DREDGING OUT OF SOLOMONS

The following excerpt is from Kent Mountford's log kept onboard his 31-foot ketch GALADRIEL. Kent, marine biologist and designer of the Bugeye Times logo, has agreed to share his reflections of a day of dredging out of Solomons during the winter of 1975.

Captain Clyde Evans of the sailing oyster skipjack "Lorraine Rose" agreed, weather permitting, to take me out Thursday at dawn. He has a crew of about five, one from Crisfield, two from Tangier Island, and the balance Smith Islanders. The fleet to which "Lorraine" belongs Baywide stands at 32 sail, down from 34 last season. Evans' number is 54, his ship is old and tired, her trailboards rotting and her spar sistered about the partners. The spokes of her wheel

(Continued on Page 2)

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM ACCREDITED

On November 24 Calvert Marine Museum was notified that it had been officially accredited by the American Association of Museums, the national service organization for museums. This completed a process begun nearly two years earlier and signified that the museum had met all standards established by the AAM.

Accreditation is an accomplishment of which we all can be proud. As of October 1981, of the 5,000 museums in the United States only 496 have received AAM's accreditation. CMM now joins that select group of accredited institutions which includes Mystic Seaport, the Mariners Museum and the Smithsonian Institution. Of the 72 Maryland museums listed in the Official Museum Directory, only eight are accredited. Included along with CMM are the Baltimore Museum of Art, Peale Museum, and the Walters Art Gallery.

As an accredited institution, Calvert Marine Museum cannot rest on its laurels. Our continuing obligations of professionalism are a tangible recognition of CMM's position in the museum community nationwide. It indicated that our exhibits, programs, and operations are professionally run and rate among the best in the country.

Our application, which took nearly six months to complete, was followed by an on-site two day evaluation by a committee of two museum experts.

Commenting on the award, Lawrence L. Reger, AAM director, said, "The Calvert Marine Museum's successful achievement of accreditation signifies that it is not only meeting professional standards of operation but is using its resources effectively to obtain its stated goals. With the ever-increasing importance to all museums of outside support, public and private, a museum must strive to demonstrate both quality service and efficient management."
DREDGING OUT OF SOLOMONS

are polished bright with the burnishing of many hands. Her little cabin has a tiny central stove four feet high. A frying pan sat on the linoleum floor containing the remains of some potatoes and onions from dinner. Sleeping bags and an air mattress, or two, dried on the boom "from last night's rain. Immediately the falls were let go and the yawl boat fired up. We pushed out to Fishing Point and soon her old sails were set. A cotton main of about 800 square feet (four years old and on its last legs) with four reefs in from yesterday. She had a Dacron jib of 300 square feet six or seven years old and still in good repair. Albert Brown, over on the Eastern Shore's Deal Island, makes his sails and those of most other skipjacks.

There was a light air SSE and over went the "drudge" the drag of which promptly brought us to a halt and signaled the start of four hours' dead calm as we veered to the cable. Paper, he claimed, they take to the marina but everything stuff like cans and bottles they figure oyster spat will grab part of the Island's government to control it. The "hard soda all of which refuse went promptly overside into the water. Immediately the falls were let go and the yawl boat fired up. We pushed out to Fishing Point and soon her old sails were set. A cotton main of about 800 square feet (four years old and on its last legs) with four reefs in from yesterday. She had a Dacron jib of 300 square feet six or seven years old and still in good repair. Albert Brown, over on the Eastern Shore's Deal Island, makes his sails and those of most other skipjacks.

Buster, Jimmy (ship's carpenter) and Capt. Clyde held forth and Ken Sterling skipped shells on the water, Kenny "Bus" Buster, Jimmy (ship's carpenter) and Capt. Clyde held forth an unending card game on two pasteboard suitcases set mid-cabin and consumed equally endless cigarettes and canned soda all of which refuse went promptly overside into the Bay. I asked Jack about this. "Pollution," he said guiltily. His fellow Tangiermen do a lot of it despite attempts on the part of the Island's government to control it. The "hard stuff" like cans and bottles they figure oyster spat will grab on. Paper, he claimed, they take to the marina but everything I saw went thoughtlessly into the Bay where a breeze would put it on a leeshore in windrows by morning, for people like me to get ticked off about. Their three pounds of junk, added to everyone else's, means something like eight tons about the lower Patuxent shoreline every year. I'd eaten lunch when about 1230 Capt. Evans announced he was "gonna throw over a penny and buy us some wind."

Buster said, "What if we threw a quarter over the other side?" (ostensibly to buy back the calm so they could go home). The penny did it, by God, and in four minutes all hands were on deck starting up the Chevy-6 donkey engine to wind cable on the dredge. "Throw out Wind'ard," Capt. Clyde said, and we pulled the weather "drudge" alone until the breeze got up. It was a fair "lick," about four dozen markets (market-sized oysters), so out went a marker buoy and for the rest of the day we worked a half mile "hole" taking about 55 bushels - $275 worth. Wind permitting, two dredges are deployed, port and starboard, each worked by two men, one operating the "winch" (winder) clutch, both madly culling, (that is selecting legal size oysters from the under sized and empty shell) when it comes aboard. On representative hauls, for example, 240, 60, 248, 292 oysters.

Only one command runs the boat, "Goo-o-o-oh," to throw over the dredges. Hauling is signalled by pulling a string tied to the winder accelerator, rewinding the engine. The boys forward hit the clutches and in come the dredges. Culling is automatic; then "Goo-o-o-oh," again, and again, all day over the same half-mile of bottom, on a slightly high reach, only rarely changing the set of a sail.

"Lorraine Rose" was built sister to "City of Crisfield" (Captain Art Daniels) and "Somerset," in 1949. Forty-four feet on deck, draft about 3 foot 4 inches, mast 62 foot, boom 44 foot 6 inches. She's the second skipjack Captain Evans has owned and he had her built himself. She's sailed 44 foot, 60, 248, 292 oysters.

1981 IN REVIEW:

Report from the Director's Office

1981 has to be the finest year of achievement in the eleven short years of the Calvert Marine Museum. Foremost, of course, is accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Of the more than 72 museums in Maryland, CMM joined the select group of eight accredited museums.

Official opening of CMM's newest exhibition "War on the Patuxent: 1814" was such a success that our speaker, Don Shomette, gave two lectures to enable everyone to hear about our search for the Chesapeake Flotilla. The exhibition is now on tour throughout the State and will return to CMM March 17, 1982. In conjunction with the exhibition, CMM Press published its first book, Flotilla: Battle for the Patuxent and our first catalog of artifacts.

The WM. B. TENNISON had its finest year under the able Captain Jim Tallant. The museum staff was greatly enriched by the addition of Liz Gilbert, Director of Education. The Patuxent River commercial fishery oral history project headed by Paula Johnson and assisted by Peter Kurtz is off to a roaring start (see their article in this issue of Bugeye Times). The North Annex (educational department), Drum Point Lighthouse, and Lore Oyster House all are freshly painted and looking great.

Presently, the exhibits staff is finishing up the estuarine exhibits and preparing the aquarium room which is scheduled to open in late spring or early summer of 1982. In close consultation with Cambridge Seven Associates, Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., the museum will have completed the final design and building documents for Phase One of the Master Plan by the end of this winter. If all goes well, and funds hold out, construction of the boat basin, marsh habitat, and relocation of the small craft shed should be completed by fall.
Tradition and Change on the Patuxent

As we reported in the last issue of the Bugeye Times, CMM has been awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities to study and document the commercial fisheries of the Patuxent River area. The title of this study, the Patuxent River Folklife and Oral History Project, reflects our concern with life on the water today as well as in the past. While the project’s primary focus is on commercial fisheries, a humanistic perspective compels us to consider and record other aspects of the daily lives of people who live and work on the water.

In conducting this study, we have enjoyed numerous visits with local people. The information these individuals have shared with us fills many hours of recording tape, which will be deposited in an archive being created at CMM as part of the project. These tapes contain first-hand descriptions of the techniques and methods of water-related occupations, including oystering, crabbing, fishing with gill and pound nets, boatbuilding, and seafood processing and preparation. This information is important in its own right, as much of it has not been documented elsewhere, and changing conditions and technology are reshaping these activities. Our tapes and photographs will provide a record which can be consulted by future generations.

Our humanistic interests find certain aspects of this information equally as important as the information itself. We are excited to discover evidence of the continuing influence of tradition: skills and knowledge handed down from one generation to the next, or acquired by example, imitation, and experience rather than through formal education. This process still plays an essential part in learning the skills of a waterman — or those of a waterman’s wife. We are learning, however, that change is taking place in this area as a result of modern innovations; for example, the weather signs which the watermen carefully observed and respectfully heeded of modern innovations; for example, the weather signs which the watermen carefully observed and respectfully heeded.

Of equal interest with the technological and historical data we are collecting is the expressive material people share with us: the stories, songs, jokes, beliefs, superstitions, and traditions and change on the Patuxent.

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FOSSIL CLUB

NEWS

The Fossil Club has been active through the fall quarter, sponsoring a number of field trips and other events. During Patuxent River Appreciation Days, the club manned a booth where fossil preparation was demonstrated on a small short-beaked porpoise skull from Calvert Cliffs. A number of hands-on exhibits were available, as well as fossil bone give-aways (fragments of whale and porpoise). Several interesting fossils were brought in for identification including a mastodon tooth from Cove Point and a horse leg bone from La Plata.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Margaret Moran, the club collected in the Choptank formation near Rocky Point in October. A fragmentary lower jaw of a small porpoise was collected by Don Asher (a very unusual find for the Choptank).

Fifteen members visited the world famous Lee Creek phosphate mine in Aurora, North Carolina. The mine contains fossils equivalent in age to the Calvert formation here in Maryland as well as younger Pliocene age fossils not present at Calvert Cliffs. Collecting was done by walking and crawling over spoil piles used to back-fill the open pit mine. Sharks’ teeth and bony fish remains were the most common fossils found. More unusual finds included several porpoise skulls, bird and seal bones. All important discoveries were donated to the Smithsonian Institution.

In December the club visited a Paleocene locality just inside the Washington beltway to look for sharks’ teeth. A stop was also made at the old Kaylorite mine at Dunkirk to look at the contact between the Eocene and the base of the Miocene. Unfortunately a light cold drizzle cut the length of the visits.

Lectures this past quarter were by Bob Novotny of St. Mary’s College on Volcanoes and Ralph Eshelman on Tobagan fossils and caves.

See the museum’s winter schedule for lectures and field trips for the winter quarter. Membership in the Fossil Club is open at no cost for museum society members; non-member visits are welcome.
Tennison’s Best Season

Calvert Marine Museum’s cruise ship, the WM. B. TENNISON, completed its most successful season to date on October 31. Capt. Jim Tallant reports 53 charter cruises and 84 daily one-and three-hour excursions for a total of 137 trips from the Museum’s dock. Included in the charter tours were Boy Scouts, church and family groups, birthday parties, the Calvert County School Board, District Soil Conservationists, State Economic Development representatives and a 4-H group from the Mid-West. The total passenger list totalled 5,244 composed of tourists from 43 states and 11 foreign countries including the People’s Republic of China.

Trips were made to Broome’s Island, Sotterley, St. Leonard’s Creek, Clarke’s Landing, Placid Harbor, Cedar Point, and Cove Point. The highlight of the season was a trip to Baltimore’s Inner Harbor where the TENNISON was open to the public promoting the Calvert Marine Museum, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, and Calvert County. Approximately 2,100 visitors stepped aboard. Returning to Solomons by way of Sandy Point State Park, another 1,900 Chesapeake Appreciation Day visitors had a look-see.

The most memorable charter for the old Captain(!) was that of the Maryland Association Together Against Dystrophy when 19 wheelchair travelers arrived. The pleasure and joy on the children’s faces while onboard was a pleasure to behold.

MUSEUM EDUCATION

Then and Now

Interpretation is the museum educator’s objective. Our goal is to stimulate a visitor’s emotional and intellectual responses to the objects in our collections. This can be achieved with the actual display of an object, its juxtaposition with other objects, verbal and printed explanation, and public programs centered on the object. Interpretation obviously requires the combined efforts of a museum’s director, curator, designer, registrar, educator, and the rest of the staff.

Little interpretation took place when museums were first opened to the public. Works of art collected by royalty and philanthropists often covered every inch of wall space, and scientific collections, open only to scholars, crowded glass cabinets. Labels were scarce. But people thronged, as much as they were allowed, to these temples of objects; they learned about the world through the objects they encountered.

As the public demanded more information and greater access to these collections in the 19th century, museum staffs attempted to arrange their collections with more logic and order. Dress codes were abandoned and hours of operation were extended. Tours and public programs were scheduled. This occurred more dramatically in America, the harbor of democratic ideals.

Tours by school groups began at American Museum of Natural History in New York City by 1906, and a Junior Naturalist Center was established there by the 1920’s. Brooklyn Children’s Museum, the first children’s museum in the world, opened its doors in 1935, and hosted six classes per day for an all-day program six days per week. Objects that were not exhibited in this museum were handled. Lack of storage space fostered some of the first hands-on activities there.

The scope of museum education now includes public programs that reach diverse museum audiences. Germain Bazin, a chief curator of the Louvre in Paris, had this comment on museum education:

“Perhaps the most significant contribution America has made to the concept of the museum is in the field of education. It is common practice for a museum to offer lectures and concerts, show films, circulate exhibitions, publish important works of art. The museum has metamorphosed into a university for the general public — an institution of learning and enjoyment for all men. The concept has come full circle. The museum of the future will more and more resemble the academy of learning the museum connoted for the Greeks.”

How does Calvert Marine Museum fit into this wonderful scheme? Largely due to the efforts of Dorothy Ordwein and her corps of retired teachers, tours by preschool and elementary level students and printed worksheets for their use during visits were introduced in 1975. This group of dedicated volunteers occasionally offered lectures, showed films, and sponsored trips that related to the three themes of the museum for members. They visited Smith Island, saw the waterfowl exhibits at National Zoo, and viewed waterfront exhibitions.
MUSEUM EDUCATION (Continued from Page 4)

at Baltimore Harbor. Workshops in netmaking, woodcarving, and fossil jewelry making were also held in 1975.

In 1976, a lecture and film series was begun, and the volunteer school docents met with educators of Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History for docent training and learning how to put discovery boxes together. “Creek Critters” began in 1978 as a didactic walk through a salt marsh and evolved to the popular “Weekly Wednesday” program held during the summer. Dot Ordwein and the volunteering retired teachers have produced teacher guides, visited schools, organized educational events. Dot has also been responsible for the successful quarterly program in Bugeye Times.

Museum education continues at Calvert Marine Museum. We’re beginning the new year with a School Docent Training Program in January and Weekend/Summer Docent Training Program in March. We’ve submitted a grant request, with the aid of Al Oliver, to National Museum Act that would enable Calvert Marine Museum to host a seminar for educators in the Forum of Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museums. If funded, people responsible for programs in member museums would meet for the first time to share ideas and programs and sharpen our skills with the help of a fine faculty of museum professionals.

The staff is redesigning the room across from the office to house aquaria and other didactic displays for “A Closer Look at the Estuary,” for which a teacher guide is being developed. Clara Dixon, one of the retired teachers who has helped build the educational programs, will help to design a brochure for walking and boating tours of Solomons. We also hope to host teacher workshops and produce a slide-and-tape show for groups planning to visit the museum. One of the most important events coming up is the 100th birthday of Drum Point Lighthouse on August 20, 1983. We need to plan now for this significant celebration.

You can help determine the direction of museum education at the museum. Your support is needed. All lectures and classes for this quarter have been scheduled on weekends for the convenience of members who live outside Calvert County. Be sure to give us feedback about this arrangement and your ideas for programs. I would appreciate your suggestions for improvement of our methods of interpretation.

canoe resembled a large solid timber tapered at each end. It measured 15 feet long and approximately 27 inches wide by 18 inches thick and weighing about one ton. We found
that the prescribed way of handling the old tools was not always the only way. Individual workers developed their own technique to ease the strain and complete each new contour.

Final shaping of the hull was accomplished with the lip adz. Particular attention was directed toward achieving symmetry and a shape pleasing to the eye. The surface roughness and blemishes were removed with hand planes and scrapers.

At this point thirty ½-inch holes were bored at equally spaced intervals along the bottom and sides to accept the depth pegs. The length of the pegs correspond to the thickness of hull desired at the point of location. The sides are one inch thick and tapered to one-and-a-half at the bottom. With the pegs in place it was a matter of chopping out wood until the pegs were reached. To complete construction the canoe was fitted with pine bow and stern posts, deck, coaming, and rub rail. All exterior surfaces were coated with oil base paint and the interior rubbed with linseed oil. Launching and maiden voyage occurred on PRAD 1981. We are happy to report it floated and it indeed performs as a canoe should.

With the canoes completed, an educational booklet about the project, and slides and film preservation on the subject are being planned. Through the activities of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, the concept of skills preservation and the art of traditional wooden boat building and handling will be kept alive.

To renew our energies and perspective the Guild has deviated from boat building long enough to make a field trip to Baltimore Inner Harbor, tour the “Nobska” steamship restoration, and sail the “Maryland Dove.” Future plans include other field trips and the construction of an 18-foot double-ended sailing crab skiff once common to the Solomons area. Members interested in this sort of activity are invited to join us on the museum grounds every Saturday morning from 9 to 12.

REGISTRATION FOR WINTER PROGRAMS

Please register for classes, trip, and volunteering for position as Weekend/Summer Docent with this form. Indicate which events you will attend and send a check if you are going on the field trip. Publicity will be extended to general public mid-January for events not filled by membership.

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>AN OYSTER’S LIFE STORY</td>
<td>January 23, 10-12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREPARATION OF LOCAL SEAFOOD</td>
<td>February 16, 10-12 noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING BIRD WATCH</td>
<td>March 14, 8-12 noon</td>
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- SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FIELD TRIP
  - March 27, 8:30 - 5 p.m. $10 for members; $15 for non-members.

- I will volunteer one day per week/month for two months at CMM as WEEKEND/SUMMER DOCENT.
  - I will be there — MONDAY — TUESDAY — WEDNESDAY — THURSDAY — FRIDAY
  - (please circle days). My commitment is for 1 year.

name

address

Make check payable to: Calvert Marine Museum Programs, P.O. Box 97, Solomons MD 20688

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION PERMIT NO.
3
SOLOMONS MARYLAND