World War II profoundly affected the Solomons area, as it did the entire country. The area, which had been agrarian and geographically isolated, had experienced an influx of outsiders, while her native sons had been sent around the world with the military. This brought many benefits, but in the period after the war led the “old timers” to think more about the area where they lived and how their lives had been changed, and would continue to change.

Calvert County had a population of just over 10,000 immediately before the war, not significantly different from its population in the decades that followed the Civil War. Although the county was largely agricultural, the residents of Solomons were predominantly watermen or shipyard workers, not farmers, although they relied on farms to produce products for several canneries. Founded in 1865, Solomons grew very slowly, expanding from Solomons Island into the nearby development of Avondale (sometimes called Johnstown) during the late 1890s and early part of the twentieth century. World War I had a minimal effect on the area though it did increase shipyard work to support the war effort. Contacts with the rest of the county and Maryland were limited in the first part of that century by poor roads, but a primitive bus service augmented the traditional steamboats in providing opportunities to visit other places. Many families owned boats large enough to provide the means of visiting St. Mary’s County and the Eastern Shore, but before the first World War there were few automobiles in the area.

Solomons did open up more in the period between the wars, with telephones, better roads, more private cars, and increased bus service. Steamboat travel, however, decreased during this period, ending entirely in the early 1930s. Employment

The D&L shopping center in 1947, the first of its kind in Solomons and the lower peninsula of the county. (P-1742, Courtesy, Velma Dowell)
It’s time to start thinking about what to do with the kids for the summer – already! And we are here to help with lots of exciting summer camps that offer fun and learning.

For rising first through third graders we are bringing back our most popular camp: Pirates and Scalawags. In this adventure-filled week, campers will become pirates, complete with pirate garb, eating pirate grub, and working the deck. For fun, they will hunt for hidden treasure, sing sea shanties, and sail the high seas on the “Jolly Roger” Wm. B. Tennison where an enemy attack is certain to take place.

For children entering grades four through six, it’s “Shark Attack!” time again. What child isn’t fascinated by sharks? In this camp, children explore the truth and the myth about these predators of the sea, search for evidence of sharks on our own beaches, visit the sharks at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and visit the SharkPoole.

For young people entering grades six through nine, we have two dynamic camp offerings. In Bay Trek, campers explore the world of the Chesapeake Bay by going into, through, and over this remarkable estuary. Our beautiful bay is in trouble, and young people in this camp will learn about the problems and express their findings to elected officials in letters. This is a field-based camp, so prepare to get wet and muddy! The second is another perennial favorite, the Cardboard Boat Regatta! In this camp, kids actually construct their own two-person cardboard boat, spending hours designing, building, waterproofing, and decorating their creations in preparation for the Saturday morning race. While waiting for the paint to dry, they learn about navigation, knot tying, how to sail a remote-controlled model sailboat, docking, and marine safety.

Middle schoolers entering grades seven through nine can sign up for Junior Paleontologists camp where they comb local beaches for fossils millions of years old. Working with the museum’s paleontologists campers will learn to identify and record their findings, make a field jacket, use proper preparation and preservation techniques, and construct a display for their favorite fossil find.

We also have two special camps for Girl Scouts: Keep the Light Burning: Brownie Try-It Camp where girls can earn five different Try-Its in the course of the week; and Junior Girl Scout Badges which allows campers to earn seven badges, including three special badges from other councils.

All camps run for one week. Schedule, fees, and registration information are available on the Calvert Marine Museum web site: www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/education. Click on Summer Exploration Camps to learn about all the camp offerings in Southern Calvert through our collaboration with Annmarie Garden, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, and Calvert County Natural Resources. There is something for every child in your family.
COUNTRY STAR JOSH TURNER COMING TO CMM ON MAY 30

Country star Josh Turner hits the CMM stage on Sunday, May 30. Tickets are $48 and $38 (additional fees apply) and go on sale April 13 for CMM members and April 20 for the public. Members’ passcode is: western.

Over the past 6 years, Josh Turner has quietly ascended the path to country music stardom. Two of his hit singles—“Your Man” and “Would You Go with Me”—have become number one hits, and he’s a first-time nominee in the Country Music Association Awards’ prestigious male vocalist category.

Real life — including heartaches, happiness, and everything in between — has had a way of finding itself in the middle of Turner’s songs since he first burst onto the national country music scene in 2001. “The life that I live and the experiences that I have always affect what comes out of me creatively. I think that’s what makes music real” — multi-platinum MCA recording artist Josh Turner.

ROCK OUT WITH REO SPEEDWAGON & PAT BENATAR ON SEPTEMBER 3

Don’t miss rock legends REO Speedwagon and Pat Benatar performing live on September 3 at 7:30 p.m. at CMM. Tickets are $50 and $40 (additional fees apply). Your passcode and additional ticket information will be emailed to you a week before tickets go on sale.

REO Speedwagon is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its popular Hi Infidelity album, and their 2010 performances will feature hits like “Take It on the Run” and “Keep on Loving You,” as well as songs like “Can’t Fight This Feeling.”

Pat Benatar is a certified rock ‘n roll superstar and four-time Grammy winner with six platinum albums and hit singles like “Heartbreaker,” “Hit Me with Your Best Shot,” “Shadows of the Night,” “Invincible,” and “Love Is a Battlefield.” Pat Benatar shines in a live situation, and two recent concert tours have given a whole new generation of fans a chance to see one of the great rock belters of all time.

LAUGH WITH BILL ENGVALL OF BLUE COLLAR COMEDY FAME ON JUNE 26

Prepare to laugh out loud on Saturday, June 26, as comedian/actor Bill Engvall hits the CMM stage. Come at 5:00 p.m. and take in the music of two up-and-coming bands while enjoying dinner and drinks on our waterfront grounds. Also enjoy special guest comedian Gary Brightwell, who takes the stage at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $50 and $40 (additional fees apply) and go on sale May 4 for members and May 9 for the public. The members’ passcode is: laughing.

Bill’s breakthrough came as one of the stars of the sketch comedy show, “Blue Collar TV,” which included stars Jeff Foxworthy and Larry the Cable Guy. Bill starred in “Blue Collar Comedy Tour and the sequel, “Blue Collar Comedy Tour Rides Again.” Along with his Blue Collar Comedy tour and movies, Bill is starring in and producing the new TBS sitcom, “The Bill Engvall Show” that centers on Bill as the father in a family comedy. Bill is also filming the movie “Bait Shop” which co-stars Billy Ray Cyrus.

These fundraising events have been made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors: The Lawfirm of Cumberland & Erly, Prince Frederick Ford/Dodge, Coors, Coors Light, Killians Red (Bozick Distributors), All American Harley-Davidson, The Greene Turtle Sports Bar & Grille, Quality Built Homes, Isaac’s Restaurant, The McNelis Group, DM Group, 102.9 WKIK, Southern Maryland Newspapers, Bay Weekly, Calvert Independent, Quick Connections, Comcast, The Lemondrop What-Not-Shop, Jay Worch Electric, United Rentals, Roy Rogers-Solomons, and the Holiday Inn Select-Solomons.

For additional information and to purchase tickets, please visit the www.calvertmarinemuseum.com. To reach a staff person, please call 410-326-2042, ext. 16, 17, or 18.
WINTER 2010
A FEW OF THE IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE PAST WINTER.

Congressman Steny Hoyer, honorary chair of the Winter Gala on February 27, is seen here talking with guests. Congressman Hoyer, who helped facilitate the transfer of the lighthouse from the Coast Guard to the county, was happy to participate in this event that raised funds for the Cove Point Lighthouse improvements.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

On January 29 the Marine Museum hosted a Tribute Concert for Tom Wisner, “Bard of the Chesapeake.” The sold-out event helped raise funds to support Tom’s work. From left to right are Frank Schwartz, Teresa Whitaker, Tom Wisner, John Cronin, and Mac Walter.

Photo by August Selckmann

The annual celebration of Chesapeake Lights, held this year on January 16, included a number of exhibits of lighthouses from around the bay. Paula Abernathy represented the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse.

CMM photo by Bob Hall
Enthusiastic audiences attended two successful concerts on January 15 in the museum auditorium featuring SATISFACTION – A Rolling Stones Experience.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

The Calvert County Commissioners recognized museum board and staff members at a presentation on January 19, 2010. In the back row are commissioners Gerald Clark, Linda Kelley, president Wilson Parran, Susan Shaw, and Barbara Stinnett. In front, from the left, are CMM Board of Governors members Mark MacDougall and Nancy Wieck, museum business manager Lea Ann Smiley, director Douglass Alves (holding the Best of Bay museum award from Bay Weekly), deputy director Sherrod Sturrock (holding the AAM Accreditation Certificate), and Board of Governors chair Don McDougall.

CMM FOUNDERs HONORED ON MARCH 9

At a ceremony in the museum auditorium on March 9, founders and families assembled for tributes. This program was followed by an unveiling of a plaque at the entrance to the exhibition building. Board of County Commissioners’ president Wilson Parran (left) looks on as founders Alton Kersey and William Dovel remove the covering, watched by Barbara Barrett, wife of deceased founder Daniel Barrett Jr., and (partly hidden) Linda Beauregard, daughter of founder James LeRoy “Pepper” Langley (deceased). Not pictured is Joann Kersey, wife of Alton Kersey and daughter of founder Joseph C. Lore Jr. (also deceased).

CMM photos by Bob Hall
opportunities grew as well. The work of the M. M. Davis and Son shipyard was soon focused on building boats for the U.S. Army Transportation Corps, and this required trained employees and much interaction with outsiders. Solomons had joined the world.

Although Solomons and Calvert County returned to a more normal way of life after the war, there were many forces that were intruding on the past. More people were arriving, and the county’s population almost doubled from 1940 to 1970. The local shipyard soon achieved national recognition through a small, family cruiser, known as the Cruis Along, sold in significant numbers to boaters across the nation. Nearby areas were also growing — Drum Point community and the Chesapeake Ranch Estates were developed during from late

Charter fishing boats drew many visitors to Solomons, enticed by post cards such as this.

(P-12649, Courtesy, Mrs. Leon Langley)

Motorboat racing was very popular after the war and drew contestants from all over. This 1955 race was near Solomons.

(CMM archives photo P-7008)

The Cruis Along boats from M. M. Davis & Son, later to become the Cruis Along Company, were produced in great numbers and shipped from Solomons throughout the country and a few abroad.

(CMM archives photo P-1762)

After the war, the former Naval Amphibious Training Base in Dowell was taken over by Maryland’s Department of Tidewater Fisheries Enforcement Fleet (predecessor to the Maryland Marine Police) for training, maintenance, and storage, resulting in frequent traffic by several dozen boats through the Solomons harbor.

(P-3606, Courtesy, L. Albertson Huber)
1940s onward — and more and more tourists came in during the summer months for a variety of recreational pursuits, encouraged by better roads, telephones, electricity, boarding houses, and marinas. New businesses appeared, including a small shopping center with a movie theater and a bowling alley. Slot machines were legalized in 1947, and these were found in many locations. By the 1960s, however, there was a decline in shipbuilding as the shipyard changed ownership when bought by a national corporation that managed from New York offices. By the 1960s, there was a decision to close the plant and later sold out to a New Jersey firm.

During this postwar period, the tone of life in Southern Maryland changed. In Calvert, the year 1954 brought a period of reflection as the county celebrated its three hundredth anniversary. Citizens invested a tremendous effort into that celebration, which extended over eight days, with speeches, bands, parades, fireworks, an elaborate historical pageant, and many other events, earning plenty of coverage by the local newspapers. This thriving county spirit was institutionalized in 1954 by the establishment of the Calvert County Historical Society, allowing history-minded citizens to begin to revisit and celebrate the county's heritage.

By the late 1960s there was a decision to close the local school that had served the community since 1925. It is understandable that residents of Solomons would reflect on their own heritage and the ways of life that were disappearing. An effort to preserve this heritage was needed. By the early 1960s, the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory was already working on some exhibits to depict marine life and the human activities associated with the bay, and from this early beginning the idea of a separate museum began to take form, fortuitously supported by the county historical society then headed and spearheaded by several citizens of Solomons. The story of the people involved and the early days of the museum will be covered in subsequent articles.

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**The United States in 1970**

| Population: | 205,052,174 |
| President:  | Richard M. Nixon |
| Vice President: | Spiro T. Agnew |
| Federal spending: | $196 billion annually |
| Federal debt: | $381 billion |
| Median Household Income: | $8,734 |
| Unemployment: | 3.5% |
| Cost of a first-class stamp: | $0.06 |
| Gasoline: | per gallon $0.37 |

We were at war in Vietnam
Earthquake killed more than 50,000 in Peru
The Beatles broke up
IBM introduced the floppy disk
Bar codes introduced for retail and industrial use in England

(Doug Alves)

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**CMM Joins Sister Museums to Host the Summer Maritime Concert Series**

The Calvert Marine Museum has signed on to host maritime musicians performing at various museums located around the Chesapeake Bay. Besides CMM, the loosely knit consortium, brainchild of Jane Meneely, a fine musician in her own right, is made up of Annapolis Maritime Museum, the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, the Jim Richardson Maritime Museum, and the Reedville Fishermen's Museum. Each site hosts a traveling musician for one concert during a week-long bay tour. Each shares part of the financial burden, making it possible to bring high quality performers to all of the sites for an affordable cost.

Taking it slow this first season, CMM will host one Friday concert per month during the summer, with the 2010 schedule as follows:

**Friday, June 25 — Lee Murdock:** Murdock hails from the maritime tradition of the Great Lakes. His music is grounded in the work song tradition, from the rugged days of lumberjacks and wooden sailing schooners. Murdock comes alongside with ballads of contemporary commerce and revelry in the grand folk style.

**Friday, July 16 — Geoff Kaufman:** For the past twenty-eight years, Geoff Kaufman has been leading audiences to find truth, humor, and beauty in folk music. Whether singing sailor songs with his quartet, “Forebitter,” or environmental songs on board the sloop Clearwater in the Hudson River; or in solo performances at coffeehouses throughout the northeast United States and festivals in Europe, Geoff has entertained and touched audiences near and far.

**Friday, August 13 — Mac Walter & John Cronin:** Appearing at CMM as part of the Tom Wisner tribute concert in January, these two exciting musicians will now take center stage. Mac Walter and his cousin, John Cronin, began playing together as teenagers and developed their unique style over the past thirty-five years. Both are talented in their own right, but when they play together, the acoustic fingerstyle and gorgeous harmonies they project are amazing.

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. in the museum auditorium. A $5 donation is requested to help offset the cost of bringing these high quality musicians to CMM. (Sherrod Sturrock)
Nominees for the Volunteer of the Year Award

Please join me in congratulating the following volunteers for receiving nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award 2009: Tom Benson volunteers his time in the maintenance department with Kenny Heard — he is our Mr. Fix It! Debbie Carlson volunteers by assisting our account clerk Gale Parks and the administrative staff; she does whatever task is assigned to her with a smile. Debbie also helps by baking goodies and volunteering for special events. Kay Collins volunteers in the museum store and also makes and donates gorgeous hand-dyed scarves for the store to sell. Kay helps with several special events with the education and development departments. Christa Conant is our “Jill of all trades” — she volunteers in Paleontology, the Small Craft Guild, the Skates and Rays exhibit and the Discovery Room, gives Drum Point and Cove Point lighthouse tours, helps with special events, and so much more. Christa can be put in any area to do any task and she does it with a smile. Karl Garland volunteers in the Skates and Rays exhibit and is here rain or shine with a smile on his face. Karl faces challenges head on and always has a wonderful outlook. Al Lavish is a key member of the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, and as the secretary/treasurer manages all aspects of the boat raffles. He also organizes and maintains the toy boat activity for PRAD and the Maritime Festival. We even have a picture on file of Al shoveling snow to make it easier for everyone to get to the boat shop! Rose Nelson volunteers in the Discovery Room and the Skates and Rays exhibit; she is scheduled two full days every week and is always here ready to share her wealth of information with our visitors with enthusiasm and a smile.

The winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award will be announced at the volunteer recognition reception event on April 22. Congratulations, and thank you to all of the nominees — you are all winners in my book!

By Sherry Reid, Volunteer/Event Coordinator

Jean Phelps, the museum’s document preparation specialist — and second longest-serving staff member — retired on January 8. She was honored with a dinner in the museum’s exhibition building at which many present and former staff members and volunteers paid tribute to her service and association. Jean started in 1984 in the museum’s small office in the basement of the “school house,” and eventually enjoyed the larger office space provided when that building was renovated and reopened in 1993 as the administration building. She handled with competence a variety of duties over these years. Jean was also recognized for her years of service to the county, along with other CMM staff, at a ceremony at the courthouse on February 2. With her husband, Jean will relocate to West Virginia.

A number of other staff additions occurred in the past few months: Kevin Allor and Helen Mote as exhibit interpreters; Henry Albright, admissions clerk; Joe Bernard, lead buildings and grounds worker; Chelsea Bradcovich, maritime history intern; Linda Bowen and Kim Zabiegalski, store sales clerks and admission clerks.