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Spring/Summer 2025
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SPRING/SUMMER 2025

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ON THE COVER

Beautiful Deep Creek Lake
in Western Maryland.
See "Deep Creek Lake —
100 Years" on page 27.

PHOTO BY LANCE C. BELL



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Coffee Houses in Mountain Maryland

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**



It all began with 9th century dancing goats—or so the legends say. An observant goatherd noticed how lively his goats became after eating berries from a certain shrub. He tried them himself and got a rush of energy. Another tale claims a 13th century Moroccan traveling in Ethiopia noticed vigorous birds eating those berries and tried them himself with similar results. An ancient document mentions a healer who was banished from Mecca to a desert area and, desperately hungry, ate the berries and survived. A common theme is that those attempting to eat the berries found them too bitter and tossed them into the fire, but the aroma wafting from the roasting coffee berries was so enticing that people were inspired to try grinding and blending them with water.

Whether there is any truth to these stories is lost to the mists of time, but it is generally agreed that coffee originated in Ethiopia, was spread by trade around the globe, and became popular all over the world.

Coffee's first stop after Ethiopia was Yemen, through the port of Mocha, whose name became synonymous with coffee. Trade spread the beverage through Asia and Europe. In 1616, Pieter van den Broecke obtained some coffee bushes from Yemen and had them planted in the Amsterdam Botanical Garden greenhouses. The Dutch used these arabica bushes to begin coffee cultivation in Java (Asia) and Suriname (South America), which became major suppliers of coffee to Europe. In 1670, traveler Baba Budan brought back fertile coffee beans from Mecca, thus jump-starting widescale coffee growing in India.

The plants arrived in the Americas in the 1700s. The Dutch had given a coffee plant to the King of France. French naval captain Gabriel Mathieu de Clieu took some clippings back to his station in Martinique; coffee plantations soon flourished in the region. Sir Nicholas Lawes, English Governor of Jamaica, took coffee plants to the island's Blue Mountains, now famous as a coffee-growing area. At about

the same time, Brazilian colonel Francisco de Melo Palheta Francisco wanted to obtain coffee plants from Guyana. He requested them from the French governor, who declined. Francisco then charmed the governor's wife into obtaining some clippings for him. Within a century, Brazil developed extensive coffee plantations. By the 1850s, Brazil had become the largest producer of coffee in the world; it remains so today.

Early encounters with coffee could be confusing. Coffee was used by monks to enable them to stay alert during prayer, but it was sometimes banned by religious and secular authorities suspicious of its energizing and habit-forming effects. Then the bans were reversed by leaders who, presumably, relied on it as a pick-me-up.

Wherever coffee arrived, coffeehouses soon proliferated; they too generated some controversy. In some places, women were banned from coffeehouses; at times women complained about men spending too much time in coffeehouses. Older generations did not always approve of their children taking up the coffee habit. In the 1730s Johann Sebastian Bach wrote a "coffee cantata" about a young woman's attraction to coffee and her efforts to persuade her father to let her indulge.

Coffee was first brought to America by Captain John Smith, who helped found Virginia in 1607. Having traveled to Turkey, he was familiar with coffee and eventually brought it to the new colony. Coffee's popularity grew, and in 1670, Dorothy Jones of Boston opened the first licensed coffeehouse in the Colonies. After the 1773 Boston Tea Party, coffee became the preferred drink for patriots, and coffeehouses opened across the future United States. Coffee was rationed to military personnel, and caffeine helped Civil War soldiers endure battle. After WWII, many Americans who had spent time in Europe came back wanting to duplicate the coffeehouse culture they had experienced. Innovations such as espresso machines and instant coffee also helped to further popularize coffee. Americans came to expect a daily coffee break and affordable coffee in every diner.

In the 1960s, Alfred Peet, whose Dutch family were coffee roasters in Holland, started a revolution in taste. Peet opened Peet's Coffee in Berkeley, CA, in 1966. He taught a few friends how to roast coffee so that they could open Starbucks in Seattle, WA. Peet's and Starbucks sold coffee beans, not brewed coffee. Howard Schultz, director of marketing, tried to convince Starbucks to have people drink coffee at the shop as he had witnessed in Italy, but they preferred to continue Peet's model. Schultz left and started his own coffeehouse, Il Giornale. It was so successful that in 1987, Schultz bought Starbucks and combined excellent roasting technique with the café culture he had seen in Europe. Since then, the rapid rise of Starbucks in nearly every community has led people to expect better coffee than most diners provided and a pleasant place to drink it.

Coffee remains enormously popular here and around the world. It is generally ranked as the second or third most popular beverage after water. Coffee is second only to oil in the amount traded commercially. Eighty percent of Americans drink coffee daily, downing an average of 2 cups.

In fact, coffee is so popular, that coffee producers are working hard to keep up with the demand.

In recent years, a new concern has entered the coffee industry. Changing climate conditions are making some formerly hospitable places too warm or too dry for coffee growing. Coffee has become more susceptible to disease such as coffee leaf rust. The most popular bean, Arabica, is becoming increasingly difficult to grow. In response, growers are experimenting with new varieties of coffee trees and exploring the potential of planting in Florida and other places where in the past it wasn't possible to grow the trees.

Meanwhile, the experience of going to a coffeehouse for coffee and a snack or meal has spread even to sparsely-populated places like Mountain Maryland. In Garrett and Allegany Counties, there are coffeehouses clustered around several towns, providing nearly everyone with a convenient place to meet with friends, participate in group activities such as trivia contests or knitting classes, do some people-watching, or work on the next great American novel.

Here are profiles of the coffeehouses on the western edge of Maryland.

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Basecamp Coffee Company

240-362-7022; Owners: Hayden and Susan Ort-Ulm

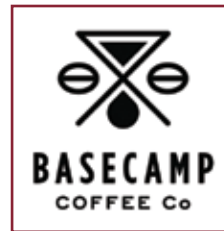
108 Greene St, Cumberland, MD 21502

Daily 7:00 am – 3:30 pm

118 Baltimore St, Cumberland, MD 21502 (in the Rosenbaum Building) Tuesday – Saturday 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

As a young man, Hayden Ort-Ulm spent eighteen months in Seattle, where he acquired a passion for coffee, so he combined coffee with his keen interest in business. After training at the Vermont Artisan Coffee & Tea Company, Hayden began roasting coffee on a small scale at his family's farm near Cumberland. He later moved to a site in LaVale where he roasts, bags, and delivers coffee to retail outlets, restaurants, and coffee shops. Hayden has observed that there are regional variations in preferences for coffee's flavor. He describes the Appalachian ideal as "bold but not burnt, smooth, flavorful coffees with chocolate or caramel" notes. In this area, he says, people like coffee that is darker and not as bright or fruity or tart as favored blends in other places. Basecamp Coffee Company sells five basic blends to suit the regional taste: The Original, Basecamp Blend, Trail Mix, Guatemalan, and The Darke Greene.

Hayden's coffee roasting business began in 2016. In 2019, Hayden and his wife Susan opened a coffee shop in a house on Greene Street that had been a butcher shop; they lived in the upstairs apartment as they fashioned the retail space into a comfortable room with live edge wood trim and an old tile fireplace. The Greene Street coffeehouse has appeared on the Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine's "Best of" lists. In 2023, the couple, prompted by the revitalization effort around the pedestrian mall in Cumberland, opened a coffee counter in the grand 1899 Rosenbaum Building on Baltimore Street, where Basecamp shares a soaring atrium



area with other food and boutique shops. This shop's customers are people who work or live in the surrounding blocks and tourists who visit the area.

The name and logo of the business originated in a drawing that transients use to communicate where it is safe to camp—two people sitting on either side of a campfire with a nearby stream. Basecamp's logo pictures coffee beans on either side of a coffee machine. Both Basecamp Coffee sites are places where people can gather to enjoy the coffee (the five blends plus light and medium roasts of a featured bean each week), the friendly and well-trained baristas, and the company.



Artist and Barista Bradford Benton displays his drawing of Basecamp's Greene Street location. PHOTOS: MARY REISINGER

Café Mark

301-777-0037; Owners: Jody and Danny Malamis
37 Baltimore St, Cumberland, MD 21502
Hours: Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm,
Saturday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Café Mark, formerly Mark's Daily Grind, was renamed Café Mark when owner Mark Rose moved it to 37 Baltimore Street. Jody and Danny bought the business in 2018, keeping its name to honor the business built by Mark. Jody left a career in healthcare to return to work that combines the things she values most: food, coffee, service, and community. Danny contributes technical support and food business expertise. Café Mark buys coffee from US Roasters in Texas and bagels from Queens, NY; otherwise, they buy local eggs, produce, and baked goods whenever possible for their extensive breakfast and lunch menu. In 2024, they took over an adjoining space that opens onto S. Mechanic Street as additional dining space.

Café Mark has already exceeded the couple's expectations for "a place for people to gather with great friends, food,



and coffee in a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere." To support other small businesses, they host "pop up" sales, book signings, and jewelry events.

The merchandise they sell is locally made, and the art on their walls is from a local artist. At the broader community level, their passion lies with the developmentally and physically disabled. Since the birth of their son Luke with Down syndrome, they have been planning an extensive recreational camp setting designed for the disabled population. They expect to begin construction next year.



Café Oasis

240-284-2021; Owner: Sarah Prammawat
Frostburg Plaza Shopping Center
10701 New Georges Creek Rd SW,
Frostburg, MD 21532
Hours: Daily 11:00 am – 9:00 pm

Sarah came from Thailand as a child; her parents operated Thai restaurants. Sarah has lived in the Washington D.C. area and in Baltimore City. She trained in epidemiology and then school counseling at The Johns Hopkins University; she worked as a school counselor in Baltimore City Public Schools. When her daughter was ready for school, Sarah wanted her to have a different environment, so she decided to move into a house in Mountain Maryland and create a business in the area.

After a crash cooking course from her mother, Sarah opened Café Oasis in August of 2023, in a rented space



that was formerly a call center. A full conversion with new plumbing, walls, doors, and kitchen resulted in a spacious coffee shop that also features authentic Thai foods as well as more familiar American offerings. Patrons can stop in at Café Oasis for brunch, lunch, or dinner seven days a week.

Sarah is now taking on a second challenge. She is opening a second location, to be called The Lunch Box, in the former Dedi's Kitchen, in the same building as the Main Street Pub in Frostburg (167 E. Main St). The Lunch Box will not be a coffeehouse, but it will also offer Thai food as well as sandwiches, salads, and pasta.

Clatter Café

240-284-3131; Owners: Jon and Lesley Felton
15 S. Broadway St, Frostburg, MD 21532
Hours: Daily 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

Through his eclectic work history (musician, stained glass artist, cook at a collective), Jon came to highly value human interaction. He also developed an appreciation for Frostburg, with its laid-back, arts-friendly, inexpensive lifestyle. Years later, when he and his wife were mulling how to stay in Frostburg, the idea of a coffeehouse emerged. Wary of the demands of capitalism, they decided the coffeehouse had to be within walking distance of their house, had to be bought rather than rented, and had to have additional income potential. They found a place that met these requirements and started the Clatter Café,



so named because Jon likes the word and feels that clatter describes the sound of the Holy Spirit moving through and bringing unpredictable change.

Since opening in 2017, the Clatter Café has gotten coffee and training from Little Amps Coffee Roasters in Harrisburg, PA. Jon convenes a group to chart the course of the café with integrity and respect. This has led to several Friday or Saturday evenings a month devoted to poetry or music. The doors open at 6:00 pm and the performance starts at 7:00 pm. People socialize after the show, so closing time is flexible. Clatter Café is both a great place to get some breakfast or lunch with high quality coffee and an occasional venue for evening entertainment.

Hope House Coffee

(Formerly Holy Grounds Coffee & Bagel Shop)

240-362-7549; Coffee Shop Director: Amanda Preston
13106 Warrior Dr, Cresaptown, MD 21502

Hours: *Monday – Saturday 7:00 am – 2:00 pm*

Union Rescue Mission Director: Pastor David Ziler;
Assistant Director: Andrea Ziler

Hope House Coffee opened in February of 2025, taking over the rented space and existing equipment of Holy Grounds Coffee & Bagel Shop through a generous deferred payment plan offered by former owner Paulette Porter. Hope House Coffee is operated by the Union Rescue Mission, a local non-profit organization that focuses on people experiencing homelessness; giving them shelter and helping them access all the services they need to live independently. Hope House Coffee serves as a job training site for some clients and as a source of funding for the entire program. It's a bright and cheerful space with both indoor and outdoor seating.



saving tips so that the workers can be given a little monetary reward when they graduate from the program.

A former caseworker, Amanda has become the manager due to her love of baking, especially the 16-18 loaves of sour-dough bread produced daily. The kitchen makes soups, salads, sandwiches, cookies, and other menu items. Hope House is able to accommodate groups and is developing a catering service. Hope House's success will help URM provide a larger shelter and more services for its clients. For the people who work at Hope House, the place means job training and skills development. Hope House is even

Mountain City Coffeehouse & Creamery

301-687-0808; Owner: Yashmi Shah

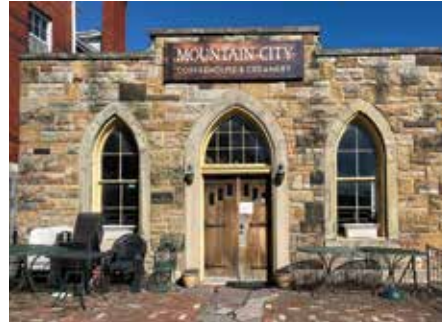
60 E. Main St, Frostburg, MD 21532

Hours: *Tuesday – Friday 7:30 am – 2:00 pm,*

Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Mountain City Coffeehouse's historic building in Frostburg (built in 1882 and rebuilt in 1935) with its gothic windows looks as if it was at one time a church, but it was actually a place where gravestones were made. By the time Yashmi Shah bought it in 2006, it was a fine dining restaurant. She felt that Frostburg needed a casual place for students to get together to talk and study and work on projects, and she had always loved the idea of coffeehouses. In addition to the usual coffeehouse business, the café caters for hospitals and other places, and hosts events, providing food if that is requested.

Many of the dishes Yashmi cooks are from her own Indian heritage, but she also cooks Thai, Mexican, and Italian



dishes. All the food, even the hummus, is made in-house except for the ice cream, which comes from Lakeside Creamery. There are many vegetarian choices on the menu, including soups and specials.

Mountain City also stocks gluten free bread and cookies. Yashmi gets coffee from different places. She goes to see the roasting process when selecting suppliers. After nearly twenty years running Mountain City Coffeehouse and Creamery, Yashmi says she is approaching the time to think about retiring. Meanwhile, Mountain City is serving fresh coffee and homemade food six days a week.

10 Cows Creamery & Coffee

240-284-2431; Owners: Patricia and Ed Crossland

14502 New Georges Creek Rd, Frostburg, MD 21532

Hours: *Wednesday – Thursday 7:00 am – 1:00 pm;*

Friday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm;

Sunday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

This shop is across the road from the owners' dairy farm, which is the only remaining working dairy in Allegany County. Ed's grandparents started the farm in 1929, naming it Gladheart Farm, and Ed has been involved with the operation since he was young. The reason for the 10 Cows name is that Gladheart has a 10-cow milking parlor. They have many more than 10 cows! Their cattle are registered Guernseys, a breed known for its milk's high butterfat content. The Crosslands run Masterpiece Genetics, a national company focused on improving the breed.

10 Cows opened three years ago with the idea of selling fresh beef and dairy products from the farm, but they soon



added coffee to the lineup. Patricia wanted to order the best coffee she could, and she found what she was looking for at River Bottom Roasters in Hagerstown, Maryland. Founder and roaster Craig Campbell sources beans that are environmentally friendly, ethically produced, and fairly traded. Craig's craft roasting brings out the best flavor of each type of bean and results in a very smooth coffee. Shoppers at 10 Cows can buy beef, cheese, and other farm products as well as prepared foods, ice cream and milkshakes, and coffee.

ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY MARY REISINGER

GARRETT COUNTY

Bear Creek Coffee & Creamery

301-387-8989; Owner: Ray Schurg

Manager: James Hook

24586 Garrett Hwy, McHenry, MD 21541

(Shop 'n Save Plaza)**Hours:** *Winter: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm;**Saturday 8:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sunday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm***Summer:** *Monday – Thursday 7:00 am – 9:00 pm;**Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 7:00 am – 10:00 pm*

Bear Creek Coffee & Creamery is in a shopping center with Shop 'n Save grocery store, Perkins Restaurant, and several other small businesses. Ray Schurg bought the former Huey's Ice Cream around five years ago; he and manager James Hook kept the family-friendly bright red and yellow décor, but renamed it Bear Creek to tie it in with the local area (a stream called Bear Creek flows nearby), to connect it to Ray Schurg's other Bear Creek shops, and to give it an interesting logo, which naturally features a bear.



Initially, Bear Creek continued as an ice cream shop, but in April 2023, Ray and James added coffee and a more extensive menu. This enabled them to provide something for both children and adults, to offer meals as well as dessert, and to stay open longer hours. Most of the foods are sourced from area businesses such as Mountain Flour Bakery. Bear Creek buys coffee from Commonplace Coffee near Pittsburgh; the company also has provided training for staff. Expanding the menu turned out to be a good decision; at this point, Bear Creek is selling more coffee than ice cream.

Black Hawk Coffee

240-488-2326; Owners: Kayleigh and Charlene Tomblin

225 E. Oak St, Oakland, MD 21550

Hours: *Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm;**Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm*

Kayleigh dreamed of starting a coffee shop, but the death of three coffee-loving grandparents within three months spurred her into action. After her grandparents were gone, Kayleigh saw black hawks frequently and found comfort in thinking that the hawks symbolized her lost loved ones. The name and three-hawk logo of the business represent her grandparents. She and her mother Charlene teamed up to make the dream reality. When they began their search for a building, their initial thought was to locate near the lake, but they found the spot where they were “meant to be” in Oakland. They opened in September 2023, starting a drive-thru lane two months later.

Crimson Cup of Columbus, Ohio, has provided coffee and training, which both women have found helpful as they had



no professional background in coffee or food service. They have expanded their menu beyond pastries and coffee to a full range of breakfast and lunch options. Though Kayleigh and Charlene expected most sales would be from tourists, their business is 70% local residents.

Patrons occasionally hold

impromptu birthday parties or showers; Kayleigh and Charlene are also glad to help with planning events at Black Hawk. The shop carries tee-shirts and other items; many are made by local companies. Black Hawk was voted Best Coffee Shop in Garrett County in 2024. No doubt those coffee-loving grandparents would be proud.

Canoe on the Run

301-387-5933;

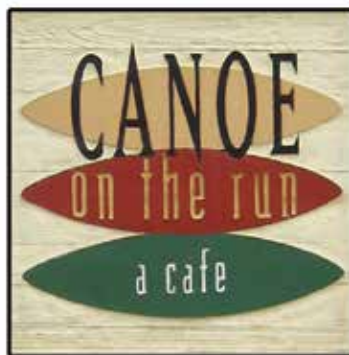
Owners: Steve Reed and Kirsten Davis

2622 Deep Creek Dr, McHenry, MD 21541

Hours: *Daily 8:00 am – 2:00 pm*

After Steve graduated from WVU, he and his wife Kirsten searched several states for a business opportunity before finding a former house being used as an insurance office for sale in Garrett County. It was near Deep Creek Lake and the Wisp ski slopes, and had potential, they felt, as a coffee shop serving vacationers and locals. Steve trained at Torio Coffee in Philadelphia; they were his supplier until they closed. Since then, he has used Starbucks coffee.

The shop, which opened 26 years ago, was named Canoe on the Run to connect the lake with the idea of ordering



coffee and food “to go.” In the early days, Canoe on the Run was open long hours and served three meals daily. After Steve and Kirsten had children, the focus shifted to breakfast and lunch. Currently, all food is served in “to go” packaging, so that patrons can take their orders with them or eat inside at a small counter or outside on the deck. Canoe on the Run staff bakes many pastries and cookies on site, and Kirsten makes biscotti in the evenings

after her day job. Made-to-order breakfast sandwiches are also popular. A quick cup of coffee or breakfast or lunch is available winter or summer, and is easy to carry out for people on the run.

Dawdy Haus Coffee

814-662-2240; Owner: Larry Byler
634 Springs Rd, Springs, PA 15562
(Whispering Pines Furniture Store)
Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Whispering Pines Furniture began in Grantsville, MD, thirty years ago. Twenty years ago, the business moved to Springs, PA. Customers often wanted refreshments while shopping, so ten years ago, Whispering Pines added a coffee shop in a small structure that was the original owners' home. Dawdy Haus (Grandpa's House) is a Pennsylvania Dutch term for small dwellings attached to larger farmhouses for elders. It is primarily a coffee shop, but the menu includes soups, sandwiches, paninis, and salads, as well as hand-churned ice cream. The coffee comes from Crimson Cup in Columbus, Ohio.



PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

There is a happy relationship between the store and the café. People shop longer and buy more when they don't have to leave to find sustenance. People who are enjoying the food and coffee often are attracted to browse and buy in the shop. Whispering Pines works to make the shopping experience pleasant with playground equipment and gardens as well as food and drink. They also want to serve the

community, so they open the coffee shop earlier than the store for people driving to work. Some of the locals use it as a convenient place to buy food to take home. Because it's so close to the Maryland line, we've included Dawdy Haus in this list of coffeehouses in Mountain Maryland.

Espresso Alley

301-746-2900; Owner: Allison Lenhart
Drive Thru at 25901 Garrett Hwy, McHenry, MD 21541
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6:00 am – 5:00 pm;
Tuesday, Thursday 6:00 am – 3:00 pm; Saturday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sunday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

PHOTO BY DAVE BROWN



Espresso Alley is the only coffeehouse on this list that is solely a drive-thru. Drivers order on one side of the small building and pick up on the other side. The shop is conveniently located at the intersection of Friendsville Road and Garrett Highway (Route 219) in McHenry, and the well-organized process means there is little wait time.

Owner Allison Lenhart, an experienced barista, aims to provide a great coffee experience in Garrett County. She delights in experimenting with flavors, and there are always new treats in store at Espresso Alley. The shop offers a wide variety of freshly-made specialty coffees and teas and both sweet and savory foods. There is something for the whole family, including kid-friendly drinks for children and "pup cups" for canine customers.



The Root Café

301-746-5111; Owner: Anchor Church (adjacent to coffee shop)
Managers: Pastor Mike and Sandy Robinson
321 Chestnut St, Friendsville, MD 21531
Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm;
occasional longer hours in summer posted on social media

The white oak in the café's yard has grown there since the late 1800s when the structure was a boarding house for train travelers. The tree has come to symbolize being rooted in faith, love, and human connection. Anchor Church bought the property in 1995 for its church building. When the idea of using the house for a coffee shop arose, Pastor Robinson mentioned this at a conference, and a couple who were closing their coffee shop generously offered their equipment. Anchor Church formed an LLC to oversee the coffeehouse; profits go into missions and youth work. The house was transformed into a warm and inviting space, with inside and outside seating. The



Root Café opened In October 2023.

The Robinsons' daughter Anna serves as barista and media guru. Roger Beitzel, with 25 years in food service, runs the kitchen. (He also named the café.) The Root provides excellent coffee and high-quality food for breakfast, lunch, and desserts. While the original boarding house catered to people traveling by train, The

Root is conveniently located near I-68 for car travelers. Unexpectedly, the Robinsons have discovered another connection between the original house and the current café. Their granddaughter is related to the 1800s owner, Mary Lola Van Sickle, through her father's family.

Trader's Coffee House

301-387-9246; Owner: Brenda McDonnell

Manager: Jean Thomas

21311 Garrett Hwy, Oakland, MD 21550

(Traders Landing Shopping Center in McHenry)

Hours: **Winter:** Sunday – Thursday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm,

Friday and Saturday 7:00 am – 6:00 pm,

Summer: Daily 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

In 2023, Brenda was voted Restaurateur of the Year by the Restaurant Association of Maryland. Her food businesses include Trader's Coffee House, an existing shop she took over in 2001. It soon became clear that the coffee shop and the pizzeria she had added upstairs needed improved space, so they closed in September 2003 and, just a week after Brenda's wedding, re-opened in spring of 2004 in a completely rebuilt structure.

Trader's uses fresh local ingredients whenever possible, and tries to accommodate various diet needs. Though not a certified gluten-free kitchen, Trader's does special prep for those with gluten sensitivities. There are two bakers



effort has been to revamp the system for people picking up carry-out orders, making it easier and more efficient for their year-round customers.

producing pastries, focaccia, and other items. Vegan bagels are from the Bronx; vegan cream cheese is made in-house. The vegetarian protein wrap is a popular menu item. For twenty years, Trader's has bought coffee from a family-owned coffee roaster in Oregon; recent innovations include cold brew coffee and nitrogen-infused coffee, methods that keep the bold flavor, but make the coffee less acidic, smoother, and creamier. Brenda and Jean are alert to ways to improve their product and service. One recent

The Travel Mug

301-895-8067; Owner: Amy Workman

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Summer: Monday – Saturday 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

In early 2022, Amy, a school nurse, decided to start a summer business—a mobile coffee shop she called The Travel Mug. In the fall, Amy returned to her job, but quickly realized she would rather continue the mobile coffee business. She left school nursing and by summer of 2023, she was ready for a permanent space. She renovated the former Woodmen of the World building; the result is a light-filled interior, a new kitchen, and a drive-thru. Amy has continued both the mobile and stationary businesses under the name The Travel Mug. She and her staff sometimes affectionately refer to the building as The Parked Mug.

Amy still takes the travel trailer to scheduled sites including the Goodwill Nursing Home (for Nurses Week), the Health Department, and festivals such as Del Fest in Cumberland.



The traveling Travel Mug has also branched out to events such as weddings, and bridal and baby showers. At "the parked mug," people come to hang out, to work on the jigsaw puzzles on some tables, or to take part in activities such as book groups, Irish dance instruction, macramé workshops, and sourdough bread-making classes. Other customers opt to pick up orders at the drive-thru. The Travel Mug features Basecamp coffee out of Cumberland, breakfast sandwiches and bowls, cookies, cake pops, pop tarts, pastries, and ice cream.





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Tomato Basil Torte

- 1 Unbaked refrigerated pie crust
- 1½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese (6 oz.)
- 5 medium size Roma tomatoes
- 1 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves
- 4 garlic cloves
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan reggiona cheese
- 1/8 tsp ground white pepper

Preheat oven to 350°.

Unfold pie crust according to package directions. Place in a 9 inch quiche dish or glass pie plate. Flute the edges and bake crust at 350° for 9 to 11 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle with ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese. Set aside to cool.

Reheat oven to 375°. Cut tomatoes into wedges; drain on paper towel. Arrange tomato wedges atop melted cheese in the baked pie shell. In a food processor,

combine basil and garlic cloves, process until coarsely chopped. Sprinkle over tomatoes.

In medium mixing bowl combine remaining mozzarella cheese, mayonnaise, Parmesan cheese and white pepper. Spoon over basil mixture, spreading to evenly cover the top.

Bake 35 to 40 minutes until top is golden & bubbly. Serve warm.





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The House and Garden Club of Frostburg Helps to Keep the Town Beautiful Year-round

Written by: **Rob Rephan**

The House and Garden Club of Frostburg, Maryland, had its beginning in the 1950s with a group of women who came together and called themselves “Recent Graduates of University Women.” At that time, they were also members of the AAUW (American Association of University Women). These women shared a common interest in gardening, community service and especially flower arrangements.

As time went on, the “Recent Graduates” were no longer quite so recent and their membership included women who were not specifically university graduates. As a result, they withdrew from the AAUW in 1964 to involve others who were not university graduates but who were interested in participating in the club’s activities. The name of the organization was changed to The House and Garden Club of Frostburg.

The club includes both men and women with the purpose of encouraging interest in all phases of home gardening and home beautification, better horticulture practices, civic beautification and conservation of natural resources.

Meetings are scheduled at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of the month (weather permitting) from October through June and are held in the Frostburg Community Center located on Water Street, unless otherwise announced. Each meeting opens with a guest speaker followed by refreshment. Speakers and programs will be updated on the club’s web site calendar.



The major project began in 1996, when the club purchased 16 metal hayrack baskets from a company in England to brighten up Main Street lampposts. In recent years, a local metal worker, Keith Skidmore, has been building replacement basket for the club. Members, merchants and other interested volunteers, now plant and maintain more than 60 lamppost flower baskets on Main, Center and Broadway Streets in Frostburg, plus six baskets at the WMSR Depot and eight planters at the GAP trailhead below the depot. Volunteers plant a basket or baskets, replace and fertilize the soil, weed and deadhead flowers and water them daily from May through the summer and into the fall. The club provides basket volunteers with \$40.00 per basket to purchase plants, soil and fertilizer. In the fall, baskets are emptied and refilled with pine and decorated with lights for the holiday season by the same volunteers.

The club is also active during the “Beautify the Burg” spring cleanup, by planting and cleaning a number of locations throughout Frostburg. They include the Post Office gardens, the parking lot on Broadway, the Veterans Memorial Garden in front of Mountain Ridge High School, a bed at the intersection of Braddock Road and Center Street and the Bingman garden at City Place. The club recently funded the replanting of the bed surrounding the parking lot on Broadway below City Place.

It takes the efforts of a majority of the members of the House and Garden Club of Frostburg, several merchants and dedicated friends of the garden club to keep the baskets looking beautiful for most of the year. They are rarely empty.

By the weekend before Thanksgiving, volunteers will fill them with pine and lights. Team leaders add bows when the baskets are completed. The majority of the baskets are maintained by members of the club but interested members of the community also take on the responsibility.

Truckloads of pine are donated by several local companies including Wayne and Gwen Blocker at Earth and Tree, JP Andrick at Andrick Tree Farm and Ed Geis of Bittersweet Acres on Long Stretch. The club purchases 2 boxes of lights and 2 bows for each basket.



Top: Garden club members and volunteers plant and maintain the Veterans Memorial Garden in front of Mountain Ridge High School.

The club is also active during “Beautify the Burg” with spring clean up and planting at the Post Office gardens (above) as well as several other locations. PHOTOS BY ROB REPHAN

The House and Garden Club of Frostburg always looks for new “Basketeers” to continue the tradition of planting and maintaining lamppost flower baskets on Main Street. Several baskets have “retiring” keepers, creating an opportunity for new volunteers to contribute a little time and energy to keeping historic downtown Frostburg colorful and full of flowers in the summer, and filled with pine and trimmed with lights for the winter holidays.

If you or your organization is interested in volunteering, contact **frostburggardenclub@gmail.com** or call Team Leader, Rob Rephan at 240-362-8492

Funding for the lamppost basket program comes from a portion of the Frostburg hotel/motel tax revenue, club fundraising projects and individual donations through Foundation for Frostburg. To support the project, donations can be made through the Foundation for Frostburg at P.O. Box 765, Frostburg, MD 21532. Download a form at **<http://foundationforfrostburg.org/give.html>** and indicate House and Garden Club of Frostburg.

The Holiday Lamppost Christmas wreath project has a separate committee. Contributions to that project can be made on the same Foundation for Frostburg form.



Top: Wreaths by the Holiday Lamppost Christmas wreath project and pine baskets keep everything looking beautiful nearly year-round.

Above: One of the beautiful lamppost baskets along Main Street.

PHOTOS BY ROB REPHAN



Left to right: Peggy Snyder planting one of the baskets at the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Depot; basket at the corner of Main and Water Streets; and basket across from the Palace Theatre. *PHOTOS BY ROB REPHAN*



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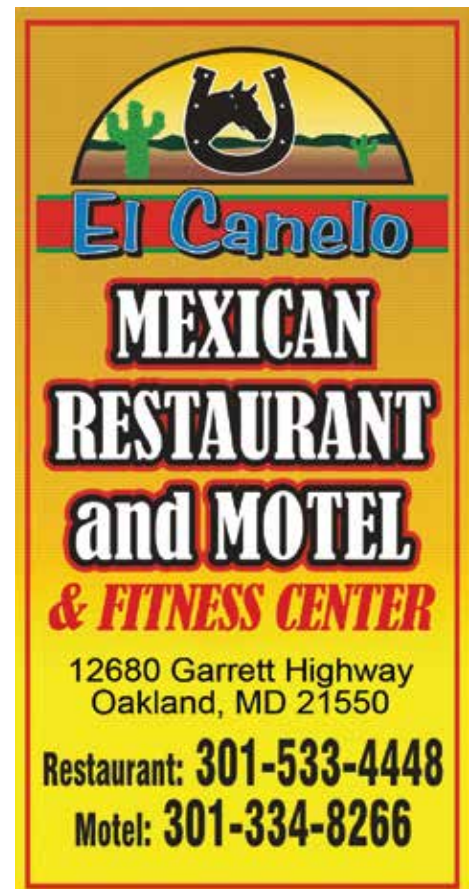


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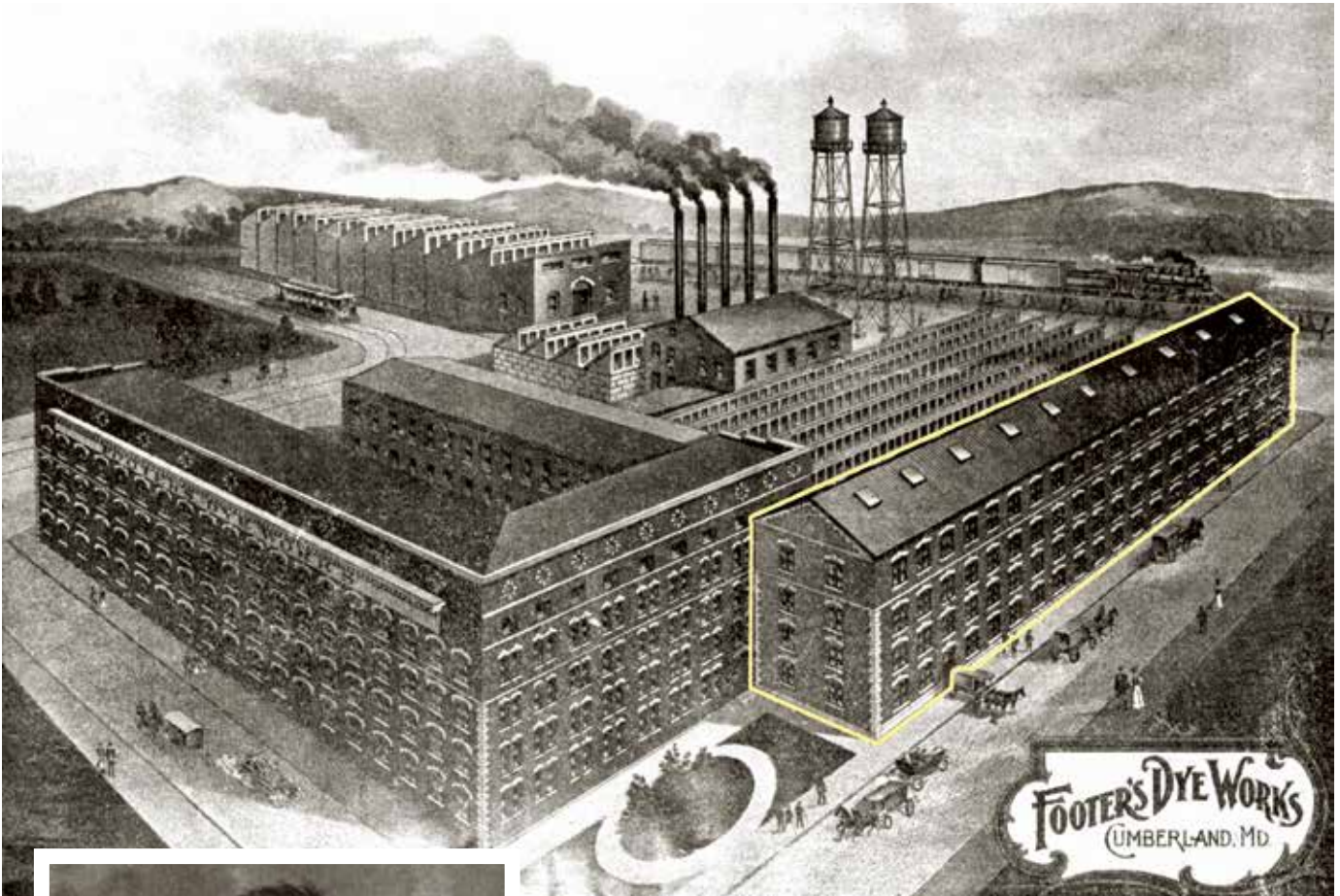
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Footer's Dye Works Remembered

CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND —

AMERICA'S GREATEST AND BEST CLEANING AND DYEING ESTABLISHMENT

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**



Architectural drawing of Footer's Dye Works, Cumberland, Maryland, circa 1904. The building at right (yellow outline) is the only remaining structure of this vast complex. Today, the historic, remodeled building features upper floor luxury apartments and ground level retail space.



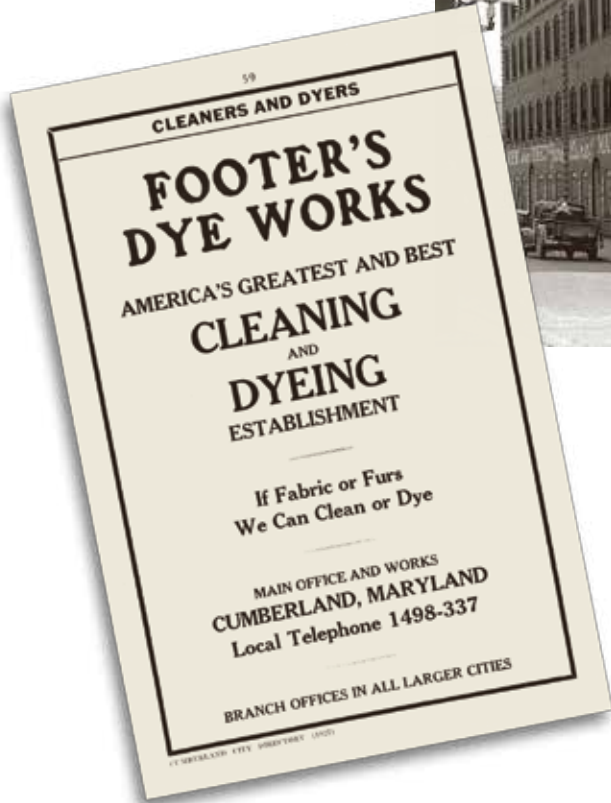
Thomas Footer
*Founder of Footer's Dye Works
and President of the Company*

One of Cumberland's landmark buildings holds a history that embraces the 19th century Horatio Alger stories of rag-to-riches youngsters who succeeded through good works and honesty. The Footer's Dye Works building located on Howard Street remains a visible reminder of Thomas Footer, the orphaned boy who made his way across the Atlantic Ocean to create one of the most prominent dyeing and cleaning works in the United States. His massive factory brought notoriety to the city and employment to hundreds of residents who became intertwined with the remarkable story that unfolded in Cumberland during the late 1800s.

Mr. Footer recorded that both parents died at early ages, thereby causing him to work in the textile mills of England and Scotland. The hard scrabble circumstances changed following marriage and immigration to

Footer's Dye Works, South Mechanic and Howard Street area. This photo was apparently taken after Footer's closed; several businesses were utilizing the ground floor.

Below: Footer's Dye Works ad from Polk's Directory, 1927.



the United States where more opportunities for success became available.

Familiarity with the British textile industry was likely the reason he sought employment in several northeastern mills upon arrival in the United States. For reasons unknown today, Mr. Footer departed the textile industry and moved to Cumberland around 1872 where he established a small shop on Greene Street that advertised "carpet weaving and carpet rags" services. Apparently, this service included weaving rags into rugs and carpets.

The Greene Street location was short lived and, according to newspaper reports, Thomas moved operations to the corner of North Liberty and Mill Streets where the weaving

of carpet was abandoned for the purposes of establishing a dyeing and cleaning business. Three years later Mr. Footer moved to 24 Liberty Street. It was at this location business prospered to the point that additional facilities were required. In 1891, Mr. Footer boasted that he owned the "most successful" business of its kind in Maryland. Specifically mentioned in advertising was the cleaning of curtains, lace, blankets, and gloves.

In the same year the Cumberland City Council voted to permit the building of a three story brick addition to the rear of Footer's establishment. Additional progress at the site may be followed by examining Sanborne Fire Company maps that show multiple buildings being added over the years between North Liberty and the mill race, an area behind the current building at 19 Frederick Street.

In October 1904, Mr. Footer purchased property south of Howard Street for the purpose of constructing a larger facility. The location offered significant transportation advantages, including street car service for employees, rail service and C&O Canal transport for goods. Mr. Footer initiated plans by placing orders for 30,000 bricks from Cumberland Brick and Tile Company in South Cumberland and roofing materials from National Tile Roofing Company in Lima, Ohio.



Top: Some of the saw tooth structures at the Footer complex.

Middle: The Red Head Gas Station located in one of the Footer buildings, late 1940s or early 1950s. The Crosstown bridge (I-68) destroyed the building on the right.

Bottom: The deteriorated Footer complex showing some of the saw tooth buildings in the foreground. The back left building is now the only remaining structure. *PHOTOS COURTESY DAN WHETZEL*

The massive Footer's Dye Works buildings ran along Howard and Wineow Streets and featured four story brick walls and gable roofs. Steel girders and trusses supported the buildings that could withstand the pressures of heavy equipment. One may examine the remaining Footer building on Howard Street to appreciate the industrial qualities.

Not all of the buildings in the complex were four stories, as a series of smaller saw tooth structures added to the distinctive setting

along Wineow Street. The buildings' ridge design shielded workers and machinery from direct sunlight, but still provided for illumination of interior spaces.

Major departments in the factory included dry cleaning, dry dyeing, scouring, renovating gloves, shoe repair, wet dyeing, inspection, shipping and receiving, while other processes brought the total number of divisions to thirty. Specific services included the cleaning of rugs, carpets, curtains, shawls and handkerchiefs. Mr. Footer noted some of his processes were unique to the Cumberland factory and exceeded the capabilities of European competitors.

Mr. Footer's success continued into the 1920s as the business shipped packages around the globe. Local residents traveling throughout the United States and abroad reported seeing large Footer's Dye Works signs along their routes. Even Mr. Footer's death in 1923 did not immediately diminish prosperity as his son continued in a leadership role at the factory.

The times and technology began changing rapidly during the 1920s and Footer's was not exempt from the consequences. Fabric dye for home use presented a direct challenge to traditional factory enterprises that specialized in the processes. RIT, a home dye kit, became widely marketed at inexpensive prices following World War I.

Unfavorable circumstances were held at bay until the Great Depression combined with the disastrous 1936 flood and changing dry cleaning and dyeing processes brought about Footer's Dye Works demise. Over the years, parts of buildings were utilized by smaller businesses that failed to prosper at the site. Section by section the massive Footer's complex was demolished, except for the lone building on Howard Street.

A state report described the surviving Howard Street structure as being twenty bays in length and two bays wide, an area that nearly occupies the block. The walls are red brick laid in a five course common bond with decorative features on the ends. The entire building is set upon a stone foundation that rises above ground to a distance of about three feet. The roof remains covered with terra cotta tiles. One distinguishing feature that is apparently not

original is a concrete block elevator tower protruding from the south wall. A Sanborn map noted the building hosted cloth finishing and pressing processes, although the space may have been utilized in different ways over the years.

The post-World War II years were not kind to Mr. Footer's building and its continued existence seemed to be in doubt before purchase by Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority in 1997. The authority, formed by the Maryland General Assembly in 1993, was charged with developing, managing, and administering the historic C&O Canal Heritage Area in Cumberland.

In 2017, the Footer building changed into a prime example of an adaptive reuse project that transformed an older building for new uses, while maintaining its historical features.

Leading the project was Michael Joy of Joy Development who announced plans for luxury apartments on the three upper floors and retail opportunities on the ground level. Dig Deep Brewing Company, Transamerica and T-Mobile currently operate retail businesses at the site. Care was taken during development to retain the character defining features of the building—distinctive brickwork, exterior windows, roofing, tongue-and-groove flooring, and painted signage maintained their original appearances.

Located at the convergence of the C&O Canal, Great Allegheny Passage, Canal Place and downtown Cumberland, the historic structure is now surrounded by a vibrant atmosphere that welcomes both visitors and residents—Mr. Footer would be proud!



The few surviving saw tooth structures had deteriorated into a state of disrepair as shown in this 2008 photograph. The buildings caused discussions about their fate—should they be restored or demolished. It was determined the saw tooth buildings should be demolished and replaced. The replacement buildings, completed in 2017, were later occupied by retail businesses.

Inset: A recently found roof tile used in the Footer complex confirms it came from National Tile Roofing Company in Lima, Ohio, 1904.

PHOTOS BY DAN WHETZEL



Today, the remaining Footer's Dye Works building has been transformed for new uses, while maintaining its historical features. The three upper floors are luxury apartments while the ground level houses Dig Deep Brewing Company, Transamerica and T-Mobile.

PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN

The Footer's Dye Works building is located at the intersection of South Mechanic and Howard Streets in downtown Cumberland.

The Footer building was listed on the National Register for Historic Places in 2013.

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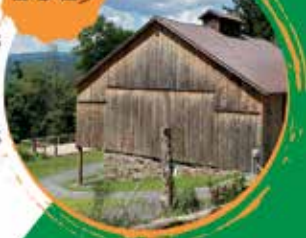
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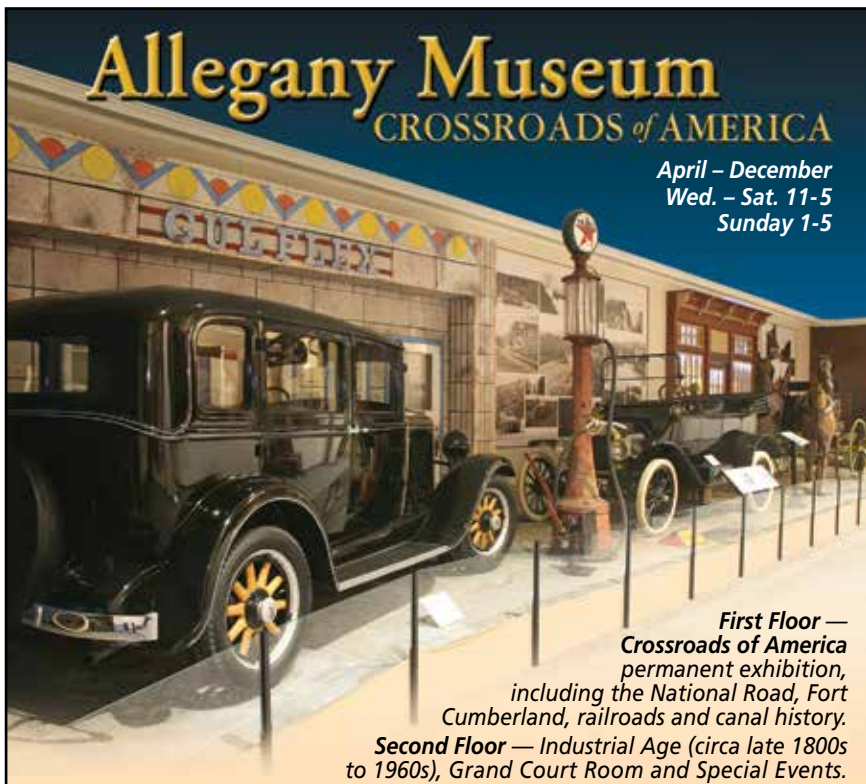


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100 Years of Deep Creek Real Estate

Written by: **Jay Ferguson**, Owner Taylor-Made Deep Creek Sales



In honor of the **Deep Creek Lake Centennial**, I was curious what waterfront land values were throughout the 100 year history of the lake. Eastern Land Company began purchasing the land to flood from adjacent property owners in 1923. I have always been amazed at the ingenuity to devise such a plan—then the sheer luck involved to witness flood-waters rise and ultimately stop, forming a waterfront paradise in your new backyard. It's truly mind-boggling but it has been fun to research the original deeds going that far back and I am excited to share what I found. My friend and colleague Karen Myers had a similar interest and we collaborated with slightly different approaches to tell the story with a similar theme - Deep Creek Lake has been an incredible investment for over 100 years and it's never too late to buy in.

My great-great grandparents, Newt and Daisy Reams, were the original purveyors of the Swallow Falls general store. Newt famously brokered a lucrative deal with Henry Ford for two sawmill boilers which are on display to this day in the Henry Ford museum in Dearborn, Michigan. As my grandfather Jim Sanders told the story, Newt would also transport the paychecks from town to the workers who were building the dam and power plant nearby. He traveled by horse and buggy and carried a trusty shotgun to protect the strongbox. Starting in 1923, Newt and Daisy participated in at least 8 transactions with Eastern Land Company, leasing and ultimately selling several tracts of land that were fundamental to the infrastructure of the power plant and the electric transmission lines to distribute all of this new power.

Lots were far bigger chunks of land back in the 1920s and the 1930s. Subdivisions began forming right away and opportunistic developers were already splitting lots into smaller and smaller pieces. Many homes were without electricity, even though Deep Creek was ironically generating so much power. Restaurants, boat rentals and summer cabins and camps began to pop up. There were lean years during the 1930s and 1940s—a Great Depression and World War II. Immediately after the war, prices began to rise and the 1950s and 1960s brought higher prices and more disposable income for recreation. Values doubled during this era of lake development. I recall my grandfather telling me he had saved up \$5,000 and could either build an entire house in Deer Park or buy a lakefront lot by his favorite fishing spot near Thousand Acres. He didn't have the money for both. He chose to build the house but still fished the same spot. He thought it was a win-win.

By the 1970s, Deep Creek became more and more popular. Seasonal cottages became year-round homes and infrastructure for septic



Daisy and Newt Reams

WATERFRONT VALUES AT DEEP CREEK LAKE OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS

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systems and more formal zoning requirements were put in place. Values doubled. My father-in-law purchased Bowman's Marina with partners in 1977 and business was thriving. Interstate 68 was completed in the 1980s, paving the path for even more people to visit the area. The developments of the 1990s were fueled by public water and public sewer systems and more planning and zoning. I started selling real estate in late 2000 and personally witnessed prices double after 9/11/2001 and then double again by 2007. Then, for the first time in the history of the lake, waterfront values dropped. 'The Great Recession' hit and it affected the lakefront values through 2015. Five short years later, Covid 19 fears coupled with the ability to 'work from home' would drive real estate prices to all-time highs.

It's never too late to invest in real estate. Condos start as low as \$50k and vacation rentals radically impact the cost of ownership. If you are interested in learning more, I can help.

**More Deep Creek Lake
100th Anniversary on my blog
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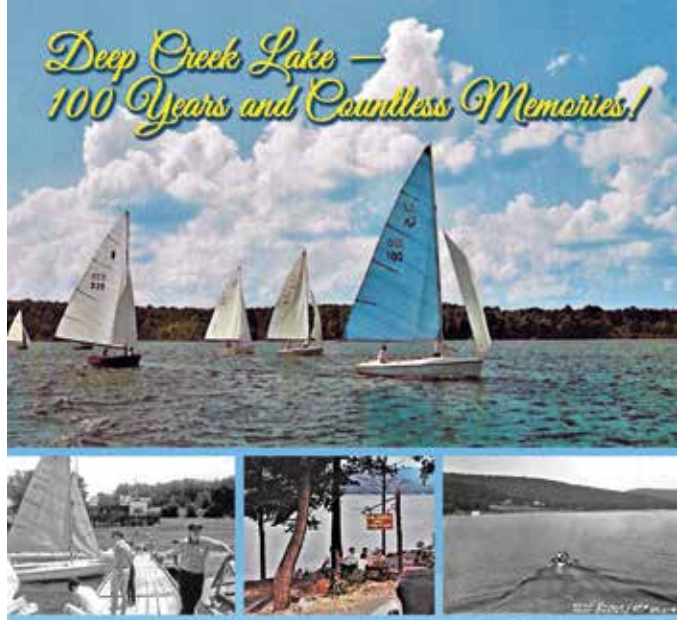


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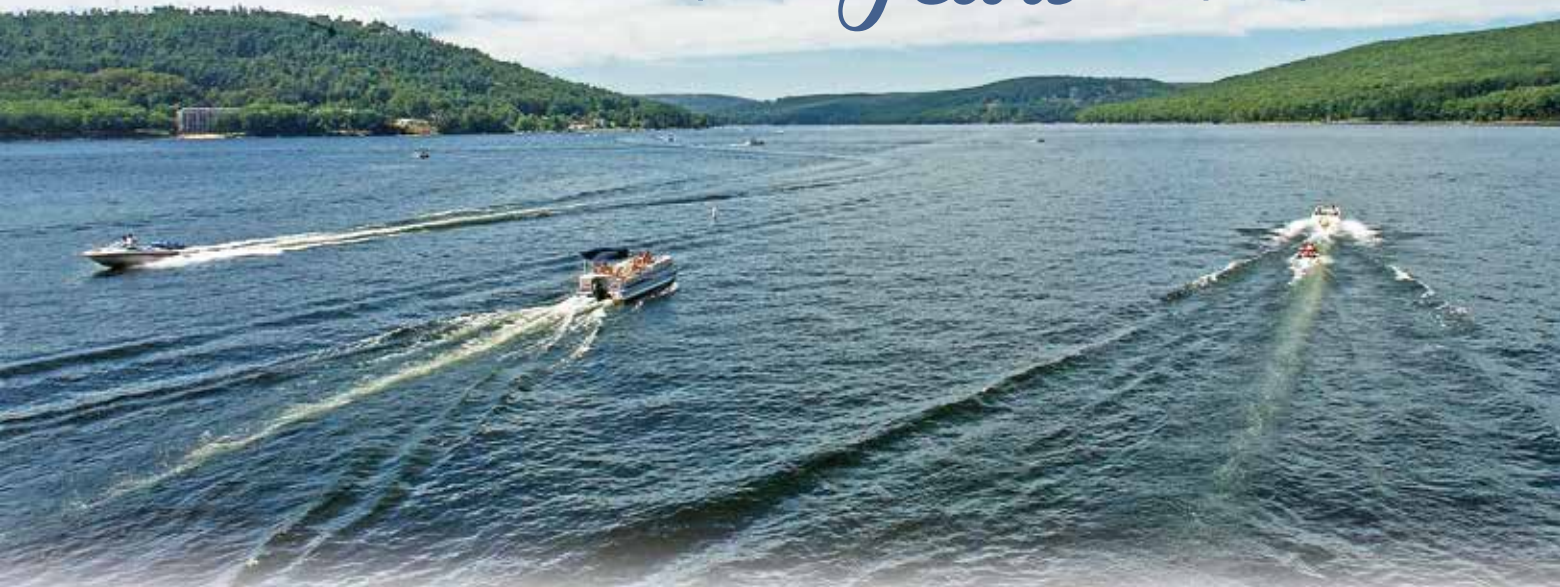
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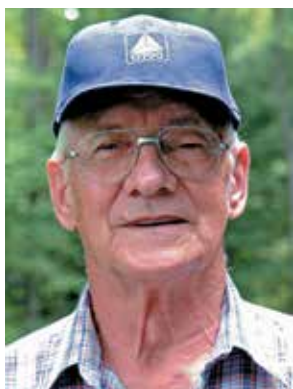
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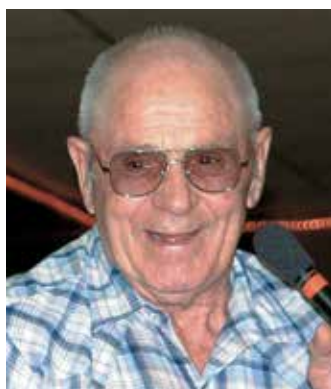
Written by: **Dan Whetzel**

PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

In 2003 and 2004, *Mountain Discoveries* interviewed several Garrett County residents to document their memories of early life at Deep Creek Lake. Those memories were compiled in a series of articles called "Lake Reflections." This year as we focus on Deep Creek Lake's 100th Anniversary, *Mountain Discoveries* has chosen to reprint excerpts and photos from those original articles along with various updates. Although some of those early interviewees have passed on, their memories create a nostalgic account of the making of Deep Creek Lake and how the area has evolved in more recent years. We hope you enjoy these reminiscences of early Deep Creek Lake's development and growth.



Frank Beckman
1931 – 2010



Leo Friend
1925 – 2004



Grace King
1914 – 2008



Tom "RT" Thayer
1926 – 2010

Deep Creek is Maryland's largest freshwater lake and Western Maryland's premier recreational destination site, as each year thousands of vacationers enjoy the four-season activities the lake offers. The increasing popularity of Deep Creek Lake has caused many changes over the years, especially in the development of lakefront property. While change has brought growth and undeniable economic benefits to Garrett County, it has also prompted longtime residents to recollect when the lake was undisturbed for years, and the tree covered shoreline only hosted wildlife. As Deep Creek Lake approaches its 100th year, let us take a trip down memory lane to an earlier time when the region remained a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered by vacationers.

Ground was broken for Deep Creek Lake on November 1, 1923. Its name was derived from a stream located between Roman Nose Ridge and Marsh Hill Ridge, and its purpose was to provide hydroelectric power for the Pennsylvania Electric Power Corporation of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Approximately 8,000 acres of land were purchased to begin the project, including 140 farms. An ambitious undertaking, a new rail connection from the B&O Railroad in Oakland, Maryland, became necessary to transport heavy equipment and materials to the excavation site. A quarry for stone crushing provided raw materials for the dam work, while steel bridges were erected to accommodate rising waters and vehicle traffic around the water. After months of planning and construction, the hydroelectric plant went on line in May 1925.

Fred Thayer has maintained both a historical and legal interest in Deep Creek Lake. Personal recollections have been augmented by legal efforts of his grandfather, Fred A. Thayer, Sr., on behalf of companies who created the lake in the early 1920s. Fred Thayer noted, initially there were plans for a dam and several separate impoundments on Youghiogheny River, in the vicinity of Swallow Falls. Eastern Land Corporation, a Delaware chartered company set up for the purpose of engaging in real estate operations, began the acquisition of property for the various impoundments, and according to Mr. Thayer, "My grandfather, Fred A. Thayer, Sr., locally began acquisition of all the ground that became Deep Creek Lake and perimeter. The first deed was to Youghiogheny Hydro-Electric Corporation in 1923. There were several deeds, but the principle conveyance was in October 1925. My grandfather accepted his pay in acreage, which is now Will O' the Wisp. He was able to sell it to Dr. Thurl Bullard, who had one of the early recreational areas, for \$1,000 an acre. He thought he had really cleaned up."



Top: Youghiogheny Hydro-Electric Corporation Power House Foundation, July 1, 1924.

Bottom: Tunnel beneath the Deep Creek Lake Dam, 1924.

Eastern Land Corporation was purchasing some parcels but mostly farmland. Apparently, there was a general willingness to sell property to Eastern Land Corporation, although "some were tougher to deal with than others, I recall my grandfather saying. But I can tell you that as far as the Deep Creek Lake impoundment was concerned, every property was acquired voluntarily. There was no instance of eminent domain." There later came a time when the state of Maryland acquired property for a public park, but that was unrelated to the original construction of Deep Creek Lake.

Not all of the original hydroelectric plans came to be realized, while new ones surfaced. The first plan to be eliminated called for building additional impoundments near Swallow

Falls. New plans to install flashboards on the Deep Creek Dam, which would have raised the level of the lake four vertical feet, were proposed. Flashboards would have put lake water within a minimal distance of being able to empty into the Potomac River watershed as opposed to flowing westward into the Ohio River. Nothing ever came of the plan, but it explains a quirk of Deep Creek Lake. The level of the lake today, at maximum spillway level, is 2,462 feet elevation. Pennsylvania Power Company, commonly referred to as Penelec, owned the land at least as far back as a line established at elevation 2,466, plus 25 lineal feet. That explains the actual difference between spillway level and the four additional feet from the flashboards that were never added to the dam. Penelec, therefore, owned the water and land as far back as four vertical feet. In some cases, that was a considerable distance.

In February 1942, the Youghio-gheny Hydro-Electric Corporation conveyed to Pennsylvania Electric Corporation the property at Deep Creek Lake, with the exception of some excess property, which was retained by Eastern Land Corporation but managed by Pennsylvania Electric. The extra land was conveyed from Eastern Land Corporation to the Smith family who acquired numerous parcels around the lake including Thousand Acres, Blakeslee, Pergin Farm, Marsh Mountain and Stumpy Point.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic development by the Smith family and Fred Thayer's own family have brought changes to waterfront property in particular, and the county's economy in general. When asked to describe the changes that have occurred at Deep Creek since the late 1930s, Fred Thayer summarizes by stating, "There has been an ever increasing tempo of growth."

The Harvey name has been associated with Deep Creek Lake since the early 1920s when Earl K. Harvey purchased



PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

Early photo of the old Deep Creek Bridge (top) and the current Deep Creek Bridge.

farmland from Charlie O'Brien, in the North Glade area of Deep Creek. The family raised a variety of crops including potatoes, corn, and peas that were canned at Mtn. Lake Park. Raising chickens, sheep, hogs, and cattle were also priorities on the farm. Fannie Mae (Harvey) Kolb, one of 11 siblings remembered, "We always had a big garden, and people would often stop to buy vegetables and whatever else we had." While not a formal store, summer residents from the peninsula would be interested in making conversation and purchasing fresh food.

Creation of Deep Creek Lake took approximately 25 acres of Harvey farmland. Pennsylvania Electric Power Company later offered to sell unused land, and Mr. Harvey purchased 44 acres, thus adding to his farm after the lake was filled. Earl Harvey worked the farm until his death in 1975 when two sons, who both lived on the property, continued to

operate it. In recent years the Harvey farmland was purchased by real estate developers, while the farmhouse sold at a later date and became a bed and breakfast establishment. If one looks at the structures on the North Glade property, they can only imagine the rolling potato fields that once were the Harvey farm.

The lake provided electrical service to distant customers but offered few activities to residents during the years prior to World War II. Organized events were hardly necessary as the only population center was McHenry, a village settled in the 19th century.

Local folks recall the early days of Deep Creek when only three stores offered goods in McHenry: C.M. Railey's, Glotfelty's, and Hubert Bowman's. They were general merchandisers, while Bowman's also served as a Post Office. Resident Leo Friend reminisced that as a youngster, it was typical for him to walk a distance of three miles to make grocery purchases at McHenry stores where his father had accounts. Mr. Friend's first soda was purchased at Bowman's, and he "bought cherry because it was red." The only boats he observed were small fishing vessels, while other forms of recreation were limited to swimming and ice-skating. As the 1920s ended and the Great Depression wore on, money stayed scarce, the lake area remained sparsely populated, and visitors were infrequent. Leo Friend could see only one house on the opposite side of the lake from McHenry, an area today that bustles with private residences and commercial activity, including Wisp Ski Resort.

Matthew "Matt" Storey, Sr., established one of Deep Creek Lake's first restaurants in 1935. Originally from Brownsville, Pennsylvania, he started the business after purchasing 14 acres of property near McHenry along Route 219. The building was a small, one story structure with "Lunch" painted on a front window. According to Garrett County resident, Sam Storey, his father decided on pursuing the restaurant business because, "family members kept coming over from Brownsville and he got tired of feeding them for free." Sam worked at the restaurant from age seven, waiting on tables. Six siblings also helped at various times. Sandwiches and beer were staple items with local customers. Sam Storey recalled, "Beer cost 15 cents a bottle, two for 25 cents, or seven for \$1.00 to go. Sunday's menu was special because it featured a half chicken, two vegetables



Matt Storey, Sr.'s restaurant, one of Deep Creek Lake's first, was established in 1935. This photo was taken in the early 1950s.

and a drink, for 49 cents. Pie was ten cents extra."

Residents provided Storey's with a customer base, and "any tourists were a plus for our business."

Restaurant work required daily and weekly preparation. Mr. Storey stated, "It was nothing for us to dress 50 chickens on Saturday. We also made our own ice cream. My job was to turn the crank until it was done. When it was ready, we sold it for five cents a dip." The busiest time was Friday because it was typically pay day. Local people tended to congregate there for food and relaxation. "The bar business was steady, even during the winter. Oakland people even came over on a regular basis. We personally knew most of our customers."

Storey's Tavern's appearance didn't change much over the years. "We added restrooms because when we first opened, it had outside toilets," recalled Mr. Storey. Following Matt Storey's death, Bob Storey operated the business for approximately 20 years until it was sold in 1982, thus bringing an end to one of Deep Creek Lake's oldest establishments.

While housing did not significantly increase during the lake's first two decades, a modest start to nightlife began when C.M. Railey built Stone Tavern near McHenry. The tavern was one of the first local establishments to serve alcoholic beverages after prohibition was repealed. It was also a hotspot for square dancing on weekends, as residents would pack the dance floor to enjoy the entertainment provided by live bands. The tavern, a local landmark, was razed in 1969 when the new Deep Creek Bridge was constructed.

STONE TAVERN



Stone Tavern, built in 1932 by Charles Mahlon "C.M." Railey and Edith Merrill Railey, was located by the Deep Creek Lake bridge, built eight years earlier. The Tavern was their second business development following Lakeside Park and Inn, built in 1925, the year Deep Creek Lake was completed.

Stone Tavern was a restaurant, bar, and lively dance hall; it also had a gasoline station, grocery store, and pay telephone. It was one of the first establishments to serve alcoholic beverages once Prohibition was repealed. Stone Tavern was razed in 1969 when the State of Maryland widened U.S. 219 and constructed the new bridge.



Above: Stone Tavern and the Deep Creek Lake Bridge.

Middle: These stone rental cottages overlooking the lake were built by C.M. Railey between 1935 and 1938. They were located across Rt. 219 from Stone Tavern, on the same side as Lakeside Park and Inn.

Bottom: C.M. Railey, holding his granddaughter Beverly, with two of his sons, Jim (left) and Charles "Bud" (Beverly's father). PHOTOS COURTESY BEVERLY RAYLEY ROBINSON



Lakeside Park and Inn (above), constructed in 1925, eventually led the way to Railey's second development, Stone Tavern. The yellow arrow indicates the future location of Stone Tavern in relationship to Lakeside Park and Inn and U.S. 219.



Cabin Lodge, constructed in the 1930s, began as an ice cream stand, then a souvenir shop, and then a restaurant. It was one of the busiest nightlife spots at Deep Creek Lake. Eddie and Louise Fry operated the business.

Today, Cabin Lodge Grill resides at the location of Cabin Lodge, next door to Lakeside Creamery and Deep Creek Donuts.



PHOTO BY ANNIE WHETZEL



PHOTO BY DAN WHETZEL

Adjacent to Cabin Lodge was Thayer's Barn, used as an actual barn before the Lake was filled. It was later converted into a restaurant and "roadhouse" in the 1930s and 40s.

Today, this empty lot along Garrett Highway (Rt. 219) is the site of the former Thayer's Barn — just north of Lakeside Creamery and Deep Creek Donuts.

Tom Thayer of Oakland recalls Rainbow Inn as being one of the prominent commercial establishments outside of McHenry, at the lake during the late 1930s. The busiest nightlife spot according to Mr. Thayer, however, was Cabin Lodge, where free shrimp on Wednesday nights caused patrons to "drink mountains of beer to cool off the shrimp; they really made out on that." Cabin Lodge was appropriately named, as it was constructed of logs in the early 1930s; Eddie and Louise Fry operated the business. Adjacent to Cabin Lodge was Thayer's Barn; a typical agricultural structure that was built before the lake was created but later converted to a restaurant and a "roadhouse." Tom Thayer remembers several other barns around Deep Creek that were converted to entertainment spots including Arden's Boat Club in McHenry, McComa's Beach on Red Run, and Blue Barn on Beckman's Peninsula, where a summer theatre operated for a number of years.

The beverage of choice for lake revelers was beer, and a special cap on Garrett County beer bottles was required because of a tax levied by the county. Tom Thayer stated, "People would go to West Virginia to buy their beer to save the tax. Supposedly, West Virginia beer was only 3.2%, but everybody would sneak up to Terra Alta on Friday evening to buy a case of beer and bring it home."

JOHNNY'S BAIT HOUSE

Leaving early Deep Creek nightlife behind, let's make our next stop at Johnny's Bait House, located along Route 219, south of McHenry. Scarce is the fisherman who did not stop to consult with Johnny about water conditions and "what the fish were hitting." It could be said, without exaggeration, that visits to Johnny's Bait House became a rite of summer for many vacationers.

John Marple began his business as a youngster in a modest way, selling night crawlers from an old washtub along Route 219, for 20 cents a dozen. The washtub marketing enterprise lasted a couple of summers until Mr. Marple's father constructed a 3'x5' building that enabled the young entrepreneur to offer customers hooks and tackle to supplement live bait sales. A subsequent improvement was moving the business location to a dock on the lake where keeping minnows was possible. A small building on the



PHOTO COURTESY JAY FERGUSON



Johnny Marple

Johnny's Bait House, owned by Johnny Marple, was a staple at Deep Creek Lake for over five decades. A variety of goods and services were provided including bottled gas, fishing boat rentals, and boat repairs. There was also a lakeside dock at the site (inset). The business was sold in 2002.

Today, this is the location of the former Johnny's Bait House. It is directly across Rt. 219 from Bill's Marine Service main office.



PHOTO BY DAN WHITZEL

dock housed tackle and additional boating supplies his customers requested. Following a two-year stint in the military, Mr. Marple returned to Garrett County, purchased lakeside property, and constructed a small building that was to be the basis of his business over the next five decades. Over that time period, a variety of goods and services were provided including bottled gas, fishing boat rentals, and boat repairs. Mr. Marple recalled that in the 1950s and 1960s, most customers were from the Pittsburgh area, but from that time forward visitors increasingly came from the northern Virginia and Washington-Baltimore suburbs.

One promotion that attracted customers to his store was "Johnny's Bait House Fishing Contest," a joint effort of Mr. Marple and the former Garrett County Promotion Council. "I would give them (fishing contest winners) a silver dollar for the largest fish of the week, and it got customers into my store. I would relay the weekly winners' names to the council, and they would have it printed in the newspapers. We ran that about 40 years, and it turned

out pretty good. I really handled a lot of fish during that time." Not content to weigh and measure other people's catch of the day, he also angled from his dock several times a week as a form of sport and relaxation. "I always did say that you would never need a psychiatrist if you fished. I solved a lot of problems from that dock." Mr. Marple noticed over the years that yellow perch was the



The original swan (left) and the rebuilt swan (right).



Noel Obenshain
1906 – 1994

THE SWAN BOAT

Noel Obenshain's creative idea, and one that would attract attention for decades, was a swan boat that glided across Deep Creek Lake carrying passengers of all ages. Mr. Obenshain's initial inspiration was quickly transferred into action and the swan made her Deep Creek Lake debut on July 1, 1964.

The design of the 21-foot swan boat contained novel ideas. Running lights were incorporated into the eye sockets — red for port and green for starboard. The swan's head and neck stretched 14½ feet in height and had the ability to lower when approaching the bridges. Air horns were also mounted near the swan's bill, and when sounded, the mouth opened as if voicing. More conventional aspects of the swan

included a 40-horse power, 2-cycle engine that was housed in the tail, providing speeds of up to 12 knots and a passenger load of eight adults.

For more than two decades, afternoons were the most likely times to spot the swan. Unfortunately, the swan's excursions became less frequent as the years passed, and by 1990, they ended altogether.

The Larry Madson family rescued the swan many years later and entrusted her to Ervin Sweitzer of Grantsville, Maryland, to rebuild the entire boat, taking it apart to make a pattern (the outside sections were damaged or completely rotten). The gear box and its motor were replaced by a stronger and more modern system as well as other improvements and the swan was relaunched on Deep Creek Lake during the summer of 2005.

dominant species in the lake, although it also produced nice size blue gills. "The lake has never been a pay lake where you throw a line in and catch fish; you have to work at it."

Johnny's Bait House sales grew with the increased traffic to the county. At first, there were a few summer cottages to attract vacationers, some without roads to them. "People used to come and enjoy the mountains, water, and lake. People also came to take a boat ride for one dollar. Not many people had boats back then." According to Mr. Marple, growth remained steady at the lake until sewage services became available and then major development occurred because condominiums could be accommodated on lake-side property. Another significant change occurred when Johnny's Bait House was sold in early 2002. Mr. Marple indicated the new owner offered to keep the store name,

but he "decided it was time for Johnny's Bait House to end." It was a good run.

BOWMAN'S MARINA

Reflections of Deep Creek businesses would not be complete without Bowman's Marina, a popular stop for boating enthusiasts. The marina's owner, Charles H. "Skeeter" Bowman, started boating early "when two logs were nailed together with old scrap boards, and we propelled it by using long poles." Mr. Bowman grew up in McHenry on the family farm, now the site of Garrett County Fairgrounds. "My dad had this farm, and we milked the cows by hand, and my job was to bottle the milk, in glass bottles, and carry it to a cold spring, and then deliver it to cottages in our area of the lake." Mr. Bowman's father also operated the local Post Office and a general store, so other business opportunities became available including fishing boat



Charles H. "Skeeter" Bowman
1925 – 2014
and wife, **Mary Lillian Bowman**
1929 – 2019



Top: View of Bowman's Marina from the lake.

Middle: Early aerial photo of Deep Creek Lake, McHenry area, highlighting Bowman's Marina.

Bottom: The marina today, owned by Bill's Marine Service.

PHOTO COURTESY BILL'S MARINE SERVICE

After World War II, Skeeter Bowman returned to Garrett County and resumed the boat rental business. In 1952, it was decided that a marina in McHenry offered business opportunities, so Bowman's Marina was born. After two decades, the Bowman's decided to sell the business to semi-retire.

Bowman's Marina was bought by Carlton Bohrer and Gerald Perry in 1972. They retained the original name until 1981 or 1982 when the marina was bought by Charles Rusky and became Crystal Waters Marina.

In 1984, Joida V. Sherwood and Robert Browning purchased the marina, changing the name to Quality Marine.

Bill's Marine Service acquired the marina in 2005 for their North Rental Location. Along with their main office at 20721 Garrett Highway, they continue to operate the marina today.

rentals, the first such service on Deep Creek Lake. Skeeter Bowman purchased a few wooden fishing boats in the mid-1930s and continued to offer them for rental until the start of World War II. “There really wasn’t much to McHenry at that time, just a few country stores and a few residences.”

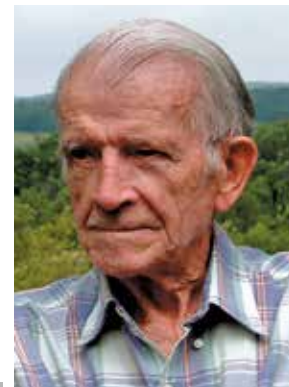
Skeeter Bowman was always fascinated with flying, so he enlisted in the Army Air Corp after World War II was under way. Following military duty on Tinian, and bombing missions over Japan, he returned to Garrett County and resumed the boat rental business. In 1952, it was decided that a marina in McHenry offered business opportunities, so Bowman’s Marina was born. It offered a full line of boats and a spectrum of boating supplies including Johnson Outboard Motors and Chriss Craft wooden boats. In those days, boats were constructed from wood, a labor-intensive boating material. “Refinishing boats kept us busy in the winter,” recalled Mr. Bowman. After two decades of marina ownership, the Bowman’s decided to sell the business in 1972, to become semi-retired.

The marina occupied much of his time, but Mr. Bowman’s passion for flying aircraft had the added benefit of providing vacationers with an alternative means of arriving at Deep Creek—flying in by single engine aircraft. A portion of the Bowman farm was developed as an airfield, on a site now occupied by the fairgrounds, and vacationers from Pittsburgh would fly in for weekend visits. The airstrip also provided the entrepreneur with his own airline service to metropolitan areas. “I used to joke that I had the first airfreight service in the area because I would fly to Baltimore and pick up boating supplies and stack them in my plane.” The one-day supply service provided speedy service to marina customers.

MATT STOREY’S BOAT FACTORY

Long time visitors also recall Matt Storey’s Marina, located along Route 219 in McHenry. Mr. Storey not only sold and rented boats, but he learned to build them as well. “I went to Florida and got a job in a boat factory; that’s where I learned how to make boats.” Following service in the Coast Guard, Mr. Storey decided to locate a business at Deep Creek and put his carpentry skills to the test. Boats in those days were made from oak and plywood, and special precautions had to be taken for swelling and shrinkage caused by water. Mr. Storey saw a potential market for boat sales on the lake because the product was not plentiful before the war, but a revitalized national economy after the conflict promised economic growth and more affluent consumers.

Storey’s boats were designed for fishermen and came in two lengths, 12 and 14 feet. Deep Creek’s first boat factory was located in an old chicken coop along the water, and he generally had one employee during that time. Boat building only lasted about three years as large companies began to enter



Matt Storey
1920 – 2005



Matt Storey’s chicken coop — Deep Creek Lake’s first boat factory.

the market and mass-produce them, making boat sales and rentals a more profitable enterprise. He became a franchised outboard Mercury dealer and a showroom dealer for many boat companies. “I would go to a boat show every year and order new boats. I had many different lines of boats over the years.” Mr. Storey found that after 20 years, the lake and business was growing too quickly. “It just became too big, and I decided to sell it,” thus ending an important link between Deep Creek and recreational boating.

Fred Thayer’s earliest memories of Deep Creek Lake can be traced to 1938 when his father rented a small cottage, south of the Glendale Bridge, along Glendale Road. Thayer’s rented cottage, and several others, had been relocated from the coal mining town of Vindex, a present day ghost town near Kitzmiller, Maryland. Cottages were virtually the only camping option offered to vacationers at that time since motels and campgrounds for tents were not yet available. Summer cottages remained primitive as they lacked heat and other amenities. One vivid memory of those camping days was the appearance of motorboats. “Motorboats were so scarce that if we heard one, everybody would come out to see. It was an event,” recalled Mr. Thayer. The first motorboat the Thayer family witnessed was a white model, owned by Dr. McComas, who cleverly dubbed his craft, “Samoc.” “There was only an occasional pleasure boater but a lot of fisherman that used the lake for recreation. No one ever heard of water skiing back in those days.” According to Mr. Thayer, there would be an occasional swimming meet or boat-racing contest, but such events tended to be sporadic.

FLYING SCOT®



Flying Scot #2 on Deep Creek Lake.

Over forty years of sailing and marine construction experience prepared Gordon K. "Sandy" Douglass to produce his most successful design, the Flying Scot®, a Sailing Hall of Fame design. Each Flying Scot is hand-crafted with the highest quality materials and methods and designed for speed. The boat's low displacement and flat, tapered profile in the stern allow it to "plane" — a nautical term that conjures up images of flying as the boat swiftly skims the water's surface.

Sandy Douglass launched the Gordon Douglass Boat Co., Inc. in 1956 in Ohio, but moved the business to Oakland, MD in 1957. Eric Ammann joined the company in Ohio and then moved to Oakland when the company relocated. In 1971, Sandy sold the business to Eric and Mary Ammann, who continued the tradition of quality and personal service. Harry and Karen Carpenter purchased the business in 1991 when the Ammann's retired. They changed the name to Flying Scot, Inc. and continued to build the best boat possible and provide exceptional customer service.

Since 2019, Carrie and Tyler Andrews (Harry and Karen's daughter and son-in-law) own and operate the business at the factory in Deer Park, MD. Flying Scot, Inc. remains solid as a family business in the Deep Creek Lake area.

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS COURTESY FLYING SCOT, INC.; COLOR PHOTOS BY LANCE BELL



Eric Ammann at the helm.



First factory in Oakland, MD.



Current factory in Deer Park, MD.

While marinas, boats, and related fishing goods provided business opportunities for lake entrepreneurs; Grace King is able to reflect on a time when the word “Lake” was not attached to the title. Having moved there in 1919 from Red House, she and her father would frequently cross the stream, called Deep Creek, on a bridge where Johnny’s Bait House would later be built. She remembers one occasion when her father returned from a sale to find the stream flooding the bridge, preventing folks from crossing and creating general concern. Remnants of the road that Mrs. King traveled on are now located under the water between the former Johnny’s Bait House and Rock Lodge Road. Another vivid memory of pre-lake days is when her family was able to “pack up the old Ford on a Sunday” and visit the construction site of the dam where intake tunnels were being dug through the mountain. Her brother supervised the family’s tour of the massive tunnels, as he was employed there as a construction worker during 1924-1925.

As time passed, Grace King married and established a residence on the hill that overlooked the old bridge and road site. In 1946, the King’s decided to build a small cottage for friends who requested visits to the lake. Mrs. King recalled “friends didn’t visit too frequently, and when they did, they stayed in our house; I put a board out near the road with ‘Cottage For Rent’ written on it.” Her marketing efforts proved to be successful, as she rented the cottage for \$5.00 the first night. Over the next few years, they purchased additional cottages for vacationers and seasonal workers. Mrs. King maintained her rental properties without assistance from 1964 forward, as her husband passed away that year. Visitors came from all over the United States, and even foreign lands, to stay at the summer cottages. After 56 years of hospitality work, a decision was made to sell the property and move to nearby West Virginia, close to her birthplace. Even after five decades of general inflation and real estate appreciation at Deep Creek, Mrs. King’s 2002 cottage fee was still a reasonable \$65.00 per night. Not one to regret decisions, Mrs. King said it was time to move on, to enjoy the country atmosphere of Aurora, West Virginia.

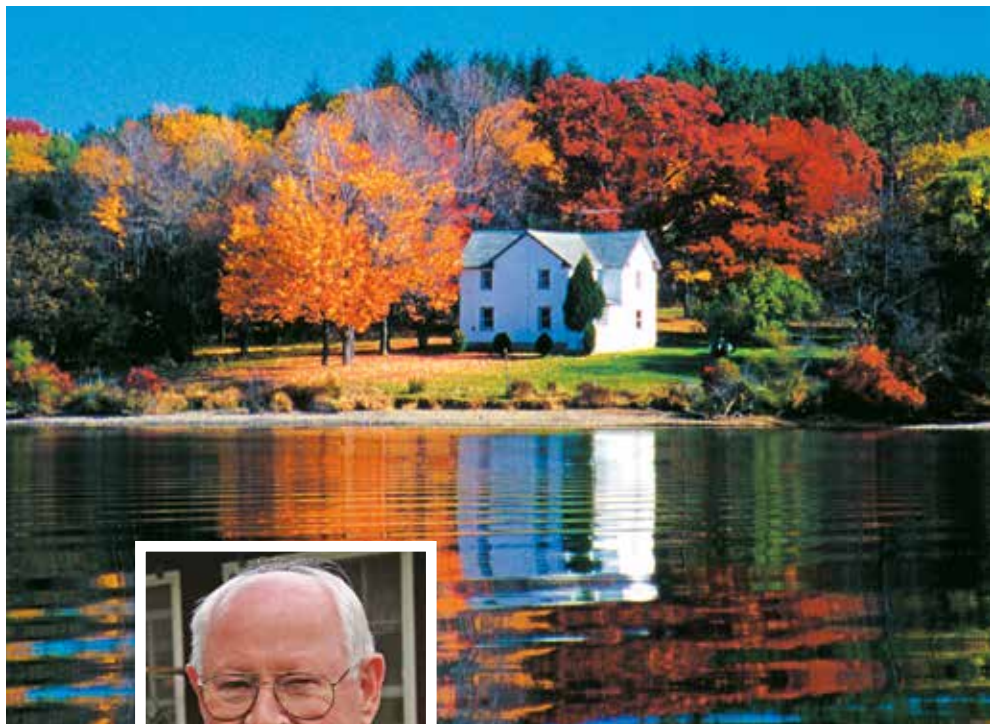
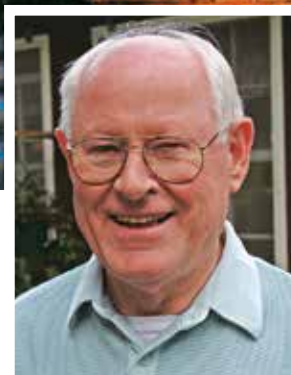


PHOTO BY LANCE BELL



Rev. William Melody
1929 – 2015

HOLY CROSS HOUSE

As residents recall early establishments at Deep Creek, one location mentioned but little understood, is Holy Cross House. To recollect the genesis of Holy Cross House, one has to turn

the clock back to 1930 when Pennsylvania Electric Power Corporation was approached about selling lakefront property to the Congregation of Holy Cross religious order of the Roman Catholic Church, for the purposes of constructing a retreat for seminarians studying at Holy Cross College in Washington, D.C. The power company proved to be reluctant about the sale because it didn’t desire to become embroiled in real estate development issues, a concern that proved to be unwarranted as the men who purchased the property desired “a place of retreat,” not economic development, as long time visitor and Holy Cross Priest, Reverend William Melody, recalled. The land originally belonged to the Lohr family prior to the lake’s construction, and according to Father Melody, Mrs. Lohr wanted to move from the homestead, as she believed the rising waters near the house threatened the safety of her children. The waters inundated much of the farm, leaving 36 acres of the original tract for occupation by the priests and brothers of Holy Cross. Father Melody stated the potential purchase received criticism within the order at the time. “What are they doing, wasting money during the Great Depression, on a barren hill in Western Maryland?” Despite opposition, the property, including the Lohr house, was deeded to the order for \$3,000.

The facilities were built primarily by Holy Cross men who lived in tents during the first few years. The first building to be completed was the lodge during the summers of 1930-1932, followed by the



The Lodge at Holy Cross was the first building to be completed during the summers of 1930-1932. PHOTO BY DAN WHETZEL



The Chapel, completed in 1937, featured wormy chestnut wood and a warm, rustic atmosphere. PHOTO CIRCA 1940



The Holy Cross Peninsula was purchased in 2003 and is now The Reserve at Holy Cross, an exclusive lakeside community with 31 homesites. PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

dining hall in 1932, and the chapel in 1937. According to Father Melody, the seminarians and priests used the skills they had, and the skills they could read about, to build stone and wooden buildings on the site that were enjoyed for more than 78 years. Father Craddick, who had a degree in architecture from Notre Dame, designed the chapel that featured wormy chestnut wood and a warm, rustic atmosphere appropriate to the purposes of a retreat facility. Father Wojciechowski built the altar, while Father Paul Beichner carved Stations of the Cross that adorned the chapel walls. Father Beichner went on to become head of the graduate school at Notre Dame for a number of years.



One of the hand-carved Stations of the Cross that adorned the chapel walls.

PHOTO BY DAN WHETZEL

A number of other prominent church officials also enjoyed the beauty of Holy Cross House at Deep Creek including: Father Theodore Hesburgh, President of Notre Dame for 35 years, Archbishop Heston, pastor of a congregation in Rome, Archbishop Graner of Bangladesh, and Father Patrick Peyton, known as the Rosary Priest. "A World At Prayer Is A World At Peace," a well-known admonition, is among Father Peyton's credits. "There were great stories of great men here. Many of them left and went to the missions in India, Bangladesh, South America, and Africa, where they built churches and also established services like sinking wells, building schools and hospitals, and educating."

Not all Holy Cross House activities have been directly related to Biblical studies, but they have always had spiritual and recreational qualities of

undeniable benefit. “Our men were great athletes. We challenged the local towns around here to baseball contests,” stated Father Melody. The Holy Cross team would pile into the back of an old truck and make the journeys to Oakland, Deer Park, Crellin, Terra Alta, Westernport, Morgantown, and Kitzmiller. Holy Cross would, in turn, host the teams at their Deep Creek setting. Additional information on the games was provided in a 1996 report written by Father John Paige. According to the report, Father Kehoe, who played shortstop, remembered “the Holy Cross team was dubbed the All-Stars because their uniforms were used by all teams at Holy Cross and were all different. Local teams would bring in ‘ringers’ and consolidate all the best players from surrounding teams to play us. There were good crowds for the games. It was quite a social pastime for the small towns, and for us.” Father Melody concurred, “People remember those games and the spirited contests and fellowship.”

Seminarians, priests, and brothers also provided the general population of Deep Creek with weekly spiritual renewal after they made the improbable purchase of a surplus U.S. Navy lifeboat, complete with canned rations. Father Melody reflects, “We used to go down at night singing Gregorian chants, American hymns, and ‘God Bless America;’ it was a weekly thing, and people would be out on their porches waiting for the choir to come by. It was still going strong in the late 40s. We had a great choir.” During an earlier time, Father Houser reported a similar experience. “We would line up the main boat that the men built; we put a Buick motor into it, and behind that, a sailboat and 3 canoes. We tied them together in a long string and that Buick motor pulled everything. We sang the old songs, and we heard from the people that lived along the stretch of the lake that they just waited for Wednesday nights to hear us in the boats singing.”



CARMELITE RELIGIOUS RETREAT

Mountain Lake Park resident, Ray Mattingly, recalled a similar Carmelite religious retreat located along the Glendale Road. Land for a facility was purchased in 1945, when Harland and May Beckman sold 56.3 acres to the order for \$3,000. Mr. Mattingly’s mail carrying duties in the 1950s brought greetings from Carmelite men recently assembled at the community, fostering conversations and friend-

ship. Approximately 20 Carmelites, a religious order of the Roman Catholic Church that stresses service and contemplation, enjoyed the summer facility, “staying very



Carmelite religious retreat in the mid-1940s — Carmelites take a break from construction (left) and during a service in the completed chapel (right).



Today, Carmel Cove Inn is set in the former Carmelite religious retreat surrounded by 2 acres of peaceful woods. The ten-bedroom lodging house is perfect for family gatherings or corporate retreats.

PHOTO BY ANNIE WHETZEL



Ray Mattingly

much to themselves. They would travel about sometimes on bicycles but generally stayed at the retreat," recalled Mr. Mattingly.

Carmelites lived a communal life that discouraged material possessions. To support such a lifestyle, the men lived in one, long building, about 24 x 80 feet. One room was devoted

to worship; others for daily necessities. Another small building, located east of the main structure, was known as the "fasting shed," a place where only water was available to the Carmelites during special devotions. In-common features of the Carmelite lifestyle included wearing sandals, instead of shoes, and eating in silence. Carmelites also enjoyed assembling under trees, on small seats, to read and meditate, in keeping with their reflective attitude. According to Mr. Mattingly, "There would be one fellow under one tree, and others scattered around. They often spent their time in studies and contemplation."

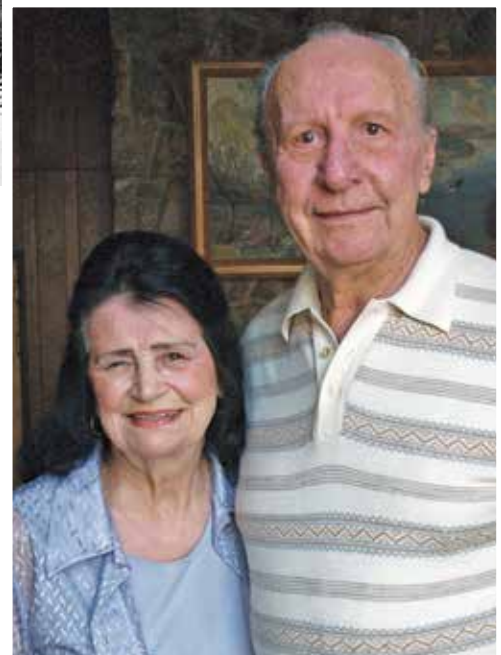
Daily visits and conversations led to an ecumenical exchange, with Carmelites attending Mr. Mattingly's

Lutheran service, and an invitation being extended to the Mattingly family for supper at the retreat. "As I recall, the head priest was from Spain, and he didn't use a lot of sweets but my wife, Betty, took along a German chocolate cake. Several days later a Carmelite friend came out and said that my wife was paid a high compliment. 'Even though we eat in silence; the head priest had a second helping of cake. That's about as high a compliment as you can get.' According to Mr. Mattingly, the Carmelites abandoned the retreat sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s. In more recent years, the facility was converted to a mountain lodge, Carmel Cove Inn.

WISP SKI RESORT

In the same area where turkeys and cows once enjoyed freedom to move about is Wisp Ski Resort, a well-known winter vacation destination, established by Helmuth "Ace" and Evelyn Heise, in 1955. The genesis for a Deep Creek Ski Resort can be traced to a visit by the Heises to Davis, West Virginia, where a successful slope was in operation by the early 1950s. Having purchased Will O' the Wisp Motel in 1952, from his father, Gustav Heise, they soon realized winter activities needed to be established at Deep Creek Lake to augment the summer tourist trade. That need became a reality when the Heises' only earned \$13.00 in

WISP SKI RESORT



**Evelyn Heise
1928 – 2016
and Helmuth “Ace” Heise
1927 – 2009**

**Top photo: A very young Wisp Ski Resort.
Top inset: In the early years a small shack with a
potbellied stove served as the “lodge.”
Left inset: Mr. Heise (center) giving pointers to
a group of skiers ready for the slopes.**

PHOTOS COURTESY MARTIN HEISE

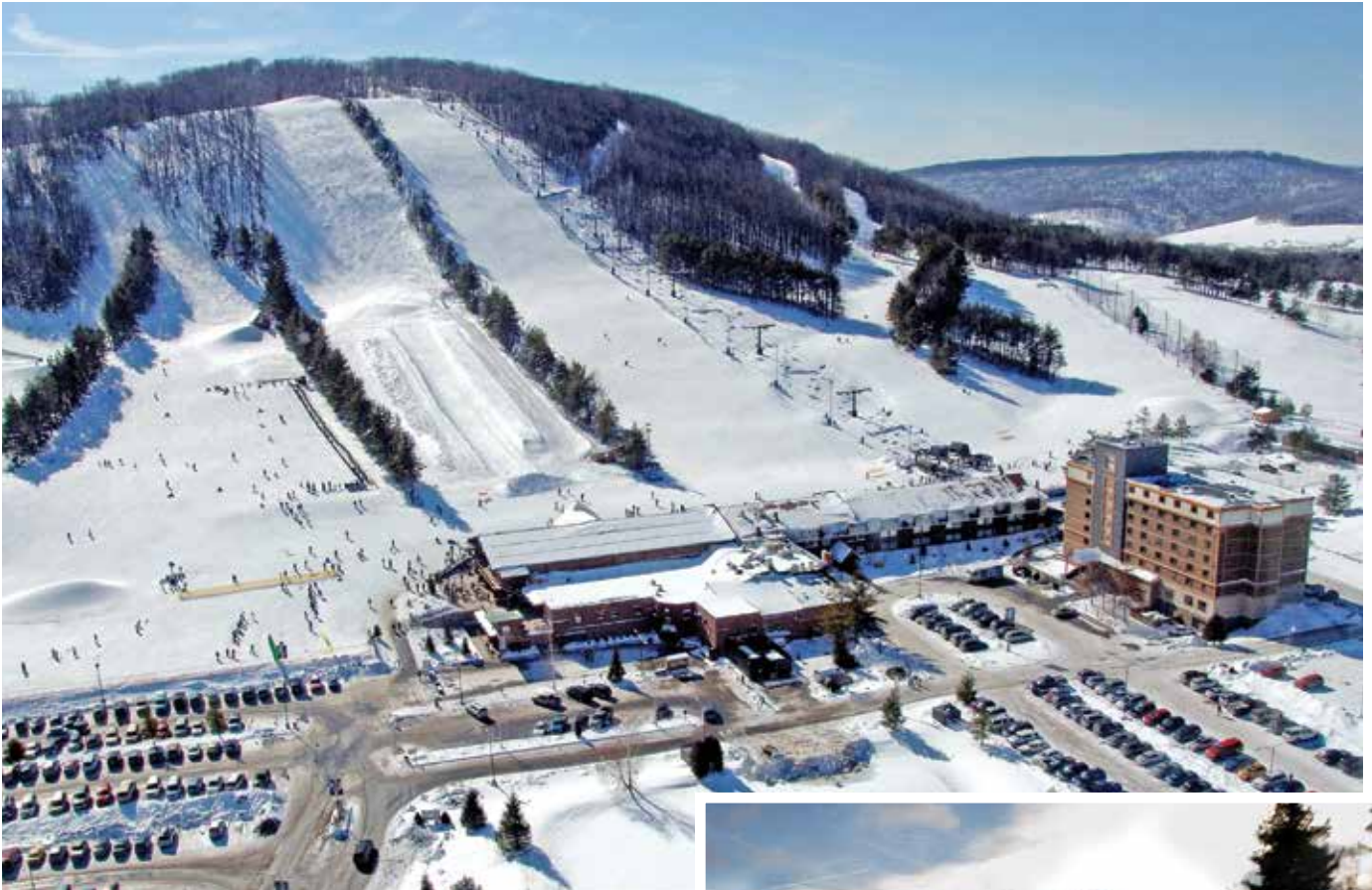


PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

revenue during the first February in business, and according to Mr. Heise, “that was because two cars got stuck along the road in a snow storm and couldn’t get to Oakland.” Following up on their idea, the Heises were able to secure a lease in 1955, from Webster Brenneman, on land located in McHenry. Their new enterprise was called Marsh Mountain Ski Area. A change in business partners by 1956 prompted the Heises’, and a few associates, to rename the enterprise “Wisp,” because it was associated with Will O’ the Wisp they already owned.

The first year of the ski resort saw a small shack with a potbellied stove serving as a “lodge,” and cows were there while people were skiing down the slope,” recalled Mrs. Heise. “I would cook the food on my stove at Will O’ the Wisp and take it down there. We had to build a kitchen, so we could have food at the site. The next year, we would build something else or buy a ski lift. We were always building and promoting.” The Heises’ entrepreneurial instincts proved to be reliable, and skiers trekked in increasing numbers to the resort, including those on a B&O train that traveled from Maryland metropolitan areas to Oakland. Wisp continued to grow over the decades, and facilities were enlarged several times to meet the expanding winter tourist and ski trade. The resort remained under the Heises’ ownership until 2001.



Today, Wisp offers a variety of winter sports — skiing, snowboarding, tubing, mountain coaster and more. Summer sports and activities are also available for year round fun!

PHOTOS COURTESY WISP RESORT



WILL O' THE WISP RESORT

Ace and Evelyn Heise had to balance winter business at the Wisp with year round operations of Will O' the Wisp Resort. Dr. Bullard, a local dentist, started the camp in the 1930s, soon after Deep Creek Lake was created, by building 23 batten board cabins. The cabins, some with potbelly stoves, were only intended for summer rental. One of the original, rustic cottages had been improved in the 1940s, by adding exterior stonework, and it became their home during the first year of ownership. Mr. Heise stated, "We went from wood cabins to a 10 unit motel; then we started to develop the rest of it.

Two prominent guests from the metropolitan area who became key supporters of Heise's development efforts were Maryland Governor, Theodore McKeldin, and Economic Development Director, Earle Poorbaugh. "They were so happy we were doing something in Garrett County. The Governor and Mr. Poorbaugh helped us a lot because people began to know where we were. We didn't have much money so we couldn't advertise," recalled Mrs. Heise.

According to Martin Heise, son of Ace and Evelyn, the Governor and Economic Director became friends with the family and would visit frequently. While friendship with government officials helped to spread the word about Will O' the Wisp, it was not government programs or money that built it, but rather a strong work ethic and determination. As Martin remarked, "Father and Grandfather didn't hire a contractor; they actually built it."



Top to bottom: The original batten board cabins from the 1930s (top left) at Will O' the Wisp Resort were originally only intended for summer use.

Helmuth "Ace" and Evelyn Heise constructed a 10-unit motel in 1953 at the site of the original cabins (top right).

In 1962, Four Seasons Restaurant, known for its fine food and lake views, was added to Will O' the Wisp Resort. *PHOTOS COURTESY MARTIN HEISE*

A dramatic change at Will O' the Wisp occurred in 1975 when the 10 original motel units were replaced by The Prestige Condominiums, a seven-floor complex featuring an indoor pool, game room, exercise facility, sandy beach and more. *PHOTO BY LANCE BELL*



The old empty boathouse on the Will O' the Wisp property (left), was recently razed, but both timber and stone were saved for reuse.

Brenda McDonnell, Martin Heise's wife, turned that space into a beautiful new building (below) to feature the property's expansive views of the lake. Firewater Kitchen and Bar was completed and open for business in 2021. Inside, patrons can sit at a long, four-sided bar, or at tables positioned in front of the windows. On the decks, outdoor tables and comfortably-cushioned chairs provide flexible seating arrangements. Flames flicker in a 32-foot-long, glass-enclosed fire pit outside and from a smaller one inside.



PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN

The only subcontracted labor was tile work. The 10-unit motel was completed, and subsequent additions developed the expanse of lakeside property along Route 219, including the Four Seasons Dining Room, added in 1962. Care was taken during construction to create an ambiance within Will O' the Wisp, reflecting the outdoor beauty Garrett County has always offered vacationers. Oak wood, harvested from Wisp property, graces the restaurant and complements the beautiful exterior and interior stonework of the resort. Guests benefit from more than five decades of planning and responding to unforeseen economic conditions that marked the Heises' success and service to

Garrett County. "It was a lot of hard work," summarized Mrs. Heise.

The Four Seasons Dining Room is now known as Ace's Run Restaurant & Pub (to honor Helmuth "Ace" Heise) having been remodeled and expanded, but continuing the original beauty and ambiance of the property.

Will O' the Wisp continued expanding the location in 2021 by opening Firewater Kitchen and Bar with indoor and outdoor seating at lakeside. Additional docks have been added for the convenience of boaters visiting Ace's Run and Firewater.

Over the years, old Deep Creek gave way to a newer version, and summer cottages faded away as large, multi-use facilities replaced them. The first condominium near the lake was built in 1970, by four partners including Tom Thayer. It was not entirely certain that such an enterprise would be successful, so the unusual name, “Four Hoopole South,” was born. “We called it ‘Four’ because there were four partners, ‘Hoopole’ because that is what the area was called, and ‘South’ because that was where we were going if it failed,” reminisced Mr. Thayer. Needless to say, the first condominium proved to be successful, and others soon followed. Thayer believes that development of Interstate 68 provided the impetus for lake growth as vacationers from the Washington, D.C., suburbs found the lake to be a convenient four-season retreat.

Not all recollections on our trip down memory lane are of places; some are noteworthy events like the marathon swimming races that occurred in 1939 and 1940. According to Tom Thayer, contestant, the race was organized through the efforts of well-known swimming coach, Joe Sollars. It was reported that a crowd of 5,000 persons witnessed the four-mile event between Cabin Lodge and Stone Tavern, including hundreds of parked motorists along Route 219, who would move their vehicles to keep pace with the swimmers. “I was 13 years of age in 1939, and I entered the race against my mother’s wishes but at my father’s urging. I was second that year. A fellow named John Nelson, from New York, was first. The second year, 1940, I entered it again and won it, beating John Nelson.” Tom Thayer’s time was 2 hours and 12 minutes, and his prize was a wristwatch, donated by Shaffer Jewelry Company of Oakland.



In 1940, 14-year-old Tom “RT” Thayer (center) won the Deep Creek Lake marathon swimming race. The race was a 4-mile event between Cabin Lodge and Stone Tavern. His time was 2 hours and 12 minutes and his prize was a wristwatch.



Halsey’s Snack Bar was begun in 1941 by World War I veteran, Ogilvie Halsey. He was born in Manhattan, New York City and married Blanche Jane Green of Swanton, Maryland. They raised a daughter and five sons while running Halsey’s Snack Bar and Lakeside Park along U.S. 219 between McHenry and the Deep Creek Lake bridge. Customers could rent a boat, go fishing or have a snack at the popular snack bar.



Known to many as the “Pink Store,” The Trading Post was a Deep Creek Lake Landmark that delighted all ages with a variety of trinkets and souvenirs. It was a family business that began operating in the early 1950s.

Today, this area is home to Brenda’s Pizzeria, Trader’s Coffee House and High Mountain Sports.

NEW PHOTO BY DAN WHETZEL



Another unusual event during the 1940s was ice boat sailing. A small group of men built the boats as a hobby, as they enjoyed gliding across the lake at high speeds. Frank Beckman, the youngest member of the group, credits four older men with getting him started in the sport. They were: “Pip” Thayer, “Shorty” Long, “Buzz” Gosnell, and Lonnie Long. The boats were of wood construction and featured three runners, two in the front and one under the seat. Mr. Beckman recalls, “The sails were about 10 or 12 feet, and you would have to duck when the sail turned around. Winds would come down from the mountain and you would really fly across the ice.” Homemade ice boat sailing lasted about five years; later such boats were commercially produced and offered for sale at Deep Creek.

There are many memories of the Deep Creek Lake area that help us to create a picture of what life was like during a different era; a time when community was defined not only by place but also by friendships built over long periods of time. Reflections about the past help us capture a moment in time when Deep Creek Lake exhibited little commercial development and life was simpler. The keen observation that one can never go home is true because change is a constant that we all live with, but reminiscing about the past helps us better connect with the present and establish a sense of community that is important in building a better future.

Miller House Museum in Hagerstown, Maryland Celebrates the 200th Anniversary of the Price Miller House

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**

THE HOUSE IS OFTEN CALLED THE PRICE MILLER HOUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ITS BUILDER, WILLIAM PRICE, AS WELL AS THE MILLER FAMILY WHO DONATED IT TO THE WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



PHOTO COURTESY MILLER HOUSE MUSEUM

The handsome red-brick Price Miller House in Hagerstown was built 200 years ago on one of the original lots laid out and sold by Jonathan Hager. Since 1966 it has been the headquarters of the Washington County Historic Society. This is fitting since the site and the house have been part of the development of Hagerstown and Washington County from the area's early colonial days.



Jonathan Hager, a German immigrant and very early non-Native American arrival, made significant contributions to Washington County, especially Hagerstown. In 1739-1740 he bought land and built Hager's Fancy, a sturdy stone house that stands today in Hagerstown's City Park, to serve as a combination home, fort, and trading post.

By the 1760s, Hager had acquired thousands of acres of land to establish a town, which he called Elizabethtowne, in honor of his late wife, but which later was officially named Hagerstown. The lots he laid out were large, about 80 x 240 feet, because they were expected to accommodate housing, wells, outbuildings, animals, gardens, and possibly businesses. A plat of these lots is displayed in the Miller House Museum.

In 1775, Hager died when he was crushed by a log that slipped and fell on him as he was helping to build a church. This was just a year before Washington County separated from Frederick County, becoming the first county in the United States to be named for George Washington.

Some of the beautiful features of the Price Miller House include the famous "floating" staircase, this and several other original fireplaces, and a portrait of William Price, who had the house built in 1825.

PHOTOS BY MARY REISINGER

Also in 1775, Peter Bell, Jr., was born. Hagerstown had developed a thriving trade in earthenware production, and Bell learned pottery making from his youth. In 1802, Bell purchased half of lot 91, one of Hager's original lots, and its buildings. Bell's family lived on the second floor of their

two-story house, and he operated his pottery business from the ground level. By 1823, Bell's half of lot 91 was sold at auction to settle a debt. He moved to the Shenandoah Valley, where he and his four sons were all noted potters. At the site of his earlier home in Hagerstown, the Miller House Museum displays a large collection of the distinctive pieces made by Bell and his sons.

William Price won the bid for the half lot and replaced the potter's home and workshop with an impressive neoclassical building to serve as his family's home and his law office.

What came to be known as the Price Miller House featured 11-foot ceilings, a cantilevered staircase, a fireplace made of local stone, and beautiful furnishings. It was completed in 1825; this year the museum is celebrating its 200th anniversary.

William Price and his wife Sarah had seven children before her death in 1839. Price married Marion Bruce in 1842 and they had four children. Price performed many public services, including laying out a major road and promoting the building of a canal. In 1844, Price sold his Hagerstown home and moved to Cumberland and then to Baltimore, where he continued his legal work and his involvement in political matters. He was appointed U.S. District Attorney for Maryland by President Lincoln in 1862. One of Price's daughters married William Beverly Clarke, who became Price's law partner. Two of Price's sons fought on opposite sides of the Civil War, another died on a naval mission to Japan, and his youngest son, Bruce, became a famous architect. Bruce Price's daughter was etiquette expert Emily Price Post.



After the Price family's departure, another lawyer, Alexander Neill II, bought the Hagerstown house in 1844. He, his son Alexander III, and his grandson Alexander IV all lived and practiced law there. The Neill family redecorated to the tastes of the day and added such amenities as gas chandeliers, a telephone, and radiant heat. The Neills were active in the community. Alexander III was president of Hagerstown Bank, and Alexander IV helped to start the Washington County Historical Society.

During these years, Hagerstown came to be known as the Hub City because several train lines coming into the city resembled spokes on a wheel. Hagerstown had always been at the center of trade and transportation, beginning with its location at the intersection of north/south and east/west trails. In the 1860s, Hagerstown found itself in the center of the Civil War. The Battle of Hagerstown was fought between Confederates retreating from Gettysburg and Union forces that wanted to capture their supply wagons. The fighting, which took place on city streets, was mostly conducted on horseback by cavalry soldiers. One Union soldier used his bugle to fend off a Confederate swordsman. A civilian art teacher, on a rooftop to sketch the battle, was killed, probably by a stray bullet. In the end, Union forces withdrew to



The Miller House Museum owns three artifacts from George Washington, including a tiny traveling salt dispenser. The lovely bronze gown was worn by Sarah Ann Resh at her wedding in 1863. Local lore identifies this chest as the strongbox used to deliver the ransom to the Confederate soldiers, but there is no way to prove it!

PHOTOS BY MARY REISINGER

support Union soldiers doing battle in Chambersburg, leaving behind hundreds of dead and wounded soldiers and horses in the streets of Hagerstown.

Near the end of the war, Confederate soldiers demanded a ransom from Hagerstown to prevent the city from being burned. The demand was for \$20,000 and 1500 suits of men's clothes. The Board of Directors of Hagerstown Bank and prominent citizens, including Alexander Neill II, hastily convened to decide how to meet the demand



within four hours. They raised the required sum from three banks, and wealthy residents signed notes to cover the banks' losses. Though people donated clothing, they were not able to gather 1500 suits of men's attire. The Confederates accepted what was offered and left to levy ransoms on other cities. Chambersburg did not fare as well as Hagerstown and was set ablaze. An interesting exhibit currently at the Miller House Museum includes details and artifacts of the ransom and of the Civil War era generally.

Alexander Neill IV, born after the Civil War in 1875 and resident of the Price Miller House, was interested in studying and preserving the history of the region and became one of the early directors of the Washington County Historical Society, helping in the society's formation in 1911. It was a shock to the other members when he died later that year at age 35 of a brain tumor.

After Neill's death, the house was sold to Dr. Victor Davis Miller, Jr., a local doctor looking for a home to accommodate his family (wife Nellie Baechtell Loose Miller and children Helen and Victor Davis III) and his medical practice. A third child, Henry Loose Miller, was born in 1912. By 1915, Dr. Miller finished the basement and constructed a three-story annex that connected the existing house to the house next door. This additional space provided offices for Dr. Miller and four other doctors. Gradually

The Miller House Museum often uses its back garden for outdoor events. The potters in the Bell family were renowned for the unusual designs and innovative glazes they used to enhance utilitarian earthenware.

PHOTOS BY MARY REISINGER

the family both restored the house to its federal style and modernized it with plumbing and electricity. The family lived in the house for decades.

Victor Davis Miller III participated in the Washington County Historical Society and in 1966 became its fifth director. Following his father's death in 1955 and his mother's death in 1965, Victor and his brother Henry decided to provide the historical society with a permanent home by donating their shares of the Price Miller Home. The WCHS then purchased the remaining share. Victor Davis Miller III died soon afterward in 1968, but Helen lived until 1994 and Henry until 2012. The property, which remains the headquarters of the Washington County Historical Society, is generally known as the Miller House Museum.

The house contains period furniture, a large collection of 18th and 19th century longcase clocks by local clockmakers, and many other exhibits and artifacts related to the history of the house's residents and the community. Regularly scheduled tours are offered on Fridays and Saturdays except for the winter months. There are activities for children,

lectures paired with appropriate cocktails for adults, and other events held both inside the house and outside in the garden. A special party to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the house is planned for June 2025.

The Miller House Museum also houses the Kinship Family Heritage Research Center, which maintains and makes available to the public a large collection of materials for exploration of family history. The Kinship Center is currently conducting an extensive genealogical research project on the family of Daniel P. Spedden, President of the Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, which is a member of the WCHS and frequently sponsors society events and exhibits. The results of the Kinship Center's research on Mr. Spedden's family roots will be revealed at a fundraising event on

Friday, November 7, 2025, at the Price Miller House.

The Miller House Museum combines a significant and beautifully preserved example of federal architecture with the historical interpretation of the Washington County Historical Society and the resources of the Kinship Family Heritage Research Center. It is well worth a visit, especially in this 200th anniversary year.

For More Information:

Miller House Museum,
open April-December with tours on
Fridays and Saturdays
135 W. Washington St., Hagerstown,
MD 21740; 301-797-8782;
washcohistory.org/
Curator/Program Manager Abigail
Koontz, curator@washcohistory.org

**Washington County Historical
Society Kinship Center:**
open year-round;
washcohistory.org/kinship/

**Hagerstown/Washington
County Convention and Visitors
Bureau**

16 Public Square, Hagerstown, MD
21740, visithagerstown.com





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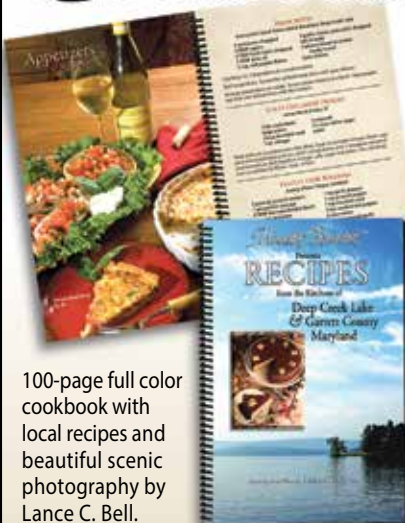
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StageWEST Arts Collective

Rebrands for the Future

CELEBRATING 39 YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE IN GARRETT COUNTY

Written by:

Shelia McCracken

Garrett Lakes Arts Festival (GLAF) has officially rebranded to StageWEST Arts Collective, marking a significant milestone in the organization's nearly four-decade journey as a cornerstone of the cultural and artistic community in Garrett County and the surrounding region. With support from the Maryland State Arts Council, StageWEST is proud to unveil a refreshed identity that better reflects its year-round commitment to performing arts, education, and engagement for all.

The rebranding effort comes as part of a comprehensive strategic planning process, which included feedback from over 300 respondents and in-depth interviews with more than 20 key stakeholders. Through this process, StageWEST has reaffirmed its mission and vision, ensuring it remains a relevant, sustainable, and inclusive cultural force for years to come.

A RICH HISTORY OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

StageWEST's origins trace back to 1986, when a small group of passionate local residents, including violinist Erick Friedman and Garrett County native Kathryn Sincell, came together with a shared vision: to rekindle



the spirit of the Mountain Chautauqua and promote cultural and artistic activities in the region. Their efforts led to the establishment of a music festival, and over time, the organization expanded to support a broader array of performing arts.

From the beginning, the vision was clear: to provide the community with access to high-quality performances, promote education in the arts, and offer residents and visitors alike an opportunity to engage with the creative process. The roots of StageWEST have always been deeply connected to the people of Garrett County, and that connection continues to be at the heart of the organization today.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS — Front left to right: Frank Shap, Barry Weinberg, Laura Dahlan, Lenina Close, Amy Bortz (Board Chair), Marian Emr (Secretary), Matia Vanderbilt, Ruth Beitzel, and Fred Fox.

Back Row left to right: Sue Arnson, Laura Robinson, and Andrew Harvey (Vice Chair).

Not Pictured: Mary Helen Spears, Suzi Sincell and Shelia McCracken (Executive Director).

NEW VISION AND MISSION

In its rebranding, StageWEST has refined its Vision and Mission to provide clear direction and inspiration for the future:

- **Vision:** *“Inspiring people through performing arts.”*
- **Mission:** *“Present performing arts that entertain, educate, engage, and inspire while fostering a lifelong appreciation for the arts and humanities.”*

The new name, StageWEST, reflects the organization’s broader focus and commitment to inclusivity. While the name has a subtle nod to the region of Western Maryland, it also deliberately avoids geographical or demographic constraints, embracing a more universal approach. The new logo, featuring varied font treatments, symbolizes the diversity of programming StageWEST offers, with an updated color palette that bridges recognition from its GLAF roots.

The new identity is playful, clean, and designed to appeal to both existing patrons and potential new audiences. The fresh visual aesthetic is part of the organization’s ongoing efforts to remain dynamic and adaptable to the changing cultural landscape while maintaining a strong sense of community identity.

CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY:

StageWEST’s rebranding does not change its core mission: to offer world-class arts programming that

is both accessible and inclusive. The new Performing Arts Center at Garrett College serves as the heart of StageWEST’s performances, where audiences can enjoy a wide range of productions from symphonies and jazz ensembles to ballet, Celtic dance, and even magic shows. All performances are open to the public, with students and children receiving complimentary admission when accompanied by a paying adult.

Beyond public performances, StageWEST is deeply invested in supporting local students and fostering creativity within the community. Through the Arts in Education program, StageWEST has developed an essential partnership with Garrett County Public Schools (GCPS) to help support the Maryland State Department of Education’s fine arts curricula requirements. For 39 years, StageWEST has been a vibrant force in Garrett County, hosting 9-12 performances annually, including 3-5 educational outreach events. This collaboration allows StageWEST to provide free arts programs across multiple disciplines, including music, dance, and theater, that complement the school’s existing educational framework. This partnership benefits students in all grade levels, ensuring that they receive exposure to the arts while meeting state educational standards.

In addition to its work with GCPS, StageWEST also invites students from Calvary Christian Academy and homeschool communities to participate in its programming. The organization is committed to fostering hands-on learning through intimate masterclasses, where students receive one-on-one instruction from visiting artists. These



educational workshops are designed to be both fun and informative, making arts education accessible to all students, regardless of background.

Through its outreach initiatives, StageWEST continues to provide vital arts education that encourages young people to appreciate the creative process, think critically, and engage with the world around them.

A DIVERSE 2025 SEASON: EXPANDING ARTS ACCESS

StageWEST's future is bright with a full slate of exciting performances and events on the horizon for the 2025 season. Some of the highlights include:

- **Maryland Symphony Orchestra** (June 14, 2025) – A breathtaking performance by one of the state's premier orchestras, bringing classical and contemporary music to Garrett County.
- **Jim Curry's Tribute to John Denver: "Take Me Home"** (June 20, 2025) – A heartfelt tribute concert to the legendary musician John Denver, celebrating his musical legacy and enduring influence on the world.
- **2nd Annual Flying Ivories Dueling Pianos Fundraising Event** (August 16, 2025) – A lively and interactive fundraising event where two pianists go head-to-head in a musical duel. The event, dubbed "Keys for a Cause," will help raise crucial funds to support StageWEST's ongoing arts programming.
- **The Magic Duel Comedy Show** (September 13, 2025) – A unique and entertaining performance blending magic and comedy, where two talented magicians go head-to-head in a lighthearted battle of tricks and humor, bringing laughter and wonder to the community.



Top to bottom: A few of the upcoming events for 2025: Seth Kibel, premier woodwind specialist (July 26, 2025); The Magic Duel Comedy Show, (September 13, 2025); and The Accidental Hero, a multi-media one-man show (November 2, 2025).

See artsandentertainment.org for Season Schedule



- **Darrah Carr Dance**

(October 17, 2025) –

A captivating performance from Darrah Carr Dance, bringing the vibrant energy of Celtic dance to Garrett County. Known for its innovative fusion of traditional Irish step dance and contemporary movement, this performance is sure to inspire audiences with its athleticism and artistry.

Shelia McCracken, Executive Director of Stage WEST, shared, “These events, alongside Stage WEST’s continued outreach and performance efforts, demonstrate the organization’s dedication to creating an accessible and inclusive cultural environment where everyone can experience the joy and inspiration of the arts.”

As Stage WEST enters its next chapter, the future looks incredibly promising. With the rebranding effort complete, Stage WEST is poised to continue as a vital cultural resource for Garrett County and the surrounding region. Its diverse offerings and commitment to arts education ensure that the arts will remain a vibrant part of life in Western Maryland for generations to come.

Stage WEST Arts Collective (formerly Garrett Lakes Arts Festival) is a non-profit organization dedicated to presenting diverse performing arts that entertain, educate, engage, and inspire audiences in Garrett County, Maryland, and the surrounding region. Through year-round performances, educational outreach, and community events, Stage WEST fosters a lifelong appreciation for the arts and humanities while celebrating the cultural heritage of the region.



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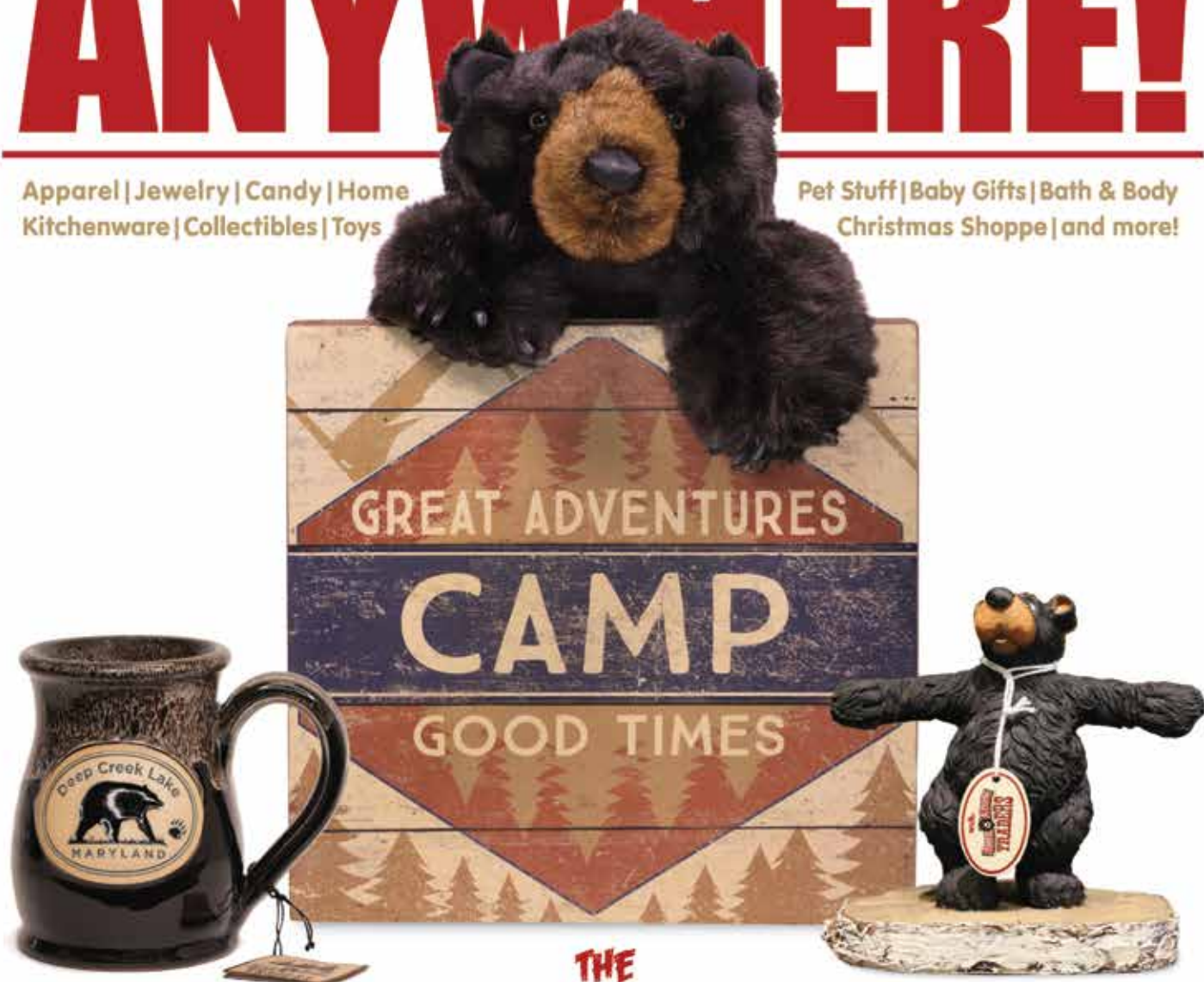
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