle and I knew that this was a problem and he was sick. For starters he wouldn't be sleeping there and two it wasn't nap time. He was colicking and the own-

er side of me came out as I panicked and thought he was dying. Luckily it took less than 5 seconds for the rational veterinarian side of me to kick in and realize that he wasn't dead and I could fix this.

My mom was visiting so I called down to the house to let her know that Ray was colicking and he looked bad. He was stretched out on the ground and moaning. I told her that I would be late coming to the house for dinner as I was going to treat him. She rushed up to the barn, in the complete darkness, to help me. Unfortunately she tripped on the uneven pavement and sprained her ankle. I now had two patients to take care of. Luckily my mom knows where she falls on the priority list, i.e. second to the horses. So she hobbled her way to a bucket and sat in the aisle and watched as I performed a physical exam on Ray. His heart rate was normal but his intestines were hypermotile and making gurgly sounds. That was a good sign. It meant that most likely I was dealing with a simple gas colic and once the medication kicked in, he should be feeling almost normal again. I gave him a single injection of Banamine. Within minutes of receiving the medication, he jumped back up to his feet and was looking for dinner.

Unfortunately not all horses recover as quickly as Ray did. There is a fine line between those that recover uneventfully and those which require \$3,000-\$210,000 trips to a surgical referral hospital in order to prevent death. Ray had looked bad and I mentally prepared myself for a long sleepless night. Ray is an older, arthritic, off the race track thoroughbred. He would not be a candidate for a trip to the referral hospital. However, my frequent, middle of the night, checks revealed a happy healthy looking horse. The next morning he gobbled down his breakfast. As I had denied him dinner the night before, his appetite was particularly strong.

One of the difficulties in veteri-

nary medicine is determining how sick an animal is based on the description of the owner. As an owner, if I had needed to call a vet when Ray was colicking, it would have been a panicked call with me saying he is dying and perhaps I should just get a backhoe. Horses who have colic pain can be quite dramatic. Some thrash. Others become limp and look like they have given up trying to survive. It is difficult for an owner to assess the seriousness of a colic. Sometimes, it is even difficult for an owner to determine if the illness is colic.

A few weeks ago, a call came in from one owner stating that her horse had been down since noon. It was currently 5pm. I could detect a hint of panic in the owner's voice. Colic is one of the most common reasons for a horse to be down and unable to get up. However, based on the description it sounded more like her horse was down from arthritis. I instructed the owners to bring their horse food and water while I was on my way to their farm. Since they said they had been trying for hours to get her up, I also gave instructions for them to get a tractor and a blanket that could be used as a sling. The owner had already given her bute (a pain killer) and was starting to brace for the worst. Frequently when older horses lie down and can't get up, the only option is euthanasia. When I arrived, I realized confirmed that this horse was not colicking. She was older and arthritic, and consequently was unable to stand up. Winter is always hard on the older horses. Their joints get sore and they have difficulty getting up and down.

I was pleased to see a large group of people and a tractor waiting by the horse. The mare looked alert but was too weak to push herself to her feet. I figured that we had enough people that we could hopefully get her up. The owner's mom informed me that the mare had arthritic stifles that had been injected only a couple months ago. The left one was worse. The left one was also the one that



was on the bottom. When horses stand up, it is best to have the stronger leg closest to the ground. Also, as the mare had been down for a while, it was possible that she had a transient paralysis from lying on the leg for so long. I informed everyone that I was going to try and flip the mare over. I placed my knee on her neck and reached across her shoulders and grabbed the front leg. I had everyone grab a leg and we flipped the mare onto her other side. I let her sit for a few minutes and then asked her to stand up. She effortlessly got to her feet. Neither the tractor nor the blanket sling had been required. The owner and her friends were amazed at how quickly I had gotten the mare to her feet. Truthfully I was amazed too. It is rare that I can arrive on a farm and have the problem fixed in less than 5 min-

utes. I patted the horse on the head and thanked her for making me look good. She'd done all the real work and I knew it even if the owners didn't. I gave the owners additional instructions on managing arthritis and got in my car and drove home wishing all my calls would go that smoothly. Dealing with a downed horse can be one of the most rewarding parts of veterinary medicine or a source of much frustration. Many times, nothing that the veterinarian can do will save the horse. Sometimes, simple measures offer an instantaneous cure.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Kim Brokaw applies her talents and love of animals at the Walkersville Veterinary Clinic.*

*Have a pet story you would like to share? If so, send it to use at editor@emmitsburg.com.*



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## UNsung HEROS

# Remembering Pat Bell

Bo Cadle

Too often we lose access to things we need to know because we are forced to look at life's circumstances through the filter-of-death of a colleague or friend. I'm sitting here battling with the onset of early "writer's block" and wrestling a grammatical conundrum. I'm still stuck with my not so innocuous placement of punctuation marks, hyphenated words, or the correct spelling, or nuanced meaning of a word or term. Used to be such problems were easily solved with no more than a quick phone call to Pat Bell, our neighbor and copyeditor for the paper. (Take that, you wayward comma, we would say after consulting with Pat.) Now Pat Bell has passed and her passing has left a void in the writing community.

Pat was the only copyeditor of The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch. She had the enviable skill of taking a gaggle of words and honing them into succinct, clear, and accurate expressions. More than once she prevented us from

ending up with egg on our faces.

Once a word in a headline in an ad (25 point bold) was misspelled with the embarrassing result of it being morphed into a "four-letter-word." We were scheduled to be out of town and in our rush to make a deadline missed the error. Pat did not. She showed no mercy. She withheld her discovery and didn't tell us about this faux till after the paste-up had gone to press. Aarrghh! - talk about a stomach dropping out. She left us to stew in our juice while the paper was being distributed, we thought, containing the bomb. We sneaked back into town and eventually, in her quiet heh-heh-heh manner told us she had made the correction. Saved again.

She worked tirelessly to make sure the corrected articles got in before any deadlines. Not a mis-used semicolon escaped her eye. She did not miss an opportunity to chastise us when we were consistently careless with our punctuation, but she was quick to offer a compliment when we started learning our lesson. Having her

tell us "I like it," referring to my written commentary, was like getting an "A" in English class.

Pat battled heaviness and had inherited her father's constant, creaky, painful knees which limited her mobility; but not her interest and care in being involved in the community in ways that she could. Locally, she was a member of the Friends of the Library Board, worked with The Daughters of Charity Outreach Program, and was an Elder of the Emmitsburg Presbyterian Church and a member of the choir. She also served on the Emmitsburg Council of Churches. Oh, she was also our kitty sitter.

Pat's involvement as copyeditor of The Emmitsburg Regional Dispatch was heralded by a Christmas gift she gave us. It's message: "No passion in the world is equal to the passion to alter someone else's draft." -- H. G. Wells. (heh-heh-heh)

We should have been forewarned.

Pat partnered with us for nine years in the give and take of publishing the newspaper. We appreciated her skill and valued her friendship.

I too have fond memories of working with Pat. Recognizing that the proper English is an essential element of a good paper, one of the first acts as Managing Editor of the News-Journal was to seek Pat out and enlist her support as our text editor.

Having worked with me back when I was a writer for Bo & Jean, Pat had long since given up trying to teach me English. "Just try at least to get it close," she would always say with a smile, "and I'll do the rest."

To say Pat was a workhorse would be an understatement. Within hours of sending her an article, she would have it back to me - ready to go. That is, provided her computer would cooperate! So on a what seemed a weekly basis, I would head over to Pat's house to unclog her computer - it was either that or learn to spell myself!

I always enjoyed my visits with Pat. She always had a cup of tea waiting for me and I would no sooner sit down, then her two cats would fight for a prime spot on my lap. Pat would try to shush them away, but they knew I was a cat person so they ignored her, much to her 'faked' displeasure! Our visits were filled with talk

about the latest round of articles. Pat loved the decision to move the paper to a more journalistic nature and always had high phase for all the writers. She saved her highest praise for Jack Deatherage, who she described as a 'Renaissance Man,' and Bill Meredith who she described as the 'Pillar' of the paper.

It didn't take me long to figure out what Pat was doing wrong with her computer, and had I wanted to, I could have taught her what to do to prevent I from crashing. But had I done that, I would have lost my excuse for my weekly visits. My time would have been taken up by other things and Pat would have become just another person at the other end of an e-mail.

As if was, helping Pat forced me to stop and take a deep breath and remember what was important in life. Be it the simple purring of her cat as it sat on my lap, the sweet aroma of her teas, or the pleasant company of someone who had lived a good life and knew their time on this earth was drawing to a close. I never left her house without a smile. For all help, opportunities and insights she so selflessly gave me, I am, and will always be, deeply grateful.

Michael Hillman

# Down Under! If love makes the world go round, diplomacy makes it work

Lindsay, Melbourne Australia!

It's not often I can come up with a news story from down under, one that's almost hot off the press, and one that should be of interest to many (thinking) Americans. It's this:

A former leader of a major political party here has been appointed ambassador to the US by the current prime minister of Australia. His name is Kim Beazley; he is one of the most widely respected people who have held this post, and it seems sure he will do a very great deal to cement Australia-US relations.

He was born in 1948 in Perth, the capital of that vast - almost half the continent, and mostly uninhabited - area of the west, imaginatively called Western Australia. He is a son of a long serving politician who made a name for himself in the field of defense and foreign relations. He entered federal

politics in 1980, became a minister in the then labor government in 1983, and in 1996 he became leader of the opposition and leader of the Federal Labor Party.

Now a digression. Australian politics is as different from American politics as honey is from marmalade. Both can provide nutrition, both have a common purpose, both are spread, but you could never be fooled into thinking one was the other. Having been founded by the Brits, the Westminster system was put firmly in place as soon as the colony had enough people who could mark their voting paper with the necessary cross and return the ruling conservatives to power.

In other words, from about 1800. But also stemming from a convict colony, the notion of sucking up to the ruling class was anathema to the majority, but who nonetheless knew that even-

tual and continuing freedom lay in the provision of good government. Therefore, rather than toeing the conservative line - where the status quo is revered - they determined that social experiment would be one way to advance their capacity to govern into the future.

Some of the early reforms they saw enacted include universal suffrage (1898), the 40 hour week (1944), the workers arbitration system where non-political arbiters were appointed to resolve labour disputes (1922?) and which continue to the present day in different guises, the formation of relatively progressive and not too self-serving unions, (about 1880) the provision of universal means tested health care (1970), the pharmaceutical benefits scheme where proven but needed medicines are made available to pensioners and other needy people at a fixed price (currently about \$5) with strict control on prices paid to the manufacturers, means tested pensions as a fixed proportion of average weekly earnings, an independent judiciary, while until about 1988 many publicly used infrastructure services were owned and run by the government.

There were other lesser but interesting ideas, and not everything proved to be worthwhile, but the ethos remained and not only is no one any the worse off, many are far better off and social unrest is minimal.

But politics here have remained relatively less conservative than yours, far more middle of the road, (which some say means left-leaning) but also more embracing of the notion that not everyone can look out for themselves and will need help from time to time.

In rough terms, it is said that our conservative politicians are about as conservative as the Democrats, while the opposition, the Labor Party, is traditionally less so, (but at present is actually more so). Our present political stance is modeled on Tony Blair's English style - but let's not get into that.

Anyway, Mr. Beazley has a background in this left-leaning landscape, but no conservative should take umbrage for not only is he an accomplished diplomat, he has enormous knowledge and love of American people and their history that is not only rare, it is profound. For instance, when, as a very young and junior minister of defense in 1988 he was taken on a tour of Antietam, site of the bloodiest one day battle of the American Civil War he began to expound on the overall strategy used. The expert accompanying the party was confounded by not only his guests general knowledge, but by the searching questions on some of the finer points of strategy adopted by both sides in this complex operation.

Hugh White, now a professor of strategic studies here, accompanied Kim on his journey and he writes: 'I remember seeing him reduce some hard line senior American policymakers, if not to tears than certainly to dewy eyes and lumpy throats by explaining to them how the Civil War, and the way Lincoln resolved the slavery issue through the terrible experiences of the civil war, had provided the US with the authority to play its leadership role in the 20th and 21st centuries - and that if America had not had the civil war it could not have done that.' He also told them that the whole

world was the beneficiary of that suffering.

The combination of political savvy, high strategy and morality is very characteristic of this man, who never made prime minister possibly because of this, but also makes him an ideal choice to bring our two nations closer, especially in these times of financial stress - and I have to boast that our less conservative stance has ensured more and better safeguards were kept in place here, limiting the damage and helping a fast bounce back, whilst putting our leader, Kevin Rudd, firmly on the world stage.

No matter what is pretended, many of the real issues in the world today are not resolved at Brussels or NATO headquarters, but in Washington. Mr. Beazley also has a very clear picture of the need for intelligence sharing between our two countries. Australia collects a great deal of information from its tracking stations, and it was Kim's work that brought the sharing of that to fruition.

Former US defense secretary Caspar Weinberger once said that Kim 'bomber' Beazley was one of the finest defense ministers he had ever worked with, and former secretary of state George Schultz rated him as outstanding.

So, if you get the chance to meet him or hear him speak, do so. You will not be disappointed. And if you manage to get him to visit Emmitsburg you will be amply rewarded. I know he'd be interested in you, the area, and the history you possess. Drop a line to the Australian embassy. Just don't tell them I suggested it, because I haven't spoken to them.



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## IN MY OWN WORDS

## Backwards and forwards

Katherine Au

“Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.”

—Soren Kierkegaard

The holiday season has passed and a new year has started. Again during the holiday season I ate too many sweets and spent too much money. And, again, as the year was winding down I made a few New Year's resolutions and resolved to see them through. It has become my pattern. Each year I finish my year thinking of what I'd like to change during the next year. I've learned to keep my list short for if it gets too long then I'm sure to not accomplish my many goals. As it is, by the end of each year, if I've managed to keep one or two of my resolutions, then I've done well.

Over the years I've learned that many others make resolutions too. I've heard my friends and family tell me of their goals, their intentions for change, or their desire to shift something in their life. I often wondered if there were trends in resolutions and so I looked on the internet and found a list of a top ten resolutions made each year. While browsing the internet I came across a web site with the following top ten New Year's resolution list:

Spend More Time with Family and Friends

- Fit in Fitness
- Tame the Bulge
- Quit Smoking
- Enjoy Life More
- Quit Drinking
- Get Out of Debt
- Learn Something New
- Help Others
- Get Organized

My yearly lists tend to be a bit different, but I can certainly see why those would make a top ten list. Each one's New Year's resolutions are of course person specific. If someone is overweight, if someone smokes, if someone drinks too much, if someone is in debt, then one of the items on the above list would fit for that person. But some of the others speak to what leads to a successful, fulfilling life for all of us: taking care of ourselves (being more fit), enjoying life, learning new things, helping others – and the one that heads the list, spending more time with those people who matter most to us.

It's during the holiday season that we tend to spend more time with those we love and who matter most to us. It is during the holidays that we often think more of those who are close to us. We either visit in person or catch up on the phone if we aren't able to see them in person.

It is during this time that resolutions are made.

As we move into a new year, one tradition is almost always observed. Think about how many New Year's Eve parties you've attended or how many movies you've seen where, at the stroke of midnight, everyone began to sing “Auld Lang Syne.” Like many traditions we observe, sometimes we follow the tradition but fail to think about what it means. What we sing is the first verse and the chorus of the poem written by the Scottish poet Robert Burns.

These are the lyrics:

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne!

Chorus:

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne.  
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

The song is so familiar to us that we probably don't even realize how the words are spelled or what they mean. The literal translation of “auld lang syne” from the old Scottish dialect is “Old Long Ago.” Thus, the question that begins the poem asks if those old acquaintances from “old long ago” should be forgotten, not remembered. The answer would clearly seem to be that they should not, that those old acquaintances *should* be brought to mind, that we should remember, that we should “take a cup o' kindness” to those who make up our past. In other words, those in our past are deserving of a toast, a mark of honor, of kindness in the present for what they mean to us.

No evidence suggests that Robert Burns wrote “Auld Lang Syne” specifically for New Year's Eve. It is the cultural tradition that has adopted the song for the turning of the year. Why is it so important that we connect those “auld acquaintance(s)” to the start of a new year, to a time for making new resolves? For one thing, as I have already suggested, Christmas is the season just past. The Christmas season, more than any other time of the year, is that time when we spend time with, think of, send special cards to, give presents to those who are dear to us, those whom we may see only rarely, but none the less all those who have been a part of our lives and whose presence in our lives, either past or present, is important to us. Thus, as we approach a new year, the holiday season just past calls to mind those who have had a presence, an influence, in our lives. We turn to a new year with thoughts of those family and friends. The resolution, then, that often heads our New Year's resolution list is “spend more time with family and friends.”

Why are New Year's resolutions important? Or should they be? I began this article with the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard's statement that “Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.” What a significant statement that is! It is our past that guides us. It is our past that forms us, shapes us, influences us. Certainly we are not totally a bound prisoner to that past, but just as certainly, we cannot pretend that we are not influenced by it. As we approach the beginning of another year, “Auld Lang Syne” asks us to be self-conscious about the memories, the acquaintances, the influences from that past.

We look backward, but, just as importantly, we must look forward. It is in looking forward that New Year's resolutions are made. As we move into the future, we need to ask ourselves what we want for that future, what we hope for that future, what we want to change which will allow that future to be what we hope for it. If those future resolutions are going to “work” for us, though, they have to be somehow tied to who we are, to what is possible for our lives. Could we resolve to be a totally different person, to be an instant millionaire, for example, or to take on a totally different identity? I think not (unless we joined a witness protection program, and I suspect that change of identity is more difficult than the movies would suggest).

To return to Kierkegaard, “Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.” We can understand our life only by looking back to what it has been, to those people (and those events) who have helped to shape it. We understand our past by giving it value. Should old acquaintances be forgotten? No, because it is in those old acquaintances—at least in part—that we understand who we are. But do we live in the past? No, because we can only live forward, into the future. I think it was Bob Dylan who said, “He who is not busy being born is busy dying.” New Year's resolutions ask us to be “busy being born,” to grow and to change and to be the person we hope and want to be.

The turning of the year and the traditions that are part of it, each year, a pivotal point in our lives. “Auld Lang Syne” asks that we look backwards and value what has been in our lives; New Year's resolutions ask us to self-consciously think about how we wish to live the next year (in other words, they ask us to think about living forwards). The two (backwards and forwards) go together to create the substance of our lives.

To read other articles by Katherine Au, visit the Authors' section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net)



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CIVIL WAR DIARY

# Reliving history—in the reenactors words

John A. Miller

During the past several months, I have shared with our readers what I call “In Their Own Words”, excerpts of quotes from Emmitsburg soldiers or soldiers who marched through Emmitsburg in my monthly column called “Civil War Dairy.” It is in reading their direct thoughts and experiences that provides my readers with a glimpse of what these soldiers actually endured during the Civil War. Just as it is important for us to remember what these individuals went through it is also important to skip ahead to modern times and talk about the accomplishments of the Monterey Pass Battlefield Association this past year. Our organization strives to preserve the Civil War history of the Emmitsburg, Monterey Pass and Waynesboro areas.

Since our formation in 2006, The Monterey Pass Battlefield Association has accomplished many things in the way of preservation and interpretation. We have worked with many community organizations as well as several county tourism agencies in Maryland and in Pennsylvania. Our first seminar held in November of 2008 and was a complete success as we explored the Retreat from Gettysburg. We have also held several living history events as well as several Civil War walking tours in Emmitsburg, Monterey Pass and Waynesboro. We developed a Monterey Pass Battlefield guide booklet that may be purchased through our website to help those understand the battle of Monterey Pass and how important this battle was. In this months article I would like to highlight our accomplishments for the 2009 year.

2009 was a busy year for our organization. We have combined our efforts with the Emmitsburg Historical Society as well as the Heritage Development Committee of the One Mountain Foundation to enhance and to gain public support by producing several high quality interpretive programs, tours and other presentations.

We created a new interpretive program designed to enhance the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War and the role that Emmitsburg played during this tumultuous time of our country's history. The Civil War Heritage of Emmitsburg explores two main areas of Emmitsburg's Civil War history. The first is the *Soldier's Ex-*

*perience* that covers the men from Emmitsburg that fought for the armies of the Confederacy and the Union. The second area is called the *Home Front* which covers the men who encamped and traveled through Emmitsburg. This program brings together the mission statements of the Monterey Pass Battlefield Association and the Emmitsburg Historical Society in hopes that it will generate more tourism for the town as well as helping Civil War buffs gain a much bigger picture of the Pennsylvania Campaign and how Emmitsburg played a major role. To view the website please log onto [emmitsburg.net/cwhe](http://emmitsburg.net/cwhe).

While the development of the Civil War Heritage of Emmitsburg was our first major project of the year, we did finish up several projects already in the works for the Monterey Pass battlefield site. The first project was the development of a thirty mile driving tour. This tour allows people to follow the wagon train to the Fairfield Gap battle site where Union General Judson Kilpatrick tried to turn the left flank of the retreating Confederate Army that was guarding the wagon train that was traveling to Monterey Pass. Other aspects of the driving tour ties in the hot spots of the Monterey Pass battlefield such as the “Civilian Experience” where many civilians were captured or used as guides for the Union cavalry. We also marked the spot where the battle begins with a blast from the Confederate cannon. Other areas are where Union General George Custer was bogged down to only be saved by a charge of the 1st West Virginia Cavalry.

From the top of South Mountain, tourists can follow the road where the destruction of several miles worth of wagons took place as well as see the mountain cliffs where many wagons overturned the dark and rainy night of the battle. The driving tour also ties in with Pen Mar Park as well as High Rock so that visitors can get a glimpse of the layout of the land where the Maryland portion of the battle took place. From there, visitors can drive to Ringgold, Leitersburg and Smithsburg and see how those sites played a major role in the battle of Monterey Pass.

With the introduction of our new driving tour, we unveiled five temporary interpretive markers at three stops so that



Emmitsburg & Monterey Pass Civil War Historian John Miller explaining Civil War plaques at the Monterey Pass way stop.

visitors can explore the battlefield. Our goal is to replace these interpretive markers with ones of a better quality and that are more permanent once we receive funding. These markers were installed as part of the Pennsylvania Civil War Trails Wayside Panel dedication that was held in June. The Monterey Pass Battlefield Association hosted and created the festivities for the dedication at Rolando Woods Lions' Club Park that featured more than a hundred people as well as county representatives, local township supervisors and Pennsylvania tourism representatives. After the dedication was over, we led an hour long tour of the road that was used by the Army of Northern Virginia where we shared several first hand accounts of the soldier's experience.

During the summer, we organized a new group called the Cumberland Valley Rifles, a progressive living history organization. Our main objective is to educate the public, providing them with an authentic portrayal of the common soldier and civilian of our area during the American Civil War. We are continuously researching different aspects of the Civil War in order to educate the public on the rich Civil War history that lies within our own backyard. As members of the Cumberland Valley Rifles, we research the roles, uniforms, equipment and the mindset of the average Civil War soldier on both sides of the Mason and Dixon Line. We then interpret that information into educational programs so that the public has a better understanding of what they experienced, how they lived and in some cases how they died. Our interpretational programs are based upon Maryland State Park guidelines and National Park Service uniform standards.

The Citizens of the Cumberland Valley is our civilian orga-

nization dedicated to remembering the importance and sacrifices of civilians in our area during the Civil War. As historical interpreters, we want to honor them by striving for authenticity in what we wear, what we say, and what we do. Our focus is on portraying the average citizens of the Cumberland Valley. We adapt our impressions based on the event we are attending, what kind of civilians is documented as having actually been present and the roles that they played during that timeframe.

During the anniversary of the battle of Monterey Pass which coincides with Mountaintop Heritage Days, we held several lectures and demonstrations educating the public about the importance of the battle of Monterey Pass. Such topics included the civilian aspect, a brief history of the battle and other Civil War related topics as it pertained to the area.

In July, we assisted in writing the “War Returns to South Mountain” Maryland Civil War Trails Wayside Panel. This panel was installed at Pen Mar Washington County Park, where we participated in the dedication ceremony that was sponsored by Washington County Tourism in August.

In November, we finished our Battlefield/Conceptual Management Plan as well as our General Interpretive Management Plan for the Monterey Pass battlefield. With this plan, we now mark out the boundaries of the battlefield and what is still needed to be done in order to declare Monterey Pass as an actual battlefield site. This plan was submitted to the Washington Township Supervisors for their consideration.

In our constant efforts to educate the public we have developed programs to be used for school age children such as Understanding the Common Soldier of the Civil War, The Knapsack & Hav-

ersack Program and the Christmas Program. These programs can be viewed on our new website. Throughout the year, we were invited to give talks about the battle of Monterey Pass as well as guided tours of the battlefield. One such tour started in Emmitsburg, which allowed the group to follow in the footsteps of Custer's Michigan Cavalry.

Throughout the year we have continually updated the Monterey Pass Battlefield Association's website, reaching out to over 400+ unique visitors each month. Many new changes are planned for 2010, so keep checking the website at [www.emmitsburg.net/montereypass](http://www.emmitsburg.net/montereypass) for new information.

We are very excited about our plans for the upcoming 2010 year. With the changes that will be unveiled with the new website, we hope to reach a broader audience. We are planning a walking tour of Emmitsburg in June as well as a walking tour of the Monterey Pass battlefield in June. Our informational brochures will be receiving an overhaul and will now be published in color. A new marker dedicated to the Michigan troops who fought during the battle of Monterey Pass will be installed and dedicated, courtesy of the State of Michigan. More interpretational programs will be revealed, including one dedicated to the Signal Corp. A guide book entitled “War Returns to South Mountain” will be published and available to the public. We will be working very diligently on our plans for the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Civil War in our area.

*If you are interested in becoming a member of the Monterey Pass Battlefield Association, please log onto our website for more information. We always welcome new ideas and assistance.*

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## HISTORY

# History of the Toms Creek Hundred

2010 will mark the 225th anniversary of the founding of the town of Emmitsburg. The town's history is a glorious one, well worth documenting and re-telling over and over again.

In establishing a founding date, historians always look for a sentential action or event that directly set things in motion.

For towns built from the ground up, much like a modern development, the establishment of a founding date is easy. It's usually the date documents were signed that laid out the town boundaries, or the signing of the first contact for the first building, or the building of the first home. Such is the case of Emmitsburg.

### "Articles of Agreement made the fifth day of March" 1785

The first written mention of Emmitsburg is in a deed dated August 12th, 1785 conveying 35 acres from Samuel Emmit to his son William "... wherein the lots of a new town of Emmitsburg are laid out."

In 1786, in a subsequent deed expanding the amount of land given to William for the use of a town, Emmitsburg's founding in 1785 is alluded to: "Whereas Samuel Emmit in 1785 ... granted to William Emmit 35 acres lying in the tract of land called Carrollsburg ... for the use of a town which was then begun thereon..."

While the above facts are important in establish a founding date, they pales in comparison to the statement at the bottom of both deed that says:

"...provided he the said William Emmit shall perform that part which the said Samuel Emmit was to perform according to Articles of Agreement made the fifth day of March last with purchasers, ..."

This statement by Samuel Emmit clearly implies that a piece of paper was signed on March 5th, 1785, between Samuel Emmit and the subscribers for the lots, to form a town. As such, March 5, 1785 is a more historically correct, and defensible date for the founding of Emmitsburg.

But long before Samuel Emmit inked his deal with his neighbors to build a town that would bear his name, people had been calling the northern part of the county home - and had you been alive at the time, met them on byway, and inquired where they lived, they would all have answered 'Toms Creek Hundred.'

To understand and appreciate the history of the founding of Emmitsburg, we need to start at the beginning with the history of the Toms Creek Hundred and first settlers.

### The Toms Creek Hundred

In one of the ironies one can only appreciate through the hindsight history provides us, two religious sects, Lutherans & Presbyterians settled in close knit communities in the geographical area know as the Toms Creek Hundred.

Back in their old countries, the two groups were engaged in bitter persecution and blood shed. But in this valley, the two groups, each brought to the area for their own reasons, lived in peace and harmony, having found common cause in the daily battle to survive on this then remote edge of the frontier.

The Lutherans settled to the east of present day Emmitsburg. The Presbyterians, who settled on land which now comprises present day Emmitsburg and everything north of it, chose this area because of the richness of the soil and the year round supply of water provided by the convergence of the areas three main streams: Tom's Creek, Flat Run, and Middle Creek.

By most accounts, Robert and Elizabeth Wilson were the family to settle in the Flat Run area of eastern Emmitsburg. Sometime prior to 1733, they immigrated to the area, choosing for their homestead, land that lay in a gently slopping valley on both sides of Flat Run. The soil was rich from years of seasonal flooding, and with Flat Run providing a reliable source of clean fresh water year round, the Wilson's had everything any frontier family could ever hope for.

Being alone in the woods, the Wilson's never felt the need to acquire a deed for their land, which they called 'Wilson's Fancy.' Things began to change however in 1742, when the neighborhood began to get 'crowded'. In 1751, several years after Roberts death, his wife, Elizabeth, sold 'Wilson's Fancy' to William Porter.

1742 marked the arrival of John Douthet to the Flat Run area of Emmitsburg. Unfortunately, we know little about John other then he settled just north of Robert Wilson on 50 acres of land he called 'Douthet's Chance.'

Eight years later, in 1750, John sold his land to Alexander Mckeen and moved onto parts unknown. Alexander Mc-

keen is best remembered for donating the land upon which the first Presbyterian church in the Emmitsburg area was built.

'Carrollsburg,' a massive track of over 3,500 acres of land, was originally granted to Charles Carroll on September 2, 1732. Carrollsburg, lay to the south and west of the William's homestead, and remained undivided until 1757, when Charles Carroll sold 2,250 acres to Samuel Emmit. The northern part of Carrollsburg

encompasses what is now present day Carroll Valley & Fairfield.

### Surveying techniques in the 1750s

To say surveying accuracy in the 1750s were rudimentary would be an understatement. Where today surveyors can use GPS devices to pin-point property boundaries down to the inch, Samuel Emmit's deed only guaranteed an accuracy of plus or minus 3

degrees of error. Which meant property lines could be off up to six degrees.

The degree of error was due in large part to the fact that the area was still virgin woods. Surveyors not only had to battle compass errors, but the impossible task of walking straight lines, up and down thickly wooded hills and valleys.

Now when property lines are measured in feet, six degrees might now amount to much,



- 1 - Benjamin's Inspection - John Mackinley - 1744
- 2 - Goose Quarters - John Everett
- 3 - Nasby - Samuel Beall - 1756
- 4 - Frenchman's Purchase - Samuel Beall Jr. - 1753
- 5 - Brooks Addition to the Rich Lands - James Brooks - 1754
- 6 - Cat Tell Branch - George Smith - 1746
- 7 - Peach Blossom - William Carron - 1748
- 8 - Boxes Search - Thomas Harris - 1750
- 9 - Hamilton's Recovery - John Hamilton - 1748
- 10 - Mary's Fancy - Thomas Wilson - 1750
- 11 - Diggs Lot - John Diggs - 1745
- 12 - Diggs Lot Resurvey - William Diggs - 1754
- 13 - Chance Medley - Charles Carroll - 1752
- 14 - Conclusion - Alexer Urquhart
- 15 - Dispatch/Cromsburg - John Cambell
- 16 - Brotherly Love - Jonathan Hays - 1754
- 17 - Benjamin's Good Luck - Benjamin Biggs - 1745/1763

- 18 - Rich Level - William Biggs
- 19 - Stony Hill - Jacob Shiyer - 1766
- 20 - Single Delight - Mathias Zacharias - 1759
- 21 - Long Field - Lucas Flack - 1754
- 22 - Samuel's Grievance - Samuel Magruder - 1762
- 23 - Groom Briar -
- 24 - William's Pleasure - John Shroyer - 1771
- 25 - Malchers Field - 1746
- 26 - Meadow - Michael Strigger
- 27 - The Meadows - John Diggs
- 28 - Harris's Delight - Thomas Harris - 1746
- 29 - Farris' Bottom - Joseph Farris - 1762
- 30 - Buck Forest - Daniel Dulaney - 1747

# HISTORY

*At the request of William Emmit the following deed was recorded 10<sup>th</sup> August 1786. To wit,*

*This Indenture made the tenth day of August one thousand and eighty six Between Samuel Emmit of Frederick County Maryland in the one part. and his son William Emmit of the same place in the other part*

*give grant and alien unto the said William Emmit his heirs and assigns all that piece of his the said Samuel Emmit's part of the said Frederick County within the City (as the Town called Emmitsburg) a certain and*

*he the said William Emmit shall perform the part which the said Samuel Emmit wants perform, according to Articles of Agreement made the fifth day of March last with Purchasers, in the performance of them and their Purchasers according to the said Articles*

but when property lines are measured in hundreds of yards, or miles, then you've got problems. With a six degree of error, every one hundred feet of a property line could be off by as much as ten feet. Every one hundred yards, the length of a football field, could be off by ten yards, every mile, off by 520 feet.

To make matters worse, every change in direction in a boundary line, like a corner, multiplied the error effect. To put this all into perspective all one has to do is drive from the location of the present day Emmitsburg

sewer plant on Creamery Road to downtown Fairfield via Route 140, and then back to the sewer plant via Track Road. Then divide the miles driven by ten and that will give you how far off the boundaries of Carrolsburg could have been.

Interestingly enough, surveyors at the time addressed the issue of errors in measurement by simply defining the last property line on a boundary map as '...to the beginning (whatever that direction might be) with a straight line.'

But with few neighbors, little attention was paid to errors in property boundaries. At less than fifty cents an acre in present day money, few cared about plus or minus a few acres!

It would not be until 1798, 41 years after he purchased his track of land, that the errors in Samuel Emmit's deed, and the deeds in others would have to be reconciled. And that reconciliation would bring about one of the more popular misconceptions related to the founding of Emmitsburg: The folklore that Emmitsburg was once called Sliver Fancy. But more on that later.

### Early Land Barons

At the time the inhabitants of the Toms Creek Hundred were settling their land, the Royal English government was casting a worried eye at French moves to claim the interior of the American continent.

In this time in history, title to vast tracks of unsettled land was based upon having settlements at either the headwaters or the mouth of rivers. The French, by placing settlements deep into the Great Lakes and at the mouth of the Mississippi, were well on their way to claiming sovereignty of the vast interior of the American continent. Their holdings threatened to limit the English land holdings to the coastal strip east of the Allegheny Mountains and also the English dominance of Northern America.

In answer to this impending dilemma, the English government began an

active policy of promoting settlement of the wilderness, this wilderness included modern day Frederick County. Once settled, the English could then press their claims for the interior of North America based upon ownership of the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

While the Royal government opened the land to all settlers for a nominal fee, it nevertheless still played favorites, offering a few select aristocrats large tracks of land in reward for support of the Crown. While this was classic patronage, it also removed the burden from the royal government of having to hire staff to solicit settlers for the land. Instead, the government left it to the land barons to solicit settlers and to divide the land for them, being satisfied to simply collect taxes on the produce from now 'productive' land.

One of the earliest land barons in the valley was John Diggs. In July of 1743, Diggs received title to three tracks of land in the Tom's Creek Valley, comprising close to 1000 acres, the first 547 acres, he aptly named 'Diggs Lot'.

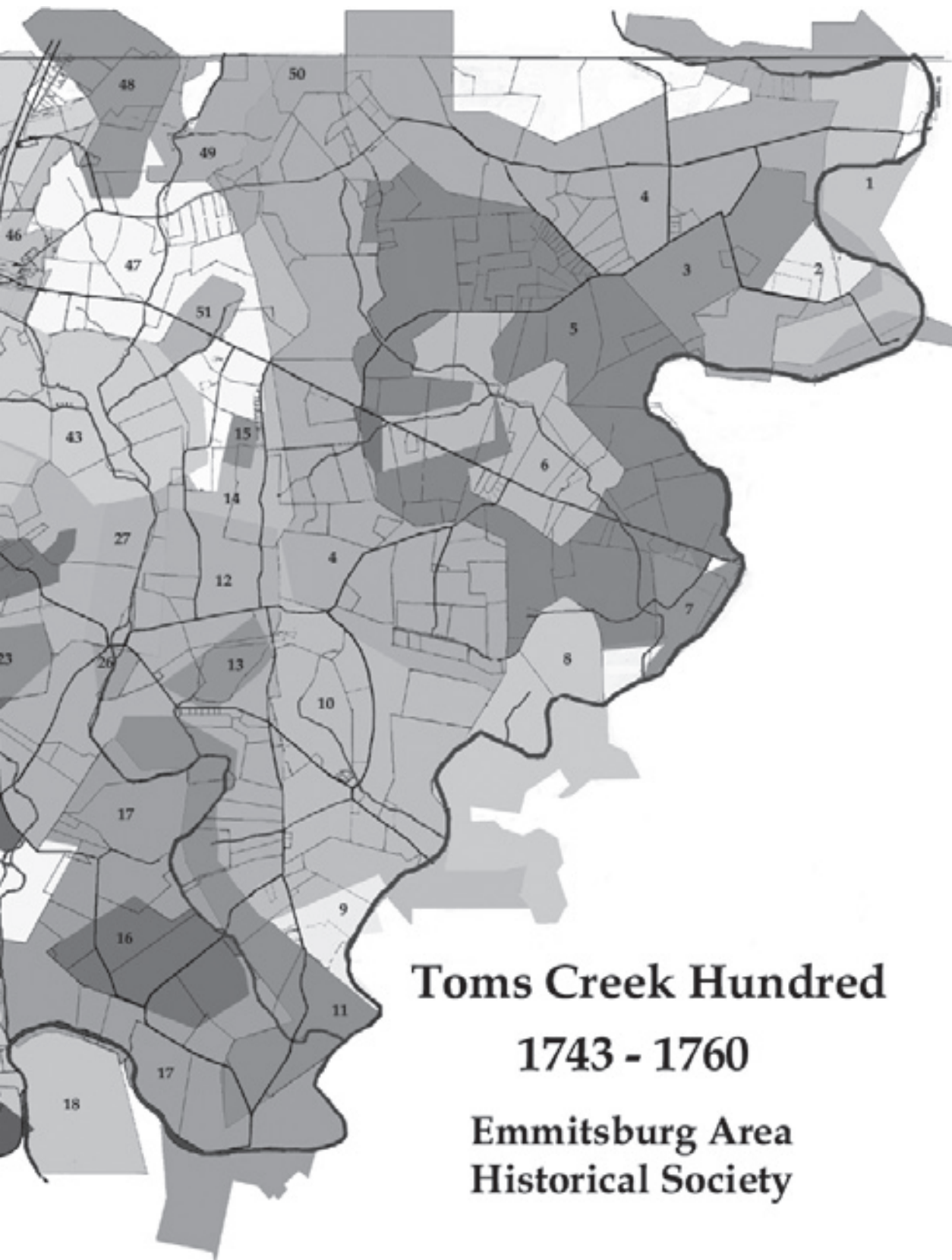
Diggs' land grabbing was quickly mimicked by others, albeit in a smaller fashion. In April of 1752, Daniel Dulany claimed 1,680 acres along the headwaters of Stony Branch, which he titled 'Buck Forest', obviously for the great quantity of deer within it. Not to be outdone, in 1754, John Diggs claimed an additional 1000 acres of land to the north of his 'Diggs Lot'.

Unfortunately for the land speculators and the settlers, the race between the French and English for the interior of the continent soon got out of hand. In 1754, the English were not only fighting the French, but their Indian allies as well. While we have no record as any fighting actually occurred in the Tom's Creek Hundred, Indian raiding parties periodically moved through the area in search of revenge. These raids proved a strong deterrent to settlement in the open wilderness of the Frederick area. Many settlers withdrew to the relative safety of coastal cities.

By 1759, however, the English had captured most of the French forts along the upper Ohio and to the west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Indian attacks on settlers in this area became increasingly rare. However, it was not until 1763, the end of the Seven Years War in Europe, in which France ceded sovereignty of the interior of North America, that settlers once again cast their eyes toward the wilderness.

### Next month: From Wilderness to Frontier

To learn more about the history of the Greater Emmitsburg Area, visit the Historical Society section of Emmitsburg.net



- 31 - Henn's Choice - Charles Carroll - 1750
- 32 - Brooks Reserve - Gurand Brisco
- 33 - Arnold's Delight - Arnold Livers - 1744
- 34 - Beaver Dam Level - William Elder - 1741
- 35 - Ogal's Good Will - Arnold Livers - 1739
- 36 - Elder's Choice - William Elder - 1752
- 37 - Peace & Plenty - Ledwick Kemp
- 38 - Enlargement - Christian Smith
- 39 - St. Mary's Valley - John Troxel - 1784
- 40 - Stony Batter - William Biggs
- 41 - Carolina
- 42 - Black Walnut Bottom - William Elder - 1751
- 43 - Carrolsburg - Charles Carroll - 1732

- 44 - Silver Fancy - Daniel Dalany - 1742
- 45 - Douthett's Chance - John Douthett - 1750
- 46 - Fort Henry - Henry Williams - 1767
- 47 - Low Mill and Long Mile - Conrad Hockersmith - 1743
- 48 - Dam Head - Michael Legett - 1750
- 49 - Middle Dam - Alex Baile - 1759
- 50 - Kitchen Garden - William Blair - 1768
- 51 - Knee Deep - James Brooks Jr. - 1752

To learn more about how this map was created visit the Historical Society section of emmitsburg.net.

To can obtain a color copy of this map with a purchase of \$10 or more at CJs Embroidery. You can obtain a digital copy of this map with a purchase of \$20 or more. 1 East Main Street, Emmitsburg, MD.

All proceeds go to the Emmitsburg Historical Society.

## MOUNT CREATIVE WRITERS

# In the friend zone

## Part 1

**Brittany Morris**

That photograph of me and Kate on the pier.

I stared at it and let the memories flood over me, bringing with them every emotion: happiness, longing, excitement, fear, remorse, and pain because I didn't want this to end. I hadn't been without her since middle school, and now I would have to be.

That photo was the last thing that remained in my empty room; everything else was already packed in the car ready for when I was leaving bright and early the next morning. This framed photo of me and Kate that she had given me to "remember her when I went to school" was one of my most prized possessions, the one thing that I was not going to let out of my sight. She didn't know that of course. I always teased her and said I hated that picture of me.

She also didn't know that this was the hardest thing I have ever had to do—say goodbye to her. I had a lump in my throat the size of a grapefruit, and I didn't have butterflies in my stomach—I think they were more like bats. I was scared too—not knowing when I was going to see her again, or if things would be the same between us when I did. But she would never know that.

The sharp alarm of the doorbell interrupted my thoughts.

That would be her now. I took a deep breath, placed my picture back on my bedside table, and headed downstairs to say good bye to my best friend.

When I got to the bottom of the stairs, I could see that she was already sitting on my living room couch with her hands folded neatly in her lap, her spine perfectly erect, head staring straight forward—like she was being held up by a marionette's strings. Usually she just walked right in and made herself at home, sprawled out on the couch, TV already on, but today I had asked her to warm me when she arrived.

I was hoping to have a little bit of time to admire her unnoticed, but she must have heard me enter the room because she turned around just as I stepped off the last stair, jumped off the couch, and ran over to hug me. Even though I saw it coming, sort of, it still almost knocked me off balance when she threw her full weight into my arms (which couldn't be more than 110 pounds). I caught her in mid-jump and spun her around, like I always do, but when I set her down she didn't let go.

"Michael, why do you have to go?" she whispered into my ear.

"Kate, everything is going to be fine." I hoped the words coming out of my mouth sounded convincing because I didn't even believe myself. I took one of my hands and started running in through her shoulder length brown hair that still had flecks

of blonde in it from when she had tried highlighting it at the beginning of the summer, "We will still be best friends. Nothing will change." But I wanted things to change... for us to get closer... but I didn't tell her that.

"I'm going to miss you so much." She finally released her me from the hug and settled for gripping my hands instead, as if when we lost physical contact she would lose me completely.

"I'm going to miss you, too, but we will make it through this. I promise." When I said this the tears welled up in her eyes, and I ran my fingers across her soft, sun kissed cheeks to wipe them away.

"But what am I going to do without you at school this year?" she pleaded as we moved across the room and sat on the couch. I draped my arm over her tiny shoulders that were visible under her blue (she would tell me it was actually teal) tank top and pulled her close to me. I had so many fond memories of me and Kate, but I tried not to think about them now because I didn't know if I would be able to stay strong for her if they started flooding into my mind.

"You will do amazing," I assured her. "You have so many friends, and you are one of the most intelligent people I know. Your senior year is going to be your best year yet." I planted a gentle kiss on her forehead, making sure to stay in the friend zone.

"How could it be the best year if you aren't here? You are my best friend—the one person I can tell anything, and I won't even be able to talk to you very often. Seriously Michael, why couldn't you just have decided to go to college locally like everyone else."

I know that Kate only meant that last sentence as a joking stab at me, but it kind of felt like guilt punched me in the stomach.

"Kate, I promise you, we will talk as often as I can. I know you think I'm not hurting over this, but I am. You are one of the most important people in my life and that will never change."

"I feel the same way," she answered as one final tear escaped and made a trail down her right cheek.

We both stood then and hugged for the last time in who-knows-when. I walked her to the door and stood waving goodbye until her red Eagle Talon turned the corner, regretting that I didn't tell her about my true feelings for her and not knowing that her feelings for me would change in a drastic way after I left.

I searched until I found the nearest window seat: row 12. I sat down with my small carry-on placed in my lap. I pulled the picture of me and Kate out of my drawstring bag and just stared at it. I remembered exactly when this picture was taken;

it was the first weekend of summer vacation and we had gone to spend the weekend at Kate's grandfather's house up at Deep Creek Lake. He had taken the picture of us in our bathing suits, one arm around each other, the other gesturing thumbs up, right before we were about to jump into the lake for the first time that season. We both had huge cheesy grins on our faces, but Kate still looked beautiful.

I was interrupted from my reminiscing when I was asked, "Is this seat taken?"

"No, go ahead" was my automatic response without even glancing up at my soon-to-be flight mate for the next couple hours.

But when I did look up I think my jaw must have dropped (but I hope to God that it didn't) because I was looking at the most gorgeous girl that I had ever seen in my life. I mean, Kate is beautiful but this girl was "WOW" gorgeous, stunning even: the kind of girl who would turn heads at a fashion show. She had straight blonde hair that fell to the middle of her back and the deepest blue eyes that I could imagine.

She took a seat, then turned to me with a natural, flawless smile and said, "Hey, I'm Emma."

"I'm Michael." I tried to come off as cooler than I was feeling, but that was all I could get out because my mouth felt like it was stuffed with a dozen cotton balls. We shook hands; hers were soft and warm, and I thought I smelled a hint of vanilla.

As I released her hand, holding on for a few seconds longer than necessary, I realized that the picture of Kate and me was still sitting on my lap. I hastily tried to put it away, but in doing so I probably drew too much attention to myself. Halfway through the process of opening my bag and sliding my picture back inside, Emma leaned toward me and said, "Awww, is that you and your girlfriend? That's so sweet!"

"No, Kate's just my best friend," I replied (a little too quickly). I tried to shrug it off and nonchalantly slide the picture the rest of the way into the bag, but I proved that subtlety is not my strong suit.

Emma touched my hand, applying a soft pressure, and asked, "Can I see?" Her blue eyes shone so bright, and she showed all the innocence of a five year old asking her mommy why she couldn't have cookies for dinner.

"Umm, sure." I couldn't say no to that cute little pleading face she was giving me, so I slid the picture back out as she released her hand from mine.

"Awww, that's such a cute picture!" she said, taking it into her hands. Then she turned to face me and asked, "Are you going to visit her?"

"No, I'm—" "Attention all passengers! This

is your captain. Please find your seats and fasten your safety belts. Our flight from Baltimore to New York is about to take off. The flight attendants will be coming around to check that you are securely fastened before we take off. Thank you for your cooperation. Let's have a great flight!"

I placed my picture back into my bag where it belonged (along with my thoughts about Kate—at least for now). "I was saying—no, I'm not going to visit her. I'm actually going to start my freshman year at NYU."

"No way!" Emma exclaimed, causing me to jump slightly, "I'm going to be a freshman at NYU too! That's insane!"

"Seriously? That is crazy!" I couldn't believe my luck. Maybe going away to school, away from Kate, could have its benefits after all.

"This is so great!" Emma said, "I was so nervous to go to school so far away from my family and friends. It was also hard saying goodbye to my boyfriend Greg; we've been dating for six months and my going away to school scared both of us. But I'm a little less scared now that I've met you. Hopefully we will become good friends!" She gave me a heart-melting smile.

"Yea," I mumbled, "friends." I managed to fake a smile, and not a good one at that. How could I be so stupid? A girl like that was bound to have a boyfriend! I was batting two for two in the past two days.

Just then I began to feel the plane start moving, and after muttering something to Emma about having to listen to music to calm me down when a plane takes off, I reached into my bag and grabbed my I-pod. My thoughts

slowly began to wander back to Kate as I drifted off to sleep accompanied by the loud rock music.

•••

Surprisingly by the time I was mostly moved into my dorm room, on the third floor of Heritage Hall, I had almost forgotten about the awkward ending with Emma, my sleeping through the whole plane ride, and the even more awkward (at least for me) "I hope I'll see you around campus" Emma and I exchanged when my roommate, Ronnie, picked me up.

Ronnie and I had an instant connection. It was like we had known each other for years; we both played guitar, loved going paintballing, and were huge rugby fans. We had only talked a few times online before meeting for the first time at the airport, but we talked the whole car ride to school as he pointed our landmarks and cool places to hang out (he's from New York).

Ronnie had set up most of the room by the time I got there—since he had arrived a week early for pre-season rugby practices—so then he helped me unpack. I let him help me with most things except for the picture of me and Kate. I made sure to put that on my desk so I could keep my promise to her (and always be able to see her); Ronnie gave me a hard time about being so attached to a girl who I wasn't even dating, but I chose to ignore it. So I also chose to ignore my phone when it went off five times that evening— all calls from her— to avoid getting any more grief.

*Part two next month*



# A team making strides in Emmitsburg ....

Ananda Rochita

You may have been at the gym or notably known as the "ARCC" on Mount St. Mary's soil and observed some athletes at play. Lacrosse players in the weight room, some soccer and softball athletes outdoors on the back fields. However when classes are over in the late afternoon, the ARCC becomes a playground for numerous track athletes. Pole vaulting, hurdling, and sprinting are just some of what you will observe through the window from the cardio room and right before the entrance doors. These athletes are not only winners in the Northeast Conference, but also in the classroom.

Mount St. Mary's has seen a plethora of successful track and field athletes. Many athletes from the Mount program history received honors such as All-American and one person even won a gold medal in the Olympics.

Peter Rono earned his Masters and Bachelors degree from the Mount. He was also the gold-medal winner in the 1988 Summer Olympics for the 1.500 meters event and represented his country of Kenya.

Even though Rono was originally from Kenya, many of the athletes actually come from neighboring states such as New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Track and Field team is divided between outdoor and indoor athletes adding up to about sixty men and women athletes on the team.

Most recently, sophomore Rick Villanova, a member of the Mount St. Mary's men's indoor track and field, had been named one of the Mount Athletes of the Week for the week of Dec. 8

Villanova, a pole vaulter, was the best of the field of 12 competitors that matched the height of the winning NEC Indoor Championship meet in the previous year. Villanova won the pole vault with a mark of 4.65m (15'3").

Junior Chad Brown has also set some records during only two years of being apart of the team. He currently sets the best in all time records for the 55m dash and also the 60m dash.

The team is also coached by Mount Alumni and has a coaching staff of five for the team, Jim Stevenson, Jim Deegan, Larry O'Hara, Jay Phillips, and Nina Victorin.

Stevenson, the head coach for the team, has helped the team bring 13 school records. The athletes he has helped coach have won several Northeast Conference record and All-East honors. Stevenson was also in fact graduated Mount St. Mary's in 1995 who set records himself. He did not only set records in the Northeast Conference, but was also se-

lected to represent his country on some decathlons. He was a Division 1 All-American decathlete and captured a silver medal in the British National Decathlon Championships.

Jay Phillips, one of the Assistant coaches for the team and also the head coach for , graduated Mount St. Mary's in 2005 and immediately helped coach the team there on. He set records for the team during his campaign being a well-known sprinter. He was also apart of the Mount's All-East 4x400 relay team that to this day still holds the school record.

Even though many athletes have already set records in the previous year, one of the more promising athletes has not even participated in one Track and Field event. Freshman Megan Kinsella, an Allentown, PA native, has made great strides this fall during the Cross Country season. At the NCAA Mid-Atlantic meet, Kinsella finished in 38th place and second overall in the NEC Championships. Kinsella was named freshman of the year and also received All-Northeast Conference honors from her second place finish at Conferenc- es. Kinsella is also the first women's runner to earn freshman of the year in more than a decade and the first to earn All-NEC honors in four years.

Like Kinsella, many of the athletes run up and down the East Coast, however one of them is a local from Frederick County, sophomore Dylan Bernard.

While Cross Country's season has just ended, Bernard is currently gearing up for the track season that has just started.

In the most recent Cross Country season this fall, Bernard posted some of the best scores that Mount history has seen.

On October 31, Dylan finished ninth overall, making this his second time of earning Northeast All Conference honors, just being apart of the team for the past two years. The previous year he was fifth in the NEC Championships. He also helped the Men's team finish seventh at the meet, which was held in Hamden, Connecticut.

Bernard is from Frederick, attending Urbana High School during his high school years. While being on the track team of his freshman year in high school, he realized his talent emerged. He posted a 4:54 mile and that was when he was not even trying!

"Just a lot of hard work I guess," is what Bernard counts for his achievements thus far. "The spring of my freshman year was when I broke five (minutes for a mile), so after that I really dedicated myself."

Bernard came into the Mount due to a high school athlete he

was friends with, Nick Stine, who is currently a Junior now and one of Maryland's best 800 meter runners in high school.

"He came here intending to run until he got hurt, and he brought the majority of my attention to the Mount," stated Bernard. "After checking it out I really liked it and decided I wanted to come here." Bernard initially looked at schools such as Bucknell, Lehigh, and Lafayette, which already had offered him spots on the team, but expenses for those schools were high.

"I had liked the coaches a lot," stated Bernard in reference to the Mount Track Coaches. "I had liked that a lot of high caliber athletes from my area had decided on the Mount. I also liked the idea of smaller classes



Above: Freshman Megan Kinsella. Below: Frederick County native Dylan Bernard

and the fact that it was not too close or too far from home."

Bernard was also attracted to the "pretty, nice town" feel Emmitsburg had. At first Bernard was hesitant since there was not anything around walking distance of the Mount, but after being there for the year he realized that there are generally some nice places to go to around the area.

Bernard's family has been one of his main supporters and can be accredited to his success. "My family is very proud of me, its impossible to describe how much that helps," stated Bernard. "Knowing my family is there and they are proud of what I've achieved keeps me

going when my body is begging me to stop."

Even though Bernard is the only one of his family that has played a sport on a collegiate level, he comes from a line of many athletes. In his immediate family, his father wrestled and he has cousins around the same age that are football players. However, he believes his grandfather is where he got most of his abilities from. "My grandfather on my Dad's side though actually did run marathons, so I get the feeling that's where my running abilities came from."

As for the future, Bernard hopes to keep running as long as he can and hopefully move up to running marathons and being

the young age he is, he still has more to contribute on the collegiate level.

"Right now, I want to break 15 minutes in the 5k, and hopefully within the next couple years qualify for the ICAAAA in the 5k and/or 10k,"stated Bernard. "I'd also like to continue on my current streak and make All-NEC for Cross Country for all four years of my college career."

To read other articles on by Ananda Rochita visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net

For a schedule of upcoming Mount St. Mary's athletic events visit www.mountathletics.com.

## A MOUNTAIN PERSPECTIVE

# From Emmitsburg to Florence

Katelyn Phelan

For the past three months, I have been the English editor for the News-Journal. I originally took this internship because my mom has been bugging to intern somewhere. This seemed like a good opportunity because I like editing and the position didn't require me to drive anywhere, especially important because I don't currently have a car on campus. Unless I was willing to walk somewhere, my internship opportunities were limited.

Even though my options were originally slim, I have thoroughly enjoyed the work I did for the News-Journal. I essentially read the articles Mike Hillman sent me, made any necessary changes, and sent the articles back to him. The corrections were for the most part very minor and usually just included fixing grammar and changing areas that were unclear. This is not the type of editing I typically do in the Mount's writing center, where I make suggestions on organization, thesis statements, and introduction/conclusion paragraphs.

This internship did not just give me the opportunity to learn new editing skills, but I also learned more

about the people of Emmitsburg. My favorite articles to edit and read were the ones that told a story and in some way get to know the authors. I liked learning about adventures with young children, dealings with pets, and stories of peoples' pasts.

I was also exposed to a number of topics that I have never really taken the time to learn much about. Gardening, for example, is something I have never taken the time to experiment with. Reading articles on it has been interesting and informative.

Similarly, I knew little to nothing about horses before I began to read the News-Journal. My family has always owned cats and dogs, but no horses. I've ridden horses in lessons before but on a limited basis. I do not know anything about typical horse behavior, ailments, etc. So reading about horses has also been fascinating. The wide variety of sections, topics, and articles has helped me to learn about the diverse interests of the people of Emmitsburg.

Through reading the paper I've also learned about the traditions and history of Emmitsburg. From reading about old Christmas traditions to learning about the founding of the town, I probably know more about Emmitsburg's history than my own

town! Learning about the town's history in conjunction with learning the Mount's history over my college experience has also been interesting.

Over the past two and a half years that I have been at the Mount, I have slowly grown to know Emmitsburg, whether it be by frequenting Stavros or McDonalds, exploring the Antique Mall, visiting the Catholic Bookshop on Main Street, or just driving around the town and surrounding areas. In editing and reading the News-Journal, I have gotten to know Emmitsburg and its people even better. I hope you can say the same about the Mount through the students that have contributed to the paper.

I hope to continue to learn more about Emmitsburg through reading the paper and contributing to it. I will not edit the paper next semester, as I will be spending the semester abroad in Florence, Italy. Over those three months I will hopefully be sending in articles about my adventures living in a country that does not speak English. I will also be traveling to a variety of countries, including Poland, Greece, and Spain. It has been a very pleasant experience working for The Emmitsburg News-Journal and I look forward to continuing to contribute to the paper!

Editor's Note:

Twice this month I had to say goodbye to this paper's English editor. Pat Bell's was a shock, but Katelyn's was expected.

I'm not sure if Katelyn truly understood what she was getting herself into when she signed up to intern with the paper. She laughed at me when I told her I flunked English in college. She was sure I was pulling her leg. But when my first 'Old Tenant House' article crossed her desk, she knew I wasn't kidding!

Originally my goal was for Katelyn to supplement Pat Bell. But when Pat Bell fell sick, the full brunt of the English editing of the paper fell to Katelyn. When told of Pat's condition and the predicament the paper found itself in, Katelyn stepped forward without hesitation and took over all the editing responsibilities.

In reading Katelyn's article, I wasn't surprised that she understated her role and importance to this paper. That's Katelyn. Unlike Pat who had all day to edit an article, Katelyn had to squeeze in her editing between her heavy class schedule and her job at the Mount helping fellow students in the writing center.

If anyone on the paper could be called my 'right-hand person,' it would be Katelyn. I can't even begin to describe how nice it was to know she was always there, ready to help.

The funny thing is, we only met face to face twice, once when she interviewed for the internship, and last week when she turned over her job to our new Mount English editor, Brittany Morris.

I can't speak for the Mount, but I can speak for this paper, and I can say without equivocation, that the paper was blessed by the hard work and dedication to excellence that Katelyn brought to everything she touched. This young woman is a shining credit to the Mount in general, and to the Mount's English Department in particular.

Keep an eye on this young woman! She understands the power of the written word, and knows how to use it to change the world for the better. I pray God didn't break the mold when he made Katelyn; we could sure use a lot more like her in the world!

# Four years at the Mount

## First Semester Windup

Samantha Strub

Well this is it, the closing of the first semester. I can't believe that soon we will be packing up our bags after the dreaded exams for a well-deserved Christmas break. It seems like just yesterday I was driving toward the Mount on move-in day. It's crazy to think that it's been months since that unforgettable experience. So much has occurred. It's been an unreal blur! Many things happened as I expected, like forming lasting friendships, getting involved, and making crazy memories, yet lots of unexpected things happened at the same time. I would have never thought there could be so much activity, homework, or drama—and becoming published! I knew the day that I stepped foot onto this campus that I was supposed to go here. All of the wonderful opportunities that I have had since then have affirmed this simple fact. If, at the beginning of the year, however, you had told me all of these things would happen, I would have said you were crazy.

I feel like an entirely new person since I have been at the Mount. I have grown so much in the past couple of months. I have discovered who I am. While finding yourself, you go through ups and downs and find out who your true friends are. Through it all you are still left with great memories that will last a lifetime! Even the mistakes you have made reflect who you are.

Some of my best memories from this semester have come from the field hockey team. Friendships were formed on those long car rides to play weekend games that we got up way too early for. I have made some of my best friends, and we all grew closer playing a game we love. I believe that this teamwork has helped shape who I am, as well as gotten me into shape. It created dedication, responsibility, and amazing memories. Because of our friendships, the transition from outside to indoor play wasn't too bad, even though they are quite different. We always seemed to have bad luck during our outdoor season, but that all changed when we switched to indoor. At our outdoor games someone always seemed to get hurt. In addition to acquiring multiple bruises, we had terrible weather. These rough times brought us together rather than bringing us down. Without that knowledge, our luck would not have changed when we switched to indoor hockey.

Field hockey was just one of the ways that I got involved on campus this first semester. I joined the Education Club, Focus, group Bible study, work study, and I became a columnist for the Emmitsburg-News Journal. I also have my horse here, and I ride and take care of her every day. It was interesting to manage all of this, while still having my studies as my first priority and a social life. I knew it wasn't impossible because I did some of these things in high school. It just took a little while to figure out how

to balance everything. School work always came first for me and that resulted in many late nights up to 3 a.m. In the short term that concept works, but you get drained. Then you cannot function and no one wants to be around you.

This "crashing" did happen to me. It was about the third week of school, and I had had a crazy week. My classes pretty much all had tests or papers. At the same time, field hockey practice was underway; my horse came so I was at the barn a lot, and I was socializing until the wee hours of the morning. As you can imagine I was exhausted! That Friday night I went to bed around 4 a.m. and literally slept the day away. I woke up around 8 p.m. on Saturday—16 hours straight! That must be a record. I have no idea if I would have awakened if it wasn't for my phone going crazy with a bunch of friends calling and texting me wondering what had happened. It took me a while to realize that it was 8 at night; my one friend had to keep telling me that it was really p.m. and not a.m. because I didn't believe her for the longest time. This crazy experience taught me that I needed to get my sleep and not be up too late every night.

Balancing everything is what college is about. You learn during your first semester/year how much time you need to spend on each of your activities. Doing the things that interest you make you unique. Everyone has different talents, whether they are academic, athletic or something else. Doing activities you enjoy alongside the academics makes

you produce better work and helps you stay focused. I need to be able to step away from the piles of homework and do something that I'm passionate about. When I'm so stressed out I'm about to scream, I go to the barn and ride my horse until I'm relaxed. I also do this with field hockey and as a columnist for the Emmitsburg-News Journal. Being able to pull my mind away from the books and go out and ride, hit some balls, or write out my feelings does wonders for my academics.

True, this doesn't work for everyone, but it's something that I discovered this semester that works for me. My studies would not be as good if I wasn't involved in a lot of things. Yes, it does seem kind of backwards, but it works for me and that what this first semester is all about—finding yourself!

*Samantha Strub is a Freshman at Mt. St. Mary's majoring in English with a Secondary Education minor. Samantha will be authoring an on-going column sharing her thoughts, achievements, thrills and yes disappointments as she progressed from being a Freshman to Mount graduate.*



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# A MOUNTAIN PERSPECTIVE

## A Mount Christmas

Chelsea Baranoski

Christmas time means snow-falls, hot chocolate, sledding, bulky sweaters, and chilly temperatures. Every year, I look forward to Christmas time at the Mount. The weather may be frightful, but the Mount community is definitely delightful. Every year, the Mount decorates for Christmas. The dining hall becomes a Christmas postcard: forest green wreaths hang on the walls and a tall Christmas tree lit with white lights announce this most wonderful time of the year. I absolutely love when the Mount turns on the Christmas lights. Every year, the Mount places several fir-covered arches along University Way. There is a Christmas lighting ceremony that follows holy hour and lessons and carols. During the ceremony, the fir-covered arches become awash in white Christmas lights. The Christmas tree in Founders' Plaza also glows with white lights. The lighted nativity scene in front of the Academic Center proclaims Christ's birth. Every time I see the lights, a smile spreads across my face. The lights are an instant mood booster! The Monday before the lighting ceremony, the freshman I was working with in the library told me that the Christmas lights were lit. When I looked out the window, my eyes widened and I yelped with glee. I think I scared my coworker. I had to tell

him that I always get excited when the Christmas lights are lit. Unfortunately, this night must have been a testing of the lights, for the next couple of nights were pitch black, without a light in sight. Now that the Christmas lights are lit, a burst of joy surges through my veins every evening.

Christmas at the Mount also means that it is time for the first formal dance of the year: the Christmas dance! The Christmas dance is a Mount tradition. Every December, the dining hall is transformed into a winter wonderland. This year, Santa was the DJ against a backdrop of dangling white lights. The dance floor was a sea of vibrant colored dresses and dark suits. An array of Christmas cookies and cheeses filled a table next to an inflatable snowman. The Christmas dance is definitely my favorite dance at the Mount. I love dressing up and enjoying all of the decorations.

The one fault that I found with this year's Christmas dance was that the DJ did not play "Don't Stop Believin'," one of my all-time favorite songs to belt out on the dance floor. However, I suppose that the DJ's decision to play a Backstreet Boys song made up for it. When the Backstreet Boys song blared through the speakers, the dance floor got crazy. Students hoisted some boys into the air, and everyone sang along to the music. After all, this was the music of our childhood: boy bands. I have

no idea how we manage to retain the lyrics to these 90's songs that we have not heard since middle school. Another positive about the Christmas dance was the cha-cha slide. The Mount plays this song at every dance, without fail. I love it because my high school also played it at all of the dances. I tell my roommates that I will play that song at my wedding reception. They probably think I am joking, but I find it to be quite the party starter! And of course the night would not be complete without hearing Miley Cyrus' "Party in the USA." If the Mount had a theme song, "Party in the USA" would definitely be it. Every weekend, someone on campus plays "Party in the USA." In fact, when I attended the senior trip to Fells Point, every bar played this upbeat tune.

It would not be Christmas at the Mount without the giving trees. Every year, the Mount places giving trees throughout campus. The trees contain tags with anything from toiletries to hand held games written on them. Once the items are collected, they are distributed to those in need. The giving tree is a great way for students to prepare for Christmas. After all, what better way to prepare for Christ's birth than giving to those less fortunate? When I see a giving tree with plastic bags of goodies under it, I remember that Christmas means more than receiving gifts and dancing the night away. It's about caring for a neighbor in need.



Christmas time at the Mount also means that the bell that chimes three minutes before every hour takes on a different tune. Now, the bell plays Christmas hymns, such as "Come, O Come Emmanuel." Every day as I dart to class, I am reminded that Christmas is nipping at my heels. The bells signal a close to the semester and the start of Christmas break. Every time I hear the bells, Christmas hymns filter in and out of my brain.

Because my mountain home is known for its chilly temperatures, Christmas time is the perfect opportunity to check out Ski Liberty. Last year, I went snow tubing with BUMS (a campus organization that stands for Building Unified Mount Spirit). I loved gliding down the icy paths, holding onto the tube for dear life! My friend, Fallon and I tied our snow tubes together so that we could soar down the slippery path at the same time. Snow tubing was incredibly fun, and I would love to

go again this year! As for skiing – I think that will have to wait. I can picture my awkward self breaking a leg or an arm while attempting to ski. There is also the possibility that I could run into something or someone. After all, when I drive a go-kart, I am known for crashing into the person in front of me.

I am definitely going to miss Christmas time at the Mount. I will especially miss the Christmas lights and the Christmas dance. I have never missed a Christmas dance since attending the Mount, so it will be strange not attending this upbeat holiday function next year. If my schedule permits, I will definitely try to pay the Mount a visit during the winter of next year. I may no longer be a student at the university, but the Mount's contagious Christmas spirit will always be a part of me.

*Chelsea is a senior at Mount. St. Marys majoring in English. To read other articles by Chelsea visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net*

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## STAGES OF LIFE

# I'm a dad again

Brian Barth

Dad, dad, get up. Come on, get up, hurry! I quickly got out of bed thinking there was a problem. What is the big rush? I'm still half asleep. Come on dad what is taking you so long? What is so important that you two had to wake me up so early? IT'S SNOWING! You would have thought it was Christmas morning the way these two were acting.

Can we go outside? It was roughly 7:15 a.m., and both the kids had changed out of their pajamas and made their beds. When I they say they made their beds, really they just threw the top cover over top the pillow. To my surprise, my son and daughter had already fed themselves and had their teeth brushed. Utterly amazed, I rubbed my eyes and asked my son to pinch me. He gladly did without hes-

itation they asked, why did you want me to pinch you? Because you did all those things without having me to ask 500 times. Why can't you two do that on a school day? They looked at me and simply repeated, it's snowing. Needless to say this is a once in a lifetime event.

Okay, let me get some coffee and shower. They both timed me while in the shower knocking on the door every few seconds. But for them I'm sure seemed like hours. I could see little fingers underneath the door wiggling as if though they were showing me their impatience.

As soon as I opened the bathroom door they both said, are you ready, and can we go outside now?

Without even having a chance to make coffee I went to the hall closet and started the process of retrieving all the winter gear.

Snow pants, gloves, hats, and heavy socks.

I felt like the mother on the *Christmas Story* getting these two ready for the cold wet weather. We were finally ready to move from the laundry room to the garage. Now I had to search for the winter boots. My son hit the garage door opener and they both took off before I had a chance to get their boots on.

Yelling, I told them to come back, you don't have shoes on! With boots strapped on they both dove in the snow. Lucky for them we had close to a foot already. Otherwise they probably would have bloody lips.

They both popped up, looked back at me with snow all over their faces and said, this is great. I wish it was like this every day. Me said, me too guys, me too.



# Mom's time out

Abigale Shiyer

Well it's that time again. Time to bring in a New Year and make a fresh start. Have you thought about what you want or need to change in your life? I'm sure that you have and my hope for you is that you follow through and make 2010 your best year yet.

As I write this, it is just after 10:00 on a Tuesday evening. I have successfully put one kid in bed and the other one is wearing me down. She is 4 and she has never been a good sleeper - check that... she is a good sleeper...once she gets to sleep. You may be thinking, "10:00 - that's not so bad" - and you are right it wouldn't be if I didn't know that my son will probably wake up at about 1:00 and could possibly be up for a two hour window any time between 1:00 and 4:00. So - as I sit here contemplating what my New Years Resolution will be for the coming year - all I can think about is getting more sleep. I hereby resolve to get more sleep and do less this year than ever before.

Is that acceptable? Who do I check with to see if my resolution is valid? You usually hear people setting goals to lose weight, exercise more, spend more time with the family, get out of debt, get organized, quit smoking, quit drinking, enjoy life more, help others, start something new, etc.. So - at first - this sounded a little weak - "to sleep more and do less". It almost sounds like a cop out doesn't it? But, I have thought about this and I think it is just what I need to get me on a path to where I want to be. If I resolve to get more sleep, than that will mean that I will have to go to bed earlier, which means that I have to get my kids in bed earlier and fix their sleeping habits, which means that I will have to develop a strategy to make that happen. Once we are all going to bed earlier and getting more sleep, we are all more rested and happier. The time we spend together is of better quality. It all boils down to

what is most important to you. For me right now, I want to be the best Mom that I can be for my kids - and getting more sleep and not trying to do so much is a good start.

What's important to you? Is it living healthier - with less weight and more fitness? Or is there something that you have always wanted to learn and haven't taken the time to make it happen? Is there a habit that you want to break? We all have something that we could change to make our lives better. Setting a New Years Resolution is basically a goal setting exercise. If you give it the attention and follow through that it deserves - you will be successful.

For some of us, goal setting and "sticking to it" comes naturally. In my younger years, I was a competitive athlete. My goal was to get a full athletic scholarship to college - which I did. Setting goals and following through has been something that I have always done without giving much thought to it. Decide where you want to be, think about how you are going to get there, take action and then never quit. That sounds pretty simple, doesn't it? It is, but it has been my experience that you have to pick one thing at a time. Don't bite off more than you can chew. Pick one thing and do it well.

I'm not quite sure what happened to me when I bore children, but sometimes I think part of my brain was paralyzed. Why have I let myself go the last 4 years or so on less than 6 hours of sleep a night? - sometimes much less? I guess that it is because I am so tired that I don't have the energy to make a change. Thank Goodness for the New Year!

Your New Years Resolution is important to you. Give it the respect it deserves:

- Be very specific about what you want. For example, if you want

to start a new exercise program. Know what you are going to do, when you are going to do it, what your obstacles will be and how you plan to overcome them.

- Hold yourself accountable. Write your resolution down and/or tell someone what your plans are. Even better - get a buddy to join you and hold each other accountable.
- Take baby steps. Set small attainable goals for yourself. I'm sure you have all heard the metaphor "How do you eat an Elephant?" - "One bite at a time"... It makes a lot of sense.
- Celebrate your success. Keep track of what you do each week and month. On a daily basis, it may not seem like you are progressing, but when you look at it from week to week or month to month - you will be able to see how far you have come and it will motivate you to keep going.
- Don't give up. Keep going until you reach your goal and when you get there set a new one - even if it isn't January 1st.
- And most importantly - Believe that you can do it.

So, as I sit in my 'self appointed' time out this evening; I am going to picture myself sitting down in front of the fire with a hot cup of chamomile tea at 8:30 at night. In my minds movie, both of my kids will be in bed sleeping - dreaming about how much fun we are going to have tomorrow. I will be planning our next adventure - as a willing and enthusiastic partner instead of being short tempered and grumpy all the time... Now - how am I going to make this happen? - wish me luck.

## New Years Wishes

Former Emmitsburg Mayor Ed Houck

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-enterologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber and the I.R.S.

May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

May New Year's Eve find you seated around the table, together with your beloved family and cherished friends. May you find the food better, the environment quieter, the cost much cheaper, and the pleasure much more fulfilling than anything else you might ordinarily do that night.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, may the commercials on TV not be louder than the program you have been watching, and may your check book and your budget balance - and include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say "I love you" at least once a day to your spouse, your child, your parent, your siblings; but not to your secretary, your nurse, your masseuse, your hairdresser or your tennis instructor.

And may we live in a world at peace and with the awareness of God's love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every lover's kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

To learn more about former 'Burgess' Houck visit the People section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).

To read Ed's memories of being mayor and of growing up in Emmitsburg visit the Memories section of the Historical Society section of [emmitsburg.net](http://emmitsburg.net).



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# STAGES OF LIFE



Sixes Bridge Road on the morning after the blizzard of 2009

## Parenting by Zenas

### A month to live "honestly"

January – Honesty: being truthful, sincere and fair. Activity: Prayer/Meditation – spending time with our inner dialog.

Zenas: " Rex, Happy New Year! We have some really terrific things to talk about in the column this new year!"

Rex: "Hey, and a Happy New Year to you Zenas! Wadda ya mean about some really terrific things to talk about in this upcoming new year? Hey Zenas, I keep reading up on your column and can you tell me what the leading banner is all about? Like in December. You had something about *being fair and impartial and being kind to an offender*, and something about *taking time to do things I enjoy?* You any idea what my wife thought about when I asked her if she minded my taking some leisure time right smack dab in the middle of the Christmas season?!! Let me tell you, it really wasn't the right question to be asking her with the holidays on the horizon!!"

Zenas: "Rex, I'm really sorry you had that experience, perhaps after we take this entire year and look at each of the months character values, you'll be better prepped for

taking some of that well deserved leisure time next December!"

Rex: "Well I certainly hope so . . . . character values?? What are you trying to tell me?!!"

Zenas: "Now Rex, slow down just a bit! Isn't what a person shows on the outside a result of what's inside the person?"

Rex: "Well yea, kind of. You mean the way a person acts?"

Zenas: "Yes, how a person acts is a direct result of what's inside their core. I'd say it is the values the person has that reflect on the way they behave towards not only themselves, but others as well. You're a new parent and in knowing just a few things about you, I feel pretty safe in saying you want your new son to grow up . . . . ."

Rex: ". . . . To be perfect, just like his daddy!!"

Zenas: "and I am sure that is precisely what will happen . . . . if you give him the proper training!"

Rex: "What do you mean, *If I give him the proper training?* Just what

are you saying Zenas? Don't you think I got what it takes to grow my son into a man?!!!"

Zenas: "Now Rex, settle down!! I'm not saying that at all!! Both you and your wife have been through a bunch of schooling."

Rex: "And your point?"

Anna: "Dad, whose Rex?"  
Zenas (aka Dad): "Tell you in a bit, Anna." "So Rex, what courses did you take on raising kids?!!"

Rex: "Very funny, no school in this country teaches parents how to raise their kids! We just get out there and make it happen!"

Zenas: "Yea Rex, some do and some don't! If you are one of the fortunate parents, you got your training growing up . . . . . by your own parents! But there are many other parents out there who didn't have great parents like yours! And yes, you're right, school isn't about teaching parents to raise kids, although something tells me they ought to! Your son is going from zero to one years of age only once. And then he'll be entering elementary school before you know it. And . . ."

Rex: "Whoaaaaa Zenas, now its you that needs to slow down!! From zero to five is a long 1,825 days. A lot of time to make sure he gets the training!"

Zenas: "Your schedule pretty tight? Between time at work, time with your wife, time to do things around the home? How much spare time you got?!! Be Honest!"

Rex: "Well I'm not packed to the gills, we do have some down time. What are you getting at?"

Zenas: "Rex, if you aren't deliberate about raising your kids with a terrific set of values, how are you sure they are going to have them when they become adults? Most of what I have read says we have from zero to seven years of age to really make an impact on our kids, then its making sure they don't fall over a falls as they test all they learned! So right now is your time to be pouring in the right stuff! And I typically start the year off with *Honesty*. Being honest not only with others, but with myself. Its easy to be honest with others. Or is it. Sometimes we may find ourselves telling small mis-truths because we don't want to hurt others. What will this person be like after years of living like this? And then there is not telling ourselves the truth! Like just the other day, I told myself to get up early in order to get some well needed exercise."

Rex: "Let me guess, the floor was too cold and the bed too warm!!"

Zenas: "Right on both accounts!! But by catching just a few more winks of needed sleep, I wasn't being honest with myself when I made my date (to get up early) or then when it came time to enjoy the date (getting out of bed). I thought my small step in being dishonest paid off!"

Rex: "Ok, so I think I'm starting to get your drift. But all these questions pop into my head."

Zenas: "What kind of questions?"

Rex: "Well for starters, what's the activity supposed to be?"

Zenas: "Typically the activity gives me something to be doing to reinforce the value for the month. If I use the month of January to be more honest in my life, I also do my best to find time to actively listen to the conversations within my head and scan them for how deep my honesty goes."

Anna: "Daaaad, you can't be serious about all this! Just what do you know about teaching kids character??"

Zenas: "Rex, give me a minute, there seems to be a fire brewing here! By the way, February is all about Courage! Perhaps I could use some of that now!!"

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# THE ZOO KEEPER

## Ring in the New Year

Loyal Watkins

When I was a child, the New Year meant nothing to me. If anything, it was a little depressing because it meant Christmas was over and I only had a few more days of Christmas Vacation left (that was back in the day that we could actually call it that instead of today's "Winter Break").

Somewhere around Junior High (there was no such thing as "Middle School" in the olden days), I began to look at the New Year a little differently. It meant I got to stay up late and watch "The Ball" drop with Dick Clark. Everyone else in the house slept right through those magic moments, but it was then that I started to get excited about the New Year. Not because of the whole "fresh start" idea, but because it meant I was growing up and getting closer to being able to join the mass of parties in Times Square. It was then that I resolved to never become one of those people that slept through the biggest night of the year - I suppose that was my first New Year's resolution.

Once in High School, I started to spend New Year's Eve with friends. We were way too cool to watch Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve in its entirety, but we always turned it on in time to watch The Ball.

Through my twenties, I continued to celebrate on New Year's Eve with champagne flowing all night. At some point, though, the cork-popping slowed down and by the time I hit my thirties, the only cork that popped was the one at midnight. A few years into my thirties and the cork didn't even pop. Somehow I'd failed to even buy a bottle of champagne for the big night and instead had to settle for unscrewing the cork from whatever bottle of wine I happened to have on hand.

It was then that I figured I'd hit rock-bottom in my New Year's celebrations. I was wrong. Shortly thereafter, my beverage of choice on New Year's Eve became coffee - I needed the caffeine to stay awake until midnight. Occasionally I'd add a little Bailey's in a weak attempt to make it festive, but who was I kidding? I was drinking coffee on New Year's Eve. Oh well, at least I was awake for The Ball. If Dick Clark could do it at his age, I could do it at mine.

Well, it turns out that Dick Clark is a better partyer than I am. A few years ago, I broke my original New Year's resolution and slept right through the biggest night of the year. I have to give myself a little credit, though - I kept that resolution longer than I kept any others. But alas, as happens more often than not, New Year's resolutions get broken.

Still, I couldn't believe it had happened to me. At 11:55 p.m., I was fading but thought I could hang in there for just a few more minutes if

I could just rest my eyes through the commercial break. Yeah, I should've known better. The next thing I knew, Dick Clark had said good night and my coffee was cold. I'd missed it - The Ball had dropped without me.

**Times; They are a Changin'**

Since my tradition of ringing in the New Year with a toast had officially been broken, I decided I'd better not let any other traditions fall by the wayside. One of those traditions is spending some time reflecting on the past year. So far, so good on this one.

Wayne and I started our "Most Memorable" lists in 1999. Every New Year's Eve, we each make a list of our top five best and/or most memorable moments or events of the year. Neither of us is allowed to look at the other's list until after we are both finished. Most of the time, at least three of the five are the same on both our lists.

We keep our lists in a special "Happy New Year" folder that we really only pull out on New Year's Eve. As we reminisce about years past, it's amazing to see many things we had forgotten about, so having these lists is a nice way to honor and remember the important events of our lives. It's also interesting to see how what we consider "important" changes as we move through the stages of our lives.

In 1999, the things that topped our lists were getting engaged and the incredibly awesome "Horseback Wedding Shower" that our friend, Joe Topper, threw for us. In 2000, at the top of the list was getting married. In 2001, it was September 11th. Fast forward to 2004 - the year Kara was born. From that point on, our lists changed from being centered around things we experienced ourselves to things we experienced through our kids.

That's not to say that our own lives came to a screeching halt. My list still included things like riding milestones and personal achievements; Wayne's included work promotions and the like. But what stood out most were things like the day Kara caught six fish from our pond and when Gavin finally learned how to drive his Gator.

One of these days, I still hope to be one of the crazy partiers at Times Square on New Year's Eve. Even though celebrating the New Year with Ryan Seacrest instead of Dick Clark is not what I imagined when I first watched The Ball drop all those years ago, I'm pretty sure that it will still make it onto my "Most Memorable" list.

I wish you all a safe, happy, and memorable New Year.

To read other article by Loyal Watkins, visit the Authors' section of Emmitsburg.net.



1999's Horseback Shower with The Bride (Tia) and Groom (Buck) - still one of my best memories

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January 16, 2010 to 10  
am to 1 pm

Start the year with a healthy  
commitment. One on One  
Personalized attention or bring  
a friend and share the experi-  
ence.

I recently celebrated 11 years  
of helping people improve  
their health and energy levels.  
So many of my clients tell me  
how their lives have changed  
and I would like to share some  
of their stories with you. It may  
be just what you need to hear  
to get you motivated and start-  
ed on your way to a healthi-

er future. A sedentary lifestyle  
takes its toll on our health in  
today's automated world. We  
need to realize the importance  
of exercise in achieving and  
maintaining our health.

The first and most repeated  
benefit of exercise and weight  
training is energy, energy, en-  
ergy. Almost every one of my  
clients expressed an increase in  
their energy level. Even though  
most started the exercise and  
nutrition program to loose  
weight, they soon realized the  
other benefits that come with  
it. My one lady, that, by the  
way, says she hates to exercise,  
has been with me for almost ten  
years. The change she sees the  
most is that she does not jiggle  
anymore. She is so pleased she  
can wear a pair of slacks and

does not feel self-conscience  
about how she looks.

Several of my clients tell  
me they feel firmer and their  
clothes fit better now. Another  
client went on a field trip to  
the zoo and was able to walk  
all day without having trouble  
with her legs. Two people are  
very pleased they can now get  
up from a chair without lean-  
ing on the table for help. They  
can also walk up the stairs  
much easier and are able to  
get out of their cars without a  
problem. Sometimes they do  
things and realize a minute later  
what they did and how easy  
it is now. It is a wonderful feel-  
ing when you realize that you  
have improved your quality  
of life. These are things peo-  
ple take for granted until they  
can't do them any longer.

A man came to improve his  
overall health. He is a pilot  
and must be alert and in top  
condition at all times. Weight  
training has not only helped  
him drop a few pounds, but  
has sharpened his awareness  
and his reactions when faced  
with a split second decision.  
Your mind must be able to re-  
ceive, process, and react to in-  
structions in record time while  
at the controls of an airplane.  
Weight training and exer-  
cise keeps his mind, as well as

body, in good condition and he  
has the satisfaction of knowing  
he is doing something to keep  
himself in the best health pos-  
sible.

I have clients that come  
to improve everything from  
horseback riding, volleyball  
and hunting, to just being able  
to keep up with their kids. Ev-  
ery daily activity and sport can  
be improved with exercise and  
weight training.

Many people who have had a  
stroke or heart attack are told  
by their doctor or rehab facility  
to continue to exercise. Some-  
times, they don't feel comfort-  
able exercising on their own.  
I have some clients who have  
been through complete cardio  
rehab and realized the benefit  
of it. They want to continue  
to exercise because they know  
how much better their check-  
ups are and how much better  
their quality of life is. A regu-  
lar exercise program, guided by  
a trainer or on your own, is a  
health benefit that is priceless.

Clients come to me all the  
time with stories of success,  
pride, improved self esteem  
and overall health. I could  
write pages of stories, but I  
would like you to hear your  
story. If you don't have one,  
call me and let's get started  
on an exercise and health suc-

cess story for you. I have been  
helping people for eleven years  
and have an established pro-  
gram, so I will be there to help  
you every step of the way. I of-  
fer private, personal, one on  
one training and guidance.

Many people just need a lit-  
tle help to get started and if I  
can be that first step, please call  
me. Do this for yourself and  
encourage family and friends  
to join in for support and to  
share in the benefits. My most  
important goal is to help you  
improve your health. When  
you have good health, the rest  
of your life follows. Take that  
first step, you will be so glad  
you did.

I am conveniently locat-  
ed just minutes from Emmits-  
burg, Thurmont, Fairfield and  
Gettysburg at 285 Boyle Rd.  
Call, 717-334-6009, for di-  
rections or to schedule ano-  
ther time if the open house hours  
are not good for you.

I want to guide you to a  
healthier life with more energy  
than you ever thought possi-  
ble. Come on in for a free con-  
sultation and see what I have  
to offer and what you have to  
gain!

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Amanda Smith Breon - Director/Instructor aesmith1999@yahoo.com

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**Jonas Troyer was raised an Amish boy in Holmes County, Ohio. At age 20, he fell in love with a lovely English girl, who at the time was attending nursing school. In 1959 he bought a station wagon and began delivering cheese made from local cheese manufacturers. The local mechanics questioned why they had to keep replacing the lock on the trunk of that station wagon. It was because of all the cheese he sold! Fifty years later we package, manufacture, smoke and distribute our products to 38 states! We are a family owned business and our customers are family owned businesses! We do not and will not sell to Wal-Mart!**

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# Computer Q&A

Aysë Jester

**Q.** I have virus protection on my computer but I am still getting viruses. Should I get better virus protection?

**A.** While virus protection is a crucial part of keeping your system protected and clean there are several things you can do to take an active part in your computers health.

- Ensure that your antivirus is up to date. If your antivirus' database is out of date it doesn't know what to look for.
- Make sure that your antivirus is scanning files for infections regularly.
- Don't run several antivirus programs at once. They will conflict and do more harm than good. It will also wear your hard drive out faster if both programs do regular scans.
- If your computer tells you to download or install something and you're not sure what it is or if its harmful either research that program or call a professional for advice.
- NEVER pay for something that you did not install or that

tells you that your computer is infected. It IS a scam and they WILL steal your card information. If you think it may be legitimate, do some research and then buy.

- Don't leave websites open when you are not using the computer. Some viruses come in through advertisements that cycle on the page. Minimize your exposure time by closing unused pages.

**Q.** What should I do if my printer stops working?

**A.** The first thing you should do is check all the connections to ensure that a cable didn't come loose. You should have a power cord going from the wall to the printer, and a USB cable going from the printer to the computer. If both cables are tight and the printer is on, re-install your printer software by going to "Add or Remove programs" in the control panel and uninstalling the software related to your printer. Then disconnect the USB cable to the computer. Re-install your software from the CD or go to the manufacturer's website to download the latest drivers. When the wizard is complete try to print a test page. If the printer is still not working you can try another

USB cable. If at that point you are still not able to get the printer working the main circuit board on the printer is probably bad and the printer should be replaced.

**Q.** Windows or another program is telling me to update. Should I do the update? How do I know that the update is from a credible source?

**A.** You should always complete all windows updates for your system. Windows updates are created to patch any security holes that are in the system as well as fix any bugs that have been found. If you want to be sure that your system is up to date you can click on start all programs>Windows Update (at the top of the list). If another program is alerting you to update and you want to make sure the update is coming from that software directly, you can visit the software's website or open the software and update from within the software (usually under the help menu).

*To have your computer question answered in next month's article please write to QNA@JESTERCOMPUTERS.COM. For more computer help please contact Jesters Computer Services at (717)-642-6611.*

**Q.** What is the best way to back-up important files?

**A.** There are several ways you can back-up your data. The best rule of thumb is to keep two copies of anything important. When backing up your media you have many options available to you. Here are some of the media sources you can store your data onto and the benefits and disadvantages of each.

**External Hard drive**

**Pros:**  
Lasts as long as the drive does  
More storage,  
Automatic back-up capabilities.  
Back-up entire system or specific files/folders.

**Cons:**  
Has moving parts  
Usually Stationary  
Data corruption

**CD'S**

**Pros:**  
Lasts 5-10 years  
Physical hard copy  
Portable  
Data verification available

**Cons:**  
Only holds 700MB DATA  
Can get broken or damaged  
You can only use once  
Cost per CD  
Software may be needed  
Amount of time to burn CD

**DVD'S**

**Pros:**  
Holds 4.6 GB of data  
Physical hard copy  
Portable  
Lasts 5-10 years  
Data verification available

**Cons:**  
Can get broken or damaged  
You can only use once  
Cost per CD  
Software may be needed  
Amount of time to burn DVD

**Flash Drives**

**Pros:**  
Universal  
Portable  
No moving parts

**Cons:**  
Average life is 10,000 uses  
Easy to lose  
Data corruption

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05 Tuscon 84k	\$8,995

05 Pacifica 79k	\$9,995
01 Jeep Gr Chero 55k	\$9,995
06 Kia Sorrento 51k	\$9,995
02 Chevy Tahoe 77k	\$10,995
04 Explorer 59k	\$12,995
05 Explorer 59k	\$13,995
05 Expedition 79k	\$13,995
05 Nuissan Xterra 70k	\$13,995
05 GMC Envoy 62k	\$13,995
03 Expe4dition 63k	\$14,995
07 Explorer 37k	\$15,995
04 Suburban 76k	\$15,995

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02 Dakota 68k	\$10,995	04 Ram 2500 65k	\$16,995
03 Ram 85k	\$10,995	04 Ram 1500 51k	\$17,995
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04 Explorer Sport	\$11,995		

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## LIBRARY NOTES &amp; SENIOR NEWS

## Friends Among the Stacks

Caroline Rock

1. Quit smoking
2. Lose weight
3. Quit drinking
4. Learn something new
5. Spend more time with family
6. Get out of debt
7. Get closer to God
8. Get a better job
9. Help others more
10. Get organized

Those are the top ten New Year's resolutions made by Americans each year (although, to my chagrin, "Go Green" is creeping higher on the list).

I guess I have it pretty easy, as far as keeping resolutions. I make them on January 1. One month later is my birthday, allowing me a valid and pressing opportunity to revisit and renew them. Soon after my birthday comes the season of Lent. Face it, most of the resolutions we make in January involve some kind of sacrifice, so they can serve double duty when we use them during Lent. By the time Easter rolls around, it is pretty clear to me which resolutions are going to stick, and which ones are meant for some more mature phase of my life. It's funny, though, how often the same resolutions end up on my list year after year.

Resolution #9 is sadly low on the above catalog. "Help others more." Volunteerism is a hot topic these days. People have come up with

some very creative ways to help others, from building houses to donating clothes, furniture, and food to those in need. In the past, my idea of helping others was to give them a list of things they could do for me, so they wouldn't have to work so hard trying to figure it out. Helpful of me, don't you think? And that is what I am about to do now—give you a list of things you can do for me. You will be happy to know that the list is very short. In fact, there is only one item on it:

Become a Friend.

Now I am sure most of you, my gentle readers, are already very good friends. You return emails promptly, RSVP to invitations, and reciprocate gifts. But the kind of friend I am suggesting you become is a bit different.

In the late 1990's, the Friends of the Library Emmitsburg Branch (FOLEB) was formed. This group, formerly called the Advisory Board, took as its mission, "to promote and enhance library activities, and support the library staff through advocacy and fundraising."

How do they do this? A typical Friends to-do list might look something like this:

- Landscape around library
- Sort books for book sale
- Cut felt shapes for storytime

Get cookies and punch for program  
Help decorate for children's tea  
Bake cake for festival

Fortunately, one does not have to be born with royal blood or a thick wallet to be a Friend. One has only to have a love for the library, and a desire to facilitate the smooth running of its programs and operations. So you can see that if you became a Friend, you would be helping me, an Emmitsburg librarian, as well as my fellow workers, and the entire community of Emmitsburg.

The current president of the FOLEB is Annetta Rapp. She has been a Friend for 13 years. Annetta wants people to consider becoming Friends. "We especially encourage parents and newcomers to our town to take an interest in our wonderful library and become a member of the Friends," says Annetta. Parents will find many ways to assist with events that benefit their own children, and newcomers to Emmitsburg will discover how easy and fun it is to connect with their new community. "But any library patron may join," says Annetta. "And membership is free."

Have you ever noticed the colorful mural on the walls in the children's area of the library? The FOLEB financed that mural through fundraising and donations. The information cradles and display fixtures in the library came from the generous hard work of the Friends. The FOLEB provided the

puppet theater and puppets in the children's area, the movie-making equipment for the teens, and the celebration for the 100th anniversary of the Emmitsburg Library. This past September, the FOLEB sponsored an Antique Appraisal Day. They also organized the annual Plant Exchange in March, and the Fall Festival. The FOLEB participated in Community Day, and assisted with the annual Children's Holiday Tea in December.

You can see that the variety of projects the Friends undertake makes it nearly impossible to say there is nothing you can do. Every member of the Friends brings some new idea to the library and its programs.

When the librarians expressed a desire to display pictures of library events, the Friends agreed to purchase a laptop with a fifteen-inch digital picture frame. This gift is made possible by memorial donations in honor of a longtime library Friend, David Martin, who served for many years on the FOLEB Board.

"Our sources of income," says Annetta, "are proceeds from the Book Nook, sales of Emmitsburg note cards, one-dollar Bag of Books sales, and contributions." This year, of all the Friends groups in Freder-

ick County, the Emmitsburg Friends was the largest donator to the Summer Reading Program. Yes, our little library proved it has a big heart.

Perhaps you recognize the names of some of the members of the FOLEB: Susan Allen, Sr. Eleanor Casey, Bo Cadle, Joan Fisher, Jean Javor, Jim Julian, Rose Woodsmall, and our current branch manager, Derek Gee. And if you don't recognize these names, why not get to know them? Who can't use more friends?

"We are a friendly group," says Annetta. And anyone in the library on meeting night will attest to the amount of laughter coming from the Community Room. "We meet six times a year," says Annetta. "On second Mondays at 7 P.M." Commitment to the FOLEB can be long-term or short-term.

So you see how generous I am being by making this suggestion to you, dear Reader. Not only am I giving you a practical way to fulfill Resolution #9, but I am presenting an avenue for you to meet munificent people who share your love for the library, its people, and its activities. I hope you will consider making membership in the FOLEB a top priority in the New Year.

To join the Friends of the Library Emmitsburg Branch, call Annetta Rapp, President, 301-447-2992, contact one of the Friends mentioned above, or speak with an Emmitsburg Librarian.

## SENIOR NEWS

Susan Allen

**Happy 2010!** Hope you didn't lose too much sleep on New Year's Eve. We're beginning the year by celebrating an achievement in December. Our team of Wii bowlers won the conference championship in the National Senior League, and went all the way to the national final four! 2009 was the first year of Wii bowling competition, and all the senior citizens are really proud of the team's great showing. Our January schedule includes Wii bowling on Fridays from 11 a.m.-noon.

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS:** On Friday, Jan. 9 our Friday breakfasts will switch to brunch at 10:00 a.m. Our program on the 9th will be about "Hospice," presented by Denise Waterson, at 10:30 a.m. Rosemary Hill will speak to us about "Identity Theft" on Friday, Jan. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

The seniors encourage all eligible persons (50 years and older) to join them for regular program activities and special events. Our lunch program is open to those 60 and older. Programs are held in the Community Center on South Seton Avenue. Call for lunch reservations 24 hours in advance. The Senior Center will close whenever county offices are closed. To register for special events or for infor-

mation, call program coordinator Linda Umbel, 301-600-6350.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**Bowling:** Mondays at Taneytown bowling center. Carpool; meet at center at 12:30 p.m.

**Strength Training & Conditioning:** Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Dress

comfortably, wear athletic shoes. Participants will use small weights. Free.

**Bingo:** Jan. 13 & 27.

**Cards, 500, and Bridge Group:** Jan. 6 & 20.

**Men's Pool:** Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

**Pinocle:** Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

**Canasta:** Fridays at 12:30 p.m.

**Shopping at Jubilee Foods:** Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Recurring Events

Bingo at the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company's Activity Building. Doors open @ 4:30pm games start @ 7pm.

### January 3

St. John's Lutheran Church's of Creager-town's Christmas pageant and cantata. Performance of Candles and Carols featuring the combined voices of choirs from St. John's Lutheran and Thurmont United Methodist Church. After the service a light meal of soup and sandwiches and Christmas cookies will be served. Join us for an evening of fellowship and celebration of our Savior's birth.

### January 6

My Father's Footsteps Hair Design Open House, 9 am to 7 pm. Realizing that times are difficult, this is our way of thanking our loyal customers and to welcome new ones. Refreshments will be offered all day. See our ad on page 3 for more details.

### January 8

Elias Lutheran Church's 'he Basement Coffee House Ministry, A "knock your socks off" evening with lots of food, lots of singing, and dancing too! For more information call Pastor Jon Greenstone at 301-447-6239

### January 9 & 10

Emmitsburg Baseball and Softball Registration at the Vigilant Hose Company from 1 to 3 pm. Age groups range from 4 years of age to 18 years old for both boys and girls.

### January 9

Gettysburg's Majestic Theater presents: The Met Opera. Broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera from Lincoln Center will be shown on the historical Majestic Theater's screen and enhanced by live interviews and a look at behind-the-scenes action. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org)

### January 10

"All You Can Eat" breakfast at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Emmitsburg. Feast begins at 7:30.

### January 11

Monthly meeting of the The South Mountain Audubon Society. Jamie Flickinger, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, and Dr. Karl Kleiner of York College will speak on their telemetry project with Barn Owls in our area. Additionally members will present

a variety of presentations titled "members best". The meeting will be held at the Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road Gettysburg at 7:30 P.M. and is free and open to the public. For further information call 717-642-5718.

### January 16

Linda Stultz, Certified Fitness Trainer/Therapist Open House! See page 31 for more information.

Annual Lee-Jackson Forum and Dinner hosted by the American History Preservation Foundation. In honor of the birth of two of America's greatest heroes. Gettysburg Hotel, Gettysburg. Don't miss this opportunity to spend an evening exploring the character of these two leaders, as well as enjoy great food and conversation. Call for reservations: Stephanie at 410-259-5906 or email

### January 17

Music Gettysburg! presents: Gettysburg Chamber Orchestra - Enjoy Beethoven with the talented pianist Jocelyn Swigger of the Sunderman Conservatory. Lutheran Theological Seminary Chapel, Gettysburg. For more information call 717-338-3000 or visit [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org)

### January 23

Seventh Annual Emmitsburg Burns Night will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 6 p.m. in JoAnn's Ballroom of the Car-

riage House Inn, Emmitsburg. See story on Page 3 for more details.

### January 24

Gettysburg's Majestic Theater presents Amahl & the Night Visitors. The brilliant musical retelling of the story of the Three Wise Men. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org)

### January 25

Regular Monthly meeting of the Emmitsburg Historical Society. Come join the member of the historical Society as they continue their research on Emmitsburg businesses of old. Meeting are free and open to the public. The meeting starts at 7 pm and is held in the community room at the Emmitsburg library. For more information call 301-471-3306 or visit the Historical Society section of [Emmitsburg.net](http://Emmitsburg.net)

### January 26

Gettysburg's Majestic Theater presents Laura Ingalls Wilder - School Days Series. Laura and her family travel across in search of a place they can call home. Even as they face obstacles such as scarlet fever and eviction from their land, their pioneering spirit and family bonds are tested but never broken. For more information call 717-337-8200 or visit [www.gettysburgmajestic.org](http://www.gettysburgmajestic.org)

### January 29

Hauser After Hours - Free live music & catered food. Enjoy music by the Al Parsons Band and

food by Sir D's. Hauser Estate Winery, Bigler-ville, PA. For more information call 717-334-4888 or visit [www.hauserestate.com](http://www.hauserestate.com)

### January 31

Music, Gettysburg! presents Kathleen Sasnett - One of Gettysburg's favorite sopranos delivers the delights of opera and Broadway. Lutheran Theological Seminary Chapel, Gettysburg. AFor more information call 717-338-3000 or visit [www.musicgettysburg.org](http://www.musicgettysburg.org)

### It's Girl Scout cookie time again!

All the old favorites are still available - Thin Mints, Samoas (chocolate/caramel/coconut), Do-Si-Dos (peanut butter sandwich cookie), Tagalogs (peanut butter covered in chocolate), Lemon Cremes, and Trefoils (shortbread cookie). There are also two new ones - Dulce de Leche (bite size with milk caramel chips - very yummy!) and Thank U Berry Munch (with cranberries and white fudge chips).

Cookies are \$3.50/box or you can buy "TLC" Cookie Bundles for \$10.50/bundle. The bundles include one box of each:

Cookies will be delivered the 1st and 2nd week of February and money will be collected at that time.

Thank you so much and Happy Holidays! J

Layla Watkins "The Zookeeper"  
301-898-5940



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**The Band Of The Irish Guard  
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*I'd like to (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):*

- Relax.
- Have some fun.
- Feel better.
- Express myself.
- Learn to draw.
- Learn to paint.
- Make a pot.
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# MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Mount St. Mary's University is built on four pillars—faith, discovery, leadership and community. Students, alumni, our faculty, administrators and staff, all turn these words into action every day. In the coming year, we'll introduce you to some of the Mount's own, who help make the university, and the Emmitsburg community, a place we're proud to call home.

## Dale Phillips, '05 Assistant Director of Admissions

"The thing I love most about Mount St. Mary's University is the atmosphere—this has to do with both the individuals who work here as well as the values that are important to the Mount as a community."

"I love that I can attend Mass during the workday, or that I can share something I am going through personally and know that my co-workers will help me through it. I really do feel like the Mount is one big family!"

### More about Dale:

*Favorite Career Memories at the Mount:* Starting in the Alumni Office the week of Reunion Weekend!

*Favorite Movie:* A Muppet Christmas Carol

*Time period you would most love to live in:* The 1950s

*Advice for Seeking Personal Vocation:* Pray!

*Thoughts on Mount St. Mary's:* It's home.

*Favorite Quote:* "For those who went here, no explanation is needed; for those who didn't, no explanation is possible." ~Father Forker on the Mount spirit.



Dale Phillips

## Athletic Events

### Women's Basketball

**Jan. 14**

5:00 PM -7:00 PM, Knott Arena.  
Home game vs. St. Francis (N.Y.)

### Men's Basketball

**Jan. 14**

7:30 PM -9:30 PM, Knott Arena.  
Home game vs. St. Francis (N.Y.)

### Men's Basketball

**Jan. 16**

2:00 PM -4:00 PM, Knott Arena.  
Home game vs. Long Island

### Women's Basketball

**Jan. 16**

5:00 PM -7:00 PM, Knott Arena.  
Home game vs. Long Island

### Women's Basketball

**Jan. 28**

5:00 PM -7:00 PM, Knott Arena.  
Home game vs. Sacred Heart

### Men's Basketball

**Jan. 28**

7:30 PM -9:30 PM, Knott Arena.  
Home game vs. Sacred Heart

### Women's Basketball

**Jan. 30**

3:00 PM -5:00 PM, Knott Arena.  
Home game vs. Quinnipiac

### Men's Basketball

**Jan. 30**

7:00 PM -9:00 PM, Knott Arena.  
Home game vs. Quinnipiac



16300 Old Emmitsburg Road  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727  
1.800.448.4347

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