“Paddle Your Own Canoe” - A Brief History of Solomons High School, 1921 to 1939

By Clara M. Dixon

[Editor’s Note: this article is based on a draft chapter in a history of Solomons that Clara Dixon worked on for several years. The article is a fitting memorial recognition of Clara Dixon’s contributions both to education in Calvert County (as a student in the Solomons High School and a teacher in Prince Frederick), and to the Calvert Marine Museum. It is also timely in relation to the planned renovation of the Solomons school as the museum’s administration building. Much of the material in the article appeared in a Solomons High School reunion booklet issued in 1979, a copy of which is in the museum’s library.]

The first high school in Calvert County opened on Solomons Island on January 13, 1921, in the Episcopal Parish Hall, near the end of the present State Route 2. The Reverend Dr. William Wilberforce Costin of the Solomons-Olivet Methodist churches read the scriptures, offered prayer, gave an address, and later noted in a release to the church paper, The Methodist, that there was an enrollment of twenty-nine students.

Governmental machinery evidently moved more rapidly in the early 1920s than it does today, for records indicate that Dr. Costin initiated work for a high school at Solomons before Christmas 1920. Minutes of the Calvert County Board of Education for January 6, 1921, report that the board voted to “...establish a group high school at Solomons. Miss Ruth Mills of Cambridge was appointed teacher at $720, to begin teaching in the week of January 10, 1921, in a room to be rented for the purpose.” Barely six weeks elapsed between public initiation of the idea and accomplished fact!

By late 1921 the State Board of Education expressed its concern for the status of the Solomons school by citing the need for an extra teacher and making a plea that an effort be made to remedy the unsatisfactory housing conditions. The local board’s response was to employ another teacher and to appoint Mr. William Hellen to chair a committee to investigate housing.

The committee reported back to the board on February 9, 1922 — again with unusual speed — with the recommendation that a six-room school be erected and that transportation be provided by boat for students from Olivet, Rousby, and Mill Creek, and by bus from Coster, and possibly Sollers. The Lower Calvert Educational Association was formed with Marcellus Mitchell Davis as president to undertake the raising of funds for the purchase of land for the school. Since it was not until June 24, 1924, that the school board met to receive a deed for 4.11 acres, the two years needed to raise the money was the most time-consuming job of all. On that date, Messrs. Davis and Hellen “...presented on behalf of the Lower Calvert Education Association a deed to four acres of land at that place for the purpose of erecting a building for high and elementary school purposes thereon.” The school board, having been saved the purchase price of land, immediately accepted the deed for the “...land at Solomons purchased most generously by the citizens of that locality...” and expressed “...its thanks for the splendid cooperation of the citizenry of that locality.” The land had been purchased from Mr. and Mrs. J. Cook Webster for $2,400 with contributions from the citizens of the several communities. Perhaps two years was not too long a time in those days for the raising of that sum of money. Bids for the construction of the building were advertised, but the first two bids were rejected in July. Three others offered in August ranged from a high of $40,150 to a low of $19,850, the low bid being from John B. Lusby, to whom the contract was finally awarded. (The final cost, however, increased to $21,500.)

(Continued on page 14)
**FOSSIL FACTS**

By Sandy Roberts

*Isognomon maxillata*

The large bivalve *Isognomon maxillata* is common in Calvert Cliffs exposures of the mid-Miocene Calvert and Choptank Formations. The genus first appeared some 210 million years ago (in the Upper Triassic) and survives today throughout many of the world's oceans. The thick, white shell has a somewhat quadrangular outline. Its beak is pointed and curves slightly forward, while the posterior edge of the shell is gently rounded. The two valves are nearly equal in size and moderately convex. Concentric growth lines show on the outer surface, while the inside surface of the shell bears a single muscle scar.

*Isognomon maxillata* is readily identified by its broad, heavily grooved ligamental area, where an elastic ligament joins the two valves and pushes them apart when the adductor muscle is relaxed. The ligamental area in *I. maxillata* is composed of a series of fifteen to twenty wave-like ridges separated by shallow grooves. These run transversely on a raised, flat surface across the margin of the shell.

Despite its large size — five or more inches — *I. maxillata* is a somewhat fragile fossil. In life the shell is highly nacreous, with layers of organic material interspersed between limy layers. In fossil specimens this organic material has long since decayed and disappeared, causing the limy layers to flake and separate in layers perpendicular to the ligamental area. A whole specimen of *I. maxillata* is a rare find.

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**TURTLES, AGAIN!**

The museum is interested in any sightings in the region of marine turtles, live or dead. Large turtles, primarily loggerheads, migrate occasionally to this area, especially in the springtime. We are interested in maintaining records of sightings and will send the data to state and federal agencies that monitor marine turtle populations.

If you see a marine turtle, please call Ken Kaumeyer at the museum. If possible, we will attempt to determine the species, sex, size, and certain other information.

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**Two Canoes for Sale**

CMM has two used aluminum canoes for sale, each twelve-feet long, in good condition. Call Craig DeTemple (326-2042) for further information.

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**Clara M. Dixon: 1912 - 1991**

On February 7 the museum lost long-time volunteer Clara M. Dixon. She died in St. Mary’s Hospital following a stroke on February 6.

A native of Calvert County, Clara Dixon had attended school in the local area through high school. (See the article on the Solomons High School in this issue.) After attending the University of Maryland, she returned to teach for nine years in the high school in Prince Frederick. She then taught in Prince George’s and Anne Arundel counties, at the same time completing graduate work in library science, enabling her to establish the library for Glen Burnie High School. She retired in 1973 and returned permanently to Calvert County.

In the early 1970s Clara became interested in the Calvert Marine Museum where she served as a host, docent, and member of the Board of Governors. Clara organized the museum’s library when it was first formed; for a decade she worked at cataloging the museum’s large collection of photographic slides. In the spring of 1976 she began as editor of the museum newsletter, *Bugeye Times*, which she continued to edit through 1983. Clara also served on the museum’s publication committee, with special expertise and interest in the history of Solomons. In 1983, Ralph Eshelman and Clara prepared the booklet *Historical Tours Through Southern Maryland: Solomons by Foot, Bicycle or Boat*, a project of Southern Maryland Today. Significant articles for the *Bugeye Times* included one on the Weems Steamboat Line in 1982 and another on the steamboat paintings of Joseph Saunders Bohannon in 1983. For several years thereafter, Clara worked on collecting material for a fuller history of Solomons, but this project remained unfinished at the time of her death.

Clara Dixon’s knowledge of maritime activities grew from her personal interest in the bay and river. She demonstrated seafood cookery; taught the skill of making eel pots at several museum courses; was an excellent guide for tours through the collections; and was most willing to pass on her knowledge of the area whenever asked. She gave freely of her skills and energies for many other worthwhile activities, particularly for her church in Olivet and with the Calvert Retired Teachers Association. Above all, Clara was a gentle friend to all those who knew her, but with a quiet self-assurance that conveyed strength. Her help and counsel will be missed at the museum.

Clara Dixon was one of four long-term volunteers to be recognized at the volunteer dinner on January 23. In recognition of her many services to CMM, memorial contributions may be made to the Calvert Marine Museum.

(See photo on page 2)
NATURAL HISTORY ON EXHIBIT

If you have visited the museum in the past few months, you have most likely seen the new exhibit, "Treasure from the Cliffs: Collecting Fossil Whales." It is a small show, but unique in a number of ways: as the first natural history exhibit specifically designed for and opened in the exhibition hall; as a pilot project for our future permanent paleontology exhibition; and as an attempt to broaden our offerings beyond what has been predominantly maritime history.

CMM's recently formed paleontology work group, including staff from the exhibits, paleontology, and education departments, researched, designed, and produced the exhibit. We felt that showing the process of collecting whale skulls in simple steps would be an accessible and revealing approach. The choice of large caption type positioned at visitor eye level and the chance to view large fossils in the round were also incorporated in the design. There has been favorable response to the exhibit, which reinforces our team's direction.

Research continues on the permanent exhibit, "A Window in Time: Maryland in the Miocene." With trips to other museums, planning meetings, and individual research, progress is being made toward our 1993 opening goal. We are also looking at the option of an earlier opening of the hall in order to complete a path through to the estuary. This would give visitors the opportunity to see the exhibit as it is being built and to learn more about exhibit techniques.

Although the "Treasure from the Cliffs" exhibit ended in March, it will return for a few months in mid-summer. We invite your comments and want you to offer your opinions. They are welcome and will help us to develop more "treasures" in the future.

(Curt Bowman, Curator of Exhibits)

ANOTHER "SCHOONER FARE" CONCERT AT CMM, MAY 25

The popular folk group from Maine, "Schooner Fare," will make its fourth appearance at this year's Waterside Music Festival on Saturday evening, May 25, at 7:00 p.m., around the museum's boat basin. Those attending will have another opportunity to enjoy a lively program of rousing sing-alongs, fetching ballads, and a "winning, slightly askew sense of humor." Funds raised will go toward the estuary exhibit.

Tickets this year will be $15.00 each for general seating and $30.00 for reserved seating of one hundred in a special section. Those purchasing the reserved seats will be invited to a pre-concert wine and cheese reception with a chance 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.

As has been the case in the past two years, the "Schooner fare" concert is underwritten by Zahniser's, Inc.

CMM VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY THEME DINNER

The gathering at the Solomons Island Yacht Club on January 23 demonstrated the wide diversity of talents contributed to CMM in its twenty-year history. The program following the annual Volunteer Dinner recognized all individuals who have given of their time, with special attention devoted to those who had one hundred hours or more of volunteer service in 1990. In honor of the twentieth anniversary theme, four special Volunteer Achievement Awards were presented to Judge Perry G. Bowen, Clara M. Dixon, Anna Weems Evatt, and LeRoy "Pepper" Langley for their key roles in the history and success of the Calvert Marine Museum.

Many thanks to Capt. Smith's Seafood, Adam's Rib Restaurant, Rhumline, Naughty Gull, Bowen's Inn, and Solomons Island Florist for their generous contributions to the evening. Special appreciation is extended to CMM staff for their assistance in honoring their unpaid colleagues.

(from page 2)

Clara Dixon and Ralph Eshelman, June 1990.
CMM photo by Paula Johnson

CMM photo by Alan Manuel
Volunteer Helen Hooper accepts award from curator of education Craig DeTample at the annual volunteer dinner, January 23, 1991.
Presentation of check for $1,000 from the Solomons Island Model Boat Club for the esaurium exhibit. Left to right: Don Miller, Pat Miller, and “Pepper” Langley accepting check.

CMM photo by Jimmy Langley


CMM photo by Alan Manuel

Work on installing the exhibit “Treasure from the Cliffs: Collecting Fossil Whales.”

CMM photo by Alan Manuel

Treasure from the Cliffs Collecting Fossil Whales
The year 1990 marked the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the Calvert Marine Museum. Many of the events during the year used this anniversary theme: in May, there was International Museum Day and a special reception to introduce a twentieth-anniversary poster; the Bugeye Ball and twentieth anniversary weekend occurred in September; and even the volunteer recognition event for 1990 followed this theme. The museum's letterhead and postal cancellation proclaimed "Twentieth Anniversary Year," as did the masthead of the Bugeye Times. Each of the four issues of the newsletter featured an article on some aspect of "The Calvert Marine Museum at Twenty." Museum members, local residents, and visitors could not help being aware that CMM was celebrating its growth over the past twenty years.

The year 1990 marked the first full year in the new exhibition building, with the first permanent exhibit — "Maritime Patuxent: A River and Its People" — in place; work progressed in the estuarium area on the second permanent exhibit — "Estuary Patuxent: A River and Its Life"; weekend hours in the summer were extended; a more formal program for museum volunteers was adopted; and an admission fee to the museum was announced to begin in 1991. A notable change was the retirement of Director Ralph E. Eshelman after sixteen years of dynamic leadership. Late in the year a new director was appointed — C. Douglass Alves, Jr. And the staff and community felt the absence of the museum's first curator of maritime history when Paula J. Johnson announced her resignation to accept a position at the Smithsonian Institution. Other personnel changes are reported later.

Continued progress during 1990 was the result of the dedicated work of the museum's staff, its Board of Governors, a corps of hard-working volunteers, and the support of museum members and many contributors. All this effort, however, was only possible because of the continued financial base provided by the Calvert County government, as well as the interest of the county's elected Commissioners and the staffs of county offices. Some projects were made possible by grants from the federal government, the state of Maryland, and private organizations. Taken as a whole, the accomplishments of 1990 represented the combined efforts of all elements of the museum community and did honor to the twentieth anniversary.

Attendance at the museum during 1990 exceeded 54,000, due largely to the attraction of the new building and its new maritime exhibit. Of the museum's specific attractions, the Drum Point Lighthouse logged 11,600 visitors, the J. C. Lore Oyster House exhibit, 5,935, and the Wm. B. Tennison welcomed 5,804 passengers. As in the past, visitors to the grounds and those participating in museum events are added to the official counts: Patuxent Family Discovery Day (May 5) and Patuxent River Appreciation Days (October 13 and 14) brought many additional thousands to the museum grounds; over eight hundred attended the Waterside Music Festival on May 26; and many visited CMM during the Solomons Christmas Walk weekend in December. By a conservative estimate, 125,000 people either visited the exhibit buildings, used the grounds, or were served through our outreach programs.

Events and activities of the museum were generally well covered in local newspapers, and also in a variety of other forms of the media. Three books published carried descriptions of CMM along with similar museums: Naval Institute Guide to Maritime Museums of North America, Sea History's Guide to American and Canadian Maritime Museums, and William Shellenberger's...
Cruising the Chesapeake: A Cunkholer’s Guide. General articles mentioning CMM appeared in The Alexandria, Fall/Winter; the University of Maryland’s College Park Alumni Association magazine; the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education’s Newsletter for April; the “So Much, So Close” brochure for the Southern Maryland Tri-County Council; Maryland Travelgram, April; Sea History Gazette, February; Maryland Magazine, Spring; Recreation News of the League of Federal Recreation Associations, Inc., July; the Chesapeake Bay Magazine for October; the Baltimore Sun for August 20; and most unexpectedly, in an early 1990 issue of The News, an English-language newspaper published in Mexico City. The “Charting the Chesapeake” exhibit was mentioned in the Chesapeake Bay Magazine for October and in the Southern Maryland Times in November.

The ever-popular image of the Drum Point Lighthouse appeared on the cover of Bay Sailor in May, the Washington Post’s “Washington Home” section in August, the Southern Maryland Times in December, a brochure for the Southern Maryland Christian Yellow Pages for 1990/91. The lighthouse even appeared on a large billboard at the northern Maryland border on Interstate 95. Americana in August mentioned CMM in an article about marine artist John M. Barber; an exhibition catalogue from Carmen’s Framecrafters included the Robert Picard poster for CMM’s twentieth anniversary; and Steamboat Bill had a CMM ad for the Brian Hope print of the Weems steamboat at the Solomons wharf. Dining & Diversions, Summer, had an item on the Wm. B. Tennison. The museum also appeared in a tourism video about Solomons Island.

The distribution of a new brochure on the museum, developed late in the year through the joint efforts of the museum’s exhibits department and the county’s tourism office, will help attract visitors to the county.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

The museum’s attractive auditorium increasingly was used for various events: a woodwind concert, a chamber music festival, classic films presented by Saps at Sea Cinema, volunteer training programs — all of these in addition to lectures described in the “Education” section of this report.

Lighthouses were the featured activity during April. An “All Hands on Deck” event on April 7 combined the efforts of staff and volunteers to scrub and polish the Drum Point Lighthouse inside and out. A special Wm. B. Tennison cruise on April 21 took passengers to the original Drum Point site and past three other lighthouses, with on-board narration by noted lighthouse author F. Ross Holland. The Solomons Post Office set up shop in the museum’s lobby on April 28 with commemorative lighthouse stamps, along with a Drum Point Lighthouse pictorial cancellation created for the occasion.

Patuxent Family Discovery Day on May 5, a new event tying together a family learning experience with participation in Patuxent Discovery Day, was well-received. Canoe and fossil trips, toy sailboat making, touch tank, T-shirt printing, and shell creations emphasized the hands-on theme of the day. Another May event, International Museum Day, offered half-price museum memberships and free admission in honor of the contributions of museums to their communities. That same weekend saw a reception during which artist Robert Picard, ASMA, signed copies of a poster he designed to recognize the CMM’s twentieth anniversary. Retiring director Ralph Eshelman was honored on June 21 at a dockside reception attended by museum members and county staff.

The boardwalk around the boat basin was enjoyed by 150 CMS members at the annual picnic during a pleasant summer evening on August 19. Ice-cream sundaes, lighthouse visits, the third annual fiddler-crab race, and Tennison rides with bluegrass music were all part of the picnic events.

The major twentieth anniversary festivities took the form of a weekend celebration in late September with music, a raffle, special tours, and an evening box-supper cruise on the Tennison to St. Leonard Creek. The weekend’s highlight was the black-tie “Bugeye Ball” dinner dance, held at the Solomons Holiday Inn.

The thirteenth annual Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) festival was chosen as the “Fall Event of the Season” by the state office of tourism. Special promotions, a poster featuring CMM’s master woodcarver “Pepper” Langley, increased publicity, and pleasant weather made for a most successful weekend event.

CMM again recognized the holiday season with its Members’ Yule Party on the evening of December 7, coinciding with the Solomons Christmas Walk activities. The Yule Party was planned to allow members to enjoy the walk while receiving private benefits in the form of hayrides, lighthouse tours by candlelight, and seasonal entertainment, while Santa Claus appeared at the J. C. Lore Oyster House. The year to come was toasted by museum members and county staff.

In addition to official museum events, a number of outside groups visited CMM...
for tours or to hold programs. Among these were the Southern Maryland Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland in May; Prince George's Council for the Social Studies, also in May; the Washington Map Society came in October to view CMM's special exhibit on "Charting the Chesapeake"; the Washington Ship Model Society held a two-day conference in early November; and the Chesapeake Bay Commission toured CMM in November.

**ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING**

There were no significant changes in administrative structure in the museum during 1990, although there were a number of staff changes. Two new positions were authorized by the county for the museum — the aquarist and the educator — and these were filled. Receipt of the Institute of Museum Services (IMS) grant for 1990/91 made it possible to fill the position of photo cataloger, and new positions for bookkeeper and specimen cataloger were established, all using IMS funds. With the decision to charge admission fees to the museum, the position of information clerk was established and six such clerks were hired before the end of the year.

Overall supervision of the museum continued under the county's Department of Economic Development, but policy guidance continued to be provided by the museum's Board of Governors, as established in 1979 by county resolution. The board met seven times during the year, with additional committee meetings. Primary concerns were the appointment of a museum director and the raising of funds for the completion of the estuarium exhibit. This same board serves the Calvert Marine Society — the museum's fundraising and membership arm.

The major personnel change was the retirement of Director Ralph E. Eshelman on June 30 after sixteen years as head of the museum. A search effort began in April, but it was not until late October that an appointment was made of a new director — C. Douglass Alves, Jr. From July through December Paula J. Johnson, curator of maritime history, served as acting director. The position of curator of paleontology was filled in early April by Michael Gottfried. Paula Johnson announced in November her leaving to take a position at the Smithsonian Institution, so the curator of maritime history position became vacant at the end of the year. Another major change was in the development office: Kay Musial left CMM in June and was replaced by Patricia A. Tower.

John S. Dickson was hired as aquarist in September and M. Lynn Warren as museum educator in late October. Deann F. Lesemann was appointed as bookkeeper; Rhoda E. Switzer as photo cataloger; Leslie Moore as specimen cataloger; Laura Dowell, Sue Hamilton, Deborah Mohler, and Elizabeth O'Neill as exhibit interpreters; and Susan F. Chabot, Deborah Coursey, Janet L. Hearn, Jean Hooper, Philis A. Hurley, and Cecilia Mistretta as information clerks. Two new salespersons — Jean Murray and Colette Wallace — served in the museum store. It was not possible to support any interns during the year.

Three staff members were honored by the Calvert County Board of Commissioners: Paula Johnson was recognized in June by the Calvert County Commission for Women for outstanding contributions to the workplace; Jimmy Langley was named "Employee of the Month" for January 1990, and Alan Manuel received the same recognition for February.

Professional and personal development were not overlooked. Two trips were organized for staff: CMM senior staff were given a VIP tour of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Bowie, Maryland, followed by a canoe trip down the Patuxent River from Clarks Landing to Hills Bridge; seven staff went on a fossil expedition to Pope's Creek, Potomac River, Maryland, to gain hands-on experience with paleontology field work.

Director Ralph Eshelman served on the Maryland Cultural Heritage Museum Commission and helped lobby successfully for its first state appropriation; he was vice president and later president of the Council of American Maritime Museums; served on the Board of Trustees of the National Colonial Farm, the board of the Maryland Humanities Council, the Board of Directors of CHESPAX and SEARCH; was Southern Maryland Representative on the Maryland Historical Trust; was active in the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, the National Maritime Alliance, the Joint Board on Science and Engineering Education for Greater Washington, D.C. Area; attended annual meetings of the Association of Science Museum Directors, American Association of Museums, and the Small Museums Conference; and served as consultant to Prince George's Historical Society for museum concept planning. He was also active in local civic and service organizations. Of special pleasure was a White House reception for museum directors in recognition of successful IMS applicants. Dr. Eshelman spoke before the Charles County Historical Society, the St. Mary's County Historical Society, the Calvert County Historical Society, and at CMM.

Maritime history curator Paula Johnson chaired a session on documenting maritime resources at the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in September; she attended meetings of the Council of American Maritime Museums in Philadelphia and the American Association of Museums in Chicago. She consulted on traditional boats in connection with the Maryland Historical Trust's Smith Island project; with the Reedville, Virginia, Fishermen's Museum; and as consultant and panelist for the Maryland Museum Assistance Program (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development). She spoke at a graduate seminar at George Washington University; to a Girl Scout group in Redwood Falls, Minnesota; the Charles County Historical Society; and to the American Studies Department of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

The curator of estuarine biology, Kenneth Kaumeyer, served as the museum's second member on the SEARCH committee. He is a member of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, the Estuarine Research Federation, and the National Marine Educators Association, the annual conference of which he attended in Hilo, Hawaii, in August.

Michael Gottfried, curator of paleontology, was active in the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and moderated a session at its annual meeting in October; attended a Symposium on New Paleontological Faunas in West Germany in September; assisted in mentor programs for Calvert County schools; and presented lectures at several meetings. Two of his publications appeared during the year, one in *Nature* and the other in *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*; two more are in press and two in manuscript form.

The curator of exhibits, Curt Bowman, was active in the Council of American Maritime Museums to which he was appointed as CMM's alternate representative and on a planning committee to organize the annual CAMM meetings to
be held here April 1991; he served as a
design consultant on the development of
a museum/visitor center for Smith Island
in conjunction with the state of
Maryland; was active in the National
Association for Museum Exhibition
(NAME); and was named to the Calvert
County Cultural Arts Council. The
curator and the exhibits technician,
Denise Weller, attended a NAME
workshop on interactive exhibits.

The curator of education, Craig DeTam-
ple, was invited by the South Dakota
School of Mines and Technology's
Museum of Geology to assist with col-
lection activities along the Missouri River
in South Dakota.

Museum registrar, Robert Hurry, con-
tinued to serve as a member of the Coun-
cil of American Maritime Museum's ad
hoc computer committee; remained the
secretary/treasurer of the Southern
Chapter of the Archeological Society of
Maryland, Inc.; served until March on the
Calvert County Historic District Com-
mission; maintained memberships in nine
other organizations. He attended two
work-related conferences: the annual
CAMM meeting in Philadelphia and the
National Institute for the Conservation of
Cultural Property's annual meeting in
Washington, D. C. Two classes were suc-
sessfully completed: an overview of an-
tiques held at St. Mary's College, and a
course on computer data base manage-
ment at the Calvert County Campus of
the Charles County Community College.

Patricia Tower, director of develop-
ment, was enrolled in the Fund Raising
Management Program at the Goucher
College Center for Continuing Studies' Pro-
nessional Programs, and will complete the
ten-course certificate program in 1991.

Museum boatwright George Surgent
attended a lines-taking class at the Beau-
fort, North Carolina, Maritime Museum.

Dee Danzig, museum store manager,
attended the annual conference of the
Museum Store Association in Wash-
ington, D.C.

Volunteer librarian Paul Berry served
on the Calvert County Historic District
Commission. He attended a study con-
ference on "Legal Problems of Museum
Administration" in Houston, sponsored
by the American Law Institute, and also
attended the Philadelphia CAMM
conference.

Administrative assistant Virginia
Allman attended workshops on Lotus
1-2-3 at the Charles County Community
College; A. U. S. Department of Transpor-
tation Drug Testing Seminar in Baltimore;
and The Organized Woman Seminar of the
Business Women's Training Institute,
held in Silver Spring.

EDUCATION

The year 1990
marked the first full
year of operation of
the Discovery Room,
with 37,989 visitors
making their way
through this popular
facility. An innova-
tion during the year
was the initiation of
contract programs
where tuition charg-
ed paid for the costs
of the program, in-
cluding staff. There
were contract pro-
grams on Coast
Guard captain's li-
cense preparation
and on building a
sailing skiff. These
programs proved very popular and
will be repeated in the future, as well as ad-
ding new ones.

As the result of a suggestion from
CAMM's ad hoc education committee in
1989, the museum held its first "Re-
logical Perspectives on Afro-American Contribu-
tions to Regional Maritime Culture" in
February. The success of the event was
in large measure due to the organiza-
tional abilities of Sybil Cook, then with
Calvert County Community College.

Also following up on the work of the ad
hoc education committee, CAMM formed the Volunteer Council, to improve the
volunteer experience for our volunteers
(see also the "Volunteers" section).

Visitation at the Drum Point Light-
house continued to increase in 1990, as
did attendance in the Discovery Room,
but oyster house attendance dropped
somewhat, due in part to the inability to
staff all three locations during the spring
and fall. There was a slight drop in
recorded attendance at school programs
because of lighthouse maintenance and
scheduling conflicts.

There was an increase in public atten-
dance at movies and lectures. This year's
programs included a movie on the wreck
and rescue of a schooner in 1880, a talk
on the sailing yachts built by M. M. Davis
and Son, "Maryland in the Age of the
Dinosaurs," "Striped Bass Management
in Maryland," "The Search for Prehistoric
Man in Kenya," "Ghost Ships of the
Chesapeake," a report on last year's trip
to the Fiji Islands, and a program on the
Titanic and its role in cultural con-
sciousness.

Outreach programs also decreased,
largely due to the demands placed on
the volunteer docents, allowing little time
for programs outside the museum.

Teacher training programs increased
again this year with two sessions of the
Sciences Project with St. Mary's College
as well as a continuation of the MEE498
program with the Chesapeake Biological
Laboratory. Training programs also in-
cluded CHESPAX and the Prince
George's Community College.

Programs funded by generous grants
from the Town Creek Foundation were
popular. Organized by interpreter Ann
Caspari, monthly "Young Salts," for
children from four to six and their
parents, dealt with fossil whales, wading
birds, crabs, fish, body shapes, otters,
saltmarsh animals, charts, sharks, and
oysters. The Patuxent Environmental and
Maritime Heritage summer program went
on cruises on the Wm. B. Tennison
and the skipjack Dee of St. Mary's. The
students did beach seineing, water quali-
ty testing, and learned about habitats of
bay animals.

Education department staff participated
at various special events that included Maryland Day at Historic St. Mary's City, Patuxent Family Discovery Day at CMM, Children’s Day at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Patuxent River Appreciation Days, Chesapeake Appreciation Days, and the Solomons Christmas Walk. Staff members also judged a science fair at Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Solomons.

**EXHIBITS**

Although the creation of the museum’s exhibits is primarily the responsibility of the exhibits department, it involves extensive cooperation with most of CMM’s units. Under the direction of the curator of exhibits, assisted by the exhibits technicians, museum cabinetmaker Alan Manuel, other staff, and several volunteers, the exhibit department’s efforts ranged from exhibits and graphic design, to the creation of texts and signage for exhibits and the building, to the design of lighting and display systems, and to the installation of exhibit displays having varying time periods.

*Estuarium Exhibit:* The next permanent exhibit to open, “Estuary Patuxent: A River and Its Life,” occupied most of the time of the CMM curator of estuarine biology. The exhibit department provided consultation on graphics and other details, made several trips to related aquariums in the southeast, and provided some assistance with mounting the aquariums. Because of the nature of this complex exhibit, implementation has involved both museum staff and outside contractors. The estuarine biology curator worked on exhibit text and graphic layout with the assistance of Lyons/Zaremba, Inc., a design consulting firm in Boston. This task has been nearly completed, with only the introduction and several graphic panels remaining. A wildlife illustrator, Duane Raver, was engaged to paint original artwork of each plant and animal species to be exhibited in the estuarium. When completed early in 1991, the artwork will be used to produce the backlit identification labels at the base of each aquarium.

The aquarium tanks, custom designed in 1989, were delivered in February and installed with the help of the fabricator, museum staff, and the U.S. Navy. Habitat inserts for the aquariums were then designed by the curator, Lyons/Zaremba, and a contractor, Genesis Studios of Brockton, Massachusetts, where the inserts were built. These were set in place in August. The curator also designed the mechanical and biological systems needed to operate each aquarium. By year’s end, the curator and aquarist had installed salt water intake pipes in the boat basin, built support stands, raised each aquarium into place, and installed the plumbing of each aquarium life support system. An opening of the estuarium is still planned sometime in 1991.

*Paleontology Exhibit:* A work team was organized to develop the design, content, and funding for the third permanent exhibit, “A Window in Time: Maryland in the Miocene.” The curator of paleontology and the curator of exhibits will co-supervise the project with assistance from the exhibits, education, and development staffs. Work has begun on design, funding, and supplemental fabrication assistance. To further this effort, the curators of paleontology and education visited the Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Alberta, Canada, and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque to view their exhibits and consult with their exhibits, education, and curatorial staffs.

*Other CMM Exhibits:* The year’s major new exhibit effort was “Charting the Chesapeake, 1590-1990,” a joint venture with the Maryland State Archives, funded by a grant from the Maryland Humanities Council. CMM’s team researched, designed, and produced a major exhibit based predominantly on the Huntingfield Collection of charts on loan from the state archives. The curators of maritime history and Russell Morrison of the Huntingfield Corporation — the source of the donation of the charts to the state archives — wrote the exhibit script; the curator of exhibits designed, supervised, and worked on production; the cabinetmaker fabricated the structures with assistance from volunteer Paul Adams; the exhibits technician produced graphics including labels, banners, photomounts and cutouts; modelmaker Jimmy Langley lettered the title panel and fabricated instrument mounts and electronics; and the registrar assisted in framing the charts. Historic navigation instruments were loaned by the Smithsonian Institution, and several modern navigational instruments were provided by Zahniser’s, Inc. Although this exhibit, produced entirely within CMM, is temporarily at the museum, it will be moved to the state archives in May 1991 where others may enjoy the work produced by CMM’s talented staff.

*Exhibits and Curation Staff:* Exhibits and curation staff continued to work on the permanent “Maritime Patuxent” exhibit, with installation of the fiber optic map, exhibits on shipyard caulkers and shipyard riggers, and additions to photographs and scrapbooks about Solomons. Some corrections and changes were made to the exhibit based on comments by visitors. The long-term temporary exhibit, designed to serve until the permanent exhibits are in place, is being revamped to reflect the opening of the “Maritime Patuxent” exhibit.

In addition to “Charting the Chesapeake,” there were five other temporary exhibits mounted by the exhibits staff in the maritime hall mezzanine gallery or the changing exhibits area of the new building. These included: “Capturing the Spirit of the Chesapeake Bay,” works by the contemporary photographer, Robert Grieser; Commander E. C. Tufnell’s nautical watercolor collection from CMM’s collection; “Louis J. Feuchter: Chesapeake Bay Artist 1885-1957,” watercolors in CMM’s collection depicting Chesapeake Bay sailing craft; “A Solomons Christmas: Children’s Art Exhibit,” children’s Christmas art contest sponsored by Calvert County Kiwanis Club; and “Treasure from the Cliffs: Collecting Fossil Whales,” one of the museum’s first temporary natural history exhibits.

*Other Design Projects:* The exhibits department staff engaged in a number of other projects, including the design and production of the museum’s new brochure; installation of both interior and exterior signs in the exhibition hall and on the museum grounds; design for illuminating the lighthouse and entrance signs; consultation on the repainting of the lighthouse; design, fabrication, and installation of lighting and hanging systems for the maritime hall and changing exhibits galleries; design, fabrication, and installation of new bookcases/display units and lighting for the museum store; creation of a paleontology exhibit for the state’s new Crain Memorial Travel Information Center near Newburg; and such miscellaneous efforts as the design of a pin for the museum store, graphics for the Waterside Music Festival, an otter poster for an estuarium fundraiser, a stamp for PRAD, and graphics for the Bugeye Times, membership, development, education, staff business cards, and the postage imprinter.
COLLECTIONS

The registrar's office handled 229 transactions in 1990. Additions to the permanent collection included 130 gifts, thirty-five purchases, and eighteen field collections. Also, thirty-one incoming loans and fifteen donations not entering the permanent collections were transacted. Each transaction consisted of at least one item, some contained hundreds; the total number of objects added to the CMM collections was 1,139. The fastest growing collection was the archives which accounted for nearly half of the items received. In addition to 270 paper items, 280 photographs were donated and 136 were loaned for copying.

The photo cataloger, assisted by volunteers, succeeded in processing, cataloging, and computerizing all recently donated photographs and made significant progress on the backlog of photographs. Volunteers were also active in assisting in the reorganization and cataloging of boat plans, personal papers, and business records in the CMM archives.

The estuarine collections specimen cataloger continued the process of organizing the estuarine collections, assigning catalog numbers, and recording the information on cards. Work was completed on the shell collection and started on the preserved fish and invertebrate collections. The museum also owns a very comprehensive herbarium which remains to be inventoried and cataloged. Volunteer Pam Rasmussen began development of a computerized cataloging system.

The museum's fossil collection (largest in Maryland) has not been previously cataloged. The curator of paleontology developed a cataloging system during 1990, with curating proceeding with volunteer assistance from Wallace Ashby and Dawn Craft.

A number of significant contributions were made to the collections. Mrs. Lucille Hahn donated original photographs and archival material pertaining to her father, Joseph T. Smith, a long-time steamboat captain on the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Richard Fischer contributed the business records and related archival materials from the J. J. Balford Store in Solomons. A set of original training manuals used at the U.S. Naval Amphibious Training Base at Solomons during World War II was donated by Mr. Dave Stream. Mrs. Gladys Bowers contributed archival materials, including an original 1932 M. M. Davis & Son design plan for a cruiser and two Solomons Island Yacht Club Regatta programs. Several documents and ledgers pertaining to Chesapeake Bay sailing craft were received from the estate of the late Dorothy E. R. Brewington, via Mystic Seaport Museum.

Mrs. Edna P. Huntington donated a variety of artifacts associated with the development of the Huntington Drone, a popular fishing lure invented by her husband. Messrs. Glenn Langley and Joe Charles each contributed artifacts related to the production of Cruis-Along boats. Mrs. Gladys Bowers donated rigger's tools used by her father as well as artifacts from the Elliott Rooming House and the Solomons School. A beautiful quilt, hand sewn by Annie Johnson of Solomons in the late nineteenth century, was given to the museum by Mr. Hugh Stierhoff.

Two small craft and seven boat models were added. Kenneth and George Kirchner of Kirchner's Boat Yard donated the yawl boat from the Mattie F. Dean, a schooner built in 1884. Mr. Owen Grover donated his twenty-six-foot oyster skiff, built locally by Ruby Dixon in 1948. An unidentified schooner model was contributed by Mr. Bunky Hippie, and six boat models built by the late Roy Emmans were donated by Mrs. Edith Emmans.

The museum's art collection was enhanced by the addition of three original paintings. Mr. H. Graham Wood contributed a mixed media painting of the steamboat St. Mary's at Parkers Wharf, painted by Joseph Saunders Bohnannon. Mrs. Anna Weems Ewalt donated an oil painting of Rousby Hall by W. A. Hill. Mr. Robert Picardat presented his original water-color of the Drum Point Lighthouse and boat basin in commemoration of CMM's twentieth anniversary. Purchases included the 1864 print, "Bird's-eye View of Annapolis"; a map of Maryland with an inset of Baltimore, taken from A General Atlas, Baltimore, 1823, by Fielding Lucas, Jr.; and "Map of the States of Maryland and Delaware," by J. Denison, published by Thomas & Andrews, Boston, and taken from Morse's Geography, 1796.

CMM's paleontology collection received some outstanding specimens. Mr. Wallace Ashby contributed a large and impressive fossil sea turtle humerus. Mr. Ron Ross donated a very rare fossil tiger shark dentition containing six teeth still in a piece of jaw. Mr. Michael Conlin added a fossil rhinoceros tibia to our collection of Miocene land mammal fossils. All these specimens were collected in Calvert County by their respective donors.

Estuarine biology's modern shell collection grew with separate contributions made by Mrs. Anna Weems Ewalt and Mrs. Evelyn Parker. In addition, the International Museum of Airlines donated a large collection of shells, corals, and preserved marine specimens from the estate of the late William Holliman.

CMM received requests for photographs from numerous individuals and organizations, including the National Park Service's Maritime Alliance, the Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin, Calvert County's Historic District Commission, Island Publishing Company, Southern Maryland Times, Walking Magazine, Potomac News,
Calvert Independent, The Alexandrean, Recreation News, the Washington Post, the Washington Times, Bay Sailor, Washingtonian magazine, and Vision magazine. Twenty-eight photograph requests were handled by the curator of maritime history while thirty-five were handled by the registrar.

**RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS**

The museum library continued to occupy space in the East Annex where assisting researchers was somewhat difficult, usually requiring advance appointments. Only with the competent support of the registrar was it possible for the part-time volunteer librarian to help answer requests that might otherwise have been unanswered.

The library's research collections were strengthened by a few donations and several purchases, but there were fewer donors than in the past two or so years. Interesting purchases included Diego Garcia de Palacio's Nautical Instructions; A.D. 1587 (in a 1888 translation); William Pratt's New American Coast Pilot, 1887; Thomas Scharf's two-volume Chronicles of Baltimore (reprint of 1874 edition); and several volumes relating to mapping. Some twenty books were given to CMM by the United States Coast Guard as part of its bicentennial observations, some of which were reprints of earlier publications, but some also prepared for distribution to recognize the bicentennial of the Lighthouse Service.

Access to the library's holdings was provided by initial cataloging of 239 titles, and thirteen titles were recataloged. Cards for the library catalog were prepared again by computer printer and new catalog entries were incorporated into booklists, circulated throughout CMM, and copies sent to SEARCH members. A few volumes of the most important sets of magazines were bound, but no other conservation efforts were undertaken. The museum registrar continued to handle archival and other non-book materials and to see to their proper storage.

The museum library was used by both staff and outsiders, of whom twenty-eight were registered and some of whom made repeat visits. Users came from Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Virginia, in addition to Maryland, and researched a variety of topics: the Baltimore and Drum Point Railroad, islands in the Chesapeake, the Cove Point and Drum Point lighthouses, the history of the Chesapeake Ranch Club area, changes in the shoreline around Cove Point and around Solomons Island, the sunken submarine (S-2) at Point Patience, information about Bodkin Point at the entrance to the PatapSCO River, clamping, and the Navy's Amphibious Training Base at Solomons. There were several requests, in person or by telephone, for boat plans, including the Army’s "T" boats and Cruis-Alongs, both built by the Davis shipyard or its successors. The interest in plans for Cruis-Alongs, in fact, took much time for the registrar. Phone inquiries came from Florida, Maine, Marylond, Ohio, New York, and Tennessee, and asked—in addition to boat plans—for information about a steam launch of 1876, the James Adams Floating Theatre, and the Maryland naval militia.

Work continued on a major research task of the library: the compilation of the record of vessels built in southern Calvert County and on the Patuxent. Two hundred and twenty-seven vessel records have now been created in the computer record.

There were no new publications issued by CMM in 1990, although work progressed well on two works prepared by CMM research associates. David C. Holly's book, Tidewater by Steamboat: The Saga of the Weems Line on the Patuxent, Potomac, and Rappahannock, was accepted by the Johns Hopkins University Press, with publication expected for fall of 1991. Geoffrey M. Footner's The Last Generation: A History of a Chesapeake Shipbuilding Family was in the hands of the book designer, with publication expected during 1991.

The membership newsletter, Bugeye Times, honored the museum's twentieth anniversary in the four issues of its fifteenth year. A new monthly newsheet, The Anchor, was started under the editorship of Lucy Tonacci to keep in touch with the museum's volunteers. The Fossil Club's quarterly, Echphora, appeared four times.

Requirements of exhibits and other tasks of operational concern tended to reduce the research activities of the museum's staff, and there was no funding to support any museum intern in research. Some staff, however, did use their own time for professional work. Ralph Estelman's research efforts included a trip to the Netherlands Antilles to continue his research on island biogeography and paleozoogeography of fossil vertebrates, and he completed the first draft of a University of Alaska Museum-sponsored fossil small mammal analysis of ice-age caves from along the Yukon/Alaska border of Porcupine River. Michael Gottfried collaborated on projects with the paleontologists at the National Museum of Natural History.

**DEVELOPMENT**

Priorities in museum development for 1990 continued to be, primarily, funding for the estuarium and paleontology exhibits. Sources of non-county support were many and varied, from the $75,000 Institute of Museum Services grant to the proceeds from a Zahniser's employees' flea market to help restore the Wm. B. Tennison. The "Sitting in on the Future" campaign, initiated to help meet the 1989 National Endowment for the Humanities matching grant, continued to generate revenue—$2,735 in 1990. On-going sales of artistic prints and posters brought in $4,250. Receipts from both efforts went toward the estuarium.

The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company completed its pledge to the estuarium in September when John Smith of BG&E presented a check for $40,000. Other support for the estuarium included completion by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone of its pledge with a payment of $1,750, and the second payment of $5,000 by the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative on its three-year pledge.

Events were a major source of revenue. The annual Waterside Music Festival was, as usual, a great success with proceeds netting more than $12,600. Thanks to the generosity of Zahniser's, Inc., which sponsored the event for the third year in a row, all proceeds from ticket sales accrued to the museum. To celebrate the museum's twentieth anniversary, an energetic committee of board members and volunteers, ably chaired by Linda McGilvery, presented the first annual "Bugeye Ball," a black-tie dinner dance held at the Solomons Holiday Inn in September. The ball netted just under $5,500, and was largely underwritten by corporate and individual sponsors: BG&E, Patrick M. Buehler, Matthew Gambriil (Calvert Mining), Eugene Chaney Foundation, Pat Collins (Heritage Toyota), Laurence W. B. Cumberland, John Simpson (Solomons Holiday Inn), John Gott (Reliable Oil), SMECO, Zahniser's, Inc., Bette Bumgarner, and Audrey Davenport (Penwick House).
Proceeds from both Waterside Music Festival and the “Bugeye Ball” benefit the estuarium.

The museum was successful once again in obtaining a General Operating Services grant from the Institute of Museum Services. CMM has been awarded this IMS grant for ten of the past twelve years. More than 1,300 museums submit proposals annually, but only 390 were awarded grants in 1990. In November, CMM submitted another request for funding from IMS for 1991/92. Also in November, the museum submitted a proposal to the newly funded Maryland Historical and Cultural Assistance Program. The 1990 legislature approved $80,000 to be dispersed to museums that are not art museums.

Museum membership grew: 230 new individual, family, and corporate members joined the museum to bring the total to 1,650. The “Year-End Appeal” made a healthy showing with 269 donors giving over $17,000. Peter and Zelma Margelos made a very special “Year-End” gift of $2,500. Total revenue from membership dues and “Year-End Appeal” was almost $67,000, a $3,500 increase over 1989.

Grants and gifts for special projects over the year included $5,000 from the Town Creek Foundation for the “Young Salts” and Patuxent Environmental and Maritime Heritage programs for children aged four to six and ten to twelve. Town Creek has funded these programs for six years.

The Maryland Humanities Council supported the “Charting the Chesapeake” exhibit with a grant of $10,000. PRAD (Patuxent River Appreciation Days) gave $950 to the museum for the freshwater marsh trail. The Solomons Civic Association gave $500 for children’s exhibits. Zahniser’s, Inc., employees held a flea market and gave the proceeds to the museum. These funds were designated to the Wm. B. Tennison for needed major repairs to the hull. Memorial gifts and in-kind gifts brought additional support from friends, new and old.

Museum friends, volunteers, members, and visitors again gave generously of their time and support, and it is always a pleasure to say once again a “thank you” for all that is done for CMM.

**Museum Clubs**

CMM Canoe Club. Club trips for the year included: the Rapidan and Rap-pahannock rivers in Virginia, Black Walnut Creek in Prince George’s County, the lower part of Hunting Creek, and Parker Creek, both in Calvert County. Members assisted at Patuxent Family Discovery Day and provided canoe rides.

CMM Fossil Club. Members of the CMM Fossil Club participated in several events, including the Montgomery County Gem and Mineral Show, Patuxent Family Discovery Day, Calvert Marine Museum’s Twentieth Anniversary Weekend, Calvert Cliffs State Park, and Patuxent River Appreciation Days. At these events members displayed fossils they had collected, demonstrated fossil preparation, and answered questions from the public. An exhibit containing fossils from Calvert Cliffs was displayed at the White Oak Library, Montgomery County, Maryland. Several members gave talks on fossils to school groups in Calvert, St. Mary’s, Prince George’s, and Montgomery counties.

Spring and fall business meetings, as well as field trips, were held at Mataoka Cottages, St. Leonard. In May, a meeting was held at the Naturalist Center at the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History with David Weishampel as the guest lecturer. In the fall, CMM’s curator of paleontology presented a lecture on “Fossil Fish in the Baltic” at the museum. In conjunction with this talk members of the club helped sort and identify fossils owned by CMM for use with educational activities.

Numerous field trips were held throughout the year: Purse State Park, Maryland; Stratford Hall, Virginia; Lee Creek, North Carolina; Jones Wharf, Maryland; Langley Bluff, Maryland; and a behind-the-scenes look at the paleontological section at the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History.

Most CMM educational docents are club members. Last year they lectured school groups, led school field trips, helped with CHESPAX, and went to schools to give hands-on talks. Fossil Club members also donated and prepared paleontology teaching material. Most of the 45,000 sharks teeth given away by the Discovery Room were given by club members; club members donated fossil books to the Discovery Room and the library; and they wrote articles for the Bugeye Times and Ecphora, the club’s newsletter.

**Patuxent Small Craft Guild.** Members of the guild performed many important services for the small craft collections of the museum, combining over 600 hours of volunteer time with some 110 hours of staff time. In addition to routine maintenance and repairs to the boats in the basin (the utility skiff, the Wonderful, the Marie Theresa, and the draketail), club members did the following: built a twelve-foot sailing skiff; purchased a fourteen-inch band saw for small craft work; moved two engines, a donated Crus-Along, and other items to a CMM indoor storage area; conducted a class in building a small skiff (five boats built by participants in two weekend sessions); repaired and painted a small boat trailer; helped move a donated yawl boat to the small craft exhibit; put a fire hose rubber strip around CMM’s floating dock; caulked and painted the Pep; built a lifting boom for boat basin use; and started measuring and taking lines off the draketail. They were also active in programs with the public at Patuxent Family Discovery Day (toy boat building); St. Mary’s City Maritime Heritage Festival; Mid-Atlantic Small Craft Festival, St. Michaels; and Patuxent River Appreciation Days (toy boat building and exhibit raffle for skiff). The fundraising activities (skiff raffle and toy boat building) netted $600 for future use in small craft projects.

Contributors of materials and services directly related to small craft activities included the Truemans Lumber Co., Chris Washburn’s Boat Yard, Sobstat Sails, and Zahniser’s, Inc.

**Solomons Island Model Boat Club.** The club held twenty meetings, with a total attendance of two hundred. In addition, the club had twelve race days. One proud accomplishment was a donation of $1,000 to the museum for the estuarium. Club members participated in PRAD, the Alexandriana Waterfront Festival, and in races at Breton Bay, Chesapeake Ranch Club, and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

**Southern Maryland Shipcarvers’ Guild.** Over the past year the club met twenty-five times, each meeting attended by some ten members, a total of 750 man-hours. Members of the club participated in Patuxent Family Discovery Day, the Members’ Picnic, Twentieth Anniversary Weekend, and PRAD. They also attended an event at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.
VOLUNTEERS

During the year, 118 volunteers contributed a total of 11,379 hours of service to the Calvert Marine Museum. Although the number of hours is some ten percent below the previous year, the decrease is explained by greater demands on the museum staff, allowing less time to work with volunteers, and also by reduced effort to recruit volunteers. It is hoped that the creation of the CMM Volunteer Council, described later, will help alter both of these conditions and result in greater volunteer participation in 1991. The job market value of volunteer contributions for 1990 was estimated at about $96,000.

The museum’s twentieth anniversary was the theme of volunteer recognition for 1990. Instead of a single recipient, four special “Twentieth Anniversary Volunteer Achievement Awards” were recognized by Judge Perry C. Bowen, Clara Dixon, Anna Weems Ewalt, and LeRoy “Pepper” Langley for their key roles in the history and success of the Calvert Marine Museum. Thirty-four volunteers earned certificates of appreciation for contributing over one hundred hours of service, with Paul Berry topping the list at 1,152 hours. The chairperson of the Bugeye Ball and Twentieth Anniversary Weekend, Linda McGilvery, received a bugeye carving as a special “thank-you” for her leadership in this anniversary commemoration.

Volunteers attended monthly “Weigh Anchor” informational programs, many of which were videotaped by volunteer Paul Grisso to create a volunteer training library. A one-day trip to Washington, D.C., on May 9, was taken in observation of National Volunteer Week.

Of most significance in 1990 was the formation of the CMM Volunteer Council, developed through the efforts of an ad hoc committee of several volunteers and staff. This organization has the following objectives: to recruit and promote the effective use of volunteer services for the Calvert Marine Museum; to act as an agency through which volunteers may contribute to the ideals and purposes of the museum; to serve as the link between museum staff and volunteers in determining and filling specific needs for volunteer assistance; and to foster a feeling of unity among the volunteers. Since all museum volunteers will become members of the Volunteer Council, it will be the means by which they may take a more active role in operation and direction of the volunteer program.

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

During its first full year of operation, the new exhibition building proved to be quite suitable for its purposes. With the permanent maritime history exhibit in place, and with other areas in use, the building was popular with staff, museum members, and visitors. A few lingering construction problems were addressed — some successfully, some not — and a certain amount of fine tuning, especially of the air-handling system, occurred during the year. Improved display lighting was installed in the maritime hall gallery, the changing exhibit area, and the museum store. A second point for handicapped access between the building and the boat basin was provided by a ramp built by staff at the center exit from the maritime hall (handicapped access is also available at the southeast door). The materials for this ramp were purchased with a donation from a member of the museum’s Board of Governors. Handicapped access to the maritime hall mezzanine gallery will receive study in the coming months.

One serious problem in the new building developed during the year: minor water entry on the floor of the lowest exhibit level during heavy rains. This may require attention before the permanent paleontology exhibit is installed in this area. Considerable attention was given by the curator of estuarine biology to the needs of the estuarine exhibit. Although much of the structure of the area for this exhibit was installed during building construction, some of the supporting plumbing and tanks required modification as work progressed on this complex exhibit. (A fuller description of work in this area is in the “Exhibits” section of this report.)

Some further improvements were made on the museum grounds. Permanent directional signs were installed at critical points, and interpretive signs placed along the marsh walk. Two shelters for vending machines were built by staff next to the Woodworking Shop and near the lighthouse area. The reconfiguration of a fence at the rear of the Calvert Marine Society property adjacent to the parking area made possible the creation of a small, shaded picnic area. This area was leased to the museum by the society for a dollar a year. A demonstration streetscape project of the county, extending from Lore Street to the south end of the museum’s property, vastly improved the appearance of the frontage on Solomons Island Road, with landscaping, paving-stone walks, curbs, and parking insets at appropriate intervals. The museum’s vehicular entrance was further improved by the addition of lighting for the museum signs.

The greatest disappointment of the year was the lack of action to renovate the Solomons school for museum administration uses. Although some progress was made in preparing drawings and specifications, these were not completed. This matter should be resolved in 1991. In the meantime, the museum offices remain crowded in the North Annex building, but some minor modifications made use of this space more efficiently. Similarly, several activities remained in the East Annex building where problems with the heating system and leaks
in the roof were encountered in 1990. The heating plant was replaced, but the roof leaks continued, despite an effort at repair. The museum was notified by the county that the East Annex would be available for only three years, so other arrangements must be made to house the activities that are there. For the most part, these are to be accommodated in the Administration Building when completed, but a study of long-range space needs will be undertaken.

Museum maintenance staff — supervisor George Nichols, assisted by Darwin Wilson, Timothy Smith, and Steve Wallace — have worked diligently to keep up the appearance of the museum buildings and grounds, aided frequently by community service workers and with support from the county government. A county contract was issued in fall 1990 for a complete painting of the Drum Point Lighthouse, partially painted in 1986, and this work will be completed early in 1991.

Editorial Note: CMM's annual report is produced in alternate years as a separate publication, including full financial reports and lists of museum staff and members. Financial reports for fiscal year 1990 (ending June 30) may be obtained by writing to the museum.

HIGH SCHOOL . . . (Cont. from page 1)

The school for elementary and high school grades was ready for occupancy by September 8, 1925.

With land purchased and the contract awarded for construction, the next big problem to be solved was that of transportation. Between February and May 1925, much of the Board of Education's time was spent in discussions on the feasibility and methods of boat transportation for school children from Olivet, Rousby, and Mill Creek (later to be named Dowell), and the land transportation of children from Preston and Coster schools. In May 1925 a contract was made with Captain Isaac “Ike” Hill to use his converted brogan, James Aubrey, to transport children by boat for $1,750 per year for five years. Within the same month, a contract was awarded to J. C. Lore, Sr., to transport children from Sollers and Lusby, with stops at the Trueman house [where Coster Road met former State Route 4] for Coster and Preston children.

When it seemed that there were no other major problems to be overcome, the citizens of Rousby decided that they did not want to have their children going off to a consolidated school, so they petitioned the Board of Education to continue their school; the protest was denied. Then the Olivet people wanted out, but the board decided that it would carry through its original project for one year or longer and would therefore close the school at Olivet until it was decided to reopen it. Not to be outdone, Coster residents voiced their dissatisfaction to the superintendent on the closing of their school, citing the failure of the board to provide suitable transportation. To keep the Coster parents satisfied with their school's closing, the board offered for those who lived more than one mile on the Coster Road from the Trueman house “... the sum of 15 cents per day for each child ... brought to the juncture of the Coster Road and the State Road and attend school at Solomons.” It was not until the middle of September 1925 that the Coster people resolved their transportation problem. Mr. John H. McCready was awarded a one-year contract for $600 to transport the Coster students.

But bus transportation plagued the Board of Education for the entire first year of operation of the new school. There was mud in Mill Bridge Road and Sollers Wharf Road. Even the school boat children had problems: the Board of Education minutes for February 9, 1926, reported that “Clay being the foundation of the ground, the passage of the children from boat to school building has been very much impeded by the mud. Gravel as a walk was authorized.”

Then in February 1928 Cove Point citizens became involved in the action at Solomons. Attendance at the Cove Point school had fallen so low by February that it was impossible to keep school open longer and still comply with state law. Over the objections of the parents, the school was declared closed on June 10, 1928. Mr. John Dare contracted for the route from Cove Point Lighthouse to St. Paul's church in Bertha for $475.50.

When the time came in 1935 for the third renewal of the boat contract, the board decided to accept alternate bids for a bus route for the Olivet and Mill Creek students. Eight citizens offered bids on either the boat route or a bus route, with the award being made to J. C. Lore and Sons for a bus route. Undoubtedly the deciding factor in the change from boat to bus was the building of hardtop roads into those communities in 1931 and 1932. The Rousby children, however, continued to be transported by boat until 1941.

The Solomons School opened in 1925 with six classrooms (two designated for the high school), a spacious playground and athletic field, transportation, a ram providing a water system for the indoor plumbing, but no electric power. The two-teacher, four-year accredited high school was led first by Douglas Bivens, assisted by Anna Noll. Later teachers included Emmy Lou Patton, Harry R. Hughes, Virginia Bell (later Mrs. Joseph C. Lore, Jr.), Frances J. Grover (Mrs. Herbert Stevens), Wallace V. Smith, Yemia Bafford (Mrs. Preston Lore), Irene Hutchins (Mrs. Elliott King), Henry Rembert, and Margaret White. The first graduating of class of 1927 had as its motto "Paddle Your Own Canoe," a fitting description of the efforts that the local citizens had made to provide education for their children.

As early as May 1935 there were signs of the impending closing of the Solomons High School. The superintendent reported to the school board “that the enrollment in the high and elementary schools at Solomons was so low as to endanger the continuance of a high school there.” In April 1936, the superintendent further reported that the enrollment at Solomons High School was only thirty-four, about the same as it had been in 1935. By the end of the school year in 1937, parents were asked to indicate a preference for the high school their children should attend in 1937-38. Of the forty-eight parents polled, only twenty-nine replied, with twenty-two indicating a preference for Solomons and seven for Calvert County High School in Prince Frederick. The board decided to wait for the September opening before making a definite decision. With thirty-two students enrolled at that time, the requirement was met for a two-teacher, four-year high school.

In the early months of the 1938-39 school year, however, the number hovered at the thirty minimum, but finally fell below in February 1939. Although school board minutes do not record the discussions between February and July 25, 1939, on that latter date a contract for $1,350 per year for six years was awarded to Charles A. Gray to provide transportation between Solomons and Prince Frederick for the high school students.

The graduation of five girls from the stage of the Episcopal Parish Hall on June 8, 1939, brought to an end the eighteen-year life of the high school in the Solomons school. The high school ended where it began — upstairs in the parish house. Use of the Solomons school as an elementary school continued until the late 1960s when it was abandoned by the Board of Education. A few years later, the building became the exhibition building of the Calvert Marine Museum.
YEAR-END APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS FOR 1990

The Board of Directors of the Calvert Marine Society, the museum director, and staff thank all of the following members and friends who contributed to the 1990 Year-End Appeal. These contributions of over $70,000 will help museum projects not otherwise budgeted.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—

Dede King
Volunteer Council President, Museum Store Volunteer

Layne Bergin, volunteer/events coordinator, spoke recently to Dede King about volunteering and about the new Volunteer Council.

Layne: “You’ve been volunteering at the museum for five years now. What differences do you see the new Volunteer Council making in your experience here?”

Dede: “It’s too soon to say. We are still feeling our way in the role of volunteers in the museum and the interaction of the Volunteer Council with the staff. And we’ve got some problems to be ironed out.”

Layne: “One of the requirements of Volunteer Council membership is that everyone attend a six-hour orientation, even volunteers who have been with us for many years. The orientation covers CMM history, museum policy, emergency management, and a site tour, as well as basic volunteer information. There has been some confusion and even resistance to this.”

Dede: “As we grow in understanding of our role as volunteers in the museum, hopefully, we can all learn more about the structure, staffing, and aims of this institution. This is why the orientation requirement is essential. It is the quickest, easiest, and hopefully, most interesting way of learning what we need to know. Any volunteer who feels they are already knowledgeable we’d love to have as trainers or just for their input (critical or otherwise) at the session.”

Layne: “What other thoughts do you want to share?”

Dede: “As the museum, or anything for that matter, grows in size and stature, it also must look to more formally organizing its duties and responsibilities. The Volunteer Council was established to address this need. The jobs of docent, greeter, store salesperson are still there, but specialized and more technical jobs are surfacing which also need doing. If you are willing, there is no talent that can’t be utilized somewhere at the museum.”

WANTED:
SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

The museum’s exhibits department is looking for an individual with experience in the use of typesetting equipment. Please call Layne Bergin for information or to volunteer.

MUSEUMS FEES IN 1991

Members are reminded that beginning in January 1991 the museum instituted admission fees for its exhibit areas. These fees are $3.00 for adults; $2.00 for children and seniors. Members of the Calvert Marine Society, however, enjoy free admission, but be sure to bring your CMS membership card.

Rates for the Wm. B. Tennison cruises in 1991 have been changed. Adults will now be $4.00 each, children $2.00 (under 5 years old free with paying adult). The charter fee remains $125 per hour (ten percent discount for CMS members). See calendar for details of cruises.