

combine to make Gunpowder State Park the largest State Park in Maryland.

It is uniquely fitting that the first public use area is named for S. Lawrence Hammerman, past chairman of our State Forest and Parks Commission. The very existence of this park is — in many ways — due to his vision, his dedication, and his perseverance.

Let us never forget that in designating the name Hammerman for this area, we are not only bestowing honor upon the man but upon the area. For this name has come to reflect and symbolize the character of the man and to represent a life of public service, philanthropy, and personal fulfillment.

S. L. Hammerman was born on a farm and was to refer to himself as “a country boy, a farm boy” throughout his life. Perhaps it was the early years of his life that created his great affinity for the beauty of nature untamed and his unique appreciation of the tranquility of nature unmolested. This extraordinary love of the land was later characteristically redefined in terms of civic dedication and translated into action that assured all his fellow citizens the opportunity to share the gifts of serenity, inspiration and recreation, which only vast stretches of woodlands can provide.

For S. L. Hammerman, there was only one way of approaching life and that was at full force. He often said: “*Nothing happens by itself.*” He understood that to gain in life you had to work and, often, to struggle. He also felt, and felt deeply, that where success has been achieved through community recognition, the successful had an obligation to the community. His was a singular sense of civic pride and civic gratitude.

Thus, as his real estate business flourished, he turned more and more of his energy and talents to public service, to politics, to philanthropy. As a man who never compromised with his conscience, either in his private or public endeavors, S. L. Hammerman became the builder of great projects and great men.

But for all of his vast interests, his greatest vocation became his greatest contribution to the Maryland public, the result of his twenty-five years of efforts to realize improved and expanded public recreation and parks programs.

S. L. Hammerman was not simply dedicated to preserving the natural heritage of the people — he was *tenacious* in his determination not to give up one inch of parkland. To achieve this goal he over-