S
olomons and the museum have lost a native son and true supporter. James LeRoy “Pepper” Langley died in Calvert Memorial Hospital on August 12, leaving a legacy of accomplishments few men can equal within the county. He will be missed by a large family and a host of friends and admirers.

“Pepper”’s wife Margaret said in the introduction to /I Remember: Recollections of “Pepper” Langley, Growing up in Solomons that “You stop him talking, and that’s gonna be the end right there.” Now “Pepper”’s voice is stilled, but the memory of his stories lives on in the wonderful recollections that form the text of his book.

His friend Mel Conant said in his introduction to /I Remember: “The teller of these tales emerges as a person we would all like to know. He gives us glimpses of what has meant a lot to him – the creeks and river of his youth, his family, his remarkable carving skills, and his deep pleasure in showing ‘how’.” Even more important than his recollections, we remember his accomplishments through the many works produced during a long lifetime: carvings, boat models, trailboards, nameboards, and signage of many types. Fortunately for many of his admirers, these items could be appreciated in an exhibit in the museum during much of 2001. Many remain on permanent exhibit, and others from “Pepper”’s hands exist around Solomons.

James LeRoy Langley was born at Solomons on April 27, 1915, into a large family with ties to the area. He spent almost all his life here, with only a few periods when he left for employment elsewhere. Because of his skill and interest in baseball, he soon earned the nickname of “Pepper” after the baseball great “Pepper” Martin. His early working life was with the M. M. Davis & Son Shipyard, then located up Mill Creek across from Solomons. He recalls vividly the work on a variety of the yachts and other wooden boats turned out by the shipyard. Before and during the early days of World War II, he left for Baltimore and then Annapolis to work on larger vessels, but soon returned to Solomons for war work in which the Davis shipyard was engaged. After the war he went to work for the naval installations in the Solomons area – first the Mine Warfare Test Center and then the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. In both places he used his skills as painter and modelmaker. Soon after he retired in the mid-1960s, with time to reflect on the life he had enjoyed in Solomons, he worked with several others on the idea of a museum to preserve the local heritage, with the active support of the Calvert County Historical Society. This vision materialized as the Calvert Maritime Museum, first opened in October 1970. From volunteering in the new museum, “Pepper” took on more formal status as modelmaker and woodcarver, but gave freely of his time to help others learn both of these skills. Visitors to the museum enjoyed watching him work and hearing his accounts of Solomons. He soon developed two clubs in which others could participate: the Solomons Island Model Boat Club and the Southern Maryland Shipcarvers Guild. Until two years

(Continued on Page 6)
CMM LICENSE PLATES

As announced in the spring issue of the Bugeye Times, special Maryland license plates with a CMM logo are available for $45.00 each. The winner of the auction for the #1 plate was CMM board member Mary Anne Harms, shown below with director Doug Alves. Any members interested in obtaining one of the special plates should call Debbie at 410-326-2042, ext. 16 for details.

Richard Roming

Another staff loss was Richard Roming, mate of the Wm. B. Tennison, interpreter, and volunteer who died on August 10. He lived in the Lusby area. After a career with the United States government, including the U. S. Coast Guard and other maritime service, Dick moved to Calvert County and began volunteering at CMM. According to an article in the Bugeye Times in 1982, Dick taught ropework classes, organized a darkroom, and worked on the outdoor exhibits. In 1983 he joined the staff, working first as a mate on the Tennison, then as an interpreter for the Drum Point Lighthouse, returning from 1988 until 1994 as the Tennison mate. He continued to volunteer with his ropework skills for the public, especially after the opening of the Exhibition Building in 1989. One project was an elaborate covering for a center post in the museum store. His donations of maritime artifacts, books, and photographs enriched the museum collections. Dick was a long-standing member of The International Guild of Knot Tyers. Condolences of his many friends go to his wife and family.

Oyster House Designated a National Historic Landmark

The Calvert County Commissioners were notified on August 17 that the Secretary of the Interior has determined that the J. C. Lore and Sons Oyster House has national significance in the history of the United States, and thus has been designated as a National Historic Landmark under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This is a most significant honor for the county and Solomons. Within Calvert County, the only other National Historic Landmark is the Wm. B. Tennison. The oyster house was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, and the same year became a Calvert County Historic District.

The J. C. Lore and Sons Company began in Solomons in 1888 and continued through 1978. At the present location on Solomons Island, the Lores obtained a patent for land in the early 1920s and built an oyster house from which they processed and packed oysters and sold them to firms in Baltimore and Washington. During a storm in August 1933, the first building was destroyed, with the present facility built in 1934. By 1978, the company felt the troubles of the oyster industry and closed its doors. The county soon purchased the oyster house as an exhibit for CMM, which opened it to the public in 1984. See the calendar or call the museum for a fall schedule for opening hours.
OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO MEMBERS

SOCIETY SNAPSHOT

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

In fiscal year 2001, the Calvert Marine Museum welcomed 420 new members! New at the Bugeye Society ($1,000) level in FY’01 were Mr. James Shannon-Williams Corp., Mr. Walter Clews-AmeriSpec Home Inspections, Inc., Mr. James Taylor-Maryland Bank & Trust, and Mr. & Mrs. Ken Spencer.

Upgrade your membership to the $100 Sustaining level or above and receive the book Working the Water, by Paula Johnson.

Members taking their membership to a higher level include: James Briscoe • Lonnie Frank • Hayden Mathews • Mathew Regan & Yoon Young Lee • Harry Wachs • Holiday Inn Select-Solomons • Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Benn (USN) • Chester Burgess • George Dankers • Fred Lively • Timothy Myers • Richard Rogers & Ms. Ann Michrowicz • Carolyn Shore • Alice & Ted Viverette • James Wilbar • William Gosnell Jr. • Carroll Flaherty • Mr. & Mrs. George Halvosa • John Matheson • Myrdon Neuman • Seifter Family • Joyce Stone • Samuel & Linda Pistachio • Susan Simon • Jessica Ward • Kenny Dayton • Margaret de Wever • Lee Norris Soderberg • Norman & Rosemary Dawley • Eunice & Julius Knott • Robin Beers • Margaret Reingruber • Winnie & Ken Hill • Robert & Marcia Coker • Dennis & Erika Mailhot • Charles Crawford Jr. • Elaine Felsen • David & Shirley Butler • Lee Marin Stevens • Don & Carole Thieme • Richard Cirillo • Timothy Daniel • Diane Heal • Veda Barnes • Sally & Francis Moravitz • Karin & Andrew Roscoe

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FLASHBACK

Thanks to all of you for helping us have another successful year of fundraising and “friendraising” in fiscal year 2001.

Our Most Memorable Moments:

September 2000 - Waterside Music Series enjoyed a spectacular performance by Smokey Robinson with nearly 4,000 in attendance.


December 2000 - The Members’ Yule Party entertained over 450 CMM members and member families

June 2001 - The Year-End Appeal saw its largest number of donations, 245, and beating its goal and bringing in $14,860 in support of the Cove Point Lighthouse.

June 2001 - On June 1, the public enjoyed a special performance by country music classic Waylon Jennings.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY ...

ENJOY YULE PARTY 2001!

December 9, 2001

The 2001 Members’ Yule Party will be held Sunday, December 9, at the museum. Details are coming soon, so watch for your invitations in the mail!

MEMBER RECRUITMENT AT PRAD

October 6-7, 2001

Don’t miss the membership recruitment table at Patuxent River Appreciation Days on October 6-7. Invite your friends to join the CMM family or use the opportunity to renew or upgrade your own membership. If you upgrade to the $100 Sustaining level or above, receive a wonderful gift from the museum as well as increased benefits and a tax deduction!

Corrections

There were three names spelled incorrectly in the summer issue in photo captions. The correct names are: Paul Murdoch (page 5); Maureen Baughman and Gail Kurfeerst (page 8).
Among the activities that greeted visitors to CMM, those shown here were especially successful.

During Shark Day! on July 21, the CMM Fossil Club provided its usual informative exhibit for attendees, especially appealing to the interests of the younger visitors.

Local Girl Scouts assisted young visitors with T-shirt printing during Shark Day!

Despite a summer storm, the amphibious landing reenactment took place from the Liberty Ship John W. Brown (background) at the U. S. Navy fishing pier, August 11.
During the “Cradle of Invasion” weekend of August 10-12, the opening ceremony and veterans’ recognition was an important event on CMM’s west lawn on August 11.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

A new feature this summer has been the rowing skiff, seen here as handled by volunteer Bill Boxwell. So far, over two hundred visitors have taken the opportunity to go rowing. One visitor thanked the museum for “my great pleasure and delight” from such a trip that brought back wonderful memories of similar rows when she was a visitor to Solomons and Dowell many years ago. For more information, call Bill Lake, president of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, at 410-586-1534.

Photo by Mary Beaton

Carolyn Wyman (left), staff writer for the New Haven Register and official SPAM biographer, told an interested audience on August 11 “Why SPAM Should be the Official National Food,” with two demonstrations.

CMM photo by Bob Hall
ago he continued active in both clubs and in meeting the public on weekends at the museum.

“Pepper”s work on behalf of the Calvert Marine Museum has been recognized many times in the past years. In 1989, “Pepper” was one of the recipients of the Maryland Governor’s Volunteer Award during a ceremony at the Governor’s mansion in Annapolis. The book / Remember appeared late in 1990, with a book signing event in January 1991. In April 1991 he was given the CMM Volunteer Achievement Award, followed in September 1991 by the first Volunteer Emeritus award from the Volunteer Council. The year 2000 brought more wide-spread recognition, with a “Pepper” Langley Appreciation Day at CMM in January and a very special event in September - the naming of the Solomons fishing pier in his honor, an accolade initiated by State Senator Roy Dyson and endorsed by the Calvert County Commissioners. The exhibit of his carvings opened in November 2000 with an appropriate ceremony. It was fitting, therefore, that the funeral on August 16 be held in the museum, attended by a large number of relatives and friends.

The museum has not been the only community effort in which “Pepper” has been involved. In the years just after World War II, he helped organize and participated in racing regattas in the harbor; he has been a strong supporter of the Solomons Methodist Church; and his efforts helped in the establishment of a rescue squad. When an appropriate design was needed for a Waterman’s Memorial on the renewed river waterfront, “Pepper” designed an appropriate plaque that was cast in bronze.

“Pepper” has left behind his wife of sixty-three years, Margaret, six children, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His legacy will continue in the community and in the museum.
"Pepper" with former Governor Harry Hughes (left) and the late Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein (right) during PRAD in the early 1980s. CMM photo

THOUSANDS TURN OUT FOR WATERSIDE 2001 WITH JAMES BROWN

Over 4,300 guests turned out to see the legendary James Brown perform at Calvert Marine Museum on Saturday, September 1. Presented by Ralph's Dodge and Cumberland & Erly, LLC, Waterside 2001 kicked off the evening with an outstanding show by blues favorite Deanna Bogart. No stranger to CMM, Bogart thrilled the crowd with her amazing voice and musical talent.

The volume turned up a notch when the “Godfather of Soul,” James Brown, hit the stage just after 9:00 p.m. An already starlit evening was brightened even further as Brown and his crew of back-up singers, dancing girls, and instrumentalists entertained the crowd with a collection of songs ranging from classics like “Living in America” to newer songs from his latest album, “Love Over-Due.” If crowd response was any indication, the evening’s highlight came when Brown was fitted with capes in patriotic red, white, and blue colors. Another unforgettable evening at Calvert Marine Museum, and a concert that raised thousands of dollars for CMM programs.

Sponsors for Waterside 2001 are Ralph’s Dodge; Cumberland & Erly, LLC; Solomons Landing; Coors, Coors Light, and Killians (Bozick Distributors); Century 21; Radio Shack - Charlotte Hall/Dunkirk/Prince Frederick; Red Hot & Blue; Colonial Printing; Holiday Inn; Bay Weekly; Comcast; Main Message Center; Southern Maryland Newspapers; SMECO; 98.3 Star FM; WKIK 102.9; and Mom’s in the Kitchen Catering. All Waterside outdoor shows are performed on the Washington Gas Pavilion.

James Brown performing live at CMM. CMM photo by Bob Hall.
CALVERT FOREST FAIR

The museum will participate at the first annual Calvert Forest Fair, to be held at the Battle Creek Nature Center on Sunday, October 21, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This celebration of Calvert County’s forests through the ages is sponsored by both the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary and the Calvert County Forestry Board. Exhibits will include fossil wood found at Calvert Cliffs, interpreted by CMM’s Jean Hooper; pollen grains that tell which trees were growing here before and after the first settlers; tools used by Native Americans and settlers to fashion local wood into all kinds of utensils; current uses of local forest products and the management and preservation of our forests; there will be an art show of tree/forest watercolors; and tasty tidbits made from our forests’ fruits, nuts, vegetables, and honey may be sampled. For more information, call Battle Creek Sanctuary at 410-535-5327.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Because of unexpected absences, due in part to the tragic events of September 11, the Volunteer Council program planned for September 14 was canceled at the last minute. (It will be rescheduled later.) As a result, there is no Volunteer Spotlight in this issue.

Happy Holidays

There are many events planned to get you in the holiday spirit this year! Join your family and friends in the Solomons Christmas Walk and wander the streets of Solomons by following the luminaries from doorstep to doorstep. It starts on Friday, December 7, from 6 to 9 p.m., continues through Saturday into Saturday evening, and ends on Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. You’ll find others out enjoying the evening as carolers sing, Santa listens to your children’s wish lists, and even a “Coffee House” at the museum on Saturday evening. The Coffee House is a perfect beginning or ending to the evening – use it to meet up with your neighbors before heading out or as a final stop to get warm drinks and cookies before heading home for the evening!

By special request, the Museum Store will be open each evening during the Christmas Walk and its usual hours of 10:15 to 4:45 each day with the added bonus to museum members of a 20 percent discount on most items (10 percent on books) during the entire weekend! It’s a great opportunity, so be sure to take advantage of the extra savings!

Of course, the Museum Store will also be open during the Members’ Yule Party on Sunday, December 9, and your extra discount in the store will still apply that evening. It’s a great evening to visit with fellow members, nibble on some delicious goodies, and to let us entertain you and your family.

We hope to see you this holiday season, and wish you and your family a safe and prosperous New Year. (Maureen Baughman)