During 1990 the museum will be celebrating its twentieth year. A number of events will take place throughout the year, starting with International Museum Day on Friday, May 18, and culminating in a Twentieth Anniversary Weekend on September 28 through 30. Museum members and the general public will be invited to participate in these events.

The museum at Solomons began as an idea in 1968, but took two more years before becoming a reality under the sponsorship of the Calvert County Historical Society. Mr. Jefferson Patterson donated $500 to be used for the museum, an amount matched by the historical society which then established a committee under the chairmanship of Col. Albert Paine. The first frustration was the acquisition of a suitable site. "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 ... 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."

On October 18, 1970, the small museum building was opened to the public for the first time — the result of more than a year of hard work (over 2,000 hours) by Joseph Lore, Jr., Alton Kersey, David Barrett, Jr., LeRoy "Pepper" Langley, and other volunteers. During the period of construction, many artifacts were gathered for display, thanks to the generosity of a number of local families. Although at first open only on weekends, the museum soon attracted so much support and interest that the Historical Society committee soon sought larger quarters. An agreement was reached among the school board, the County Commissioners, and the Historical Society under which the vacant Solomons School and surrounding acreage were turned over to the society to renovate as a larger museum. More hard work and donated labor went into this transformation, resulting in the dedication of the remodeled structure before a large audience on June 29, 1975.

Concurrent efforts were made to save the Drum Point Lighthouse which had been abandoned by the U. S. Coast Guard in 1962 following installation of an automated light. After years of frustration, and again with some generous donations of resources, the Drum Point Lighthouse was moved to its present location on the museum grounds in March 1975. These accomplishments, under the leadership of a new director, Dr. Ralph E.
CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM AT TWENTY

(Continued from page 1)

Eshelman, moved the museum ahead with such success that the government of Calvert County began financial support of museum operations. With this support, the Calvert County Historical Society bowed out, turning the museum over to the county in the fall of 1979. A master plan study commissioned in 1979 drafted plans for the boat basin, the new exhibition building, and the further renovation of the school building — a plan that is now two-thirds of the way toward accomplishment. CMM at twenty has reached a dimension in facilities and programs that could only have been considered a dream for the initial planners in 1970.

To commemorate this anniversary, a "Twentieth Anniversary" streamer is being carried on the masthead of the Bugeye Times throughout 1990, and the museum's letterhead will also herald this theme. Marine artist Robert Picardat, ASMA, has created a special twentieth anniversary poster which reproduces his dramatic watercolor of the Drum Point Lighthouse as viewed from the Small Craft Shed with the skipjack Maggie Lee in the foreground. Production and sale of this poster will be a joint venture with the Gallery at Carmen's Framing and Meridian Art. From 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, Bob Picardat will exhibit his original watercolors and pencil-sign copies of the twentieth anniversary poster for the general public at the Gallery at Carmen's Framing and located on Solomons Island. Museum members only will be invited to a private reception and "signing" from 5 to 7 p.m. the same evening at CMM. Copies of the poster will be priced at $25.00 each, with no charge for the artist's signature. After the release weekend, the poster will be available at the CMM Museum Store and the Gallery at Carmen's Framing and, still at $25.00 each, but at $35.00 for a signed poster. Other activities during the summer will also honor the anniversary.

The major commemorative event of the year will be the Twentieth Anniversary Weekend in September. Full details will be given in the summer issue of the Bugeye Times, but mark your calendar now for Friday, September 28, for the black-tie "Bugeye Dinner and Ball," and Saturday and Sunday for an "open house" with a variety of events on the museum grounds.

Please plan to visit CMM during 1990 and join in the celebration of the museum's first twenty years. Museum members can feel proud that their support has helped make possible the developments and achievements of these remarkable years.

MORE FROM “SCHOONER FARE” AT CMM ON MAY 26

Fans of the "Schooner Fare" group will have another chance this year to enjoy their special blend of folk music and sea chanteys on Saturday evening, May 26, starting at 7:00 p.m. This third appearance of these popular singers at CMM will again be the highlight of the Waterside Music Festival, held around the museum's boat basin. Funds raised will go toward completing the aquarium exhibits in the new building.

Last year over one thousand CMM members and fans enjoyed the concert at the boat basin. Tickets this year will be $12.00 each, with a special reserved seating section for 100 with tickets at $25.00 each. Those purchasing reserved seats will also be invited to a pre-concert wine and cheese reception and an opportunity to meet the performers. Tickets may be obtained by calling CMM (301-326-2042) or through an order form that will be sent out in a separate mailing.

SOLOMONS STREETSCAPE

Visitors to CMM this spring may notice work along Solomons Island Road (State Route 2) in front of the museum. This work, being carried out by Calvert County maintenance forces, is designed to create a new appearance for the east side of the road from Lore Street on the north, past Avondale, and south through Solomons Island. The design will provide an attractive streetscape, including much-needed sidewalks, plantings, and distinctive parking patterns. The current demonstration project will be limited to the area from Lore Street to the south end of the museum property. There may be some disruption to the entrance to CMM, but only for a very short period.

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The bugeye was the traditional sailing craft of the Bay, and was built in all its glory at Solomons, the "Bugeye Capital of the World." Membership dues are used to fund special museum projects, programs, and printing of this newsletter. Address comments and membership applications to:
Calvert Marine Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 97
Solomons, MD 20688
(301) 326-2042

WANTED: SHARKS TEETH!
The Discovery Room is in need of fossil sharks teeth for the hands-on sandbox "beach" in which young visitors may search for a tooth to take home.

CMM Annual Report for 1989

The museum's annual report for 1989 will be issued separately this year, following the recent practice of alternating reports in the Bugeye Times and separately. A copy of the report will be mailed to each member during April.

SHARKS TEETH!

WANTED:

CMM Annual Report
for 1989
DIRECTOR BIDS FAREWELL

In a short few months I will have completed sixteen years as director of the Calvert Marine Museum. Having never lived previously in one place for more than three years, I never dreamed I would spend over a decade and a half along the shores of the Patuxent River. But nowhere was there a better combination for my interests in vertebrate paleontology, zoology, and maritime history. In short, I fell in love with the people and a region steeped in rich history and beauty. The Calvert County Historical Society and Calvert County Government gave me an opportunity few ever are offered - a chance to create a new museum almost from the ground up. As the museum’s first paid employee back in 1974, I never imagined the progress we would achieve over the next fifteen and one-half years - progress that was made possible by a very supportive community, far-sighted Boards of Calvert County Commissioners, dedicated staff and volunteers, a hard core of working Boards of Museum Governors, and many many supporters.

It is thus with mixed emotions that I inform the museum membership of my retirement effective July 1, 1990 - emotions of regret and accomplishment. Regret, because it is difficult to leave anything you have worked for and been dedicated to for so many years; breaking ties of friendship; and leaving stewardship of your ideals and goals to others with possibly different, though not necessarily any less desirable ideals and goals than your own. On the other hand, I leave with a real sense of accomplishment of what we have been able to achieve. I leave knowing the museum has excellent staff very capable of completing our exhibit master plan. But most important I leave knowing the Calvert Marine Museum has, in my opinion, the most supportive group of members and supporters anywhere. As long as this broad-based grass-roots support continues, the museum has a bright future.

I am leaving to take some personal time off to do the many things I never had the time to do and then to seek new challenges in my future. Finally, I sincerely thank each and everyone of you for your friendship, time, generosity, and unfailing support. If success breeds success, I owe any success this museum has had to you its supporters. Your continued support of the museum and its new director, to be announced in the summer issue of the Bugeye Times, will maintain our strong foundation so necessary for continued prosperity and growth. To you and the museum, I wish you smooth seas, a following breeze, bright starlit skies and beautiful sunrises.

Ralph E. Eshelman
New Aquariums Delivered to CMM

A Massachusetts-based manufacturer has delivered the custom built aquarium tanks for the next major exhibit hall under construction for the new building. The tanks, up to 3,500 gallons in size and weighing up to 3,000 pounds, were moved into the Estuarium Hall on January 30-31, 1990. U. S. Navy personnel brought a crane and other heavy equipment to assist with moving the tanks into the building.

During the next six to eight months, CMM staff will move the tanks into their final positions and construct the life-support systems. The Estuarium, consisting of seventeen aquarium exhibits displaying aquatic life of the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River, is scheduled to open to the public in 1991.
Napoleon Gross tells a story about a fishing party at the black history program. Loretta Ellen, Edie Taylor, and Giles Cook look on.

Frances Hutchins and Mabel Clark demonstrated oyster shucking and soft crab cleaning at the special black history program.
ANNUAL VOLUNTEER DINNER HOSTS OVER 100 GUESTS

Solomons Island Yacht Club provided the place; the museum staff provided the desserts; and CMM volunteers provided the reason for being there! The January 21 Volunteer Dinner celebrated the over 12,600 hours donated to the museum in 1989 (valued at over $99,000!) and singled out those individuals contributing 100 or more hours. CMM’s youngest volunteer — twelve year old Crystal Stokes — was recognized, as well as the most prolific volunteer David Holly, with 1,655 hours for 1989.

Our special Volunteer Achievement Award for exceptional service was awarded to Leslie Moore. Leslie’s dedication to the estuarine program and her invaluable assistance to curator Ken Kaumeyer merited this recognition.

Many thanks to our business community for contributions to this evening: Belvedere Restaurant, Liberty Car Wash, Mattingly’s Finer Foods (bakery), Solomons Island Florist, and Woodburn’s Food Market.

SELECTED RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The museum acquired a number of important objects recently, some of which are listed below. Thanks to all the people who have donated or lent materials to the collections.
* Three water-color paintings by Louis J. Feuchter (1885-1957) were donated by Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Van Lennep, Jr.
* Howard W. Buck donated photographs and brochures of Cruis-Along power boats.
* Elwyn W. Bowie donated the original Gray Marine engine and engine box from the museum’s 1956 Cruis-Along “Angler.”
* R. P. McMullen donated two kerosene lanterns and oars from the United States Lighthouse Service.
* Mrs. Edith Marsh Harrison donated the builder’s half model of the yacht Vanessa. Mrs. Harrison’s grandfather was James T. Marsh of Solomons, the yacht’s builder.
* Mike Pinder donated thirty-six oyster and seafood cans.
* Capt. and Mrs. Herbert Zitzewitz donated a number of fossil sharks teeth.
* A painting by Joseph Saunders Bohannon (1894-1973) depicting the steamboat St. Mary’s at Parkers Wharf on the Patuxent River was donated by H. Graham Wood.
* Stanley Pentz donated a 1936 ELTO engine.
* Mrs. Edna Huntington donated fishing lures made by the L. B. Huntington Company of Annapolis (see photograph).
* Owen Grover donated his 26’ oystering boat built by Ruby Dixon in 1948.
* A railbird skiff built in the 1940s by William Ernest Chaney of Dunkirk was donated to the museum by his family.
* The museum received books, figureheads, and other materials from the estate of Dorothy E. R. Brewington who passed away in June 1989.
* The museum purchased an oil painting “Moonlight on Chesapeake Bay” by F. D. Briscoe (1844-1903).

NATION’S CAPITAL IS DESTINATION FOR VOLUNTEER TRIP

Volunteers — mark May 9 on your calendar for this year’s excursion as we tour Washington, D. C. Planned as an observation of National Volunteer Week, this trip is open to CMM volunteers and their guests, as well as to volunteers from other county organizations.

Plans include the U.S. Botanic Garden; a ride on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal aboard the mule-drawn barge The Georgetown; an oriental/American lunch buffet high atop the city at the Vantage Point Restaurant; and more.

Cost per person is $28.50. Motor coach capacity is 45, but we must have 30 participants to operate. Call CMM on 326-2042 for more information, and join us for a day in Washington.
A MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR-END APPEAL IN 1989!

The board of the Calvert Marine Society and the museum director and staff thank all of the 285 members and friends listed below who contributed so generously to the 1989 Year-End Appeal. Contribution of over $19,600 (up by almost twenty-five percent over 1988) in unrestricted funds will help with the many projects at CMM that are not otherwise budgeted.
**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:** Ellen Zahniser — Board of Governors

“I've never considered myself a volunteer — I've always considered myself part of a team.”

In this brief statement, Ellen Zahniser captures the essence of her commitment to the Calvert Marine Museum — a commitment which began in 1982.

Originally from Annapolis, Ellen met Skip Zahniser nearly twenty years ago when he came to town to race his boat. After marrying, she helped her new husband build their small marina business on Solomons and started a family. In the early 1980s, Zahniser's Marina was asked to donate books for a museum program, and some time afterwards came a call to Ellen to ask her to be on CMM's Board of Governors, the policy-making body of the museum. She accepted and has been a board member ever since (except for a one-year absence required by the by-laws), serving as chairman from 1984 to 1986. During this period, CMM received the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant which will help fund the renovation of the schoolhouse building.

“My primary focus with the museum has been with development, fund-raising, and friend-raising,” says Ellen. “What happens to this area is of real concern to Skip and me.” A quick look at her yearly schedule confirms this: six months of the year spent planning the Waterside Music Festival (underwritten by Zahniser's so that all income will support work on the CMM's new estuarium); up to three months on the Corporate Caper dinner; and many more hours on a variety of projects, including the annual fashion show and her multiple committee obligations. It should surprise no one that Ellen's name is on the 1,000-hour volunteer plaque, with probably a great deal more hours unrecorded.

Commenting on Ellen's contributions to the museum store committee, manager Dee Danzig says: “Ellen played an important role in the initial design of the new store. Through her untiring efforts and concern in its operation, we have a successful store to offer the public.”

While juggling her commitments at the museum, on other community boards, and at her business, Ellen incredibly makes time to have family dinners with her teen-age children and loves to cook and entertain. CMM's retiring director Ralph Eshelman praises Ellen Zahniser's hard work and her generous gifts of time, resources, and business experience. He adds that she is “one of those volunteers who you wish you could mold and turn out copies of.” Even if that were possible, thank goodness we have the original!

Information on the volunteer program can be obtained from volunteer coordinator Layne Bergin. All inquiries welcome!