This Fall issue of the Bugeye Times marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of Calvert Marine Museum. We have taken this appropriate opportunity to review the past history of the Museum as well as anticipate our future. This issue is broken down into three features: Past, Present, and Future.

When did the idea originate? Whose idea was it? Was it a half-conceived notion lying in the backs of lots of minds for a long time before someone finally voiced it? Were a number of people having a similar thought simultaneously? This idea of saving the old stuff, or maybe even starting a museum — where did it come from? When?

Perhaps it was first mentioned onboard the Miss Solomons as she daily ferried her passengers from Solomons to the Naval Air Station. Weren’t they seeing a way of life disappear as there was more and more talk about “that bridge” up at Point Patience? Or maybe it was in the cozy cabin of the Wm. B. Tennison, the J. C. Lore and Sons’ oyster buy boat, as the men waited for the oystermen to bring their daily catch to market. Every year there were fewer shaft tongsers, and the patent tongsers were just holding their own, but the dredgers were slipping back. Seems that each Fall saw one less skipjack beat its way into the Patuxent to slip alongside the Tennison to shovel out ever smaller harvests. About time that somebody did something to keep all this for the younger ones, the future generations.

Undoubtedly the man whose convictions gave rise to the initial action was Joseph C. Lore, Jr. Born on Solomons and a life-long resident, he had been a part of its history; he had seen the activity of the James T. Marsh and M. M. Davis shipyards; meeting the steamboat had been a boyish pleasure; his father’s oyster buying-and-packing business had been his way of life too; he had seen the decline and virtual disappearance of the familiar Bay boat types — the bugeye, the schooner, the skipjack and log canoe. Somehow something must be retained of this past and Joe Lore became the man around whom the other like-thinkers gathered. Alton Kersey, Pepper Langley, Daniel Barrett, Bill Dovel and others supported Joe in his dream.

In 1968, Mr. Lore became president of the Calvert County Historical Society, “an organization dedicated to the preservation of the history of Calvert County.” Quickly Mr. Lore presented to the Society the dream of the Solomons’ folk of having a museum for the preservation of the local maritime history and the Society endorsed the idea. Mr. Jefferson Patterson gave the Society $500 to be used toward the museum, the Society matched the gift, and a committee, under the chairmanship of Colonel Albert Paine, was appointed to undertake the planning and development of the museum.

Acquisition of a site was more frustrating than had been anticipated. Owners of several ideally situated locations fronting on the water were unresponsive to the idea of letting their land be used for such a purpose. Mr. John Bluster, the owner and operator of Pier One Restaurant, an “outsider” if you please, offered the small slip of land lying between his restaurant and the building which housed the Solomons Post Office. Though the site was small it was large enough...
to accommodate the 24' x 40' building which was already acknowledged to be a temporary location.

Because of ill health, Col. Paine relinquished the chairmanship of the Museum Committee and in September 1969, Mr. William Dovel, a biologist at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, succeeded to the position. Under his leadership and with Alton Kersey, David Barrett, Jr., Pepper Langley and other dedicated enthusiasts, the building was completed and officially opened on October 18, 1970. More than 2,000 hours of donated time — nights, weekends, holidays — had gone into the project, a project begun September 18, 1969.

A building is not a museum unless there are artifacts exhibited with a purpose. During the year of construction, Joe Lore had been gathering the materials for the exhibits. The response was overwhelming; people parted with treasured family tools and nautical equipment in their support of the museum at Solomons.

Even while this first phase of the museum's development was being completed, the next was in the works. In September 1970, the Historical Society had petitioned the Calvert County Board of Education to turn over the property of the Solomons Elementary School to the County Commissioners and that the Commissioners then make the property available to the Calvert Marine Museum for a permanent home. With the co-operation of Judge Perry G. Bowen, Jr., the late Senator Edward T. Hall, Delegate Thomas A. Rymer, and the County Commissioners of Calvert County, the Solomons Elementary School building and acreage were made available in 1973 to the Society for the permanent home of the museum.

In May of 1974 work was begun on the renovation of the school building. Again there was enthusiastic support from the community. Many hours of free labor plus the use of cranes, trucks, and bull dozers by Jack Williams and Richard Gibbons cut the costs and hurried the project to completion. On June 29, 1975, a large and appreciative crowd attended the dedication of the Calvert Marine Museum.

During the entire period of fevered activity for the establishment of the marine museum, another project of the Calvert County Historical Society was moving slowly toward realization. In 1962 the Drum Point Lighthouse had been abandoned by the United States Coast Guard in favor of an automated beacon-type light, and the property and structure of the lighthouse were deeded back to the State of Maryland. A plan of the State to restore the building for recreational purposes was deemed inadvisable and the State returned ownership to the United States General Services Administration.

The Calvert County Historical Society, aware that vandalism were dooming the lighthouse to extinction, designated the preservation of the structure as a special project and in 1966 set about acquiring it. It took eight years of threading the obstructive shoals of State and Federal agencies before the Society, assisted by the Calvert County government, acquired the deed to the lighthouse in December 1974. A contract was entered into with the Diamond Construction Company of Savannah, Georgia, already in the Patuxent constructing the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge, to move the structure from Drum Point to the Museum's waterfront. The move was made on March 22, 1975. Restoration was shortly underway and proceeded as money and manpower were available. Dedication of the completely restored and authentically furnished structure occurred June 24, 1976.

The many volunteers, men and women, who labored so diligently and with great dedication to bring to completion these first three phases of the Calvert Marine Museum rightfully deserve the recognition which they have received. Under the on-site direction of first Bill Dovel and then Dr. Ralph Eshelman, these people gave reality to the vision of Joe Lore and those other early dreamers. Fortunately for the people of Calvert County, the Calvert County Historical Society had also been caught up in that dream and had supplied the organizational structure necessary to its successful accomplishment.

Members have much to be proud of in their Calvert Marine Museum. This small museum has the only authentically restored screw-pile lighthouse in existence, Drum Point Lighthouse. Our Museum possesses the second largest collection of Tufnell watercolor paintings, second only to the collection at Windsor Castle, England. Our Joseph Bohannon steamboat watercolor collection is the largest in any public institution. The smallcraft collection, second largest in the Chesapeake Bay region, contains the only keel-type bogan, a two-log canoe, and a "chunk" or log-built oyster buy boat, Wm. B. Tennison. The Tennison is the oldest licensed passenger vessel on the Chesapeake Bay. Only the Smithsonian Institution maintains a larger Miocene fossil collection from Calvert Cliffs than the Museum.

In fact, most museums can similarly boast about strong points in their collections. But what good are these collections to the average museum visitor? This year CMM has spent more time and effort than ever before on interpreting our collections for the visitor, attempting to make his visit more educational. The lighthouse has always been by tour

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Oyster was an oyster cracker, enthusiastically surrounded our interpretors with questions while waiting in line to try their hand at tonging. Even during cruises aboard the *Tenison*, the skipper will frequently throw the engine in neutral as he elaborates on points of interest along the way. New intrepretative brochures on the Museum, Drum Point Light-house, and Smallcraft Collection have also been printed to reinforce this educational goal.

CMM now sponsors its second and third clubs, the Solomons Island Model Boat Club and Calvert Canoe Club. Coupled with the John Olsen Chapter of the American Shipcarvers Guild, these clubs provide hands-on experience in use of tools, naval architecture, estuarine field observations and also fun.

Other highlights this year include approval of the Museum Master Plan, a new programs room and changing exhibit gallery, and acquisition of the J. C. Lore & Sons Seafood Packing House. This later acquisition is probably the largest undertaking ever attempted by CMM, other than the Master Plan. The packing house will be used for a comprehensive history of the commercial fisheries of the Patuxent River.

If the past is prologue, then the future of the Calvert Marine Museum has great potential. However, every year the demands made upon the museum’s paid and volunteer staff become greater. Parking during the summer is practically impossible with cars parked on the lawn and in the street. This rapid increase in attendance, coupled with limited space and increased pressure for programs, necessitates a long range Master Plan for the museum.

The major focus of this new plan is the creation of a boat basin connecting with the museum’s waterfront on Back Creek. This basin will provide four times the present water-front and valuable free docking for our water-oriented visitors which represent nearly twenty percent of our summer attendance.

All exhibits will be centered around this boat basin bringing a truly marine orientation to the visitors’ experience. A large building housing the major exhibits is designed to look similar to the old fish plant which once processed fish for fertilizer at Ship Point in Solomons Harbor. After entering the lobby area, where restrooms, cloak rooms, and gift shop...
are located, visitors are urged to proceed to the 250-seat auditorium where an introductory film on the museum's three themes will be shown. This multi-media show will attempt to instill an awareness, appreciation, and an eagerness to gain knowledge about the exhibits to be viewed.

As if by a “time machine,” the visitor will exit the auditorium and proceed back in time twelve to fifteen million years when Calvert County was inundated by the ancient Calvert Sea. Passing through a glass tunnel the visitor will see fascinating plants and animals of the Miocene Sea. Ferocious sharks haunt a mother whale and her calf and oceanic crocodiles feed on a dead seacow. Skeletons of these animals lie scattered on the sea bottom with crabs and fish feeding on and living among the debris. Ascending out of the water the visitor will see a terrestrial equivalent to this sea: pine forests and swamps of cypress with ancient mastodons, camels, and even rhinoceroses walking about. Passing into another room containing fossils of all the plants and animals just seen, a working geologic model of the area explains how Chesapeake Bay formed, how the cliffs originated, and why Calvert Cliffs are world famous for their rich Miocene fossils. Finally, an exhibit on fossil collecting depicts a fossil whale skeleton being excavated from a life size, three-dimensional recreation of the cliffs.

The second phase takes the visitor through a series of aquaria showing estuarine life of the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. Live rockfish, bluefish, flounder, crabs, even jellyfish, will be exhibited. Actual reconstructions of fresh and salt water marshes will show railbird and fiddle crab marsh habitats. A touch tank is also located here enabling children and adults to handle horseshoe crabs, sea squirts or terrapin turtles. An otter tank leads to a boardwalk over a man-made marsh created on one side of the boat basin.

Entering the third phase, maritime history of Calvert County, the visitor will be able to learn the importance of the Patuxent River as a settlement area, a means of early navigation, and a trade route link with Europe. An electric map will recreate the naval flotilla battle on the Patuxent against the British during the War of 1812 which eventually resulted in the burning of Washington, D.C. Exhibits of torpedos and mines exemplify Solomons' effort during WWII, when it was home of the U.S. Navy Amphibious Training Base and U.S. Mine Test Station for naval ordnance testing.

Perhaps most exciting is the Discovery Room where hands-on exhibits will encourage self-teaching. Synoptic collections will allow visitors to identify fossils, fish, or shells. Through microscopic investigation, estuarine life, otherwise invisible, can be examined. Use of the chaulking hammer or net shuttle can be attempted. Participatory exhibits, making learning fun, are the real test of understanding.

The smallcraft building will be moved adjacent to the boat basin where an exhibit on boats really belongs. Some boats will be kept in the water to demonstrate oyster tonging and trotline crabbing. Drum Point Lighthouse will remain the waterfront focal point.

Finally, the visitor may ride on the Wm. B. Tennison to the Patuxent River Commercial Fisheries exhibit to be housed in an authentic seafood packing house located on The Narrows at the north end of Solomons Island proper. Here the complete story of seafood harvesting, processing, canning, and shipping will be told; crabs, oysters, fish, even caviar, were sold from this packing house, established in 1888.

A visitor to CMM will leave with a greater appreciation for, and better understanding of, the marine history of this area. Implementation of the above outlined plan will pro-
vide the institution with the physical facilities needed to continue its mission under its ever increasing demands for them. Facilities, however, do not a museum make. The support of our community, membership, Board of Governors, and staff will always be the heart and moving force behind this Museum.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES INCLUDE:

1. Subscription to the quarterly "Bugeye Times" newsletter.
2. Quarterly calendar of events.
3. Free admission to Museum programs (films, lectures, slide-shows).
4. Invitations to previews and receptions for new exhibits.
5. Discovery & Exploration Labs (D&E Labs) for children.
6. Trips and tours.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Calvert Marine Museum
P.O. Box 97
Solomons, Maryland 20688

(Your membership expires ________________)

PLEASE ENTER MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR:

( ) $ 2.50 Student (under 25 yrs. old)
( ) $ 5.00 Individual
( ) $ 7.50 Family
( ) $ 50.00 Supporting
( ) $100.00 Sustaining
( ) $500.00 & over - Life Membership

Name

Address

City State Zip

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EDITORIAL: At The Crossroads

The Museum now stands at what is probably its most important crossroads in its ten years of experience. A small museum with a warm yet informal and rustic atmosphere is about to embark on a massive, yet intriguing, expansion program. How will this expansion affect the Museum? What will be the growing plans involved? Will the visitor leave with the same fondness and general overall good feeling of his visit? These are questions that are difficult, if not impossible, to answer. On the one hand the Museum's present facilities are inadequate to meet the present, yet alone future, pressures made upon it by the community it serves. On the other hand a major expansion to meet these needs could very well destroy the quaintness of the present museum. A modern exhibit building with large amounts of plexiglass, flashy exhibits and numerous multi-media shows could result in a plastic, sterile building. This editorial is written only as a warning. The Master Plan of the Museum is exciting. But everyone involved must strive hard to maintain the quality and ambience developed over the past ten years. It won't be easy; it will be challenging. Careful planning and hard work will be necessary to determine the proper road to be followed in the future. Your comments on this topic are most welcome.
FALL CALENDAR AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All programs begin at the Museum at 7:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Programs are free to members; $1.00 to non-members unless otherwise noted. For additional information call Dorothy Ordwein at 326-4162.

OCTOBER
MARITIME EXHIBITS AT PRAD; demonstrations of maritime skills emphasizing the traditional ways of the watermen. Will include net making, rope work, boat building, ship carving, model making, oystering, crabbing, fishing.

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ANNUAL RECOGNITION NIGHT FOR MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS, additional information by mail.

NOVEMBER
A LOOK TO THE FUTURE; lecture by Dr. Ralph Eshelman on the possibilities for the Museum's second decade.

DECEMBER
BELIEVE IT OR NOT; a slide show on some of the ingenious ways of which nature has adapted some of her creations for proficient functioning in their natural habitats. Dr. Walter Boynton of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory will present the show with narration.