

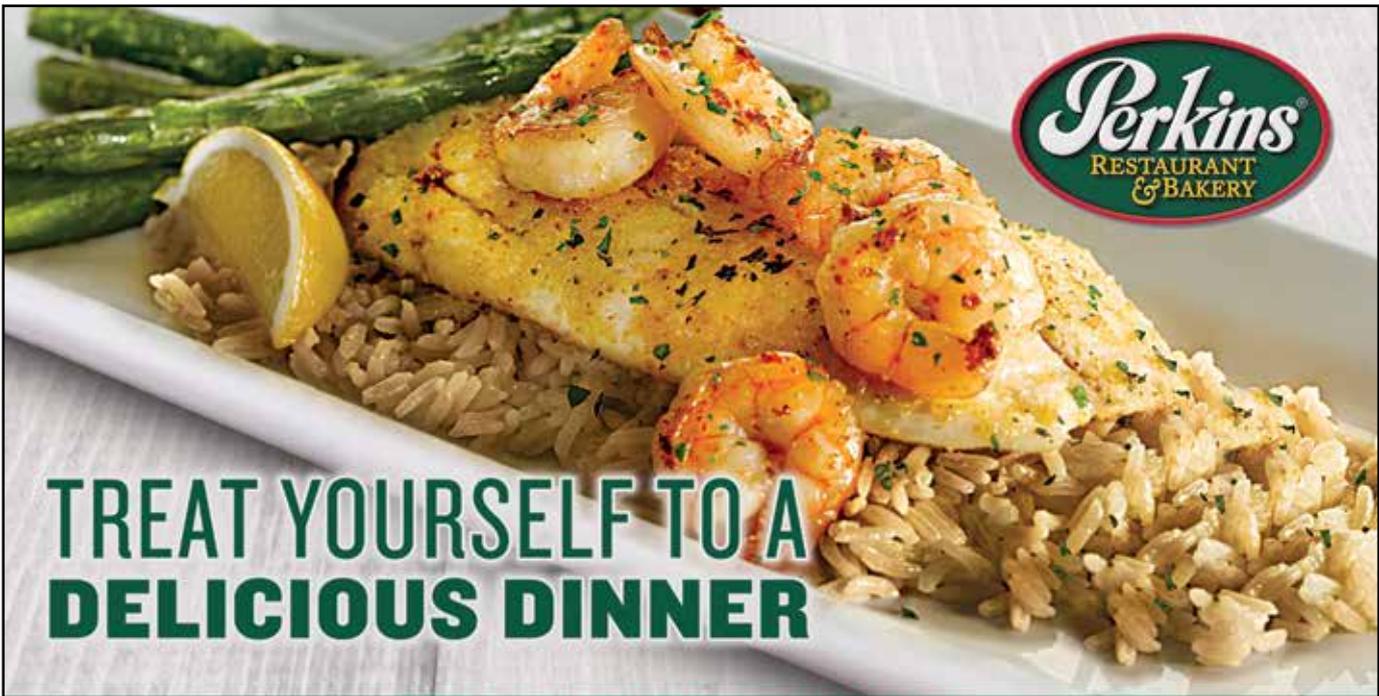
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Spring/Summer 2021

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In This Issue

The Winds of Change at Spruce Forest
Artisan Village6

Allegany Museum Opens 1st Floor Exhibits 12

Dave Caporale’s Bakery — Allegany County’s
Oldest Continuously Owned and Operated
Family Business..... 16

Community Remembers School Bus Accident.....23

Lance C. Bell — The Man Behind the Camera26

Springs Store: Cornerstone of the Community34

Airbnb Anyone?46

C&O Canal National Historical Park
Celebrates its 50th Year50

1952 MG-TD Roadster on Display at
Garrett County Museum of Transportation58



ON THE COVER

Mural depicting Nemaocolin, Thomas Cresap (standing) and Christopher Gist exploring trails toward the Ohio River Valley.

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COURTESY OF ALLEGANY MUSEUM.

See “Allegany Museum Opens 1st Floor Exhibits” on page 12.



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The Winds of Change at Spruce Forest Artisan Village

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**
Unless otherwise noted

Dr. Alta Schrock's vision for preserving the region's heritage took many forms. One was to open Penn Alps in 1959. The group began operating a restaurant and craft center in a former stage coach stop on the National Highway (Route 40), adjacent to the Casselman Bridge, Stanton's Mill, and the town of Grantsville, Maryland. Within a decade, work began on what became Spruce Forest Artisan Village. Penn Alps bought an adjacent piece of land planted with dozens of spruce trees and gradually moved old buildings, many of them log cabins, onto the property to serve as artists' studios.

Visitors to the Village see the actual work of artisans rather than staged demonstrations.

In the decades that have followed, Spruce Forest Artisan Village has nurtured many gifted artisans as students, teachers, apprentices, visiting artists, and resident artists. The current resident artists, all highly skilled practitioners, have long histories with the Village.

In 1969, when he was eleven, Gary Yoder took carving lessons at the invitation of Dr. Schrock. Within two years, he was a full-time resident each summer, carving birds native to Garrett County. For years, Doug Salmon combined his teaching of metal work at Frostburg University with travel to craft shows. He was happy to give up the constant travel in 1972 to become a resident artist at the Village, and has continued to work there since his retirement. Ann Jones, originally a school teacher, began in 1975 as a resident weaver who made her own dyes and spun her own yarn; she often sees former students when they visit the area. Though Lynn Lais is not the first potter in the Village, it has been his life for nearly forty years. He produces beautiful pottery as he talks to visitors, never losing a beat. Gene Gillespie has been doing wood turning



Alta Schrock with visitors in the early years at Spruce Forest Artisan Village.

for fifty years, and for the past fourteen, he has worked at the Village, producing natural wood bowls, rolling pins, and other items, as well as his only flatwork, wooden cutting boards made of woods from all over the world. Mike Edelman, metal artist, "jumped on it" when he learned in 2006 that there was an opening at the Village. His whimsical metal sculptures adorn the space in front of his shed.

Spruce Forest Artisan Village attracts thousands of visitors each year. Normally, resident artisans, apprentices, and visiting artisans demonstrate their skills and sell their products from May to October. Some artisans remain open for limited hours during other parts of the year, and Christmas in the Village, held on the first weekend of December, is a popular tradition.

Spring of 2020 was decidedly *not* normal. First, in March, the Covid-19 pandemic forced restrictions of travel and businesses where people gathered indoors. The folks at Spruce Forest Artisan Village began to grapple with this new reality and what it might mean for the season ahead.

Then, on April 8, 2020, a one-hundred mile an hour straight line wind swept through Spruce Forest Artisan Village during the night, snapping off trees, which then landed on buildings. Ann Jones, weaver at the village, was sleeping in her home within yards of the village when she was awakened by what sounded like a freight train. Then she saw flashing lights, which turned out to be emergency vehicles arriving.

Ann notified others, including Lynn Lais. He decided to wait until daylight, and he had to clear some downed trees from his own property before he could leave home. He took his chain saw and other equipment to the Village, parked in his usual spot, and walked down the path. When he saw the extent of the damage, he realized his efforts would be futile.

Lynn's own work space was still usable, so he began looking at other more damaged buildings. The most severely damaged studio was that of metal worker Doug Salmon. Doug arrived a few hours later with his family, who crawled through the windows to retrieve as much as they could from the crumpled building. Doug counts himself fortunate to have recovered close to 90 percent of his tools, jewelry, and sculpture.

Gene Gillespie's shop space was spared, but the separate woodturning shed he had created from the former footbridge into the Village was destroyed. He knew the lathe in this shed was sturdy enough to withstand the weight of tree and roof, but he was concerned about rain reaching it and causing rust. He was able to cover it with a tarp until it could be moved.



Some of the devastation at Spruce Forest Artisan Village after the 100 mile an hour winds of April 8, 2020. Note all of the stumps (bottom photo); fifty trees were removed due to damage or dependence on other trees. PHOTOS COURTESY BILL'S AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Other artists' buildings, such as the cabins where Ann Jones weaves, Gary Yoder carves birds, and Mike Edelman forges metal, escaped with minor damage. Doug was able to move into the riverside studio on the lower level of the potter's shed. Gene can manage without his woodturning building by doing the bulk of this work at his home shop.

Several Village buildings that tell the story of local history remained intact. The Compton School, the only remaining local log cabin school to be preserved and open to the public,



Top: By Fall 2020 the site had been cleaned up, stumps removed, and grass replanted. The Yoder House, left, is now prominently seen due to the openness of the space that once held the towering spruce trees.

Above: A previous photo of the covered bridge that once marked the entrance to Spruce Forest Artisan Village. It is likely that a new covered bridge will be built.

shows how children learned in the Casselman Valley following the Revolutionary War. The 1835 Miller House, a log cabin moved from a few miles away, is staffed by volunteers from all over the country from June to October; it serves as the Anabaptist Peace Center, and helps visitors to understand the Amish spirituality and social values that have been foundational to the region's culture. Another large structure, the House of Yoder, was constructed in the late 1900's by a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving and communicating the history of the Swiss Yoder family who moved to the area in 1776. Builders used old beams, logs, and even window panes gleaned from barns and other buildings to duplicate the type of home built in that era. From the last week of May through October, it serves as a living history museum of early settlers' way of life.

Some buildings sustained other types of injury. The former Pleasant Valley Church, now called the Village Church, was knocked a few inches off its foundation. Sadly, Alta Schrock's own cabin, which has long served as a space for visiting artists, was severely damaged. As much as possible of her cabin has been saved and the hope is that it can be restored.

Other losses include the covered bridge entrance into the Village and structures that housed restrooms, an office, and visiting artists' spaces. Most startling to today's visitor is the openness of the space that once held a towering spruce forest. Fifty trees had to be removed, either because

they were broken in the storm or because they were dependent on now missing neighboring trees. Gary Yoder and others have commented on how much they still miss the sight, sound, and scent of the evergreens.

In the months following the storm, the priorities were to clean up the site and navigate the process of keeping the visiting public safe during site clearing and the pandemic. Many people offered support in the form of donations or labor. Some resident artisans were able to resume their work, but visiting artists were curtailed, and the apprentice program had to be suspended.

The artisans, the Spruce Forest Artisan Village board, and the Penn Alps board have been considering how to move forward and how to pay for the necessary repair and rebuilding. The Annie Stanton House and the Granary opposite Stanton's Mill, buildings just outside the village that had not previously served as artists' studios, are being adapted for that purpose. The Granary will house a welcome center as well as studio and shop space for local artist and framer Lynford Yoder. In a happy coincidence, an extension of the Great Allegheny Passage Trail will bring hikers and bicyclists into the area around the Granary and Annie Stanton House.

The group is also exploring options for adding another historic or newly-constructed building that would house artists and public restrooms. While old log cabins have been offered, the cost of moving them and bringing them into compliance with code is significant. Lenore Lancaster, artist and member of the board, has drawn a building that could be built to provide space for two artists and public restrooms.

It is likely that a new covered bridge Village entrance will be built opposite the entrance to Penn Alps Restaurant, and that a stage and a cleared grassy area around it will be created for performances and demonstrations. Trees will certainly be planted when a plan for the Village is complete.



PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN



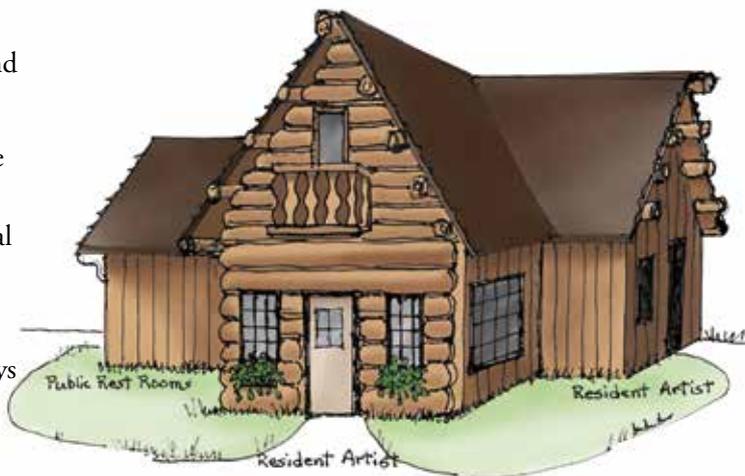
Some of the artisans in operation at Spruce Forest Artisan Village:
Top: Mike Edelman, metal sculptor and Ann Jones, weaver.
Middle: Gary Yoder, bird carver.
Bottom: Doug Salmon, jewelry/metal worker is now located in the riverside studio on the lower level of the potter's shed.

Rebuild Spruce Forest.com

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for a full 2021 season, complete with apprenticeships, visiting artists, and resident artists.

The artisans and leaders of this effort see an exciting future ahead. They are confident that as the Village recovers, its founder's mission of preserving and teaching traditional skills will survive and even thrive.

Naturally this will require adequate funding. Kathryn Delaney, Spruce Forest Artisan Village board president, says that estimates currently run in the \$300,000-\$400,000 range. Grant applications are being made for some purposes, and contributions from fans of the Village have already been received, but additional support from the public is needed and appreciated.



A beginning working concept by artist Lenore Lancaster, for an added building to provide space for two artists and public restrooms.

Checks can be sent to Spruce Forest Artisan Village
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Allegany Museum Opens 1st Floor Exhibits

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This mural depicts Nemaquin, Thomas Cresap (standing), Christopher Gist (kneeling), Hannah Cresap and others exploring trails toward the Ohio River Valley. ©2021 CHAD WEATHERFORD, COURTESY ALLEGANY MUSEUM



This dramatic mural tells the story of Braddock's troops hacking a road over Haystack Mountain to make it wide enough for the passage of wagons and heavy artillery. Wagons and horses tumbled over cliffs due to the rough and steep terrain.

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COURTESY ALLEGANY MUSEUM

The recently opened 1st floor of Allegany Museum's "Crossroads of America" permanent exhibition begins with Native American history more than 10,000 years ago, progressing through the Colonial Era with George Washington and General Braddock, and continuing on to the evolution of travel and transportation. History unfolds from Nemaquin's Trail, Fort Cumberland, the National Road, Canals, and Railroad expansion through Cumberland.

Precolonial Era

Small groups of Native Americans first populated the region during the Paleoindian Period, living a semi-nomadic existence. They hunted game, collected wild plants, and lived in camps near raw materials they could use to make tools. By 500 BCE, the Potomac River floodplain was home to several important Woodland villages. American Indian groups developed political and trade relationships that stretched over long distances using a sophisticated transportation network of trails.

George Washington and the Colonial Era

George Washington traveled to this area numerous times between 1753 and 1794. In 1755, as aide-de-camp to General Braddock, a 23-year old Washington accompanied the general towards Ft. Duquesne where they planned to attack

the French. However, the British column was surprised not far from Fort Duquesne and roundly defeated. They retreated to Fort Necessity where General Braddock died of his wounds. Washington's final visit to this region came in 1794. He arrived to avert a near rebellion caused when the fledgling federal republic sought to tax whiskey production. This is the only time a U.S. president led troops into the field. When the well-loved Commander in Chief arrived with over 10,000 militia men, the rebellion quickly dissipated. This George Washington exhibit features a 3-D recreation of him as a teenager, young man, and President of the newly formed United States. This likeness is based on a sculpture of Washington that his family said was the best image of him and was created by scientists using AI-powered facial recognition techniques.

GO WEST! The Evolution of Travel and Transportation

The museum's new exhibition space highlights the evolution of transportation, the technology that facilitated it, and the impact it had on immigration and industry. In the Colonial era, an Indian path called Nemaquin's Trail, which General Braddock's army turned into a rough mountain road, became the main route west over the Allegheny Mountains. For its first 50 years, there was no

plan for its maintenance or improvement, and it suffered wear and tear from the increasing use. In 1806, President Thomas Jefferson authorized the building of a reliable road west for settlement and commerce. Work on the National Road, what became the first highway built entirely with federal funds, began in Cumberland in 1811.

Not long after, one of the most consequential races in American history began on July 4th, 1828. It wasn't between athletes but between two competing methods of transportation. The winner of this great race would determine how the country developed. And the end of the line—the goal—was Cumberland. On that Independence Day, construction began on both the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (C&O). The railroad arrived at Cumberland first, in November 1842. The 184-mile C&O Canal did not reach Cumberland until 1850. The B&O and C&O provided a huge boost to the economy. The town became

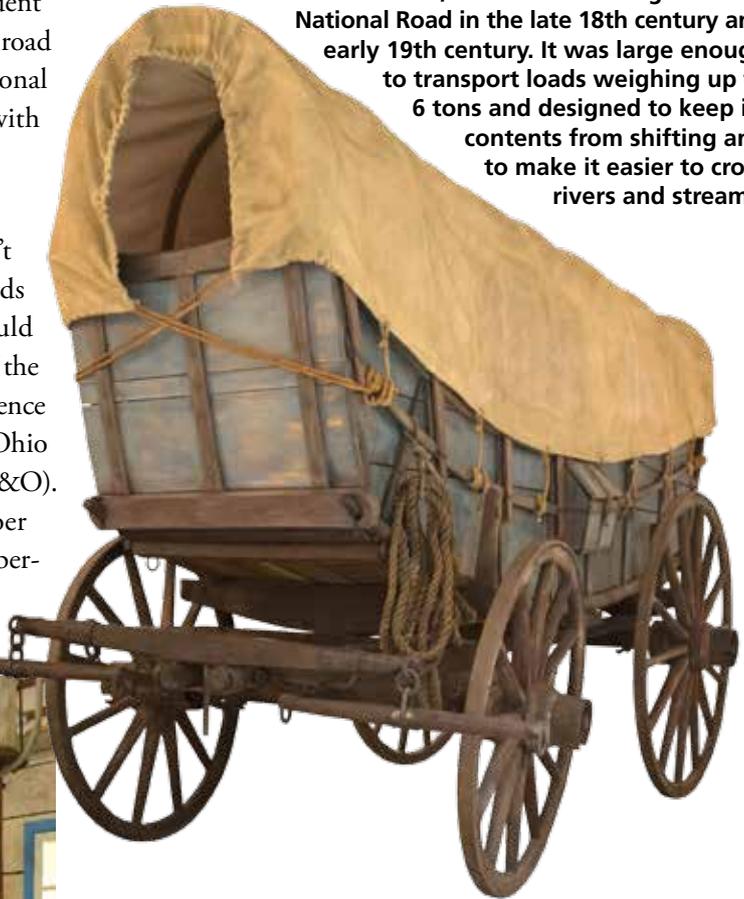


This 1929 Durant Town Car is on display in front of a replica Gulf station facade of that era, complete with gas pump.

the center of travel westward, as passengers and goods had to change here for the onward journey.

As the B&O Railroad moved further west, reaching Wheeling, WV, in the 1850s, the National Road entered a period of sharp decline. Yet, just as technology caused the National Road to decline, it also led to its revival with the increasing popularity of the automobile. “Motor touring” became a favorite pastime, and the need for roads that did not kick up dust when dry, or turn to mud when wet, grew. Many

The Conestoga wagon pulled by teams of horses, mules or oxen, was a common sight on the National Road in the late 18th century and early 19th century. It was large enough to transport loads weighing up to 6 tons and designed to keep its contents from shifting and to make it easier to cross rivers and streams.



early wagon and coach roads, including the National Road, were revived as smoothly paved automobile routes.

2nd Floor Exhibits

The exhibits on the 2nd floor of the Museum feature Cumberland as a manufacturing town. Coal mining and coal-fired factories created robust employment, and Cumberland became a boomtown by the end of the 1800s. The first quarter of the 20th century saw Cumberland triple in size and become Maryland's second largest city. Cumberland produced a wide range of items, including glass, rubber tires, beer, chemical products, and textiles. Its industry, like that of many manufacturing towns, also became involved in war efforts, especially during WWII. America's industrial boom reached a crescendo in the mid-1900s and then declined as technology changed and manufacturing moved overseas.

Featured exhibits include Glassware, Kelly-Springfield Tire Company, Historic Fire Protection, Children's Exhibits and Toys, Appalachian Folk Art, Whiskey and Beer Production, and Allegany Ballistics Laboratory.

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Augusto

David

August "Gus"

Dave

CAPORALE'S BAKERY — FOUR GENERATIONS

Dave Caporale's Bakery is one of western Maryland's most recognized business names. In fact, one would be hard pressed to find a resident who is unfamiliar with the family business that has enjoyed a dedicated customer base for generations. Caporale's Italian bread is almost a requirement for family gatherings, particularly when out-of-town relatives return home for special events. Caporale's has always been around—or so it seems. The bakery's founding is a fascinating story that began with an early twentieth century voyage aboard a cargo ship.

The 4,500 mile sea voyage from Italy to America while lodged in a steerage compartment must have been an unpleasant experience for 24 year old Augusto Caporale. And it is likely he had second thoughts about leaving Notaresco, a village with close personal relationships and familiar surroundings. Boarding the "Roma" in 1903 required courage, particularly when the resources to establish himself in America totaled 16 United States dollars.

Augusto Caporale arrived at Ellis Island in April 1903—a scene repeated 12 million times at that port of entry. During the early 20th century immigrants could enter without a passport, visa, or other papers and be on their way in a matter of hours upon passing basic health screenings.

According to family tradition, Augusto cleared the screenings and headed to 89th Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where family members had previously settled. No one is certain why Augusto departed Philadelphia and made his way to Allegany County, Maryland, but records show that he was living in south Cumberland three years later, a time of major economic expansion in the city. Caporale's date the bakery's founding to Augusto's arrival in 1906.

Augusto established himself on West Third Street in south Cumberland, an area once referred to as "Little Italy." Many of the dwellings and several businesses in that area, including Caporale's Bakery, were Italian owned. Neighborhood



families included Scarpelli, Cifala, Panone, Perlozzo, Lisanti, Marilnelli, and LaGrata.

Augusto married Maria DeMartino and the couple successfully raised their children while growing the bakery business. August “Gus” Caporale, grandson to the founder, readily recalls the original bakery on West Third Street because he

began working there at an early age with David Caporale, his father. “Dad provided a wooden box for me to stand on, so I could roll dough. We used an old wood burning oven with dirt piled on top. The dirt helped to keep the heat inside the oven. Dad and I placed the rolls in a pan with a peel, and then loaded them into the oven. After the rolls were finished, we loaded them onto cloth towels that were laid in a box. I still remember how the rolls and bread tasted coming from the wood burning oven—they had a unique flavor!”

Top: Sally’s Dance Studio on West Third Street, Cumberland, now occupies the location of Augusto Caporale’s original bakery.

Inset: This metal plaque on Sally’s Dance Studio building commemorates the original Caporale Italian Bakery.

Left: David Caporale with his sister, Tina, outside the West Third Street bakery about 1956.

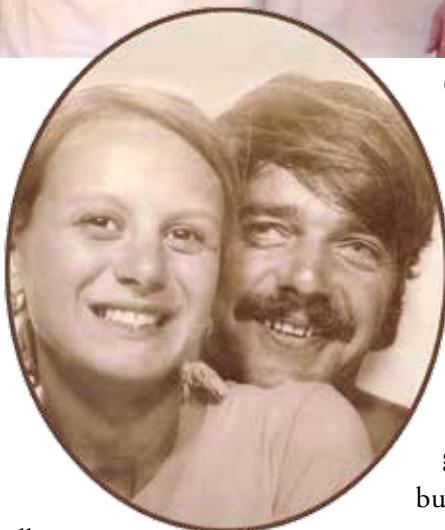


Cindy, Gus, and their son Joe, outside the 153 North Mechanic Street location.

David Caporale relocated the business to LaVale and operated under the name Dave Caporale's Italian Bakery. His untimely passing in 1973 brought Gus into the business. "Dad passed at age 48, and that is when I stepped in. I served two years in the Navy, but came back to help dad at the bakery."

Over the years other family members associated with the bakery business eventually led to the creation of a separate Caporale business in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Felix, Dave Caporale's brother, owned and operated the Pennsylvania bakery that remained separate from the local business.

An ongoing business relationship with Bob D'Atri, well known local restaurant owner, developed over the years. According to Gus, "My dad taught Bob the bakery business.



Cindy and Gus

Bob later owned D'Atris sub shop and we supplied the rolls."

Gus and wife Cindy raised their children in the same positive work environment that the two previous generations experienced. Although the business moved to 153 North Mechanic Street in 1982, time honored traditions kept the entrepreneurial spirit alive.

After more than three decades in the business, Gus and Cindy turned over responsibilities to their eldest son, Dave, making Caporales a fourth generation enterprise. While the parents continue to provide assistance and guidance, it is Dave who is the keeper of tradition and owner of the business. The family work ethic has enabled



Top: Gus, Cindy, and their son Dave, current owner of the bakery.

Right: Caporale's Bakery has always been a family affair with everyone helping as needed, especially during the Christmas rush. Gus and Cindy's four sons all worked in the bakery at various times. Left to right: Current owner, Dave, Brian, Dad Gus, Joe, and Tony. In front is Cindy's Dad, John Divico.

PHOTOS ON THESE TWO PAGES PROVIDED BY THE CAPORALE FAMILY.





Top: Left to right, James Powell, Dave Caporale and Brett Blanco scaling dough for hoagie buns.

Inset: Dave maintains consistency in their products by always using the same code numbers of the ingredients that go into their dough.

Bottom: Mark Stonebreaker, daylight manager, smiles as he greets customers at the bakery counter. *PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN*

him to not only manage the bakery, but also serve one term on the city council and currently as a county commissioner.

While acknowledging running a business is hard work, Dave also realizes its benefits. “I spent time at the bakery growing up. During my elementary years at Saint Patrick’s School, I would often walk to the store after dismissal and work the cash register. Later, I attended Frostburg State University and would work when I could. And the customers I saw then are still stopping by the store today. We have a generational customer base that remains loyal.”

Dave also notes it is rewarding to see former residents who have moved from the area. “They will stop by to see us and say ‘We can’t buy bread like this where we live now.’”

Today, Dave Caporale’s Inc. could be described as a regional bakery with 90% of the business realized within Maryland and the remainder divided between Pennsylvania and West Virginia.



What makes Caporale's bread so special? Cindy Caporale notes that part of the answer is, "What we don't put in the bread. We stay away from artificial ingredients."

Dave states the recipe is unique, "We used the trial and error method and family tradition to develop the recipe. Now we strive for consistency, so a thermostat is important to the baking process. In the past, bread was checked by sight and feel."

To maintain consistency, care is taken to purchase the same ingredients. Even differences in code numbers on products may affect the final product, and Caporale customers are quick to notice any changes. One major change occurred in recent years when the traditional hard crust was replaced with a softer one.

While bread is Caporale's primary offerings, they also sell pepperoni rolls, sub rolls, hamburger rolls, and a variety of specialty products. One highly anticipated seasonal item is Christmas Stollen, a fruit-filled bread in the form of a folded over roll.

Tradition, a positive work ethic, and management skills have contributed to the Caporale's success over the decades. As Dave notes, "It is really nice to look back on what we have accomplished as a family. It is hard to explain, but the bakery business becomes part of you. And it is really rewarding to hear how much customers like our bread. Some customers say Caporale's bread is a must when eating a spaghetti dinner. We are pleased that our bread means so much to folks."



Christmas Stollen, a fruit-filled bread, is one of Caporale's specialty products.

Top: Brett getting pan bread ready to be baked.

Middle: James putting loaves of bread into the oven.

Bottom: Brett putting dough into the machine for cutting into pieces for rolls/buns and Dave with prepared pieces for the rolling machine.



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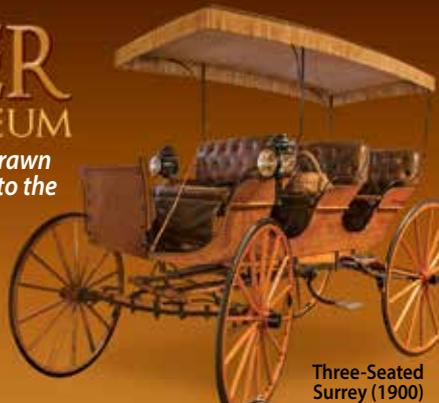
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Community Remembers School Bus Accident

Written by: **Shelby Calhoun**
Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

On Thursday, September 10, 1959, the town of Loch Lynn, Maryland, was devastated when a school bus carrying twenty-seven children stalled on the tracks at the MD 560 railroad crossing. In one of the nation's worst school bus/train disasters, seven children were killed and eleven sustained moderate to severe injuries. Nine escaped the bus without physical injury, but all of those in the vicinity that day were left with unforgettable images in their memory.

On September 10, 2019, the town came together in remembrance by holding a 60-year commemorative program at the site of the accident. Carolyn Corley, Mayor of Loch Lynn Heights, welcomed survivors of the tragedy, members of their families, friends and others to the event. A plaque, dedicated in 2015, near the railroad crossing on East First Avenue, Loch Lynn, displays photographs and names of the seven children who died. As a result of this accident, several new laws and safety precautions were put in place to prevent this type of accident from happening again.

Roy Hinkle, who was injured on the bus that day—his 13th birthday—says, “I’m glad that they’re remembering what happened and showing that the town hasn’t forgotten.”

A comprehensive display entitled “A Garrett County School Bus Tragedy” can be viewed at the Garrett County Museum of Transportation at 108 E. Liberty Street, Oakland, Maryland.



Top: Carolyn Corley’s welcoming remarks at the 60-year commemorative program.

Bottom: Some of the friends and family members attending the 2019 program.

Fatally Injured Students



Janet Deem, 12
Dennett Road
Elementary School



Nancy Deem, 15
Southern
High School



Merle Harvey, 11
Dennett Road
Elementary School



Nancy Harvey, 12
Dennett Road
Elementary School



Richard Hinkle, 11
Dennett Road
Elementary School



Lee Hoffman, 11
Dennett Road
Elementary School



Shirley Lee, 12
Dennett Road
Elementary School

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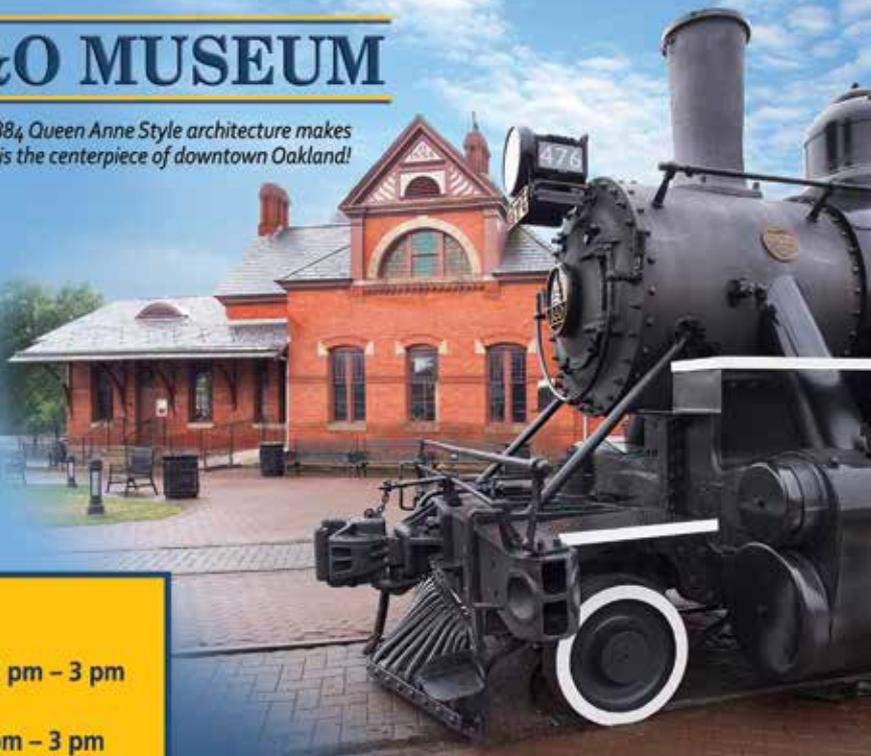
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Early morning on Deep Creek Lake



Lance C. Bell

NOVEMBER 9, 1942 – DECEMBER 29, 2020

The Man Behind the Camera

Lance Colin Bell passed peacefully at home of natural causes December 29, 2020. He was co-owner of Advertising Art Design, Inc. and *Mountain Discoveries* magazine.

Lance experienced his early years in Hyattsville, Maryland, and later in Virginia and South Carolina, where he developed an appreciation for music, history, art, and photography. It was his interest in the latter two fields that prompted formal coursework at the Corcoran Art Institute, James Madison College, Washington Business College, and Pensacola Naval School of Photography.

Completion of formal coursework brought employment at the Smithsonian Institute, National Geographic, the

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Silver Spring, Maryland, United Press International, and a variety of publishers and advertising agencies in several states.

In 1986, Lance's business opportunities expanded when he moved from Greenville, SC, to Cumberland, MD, for the purpose of establishing the GGI Advertising firm at General Graphics, Inc. In 1988, he and Kathie Smith incorporated Advertising Art Design, Inc. (AAD-INC.), the first business to occupy the Crossroads Venture Center Incubator in Cumberland, MD. The business remained in the incubator for seven years until Lance and Kathie opened



Lance – 1961



Lance and Kathie at the start up of AAD-INC. – 1988



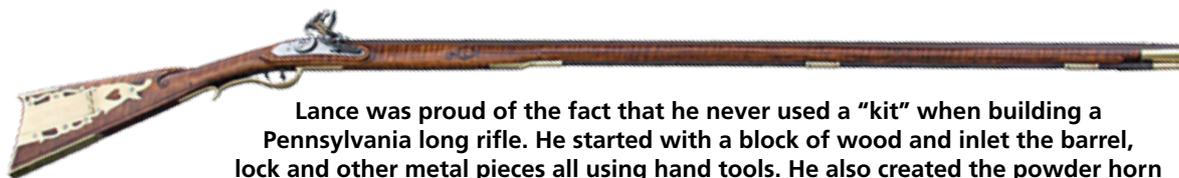
Lance on vacation – 2006

a new building in the Commerce Drive Industrial Park. AAD-INC. was the first business in the area to utilize graphic arts on computers and has continued to provide a variety of advertising services to the present time.

In 2002, AAD-INC. introduced *Mountain Discoveries*, a destination magazine for western Maryland and the surrounding areas, that proved to be a showcase for Lance's photography skills. His artistic talents captured landscapes, wildlife, public events, and business settings that were featured in the bi-annual publication. Professional and personal relationships developed around the magazine as it

expanded coverage. Lance proudly noted that *Mountain Discoveries* was the first magazine of its kind in the Tri-State region.

Concurrent with his professional life, Lance developed wood working skills that enabled him to expertly craft examples of the American long rifle that were admired and sought after by local enthusiasts. Expert wood carving techniques allowed for intricate carvings on the long rifles, while also providing him with additional opportunities to design whimsical items — wood spirits, wild life, and other unique creatures that lived in his office and at the homes of friends.



Lance was proud of the fact that he never used a "kit" when building a Pennsylvania long rifle. He started with a block of wood and inlet the barrel, lock and other metal pieces all using hand tools. He also created the powder horn and "possibles bag" that carried everything possible needed by the shooter; extra flints, wadding material, balls and tools.



Detail of the beautiful tiger-striped maple long rifle (above). Intricate carving (inset) on one of Lance's long rifles.



Lance liked to carve whimsical items like the hounds (above) and wood spirits (below left and center). Also more technical carving like the cabinet doors with eagle (below right).

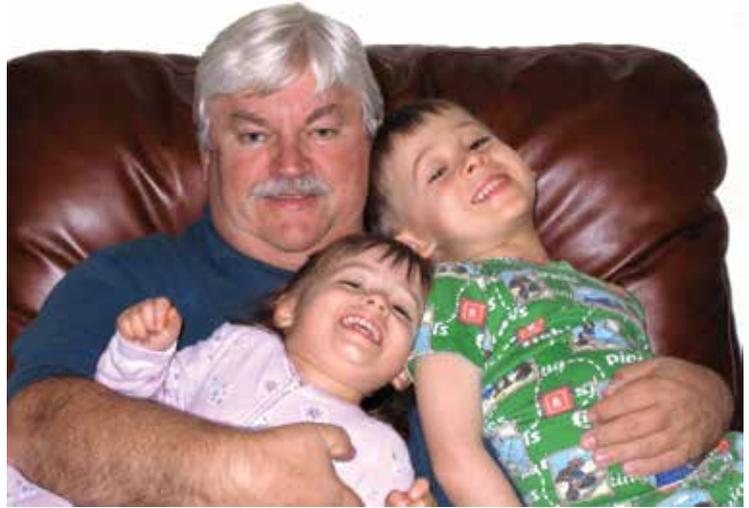


Lance also excelled in musical pursuits, including participation as a percussion drummer in the American Light Opera, National Theatre Orchestra, and Yankee Rebel Drum and Bugle Corps. In keeping with his early rural heritage, Lance enjoyed attending traditional musical performances in the Tri-State area. He also had a passion for Native American history and artifacts as well as antique cars and trucks.

While a variety of artistic endeavors provided for personal enjoyment, it was Lance's photography skills that introduced him to many local residents. For more than three decades Lance captured images that will be treasured and appreciated by individuals for generations. His photographs also played a major role in the creation of displays, advertising layouts, and custom made items for business associates throughout the region. Whether the assignment was personal or corporate, Lance's creative skills translated into aesthetically pleasing images that truly made him the man behind the camera.

And while Lance's passing has brought sadness to family, friends, and associates, it is comforting to know that memories of him will always be preserved in the photographic images and three dimensional images he captured over a lifetime of work.

Lance is survived by three children: Lance Bell II, Nathan Bell, and Andrea Bell, as well as daughter-in-law, Tammie Bell, and grandchildren Aidan and Chloe Bell.



Top: Lance with grandchildren Aidan and Chloe.

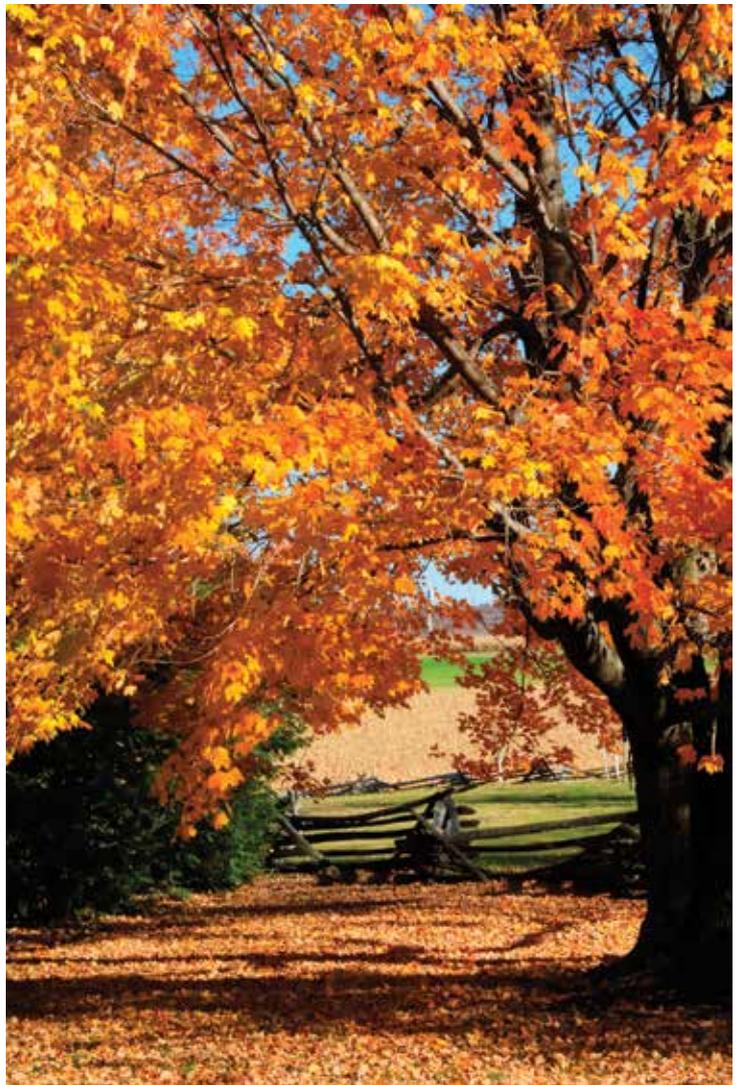
Middle (left to right): Daughter-in-law Tammie, Lance II, daughter Andrea and son Nathan, with grandchildren Aidan and Chloe.

Bottom: Lance at his carving bench with a couple of wood spirits recently completed.

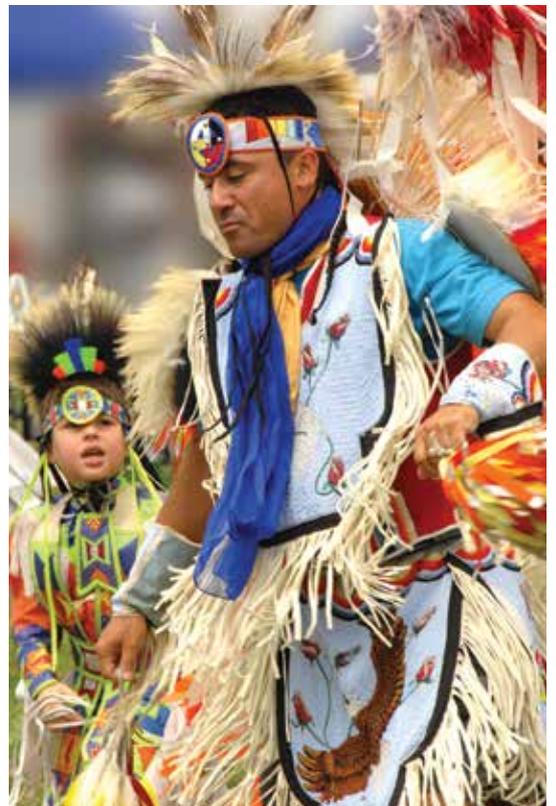


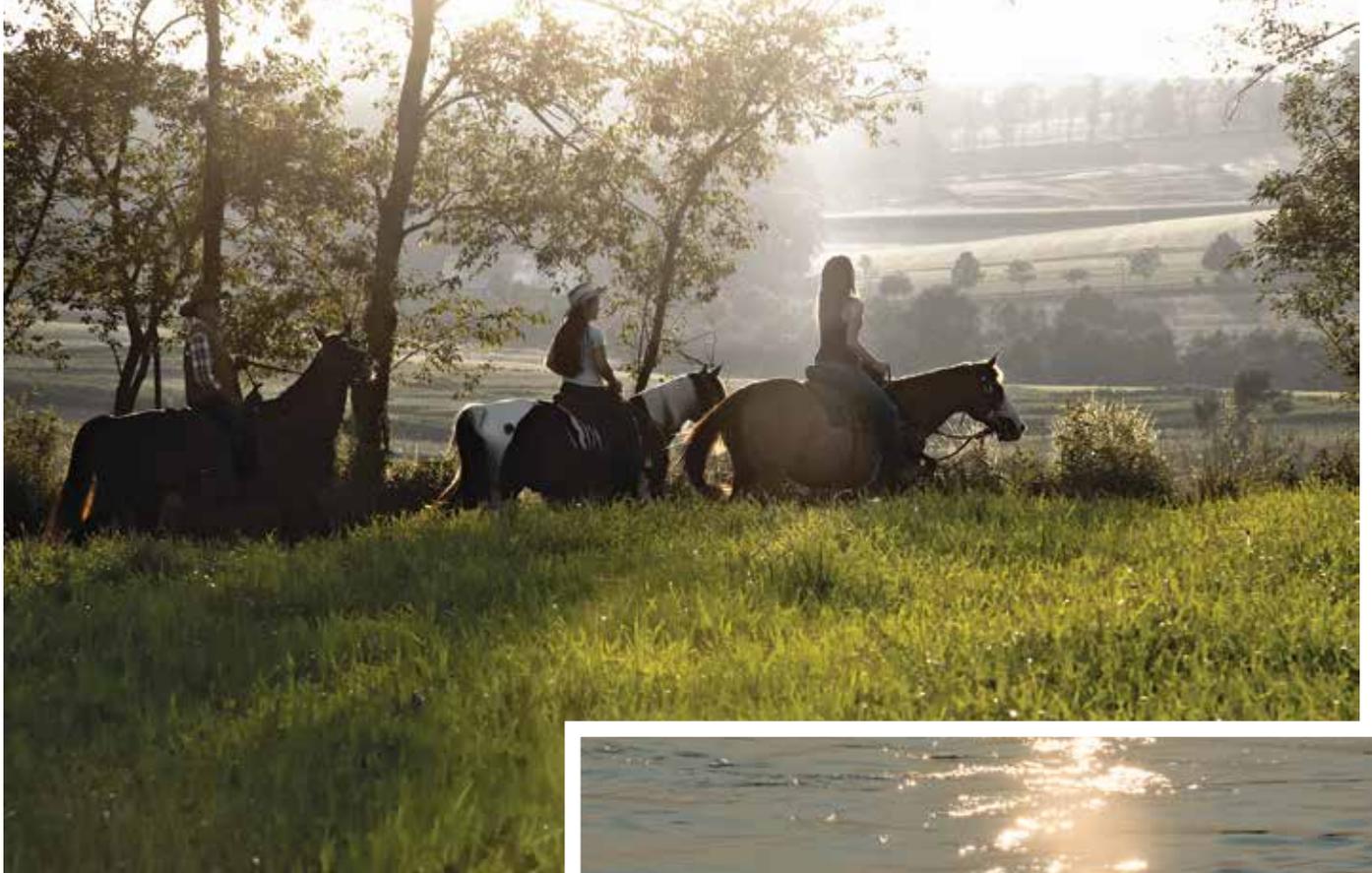
Gallery of Some of Lance's Favorite Photos





You may recognize some of these favorite photos by Lance C. Bell (here and on the following pages) from previous promotions and issues of Mountain Discoveries.







Springs Store: Cornerstone of the Community

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**



In the small, rural community of Springs, Pennsylvania, just a few miles from the Maryland line, a general store with a peaked roof sits beside the road. Horses and buggies, cars, and trucks fill the parking lot. It is remarkable enough for an independent store to thrive in these days of big box franchises, but what makes this store even more unusual is that it has been in business since 1896.

The farming community and vibrant small town we know today as Springs developed from a dense white pine and hemlock forest with many springs providing good water. In the late 1700s, the crossroads was called Folk for the first settlers to build a home there, George Folk and his family. A small log schoolhouse, the Folk School, was built in the early 1800s.



Top: The F.W. Bender General Merchandise store (circa 1900), in the former school building, was remodeled adding large warerooms and other improvements.

Inset: Tractors in front of F.W. Bender store, January 24, 1929.
BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As the town acquired a few more inhabitants, it became known as Chestnut Springs due to a chestnut tree standing near the local spring. When the first schoolhouse was outgrown, a second, larger schoolhouse was built in 1844. Worship led by itinerant preachers had been held in residents' houses or barns, but a church was completed in 1871 (and renovated and enlarged in 1916).



When the nearby Tub post office, named for a stream called Tub Mill Run, was moved to Springs, the village acquired the moniker of Tub. Since the name made them a bit of a “laughingstock,” townspeople petitioned to have the post office officially changed to “Springs,” and this was done on January 1, 1903.

E.K. Blauch was assigned as the town’s first postmaster in 1894. Blauch opened the town’s first store at the same time, but closed this establishment in 1895.

F. W. “Fred” Bender, with the help of a silent partner, Eli M. Miller, took up the mantle of storekeeper in 1896, using a 16 x 20 foot shed in his front yard to open F.W. Bender and Company. The two men pooled their funds for a total of \$250, and borrowed another \$250 in order to stock the shelves. Within the week, the till held five dollars, considered very good money at the time. Eli sold his share a few months later.

Sales were sporadic, so the shop was not regularly staffed. Instead, a wire was run from the store shed to the Benders’ home so that customers could ring a bell to summon someone from the Bender house for assistance with purchases.

In 1899, when the second schoolhouse was replaced with a larger structure, Fred Bender bought the former school building and remodeled it for use as a store, adding large warerooms and other improvements. The shop space was equipped with floor to ceiling shelves, accessed by rolling ladders secured to tracks. The shelves were fully stocked



Top: F.W. Bender Store and Warehouse in Springs, Pennsylvania, in the 1940s.

PHOTO COURTESY SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Inset: F.W. Bender standing in front of his store about 1948.

PHOTO COURTESY KRISH BENDER MAUST

with many items, including bulk foods like flour and oatmeal; huge cylinders of cheese; clothing, shoes, and hats; kerosene; molasses; feed; fertilizer; and various kinds of hardware and tools. Cold spring water filled a trough in the basement that was used to chill perishables such as crocks of butter.



Arbuckles Coffee promotion at the Springs Store – patrons received a free writing tablet with the purchase of a pound of Arbuckles Coffee.

PHOTO COURTESY SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Blauch, the village's first storeowner, resumed his mercantile business for a time after Bender opened his store, but in 1905, the postmaster position went to John W. Folk, and then in 1909, that role was passed on to Fred Bender. The Bender store was already a success, and the inclusion of the post office within its walls added to its appeal. People came to collect or send mail, to shop, and to congregate with others on the front porch or inside around a potbelly stove.

More residents and businesses located in Upper Springs, and C.F. Killius had a store there from 1913 until 1927. As these other stores came and went, the F.W. Bender Store continued to flourish.

Fred tackled challenges with ingenuity and energy. In 1908, he purchased "a huge, three-seated, sight-seeing automobile." He removed the regular body and replaced it with a truck body so that it could be used for hauling, but every Saturday night, the truck bed was switched with the original seats so that the family could go for Sunday drives.

Before electricity arrived in Springs, Fred used a Delco System to light the store, the Bender home, and Springs Mennonite Church. One evening during a church service, two of the older Bender children were home babysitting the three younger boys. They stuck a metal button hook into an empty socket to see what would happen. All the lights went out, and Fred had to come home, leaving other congregants waiting in the dark, and restart the system.

Later, a homemade burglar alarm was set up between the house and store, so that if anyone tried to enter the store after hours, a clanging bell and blazing lights were activated. Fred's children and grandchildren later recalled this as terrifying, but fortunately, attempts at burglary were rare.

By all reports, Fred Bender had a generous disposition. Many drummers (salesmen) traveled on the B&O Railroad to Meyersdale, took a trolley to Salisbury, and hired a horse and buggy to drive them to Springs. At the end of this arduous journey, the drummers were given homemade meals prepared by Fred's

wife Malinda in the family home just behind the store. If any of the salesmen missed a meal, Fred would give them cheese and crackers in the store.

Fred's barn was often filled with chickens, pigs, and cows taken in barter. He then sold these for cash. Children even picked up chestnuts from Fred's own trees and bartered them for penny candy. Often, customers who couldn't pay in the winter were given credit until they had income again.

A large, two-story warehouse was built to one side of the store, with a manually operated elevator to carry stock between the two floors. As an adult, Verda Yoder recalled spending many evenings playing basketball with other young people in the high-ceilinged upper room.

During World War II, the store took part in tin can and newspaper drives so that these items could be recycled. Local people also picked and brought in elderberries. The store weighed and paid three cents a pound for the berries, which were sent to Kraft Foods for jelly.

The Bender store produced a monthly newsletter, the Barn-E-Gram, alerting customers to bargains and new stock arriving, but also containing amusing stories and quotes to entertain its readers. One piece describes a group holding up tarps to catch the apples while the tree is shaken; it advises people who use this method to wear helmets since many of the apple pickers were "nursing battered heads." Fred Bender's daughter Rhoda's parody lyrics set



Left: Elderberry collection time at Springs Store.

PHOTO COURTESY SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Below: F.W. Bender's store produced a monthly newsletter, the Barn-E-Gram, alerting customers to bargains and new stock. Excerpts from a 1947 volume were published in the 1990 Vol. XXX of *The Casselman Chronicle*.

to the popular song "Sixteen Tons" were published in another Barn-E-Gram:

*Some people think a feed dealer's rolling in dough,
That prices are high and eggs are low—
Hustle and haul and hope for luck
That you don't end up with a broken down truck.*

*You load Sixteen Tons, what do you get?
Either much colder or covered with sweat.
Uncle Sam, don't you call me, 'cause I can't go—
My time is sold to a country store.*

Fred Bender continued to run the store until his death in March of 1949. His seven children made sure the store carried on, eventually hiring Robert and Merle ("Dutch") Kolb as managers. Later, Dutch and his wife Maxine bought the place. Dutch Kolb made practical changes while preserving many traditions of the Bender years such as making weekly deliveries, a great convenience for local families. Phoebe Beachy Wiley remembers her mother having the next week's order ready when each delivery was made. To the children's disappointment, the only items that usually made the list were staples such as cereal, flour, sugar, and yeast, but one unforgettable evening near Christmas, Dutch arrived with a special delivery—seven bags of candy, one for each child.

The store entered a new era in the 1960s. The post office, long a fixture of the store, and postmaster John Harold Stangarone moved to the Keystone Building in 1964.

The following year, Annie and Wilbur Beitzel bought the store. The Beitzels had nine children ranging in age from

BARN-E-GRAM

The Barn-E-Gram, was a monthly newsletter published by F. W. Bender's General Store. See excerpts below:

Feb. 1947, Vol. 13, No. 2:
IN THE STORE

For a limited time we will sell ladies' dresses at half price. Come in and get a bargain . . .

Just now we are well stocked in all sorts of men's wear—wool coats, cotton jackets, leather jackets, reversible coats, sweaters, and cotton flannel plaid shirts. We even have knitted shorts for only 50¢.

For children we have outing pajamas at \$2.30.

In yard goods we offer three new wool and rayon 40-inch materials at \$2.25 a yard. colors are dark red, dusk pink and gold.

At last we got in some men's heavy brown work shoes, at \$6.50; also a supply of men's high rubber buckle boots.

We have on hand two electric shavers at only \$5.00 and \$7.50.

From time to time we have been getting in small lots of women wire fence and barb wire; also, a few more galvanized tubs and coal hods.

NEW IMPLEMENT STORAGE HOUSE

Well, we struggled through inventory, income tax returns, and sundry dull reports of the season. Do we relax now? We do not! In a general store there's always something.

Our Spring project this year is to be a new building in which to store farm machinery. This will be made of Rodamach blocks, and added as an extension to mer blocks, and added as an extension to the warehouse across the road. Watch the progress of our new storage house.

8

June 1947, Vol. 13, No. 6:
IN THE STORE

The International Harvester Co. is now manufacturing a Home Food Freezer. One of these handsome white enamel cases, which has a capacity of 11 cu. ft., is at the time of writing on display in the front of our store. Look it over.

We have for sale a Jamesway Feed Truck, which is a good-sized, rubber-tired cart, handy for hauling feed, etc., around the barn.

At last we have plenty of woven wire fence in the big warehouse, and are expecting more barb wire soon. Also, a shipment of nails.

Along the seed line we offer Lancaster Sure Crop and Old Virginia ensilage corn, several other kinds of seed corn, and Hybrid sweet corn.

We have enough fertilizer on hand to finish out the season.

Our dry goods shelves are getting filled up again. New items are: Cotton dress prints at 45¢ and 55¢; rayon prints at 98¢; unbleached muslin at 35¢; bleached muslin at 40¢; striped outings at 35¢; attractive bedspreads, figured in blue, green or peach, at \$6.00.

Recently we stocked up on Putnam dyes and tints.

We have a good line of men's and women's everyday straw hats.

Just got in several Samson electric irons, with temperature regulator for different fabrics.

Recently we added 7 dozen Nylon and 5 dozen Rayon hose to our stock.

Casselman Chronicle

13 to 1. Because of Wilbur's health problems, they were looking for an alternative to farming. With their people skills and entrepreneurial spirit, retail seemed a good fit, and the Bender store was ready for new owners.

Overhearing her parents discussing the money required for the purchase, five-year-old Julia offered them her pocket money, which she thought would surely be enough. Even without Julia's money, the Beitzels did buy the store at a good price and set about rejuvenating the business.

One of the major decisions they made was to convert the store to self-serve. This meant replacing the tall shelving with shelving that could be reached by customers, and installing coolers. To make up for the lost shelf space, the Beitzels enclosed the front porch and added a room for dry goods. They stopped selling gasoline and kerosene in order to focus on groceries, and five years after they took over the store, they discontinued the delivery route because it no longer was profitable.

In 1971, Wilbur and Annie decided to move their family to the store. They converted the top floor of the large warehouse to an apartment with six small bedrooms. Their family had grown to eleven children, nine of whom were still living at home when they made this move. Annie had difficulty with stairs because of a combination of injury and a form of muscular dystrophy, so the older boys, who were mechanically-inclined, installed a homemade electric elevator in place of the former manually-operated freight elevator.

When one of Annie's sisters needed work, the Beitzels created an expanded sewing department with fabric and notions in one of the warerooms for her to run. Over the years, the sewing department



Top: A Nabisco product promotion during the time Merle "Dutch" Kolb (right) owned the Springs Store.

Middle: Wilbur and Annie Beitzel in the store after converting it to self-serve. Photo taken September 10, 1973, by Annie's sister, Emma Maust.

Bottom: A young Julia poses with her brother during the time her parents owned the store.

ALL 3 PHOTOS COURTESY LABAN AND JULIA TICE

provided employment for several other women, and supplies for many local people, including Annie herself, who was a prolific quilter.

The middle of the Beitzel children, Julia, had five older and five younger siblings. All her younger siblings were brothers, including two sets of twins. As the youngest Beitzel children became old enough to go to school, Wilbur was able to take on some jobs outside the store, and Annie did most of the day to day management of the business, with the children pressed into service stocking shelves and pricing. One of the Beitzel sons remembers how motivating it was that if they finished their tasks early enough on summer days, they could go swimming.

Julia spent fourteen years growing up in the store, and she loved it. During her teen years, she would go down early to open the store and wait on the first customers of the day. When the school bus came, she rang a bell to alert her mother that she was leaving, so that her mother could come down and take over. Julia said her mother always made everyone feel welcome in the store, and the whole family learned customer service skills from her.

Laban Tice first encountered his future wife Julia when he had stopped in at the store one day with his cousin to pick up some snacks. As he waited in a long line at the cash register, Julia arrived home on the bus from her senior year of high school. Seeing the long line, she immediately stepped behind the counter and started ringing up purchases. Her quick attention to what was needed made an impression on Laban.

In 1979, just a year before Julia and Laban started dating, Julia's parents sold the business and took up residence in the former Bender home behind the store. It had been divided into apartments, and they returned it to a single family home.

The new owners of Springs Store were Greta and Gary Miller. Gary was an electrician and used the lower floor of the warehouse for his equipment and supplies.



Top: The Springs Store after enclosing the front porch, adding a room for dry goods, and removing the gas pump.

PHOTO COURTESY LABAN AND JULIA TICE

Bottom: The Springs Store today after updates and expansion into the warehouse area (brick portion).

PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN

Though Laban was a farm worker when he and Julia married, they both knew that this was not what he wanted to do for a living. They had a discussion one day about what other employment he could try, and they agreed that running a store would be ideal. Julia had had such happy years at the Springs Store that she wished this could be the store they bought, but they knew that the Millers had had it for only four years. That evening, they went to visit Julia's parents and learned that the Millers had just decided to sell the store.

Within a month, on July 1, 1983, Julia and Laban had bought the business. The Millers retained ownership of the buildings, and Gary continued to use the warehouse for

storage. Julia and Laban moved into the apartment over the warehouse where she had lived as a child.

Julia feels that it is vital to be sensitive to the needs of customers. In an illustration of this practice, Phoebe Wiley describes finding Norman Yoder sitting in his buggy outside the Springs Store one winter day in December 1990. The snow around the hitching post had not yet been cleared, and he didn't trust his horse to wait without being tied, so Julia had taken his order inside, filled it, and carried out the boxes of groceries to him.

Laban says they have learned that for the business to succeed, it is necessary to continually grow and change. They adjusted the departments accordingly. Some of the products they had sold to the Amish, such as shoes, were now being sold in Amish stores, so Julia and Laban stopped stocking them. On the other hand, when the local meat locker closed, Julia and Laban put freezers into an outbuilding so that the Amish, who live without electricity in their homes, could rent freezer space.

The Tices sold off the sewing supplies and used that area to re-package bulk food. Selling bulk food allowed them to remain competitive with large grocery stores in terms of price, and it enabled them to sell items not commonly found in other local stores. The room that had housed the sewing department also came in handy as a nursery and play space for Julia and Laban's son, born soon after they bought the store, and daughter, who was born a few years later.

It was difficult to make a living solely with the store, so Laban went to work at outside jobs. Julia became interested in going back to school and receiving some specialized training. After a decade running Springs Store, they decided the time was right to focus on other ventures. They sold the business to Cindy and Philip Maust in 1993.

Julia and Laban moved out of the apartment over the warehouse and bought the house Julia's parents were living in. They remodeled the house, incorporating a small summer house that had been behind the Bender home.



Inside the store today, housewares, baking supplies, and other difficult to find items have been added, as well as bulk foods, a bakery, deli, and regular grocery items. PHOTOS ON BOTH PAGES BY MIKE CALHOUN

This created space for two dwellings, the first floor for the Beitzels and the second floor for the Tices.

Laban continued to work for Casselman Lumber Company. Julia developed a new career path. She became a mediator, helped students who were earning community service credits, worked at a counseling center, and completed a degree in Human Resources. She was employed as secretary for the school board, and later went to work at Goodwill Mennonite Home in Human Resources.

The Mausts took over the business. Cindy Maust added a bakery, which proved quite popular; however, the Mausts



Juanita Jo Yoder, owner of Springs Nutrition (inside the Springs Store), stocks vitamins, nutritional supplements, local honey and teas and a variety of chemical free products.

did not enjoy being storekeepers and they put the business back on the market four years later.

In 1996, Twila and Owen Guengerich had moved from El Dorado, Arkansas, to Springs to be near family. Their daughter had married Julia's brother, so there was a family connection to the Tices. When Owen and Twila learned the next year that the store was for sale, they became interested.

Julia and Laban also were tempted when they learned that the business was available again. One day, Julia took a walk around the graveyard and met Twila. Their conversation that day led to the two couples agreeing to buy the business. As Julia puts it, Twila "prayed" them back to the store.

Starting in 1997, the four partners divided the duties according to their strengths. Owen Guengerich was a carpenter and enjoyed doing necessary building projects. Twila took over a section of the store and called it Springs Nutrition. Julia came in on Saturdays to make doughnuts and managed personnel for the store while she spent weekdays working elsewhere. Laban handled the routine management of the store.

The partners decided that they needed to own the buildings as well as the business. Gary Miller was reluctant to part with his warehouse, but they negotiated a sale in 2004. Later, Twila and Owen sold back their share to Julia and Laban. The two businesses continued to operate side by

side in the Springs Store, winning many loyal customers for the bulk foods, bakery, and deli that the Tices stocked, and the nutritional consultation and health food products that Twila provided.

By 2012, Twila and Owen were thinking about retirement and another move. Fortunately, Juanita Jo Yoder had moved to the Springs area from Kentucky, and was looking for an opportunity to set up her business as a healthy life coach. Juanita Jo worked with Twila for over a year before she bought Springs Nutrition in 2014. Twila continued to help out in the business for two more years before she and Owen moved to Washington State in 2016.

Juanita Jo has expanded Springs Nutrition; she stocks vitamins, nutritional supplements, local honey, and teas from approved sources, and chemical free body care products such as botanical soaps from John Daugherty's Fernwood in Grantsville, Maryland; goat's milk soaps from the Soakin' Goat in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania; and traditional tallow and lye soaps from Molly Klimas in Bruce-ton Mills, West Virginia. John Daugherty also supplies a line of essential oils, including a blend he custom-designed for Springs Nutrition called Medieval Robber's Blend. The basis of this blend is the legend that grave robbers during the Black Plague were able to avoid contracting the disease by using a mixture of certain aromatic oils derived from oregano, eucalyptus, clove and other ingredients.

Juanita Jo consults with clients on healthy life, primarily through vitamins and supplements. Arrangements can also be made through Springs Nutrition for aromatherapy consultation with Jessica Faidley and massage therapy with Lori Sines. In addition, Springs Nutrition carries a line of photographic stationery by local retired professor Phoebe Wiley, who identifies birds and plants on the back of each card. Juanita Jo herself has an interest in silver and old coins, and it is possible to buy and sell such items in her section of the store.



One more major change was on the horizon. About the time the Guengerichs were leaving, Julia and Laban came to the difficult decision that it was time to reduce their stake in the store. They interviewed several interested parties, but nothing worked out until they heard that Hannah and Matt Byler were thinking about buying the store.

Hannah had always liked the Springs Store and didn't want to see the business close, but neither she nor her husband Matt had any retail experience. Julia and Laban invited Matt and Hannah to dinner. As Hannah tells it, she went in thinking there was no way they could buy and run the store, and left dinner thinking that they should definitely do it. To begin learning about the operation, Matt worked for a couple of months before the purchase of the business on January 1, 2017.

The Bylers have followed the path that other owners have before them. They have sometimes combined other jobs (such as Hannah's library position) with store ownership, they are raising young children while managing the store, and they have adjusted the store's stock and services to keep abreast of changes in the community.

The store already had established a bakery, deli, bulk foods, and the separate nutritional supplements business. The Bylers brought in Hannah's mother, Charlotte Tice, to supervise the bakery. Their goal is to make bakery items and deli salads from scratch, just as they would do at home. Hannah and Matt have added some lines, notably housewares and baking supplies. The Bylers delight in supplying items that are difficult to find in other area stores.



Top: Matt and Hannah Byler (with daughter Amelia) purchased the Springs Store from Julia and Laban Tice (right), January 1, 2017.

PHOTO COURTESY LABAN AND JULIA TICE

Bottom: Some of the unique items and bulk foods to be found at the Springs Store. PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN

In response to the pandemic, they have followed safety protocols, changed some practices such as having customers reach into a basket to choose baked goods, and begun selling old-fashioned toys and books to help people buy gifts locally. To show their appreciation for the community's support during these difficult times, they were even able to provide a free Christmas dinner by handing out meals in ready to heat containers in the parking lot of the nearby church.

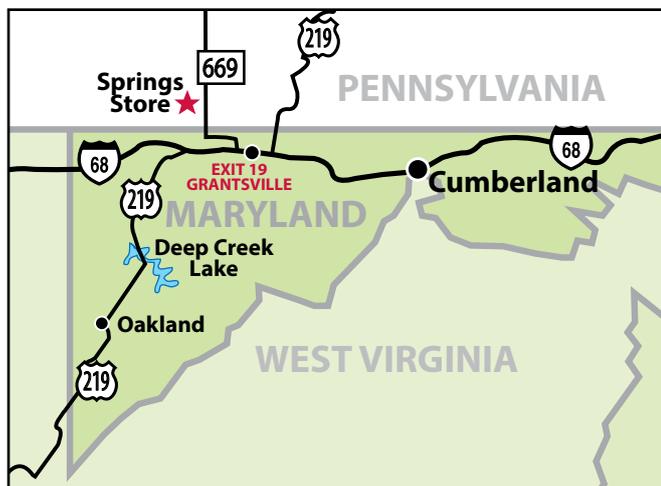
Laban Tice continues to help out, now working thirty rather than sixty hours a week. He enjoys not being a boss and not having to deal with regulatory paperwork. He and Julia, remembering that several new owners had decided to leave the business after four years, watched with relief as the Bylers' fourth anniversary came and went on January 1, 2021.

The Bylers say there have been challenges, but they are having fun with the store. They enjoy working together and thinking creatively about ways to do things better. They appreciate the history of the store as a cornerstone of the community and a welcome resource for people who live further afield or who are visitors to the area. Hannah sums up their experience thus far as both terrifying and gratifying. It looks as if the Bylers may indeed join the short list of long-term owners of Springs Store.

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Browse among the antique glass, furniture and iron-ware as well as new crafts, honey and maple syrup. Be sure to take a stroll on the self-guided **Alta Schrock Nature Trail** adjacent to the Farmers' Market. Total distance of the easy walking loop trail is 4/10 mile.

Don't forget to come back **October 1 & 2, 2021**, for the **Springs Folk Festival** celebrating over 150 craftsmen demonstrating their skills, continual music performances, hayrides and PA Dutch foods. All events are subject to COVID-19 PA State regulations. Keep posted on updates on our website and Facebook.

Visit the **Springs Museum**, adjacent to the Market, to visit the two-story building displaying an early school, church, store, living quarters and antique farm and industrial equipment, some manufactured in Springs in the early 1900s as well as 60 years of genealogical journals. See Springs Historical Society website for opening dates.

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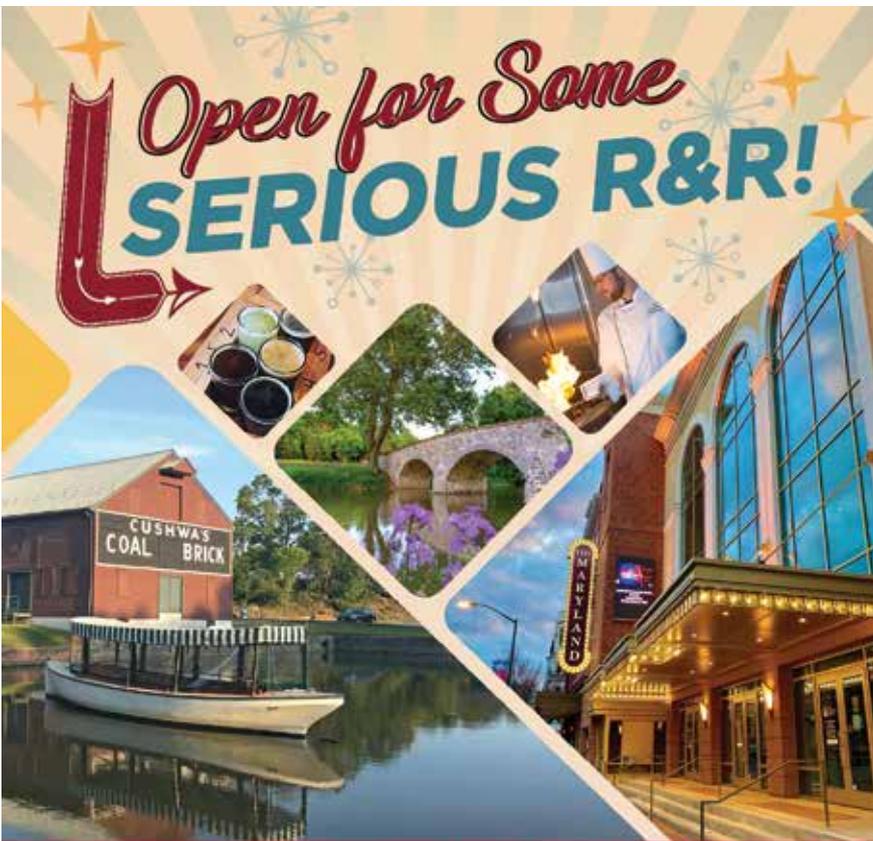
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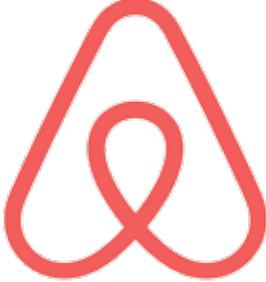
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airbnb Anyone?

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**
 Photography by: **Lance C. Bell**

Travelers who are new to Airbnb may assume that they will be renting a room in someone’s home and will be given breakfast. Actually, today’s Airbnb has evolved beyond the traditional bed and breakfast idea, but in the beginning, offerings generally *were* for a room in someone’s house or apartment.

Airbnb originated in 2007 with two San Franciscans, Brian Chesky and Joe Gebbia, renting space in their apartment to three people for short stays. Within a few months, these two took on a partner, Nate Blecharczyk, and formed Airbed & Breakfast, an online service that allowed people to find, book, and pay for accommodations.

By spring of 2009, the company changed its name to Airbnb and branched out into whole apartments, homes, and vacation rentals. Over the next decade, Airbnb added an app, an instant booking feature, international sites, and official access to accommodations at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Airbnb has continued to expand locations, and has added programs such as alternative housing for people dislocated by disaster and for frontline workers.

The pandemic beginning early in 2020 posed additional challenges. The company responded by establishing extensive cleaning protocols so that renters could feel confident Airbnb sites were safe places to visit.

The company has grown from its original two hosts to four million as of September 2020. Offerings are wildly varied.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE HEDDERICK FAMILY

Jacob’s Cottage (top and middle) is furnished with family heirloom furniture and decorated with Angela’s art. The cottage is owned by the Hedderick family (bottom): Angela, Katy, Alex and Dan.

In addition to rooms, apartments, and homes, listings include 90,000 cabins, 40,000 farms, 24,000 tiny homes, 5,600 boats, 3,500 castles, 2,800 yurts, 2,600 treehouses, 1,600 private islands, 300 lighthouses, and 140 igloos.

Two local families, the Heddericks and the Maiers, who decided to become Airbnb hosts, have been pleasantly

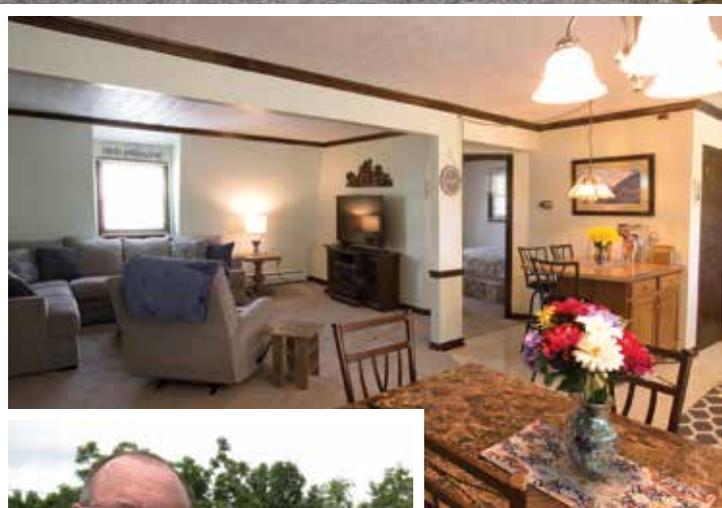
surprised by how well it has worked for them.

About five years ago, Dan and Angela Hedderick's neighbors put their house on the market, and the Heddericks saw an opportunity. They purchased the home, named it Jacob's Cottage for Angela's father, furnished it with family heirloom furniture, decorated it with Angela's art, and began offering it as a guest location for family and friends and the occasional vacationer looking for a quiet place to stay. After a year or so of this casual approach, at the suggestion of a relative, the Heddericks decided to try joining Airbnb as hosts. They were delighted with the steady stream of short-term rentals that resulted.

Jacob's Cottage is booked about 3/4 of the time, never for longer than a week, and the rental income finances family hobbies such as daughter Katy's horseback riding and son Alex's downhill mountain bike racing. All four members of the family have important roles in keeping the cottage running. The Heddericks have become "superhosts," a designation that Airbnb gives to hosts who establish a consistent record of excellent reviews over time.

Dan says it is impossible to name one main reason that people choose to stay at Jacob's Cottage. Some travelers break their road trips by staying at the cottage, which is easily accessible from I-68 and Route 220 near Cumberland. Some come to be near skiing at Wisp Ski Resort or at Seven Springs Ski Resort, both within an hour's drive. One regular visitor is a doctor who lives in another city, but works a few days a week at a Cumberland hospital. Some want to be near local festivals and other events. Some people book it as a quiet getaway from hectic lives. Though most guests are Americans, people from all over the world have chosen Jacob's Cottage.

The Hedderick family thought that the pandemic would put a serious dent in their rentals; however, they found that even after suspending operations for several months, bookings for later in the year made up for the losses. They surmise that people were more eager than ever for a change of scenery, and visitors were reassured by the cleaning protocols required by Airbnb.



Tara's Cottage, a three-bedroom house with modern décor, is owned by Henry and Nancy Maier (left). It is located on a 100 acre farm/ranch with plenty of mountain views and abundant wildlife.

The Heddericks' experience led directly to another recently inaugurated Cumberland area Airbnb location.

Twenty years ago, Henry and Nancy Maier sold their HVAC business in Silver Spring, Maryland, and retired early. They moved to a hundred acre property where Henry's mother lived at the top of Warrior Mountain near Cumberland, where they got to know Dan Hedderick through his forestry work. Initially, the Maiers built a modern three-bedroom house that they called the Red Barn for their family's use.

When Henry's mother went to a retirement community, they moved her home to another part of the property and built "Nancy's Dream House" on the site at the top of the ridge. They took on long-term renters for the Red Barn. The last of these was their son, who rented for six years. When he moved off the farm in 2019, Henry and Nancy thought about Dan's success with renting through Airbnb and decided to try this route themselves.

They added a large, furnished screened porch; painted; installed new carpet, furniture, bedding, and art; and renamed the building Tara's Cottage in honor of Henry's mother, a serious fan of *Gone with the Wind*. Just as everything was ready and the paperwork was filled out, the pandemic closed down non-essential travel, so the project waited. When travel restrictions were eased in mid-2020, Henry and Nancy put the intensive Airbnb-directed cleaning protocols in place and took a leap of faith into Airbnb land. They, too, were delighted with the results. Tara's Cottage garnered immediate interest, and bookings have continued steadily. Henry and Nancy, as experienced businesspeople familiar with burdensome paperwork, are especially pleased that reservations and payments are handled so efficiently by Airbnb.

Unlike Jacob's Cottage, Tara's Cottage is available for stays of more than a few days. Several people have used it for a month or more while waiting for house construction or home buying to be completed. However, Tara's Cottage also attracts many short stay visitors because of its location. It has ample parking and a quiet rural setting close to major highways such as Route 220, Route 51, and I-68. WiFi is available, as it is at Jacob's Cottage,



Top to bottom: Tara's Cottage is in a quiet rural setting with many amenities including a firepit, furnished screened porch, modern kitchen, dining area and bedrooms.

which makes it possible for renters to communicate or work online while enjoying the bucolic beauty of the farm.

Visitors can relax in the comfortable interior of Tara's Cottage or take advantage of several outside spaces such as a recently-added fire pit. They can watch the draft horses and longhorn cattle that Henry and Nancy raise, and gaze at the mountain vistas available in every direction. Remarkably, it is possible to see Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia from the cottage. One peaceful spot inside, where a love seat faces a large window, has been dubbed the "best seat in the house."

Both the Heddericks and the Maiers keep guest books in their cottages and love to read the comments that visitors leave. Some Jacob's Cottage visitors have been interested enough in the artwork on the walls that they have purchased Angela's paintings. Guests who were there to attend a quilt show informed Dan and Angela that a family quilt they had displayed in Jacob's Cottage was unusual and valuable.

Henry and Nancy are always willing to talk with visitors to Tara's Cottage about the animals on their farm or the windmills (which they sell and install as part of a renewable

energy business they own) that provide some of their power. With reviews that are positive about both the place and the hosts, the Maiers anticipate soon becoming super-hosts themselves.

The families are happy to meet and interact with renters, but it's also possible for visitors to come and go without seeing their hosts. Booking and payment are handled online with Airbnb, and arrangements can be made for visitors to let themselves into the cottages. This makes the process of renting easy for hosts and for guests. Another convenience is that the cottages are well-equipped with linens, kitchenware, condiments, and other essentials.

If you're interested in browsing for places to stay in the mountains, you might want to see what's available on Airbnb. You can narrow the search to your preferred area, number of guests, type of accommodation, and cost range. Just visit <https://www.airbnb.com/>. On the other end, you will find friendly hosts, like Dan and Angela and Henry and Nancy, in beautiful and varied locations, eager to provide a positive experience for visitors.



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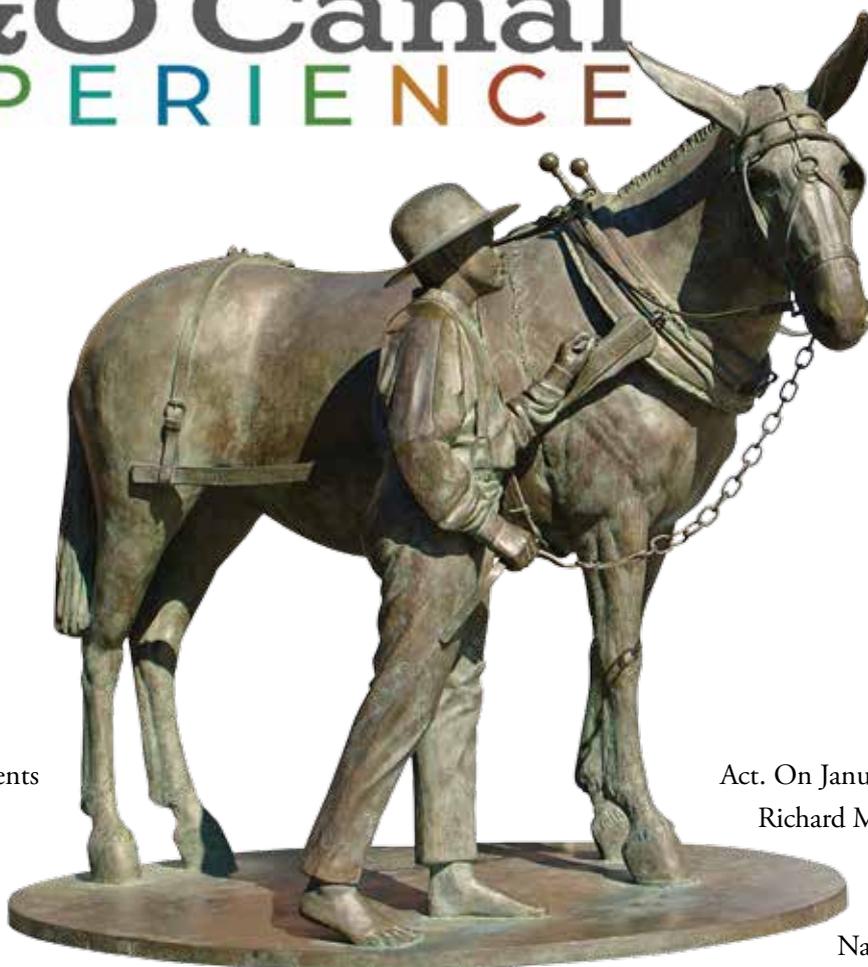

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C&O Canal National Historical Park *Celebrates its 50th Year*

Written by: **Sara Mullins**

C&O Canal EXPERIENCE



The year 2021 represents a milestone for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, extending east to west from Georgetown in Washington, DC, to Cumberland, MD. The C&O Canal National Park is celebrating its 50th birthday as a National Historical Park, in recognition of the canal's role for almost a century as a 184.5-mile lifeline facilitating transportation and commerce for communities along the Potomac River. In Washington County, MD, several Canal Towns lining the towpath are planning a birthday bash offering a wide range of activities for all ages.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower designated the C&O Canal as a National Monument under the Antiquities

Bronze lifesize statue of a canal boat mule and his young driver at the C&O Canal terminus in Cumberland, MD.
PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

Act. On January 8, 1971, President Richard M. Nixon signed legislation officially creating the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Today the Park is a year-round recreation mecca that draws more than five million visitors annually to enjoy what U.S. Supreme Court

Justice William O. Douglas once described as “a refuge, a place of retreat, a long stretch of quiet and peace.” In 1954, Justice Douglas and others of like mind hiked the entire towpath to bring attention to its value as a public footpath rather than a proposed highway for vehicle traffic.

Today the functional remnants of the canal tell the story of its origins as a passage to the West and a lifeline to communities along the Potomac River, delivering raw materials and agricultural products to market. The canal also provided

employment and opportunities to residents of the Potomac River Valley from Washington, DC, to Western Maryland.

Originally planned in the 19th century as a link between the Potomac and Ohio River basins, the C&O Canal could go no farther than Cumberland due to complications with securing land titles and constructing a route west through the rugged Allegheny Mountains. After its completion in 1850 to the tune of \$22 million, the canal moved freight and people by mule-driven barge until closed by flooding in 1924. What business remained was finished off by the railroads, especially as they incorporated improved technology that allowed them to undercut the canal's rates. The Paw Paw Tunnel remains as an engineering marvel, constructed of more than six million bricks that run three-quarters of a mile beneath a mountain.

Tunnel engineers estimated that construction would take two years, at a cost of \$33,500. Fourteen years later, the tunnel opened, with a price tag exceeding \$600,000. Within a hundred years, advancements in technology – notably the rise of the railroads – along with westward migration, a continuous influx of immigrants and increasingly bitter political divisions within the nation contributed to the decline of community life along the Canal.

Today, the Canal's journey from Harpers Ferry, WV, to Cumberland, MD, is an ideal route for visitors, offering abundant opportunities for biking, hiking,



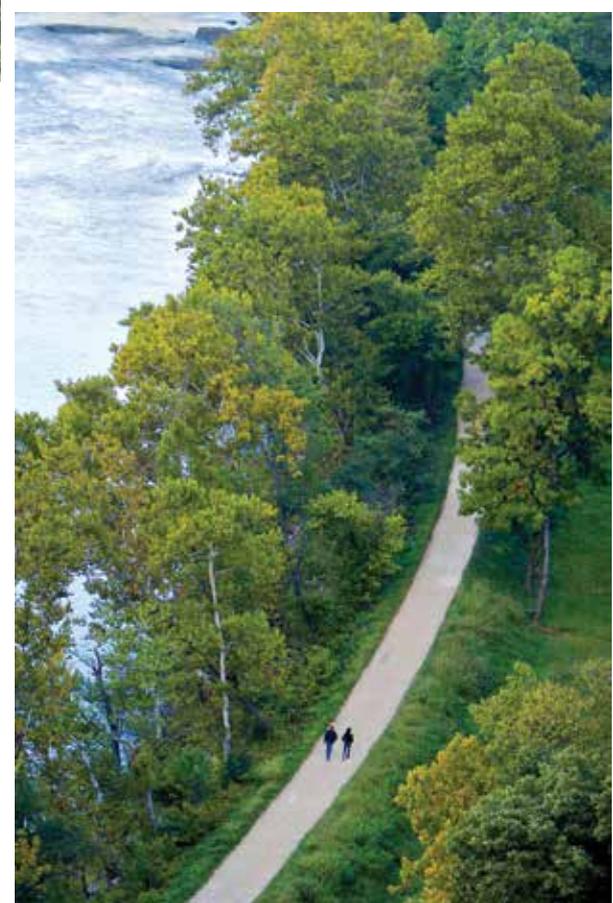
Top to Bottom:

**"Cushwa's Wharf at Williamsport, Maryland,"
June 22, 1904.** PHOTO AND PRINT BY ROBERT SHRIVER,
ELEANOR LEFEVRE HOLZSHU COLLECTION.

**"Passing a Canal Boat, below Orleans, Maryland,"
September 18, 1904.** PHOTO BY J.L. GRIFFITH, PRINT BY ROBERT
SHRIVER, ELEANOR LEFEVRE HOLZSHU COLLECTION.

**"Fourth Lock Below the Tunnel," September 18,
1904.** PHOTO BY J.L. GRIFFITH, PRINT BY ROBERT SHRIVER,
ELEANOR LEFEVRE HOLZSHU COLLECTION.

**"West Portal of C&O Canal Paw Paw Tunnel,"
September 18, 1904.** PHOTO BY J.L. GRIFFITH, PRINT BY ROBERT
SHRIVER, ELEANOR LEFEVRE HOLZSHU COLLECTION.



Above: Maryland Heights Overlook, viewing Harper's Ferry, WV, at the confluence of the Potomac (right) and Shenandoah Rivers (left). This intersection is known as the Potomac Water Gap, a double water gap and the lowest crossing of the Blue Ridge Mountains. PHOTO BY CHARISSA HIPPI

Inset: A view of the C&O Canal towpath near Maryland Heights and Harper's Ferry. PHOTO BY JIM KIRBY

camping, sight-seeing and paddling. Within this 78-mile stretch of Washington County are five national parks: the C&O Canal National Historical Park, Harper's Ferry National Historical Park, Antietam National Battlefield, Appalachian Trail, and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. Also known as "The Nation's River," the Potomac Heritage trail is a network of locally managed trails that lie within the corridor carved by the Potomac as it made its way to the Allegheny Highlands and served as a barrier between the northern and southern states. More than 830 miles of existing and planned trails are part of this historical route, which can be found online in the Potomac River Atlas at <https://gis.visithagerstown.com>.



The Conococheague Aqueduct near the Cushwa Basin at Williamsport, MD, was a two-year restoration project between the National Park Service and the State of Maryland, making it possible for the aqueduct to again carry water. Visitors can take a canal boat tour across the aqueduct or they can paddle their own boat through the aqueduct or under it as shown in this photo. PHOTO BY DWIGHT WINGERT

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is known for its scenic location, offering views of three states – Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia – from The Point at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. This intersection, known as The Potomac Water Gap, is a double water gap and the lowest crossing of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Its history has not lacked for drama. After the United States Armory and Arsenal was established in 1799, Harpers Ferry evolved from a remote village into an industrial center. It was here that abolitionist John Brown launched his futile crusade to free slaves from bondage. Today John Brown's Fort and the Arsenal ruins represent the legacy of our nation's struggle with slavery and civil rights. The Civil War wreaked havoc upon Harpers Ferry town by destroying its

economy and forcing many residents to move elsewhere. Frequent flooding has been a periodic problem, with waters rising to almost 30 feet on two separate days in 1996.

As a starting point for the trek from Harpers Ferry to Cumberland, the highest point known as Maryland Heights offers a stunning view of Harpers Ferry, nestled below across the Potomac River on a point where it converges with the Shenandoah River. Its 300-foot southern face is a vertical cliff that towers over the Potomac River, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the C&O Canal. Maryland Heights hosted the first battle between Union and Confederate troops in Maryland. The hike to the top is steep, rugged, and worth every step.

Harpers Ferry is home to the Appalachian Trail Visitor Center, a legendary landmark along the 2,200-mile Appalachian



National Scenic Trail, often referred to as the AT. Almost all of Maryland's section along the AT lies within Washington County. The Center is located near the highest point of Harpers Ferry at what's known as the "psychological midpoint" of the trail. For hikers, it's a popular location for a photo op. Within the Center, visitors can view exhibits that include a 10-foot-long three-dimensional map of the Appalachian Trail and the famous sign from Katahdin's summit at the Trail's northern terminus in Maine. The story wall features notable hikers like the celebrated Grandma Gatewood, an Ohio mother of 11 and grandmother of 23 when she began hiking in 1955 at age 67 "as a lark." She became the first solo female thru-hiker of the 2,168-mile Appalachian Trail. Today the Center's display of 30,000 photos of hikers from 1979 and beyond is testament to the AT's enduring popularity.

Although not located directly along the C&O Canal Park, the Antietam Battlefield, where a single day's combat determined the outcome of the Civil War, is well worth the detour. On September 17, 1862, more than 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded or reported missing after 12 hours of intense combat. The Union victory stopped the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia's first invasion into northern territory and laid the groundwork for Abraham Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Whether exploring the Battlefield by car,

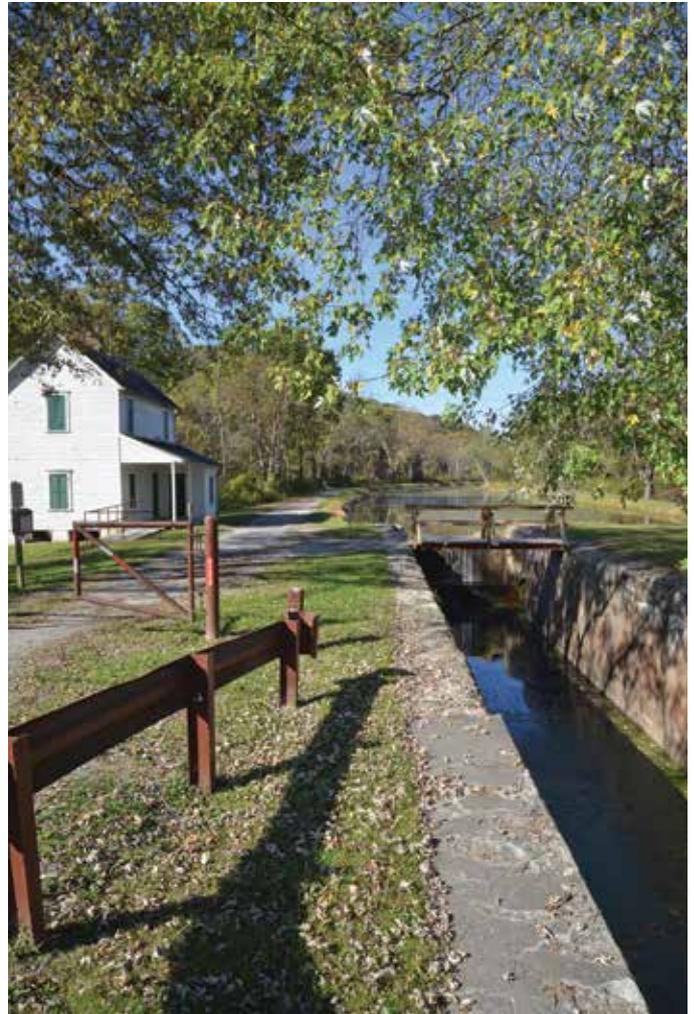
Top: Although not located directly along the C&O Canal, the Antietam Battlefield is well worth the detour.

Middle: Biking is a popular activity for all ages on the towpath of the C&O Canal.
BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY VISITHAGERSTOWN.COM

Bottom: A group with River & Trail Outfitters enjoys tubing on the Potomac River.
PHOTO BY JOHN CANAN



The Paw Paw Tunnel, an engineering marvel constructed of more than six million bricks, runs three-quarters of a mile. Tunnel engineers estimated construction would take 2 years, but ultimately took 14 years to build. PHOTO BY LANCE BELL



Lockhouse #70 at Oldtown, Maryland is a popular spot for fishing. Just below the lockhouse, the Battie Mixon Fishing Rodeo is held each year for children. This year's rodeo is June 5, 2021. PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

bicycle or on foot, many visitors find the journey enlightening, sobering, even haunting. The Battlefield's historic visitor center is currently undergoing major rehabilitation, with reopening anticipated in late 2022. Meanwhile, a temporary visitor center will offer basic amenities such as site information and restrooms.

The C&O Canal route between Harpers Ferry and Cumberland is ideally suited to a wide range of activities in the great outdoors. Those interested in hiking or biking the canal will find campgrounds along the towpath, most of them free of charge. Lockhouse 49 at Four Locks offers indoor lodging on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Visitors seeking lodging, advice and guided tours can turn to River & Trail Outfitters for assistance. With 40 years'

experience and a staff of over 70, this family-operated business offers tours and amenities that include a campground and rental cabins that can sleep up to six people, plus space for RV and tent camping. River & Trail outings range from Harpers Ferry Food & Drink tours to history tours, hiking or biking or kayaking/canoeing trips, zip-lining adventures, and, of course, rafting – your choice of Mellow Tubing on the Shenandoah River or Whitewater Tubing on the Potomac River. Other options include Civil War & Natural History Tours, an Antietam Kayak & Brunch, and a Maryland Heights Overlook Hike. Custom outings can also be arranged.

The C&O Canal's 50th has sparked some entrepreneurial creativity within the local beverage community, resulting in the new C&O Canal Libations Trail that offers visitors



The Western Maryland Railroad Station and C&O Canal Terminus, located in Cumberland, MD, is part of the festival grounds for the annual Heritage Days Festival, September 9 – 12, 2021. PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

their choice of local, canal-themed brews, wine and spirits available at several Canal Towns along the towpath. In partnership with the C&O Canal Trust, Maryland's Route One Apparel company has designed t-shirts featuring renderings of the towpath on the back. A portion of sales will support the C&O Canal Trust's mission to preserve and protect the Park.

The 50th birthday of the "Grand Old Ditch," as the C&O Canal was affectionately known in its early days, will be celebrated in great style in 2021, thanks to a robust schedule of events developed as a collective effort involving a wide range of community groups. Celebratory events include a C&O Canal Photography Competition and Exhibit from May 6 - June 1, "Culture and Cocktails: Spotlight on the C&O Canal" in Hagerstown on August 13; the 45th Annual C&O Canal Days in Williamsport on August 28; and the World Canal Conference in Hagerstown from August 30 – September 2. And finally, the Heritage Days Festival at the Cumberland terminus returns this year after having been cancelled in 2020. The Festival has been expanded from two to four days, with events set for September 9 – 12. Highlights include the Allegany Museum's Whiskey Rebellion Reception and a new Wills Creek Muster

reenactment event featuring re-enactors, demonstrators and settlers from the period between 1750 and 1790. Details can be found online at <http://heritagedaysfestival.com>.

A current schedule for the entire C&O Canal National Historical Park's 50th anniversary events can be found at: <http://www.canaltrust.org/plan/co-canal-experience/50th-anniversary-events/>.

For more information, contact the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 301-791-3246 or visit info@visithagerstown.com.

Please note the following updates from The National Park Service concerning visitation and public safety at the C&O Canal National Historical Park:

- Visitors should be aware that visitor centers are closed in Williamsport, Hancock and Cumberland.
- Face masks are required on NPS-administered lands where physical distancing cannot be maintained and in all NPS buildings and facilities. Park operations vary based on local public health conditions. Before visiting, please check the park website to determine its operating status. Additional details are available at www.nps.gov/coronavirus. Please recreate responsibly.



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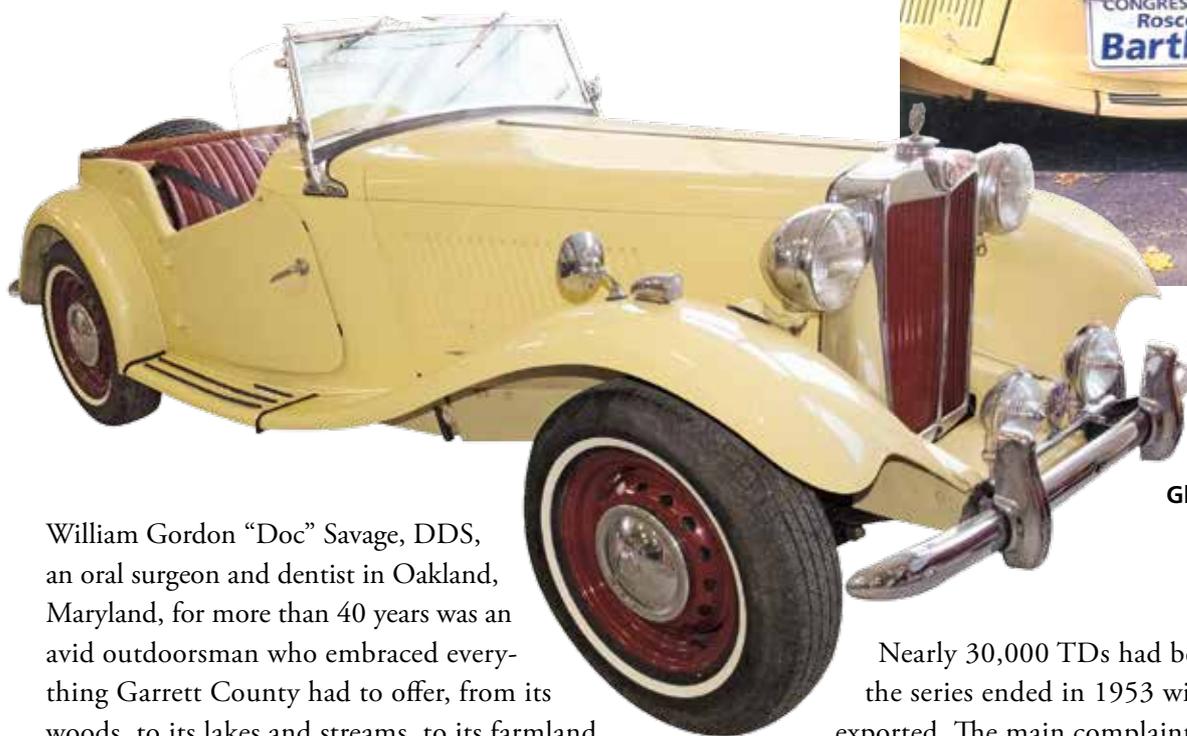


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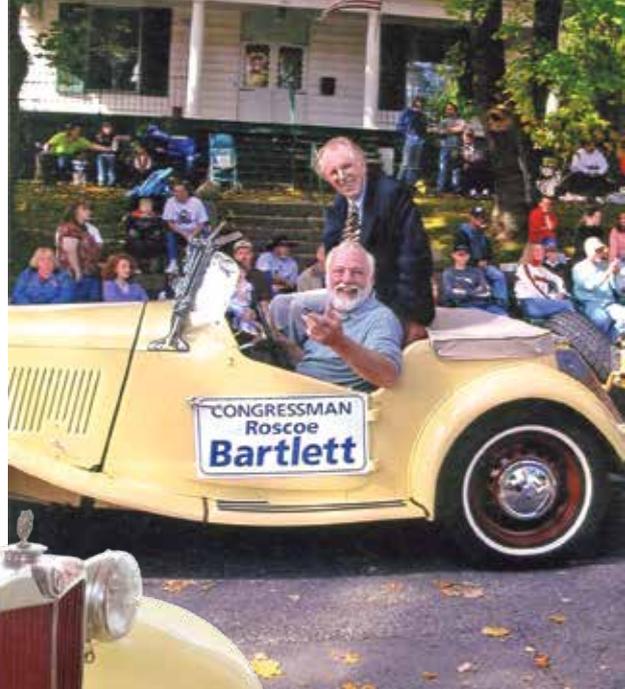
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Doc Savage's 1952 MG-TD Roadster on Display at Garrett County Museum of Transportation



William Gordon "Doc" Savage, DDS, an oral surgeon and dentist in Oakland, Maryland, for more than 40 years was an avid outdoorsman who embraced everything Garrett County had to offer, from its woods, to its lakes and streams, to its farmland. His appreciation of history and craftsmanship developed into a passion for restoring old cars, beginning with a 1929 Model A and his uncle's 1916 Model T, followed by a 1969 Jaguar and a 1952 MG-TD Roadster. Doc and his MG Roadster was a familiar sight driving around Garrett County and in many Autumn Glory parades where he chauffeured various dignitaries over the years. Although Doc passed away in 2014, his MG-TD Roadster is on display at the Garrett County Museum of Transportation in downtown Oakland, MD, on loan by his widow, Ruta and children.

MG (Morris Garages), was founded in 1924 by William R. Morris in the United Kingdom, with the MG-TD being produced from 1950 through 1953. It features independent front suspension, rack and pinion steering and is powered by a 1250cc motor with twin SU carburetors and a 4-speed manual transmission. Examples tested in 1952 had a top speed of 77 mph and could accelerate from 0-60 mph in 18.2 seconds.



William G. "Doc" Savage chauffeuring his friend, Roscoe Bartlett, in his 1952 MG-TD Roadster, during an Autumn Glory Parade in downtown Oakland, MD.

Nearly 30,000 TDs had been produced when the series ended in 1953 with all but 1,656 exported. The main complaint that U.S. owners had with the MG-TD sold in the United States was the British 12-volt electrical system, which was hard to service when most U.S. cars were still using 6 volts. Also, they had minor complaints over the lack of water temperature and fuel gauges.

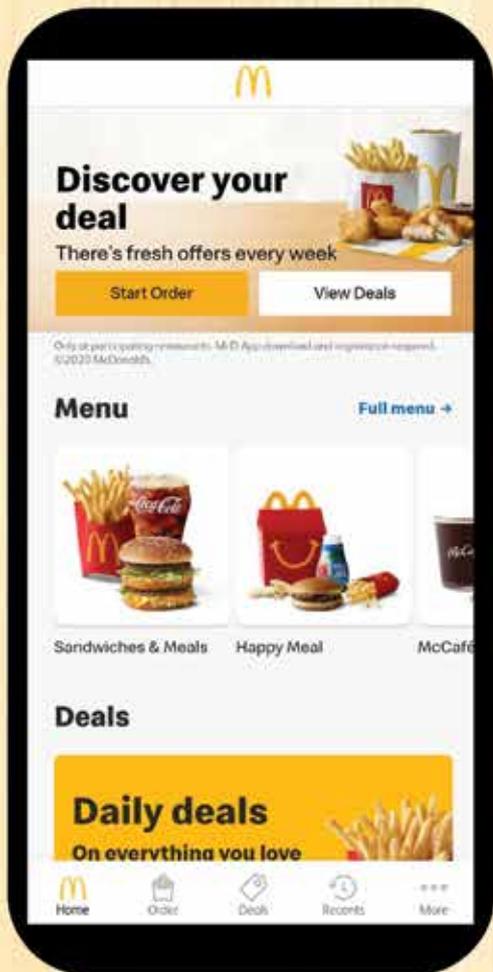
This MG-TD has a positive ground Lucas electrical system with manual steering and brakes. The body is ash wood on a steel frame. Non-original items include the woodwork, fender mirrors, driving lamps, side windshield deflectors, visors, and radiator cap.

Doc Savage, a great advocate for preserving the natural beauty of Garrett County, will be missed by many for all of his accomplishments and adventures, as well as driving his MG Roadster in the Autumn Glory parades.



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