SIGNIFICANT MUSEUM DEVELOPMENTS MARK SUMMER OF 1985

The summer months have brought important developments for the museum. First and foremost was the appropriation of state and county funds toward the master development plan, making possible the beginning of construction of the new exhibition building. The status of the master development plan is described below in more detail. The second important development was the signing of the agreement establishing SEARCH, the Solomons Environmental and Archaeological Research Consortium, also the subject of an article in this issue.

It is difficult to assess clearly at this point the significance of these events, but it is certain that as the museum celebrates its fifteenth anniversary it does so with the assurance that its objectives are more widely recognized and that its programs and services will be strengthened in the years ahead. The new exhibition building is needed to interpret the museum’s collections more effectively and to provide better facilities for its various activities. With the establishment of SEARCH, the museum moves into a larger sphere of cooperation that will make use of its new facilities and trained museum staff to provide even broader research and educational programs for the community, the county, and the state.

MUSEUM MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Moving Ahead with the New Exhibition Building

Members of the Calvert Marine Society have been told during the past six years of the plan of the museum to create a new museum complex on the existing site. Work on this plan began in 1979 with the hiring of Cambridge Seven Associates who proposed a three-phase development effort: (1) creation of a new boat basin and marsh walk on museum property to increase the waterfront available for water-related exhibitions and programs; (2) design and construction of a new exhibition building facing the new boat basin, to provide a greater amount of space for displaying the museum’s collections in its three areas of interest and to provide the facilities for educational programs based on these collections; and (3) renovation of the present exhibition building for conservation programs, library and archives, and administrative offices. Previous issues of the Bugeye Times have reported on aspects of this developmental program, but members have not had a full status report recently.

The chart on page 2 shows at a glance the status of the three phases. Phase I included the complete schematic design of Phases I, II, and III, and the construction of the boat basin and marsh walk. Its total cost was $930,000, of which $470,000 was spent for the boat basin, begun in September 1983 and dedicated in May 1984. Funds came from county, state, federal, and corporate grants. This addition to the museum has proved to be a great success.

Phase II will be the most costly and ambitious of the three phases, for in this phase the $3,000,000 new exhibition building will be built. (The architectural renderings with this article provide some impression of the scope of this phase.) Bills were introduced in the 1985 session of the Maryland legislature to support this work. Thanks in large part to the
MUSEUM MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN:  (Continued from page 1)

efforts of CMS members in urging their legislators to support this project, an appropriation of $500,000 was passed. To this amount the Calvert County Commissioners appropriated $1,000,000. (Both amounts include some funds for Phase III as well as Phase II.) At the present time the museum staff and board members are reviewing the building plans prior to bidding the construction of the building shell, estimated to cost an amount that is within the funds currently available. Ground breaking is being planned for early 1986. Future funding to complete the building will be requested from state, corporate, foundation, and other private sources.

Under Phase III the present museum building will be completely renovated. Constructed in 1925, the building has had a number of improvements made to adapt it to its present use. It is, nonetheless, in need of major renovation to provide suitable climate controls and to create spaces that are more suitable for the museum's needs. A major conservation laboratory will be included, funded through the generosity of Mrs. Jefferson Patterson. The museum's library and archives will be located on the main floor where there is more space, better light, and improved physical conditions. Also on the main floor will be the administrative offices, providing more and better space for administrative staff. Funding for the $470,000 anticipated cost will come from corporate and private sources — needed to match our National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant.

When the construction of the new exhibition building (Phase II) begins this winter, it will take several years before the building can be used for the public. Completion of the building shell should be possible by the fall of 1986, but final construction could not be expected before the fall of 1987. After the building is complete, at least a year would be required for installation of the new exhibits. It is hoped that the major renovation of the present building could begin while the new exhibition building is being completed. Although these dates seem far in the future, this development is essential to the successful achievement of the museum's goals and is worth the time to produce a lasting result.

Many members have seen the model of the completed facility that is on display in the museum foyer. Those who might be interested in seeing the plans for the new building may view them in the museum office with prior arrangement. Financial support is still needed, as described in the next article.
NEH Challenge Funds Top $300,000

On August 20, Ed Mitchell, president of the Potomac Electric Power Company, presented a check for $8,000 as the first payment of a three-year commitment of $24,000 to the museum’s capital campaign. This commitment has brought to $314,000 the funds to be applied toward the National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant. PEPCO has also joined the Calvert Marine Society as a Corporate Patron. A two-fold commitment of this kind — membership and capital campaign support — is exemplary and typifies the commitment from individuals as well as the corporate sector so vital to the success of the museum during this period of rapid growth, development, and change.

As explained in the article on the museum development plan, the most extensive fundraising from various private sources is directed toward Phase III. In December 1983 NEH awarded CMM a challenge grant of $150,000, contingent upon the museum raising $450,000 in new funds. (The NEH grant will itself become the nucleus of a museum endowment fund.) Support from individual and corporate donors has been most gratifying, now reaching nearly seventy percent of the grant objective. Although the museum has until January 1987 to certify matching funds, and an added six months to receive all outstanding commitments, it is to the museum’s benefit to complete this challenge as quickly as possible.

PEPCO is but one example of the support CMM is receiving from the corporate community. Major financial contributions have been reported in previous issues of the Bugeye Times from Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, and Maryland National Foundation. Not previously reported was a contribution of $15,000 from Black and Decker. Additionally, there are now fifty-seven corporate members of the Calvert Marine Society (up from twenty-four at the beginning of 1984!), including four at the associate level and seven patrons. Corporate support for the museum goes beyond funds: there are also in-kind donations and gifts, such as tools, boat repair, storage space, and food and beverages for special events. The museum salutes its corporate supporters.

In addition to these various direct donations toward the challenge grant, all new and upgraded memberships qualify as a match, to date reaching nearly $40,000 from individual and corporate sources. (At the completion of the NEH challenge the income from these memberships will be available for general museum operations.) Recognition of those helping

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Solomons Research Consortium Established

The desirability of a coordinated effort among the principle research and educational organizations in Calvert County has been recognized for some time by those involved in these organizations. Discussions under way during the past two years to formalize such a relationship reached a culmination on June 27, 1985, when four representatives signed Articles of Operation in a public ceremony in front of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons. The organization thus formed — the Solomons Environmental and Archaeological Research Consortium (SEARCH) — is comprised of the following: the Calvert Marine Museum; the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory of The University of Maryland's Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies; the Estuarine Research Laboratory of The Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia); and the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum of the Maryland Historical Trust. These four organizations bring to the consortium a wealth of expertise in several scientific and educational disciplines, and also are committed to research and its dissemination to the public.

To quote from the Articles of Operation:

The primary purpose of SEARCH shall be to serve Calvert County and the State of Maryland by encouraging, coordinating, and implementing research, education, and public service among the member institutions of the Consortium. These cooperative efforts are intended to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the environmental and cultural development in the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay region from prehistory to the present.

This purpose will be pursued through public programs, through publications, through research efforts, through coordination of basic library materials, through appropriate interaction with other public and private organizations of similar interests, and through seeking financial support for consortium activities. Each of the four organizations of SEARCH has a single vote in policy matters, but staffs, volunteer workers, and others will be utilized in committees and projects.

Although SEARCH is still rather involved with its initial organization, an announcement was made in August of one of the first examples of cooperative interaction. A collection of nearly eleven hundred specimens of terrestrial, aquatic, and salt water plants — assembled over a forty-year period by staff members of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory — was donated by CBL to the Calvert Marine Museum where it will be made available to the public after review and rehabilitation by a staff botanist. Another early SEARCH activity is a public lecture series planned for this fall, beginning with Jack Greer on October 17 (see Calendar).

CMM's director has played a very active role in the establishment of SEARCH and has been elected its first chairman. Dr. Eshelman views SEARCH as a logical part of the museum's outreach into the broader community — an effort to share the resources of the museum's collections and staff, and in turn to benefit from the resources of the other local organizations. The completion of the museum's master plan will provide important physical facilities, such as the auditorium and the expanded library, both vital components in the consortium's future potential success. Members of the Calvert Marine Society are directly involved through their support of the museum; they will benefit from the cooperative programs that will enhance the museum. SEARCH is but another example of the maturing status of the museum as it begins its sixteenth year.

One of the highlights of CMM's two-week August program, "Southern Maryland Maritime Industries," was a field trip to Harry and H. B. Huseman's eel fishing business in Town Creek, Maryland. There, with the help of H. B. (seated on his boat), participants learned about maintaining eel pots, salting eels for crab bait, and keeping eels alive before shipment to Virginia and, ultimately, Europe.

The fourteen participants in the program were fourth and sixth graders from local schools. Using the Lore Oyster House facility they carried out various educational projects such as studying marine organisms and cooking seafood dishes. Local watermen (and women) were visited by the group, including Austin Wroten, a Solomons crabber, Roy King, a fisherman in Battle Creek, and Norma Joy, who sheds soft crabs in Olivet. Additional field trips included Zahniser's Sailing Center in Solomons and the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp in Prince Frederick.

Calvert County teachers Joann Roberts and Elaine Merski were assisted by CMM staff in presenting this successful program, offered without cost through the support of the Town Creek Foundation.

CMM photo by Paula Johnson
NEH Challenge Funds Top $300,000
(Continued from Page 3)

to reach the goals of the challenge grant will be published upon its completion.

The categories of support toward meeting the NEH challenge grant are summarized as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual memberships of individuals</td>
<td>$38,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and corporations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts and pledges from individuals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major contributors (Mrs. Jefferson Patterson)</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate and business grants</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>State and county contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (founders, etc.)</td>
<td>$20,050</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$314,039</strong></td>
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Although not applicable to the capital campaign effort, the museum is fortunate to be awarded again this year a $37,760 general operating grant from the Institute of Museum Services, a federal agency that offers general operating support to the nation’s museums. These annual grants — the sixth for CMM — augment appropriated operating funds and enable CMM to provide additional educational and visitor services.

Waterside Music Festival

Early in the summer, CMS members and many others enjoyed evening concerts at the museum’s boat basin as part of the Waterside Music Festival. The three concerts on May 25, June 20, and July 5, drew some 725 people to the museum and netted $4,400 toward the NEH challenge grant. The sponsorship of the concerts by the Calvert Bank & Trust Co., the Maryland National Bank, and the Maryland Bank & Trust Co., as well as a grant by the Calvert County Arts Council, contributed significantly toward the success of this effort, but a number of other local businesses also contributed. Support by these contributors and the efforts of many volunteers have been greatly appreciated.

CAN YOU HELP?

Museum members have been helpful in the past in volunteering their services and in making donations. Volunteers are needed for service in the museum Gift Shop — hours usually can be arranged to fit individual schedules. Call Dee Danzig on 326-2042 for details. Part-time clerical assistance is needed in the museum office. Call Alice Viverette on the same number. If anyone has drafting skills, Pepper Langley can use help in documenting lines from half models of several boats.

Donations to the museum’s collections and library are always welcomed. At present we are trying to fill in sets of the following magazines: *Maryland Magazine* (early years); *Maryland Historical Magazine* (before 1980); *Yachting* (before 1930, late 1950s, and some 1960s); *Rudder* (early years); *Boating* (mixed issues); and others pertaining to boating. Call the library (preferable on Wednesdays) to see if your surplus issues are needed.

Anyone heading toward St. Louis, Missouri? If you have extra room in your truck or car for your return trip, we have a large library that has been donated but needs transporting to the museum. If you can help or wish more information, call Ralph Eshelman on 326-2042.

DRUM POINT AND PLUM POINT

Members Enjoy Lawn Party and New Exhibit

“We are not only enjoying the members’ picnic this evening, but we are also celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the Calvert Marine Museum.” Museum director, Ralph Eshelman, welcomed some 175 Calvert Marine Society members with these words on Saturday, August 24, as they gathered around the boat basin for the 1985 membership lawn party. Those attending enjoyed the location near the water, listened to singer Wilson Craddock, sipped beverages and ate desserts provided by the Society, played volleyball and croquet, toured the Drum Point Lighthouse, or took one of the three harbor cruises aboard the Wm. B. Tennison. They also had an opportunity to see *Down Wind*, an auxiliary ketch built in 1938 by the M. M. Davis Shipyard and sailed to the museum for the occasion by its present owner. As part of his brief remarks, Dr. Eshelman reported on the status of the museum’s development program (described elsewhere in this issue) and then invited those attending to join in the opening of a new exhibit, "Plum Point: A Retrospect.”

This exhibit features twenty-eight photographs taken by Joan DeMoss, as well as a number of historical photographs documenting Plum Point as a steamboat landing in earlier days. The photographs in Joan DeMoss’ exhibit are hand-painted silver gelatin prints, following a coloring process that was used before the development of color photography. They reflect her deep affection for the uniqueness of the Plum Point area and its people. Her photographic work has been published and hung in juried shows on the West Coast, but this is her first East Coast exhibit.

The historical photographs, a ledger from the Plum Point store, and related items have been provided by several persons associated with the area and have been mounted with appropriate captions — including the text of a 1920s song extolling Plum Point’s virtues. The exhibit, prepared by museum staff, can be seen during the museum’s hours of opening until October 27.

The support of members attending these events has been appreciated, as well as the special efforts of staff and volunteers in making the evening such a success.
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Pictorial materials of maritime interest have constituted the most significant acquisitions this past summer. An important collection of watercolor and oil paintings of Chesapeake Bay sailing craft has been acquired from Walter Feuchter, brother of Baltimore artist Louis J. Feuchter who died in 1957. Louis Feuchter developed a strong affinity for the Bay craft of the 1920s and 1930s and painted them in their natural surroundings. His watercolors and oils are in The Mariners’ Museum at Newport News, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, and in private hands, but CMM now will be able to exhibit a notable selection of Feuchter’s work, based on some thirty examples in its collections.

A. Aubrey Bodine is well known for his photographs of Maryland and the Bay, many of which have appeared in a number of volumes published before his death in 1970. A select number of prints relating to Solomons, Patuxent River, and Southern Maryland—some not previously published—have been donated to the museum by Mrs. Bodine. Both of these pictorial collections will be displayed in the new exhibition building.

Artifacts from Chesapeake Bay steamboats are always of interest, but an unusual item acquired recently was a large carving from the paddlebox of the steamboat St. Marys, one of the Patuxent River ships of the Weems Line. When she burned in 1907 opposite Benedict, one of paddlebox carvings was found floating in the river. It was donated to CMM this year by R. Johns Dixon and is on display in the museum’s maritime history room. All of these acquisitions are significant additions to CMM’s collections.

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CMM CLUB CORNER

The FOSSIL CLUB recently began publishing its own newsletter, *The Ecphora*, named after an attractive fossil snail that is found locally and is the official Maryland state fossil. Copies of the first issue were sent to members of the club and others interested in fossils, but later issues will be sent only to dues-paying club members. If you missed the first issue or are interested in the club, call the museum. Fossil Club dues are $10 a year per family (in addition to CMS membership). The club and museum will continue to sponsor field trips, lectures, and *Bugeye Times* articles for the general museum membership in addition to programs for club members.

Members of the PATUXENT SMALL CRAFT GUILD now meet the second and fourth Saturday of each month, from 9 to 4. They are continuing restoration work on the small skipjack Marie Theresa, which can be seen in the water in the boat basin in front of the Small Craft Shed. Work has centered on a new mast, hatch covers, and cabin repairs. Donations are still needed to complete the work of rebuilding the engine and for replacing sails and miscellaneous hardware. Supporting the club in its PRAD raffle of a cypress skiff will help fund this effort.

Those attending two of the Waterside Music Concerts in the early summer were treated to in-water demonstrations by members of the SOLOMONS ISLAND MODEL BOAT CLUB. The sight of the graceful, radio-controlled, model skipjacks sailing in the boat basin fascinated picnickers prior to the concerts. The club is one of the largest model boat clubs on the East Coast—its membership is approaching one hundred, with some twenty-five radio-controlled models—and is one of only two in the U.S. (St. Michaels is the other) that build radio-controlled Chesapeake Bay skipjacks. Two club regattas were held this summer, as well as a challenge race between Mel Conant and “Pepper” Langley. Mel raced a model of a Baltimore Clipper and “Pepper” a model of a Chesapeake Bay schooner. All three heats in this challenge were won by “Pepper.” The big event of the summer was the race with the St. Michaels club, the third year of racing and the third winning by the Solomons club. First place was won by Gordon Bupp of the Solomons club, second by Mr. Harbage of St. Michaels, and third by Jimmy Langley of Solomons.