

Editorials

February 24, 1965

Rotary's 60th

The Chestertown Rotary Club, while looking ahead to next year and its own 40th anniversary, this week is observing the 60th birthday of the international organization.

The mottoes of Rotary - "Service Above Self" and "He Profits Most Who Serves Best" - are probably better known than those of any other service organization.

Chestertown may well be proud of its association with Rotary for just about two-thirds of the years of its existence. Indeed, the Chestertown club must be ranked with the old-timers among the 11,800 clubs the organization now boasts.

Since Rotary International can be only as strong as its member clubs and since the Chestertown organization has so long and so faithfully contributed to this strength, the observance this week is in a sense a tribute to the local club.

The non-Rotarians of the community should feel that way, anyhow. For, over the years, Rotary has contributed much to this area in many fields.

Home Rule Is Desirable

As each bit of local legislation is started on its way through the two houses of the Maryland General Assembly, then to wind its way to the gubernatorial chambers for the signature which will make it law, we are reminded how much simpler things would be with Home Rule for Kent County.

Regardless of the desire of the local legislators, no matter how closely they follow the progress of the bills which they have introduced, there is a chance of some slip-up. When these occur there is almost certainly a delay of a year before things can be remedied.

This week, for instance, two measures of more than passing import are due to begin the trek through the legislative mill. One of these will increase the membership of the Kent Board of Education from three to five and change the term of office from six to five years. Another will create a Parks and Recreation Commission.

How necessary they are can be a moot question. No doubt, a five-member Board of Education will enable more areas and more segments of the population of the county to be represented. But, for many years, the three-member board of Kent has done well by the county and its school-age citizens.

No doubt, a commission devoted to establishing parks and developing recreational facilities in the county will fill a void. Actually, providing the areas where recreation can be followed seems to be the more important portion of this measure. Various civic groups have programs but few of them have the facilities to carry them through.

So, granted that the increased size of the school board and the provision of a commission to devote itself to fostering recreation are both desirable, they, nevertheless, would be much easier attained under Home Rule.

It is suggested, again, to the County Commissioners that they not overlook the fact that there is legislation now under consideration which would enable Kent to handle many desirable changes without recourse to the cumbersome legislative procedures.

This Is Not The Cure

We are inclined to agree with a local group that is circulating a petition in opposition to several bills now before the Maryland General Assembly that would restrict and regulate the sale and possession of ALL firearms.

On November 22, 1963, an American president was assassinated by a known psychopath, Lee Harvey Oswald, who purchased the murder weapon from a mail order house with no questions asked.

Many state legislatures, like Maryland's, are now convening and a host of laws to restrict sale and ownership of firearms have been introduced. We hope all these bills will be carefully examined and none passed in an atmosphere of emotionally inspired haste.

The tragic fact is that registration of guns or restrictions on ownership will not disarm the criminal. More likely, it will only discourage ownership of firearms by respectable citizens. Is there any doubt that a maniac like Oswald, who could shoot down in cold blood a President and a law enforcement officer, would have any hesitancy about stealing a gun?

There is no more reason to believe registration of guns and restrictions on purchase will stop killing than did the prohibition of legal liquors stop drinking. To reason along this line is much like burning down the barn to get rid of the rats.

We're For It!

The "complete study" of the Chesapeake area which Representative Morton (R. 1st. Md.) will propose in the Congress, along with a 12-acre hydraulic model which will duplicate bay conditions, seems a little in the realm of fantasy. We're all for it, though, even down to the possible two-and-a-half million it may cost.

We are acquainted with the proposal only through the news media which, it must be admitted, does not always deal with details in depth. Space limitations are quite often the reason for lack of complete coverage.

This, then, shall be used as the excuse for a missing item in the proposed broad study. The newsman in listing as problems of the Chesapeake area such things as seafood production, commercial shipping, shoreline erosion, waterfowl protection, water pollution and the sea nettle certainly must have unintentionally skipped one --- milfoil.

Either the Congress is vastly different from the Legislature or Tide-water Marylanders are missing a bet in not letting Mr. Morton know about this obnoxious weed.

It is hard to imagine that Mr. Morton hasn't heard about milfoil if from no other area than Kent. It is a safe bet, too, that some of his constituents, not content to believe it entirely a reportorial failing that milfoil was omitted from a summary of areas needing investigation, will see that the word gets to Washington.



NEW LOAN DEPARTMENT at the Chestertown Bank of Maryland was officially opened this week. It adjoins the main bank building and can be entered from the street, through an archway inside, or by a rear door. Seated at right are Thomas Williams and Mrs. Eva J. Crow. The building formerly housed the Kent County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which owned it, and the Chestertown Library, on the second floor.

Chesapeake Cove by GILBERT BYRON

On February 12th, I raked away the leaves that had collected along the southern side of the cabin and discovered green shoots of crocus and purple hyacinth piercing the ground. One of the crocus was far enough along for me to see the yellow blossom tightly wrapped in its green sheath. I wondered if country youngsters with pink faces still brought pussywillows to school—it was that time of year again.

There were other signs of the coming season. During the severe cold spell in January, the pair of squirrels that I feed daily, moved into the box located on the great oak. For several days, they carried leaves for their new bed.

Then the temperature rose, and one morning when I glanced toward the squirrel-box—it is only about ten feet from the kitchen window—the feeder below the box was littered with crumpled leaves, and other leaves were scattered on the ground. It didn't take long to figure the source of the leaves, they came from the box, and for a moment I wondered if the squirrels were doing a bit of spring housecleaning—the urge is universal at this time of year. My thoughts were interrupted by a clear whistle, and Sam the starling, or maybe it was Sadie Starling, stuck its head out of the door of the squirrel box and searched the skies, calling for a partner or partners. Then the rude bird returned to its work of destroying the squirrel's nest and

throwing out the leaves. I saw the starling carrying straw in to the box and followed its flight across the cove toward the farmer's barn.

Now the squirrels have returned to their former nest in the topmost branch of a slender oak—its remoteness provides greater security—yet they have watchful eyes and whenever I placed cracked corn or the remains of an apple on the feeder, in a few minutes they found the food. Mr. Squirrel perches on the feeder while Mrs. Squirrel remains on the ground to eat scraps that fall from the feeder, or perhaps her mate kicks a bit of food to his partner. When the gentler one tries to join her husband on the feeder, he drives her away—his pugnacity belongs to the winter season. Then one day, a third squirrel appeared on the scene, and the furry ones played ring-around-rosy about the trunk of the oak—this pattern belongs to spring.

As the season advances, the great flocks of Canada geese that spend their nights in fields near the cove, are vocative during the dark hours. One of the honkers will start the shouting, to be answered by others, and soon the entire chorus is serenading the night—or perhaps some wandering predator, a fox or raccoon, has started the uproar. Sometimes all of the wild geese, hundreds of them, take to the air in the middle of the night. There is a great clamor and sound of wings as they fly over my cabin to the safety of broader wat-

ers. But the Canada geese usually do not become waterborne until after the sun has arisen. This morning it was 9 A. M. when I heard their clamor and watched the passing flocks of great waterfowl darken the skies over the cove.

Occasionally lesser numbers of the larger whistling swans join the Canada geese on the cove, but they do not leave the water for the fields. They, too, are talkative during the

night, yet they remain on the cove after the geese have gone, heads tucked under wings, sound asleep, until the pounding of a motor in the tonger's bateau, disturbs their slumber, and they take to the air.

This winter has been such a mild one as compared with our recent severe winters. On warm days the Carolina wren sings about my cabin; liquid whistles of the tufted titmice drift through the woods.

Then on St. Valentine's Day, I heard the song of the cardinal for the first time since last fall and I was sure—regardless of what Mr. Groundhog saw or did not see—that we are going to have an early spring.

To Honor Byron For "Chesapeake Duke"

A well-known author of the Eastern Shore, Gilbert Byron, native of Chestertown, is to be guest of honor at an afternoon "coffee hour" at the Talbot County Free Library Thursday February 25, from 3 to 5 p.m. The affair will pay tribute to the publication of Mr. Byron's latest book, "Chesapeake Duke," just being brought out by Rand McNally.

Mr. Byron, who lives near St. Michaels in Talbot, first gained acclaim for his writing with "The Lord's Oysters," which brings the Eastern Shore to view through the eyes of a boy of fifty years ago.

"Chesapeake Duke" is the story of a Chesapeake Bay retriever and a young boy, his master. They grew up together on the Eastern Shore, also fifty years ago. Various readers have predicted that "Chesapeake Duke" could easily become as celebrated as the famous children's book, "Misty," which tells of a charming Chincoteague pony. This is Mr. Byron's first venture into the realm of children's literature.

Born here in 1903, Mr. Byron was the son of a waterman. He was graduated from Washington College and spent a num-

ber of years teaching high school classes and serving as a school principal in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

A number of other works have come from Mr. Byron's pen. Volumes of poetry have included "These Chesapeake Men," "Delaware Poems," "White Collar and Chain," "Chesapeake Cove," and "The Wind's Will."

His prose works, besides "The Lord's Oysters," have been "Early Explorations of the Chesapeake," published by the Maryland Historical Society, and "St. Michaels, The Town That Fooled the British," written to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Battle of St. Michaels. He writes a weekly column "Chesapeake Cove," which appears in KENT COUNTY NEWS and other papers.

The Talbot County Free Library states that all interested persons are invited to attend the "coffee hour" and any who wish may bring copies of "Chesapeake Duke" to be autographed. Chairman of the hostess committee is Mrs. George B. Olds III. Pouring will be Miss Edith D. Adkins and Mrs. Robert T. Valliant.

From our EARLY FILES

100, 50, and 25 Years Ago . . .

100 Years Ago - February 25, 1865

Stock of the proposed railroad through Kent County was selling at \$25 per share. The line will link with the Delaware line at some convenient point between Middletown and Smyrna.

The Third District had filled its draft quota.

A new mail and passenger stage line between Chestertown, Head-Of-Sassafras and Elkton was announced. The owners said it would cut the time required going to Philadelphia or Baltimore, and at a reduced price.

The occupation of Charleston, S. C., by Union forces had been fully confirmed. Strength of Sherman's forces was put at 103,000 men.

Confederate cavalry dashed into Cumberland, Maryland, and captured two Union generals, Crook and Kelley. No damage was done to the B & O Railroad.

Wheat was quoted at \$2.70 a bushel; corn at \$1.70.

50 Years Ago - February 20, 1915

Sketches of the proposed Rock Hall and Kennedyville High schools appeared on the front page of this issue.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Willis entertained a host of friends in their inimitable manner. Main feature of the evening was a hat trimming contest for the men. E. A. Corey won first prize and George Biddle won the booby.

Wilbur Ross Hubbard had a leading part in a play at the Pauling School, New York, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur W. Hubbard, were in attendance.

Rock Hall reported the oyster business as being worse than ever known. Oysters on the bars were bringing but eight cents a bushel!

Kent's new road engineer, Mr. Applegarth, arrived during the week. Lights had been ordered for Chester River bridge and danger signs were to be placed at various spots on the highways in Kent.

25 Years Ago - February 24, 1940

The Bunting-Foxwell at Washington College was dedicated February 24th, 1940. Principal speaker was Dr. Robert M. Lester, secretary of Carnegie Corporation.

Daily round-trip ferry service between Tolchester and Baltimore was resumed after suspension of 2 months because of ice in upper bay.

Muskrats were bringing \$1.40 a skin. Joseph E. Walters, custodian of Chestertown's dog pound, reported he had collected \$425 in taxes on 338 dogs. He had destroyed 80 dogs, getting fifty cents for each.

The annual banquet of Chestertown Chapter, Eastern Star, featured as speaker John H. Hessey, grand master of Maryland Masonic Lodge. Prof. Fred W. Dumschott also spoke and William G. Smyth was the toastmaster.

Death Rate At New Low In State Last Year

The death rate in Maryland dropped to a record low in 1964, according to provisional data prepared by the Maryland State Department of Health. The death rate—deaths per 1,000 population—for 1964 was 8.5, which is slightly below the previous low of 8.7 deaths per 1,000 persons in 1961. In 1963, a year in which major outbreaks of epidemic influenza occurred, the state's rate was 9.0.

According to Robert A. Israel, Chief of the Division of Statistical Research and Records of the Maryland State Department of Health, the provisional mortality figures, which are based only on deaths occurring within Maryland, should not differ markedly from the final tabulations. In other categories such as births, there is generally a greater degree of difference between provisional and final statistics. Final vital statistics data for Maryland for 1964 will be available in September.

The total number of deaths occurring in Maryland in 1964, according to the provisional count, was 29,218. This is approximately 1,000 less than the total in 1963. Comparison of the preliminary rates for 1964 with those for 1963 indicate declines of about 6 per cent in death rates for heart disease and stroke, while the rate for cancer remained the same. The death rate for accidents decreased by about 5 per cent; for influenza and pneumonia there was a decrease of about 28 per cent.

The five leading causes of death in Maryland were, in order of their magnitude: heart disease, cancer, stroke, accidents, and diseases of early infancy.

Spelling Contest Listed

John G. Leach, director of education at Goldey Beacom School of Business, Wilmington, Delaware, announced this week that plans for the annual spelling contest conducted by the college are complete and that the confidential list of 100 difficult but not unusual words used in the contest has been sent to all English teachers in high schools. The three best spellers in the senior and junior classes will be crowned champions for the school and will receive special awards from the Wilmington college.

Last year's Goldey Beacom contest produced the following champions:

GALENA HIGH SCHOOL:
Seniors—1. Philip Winkler; 2. Cora Jean Dixon and Sue Rae Jones, tied; 3. James Larry Hanifee.
Juniors—1. Richard Walters; 2. Barbara Gillum; 3. Susan D. Hollis.
The contest was conducted last year by Mrs. Miriam S. Dumschott, English Instructor.

ROCK HALL HIGH SCHOOL:
Seniors—1. Karen Johnson; 2. Judy Larrimore; 3. Irene Stenger.
Juniors—1. Richard Simms; 2. Joanne Heinefeld; 3. Elizabeth Rodney.

The contest was conducted last year by Mrs. Mary Pratt Corr, English Instructor.

WISH I'D SAID THAT

"It takes work to develop science for the improvements we enjoy. Unless a man has to do more than he can do he will not do all that he can do."—Gordon Cooper, Lambertville (N. J.) Record.

"We spend so much time planning to give our children things we didn't have that we forget to see that they have at least some of the things we did have."—Elbert Foster, East Point (Ga.) Atlanta's Suburban Reporter.

"Junk is anything that lies around in your way for ten years and you throw it away two weeks before you need it."—Robert E. Lee, Woodward County (Okla.) Journal.

"Marriage may be inspired by music, soft words and perfume, but its security is manifested in work, consideration and well fried bacon."—Douglas Meador, Matador (Tex.) Tribune.

LUCKILY NO FIRE
OWINGSVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Chief Hubert Reed decided to take the town's fire truck for a test run.

He's glad it was only practice. The truck wouldn't start. Vandals had siphoned all the gasoline from the tank.

KENT COUNTY NEWS
Direct Descendant of The Chester Town Spy, Est. 1793
One of The Nation's Oldest Newspapers
Chester town, Maryland 21620 Telephone: 778-2011

Published By
KENT PUBLISHING CO., INC.
EDITORS
RICHARD H. COLLINS
WILLIAM B. USILTON, III
WILLIAM S. COLLINS

News Editor — Harry S. Russell
Associate News Editor — Ralph H. Usilton
William B. Usilton, III — Advertising Manager

The Kent County News is a weekly newspaper published each Wednesday, at Chester town, Md., and entered as Second Class Matter at the Postoffice at Chester town, Maryland, March 28, 1946, under the Act of Congress for March 3, 1879. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper, as well as all AP news dispatches.

Member of:
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION
MARYLAND
DELAWARE PRESS
ASSOCIATION

National Advertising Representative:
Independent Newspaper Markets, Inc.
60 East 42nd St. New York 17, N. Y.
Also: Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, San Francisco.
Kent County News is a Weekly "Independent Markets" Newspaper.