

A Family Love of History: *Bob Hoye*

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For Bob Hoye, a chance meeting in North Carolina led to a firm friendship and an opportunity to honor the uncle who had been his hero in his hometown of Oakland, Maryland.

Robert “Bob” Lincoln Hoye, born in 1925, grew up on a small farm along the Youghiogheny River, just outside Oakland in Garrett County, Maryland. He walked to school in town until his family moved to Morgantown, West Virginia, during his high school years. Bob enlisted in the Army at seventeen and served during WWII in North Africa and Italy as a member of the 248th Field Artillery.

On his return to civilian life, he earned a GED and enrolled in West Virginia University on the GI Bill, received a degree in Business Administration from the College of Business and Economics, and launched a career in which he worked at DuPont Corporation, Weyerhaeuser, Carborundum Metals, and for 25 years, at Borg-Warner Chemicals.

Before the war, Bob had met Betty Sass who had grown up in a coal mining family in Pricedale, Pennsylvania, before her family moved to Morgantown. She did clerical work for Curtis-Wright in Buffalo, New York, during the war, and then moved back to Morgantown, where she and Bob married. Betty and Bob had three children, Karen, Robert Jr., and Charles. The family moved to various states including Delaware, West Virginia, California, and Ohio. Betty and Bob lived in more than twenty houses. Bob loved to fix up houses and then sell them. He always said, “When the paint’s dry, it’s time to move.”

Her children remember Betty (who had Hungarian ancestry) as a beautiful woman, wonderful mother, excellent homemaker, and great cook. Bob cooked also. He continued the traditional practice of canning, and his daughter especially treasures his recipes for sweet pepper relish (mixed with sharp cheese and mayonnaise to stuff celery), hummingbird cake, and apple cake.



Bob Hoye at Hoye's Crest on Backbone Mountain, Maryland's highest natural point at 3,360 feet. The point was named in memory of Bob's uncle, Charles Hoye.

Inset: Bob and Betty Hoye.



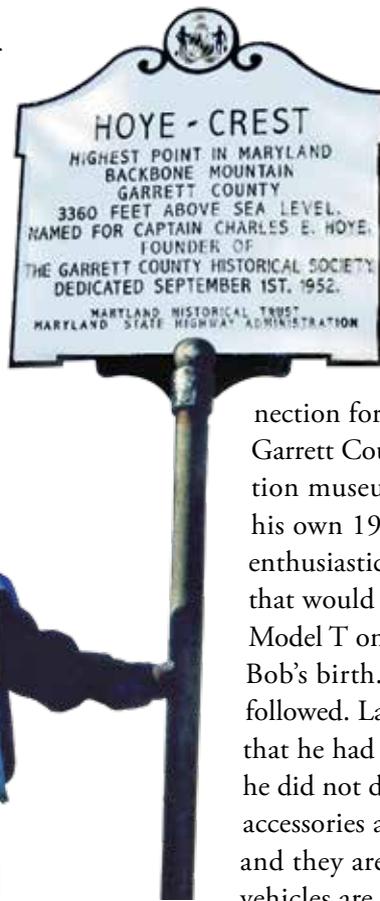
Bob remained fond of Garrett County all his years. He took his family to reunions and frequently rented vacation homes on Deep Creek Lake. His son recalls that during every vacation they always made a visit to the family cemetery near Sang Run. From the graveyard, Bob would look across the hill that had been part of the early family farm his uncle had promised to leave to him before his untimely death in 1951. Bob would wistfully say, “That could have been mine.”

When Bob retired, he and Betty moved to New Bern, North Carolina. It was there, in a Methodist church, that he met Bob and Leanna Boal, who were vacationing in New Bern. When Bob Hoye asked Bob Boal where they were from, Bob Boal said from a little town in Maryland that Bob Hoye wouldn't have heard of. Of course when Bob Hoye learned that this little town was the place where he had grown up, he was surprised. In an even more serendipitous twist, he found that Bob Boal had a leading role in the Garrett County Historical Society, the organization founded in 1941 by his much-loved Uncle Charles.

Bob's uncle, Charles Hoye, did a great deal of historical research. Among his writings was a book about the earliest Colonial settlers in the western edge of Maryland: *Hoye's Pioneer Families of Garrett County*. The earliest Hoye in the area was Paul Hoye, who surveyed many tracts of land in what is now Garrett County before being interrupted by the Revolutionary War. After serving in the war, Paul was able to obtain "patents" on several thousand acres of land in the area.

One of Paul's four children was William Waller Hoye (1768-1836), also a surveyor, who fathered 21 children, and settled several large farms in the area around Sang Run. Paul's other son, John, was also a land speculator; by the time he died in 1849, he owned over 50,000 acres of land in Western Maryland and nearby counties of Virginia. According to a story told about another settler, George Rhinehart, when neighbors were discussing the possibility of mountains on the moon, Rhinehart said he didn't believe there were mountains on the moon because if there were, "John Hoye would have patented them."

A century later, in September of 1952, Hoye's Crest on Backbone Mountain, at 3,360 feet the highest natural



Bob Hoye, in his early nineties, hiked for the first time to Hoye's Crest, along with Bob Boal and other friends from the Historical Society.

point in Maryland, was named in memory of a descendant of these early Hoyes, Charles Hoye, a man who had been interested enough in history not only to write several books about the first settler families in the area, but also to organize and head the Garrett County Historical Society.

Meeting the Boals established a connection for Bob and Betty to historic preservation in Garrett County. When Bob learned that a transportation museum was being planned, he offered to lend his own 1930 Ford Model A deluxe roadster and enthusiastically joined in the search for other vehicles that would enhance the collection. He located a Ford Model T one ton truck produced in 1925, the year of Bob's birth. A 1925 Ford Model T pickup runabout followed. Later he found a 1942 Ford Jeep of the type that he had driven when he was in the Army. Though he did not do the restoration, Bob delighted in finding accessories as a finishing touch for these automobiles, and they are in pristine condition. All four of these vehicles are on exhibit at the Transportation Museum in Oakland. Two are on loan, but the two Ford trucks are gifts in memory of Bob's Uncle Charles.

Bob and Betty were generous donors and active members of the Garrett County Historical Society. They also formed a deep and lasting friendship with the Boals. After Betty's death, Bob and his second wife Rose continued to participate in keeping local history accessible to new generations. Bob died in April 2018, but he will long be remembered for the legacy he left in the county where his family roots are so deep.

**Garrett County Museum of Transportation
108 E. Liberty St., Oakland, MD 21550**



Both of these vehicles – 1930 Ford Model A Roaster Deluxe and 1942 WWII Ford Jeep – can be seen at the Garrett County Museum of Transportation.



Russell (standing) of Russell Military Vehicles, restored this 1942 Ford Jeep for owner Bob Hoye (driver's seat).