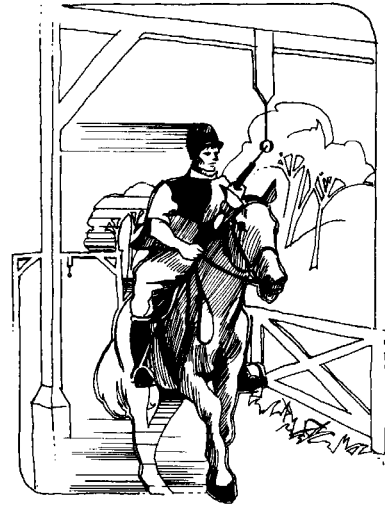
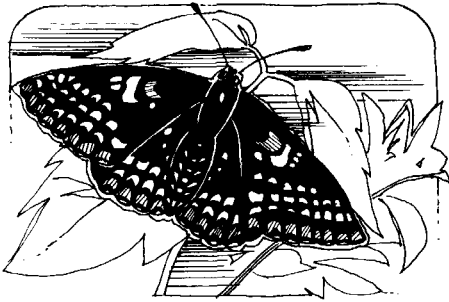


MARYLAND SPORT. By Chapter 134, Acts of 1962, the age-old equestrian sport of jousting was proclaimed as the official sport of the State of Maryland (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 79A).



STATE INSECT. The Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas phaeton*) was declared to be the official arthropodic emblem of the State of Maryland by Chapter 253, Acts of 1973 (Code 1957, Art. 41, sec. 77C).

MARYLAND'S NICKNAMES. Although Maryland's nicknames are not official State symbols, the State is known as both the Old Line State and the Free State.

According to some historians, Gen. George Washington bestowed the appellation Old Line State on Maryland because of the magnificent performance of regular troops of the line in several of the more important engagements in the Revolutionary War. The troops of the Maryland Line ranked among the finest in the Continental Army.

The nickname "Free State" is of twentieth-century origin. It was created by Hamilton Owens,

editor of the *Baltimore Sun*. Sometime in 1923, Congressman William D. Upshaw of Georgia, a firm supporter of Prohibition, denounced Maryland as a traitor to the Union because it had refused to pass a State enforcement act. Mr. Owens thereupon wrote a mock-serious editorial entitled "The Maryland Free State," arguing that Maryland should secede from the Union. The irony in the editorial was subtle, and on second thought Mr. Owens decided not to print it. The idea stuck in his mind, however, and he later used it in other editorials. The nickname caught on quickly, and today the term "Free State" is heard almost as frequently as "Old Line State."