By the late 1960s, residents of Solomons and adjacent areas were certainly aware of the changes that occurred in their community during and after World War II. These changes were not only physical—affecting the buildings, businesses, roads, and occupations—but there was a different feel to the area as the result of the encroachment of outside influences. Some of these changes were described in the article in the spring issue of the Bugeye Times.

There was concern among long-time residents about how to preserve Solomons’ heritage, but five community leaders decided to put these thoughts into action. Three of the five were native to the area, and the other two had developed ties to the community through their work. Looking back, it is difficult to pinpoint a specific person or time, but the following five have certainly been properly identified and honored as founders of the museum that has become today’s Calvert Marine Museum. They were so honored last March in a ceremony dedicating a plaque now located at the entrance to the museum’s exhibition building. The five are: Daniel Barrett Jr., William L. Dovel, Alton S. Kersey, James LeRoy “Pepper” Langley, and Joseph C. Lore Jr.

Founders and representatives at the ceremony on March 9, 2010, dedicating the plaque placed at the entrance to the museum. Left to right: Joann Lore Kersey, daughter of founder Joseph C. Lore Jr.; founder William L. Dovel; Barbara Barrett, wife of founder Daniel Barrett Jr.; Linda Beauregard and Jim Langley, daughter and son of founder James LeRoy “Pepper” Langley; and founder Alton S. Kersey.

CMM photos by Bob Hall

Continued on page 6
PEM Talks at the Museum Focusing on Paleontology, Environment, and Maritime History

PEM Talks 2010–2011, sponsored by Bob and Betty Currie, will focus on The Calvert Cliffs Conundrum. This struck us as a perfect title; the word conundrum is defined as “a paradoxical, insoluble, or difficult problem; a dilemma.” No simple solution is in sight as politicians, homeowners, and environmentalists struggle to arrive at an acceptable solution to the problem of eroding cliffs, threatened homes, and endangered species.

In this series we will focus on the whole story of the cliffs, from their geologic formation, to the amazing fossils they preserve, to the role they play in Chesapeake Bay ecology, and how human settlement patterns continue to impact their existence. The series begins on September 11 with a presentation on “The Geology of Calvert Cliffs” by Dr. Susan Kidwell, who comes to us from the University of Chicago. This will be followed on October 21 with a presentation by our own Dr. Stephen Godfrey on “The Paleontology of Calvert Cliffs.” Dr. Jeff Halka, acting director of the Maryland Geological Survey, will speak about “Current Rates of Erosion” on November 13.

After a December hiatus, the series continues in January with a talk on “The Role of Erosion on the Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem.” February will focus on the human perspective, and in March we will explore a case study of the Cove Point LNG shoreline project that demonstrates the impacts of human intervention. The series will wrap up in April with a panel discussion of various solutions that have been tried to slow or stop erosion and their outcomes. (Sherrod Sturrock)

Sunday Conversations with Chesapeake Authors

The Calvert Marine Museum is launching an exciting opportunity for visitors to meet local authors, hear their stories, and get their books signed. These conversations will take place one Sunday afternoon a month starting in September. Maureen Baughman, store manager, has selected a wide variety of topics that both represent the museum’s collections and promise something for everyone.

On Sunday, September 26, the first conversation will be with Dr. Peter Vogt and Tim Sheirer, author and illustrator of The Monster Shark’s Tooth, a young adult fictional work that combines fantasy with fact, taking readers back in time to the Miocene and the days of the Megalodon shark. On Sunday, October 24, we welcome Jennifer Keats Curtis, author of the newly published Saving Squeak: The Otter Tale. This children’s book uses our own CMM otter as its protagonist. Sunday, November 21, is a special treat as Lucie Snodgrass, the author of Dishing Up Maryland: 150 Recipes from the Alleghenies to the Chesapeake Bay, whets your appetite with tales of people she met and the food she tasted in her travels.

Following a Christmas hiatus, the conversations will resume on Sunday, January 16, with Richard LaMotte’s popular book Pure Sea Glass: Discovering Nature’s Vanishing Gems. Following the conversation, you can have your own sea glass identified, see artisans create unique jewelry from sea glass, and purchase some of the beautiful sea glass jewelry in our store. On February 20 we will focus on African Americans of Calvert County by William Poe in conjunction with the opening of our new African-American exhibit. And on March 20, we turn to The Shark Handbook and hear harrowing tales from photographer Nick Caloyinis.
MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

JOSH TURNER CONCERT ENJOYED BY 3,500 FANS


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). Tickets go on sale July 13 for members at 10:00 a.m. General public sales begin on July 20. Tickets may be purchased at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or by calling 1-800-787-9454. Members’ passcode to order tickets is: memories.

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.

These fundraising events have been made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors: The Law Firm of Cumberland & Erly, Prince Frederick Ford/Dodge, Coors, Coors Light, Killians Red (Bozick Distributors), All American Harley-Davidson, Quality Built Homes, Isaac’s Restaurant, The McNelis Group, DM Group, 98 Star FM, Southern Maryland Newspapers, Bay Weekly, Calvert Independent, Quick Connections, Comcast, Jay Woroch Electric, United Rentals, Roy Rogers-Solomons, and the Holiday Inn Select-Solomons.

To reach a staff person, please call 410-326-2042, ext. 16, 17, or 18.

BE THE ULTIMATE FAN FOR REO SPEEDWAGON AND PAT BENATAR

Experience CMM concerts as never before by placing your bid on the VIP Ultimate Fan Experience.

This is a rare opportunity to get up close and personal to your favorite performers. The Ultimate Fan Experience includes:

• 2 Front Row Seats
• 2 Back Stage Passes
• Premium parking spot in the annex lot on the grounds
• Autographed poster
• Dinner for two at one of our Food Court Vendors (Sunshine’s Catering, Lenny’s, Bear Creek BBQ, Grizzly Mountain Grill, Papa John’s Pizza, or Roy Rogers)

Starting bids must begin at $250 or more and subsequent bids must be placed in $25 or more increments. The museum will update the website at www.calvertmarinemuseum.org/bids.html daily with the highest bid. Bidding will close at 4:30 P.M. on the designated date; the winning bidder will be contacted by phone and their name will be posted online.

CMM NOW OFFERS PREPAID GIFT PASSES

As gifts for family or friends, the museum now offers prepaid gift admission passes with an appropriate design. The passes are the regular admission prices of $7.00 each for a pass for adults; $6.00 each for seniors; $2.00 each for a child 5 to 12. Also available on a prepaid basis are tickets for the May to October cruises on the Wm. B. Tennison, at $7.00 each for adults, and $4.00 for children 5 to 12. All prepaid passes/tickets are sold at the admissions desk in the exhibition building, or they may be ordered by calling 410-326-2042, extension 12 or 21, with a credit card (VISA or MC).
Here are a few of the events this past spring. Members and visitors were treated to a wide variety of things to do, from kite flying, to a “fossil egg hunt,” to a serious forum on the water crisis, to a major concert — all in addition to the many activities for young members, regular and special cruises on the Wm. B. Tennison, and the First FREE Fridays in April, May, and June.

The Solomons Maritime Festival on May 1 brought out many members and visitors on a beautiful day to enjoy the displays of antique boats, engines, and Model A cars, as well as to join in other activities. At the boat basin there were boat rides, demonstrations by Chesapeake Bay retrievers, model-boat races, and model-boat building. The Corbin Pavilion featured various music performances — shown here is the Mackjestic Choir.
Paleontology volunteers Christa Conant and Pam Platt, at the left, helped young visitors identify fossils they found during the egg hunt on April 3.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

A number of displays in the CMM lobby were of interest to the more than a hundred people who attended the afternoon forum on April 23 that explored the topic of “To the Last Drop: Our Looming Fresh Water Crisis,” sponsored by the museum and the Leagues of Women Voters of Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties. Those attending listened to challenging presentations by experts from the state and from Calvert and Charles Counties.

CMM photo by Bob Hall

LORE OYSTER HOUSE REOPENED

One of the museum’s historical exhibits, the J. C. Lore & Sons oyster house, was closed in 2008 for a significant refurbishing. Repairs were made to the structure, exhibits dating from the early 1980s were removed, and new interpretive signage was installed. On May 25, 2010, the County Commissioners were on hand to cut a ribbon formally reopening the building to visitors.

The Lores — Joseph C. Lore Sr. and his sons — have a long history of buying and packing seafood in Solomons, over sixty years at the site on Solomons Island, with the present building dating from about 1934. When the company closed its business in 1978, Joseph C. Lore Jr. and his daughter and son-in-law, Joann and Alton Kersey, sold the property to Calvert County for the use of the museum as an exhibit. It was opened to the public in 1984, retaining many of the original packing-house features, and with a large number of exhibit panels interpreting the history of the seafood industry in the area. The building was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2001. Since the building was built on oyster shells — a fact confirmed during the renovation — it was in need of structural attention. Thanks to a $90,000 grant from the Maryland Historical Trust, along with museum fundraising and staff time, it was possible to make necessary repairs and to restore the building to a condition nearer to that of its days as an active packing house. With the restoration completed in 2010, the Lore Oyster House will again be open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. daily through October 10.
Daniel Barrett, Jr.

The Barrett family can trace its Calvert County roots back before the beginning of the twentieth century, with close connections to the waters of the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay. Born in the Lusby area in 1929 and educated in Calvert County, he later saw military service. His career was spent at the Naval Electronics Systems Engineering facility at Webster Field in St. Mary's County, but he lived in Calvert. Dan Barrett tells about the museum's founding in an article he wrote for The Calvert Historian in October 1987, describing a discussion about the loss of local artifacts with Alton Kersey and “Pepper” Langley, and later at a barbecue, with Bill Dovel. As a result, Dan and others met within a few days and began planning for a building and a location. Since Dan was experienced in mechanical and construction matters, he was able to offer practical suggestions. More meetings followed, leading to the offer of land next to the Pier I restaurant by the owners, and offers of funds by the Calvert County Historical Society. Dan was on hand for the pouring of the foundation slab on November 15, 1969, for a plywood building located on Solomons Island, and he worked diligently in the months ahead in the erecting of the building. Records from the period show that he gave over 500 hours to the building project that resulted in the museum opening on October 18, 1970. He continued his support and advised on plans for an expanded building program in the subsequent years, and also maintained strong ties to the local community, including the Solomons Island Yacht Club and museum’s Board of Governors. Dan died in December 2009.

William L. Dovel

In contrast to Dan Barrett, Bill Dovel was a relative newcomer to Calvert County, having joined the staff of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in the early 1960s as a fisheries biologist. In 1964, the lab’s director, Dr. Eugene Cronin, wanted exhibits there to depict maritime life and related human activities. He asked Bill to coordinate a design effort, working with the lab’s scientists and with help from the Smithsonian Institution. The result was three exhibits, but — more importantly — it impressed on Bill the heritage of the local area and the need for a means to preserve and display it. When approached by Dan Barrett, Alton Kersey, and Joe Lore, he was willing to take on a responsibility for developing a local museum, becoming the chair of a committee of the historical society. In practical terms, he spent countless hours with Dan and Alton in work on the building, based on plans he obtained from the American Plywood Association and modified for a twenty-by-thirty-foot structure. All three men encouraged others to assist and to offer services (cabinets, carpeting, etc.), but these three put in the greatest amount of time — well over 1,200 hours among them. Bill's other major contribution was publicity in the form of articles in the Calvert Independent, beginning on November 6, 1969, with “Maritime Museum to Become a Reality,” followed by frequent articles on the progress of the work, the contributions of many individuals, and then a lengthy summary of the museum's origin on April 1, 1971. Bill left Solomons in 1971 for a scientific position in Yonkers, New York. Although he declined a later offer to return as curator, he still maintains an interest in CMM.

Alton S. Kersey

Alton Kersey, a native of Virginia, arrived in Solomons in the 1950s after completing military service. The attraction was Joseph C. Lore Jr.'s daughter Joann, with whom he attended college. They were married in 1954, and he soon joined the洛re's seafood packing business, involved in all aspects of the work, but also increasingly active in the Solomons community. It was logical, therefore, that he knew the other founders and joined them in their interest in establishing a local museum, devoting many hours to work on the building itself. His major
contribution — beyond the many hours he personally devoted to the project — was in convincing others in the community to support the fledgling museum. When Joe Lore Jr. retired in 1975, Alton took over the running of the plant until its closing in 1978, and in 1979 worked for the sale of the Lore building and the buyboat Wm. B. Tennison to Calvert County for additions to the museum he helped found. His involvement with Solomons — he is still referred to as the “unofficial mayor” — and his support of the museum continue today.

James LeRoy “Pepper” Langley

“Pepper” was another of the long-time residents of Solomons, with earlier family ties to St. Mary’s County. Born in 1915, “Pepper” spent most of his life in Solomons, working at the M. M. Davis and Son shipyard, the Naval Mine Warfare Test Station, and, later, at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, from which he retired in 1963. The closing of the shipyard in the late 1960s certainly caused him to think about the changes in the area and the possible loss of its heritage. He approached Joe Lore in 1967 and 1968 about the need to establish a local museum, planting a seed that eventually led to a request to the historical society board in 1968 for support. In concert with the others, he worked to make it a reality in 1969 and 1970, providing his skill in producing signage for the new facility. “Pepper”’s active service with the museum continued over a period of many years, producing models, carvings, and working with volunteers to establish the carving and model boat clubs. In 1990, he put his memories into a book, I Remember: Growing up in Solomons, still available in the museum store. “Pepper” died in August 2001.

Joseph C. Lore Jr.

Joe Lore was the oldest of the founders, born in 1900 as one of seven sons and two daughters of Joseph C. Lore Sr. and his wife Sarah. The senior Lore had moved from New Jersey to Solomons in the late 1880s to establish a seafood-packing firm. As the family and business increased, Joe Lore Jr. took over management about the time of World War II, at first with his brothers and later by himself as the brothers moved on. As a leader in the local community, he was a charter member of the Solomons Island Yacht Club in the late 1930s and the Calvert County Historical Society in the 1950s, and was active in many other community and fraternal organizations. He and his wife, Virginia Bell Lore, lived in a house not far from the Solomons School, the northern edge of Avondale at the time (now next to Lore Road). Because of his involvement in the historical society, and his presidency in 1969, it was logical that the other founders turned to him to spearhead the effort to gain support from the historical society and local citizens. After his term as president ended in 1971, Joe remained as the chair of the museum committee, serving until 1979 and overseeing the transition of the museum from the society to the county. As mentioned earlier, Joe Lore and Alton Kersey were instrumental in preserving the oyster house and the Wm. B. Tennison as parts of the museum through sales to Calvert County for the museum. Joe Lore also arranged for the sale of property on Lore Road near his home to the county in 1988, again for the use of the use of the museum. He remained a dedicated supporter until his death in March 1993.

Other Early Supporters

The initial location of the museum on Solomons Island would not have been possible without the offer of land by John Bluster and Edgar Baum, the owners of Pier I restaurant next to what was then the Solomons Post Office. Although neither man is credited with working on the building, they certainly made it possible and clearly supported the museum for a number of years after the founding.

In a private memoir on the museum’s founding, Bill Dovel describes the importance of the wives of the founders in providing support. Two women in particular, Joann Kersey and Jean Dovel, who at the time were working to develop a pre-school in Solomons, approved the effort and helped in the building and its decorating.

It is not possible to list all of those who participated in the development of the new museum, but Bill Dovel’s articles in the Calvert Independent gave ample recognition to them. Copies of those articles are archived in the museum library. A final note: two children of the founders — Jim Langley and Melissa Kersey McCormick — are on the staff of museum, and Dan Barrett’s wife Barbara is an active volunteer.
The staff of the museum honored the CMM volunteers at the annual recognition event on April 22, for the second year following the Hollywood Oscar awards theme — complete with red carpet, the flash of the photographer greeting arriving “stars,” presenters in formal apparel, the “envelopes,” and even a “Golden Otter” trophy. Gathered in the auditorium, some 101 museum volunteers were greeted by director Doug Alves, in tux, development director Vanessa Gill, in an “Oscar night” dress, and CMM’s John Nance in the otter costume, in a production event managed by volunteer coordinator Sherry Reid. It was an event worthy of Hollywood awards, complete with a celebratory buffet to end the evening.

The statistics of volunteer support for calendar year 2009 were equally impressive: over 26,077 hours with a dollar value of over $569,260. These figures were reported by the director, and their importance to Calvert County was emphasized in brief remarks by county commissioner president Wilson H. Parran. After each department described the importance of volunteers in supporting the work of that department, the volunteer awards were presented. The following were recognized for service exceeding one hundred hours in 2009: Janet Addiss, Len Addiss, Paul Berry, Bill Boxwell, Debbie Carlson, Harry Childers, Ned Clarke, Margaret Clarke, Kay Collins, Christa Conant, Jon Dann, Peg Dann, Linda Densmore, Sylvia Dry, Mark Edmondson, Doris Federline, Karl Garland, Butch Garren, Karen Garren, Ed Gies, Bob Hall, Sue Hamilton, Darryl Hansen, Anne Harrison, Dan Heflebower, Mary Heflebower, Peggy Hovermale, Chuck Kohls, Bill Lake, Al Lavish, Zelma Margelos, Linda McCullagh, Ilse Metz, Shirley Mihursky, Sherma Munger, Rose Nelson, Tony Pettit, Robert Pfeiffer, Bob Platt, Pam Platt, Art Poffenbarger, Carole Purcell, Ed Richard, Sandy Roberts, Al Rondina, Ellis “Ski” Seidenstricker, Margaret Stamper, Al Suydam, Nan Suydam, Teddy Watts, Elnora Wease, Charlotte Wentz, Jim Wilson, Sandy Younger, Tom Younger, and Kim Zabiegalski. Volunteers reaching new thousand-hour milestones were: 1,000 hours — Margaret Clarke, Peg Dann, Robert Pfeiffer, and Fred Ruark; 2,000 hours — Janet Addiss, Christa Conant, Linda Densmore, Butch Garren, Art Poffenbarger; 2,500 hours — Al Suydam; 4,000 hours — Jim Wilson; 5,000 hours — Bob Hall and Sandy Younger; 6,000 hours — Tom Younger; 8,000 hours — Al Lavish; 12,000 hours — Bill Lake; and 23,000 hours — Paul Berry.

The Group Achievement Award for 2009 went to the Patuxent Small Craft Guild. Climaxing the ceremony was the Volunteer of the Year 2009 award and the winner of the “Golden Otter,” Al Lavish, whose record of volunteer service to CMM goes back to the late 1970s. The award was presented by the museum’s own “Otter.” Sherry Reid closed the formal ceremony with thanks to all the volunteers for their service and to the staff for their help with the recognition event.