The opening of the new museum in Solomons in 1970 rated considerable newspaper coverage, and most of it stressed the significance of local maritime history as the museum's purpose.

The area of Solomons Island was decided upon as a natural location for a maritime museum because of its nautical history. The deep water harbor has protected military, commercial and private vessels for over two hundred years. (Lexington Park Enterprise, May 8, 1970)

... Here in Calvert County, where the Patuxent River meets the Bay, the ... small community of Solomons ... once was the hub of a vast shipbuilding area, where shipwrights used the readily available timber to create specialized craft for Chesapeake Bay. (Washington Evening Star, November 23, 1970)

For many years the thought of establishing a museum along the waterfront of Calvert County to preserve some of the artifacts of a past era has been in the minds of many citizens of our county. (Calvert Independent, April 1, 1971)

Emphasis at the outset was upon the collection, preservation, and display of the materials and information from the residents of Solomons to assure a record of the community and its way of life. More than the immediate community was involved, of course, since Solomons depended for its original and continued existence on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, the Patuxent River, and its many creeks. It was these waters that provided the living for early residents, either directly through the seafood industry, or indirectly through the building of the boats needed to harvest the bounty of the waters.

When the Calvert Marine Museum opened its first small building on Solomons Island in 1970, nearly all of the displays were items donated by local families who wanted to share some their heritage rather than merely store it in their attics. Similar community heritage preservation efforts have occurred in other communities, so Solomons was not unique in its concept of a local museum. It is doubtful, however, that those first volunteers and supporters could have foreseen the developments of the next twenty-five years, although it is certain that they envisioned greater things. The sign over the first building clearly stated "Temporary Building," so expansion was definitely planned. But expansion has not only brought more space, increased collections, and a broader scope to the museum, it has also encouraged further study of the heritage that was being celebrated — especially true of the museum's maritime history component.

As the museum grew from the one-room building into the former Solomons School by the mid-1970s, and again when the museum moved into its new exhibition building in 1989, the local and maritime history exhibits were the first and largest to be presented to visitors. To accomplish this required more support from the local residents as they provided artifacts, photographs, family and business records, and taped recollections of the "early days." Museum

Continued on page 6
POPULAR MUSEUM BOOKLET ON FOSSILS BACK IN PRINT!

The Calvert Marine Museum is pleased to announce that Wallace L. Ashby’s *Fossils of Calvert Cliffs* is back in print in a new twenty-four-page edition. It is now for sale in the museum store at $4.75. This guide explains in nontechnical terms how the Calvert Cliffs were formed, and describes and illustrates the kinds of fossils to be found there. Since its first edition in 1978, *Fossils of Calvert Cliffs* has been reprinted at least five times, but has not been available for several years. We hope that amateur paleontologists and museum members and visitors will enjoy seeing this new, updated version.

The publication’s author, Wallace Ashby, is a long-time fossil collector who has donated many important fossil finds to CMM, and he is also an active volunteer in paleontology. Once again, scientific illustrator Mary Parrish (Wallace Ashby’s daughter) has provided her beautiful and accurate drawings of fossils to enhance the booklet. A number of changes, including a new color cover and the updating of some information and figures, have gone into this new edition, while retaining much of the basic content and appearance of the previous (1986) edition.

Funding for the reprinting of *Fossils of Calvert Cliffs* has been provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as part of a grant for “TREASURE FROM THE CLIFFS: Exploring Marine Fossils,” the museum’s new fossil exhibit which is currently under construction. The museum is very grateful to NSF for this generous support. (Michael Gottfried)
MUSEUM NAMED AS WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATIVE “E” ORGANIZATION

The United States Department of Defense has designated the Calvert Marine Museum as a Commemorative “E” Organization for 1995, further recognizing the role of the local community in the events of the second World War. CMM received a similar Commemorative Community designation for 1994-1995 last year. Several of the museum’s events in 1994 were tied into the theme of honoring World War II veterans, with special activities during Patuxent River Appreciation Days in early October. This year’s Commemorative “E” Organization award relates to the war work at the M. M. Davis & Son Shipyard for which the shipyard received two Army-Navy Production Awards in 1944.

CMM has many objects, photographs, and documents of the former Davis shipyard in its collections, including the documentation of the “E” awards. The shipyard’s role in the war effort is the topic of an exhibit this summer in the first floor Changing Exhibit Gallery (through early December). This year’s opening ceremonies at PRAD on October 7 will honor the civilians of Solomons, who supported the war effort through their work at local businesses such as the Davis shipyard. Other events may also tie into the “home front” theme.

ARTSFEST ’95
An Update on Annmarie Garden on St. John

Visitors to Solomons this summer will have several opportunities to enjoy Annmarie Garden on St. John, the sculpture park donated in 1993 to Calvert County by Francis L. Koenig in honor of his wife. Earlier issues of the Bugeye Times have reported on the development of this unusual park and its attractions for visitors. Unfortunately, the park has been open on very few occasions in the past, but in the summer of 1995 it will open on the first and third weekends each month during the summer. The season will culminate on Saturday, September 30, with the third annual Artsfest. Annmarie Garden is located on Dowell Road near Solomons.

This year, Artsfest ’95 will bring in one hundred artists whose workspaces will be scattered among the woods and the landscaped open areas of Annmarie Garden. The artists will not only demonstrate through works-in-progress, but will have their pieces on display for sale as well. Musical performances will be take place throughout the garden, and fine foods will be available.

Support for the garden is provided through the Friends of Annmarie Garden on St. John. For more information about Annmarie Garden and Artsfest ’95, call Jennifer Draxton at (410) 535-1600 or (301) 855-1243, extension 433.

MUSEUM SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR RETIRES

Rita Adams, membership coordinator of the Calvert Marine Museum Society since 1988, retired on June 29. All members of the museum’s membership society have benefited from the work that Rita has performed as membership coordinator. Not only has she maintained the membership records — sending out renewal notices and recording new and renewal members — but she developed a more efficient computer system and has organized the mailing of the quarterly Bugeye Times and of invitations for special membership events. During her period at the museum, membership has grown to nearly 1,900, due in part to her efforts and her friendly handling of members’ questions. Rita has been on hand to greet members each year at the Yule Party and other activities.

Rita and her husband Paul — a very active museum volunteer — will continue to live in the Cove Point area and will attend museum functions. Staff members and many of her immediate coworkers joined in an informal crab-feast sendoff on June 29.

Several summer staff have been appointed: interpreters Renee Switzer, Christina Shumate, and Carin Stringer (her second summer); Lisa Shrieves will instruct the “Young Salts” programs; and Debra Yorty, a student at the University of Maryland, will serve a ten-week internship in the Development Office.

THE COOKBOOK IS COMING!

The twenty-fifth anniversary CMM cookbook, “Chart Your Courses,” will be available October 1, 1995. Many thanks to our members and friends, and to our business supporters, all of whom made this commemorative project a reality. Reserve your copies — with over four hundred recipes — by calling Layne Bergin at (410) 326-2042. Cost: $9.00 plus tax.
CMM's 1899 bugeye bayboat Wm. B. Tennison in service as a tour boat. CMM photo by Robert Hurry

Newly opened Paleontology Preparation Laboratory, an important part of the exhibit "TREASURES FROM THE CLIFFS: Exploring Marine Fossils" under construction in the Exhibition Building. CMM photo by Robert Hurry

Young boatbuilders try their skill under the watchful eye of CMM modelmaker Jimmy Langley. CMM photo by Robert Hurry

Participants prepare to embark on the "row" from photo by Jack Krolak
There were several activities at CMM during this past spring, but the Patuxent Family Discovery Day on May 6 attracted the largest number of participants — of all ages. Many of events are shown below.
Twenty-Five Years of Local and Maritime History at CMM

Continued from page 1

staff and volunteers were also active in these efforts to enlarge knowledge of the area and its life, so as to provide more thorough and meaningful interpretations through exhibits and publications. A review of the past twenty-five years demonstrates just how successful these efforts have been.

Much attention was given in the first decade to the organization of this new museum, but even the decisions on buildings bore evidence of the community preservation objective. The county's decision in the early 1970s to assign for museum use the recently abandoned 1925 Solomons School — the first county school for high school classes in the lower part of the county — assured the preservation of a recognized force in community history. Although proposals to preserve other significant buildings were not accepted for museum expansion, the approved form of growth did include recognition of local values: the relocation of the Drum Point Lighthouse, thus saving it from almost certain decay and loss; the collecting of various local boats and their display in an outdoor setting; the creation of a boat basin to increase the “waterfront” of the museum; the purchase by the county of the former J. C. Lore and Sons Oyster House for interpretative exhibits on the seafood industry; and even the later construction of a new and larger exhibition building modeled on a local tomato canning factory. The displays in these buildings include several reconstructions of work areas from local businesses, using original materials and tools to interpret the maritime heritage to current generations.

The value of three of these additions extends beyond the local area: the Drum Point Lighthouse, the Lore Oyster House, and the 1899 bugeye Wm. B. Tennison (now the museum's tour boat), all on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Tennison has also been designated a National Historic Landmark.

Less well-known during the museum's first decade were several research projects, the most extensive being the study of the underwater archaeological record of the entire tidewater Patuxent River, site of much neglected history. This work resulted in a sizable written record, many photographs, a collection of significant artifacts, the creation of imaginative exhibits, and the publication by CMM of two books: Donald G. Shomette's Cradle of Invasion: A History of the U.S. Naval Amphibious Training Base, Solomons, Maryland, 1942-1945 (1984); The Patuxent “Ghost Fleet,” 1927-1941 (1986); “Solomons Mines”: A History of the U.S. Naval Mine Warfare Test Station, Solomons, Maryland, 1941-1947 (1987); and The Happy Solution: A Short History of the Dewey Floating Dry Dock (1988). Al Lavish and George Surgent produced a pamphlet on Early Chesapeake Single-Log Canoes: A Brief History and Introduction to Building Techniques (1984), while CMM published Donald Shomette's Othello Affair: The Pursuit of French Pirates on Patuxent River, Maryland, August 1807 (1985). The most extensive effort during this period was Geoffrey M. Footner's research on the history of the Davis family of shipbuilders and the M. M. Davis & Son shipyard at Solomons, resulting in CMM's 1991 publication The Last Generation: A History of a Chesapeake Shipbuilding Family. Ongoing, but unpublished research projects in the museum library involve the identification of vessels built in Solomons and lower Calvert County (over four hundred records to date) and a compilation of the area's land records.

Research efforts continue in the third decade, further documenting our knowledge. Examples are the collection of data on the origins of the Drum Point Lighthouse from federal government records, and a similar search of archival records for specific information about the “marine hospital” at Solomons. The results of these efforts appeared in Bugeye Times articles by Richard J. Dodds, CMM's current curator of maritime history, the first entitled “Drum Point Lighthouse — Its Origins Revisited” (winter 1993/1994), and the second, “In Time of Need — The Solomons’ Marine Hospital, 1890-1930” (winter 1994/1995). In extensive seafood industries exhibits at the Lore Oyster House, and in the writing of the 1988 publication Working the Water: The Commercial Fisheries of Maryland’s Patuxent River (University Press of Virginia and the Calvert Marine Museum Press) — the work of CMM's oral history specialist and first curator of maritime history, Paula J. Johnson. This type of research was also critical for obtaining federal grants to design and install the maritime history exhibit in the museum's new building in 1989.

During the second decade there was more research and several publication projects, expanding the fund of knowledge about the area. Research Associate Merle T. Cole, interested in the navy's and federal government’s activities in the local area,
The Happy Solution:
A Short History of the
Dewey Floating Dry Dock
by
Merle T. Cole

The Patuxent River
SUBMERGED
CULTURAL RESOURCE
SURVEY
Drum Point
to
Queen Anne's Bridge, Maryland

Donald G. Shomert and Ralph E. Eshelman

EARLY CHESAPEAKE
SINGLELOG CANOES
by
Merle T. Cole

THE DRUM POINT
LIGHTHOUSE

Warren Marine Museum

“SOLOMONS MINES”

A HISTORY OF
THE U.S. NAVAL BASE WAVE TRAINING CENTER
SOLOMONS, MARYLAND, 1945-47

recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of events during World War II, with special acknowledgment of the role played by Solomons during the early 1940s, Merle Cole's Cradle of Invasion was reprinted in 1994, and two articles were presented in the Bugeye Times: Richard Dodds’s “Doing Their Part: Maryland’s Boatyards and Small Shipyards in World War II” (spring 1993), and CMM curator of education Karen E. Peterson’s “Reminiscences with the Wives and Crew of LCS(L)3#117, Amphibious Training Base, 1944” (fall 1994). An exhibit on the role of the M. M. Davis & Son shipyard in the war will be the changing exhibit feature this summer.

A current research project involves further exploration into the history of Solomons, with some surprising information about the owner of the island before Isaac Solomon. New facts about Solomons are being developed into a brief history for publication later this year. There is always more to be learned about local and Chesapeake Bay maritime history.

Once the museum was opened and its potential for the community realized, its collections of maritime history objects grew at a steady rate, with contributions from a variety of sources. Objects added included oyster tongs, fishing equipment, tools, oarlocks, models, and even vessels — from canoes to workboats to the thirty-six-foot sailing yacht Windward, built by M. M. Davis & Son in 1928. Of particular interest have been the artworks that document bay history, especially paintings of vessels built at Solomons and watercolors of bay scenes and vessels. Collections of archival records from local businesses and individuals, photographs from many sources, maps and boat plans, audio and video tapes, and books for a CMM library have been created during the past twenty-five years and help to support research into the rich history of Solomons and the Patuxent River area. The maritime history collections now include over 4,500 cataloged artifacts; the photograph and slide collections each number more than ten thousand items; the archives of local and maritime history occupy thirty linear feet; some four hundred maps and boats plans occupy file drawers; and the library has over six thousand cataloged entries and hundreds of magazine issues.

With the continued support of friends and volunteers, it is certain that maritime and local history will continue as a strong and developing theme of the Calvert Marine Museum. Visitors will long enjoy the exhibits that bring back memories of the past of the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay, and especially the community of Solomons.

WARM WEATHER VOLUNTEERING AT CMM

Draft yourself into service this summer as a museum volunteer! Here's where YOU are needed:

- **Touch Tank:** Get your hands wet in the estuarium exhibit showing turtles, fiddlers, and horseshoe crabs while teaching visitors essential life-history facts.
- **Otter Exhibit (NEW!):** Be the host/spokesperson for our outdoor river pair and know the answers to “how big?” “how fast?” and “what did they have for breakfast?”
- **Paleo Prep Lab (ALSO NEW!):** Get your hands dirty demonstrating how fossils from Calvert Cliffs are cleaned and put back together, while greeting visitors to the site of CMM’s new Fossil Hall.

General museum orientation and specific training will be provided — try it, you’ll like it! Call the volunteer coordinator, Layne Bergin, at (410) 326-2042 for all the details, or leave your name and address for contact.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT —

MARILYN RUARK, CMM’s Discovery Room

Discovery Room: What’s that? “It’s a hands-on area for children of all ages—it’s ever-changing...a place where children can pretend and learn and get a taste of what the rest of the museum is about.”

Asking Marilyn Ruark to describe the museum’s popular Discovery Room is going directly to the source. This talented woman is the chairman of the volunteer workgroup responsible for nearly everything a child sees, does, and imagines in this unique area of the museum. Visitors are welcomed here free of charge.

Marilyn Ruark came with an ideal background for this volunteer responsibility: thirty-five years experience in the art field; a parenting style which emphasizes environmental interests; and leadership roles with Girl Scout groups and the foreign student service. Her husband’s employment with Baltimore Gas & Electric Company brought them to Calvert County from Gaithersburg in 1991, and it didn’t take long for this active individual to want more than walking on the beach and enjoying the view. “I wanted a routine,” said Marilyn, “to get on a schedule.”

After asking about volunteer opportunities at the museum, she was apprenticed to volunteer Marilyn Force in the Discovery Room. They worked closely together, and Marilyn Ruark eventually was asked to take charge of the team of volunteers who develop, produce, and continually update all aspects of this hands-on paradise.

The educational liaison to the Volunteer Council, Marilyn Ruark keeps volunteers informed at her monthly meetings, and leads discussions on suggestions for new projects. Recently, the balcony area of the Discovery Room was transformed into a bird sanctuary with a rowboat to catch magnet fish, dunes and beach specimens, a silhouette game mural, a bird blind, a beaver in his lodge, and, of course, birds. All projects were planned and completed by volunteers—including the rowboat designed and built by Ken Reid. Coming up: a puppet stage is in the works for the summer.

Marilyn Ruark has shared her skills with CMM’s exhibits department, painting and creating display pieces, and frequently she represents the museum at off-site events. Special days at CMM usually find her surrounded by youngsters learning the art of T-shirt printing with the help of her senior Girl Scout volunteers.

The appeal of the Discovery Room and the joy of a child’s experience have much to do with Marilyn’s attention to what is successful. During school programs she may just sit and observe: “If something doesn’t work,” she says, “we can pull it.” Says curator of education Karen Peterson, “Marilyn’s enthusiasm, imagination, and talent make her the ideal person to be in charge of the Discovery Room. Under her direction the vitality of the room is maintained, and the exhibits are always fresh and interesting. There’s always something new to be seen there.”

Volunteers Welcome!

Anyone interested in crafts, costumes, and stimulating a child’s imagination is welcome to join the Discovery Room team. Call volunteer coordinator, Layne Bergin, for information on this and other volunteer opportunities: (410) 326-2042.

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM

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