

CHAPTER SIX OF THE JOHN HANSON BRISCOE HISTORICAL PROJECT:

NEW LEADERSHIP

New Leadership

FOR A BETTER ST. MARY'S



F. ELLIOTT BURCH, SR.
CANDIDATE FOR
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
BUSINESSMAN



JOHN HANSON BRISCOE
CANDIDATE FOR
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
PRACTICING ATTORNEY



J. FRANK RALEY
CANDIDATE FOR
STATE SENATE

Member of House of Delegates, 1958-1960, where serving since 1958, he drafted and introduced the County Ordinance adopting the Charter of 1961, and drafted and introduced the Bill creating the Maryland Department of Economic Development, served as a member of the House Ways and Means (Finance) Committee.
Sponsored by Governor Womack to Maryland Economic Development Commission, 1960 and before act as the operations of the Department of Economic Development, Chairman of Economic Study Committee of St. Mary's County, 1960-61; Chairman of County Economic Development Committee, 1961 to present; member of Eastern County Development Committee, 1960-1961.



CHARLES A. NORRIS
CANDIDATE FOR
STATE'S ATTORNEY
PRACTICING ATTORNEY



MAGUIRE MATTINGLY, JR.
CANDIDATE FOR
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
BUSINESSMAN

THIS I WILL DO

1. STREAMLINE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AS SUGGESTED BY THE GOVERNMENTAL STUDY REPORT, WHICH WILL GIVE A GREATER RETURN FOR OUR TAX DOLLAR BY THE USE OF EFFICIENT AND BUSINESSLIKE METHODS.
2. CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY, DEVELOP OUR HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO CREATE A VAST NEW TOURIST INDUSTRY, CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD A NEW PROSPERITY FOR OUR COUNTY, CREATING JOBS FOR THE FUTURE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.
3. APPOINT TO POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY MEN AND WOMEN WHO RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR RESPECT, DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY IN OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT.
4. CONSIDER EDUCATION AS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS.
5. PROTECT OUR BEAUTIFUL WATERWAYS FROM POLLUTION AND EROSION, AND TO EXERCISE LEADERSHIP SO THAT PROPER PLANNING CAN BE MADE IN OUR COUNTY TO PRESERVE ITS NATURAL BEAUTY. THIS IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN OUR PROPERTY VALUES AND TO PROMOTE OUR TOURIST INDUSTRIES.
6. SEE THAT THE LAWS OF OUR COUNTY ARE ENFORCED IN A REALISTIC AND IMPARTIAL MANNER.
7. INVOLVE IN GOVERNMENT THE CONCEPT OF ITS PROPER MISSION - SERVING - PLANNING - CREATING NOT ONLY FOR TODAY, BUT FOR A FUTURE GENERATION.

THERE IS A NEED FOR A PROGRAM, THERE IS A NEED FOR PLANNING, THERE IS A NEED FOR MODERATE CHANGES, THERE IS A NEED FOR RESPECT AND DIGNITY, THERE IS A CRUISING NEED FOR A FRESH NEW BREATH OF AIR IN OUR LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.



J. CLAUDE JARBOE
CANDIDATE FOR
Judge of Orphans' Court
Farmer



JOHN S. BEAN
CANDIDATE FOR
Judge of Orphans' Court
Farmer



THOMAS L. CRIER
CANDIDATE FOR
State Central Committee
Farmer



MARVIN C. JOY
CANDIDATE FOR
State Central Committee
Teacher



Edward S. Burroughs
CANDIDATE FOR
Deputy to Governor
Agriculture



Olive H. Brothers
CANDIDATE FOR
Deputy to Governor
Housewife



ROBERT B. SWANEY
CANDIDATE FOR
State Central Committee
Merchant



Melvin A. Gay, Jr.
CANDIDATE FOR
State Central Committee
Merchant

**VOTE FOR NEW LEADERSHIP
FOR A BETTER ST. MARY'S**

By Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

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CHAPTER ONE: J. FRANK RALEY'S INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS, 1930's

Q: Growing up, did you have any political role models or beliefs you have inherited from the older conservative Democrats?

J. Frank Raley: I didn't have role models as such – but I found myself being exposed to politicians a lot in my family's life, my father being a county commissioner; but more than that, there were constantly politicians that would come to the house. None of them were really my role models but it seemed that it was an interesting thing that was going on, all that interrelation. It got me interested in it, and I would listen intently, when I was a little boy, to what was going on. I also, by having that kind of background with family, began to know a lot about social and public problems, and I found public problems interesting also. And also, I found later on as I went into business that the solving of public problems is also necessary for a good business climate.

Since my family was connected with politics and indeed held many jobs under political appointments, the connection with the Democrats, it was always under the Democratic party, the connection with the politicians also took on the added part of being involved with your livelihood. I would be kind of indoctrinated coming up that Democrats were very important people, and you looked up to them. I remember my grandmother taking me to see Governor Albert Ritchie, in the early 30's, he was still governor then, I was just a – I was born in '26, so I remember it very well. He was going into a church for some ceremony. She took me down to specially see Governor Albert Ritchie go into church, and I can remember that day. And I was told, and I understood, that was a very important man that had appointed her husband, my grandfather, to a job of which he made his livelihood. So all of that, part of politics is not simply one of idealism; it's also part of patterns of life.¹



Left Bill Raley, Right J.
Frank Raley

¹ J. Frank Raley, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives



Leonardtown Square, early 1900's



St. Mary's Hotel, located on the
Square in Leonardtown; early
1900's

CHAPTER TWO: PHIL DORSEY CONTROLS POLITICS IN ST.MARY’S COUNTY, 1930’s through 1950’s

Loretta Norris: The Dorseys controlled politics in the county. It got to be bad because it was control and whatever the Dorseys wanted, they got. And basically, Phil Dorsey had controlled politics in the county and how things went. I remember the election where old man Joe M. Mattingly ran against Phil Dorsey for the Senate (editor; in the 1930s). That was a nasty, dirty campaign. That Dorsey-Mattingly Senate race was nasty. The Dorseys promised the Catholic school system public transportation, so of course everybody voted for Mr. Dorsey. And Mr. Mattingly got his coat tails trimmed quite a bit because before that he had been a very important somebody.²

The Editor of the St. Mary’s Beacon Leonardtown, Maryland

Dear Sir,

If you will permit me the necessary space, I will fulfill the promise I made to the people of St. Mary’s County to tell them why I was a candidate for the nomination for the Senate. I believe that Mr. Dorsey was not fair to the masses of the people and I believed that he was more interested in building up a political machine than in serving the public interests...

It is early to criticize Mr. Dorsey’s appointments but it seems that in some he has been more anxious to pay political obligations than to serve the best interests of the County. It is rumored that some capable and efficient office holders are in danger of losing their jobs because they have not promoted Mr. Dorsey’s interests.

I have tried to make it plain why I opposed Mr. Dorsey for the Senate. I expected to see him more interested in getting what he could for himself than in serving the best interests of the people of St. Mary’s County. I think that the facts I have given above sustain my opinion of him, I could cite more reasons.

Very truly yours,

Jos. M. Mattingly³

² Loretta Norris Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³ Mattingly, Joseph M. “Letter to the Editor.” The St.Mary’s Beacon, August 28, 1939.

Tom Waring: The Dorsey Machine, Judge Dorsey, actually had a very, very well organized group. He used to call them his lieutenants. Dick Arnold up at the 5th district, Captain Sam Bailey in the 7th, J. Frank Raley's father down in the 1st, Chapman Thompson, and others. They actually controlled each district. They gave the jobs through Chapman; they got Chapman appointed as the head of the state roads in St. Mary's County. So all of the jobs on the state road came through Phil Dorsey. You know, Sam, it was the way politics were everywhere. It was not unusual. It was everywhere⁴



Left to Right: Father J. Sheridan Knight,
Governor Herbert R. O'Connor, Senator
Millard Tydings, Phil Dorsey

Paul Bailey: Phil Dorsey was a great lawyer. Loved everybody. Dorsey was one of the kindest men I have ever met. He didn't want anything ever. The only thing he wanted to be was a judge. I would say that Phil Dorsey and Father Johnson, over at St. Joseph's Church and St. John's, were the two most popular men in the county. He never did anything but good for anybody. Really, that is the answer. He went to funerals, weddings and everything. There wasn't a priest in this county that didn't like him. His following did practically worship him. He was so good. You didn't have to have a damn nickel. There was no public defender in this county. If you were broke, Phil Dorsey would go to court and raise hell for you without even talkin' about a fee. In a county where a lot of people didn't get into trouble, can't you see how he built this tremendous following? That's all it was. He never took a nickel from anybody. He never stole. He never

⁴ Tom Waring Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

fooled with graft. And nobody else did. This was a county filled with very wonderful people. He was the top man, highly educated.”⁵

For Dorsey, Politics Is In The Blood

It was the beginning of what some have called the “Dorsey Machine” of local politics when his father got that senate seat, a position of considerable power. Walter Dorsey freely uses the term, though he doesn’t like it. “Everybody’s referred to it as the ‘Dorsey Machine,’ which implies corruption,” he said. “The only thing I can say is that my father tried to help a lot of people personally and get people jobs. Politics in those days was controlled by big families and county store owners,” Dorsey said. “Farmers were indebted to the store owners, and that’s where they congregated, too.” Such places were where the political futures were made or broken by close interpersonal relationships; candidates had to constantly cultivate individual votes with a healthy dose of favors.⁶



Walter Dorsey

⁵ Meyers, Dick. “Former Senator Paul Bailey.” *The St. Mary’s Countian*, April 11, 1990

⁶ Guy Leonard, *The County Times*, Thursday, July 9, 2009



OLIVER R. GUYTHER

St. Mary's County
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
for
HOUSE OF DELEGATES



June 14, 1946

In order to successfully solicit your support in the coming Democratic Primary, I am writing you concerning my candidacy for the House of Delegates.

My background, which I feel qualifies me for the position I seek, consists of the following: Graduate of Charlotte Hall Military Academy, graduate of the University of Maryland with Political Science as my major, three and one-half years in our armed forces—of which twenty-two months were served overseas—and an active interest in politics for the past eight years.

I feel that our country needs new blood, and needs the transfusion now—young men with no political strings guiding their thoughts and actions. With this thought in mind I ask your support this June 24th.

In the event I am successful in this election, I want you to use the back of this letter to write me of your desires, your interests for St. Mary's County. Only by hearing from the voters can I successfully represent the county and its people.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Oliver R. Guyther".

1 July 46

Hon. O. R. Guyther
Sen. Cond, Nass Rep.
Mechanicsville, Md.
Dear Sir:

As per suggestion contained in the last paragraph of your letter on the opposite side, I wish to make a request. Feeling the utmost confidence in your ultimate victory & having the deepest regard for your intelligence, resourcefulness, & ability as I do, I respectfully request this minuscule favor. The thing I ask is so infinitesimally tiny & unimportant that I fear you might forget it amid the rush & bustle of your mad legislative routine at our State Capitol. Therefore I send this reminder in writing; not as an instrument of force or something to be held against you - but merely as a gentle reminder - I WANT THE FIRST VANDERBILT ON THE COURT OF APPEALS AFTER I PASS THE BAR.

Very obsequiously (Y.I.T.O.)
W.M. Loker, Jr.

1200
3-1-46
1000
3-1-46
1000
3-1-46
1000
3-1-46

William Meverill Loker, Jr to
Oliver R. Guyther



John H.T. Briscoe, State's Attorney
J. Dudley Diggs, Judge, Cir. Ct.
Oliver R. Guythor, House of Delegates
Circa 1946

CHAPTER THREE: ST.MARY'S COUNTY **BEFORE 1942**

*E*rnest Webster Dyson: I was born where the Naval Air Station is, in Pearson, Maryland in 1920.

Q: Why did you decide to go to Washington?

EWD: Well, wasn't much round here to do, you know. So when I come out of Civilian Conservation Camp I stayed in that area, you know, in D.C for work. And there was plenty of work round there to do. Wasn't a whole lot of money. I think we got around thirty-three cent an hour. And I 'member contract with the Pentagon I was getting 87 and a half an hour. So that was much more money than we were making down here. Down here you wouldn't get over a dollar, dollar and a quarter a day at the highest. Dollar and quarter a day was the highest. Now over in Calvert County they were paying two dollars a farm. And we used to walk from down the base [Pearson] in the fall of the year, walk from down the base, up to California, and walk down Patuxent Beach and get down there 6:30 in the morning. And caught a boat and go to Calvert County. Work over there 'til five in the evening. Then come back and walk all the way back. [Mr. Dyson laughs.] There a whole lot of us. We'd start off with 'bout four head of us and by the time we got there it would be about twenty head of us. And was a sheriff named Willard Long had a big boat, he let us go back and forth with, you know. And so he let us use his boat. And we'd walk over there. We'd walk from down the base, down Pearson, Maryland, up to California, turn at California and walk down Patuxent Beach, and took the boat from Patuxent Beach to Solomon's.

Q: How old were you when you started that?

EWD: Well, wasn't over fifteen, sixteen. But we didn't do it regular. We do that in the fall of the year after... after we had... we had help hay and put away corn, stuff like that.⁷

⁷ Ernest Webster Dyson Interview by Margaret Maddox and Eric Powell, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives



Aerial View of Cedar Point, April,
1938

George Purcell: You see at that time it wasn't no industry in the county. A few general stores and garages. Before the base was set up it wasn't anything down here to give people work, everybody was a waterman or a farmer. I worked in the water all my life and farmed some too, but you had to work in the water or on a farm. And this bootleggin' they called it, makin' the whiskey, was a way of makin' a livin'. Some people made a little money at it but most of 'em just made a living, like they would anything else. Sometimes one of the neighbors would get a grudge against another one that they knew was makin' whiskey and would turn 'em in to the federal men. And they'd come down and cut the still up like you see in the funny papers, with your Snuffy Smith, you know. Yeah, they'd come in and take an axe and chop it up. It was made of copper, you know. Then they'd set up somewhere else, and keep on makin' it.⁸

Murray E Jackson: I was a member of the state police stationed in Towson, Maryland, and I was assigned by the state police to St. Mary's County in May of 1941.

⁸ George Purcell Interview by Joseph Walsh. March 20, 1987, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

When I first came here the county had less than fifteen thousand people in it. It had not raised itself above the Depression years. The Depression in the thirties and all still persisted. There was high unemployment. Most of the young people who went away to college never came back because they found work in the city and elsewhere, because there wasn't anything to attract them here. Now, some doctors came back. Some sons went away and became doctors and came back to practice medicine in the county. Some lawyers came back. But by and large, young people left here because they couldn't make a living, unless they wanted to be tobacco farmers or watermen. That's the kind of place it was! It was a



Three Notch Road, 1898

back-eddy. You know there was one two-lane, twisting road from Waldorf down here. That's the only way you could get here! Route Five came, that was the principal road down here. It was a little old two-lane road...there were many roads built in the early days, in the twenties and thirties, that were only eight to ten feet wide, because there wasn't any need to build them any wider. And they were saving money. Later on, the state came along, and they put a concrete lane on the side of that road to make it wider. So they increased the width from 'bout eight to ten feet. They increased it to about sixteen feet wide. Very narrow, because these roads were all built following old wagon roads and things of that nature, way, way back. So there was no attempt to straighten curves and go cut down hills and things of that nature. So it was a torturous trip down here from, say, Waldorf. There were no bridges across the Patuxent River. So if you wanted to go to Calvert County, you went all the way up Route Five and then north on old Route Three, the Crain Highway—to Upper Marlboro. And then you came down from Upper Marlboro into Calvert County. So that's how you got to Calvert County, unless you took a boat. You're talkin' bout, to go from Leonardtown to Prince Frederick was a two and a half hour drive. And over extremely bad roads. It's difficult for a person living today to realize how much this country has changed since since World War Two. In 1941 I think it's correct to say that the whole landscape had been transformed. There was high unemployment. The young people left here, they didn't stay. Schools were very primitive. The most prominent school in the county in those days was St. Mary's Academy. Boys and girls went to it, and went through high school.⁹



Route 5 at St. Mary's City, 1925

⁹ Murray E Jackson, Oral history, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

Joseph H. Cullison: In nineteen-forty my brother, my oldest brother, went to work on the farm [Susquehanna, near Pearson]; he was makin twenty-five cents a day. Course the next year he made fifty cents [a day]. You'd look back at it now, you'd say, 'Well I wouldn't work for a quarter a day!' But that was goin wage!...My brother probably was sixteen at that time, and there was certain things he could do, like weed the corn. I don't know just what other chores he did, but at least that way he could make a little money, and he was satisfied. And I'm not surprised that some of the older men that even had families, I doubt they were makin' a dollar at that time. Course I think my father got a raise when he went to Leonardtown. He was makin', say, forty dollars a month there [Cedar Point]. He might a got about fifty or so dollars when he moved to Leonardtown. But times hadn't changed a whole lot in that period of time. And we lived comfortable. We weren't rich by any stretch of the imagination, but comfortable. We never did go for meals that weren't on the table; we always had something to eat. Back in my younger time, though, they always had the garden, and the cow, and a mess o' chickens. So you had your eggs, you had your milk, and you got a hog or two in the fall, and you had meat in the meat house. So all of that came along, and we never hurt for a meal, as I said. I don't look like I was undernourished too much...¹⁰



St.Mary's Hotel, Leonardtown,
Circa 1910

¹⁰ Joseph H. Cullison, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

CHAPTER FOUR: THE NAVY TAKES CEDAR POINT, 1942

George Aud: When the Navy first come there [in 1942], the way we found out about it, two weeks before Christmas they come and nailed a damn thing up like a Sears & Roebuck catalog. They just took a nail, like a twelve penny nail or a twenty penny nail, and drive it right in the wall on the outside of the building. It says, 'This place the Navy has condemned and the government is going to take over and you got so much time to move'. People did not know when they were going to get paid and they needed that money to buy someplace else. As soon as the Navy started taking the land, the price of all the surrounding land started going up.¹¹

Esther Smith: Our property was on [Route] 235, just where the Glen Vista houses are now. I lived with my grandfather; he was a farmer. That was most of his work, was farming. He owned land that he worked as well as he worked on another man's farm...

Q: Describe, a little better, the day that you found the eviction notice saying that you had to move off of Cedar Point.

ES: As near as I can remember the sheets of paper was attached to the house, and it was above my reach anyway. I don't remember the people tacking it there, all I remember was being there and looking at this paper wanting to know what it meant, and my folks told me that it meant the government was going to take our property and we had a certain amount of time to stay there and we would have to move and so forth. But to me it was like the end of the world. "Why do we have to move from there?" That was home to me and I resented it. That's a fact, I resented it. I've always resented them, 'cause I did not like the idea of moving from there. That was home.

¹¹ George Aud, Oral history, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives



John and Louise Dyson outside their home in Fordstown, a farm community at Cedar Point, 1940



Cedar Point House, 1940

Q: Do you remember how your grandfather reacted?

ES: He did not express any anger or anything like that. Of course, he was going to be paid for the property, but at that time he didn't realize, you know, what a small amount he would be getting for it.

Q: What do you remember about the house where you were born?

ES: Well, it was a two story house. There were three bedrooms upstairs; there was a large living room on the first floor, a dining room, and a kitchen. We usually used whitewash for the house, so every so often we had to whitewash the house. We didn't have indoor plumbing, of course, at that time. Neither did we have electricity. The house was finished inside with plaster, and just plain wood floors. We used lamps, naturally, kerosene lamps. We had woodstoves – had an old tin heater in the living room, one that had the iron on the top and the bottom. In the dining room there was a fireplace which we never used, and in the kitchen, of course, we had a regular wood cook-stove, which gave lots of heat. I can remember living there until I was about nine years old, because that was when Uncle Sam came by and he tacked a sheet of papers on the side of the house, it looked like a ream of typewriter paper, or maybe half a ream of typewriter paper.

Course I couldn't read all the stuff that was on there, but I wish I'd kept it. But they said Uncle Sam wanted the property, so that meant that we had to move.¹²



Tenant House owned by George Quirk, Pierson, 1942



Tenant House owned by George Quirk, Pierson, 1942



Bell Country Store, Pierson, 1942



Margaret Fenwick Farm
Pierson, 1942

¹² Esther Smith Interview by Jennifer McCarrick, April 6, 1987, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

CHAPTER FIVE: FRENETIC DEVELOPMENT OF PATUXENT NAVAL AIR STATION, 1942-1943

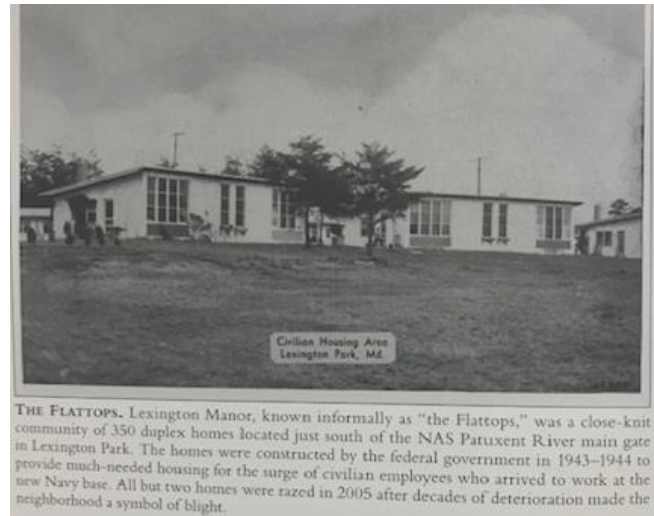
Murray E Jackson: Now we're talkin about after nineteen forty-two, after the base had started and you had all this flood of workers come in here. He [Willard Long] built this theater down there to take advantage of that, so he'd get some of their money, and offer 'em a little entertainment. And I guess he did very well. He packed them in, because there wasn't anything else to do. You had your choice. You could go to Willard Long's theater, and watch a cowboy and Indian movie, or you could go to a bar and get drunk. [Laughs.] That was about it.

Q: Guess companies didn't sponsor sports and things like that, like a lot of them do now.

MEJ: [Frowning, he shakes his head emphatically, but slowly.] Nah. Didn't have time. This was war time. This's war time. Everything was urgent. Everything was being rushed to completion. There was overtime; they were working at nights. You know, they'd string up lights and have construction crews working around the clock. You know we were fighting a war! We were losin' the war at that time, too! You know, the Japs had bombed us outta Pearl Harbor. And Hitler had Fortress Europe, and he was bombin' the hell outta London. And our troops were gettin the socks kicked off 'em in North Africa, so things were rough. And so the construction that was being carried on at Cedar Point—which it was called then, Cedar Point—was frenetic, to say the least. The government moved very quickly, though. This was a war-time situation, and the government, they let contracts for the military facility to be built. And the contractors moved in very quickly, and they all had cost plus contracts, which means that whatever it cost the government paid em, plus whatever percentage they were allowed for profit. But it was cost plus ten percent, fifteen percent, whatever it was. And they immediately started advertising all over the United States for workers: for carpenters, for builders, for plumbers, for—skilled labor, surveyors, any kind of people involved in the buildings trade. And so people came in here every way they could! You know, they were building a railroad down here at the time, and—there was a lot of very frenetic activity. And this was reflected in the community, because as I tried to paint a picture to you, this county had no surplus cash. It was not wealthy. The effects of the Depression were still hanging on. And this infusion of money and foot-loose, rootless workers who came in here to work on the base was a real shock to the county. There's no, no doubt about it. The old-time residents who'd been here all their lives—I imagine they could hardly believe what they were seeing. And many of them took advantage of this to make a little money! The local people!



Well, you take Hiram Millison for example. Now Hiram Millison ran an old general store down Pearson. He's the father of Larry Millison, who is a county commissioner and a big developer here. He's a millionaire now, I guess, but his father was Hiram Millison. And Hiram came out—had the foresight to come out to the gate—where the gate is now, and he bought that—you know where Millison Plaza is? Well, he bought all that property. And he proceeded to put in a big wooden building, and he opened a restaurant and a bar room. And he proceeded to make a lotta money. Made a great deal of money! And there were other people, too. Willard Long, who built the theater there. Willard made some money. But there were a lot of others, too. The Dean brothers, who ran a building and supply house over in Hollywood. Very small country-type building and supply house at that time. But they quickly saw the opportunity, and expanded their operations, cause a huge building boom went on. When you double the population of the county in the space of a year, you know, where are these people gonna live? So you had to build a lotta houses, and build them very quickly. So they built the Flattops, they built Patuxent Park. Houses all over the county, and they had to! A lot of people took in boarders, you know, roomers. Simply because there was no place to live. And all these workers. You know, the C&P telephone company for example. There was a huge telephone installation had to be put in on the base. You know, the whole framework of a modern military base had to be built from scratch. The C&P telephone company sent skilled workers out of Baltimore down here. And they all came down unaccompanied by family. And they came down and they lived on the economy, and they worked on the base. Well, they were skilled workers, and telephone splicers and wire layers and pole-sitters and everything else. But that's only one example of what I'm talking about. And everything had to be built! Roads had to be built. The electrical system had to be expanded. We had the old Southern Maryland Electric Co-op. Had some electrical lines, you know—servicing places like Leonardtown. And, you know, it'd been a few years before that, the Rural Electrification Act had been passed by Congress, and places like St. Mary's County got electricity. Prior to that, there was a diesel engine sitting down at the wharf, down at the foot of the hill in Leonardtown, down where the ice-plant is now. And that generated the electricity for Leonardtown. But the Rural Electrification Act was passed. There was huge amounts of government money put into this—nationwide, it wasn't just in Saint Mary's County. And so the Rural Electrification Act enabled rural areas like Saint Mary's County, Calvert County, Charles County to get reliable electric power. And this all had to be expanded, so they had to bring transmission lines in here from PEPCO, and you know, hook em up, and put in all the infrastructure that's required. So you're talkin about a tremendous operation. You know, Cedar Point was lovely, beautiful farm country. And it was blessed by God by being right at the mouth of the Patuxent River overlooking the Chesapeake Bay, with gentle rolling hills and—was beautiful countryside, but it was just countryside! That's all that was there. And so you had to go



in, you build a modern installation, from nothing. And this took a lotta people, and a lot of money.¹³



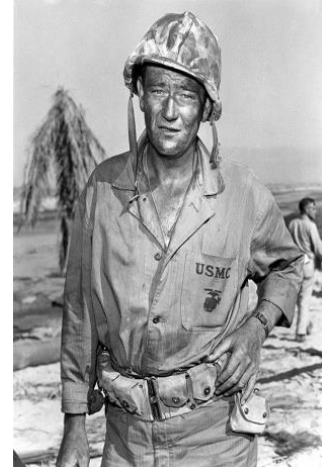
J. Frank Raley, 1944

Larry Millison: Well, I rememer the war started in forty-one. In December of forty-one. And the base started in forty-two. And they came down, puttin' notices up. But there was an hysteria in the county that I've never seen. You know, I've seen the Korean War and the Vietnam War and a lotta little wars we've been involved in. But there was an hysteria in this county in nineteen forty-two that I've never seen since. You know, Pearl Harbor had been attacked, and we were coming out of a depression. But remember now, all of Lexington Park was woods. It's hard for people to understand this. It was all woods. It was one little store, maybe twelve –hundred or fifteen-hundred people, little store called Lang's Store which was in Jarboesville. Jarboesville was named after the Jarboes. And so in nineteen forty-two, when the base started, and you had eight, nine, ten, twelve thousand

construction workers, many who had just come outta prison. You know some of these people, like Diamond Construction, got a lotta men outta prison to come to work on this base. And these were very, very physically hard people. And in those days the men who were in the armed forces didn't have the degree of education that they got today. So when you started the base and barracks for the civil construction workers, you know they used to fight every night. It was not uncommon to find many of 'em dead here. My father built a restaurant and a bar and a cafeteria right outside the main gate. And it was no other cleared land here. And then later on a fella built a bar called the Gateway, which is where Queen Anne Apartments is now on Great Mills road. And no one could walk up that road at night. There were gangs that use t' live in the woods. And they would rob everybody. There was a crap game and a card game that went on outside the main gate in the woods. And that game went on for probably three or four years, rain or shine, snow. Just went on around the clock. They were professional gamblers that came from all over the country to play those games. And this was truly, in nineteen forty-two, a boomtown atmosphere here. In other words, men who were makin' fifty cents a day started makin a hundred and fifty dollars a week. And flashlights that you could buy for a quarter become worth fifteen dollars. And men would have a bed where they would sleep in rotations of three. In other words, the bed never got cold. Men worked on the different shifts. They worked round the clock shifts on the base. And dump trucks, when they were building the base, they had a haul a lotta gravel in. You know, there was a hundred and fifty, two hundred dump trucks that ran around the clock. It was like a boomtown here.

¹³ Murray E Jackson, Oral history, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

I never considered it a shocking change. It went from a farming community to a highly sophisticated naval base. I was never shocked at it. I mean in those days, when World War II started, kids collected pictures of the different military planes, and they collected pictures of the different war heroes. So you know everybody wanted to beat the Japs and the Germans. So on my part, there was no resentment. It was great admiration on my part for – these were really the John Waynes. You know John Wayne was your hero, and these men were all John Waynes that you were seeing. You know, maybe not quite as tall as him, but in one way or another, these were the men that went into the submarines. Most of the movies made during those period of time were about wars. And about people fighting in the war. It was tremendous patriotism in this county. Tremendous, I mean, violent patriotism. Where men, you know, they cheerfully went and joined the Armed Forces. And people were super proud of the fact that their children were in the Armed Forces. And the newspapers were full of stories about local boys who had gone – who were involved in the battles that we were reading about. There was an attitude in this country that hasn't existed for quite a while. Civil defense was big. Everybody planted war gardens. Everybody did the savings with savings bonds and liberty bonds. And the songs were about Rosie the Riveter who worked in a war factory. And about the lady who always, you know, "I'm keepin' the house until my husband gets back, or my brother gets back, when Johnny comes marchin' home again." Yeah, that was the feeling in this country.¹⁴



Russ Marinuccie: I was sent down to Cedar Point and that's when the base was being built and it reminded me of America's ingenuity at its best. You know, the work going on, every tradesman in the world was there, every machinery was roaring and running, cutting roads, paving, barracks was going up, airplane hangars were going up and, you know, it was really a mass production, hurry up, build things, you know, because I guess they had to have this base. And so I was there for maybe a period of four months and I watched really what was going on, how they were tearing this place apart like a war zone, building runways, making room for huge airplane hangars. They started building steel airplane hangars, and then they wanted to build a couple of wood trestles, tremendous things, really a tremendous amount of men and all kinds of tradesmen, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, everything it takes to build buildings, only in huge amounts, you know, you could see the place, it just mushroomed every day and it was really fun to watch.



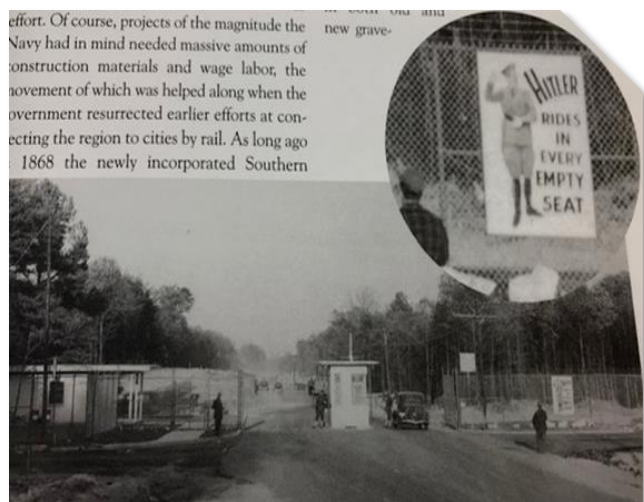
¹⁴ Larry Millison, Interview by Sharon Chewning. March 5, 1987, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

Q: Could you describe the living conditions of the enlisted men?

RM: Well, [chuckle] they weren't too good. The barracks were new and, you know, like every new building a lot of odds and ends aren't quite done right or maybe not quite finished, you know, but the place was jumping and moving at such a fast pace that sometimes even though the quarters weren't quite ready but they shoved you in anyway. And so I remember it was winter time when I was there and it was cold sometimes, the heat didn't work properly and, we had to go to bed at night with long johns on, you know, to keep warm. We slept in cots and from the workers that been in there, you know, they'd bring in food and all that stuff and the field mice were having a field day, they were everywhere, they were even in bed with us some nights. Matter of fact one night, you know, I had one, believe it or not, as tight as long johns fit there was one crawled up my pants. [laughs] I had a little bit of fun trying to get rid of it.



I had just gotten in the Navy, I was not a commissioned officer, I was an enlisted man, I was a second class seaman and mainly what we did when I got down there when I was there for a short period of time was guard duty. That was about it. I hadn't been exposed to construction prior to my going in the Navy. You know, curiosity, a lot of the time I spent going around and watching these buildings go up, how these people were putting it together. I met a lot of workers that way and of course some of the times I had off I use to go on liberty. Course the nearest town was Leonardtown which wasn't too far from there. Sometimes we went to Washington when we could get a car together, a few guys would get together and go to Washington. There wasn't really that much to do just outside the gate. Main entrance was a, there was a restaurant there and it was operated by Millison. I remember that, and we used to spend quite a bit of time in there 'cause, you know, what I thought for that neck of the woods it was a pretty decent restaurant. Course they had alcoholic beverages, they had beer, whatever you wanted we used to go in there. Sometimes we'd have dinner, maybe sometimes we'd go there at lunchtime, eat a sandwich, drink a couple of beers. Just hang around, they had a pool table, we'd play a little pool, back then they had slot machines, we'd play a little slot machines [laughs], you know, that kind of stuff.



Everyone that worked down there, I don't know what they paid per hour but they use to put in so many ungodly hours. Like they would work overtime every day, they'd work Saturday and Sunday because Saturday I understand was time and a half and Sunday was double time and these people had bundles of money, and down there, really, there wasn't too much to do. There were no women to speak of and the recreation time was spent mostly gambling and drinking, sometimes it reminded me of the casinos in Vegas, especially Friday evening and Saturday, and in the evenings there were crap games, poker games and all kinds of games going on everywhere. And the bets were

petty and us enlisted people with 21 dollars a month [laughs], you know, we used to, you know, we wanted to get into those kinds of games to make some money and have some fun and sometimes we did but not often and, we'd get together and pool our money and one of us, we'd get amongst them and played poker, shoot dice and these fellows used to game so much and they'd used to get into fights. One time a couple of guys were killed 'cause they got into fights over whatever they were doing. And of course the more that would happen, the more out of hand it would get, the more restrictions were enforced, and one time, you know, they'd come in through the gate and all they had to do was show their badge and they let them in and then orders came and the consular came, and every bottle of liquor or beer that they had, you know. And of course we used to open up their cars, look in cars, you know, if it was visible we used to take it, if not, you know, but they were hiding it all over the place and they were still bringing it in so it was still big parties, a lot of drunks, a lot of gambling going on. Then, like I said, the more they got out of hand, the more restriction they enforced and then we used to actually, you know, frisk them physically. And we used to find where, they hid bottles everywhere, they used to hide bottles in the inside of their ankles, in their socks, they used to strap them to their thighs and strap them to their backs, wear big coats so you couldn't see it, you know. And as a matter of fact one night, this one fellow was coming in walking and I was on duty and I asked him, "Now do you have any liquor on you?" And he said, "No I don't have anything on me," and I said, "Are you sure, you know, because I have to frisk you," and he says, "Well, frisk me." So anyway when I frisked him, he had a bottle of booze stuck in his sock, you know, down in his ankle, so I had to take it and man, he begged me, he said, "man tomorrow morning, I'll feel so bad I'll have to have a drink," you know and I said, "I'm sorry but those are the orders," so I took the bottle of booze and, you know, and let him in and the following evening he comes in again drunk as a hoot owl. So I asked him the same question, "Do you have any booze on you?" And he says, "Not a drop," and he points to his stomach and says, "It's all here." And I said, "Are you sure? Because I have to do the same thing as I did last night," and he says, "Be my guest." So I started to frisk him and he had a bottle down in his sock the same place he had the night before but it was empty, there was nothing in it, and he says, "You can have that" [laughs].

Q: You said you were stationed elsewhere. Can you give me some ideas of how Cedar Point compared to the other installations?

RM: Yeah, it was like night and day. Those other stations, they were all established bases that had been there for I don't know for how long. This was a brand new place, the amount of building that was going on was unbelievable, there were trucks running everywhere, bulldozers running everywhere, cranes, backhoes, all kinds of machinery, I mean, you could see the progress that was being made, how things really grew every day, how the place was expanding.¹⁵

¹⁵ Russ Marinucci,, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives



Workmen constructing one of two runways which, when completed, will be approximately two miles long each

John Paradis: They were still building hangars and extending runways when I got here, but most of those kind of work had been done. Originally, that was a bunch of farmland; there were streams and other swamp lands in the areas where the base is today which had to be filled in, leveled off, and the runways constructed. And all the hangars constructed there. And at that time there was nothing in the local area like a hotel or big restaurants or anything to handle all the people that were constructing the base, so all these facilities were built, actually on the base, as temporary barracks for the workers to live in. They had a mess hall on the base. The building is still there but it's no longer used that way. So they housed and fed the workers on the base that were involved in constructing it. The people who had the farms there generally moved to other areas within the county. The building was done pretty much on top of everything. The farms as such and the buildings that were associated with the farms mostly were destroyed, or leveled, or taken out of the way. There were a couple of big barns that were associated with farms over there that were retained and are still there. And they were used for storage of equipment and things like that. After they built the runways and all the digging and everything they do to build the runways, then the areas around the runways you know have to be kept rather clear of trees and everything and they were turned back and leased to local farmers who could come in on the base, put their crops in those areas and then harvest the crops. Instead of having grass or brush around they actually did farm some.¹⁶

¹⁶ John Paradis, Oral History St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives



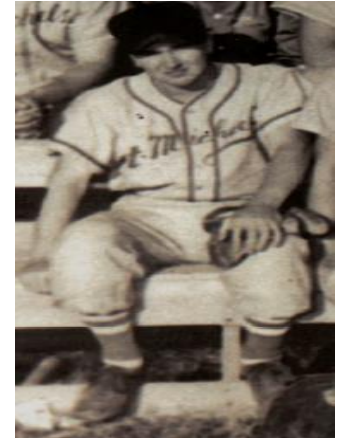
IMPORTANT ARTERY—Only minor construction remains before the vital 3 mile stretch between Lexington Park, just outside the Patuxent River Naval Air Base, and Great Mills is finished. Shown is the Lexington Park end of the segment looking forward at the gates of the air station

CHAPTER SIX: THE BASE BRINGS SOCIAL CHANGE TO ST.MARY’S, 1940’s

Murray E Jackson: The impact on this county, given its background, was tremendous.

Q: Positive?

MEJ: Oh, yes! Oh, yes! My goodness yes. Couldn’t a been nothing but positive. Now you know, when you say positive, I’m surprised you’d even ask me if it was positive effect, because it obviously was. Now, that doesn’t mean that there weren’t bad moments, and that there weren’t things: you know, tradition was trampled on, and maybe there’s some benefit in tradition, and I’m sure there is. But the overall good that occurred from the infusion of money and new people and new ideas and all, had to be, had to be very, very beneficial. The people who came here for the money were not what I would call the highest, highest order of people. Most of ‘em were rootless and construction workers who came in here strictly for the money, and many of ‘em left after that. Now what came after the order changed, after the Navy became established then you know, there was a different order of things that occurred. But I’ll tell you, there were some pretty hairy individuals who came in here with that influx of people. But they’ve most of ‘em gone now. Well, you had professional gamblers attracted by the big money and the idea of making a lot of money fast. Some say that the Mafia came in; I doubt that the New York Mafia ever came in here, but certainly organized gambling figures came into the county. And you know, I can tell you this without any fear of contradiction from anybody, because they moved on from here and became blackjack dealers in Las Vegas and that sort of thing; they were professional gamblers. And easy buck fellas. But that was in the minority. And they for the most part have gone. Well, you’re talking about a very complex situation, and there are a lot of factors that are brought to bear. I’m sure that what happened in that first rush of construction and new money and new people and all that that happened in the first year or so, that you would have to say that it was a wrenching experience for the people who lived here, and had lived here all their lives, it was a wrenching experience, it had to be! If you want to look at it from the perspective of the overall effect on the county, I think you would have to say that the overall effect was good. It had to be, because it brought money and modern roads and there were many advantages as a result of this. But those things have a way of happening over a period of time. They don’t happen just like that. You don’t see the effects immediately.¹⁷



J.Frank Raley
Circa 1948

¹⁷ Murray E. Jackson Interview by Burtin Hart, April 11, 1987, St.Mary’s College of Maryland Archives

Mary Catherine Stone: The navy base was built suddenly. That was a dramatic, tremendous change for St. Mary's County. Where we had had a post office and a general store over there (Lexington Park), suddenly we had a town and all those people. And they were strange people. And we had never locked our doors in our life. We never thought of it. But now, suddenly there's this little element of fear...you know, 'who are all these people?' And I can remember when you'd go to the movies – there was a movie house in Hollywood and there was a movie house in Leonardtown. And when you'd go to the movies you'd see all these servicemen up and down the road hitchhiking, and you'd always stop and pick them up. We were very patriotic, remember [laughs]. Now-a-days I wouldn't stop for a hitchhiker if my life depended on it. So we hadn't totally lost our trust back then, but it was changing. It was beginning to change.

Most of what had happened had happened so quickly. The bombing of Pearl Harbor was in 1941, and by 1942 as near as I know the base was in full swing. And nothing changed so very dramatically except steady growth, you know. After that, gradually, different things began to happen, but it was later, it wasn't quite as early as 1945. Leonardtown had always been the very core of St. Mary's County. Leonardtown was our town; I mean, it was ancient and it was the seat of county government. It was the place you went when you had a day's outing or something, you went to Leonardtown. And now, suddenly, Lexington Park began to become St. Mary's County's town. And Lexington Park was very different from Leonardtown. Leonardtown had kind of a dignity about it, I don't know how to express it. Lexington Park was sudden and disorderly and a lot of people came in here suddenly. A lot of people who came were people who hadn't been able to find work in their own hometowns and they came from all the states bordering us. They came from the Carolinas, they came from Virginia. They came from Pennsylvania to work at this great navy base that suddenly had this huge payroll. And so a lot of the people who came were not really trustworthy, they were not the best kind of people. And suddenly there were bar rooms. I remember the first time; it must have been about 1947, when we heard there was a topless bar up the road from Lexington Park. And I can remember feeling so shocked and so outraged. And what was really funny was the place burned down and we all said, "It's the hand of God!" [laughs] But there was a change in St. Mary's County. It was steady. It wasn't so dramatic. But it was steady and I was living through it. I was noticing and yet, I was not really noticing. I wasn't seeing it. I wasn't far enough away from it to see it objectively. But St. Mary's County could never be the same again. There was a time when I didn't know what was going on in Charles County. We just were cut off. There was very little communication and we just lived in St. Mary's County...¹⁸

¹⁸ Mary Catherine Stone Interview by Alison Hoffman, March 1, 1968, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

RENT MONEY IS SPENT MONEY
 ... And here shall rise a community planned and dedicated to you for better living.

PATUXENT PARK
OFFERS YOU
LARGE LANDSCAPED LOTS
A COMPLETE SEWAGE SYSTEM
WELL WATER DIRECT TO YOUR HOME
RESTRICTIONS PROTECT FUTURE VALUES

CONSTRUCTION FEATURES
 All homes now under construction fully inspected by Federal Housing Administration (a governmental agency).

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR 2
 Never before, never again will you be able to buy a home on terms your government has arranged for you.

A HOME NOW
 Principal — Interest — Taxes — Insurance
 MONTHLY OR IN ONE PAYMENT

SIX ROOM HOMES
OPEN FOR INSPECTION
 Daily and Sunday 10 A. M. to 8 P. M.



HONEY LANE. After the Naval Air Station Patuxent River opened in 1943, many bars and lounges cropped up near the base's main gate in Lexington Park. Honey Lane, pictured here, was a popular 24-hour bar, restaurant, and slot parlor located on Route 235. Other local watering holes included the Sunset Lounge, Brass Ass, Pat's Bar, Eddie's Nav-Air Grill, Cedar Point Tavern, the Dock, Two-Spot Club, and Peach Blossom Inn.

John Paradis: When I first came down to this area, it looked like very rural. We came down into Waldorf and then took Route 5 out of Waldorf. Route 5 out of Waldorf at that time was a road that probably looked like Mattapany road over here next to St. Mary's College. You know, just a little two lane road down in the country, and our comment was, 'Martha, we're really getting out in nowheres,' when we came down here. They were just building those houses which they call Patuxent Park. You know, those little two-story square houses? And those were in the process of being built. Our squadron came down and took all the houses on one street. Just about every house on each side, or rented it. And the houses were selling for 7,500 dollars apiece in those days. In town there was a store across the street where there's a grocery store and there was a few other stores along in there. But just that one row of stores and then the Patuxent Park houses were being built and the Navy built what they call the Flattops. They're the little cinderblock flat-roofed houses off the side. And both Navy and civilian workers on the base, civil service, would live in those houses. But that's all there was. If you wanted to go to a drugstore, particularly in the evening, you had to go to Leonardtown and that was another little, little road. There were no other buildings or anything all along the Great Mills Road, or anything...there were just a few houses there. That's all.

Q: Do you remember how the local population related to the naval officers and the people who came in with the Navy?

JP: I think they mostly felt that, here's a bunch of strangers coming into town. A lot of them were in a sense more urbanized than the local people who were pretty rural. And there was some degree of acceptance because after all the war was on, they were military personnel, and so forth. But the acceptance was on the business side, rather than taking you in as a friend of the family or that sort of thing. It was always this division and I know we ran into the experience where we were asked one time if we were natives and we said, 'No, I guess not. We came here with the Navy, but our children were born here. Does that make them natives?' And the answer was, 'No, not unless their grandmothers were born here could they be natives.' So there was always this kind of division.¹⁹

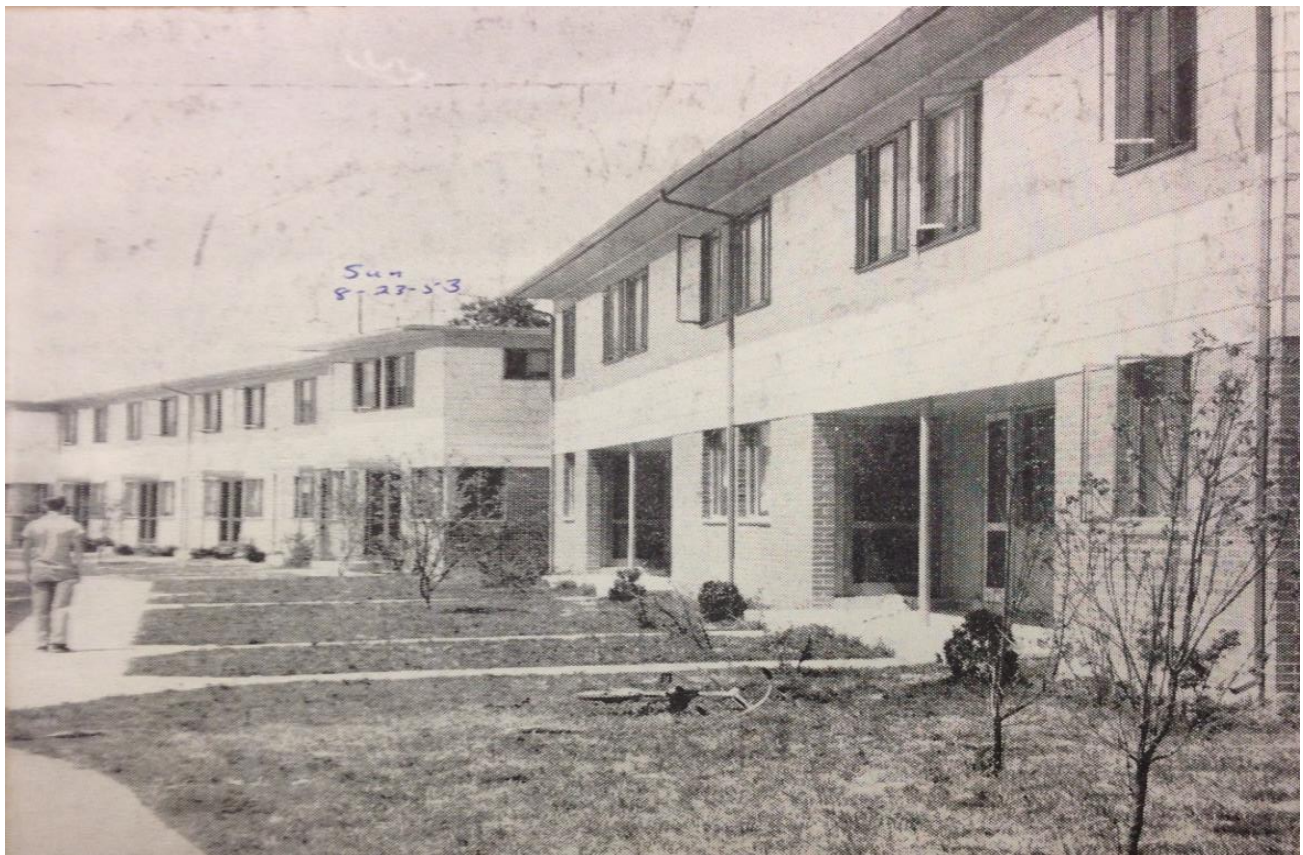


Larry Millison: You know, you had a big social change. You had the doing-away with Prohibition, you had to do away with the Depression. In those days very few women worked. And then when World War II came it was very common for women to work. And it was unheard of in those days. I remember when the base first started, it was almost a fallen lady who had a job on the base. And then it wasn't long before they had civil service jobs. You know, today we think nothin' of it.²⁰

¹⁹ John Paradis, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

²⁰ Larry Millison Interview by Sharon Chewning. March 5, 1987, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

Esther Smith: Things became so fast after the base came. Strangers came into the area, and everything that was totally opposite to what we were used to was happening, was beginning to happen. So we did not have the prayer meetings anymore. People seemed to have grown separate. Things changed. You started hearing of horrible things happening that we never heard of happening before. People were killed. Someone's body was found this place or that place, and once they brought the marines in and the sailors in, the serenity was gone, totally gone. Those were bad, because there was a time when we walked from where we lived up to the church; but by the time after the base came and they started to build up with all the people and so forth, you didn't dare walk any place. It was bad.²¹



New housing units in Lexington Park, which is only ten years old and now claims a population of 12,000.

August 23, 1953

²¹ Esther Smith Interview by Jennifer McCarrick, April 6, 1987, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

Governor Marvin Mandel: I became a member of the legislature in 1952 and from that point on I've been going around the state. St. Mary's County of course, it's one of the areas to which I would go down frequently with the legislative council.

Q: What were your first impressions of the county?

MM: A beautiful rural county; not much in the way of industry and not much in the way of plans for any future growth, just a beautiful county. The people loved their way of life and were very satisfied with what they had. The base was already in existence. I used to visit there regularly over the years. There was no question that the base was changing the county in some aspects, bringing in some industry to the county, but it was something that was needed because the county had very little in the ways of opportunities for younger people, and without some business or some such as the base young people were leaving the county. They were going away to school and not coming back, which is never helpful to an area. So, the base, I thought, was helpful to the county as far as being an employment center and also being something that could keep the people there instead of going away to other places to earn a living.²²

Baltimore Sun. November 1942

Leonardtown, Md., Nov. 5 — After 200 years the benefits of modern industrial civilization finally have come to once quiet, old-fashioned, self-contained St. Mary's county, the mother county of the State. It took the greatest war in history to bring them and now that they have arrived, the residents are far from sure they approve. Currently civilization is daily being borne deeper into the county, one of Maryland's last refuges of the ox cart, along the tracks of the railroad the navy is constructing on the county's eastern shore. At the last census, St. Mary's county had a total population of 14,626 and Leonardtown, its county seat, a population of 668. Today, within a twenty-mile radius of this town, some 4,000 workers, most of them from out of the county and a large proportion of them from out of the State, are employed on the construction of the railroad and the air station, at the Naval Torpedo Station at Piney Point and in a large gravel pit nearby. It is estimated that the wives and children of immigrant workers bring the total of new people in the county to about 7,000, half of its normal peacetime population. They live in dormitories erected by the railroad and construction companies, in trailers and tents, and in every hotel, boarding house and private home that will rent them a room. They are the strangers who nightly walk the streets of Leonardtown, fourteen miles from the Cedar Point Naval Station, and crowd the cross-roads bars of Hollywood, six miles to the north, where 700 laborers are fast pushing the railroad



Left Bill Raley Right J. Frank Raley
Circa 1948

²² Governor Mandel interview, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

to completion. Old-timers in St. Mary's county, and it is a county of self-professed old-timers, do not take kindly to strangers. Simply by their physical presence, strangers disrupt the old-timer's way of life. Aloyious King, publisher of the St. Mary's *Beacon* here, expressed their feelings when he said with what seemed genuine regret; "Six months ago when you walked through town, you knew everyone you met. You not only knew them by sight, but you knew their names, and where they lived and what they did. Now every sixth person I meet is a stranger." The Hollywood correspondent of another Leonardtown paper, the St. Mary's *Enterprise*, expressed the same feeling somewhat more violently. I used to wonder why the Indians in the Western movies and serials always fought the railroad men, and now I know. But they did say this for Hollywood, that it is a nice little hick town because cows don't roam around the village."

The Board of Town Commissioners of Leonardtown expressed the same feeling somewhat more materially when they recently ordered the town's half dozen bars to close at midnight Saturdays and remain closed until Monday mornings. The strangers are the men who are bringing the benefits of modern industrial civilization – railroads, giant cranes and bulldozers, trailer homes and machines of war – to Southern Maryland. By and large, they have come to St. Mary's county, exhausting its accommodations, overcrowding its schools and straining its utilities to make money. Skilled employees at Cedar Point—electricians, crane operators and steel-construction workers – make up to \$2 an hour. By late summer the weekly pay roll there had reached \$130,000.

They spend much of this money in the county, it is true, a large part of it in Leonardtown, the nearest large shopping center. B. Kennedy Abell, owner of old St. Mary's Hotel here, estimates that business in the county seat at least has trebled. But St. Mary's old-timers, accustomed to their quiet way of life, have a peculiar conception of wealth, just as they have of strangers. It's a leisurely, non-material sort of conception. Some things, they believe, are more important than money "A man is considered wealthy down here," explained a Leonardtown lawyer, "if he makes over \$150 a month in cash and owns a broken-down car and a fishing boat and, if he's especially fortunate, a good riding horse."

In a more material way, wealth in St. Mary's county, as in other Southern Maryland counties, stems from tobacco, the county's single major crop. The benefits of modern industrial civilization are interfering with the realization of that, too. What they call the "tobacco situation" concerns many residents. Some workers will return to the farms when the railroad is completed, but construction at Cedar Point may continue into 1944 and more laborers are sought each day. The farmers' difficulties began late last summer, during the harvest season. Because of a shortage of hands, some farmers were forced to plow under a part of their tobacco crop. And next spring, J. J. Johnson, county agent, will tell you that St. Mary's tobacco farmers – and about three quarters of the county's farmers raise tobacco – expect to curtail their planting unless the labor situation improves. "Yes, sir" says Mr. Johnson, the farmers are very much concerned about the future. If the trend of labor away from the farms is not somehow reversed, there is no question that the situation here in St. Mary's, where the entire farm economy is dependent upon tobacco, will be critical."

If, because of a shortage of man power, the tobacco crop has to be curtailed, the farmers' buying power will be curtailed proportionately. And if that happens, asks the merchant, the lawyer and the county editor, what is to become of them? "We'd starve," said a county editor, with a wry

smile. “We’re all leeches living off the farmer, you know. And we couldn’t put any more IOU’s on the books; they’re filled already.” Meantime, Leonardtown, the county seat, like all settlements near large military and industrial installations, is experiencing a boom which, in its own sleepy way, it probably rather would escape. Its one hotel has been filled since construction began at Cedar Point in April. Rooming accommodations, including store buildings fitted out with cots, have been long exhausted. The bars and the town’s one movie picture house and lone bowling alley are crowded nightly. Money, like whiskey, flows freely. But the townsfolk, like the county folk nearby, complain. Faced with a sudden and tremendous increase in consumer demands from among the construction workers at Cedar Point, Leonardtown merchants find themselves unable to obtain foods and merchandise to meet the normal demands of the town’s 700 persons. The wives of navy men stationed at Piney Point come daily by bus to shop.



At Patuxent station’s gate is Lexington Park, whose growth was paced by Navy payrolls of up to \$3,600,000 a month. Baltimore Sun, 1961

“When they leave,” remarked one bystander, “take a look in that grocery. A plague of locusts couldn’t be more devastating.” On one day two weeks ago there was not a pound of coffee to be had in all of Leonardtown. And cooks are leaving for higher paying jobs at Cedar Point. Roland Duke, operator of one of Leonardtown’s larger restaurants, recently had two head cooks quit on successive days.

The Margaret Brent School to the north and the schools at Great Mills, a few miles to the east, have been overcrowded by children of war workers at the very time county schoolteachers are deserting their jobs for better wages elsewhere. Unable to obtain either transportation from Leonardtown, where they arrive by bus, to Cedar Point or sleeping accommodations, workmen headed for the construction project spend the nights in parked cars along the main street of the county seat. Two weeks ago the Leonardtown volunteer fire department was called out on a

“forest fire,” which upon investigation proved to be a small bonfire which warmed a half-dozen sleeping workmen on their way to Cedar Point.

Disorder throughout the eastern section of the county has increased. According to the State’s Attorney, C. Henry Camelier, fines levied by trial magistrates at the county seat have increased since the first of the year from \$300 a month to an average of \$700 a week. Most of the disorder has been of a minor, brawling sort, but county authorities have broken up a gambling ring, said to have operated out of Atlantic City, in the vicinity of Cedar Point and now are concentrating on checking the infiltration of prostitutes in the area. And always there are the strangers, wearing strange clothes and speaking strange dialects and living, some of them, by strange codes.

When the strangers first arrived and moved their tents and trailers into St. Mary’s fields and back yards, the natives feared them. They had constructed their railroad between front porches and the highway up at Charlotte Hall and dug a fifteen-foot cut directly through Hubert Herbert’s place at Hollywood. When the railroad workers arrived at Hollywood, a gang of them quit their jobs at the first pay day and stayed drunk night and day in the streets of the little crossroads town until their money was exhausted. Nightly, for the first time in generations, the natives locked their doors.²³



MAIN SHOPPING CENTER: When NAS Patuxent River opened in 1943, the formerly sleepy intersection of Great Mills Road and Three Notch Road exploded with new commercial activity. A stone’s throw from the base’s front gate, a strip of stores located on Tulagi Place was anchored on one end by a clothing store named the Hub and on the other end by an A&P supermarket. Other stores included Dietz Shoes, the Lexington Park Pharmacy, and the Park Men’s Shop

²³ Baker, E. T. ,“Industrial Benefits Arrive in St. Mary’s County At Last,” Baltimore Sun, Nov. ’42

‘Old County Has New Coloring By Industrious Amish, By Industrial Workers And Hangers-On.’

Baltimore Sun, Feb. 10, 1943

Leonardtown, Md., Feb. 9 – The once peaceful village of Leonardtown, county seat of St. Mary’s, has been overwhelmed by conditions arising from the war. The gigantic naval project at Cedar Point, nearby, together with the building of a new State road and a railroad all at the same time, brought in thousands of laborers.

The combined pay rolls of the different constructions amounted at times to nearly a million dollars a week, and the lure of so much money attracted gamblers, thugs and other birds of prey from the cities. These were new types in old St. Mary’s.

Robberies and beatings became of such frequent occurrence in the village streets that the inhabitants became afraid to venture out after dark, and the stores, though they were raking in money, found it expedient to close early.

In November a new Sheriff was elected, Daniel Bowles. When he saw the situation that awaited him – nineteen prisoners in a cell designed to hold three, the jailer giving up his job in disgust and no deputies to be had – Mr. Bowles resigned without waiting to take office, and the old Sheriff, William E. Clarke, had to carry on, much against his will.

“I am too old and too fat for such a job,” he grumbled...²⁴

‘Problems Beset St. Mary’s In Influx Of Project Workers.’

Baltimore Sun, Feb, 11, 1943

Leonardtown, Md., Feb. 10 – To serve the naval project at Cedar Point in St. Mary’s county, the Government has rebuilt the old Washington, Brandywine and Point Lookout Railway which in half a century had never got anywhere in particular (its name was longer than its track) and has extended it some thirty miles farther to the new project below Leonardtown.

St. Mary’s had never seen a railroad before. The county occupies a peninsula lying between the Patuxent and the Potomac rivers and pointing out toward Chesapeake Bay. Since the rivers are much too wide to be bridged there has never been any through traffic. St. Mary’s is at the end of the road...²⁵

²⁴ Footner, Hubert. , ‘Old County Has New Coloring By Industrious Amish, By Industrial Workers And hangers-On.’ Baltimore Sun, Feb. 10, 1943

²⁵ Footner, Hubert., ‘Problems Beset St. Mary’s In Influx Of Project Workers.’ Baltimore Sun, Feb, 11, 1943



The heart of Lexington Park which, when incorporated, according to boosters, will be Maryland's seventh city. They are looking to a time when the community will be more than a dwelling place for navy folk, when it may be a port.

August 23, 1953

Bob Schaller: Just the residential change that happened and it was this drop in of thousands of people, in this case enlisted people in the navy. They had to be fed, entertained, housed, and they had lives to live. That's really how Lexington Park happened because you had this instant city grow up around it and we're looking at Millison Plaza, Tulagi Place, you know, here's trailer parks; that's all there used to be.²⁶

J. Frank Raley: The base arrived almost with the war. I think ground was broken in late '41 or early '42. The reason for that is that the Navy, particularly in the Pacific, was relying on aircraft carriers and as the war went on, of course, the aircraft carriers were taking a real beating. You've heard of the great carrier battles of the war, Midway and others, Philippine seas and they were really going all out on testing and developing of combat aircraft here, Navy combat carrier planes. But they really didn't get into production or testing a lot until '43 here. And, so the first thing that came was of course the construction workers and they came by the thousands to build the place over here. And then the big impact of the people was that where the current farm wage income may be a dollar, a dollar and a half a day, they could come over here and work as a laborer for one of these contractors building those buildings over there for 87 and a half cents an hour, it was just fantastic [laughs]. A carpenter got 4 or 5 dollars an hour where you'd probably

²⁶ Bob Schaller Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr. April 10, 2015.

get a dollar and a half an hour in regular wages down here; this is an enormous change. And of course, so many of the people left the farms who were employed on the farms either as tenants, sharecroppers, or even just workers and went to work over here on the base. I was going to school and I could hear ‘em, I used to hear the people talk about all this money they could make up here and over time, then you’d get time and a half, so that was really great [laughs], people would make hundreds of dollars a week. God, I hadn’t seen a hundred dollars in six months [laughs] or a year. Or a lot of it was even barter down here, some parts of our economy were based on barter. But money was scarce.

People were very poor. All over the county, they were very poor here. And when the war came that opened, that money I’m talking about, people just were marginally holding on. You can’t imagine how poor it was. It was a little better here than in cities but men with families with no job and no hope of any job, it was an awful thing. Here, as my father used to say, we never had any money before the Depression, so it really didn’t make that much difference after the Depression [laughs].

It was crude, this become a boom town. Men looking for women, and women coming. And the bars that kind of looked, you know, like the western stories you see, the bars would spring up like that. Sure, it was all kinds of crummy, crummy social structure or atmosphere that came particularly around Lexington Park; it didn’t get out into the county that much, but certainly around here, sure it was a boom town and then of course when the base was built and the construction workers had settled down a great deal. Its first economic expansion that occurred on the outside was mostly bars, women, and gambling. That was our first major investments that took place around here.

Q: How did local residents view all of this activity?

JR: Well, first off to many people they were making more money than they’d ever had in their life, and they liked that. And then there was others, particularly some of the old countians and particularly centered around in Leonardtown, who saw this as a threat indeed, the kind of thing we should not have in St. Mary’s County and they really resented it. But overall, the amount of money that was coming to people that they’d never had before, this was generally accepted and indeed welcomed.²⁷

Jane Yowaiski: I would get so mad with people when they would come in and complain about, “Oh how terrible this place was.” St. Mary’s County, “just terrible.” You know, they had moved here and everything was so terrible. You know how people are. So, in one month, ten thousand people landed in St. Mary’s. Now think of this. Construction workers, you know, they always bring all kinds of people. People slept in peoples’ yards. And some people took in boarders, and some others rented, even their chicken houses. I’m serious, this is absolute truth, and shacks, anything they had that people could sleep in, that’s how people slept. But these were, you know, not our people. And they would say, “Well look how you all live,” and we didn’t live like that, you know. So, of course, some were very nice people and some weren’t very nice. On Friday after payday they gambled, they would shoot crap. Rumor has it, so many people were murdered,

²⁷ J. Frank Raley, Jr., Oral History, St. Mary’s College of Maryland Archives

that they didn't even investigate it; they just dumped 'em in the bay. And that is really and truly, they say that is really the truth.²⁸

Living in St.Mary's County

A Co-operative Project

of

The Board of Education of St.Marys's County

and

The Maryland State Department of Education

A TYPICAL CAMP

St.Mary's County

In St.Mary's County will you find a number of trailer camps.

These camps consist of over 2,500 trailers and approximately that many families. This way of living is of rather recent origin.

A typical trailer camp may have from 10 to 100 trailers. It is equipped with electrical power and a water supply that can be hooked to the trailer. Some locations have toilet and sewage disposal services; others have a community house available. The trailer owner selectes his site and pays a monthly rental fee. He parks his car and resumes family living exactly where he left off yesterday, perhaps in a camp several hundred miles away.

The principle advantage of living in a trailer is that it can be easily moved, thus enabling workers to take their home with them to any new location. The disadvantage of a trailer home lies in the problem of congested living. It is impossible for individual members of the family to withdraw to a place where they may work or rest in privacy. Consequently, living in a trailer tends to create some problems which do not exist in a more spacious home.²⁹

²⁸ Jane Yowaiski, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

²⁹ Copyright 1954, Maryland State Department of Education



“A Typical Trailer Camp”

St.Mary’s Gold Rush

Three-hundred and twenty-seven years after that first band of entrepreneurs stepped on the beach in St.Mary’s county from the Ark and the Dove, a second band of fortune hunters, Twentieth Century style, have driven in and far outstripped the richest dreams of those early comers.

In the process they have awakened rural old St.Mary’s—Maryland’s mother county—from its historic somnolence and brought to its southern portion something of the hustle that attached to the prosperous settlements in the West around the turn of the century.

At the base of this newness and prosperity is the Patuxent Naval Air Test Station, covering nearly 8,000 acres along the river. Completed as a crash project in 1943, its personnel has ranged between 4,500 and 6,000 with payrolls varying between \$1,600,000 and \$3,600,000 a month.

The last census gives it a population of 7,000, but local estimates say there are 15,000 within a 5-mile radius of Lexington Park—all on the land that in 1940 had not changed materially since the Ark and the Dove dropped anchor off St.Mary’s City in March 1634.

And among the boom stories of early Lexington Park is the one about the man who guessed where the main gate of the base would be and bought 27 acres for \$3,500. Some years ago he sold one acre for \$60,000

Another development contributing to the transformation of the county has been the building of 200 or so fine new houses on Town Creek, on the Patuxent side. Occupying spacious grounds, these houses range in cost up to \$35,000 and are said to be mostly owned by active or retired naval officers. Those retired officers living there fell in love with St.Mary's county.

In nineteen years it has increased its population from 12,000 (in 1942) to 40,000—the increase due to influx of people as well as to the higher birth rate. This is a significant reversal of the gradual decline in St.Mary's population in the decades before 1940.

And it has brought visual changes in the countryside. The familiar old weather-beaten house—standing in a clearing with a wisp of smoke coming from its chimney—has not entirely disappeared. But it is being over taken by large numbers of new, neat, good looking frame and brick houses surrounded by well kept lawns and garden. And a corollary to these are new little country stores appearing on the roadside.

Another new touch in St.Mary's is the housing group in Leonardtown, on the high sloping shore overlooking Breton Bay, an arm of the Potomac. It is a striking example of the change during recent years.

The increased population has had a heavy impact on St.Mary's schools. The rise in pupil enrollment—viewed in the perspective of a charming isolated old county that had been dozing for centuries and losing its population—has been sensational.

Enrollment in the next school year 1940-1941 was 2,412. In the school year 1960-1961, enrollment was 6,199. This increase in pupils in two decades is a sharp reversal of what had been a continuing downward trend. For example, in 1930-1931 there were 2,584 pupils. By 1940-1941, the number had fallen to 2,412—a drop of 182.

Robert E. King Jr., superintendent of schools, considers the days of decline as long past and he looks forward to a steady rise in school population. By the school year 1964-1965, he expects, there will be an enrollment of 8,580. He has statistics to show that the county's school population is the third most rapidly growing in Maryland, after Montgomery and Howard Counties.

A single one-room schoolhouse now remains in St.Mary's County. In 1933 there were 23 one-room schools here. These have steadily given away in the last nineteen years to ultra-modern red brick schools that compare with those in the more populous counties. And more are to come.³⁰



One- Room School house

³⁰ The Baltimore Sun 8/20/61

CHAPTER SEVEN: JACK DAUGHERTY **ENVISIONS THE POTENTIAL IN LEXINGTON** **PARK**

Patriots and Heroes

Eastern Kentucky Soldiers of WWII

One of Morehead's most famous heroes of WWII was flying Marine Leatherneck Lt. Colonel John Thomas, JT, Jack, "Big Dog," Daugherty (all one person). His father was successful in the coal and ice business. He also was one of the founders of the new Citizens Bank in 1928.

In July, 1941, J.T. Daugherty joined the U.S. Marine Corps and took his basic training at Webster Field in St. Louis, Missouri. Ironically it was on December 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was bombed, that Cadet Daugherty was assigned to the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. In July 1942, the young Air Cadet completed his flight training, received his wings, and was commissioned a second lieutenant.



Jack Daugherty, Pensacola, Florida,
1941

During World War II, the fledgling U.S. commercial airlines had an agreement with the U.S. military services that allowed military pilots to train and fly as co-pilots on the commercial airlines. Therefore, Lt. Daugherty was placed on temporary duty and sent to the American

Airlines Multi-Engine Pilot Training Program in Ft. Worth, Texas. There he learned to fly the twin engine DC-3, which was the same as the military C-47. After completing the multi-engine school, J.T. and his young bride Kay, were sent to Minneapolis where he continued multi-engine pilot training with Northwest Airlines.



Jack Daugherty on the right

In mid-January, 1943, the young Marine and his bride were transferred to North Island in San Diego, California, where he was scheduled to fly Marine Transport planes. But the need for torpedo-bomber pilots was more critical at the time and once again J.T. was transferred, this time to El Toro Marine Corps Base outside Laguna Beach, California. For the next six months, he received advanced training on single engine dive bombing and low-level torpedo bombing as well as navigation. Upon completion of his dive bombing training, Jack Daugherty was assigned to the VMTB Red Devil Squadron 232. According to Ken Everson, one of Jack's Marine wing men, "The 'V' stood for heavier than air; the 'M' stood for Marine; and the 'T' meant Torpedo and 'B' meant bomber." In July 1943, their squadron boarded the Dutch merchant transport ship called the *Japari* headed for the South Pacific Theater of War. The *Japari* was loaded with a total of 4,000 troops on what was a small merchant vessel converted to a troop ship. The senior officers lived in the 12 staterooms on the ship. The Junior officers were quartered on the deck in temporary small converted quarters. The enlisted men were all packed below deck in metal "racks" (folding cots) stacked five high with little room to breathe.

On July 31, 1943, Marine Flying Leatherneck Jack Daugherty along with the rest of the 232nd Red Devil Squadron landed on the American-held Island of Espiritu Santo and found their planes were already there waiting for them. Espiritu Santo (Spanish for "Holy Ghost") is a

beautiful South Sea island in the New Hebrides. At that time there was not much on the island except sand, coral, and coconut palms.

The island was used by the Flying Leathernecks of the 232nd Squadron to bomb many enemy bases, supply lines, and fortifications before moving north to Guadalcanal and the other Solomon Islands. There Jack Daugherty was soon promoted to captain and given command of a Marine Flight Division that consisted of six Grumman "Avenger" torpedo bombers and their crews.

The plane flown by Captain Daugherty throughout the South Pacific campaign was a Grumman "Avenger" torpedo bomber. It had a wingspan of 54 feet and was 41 feet long. It could carry a 21-inch torpedo, or a 2,000-pound bomb, or four 500-pound bombs. It could also be modified to carry mines that could be dropped into shipping lanes from the air. The Avenger carried a crew of three. In the rear seat behind the pilot was the turret gunner, who operated a fifty-caliber machine gun. Underneath the bottom of the aircraft was the radio operator-gunner. He fired a thirty-caliber machine gun from what was called the "stinger." The Avenger was a highly successful torpedo bomber that was also used as a dive bomber. The sturdy aircraft had a range of five hours and could be land based as well as carrier based. Captain Daugherty and the 232nd Marine Squadron were entirely land based and flew from many small islands during the Pacific military campaign.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Japanese soon occupied the town of Rabaul, the major port town on New Britain Island, northeast of New Guinea, and the Japanese quickly established a major naval and air base there. The island was also used as a staging area for troops to be used in attacking New Guinea, Guadalcanal, and other islands in the Solomon chain and was also considered critical in the defense of a planned Japanese attack on the coast of Australia. Therefore, it became a constant target for Allied bombing attacks during 1943 and 1944.



An Avenger torpedo bomber flown by captain Daugherty in the raid on Rabaul

The flying Marines on Espiritu Santo were assigned to fly combat missions every other day for six weeks. They would then be relieved for rest and recuperation (R&R), usually in Australia for six weeks. In late February 1944, Naval Intelligence reported a large buildup of troops and ships in Rabaul harbor. It was believed they were preparing a counterattack on Guadalcanal, now occupied by the Americans, or an attack on New Guinea. Captain Daugherty and other Marine flyers were immediately ordered to begin a bombing attack on Rabaul. The operation took advantage of the fact that Simpson Harbor at Rabaul was shaped like a horseshoe. If the ships were caught anchored in the harbor, it could be mined and they could not easily escape a bombing attack. On Tuesday, March 2, 1944, Naval Intelligence reported the ships were anchored in the harbor.



Jack Daugherty and TBF Avenger

Four flying Marine divisions of six planes each were selected for the attack. The first two six-plane divisions of Avengers were equipped to carry mines to be dropped in the mouth of the harbor. At daybreak on Wednesday morning, March 3, 1944, the twelve Avengers approached their target. They

were met with fierce enemy resistance by fighter planes and anti-aircraft fire. That group of flying leathernecks lost 6 planes that day, but they successfully mined the harbor. Captain Daugherty told this writer, "The sacrifice made by those men assured the ultimate success of the bombing attack by preventing the enemy ships from escaping out to sea."

On Thursday, March 4, Captain Daugherty and his six plane, 18 member combat flight division met before dawn to go over their preflight check of the target, weather, plans, men, and equipment. Their target was to bomb the ships trapped in Simpson Harbor at Rabaul. "Big Dog" Daugherty was a stickler for details and on their day to fly, every man had better be prepared to do his job. Between missions the men were all one big happy family, but on their day to fly, Captain J.T. was strictly "Chicken ____ GI by the book Marine."



Jack Daugherty on Left

At daybreak, "Big Dog" Daugherty revved up the engine of his Avenger loaded with four 500 pound bombs with delayed fuses. His plane rumbled slowly down the hard coral-based runway and seemed to shudder as it grudgingly became airborne.

As the six-plane division slipped into formation, the men were all quietly thinking of the previous day and of the men and planes that were lost mining the mouth of the harbor. But Captain Daugherty and his men had been given a target, and each man silently in his own mind was determined to carry out those orders to the best of his ability. The flight division led by Captain Daugherty approached Simpson Harbor at 5,000 feet, but could not locate the ships. He said "The ships were so well camouflaged that only after circling the harbor several times then flying a few hundred feet above the water were we able to distinguish where the shoreline ended and the ships began." The official Marine Corps news release, datelined Guadalcanal March 8 1944, read:

"Six Marine torpedo bomber pilots who obtained permission from reluctant supervisors to break combat flight rules and participate in consecutive day aerial raids, destroyed seven Jap ships in the Rabaul area last weekend, it was announced today."

The flight division, led by Capt. John T. Daugherty, Morehead, Kentucky, sank three ships Thursday, two more Saturday and then returned Sunday morning to polish off two remaining transports and strafe other ships, barges, cargo-packed wharfs and beach installations at the Jap base. Lt. Fullop returned from the Thursday raid with more than 100 anti-aircraft shell holes in his ship, but no Jap fighters attempted to intercept the Marine pilots. That was one of the most successful military campaigns in the Pacific area in WWII. Before that bombing attack ended three days later, not only did Captain Daugherty's six-plane division sink seven Japanese ships, but the 232nd Red Devil Squadron sank 19 more for a total of 26 enemy ships sunk. J.T. Daugherty and each of his men were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for sinking those ships.



Jack Daugherty on the Right

J.T. Daugherty modestly recalled, "It was a joint effort by everyone. Those men that mined the harbor at great sacrifice and loss were of extreme courage under strong enemy fire, and each of us simply did our duty." However, it was later pointed out by Admiral William Hasley that the "attack on Simpson Harbor, Rabaul contributed greatly to the Americans regaining control of Rabaul with much less loss of life." Admiral Halsey also pointed out that those Marine Flying Leathernecks helped shorten the Pacific island-hopping campaign of WWII.

Captain Daugherty was one of the gallant "flying leathernecks" in the 232nd Red Devil Marine Squadron. He, like his fellow flyers, did much to distinguish himself in the South Pacific during WWII. Even though he received the distinguished Flying Cross for sinking Japanese ships, he would never accept the term "hero." Captain Daugherty, who later attained the rank of Lt. Colonel, said, "It was a team effort. Every man had a job to do and did it to the best of his ability. We were men in the right place at the right time with the right skills and training to best serve our country."

In April, 1944, Captain Daugherty rotated back to the U.S. after flying 44 combat missions in the South Pacific. He was immediately given a 30-day furlough and returned quietly to his hometown of Morehead, Kentucky to await orders for his next assignment. Even though he was recognized as a hero in the national press, he was not recognized as such in his hometown. Following a visit back home, J.T. and his wife were ordered to report to Cherry Point, North Carolina. It was May, 1944 when Captain Daugherty began advanced pilot training in some of the newer combat aircraft coming off the nation's wartime assembly lines.

In September, 1944, Captain Daugherty (and Kay) were transferred to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Southern Maryland. It was located in a rural area called Cedar Point that later became known as Lexington Park. At the Patuxent base, Daugherty was assigned the job of testing new military aircraft coming off the nation's wartime assembly lines.

Commander F.M. Trapnell was the officer in charge of the Navy's first test pilot program. At that time there were only five or six Navy test pilots. The first testing method used required each pilot to test an assigned system in the plane, e.g., armament, electrical, hydraulic, or aerodynamics. Each test pilot would then write his report separately and then they would meet together and report their results. After testing all systems, the pilots would write a comprehensive syllabus together that included their test results, e.g., the plane's responses and its limits, weaknesses, and strengths.

In order to meet the need for more test pilots the Navy assigned a few of their most experienced and best marine combat pilots to the program. When those new pilots arrived, the Marine Corps changed the method of testing the new planes. The new test pilots were called Service Test Pilots, and their job was to test every system in the new aircraft. Captain Daugherty was among the very first pilots in that new program. As a Service Test Pilot, his job was to take those untried aircraft into the air and push them to the limits of altitude, speed, climbing, and diving ratios. Test pilots were the ones who really "pushed the envelopes" on those new planes. Their jobs were dangerous since one never knew when a plane might stall or fail to pull out of dive. Many of those early test pilots became America's first astronauts with such household

names as John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, and Alan Shepard. J.T. Daugherty said, “All of those early astronauts were in the Navy Test Pilot Program in Maryland. I knew all of them, but was especially close to John Glenn because we were both Marine Corps pilots. Those were the glory days and romance of Naval aviation when we had propeller planes instead of jets. We were just a happy go lucky group of Naval aviators doing what we dearly loved—flying.” He was always proud that he was a member of the first class to graduate from the Test Pilot Program. He remained in the Marine Corps at the base until 1947 and retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Kay Daugherty said in an interview “Jack and I never had any plans except to return to Morehead after the war. In 1945 during his tour at the new Naval Base Test Pilot School, we lived in Lexington Park and I taught school. It was at that time my husband recognized the potential for future growth in the area.”

When the naval base was built in 1942, there was a critical housing shortage. The population had increased rapidly in the small community, and many people were literally forced to live out of tents. Most of them found that living conditions in Lexington Park were aggravating and stressful. Many of those early residents looked forward to the time they could shake the Maryland dust off their feet and leave that “Godforsaken place.”

In 1945, Lexington Park, Maryland, was a small crossroads community with one restaurant, one service station, one bling street light and less than a dozen businesses in the whole community. The first housing development, known as the “Flat Tops,” had just been completed. But Jack Daugherty believed in the future of the tiny hamlet and convinced his wife Kay that they should remain in Lexington Park instead of going back to Morehead.³¹



Jack Daugherty and his wife, Kay, Lexington Park

³¹ “Patriots and Heroes, Eastern Kentucky Soldiers of WW II” by Jack Ellis

SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER

In the name of the President of the United States,
the Commander South Pacific Area and South Pacific Force
takes pleasure in awarding the **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**
to

CAPTAIN JOHN T. DAUGHERTY, UNITED STATES MARINE
CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a division leader attached to a Marine torpedo bombing squadron operating in the South Pacific area from September 20, 1943 to April 11, 1944. During three tours of duty, Captain DAUGHERTY completed forty-two combat missions over Japanese territory, frequently encountering heavy anti-aircraft fire and fighter plane opposition. On March 2, he led a damaging strike against Japanese shipping in the heavily fortified harbor of Rabaul, New Britain. Despite intense anti-aircraft fire, he pressed home a determined attack and scored a direct hit upon a cargo vessel, leaving it in a sinking condition. On March 4, he severely damaged a Japanese freighter near Rabaul, and on the following day, he scored a near miss on another enemy cargo ship, causing the vessel to be beached. His superior airmanship and outstanding leadership contributed materially to the defeat of the Japanese forces in the South Pacific area. His courageous conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

W. F. Halsey
W. F. HALSEY,
Admiral, U. S. Navy.

Temporary Citation



Captain Daugherty received the Distinguished Flying Cross for sinking two Japanese ships in the raid on the Rabaul.



Captain Daugherty relaxes on Espiritos Santos Island in the South Pacific



Jack Daugherty: Lexington Park, when we came here, was 300 people. Mostly civil servants, a few field reps for the major aircraft companies. This was really a great town to grow up in. Kay and I got out of the service in 1946. We started a business. There was such an opportunity here and we loved the people so much, I had asked Kay if she thought we ought to stay. She said we can try a little bit. Three hundred people, and we started a town. And this town grew like flopsy. I think it started really taking a form of a community in about 1948. A fellow named Sidney Shirbey was an engineer; he'd just finished MIT. This was in early '44. They sent him to Patuxent. He immediately recognized that we're getting all

kinds of planes, but we don't have anybody who knows how to test them. All we have are ex-combat pilots, like me. All of the people who came here had excellent records because that was a pre-requisite of coming to Patuxent. But before that he went around to the different units and taught us aerodynamics – basics – and lectures. In 1948 he started a test pilots' school. First class was to graduate in 1948. Sidney Shirbey went into test pilot school which now has over a hundred classes graduated. Mel Pride was the first man to realize that we had to do something at Lexington Park. He had a lieutenant commander under him, and he thought that something must be done in Lexington Park so we could get started better. He sent this boy – his name was Glen Eckerd – out into the community. He never did anything except go around and see the businessmen, ask them if there's anything he could do, and then at four o'clock he would go back and report to Admiral Pride. Well, during this time, they decided what we must do is start to get this community going. There was a consensus that we should have a newspaper and a radio station. We accomplished that. The newspaper was run by a fellow named Sheraton Fahnestock, a very fine man who had explored in the South Pacific and had a good record. It was over in Leonardtown, down in a little hole, couldn't make a dime. I didn't get along with the Leonardtown people too well. They didn't recognize that the base was here, really. Naval aviators that would go in for loans to the banks, they might say that you can borrow seven or eight hundred dollars, no more. I once asked the president of the First National Bank, "why are you doing this?" He said, "Well, you know the base is not going to be here soon as the war is over. It'll leave and we'll be caught with a lot of debt." I said, "Okay, if that's the way you feel about it." We didn't do anything about the banking right away, but we did, through Jack Rue, contact Sheraton. I knew Sheraton well, but I didn't associate with the Leonardtown people too much because they were not my type. I was in a different group, the naval people, and I was always in with the Navy. Jack came back and he said he'll move the paper to Lexington Park, but it doesn't have any money. "Okay," I said, "what does he need?" First thing he needs is a building. "Okay," I said, "we can build him a building some way." Then he needs some advertising because he's not getting any advertising in Leonardtown. I said, "Okay, we can give him advertising." Those days we just started in the television. Television had just come in. Of course, I had a lot of co-op advertising with television, all the television companies. I gave him two full pages of advertising for his newspaper. Jack took that back and he said, "Well, that's all right, but I gotta have some more money, I gotta have something to live on." I said I can afford a little bit: I think I gave him \$140 a week, just put him on my payroll. Here comes the Enterprise; we bring the Enterprise to Lexington Park.

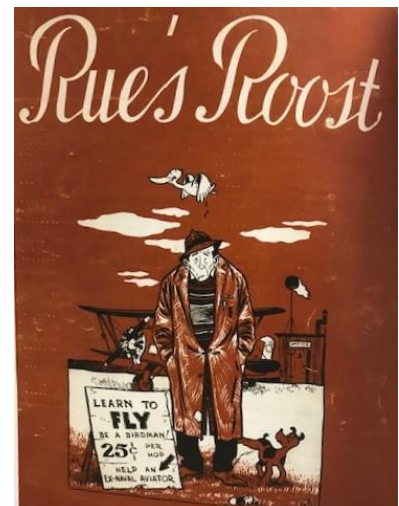
We put WPTX in my building, which we used to advertise “high atop the Daugherty building in downtown Lexington Park”. J. Frank Raley was one of our announcers and he took care of the stock market. Now that wasn’t the stock exchange, that was the pork bellies and so forth out of Chicago. They got us the communications and we got started pretty good. We got on the map. Still, Lexington Park was hard to find because all the signs coming south went to Leonardtown. They wouldn’t send you down Route 235, they’d send you through Leonardtown. We got them started and I guess we decided we have to do something else, we’ve got the radio station, we got the newspaper, that’s our communications.



We got to do something else. The admiral said, “You got your Chamber of Commerce?” “Yes, we’ve got the Chamber of Commerce started.” It was a very active Chamber of Commerce. Man, in the early 1950’s we might have 125 people at the meetings. Everybody wanted to help. We got the town moving a little bit, started spreading out and new people started coming in, new businesses.

We got along well with everybody in our community. As you know it, Lexington Park was built by newcomers. We didn’t have anybody here except newcomers. We had all types of people: we had gamblers, the gamblers were here. You name it, we had it. The first part of it, to walk from the main gate down to where the Queen Anne Apartments are, that was a place called Gateway Tavern. It was dangerous to walk up and down through there at night because we didn’t have a lot of protection from police. We just maybe had a sheriff, and I don’t know if he had a deputy or not. He might have had one deputy. To me it was something I always thought: this is going to be one great place. This place is going to grow.

The banks were not liberal to anybody that wanted to build in Lexington Park. In a case like – let’s talk about the Roost, we’ll take that as a prime example. The Roost started because Mr. Gray gave me a year in advance rent. I used that as a down payment to put up the Roost. And the Roost was down where Raley’s Sale Center is now. We built it there in maybe 1946 or 7. That’s how it got built. People who came to this town and had to start a business either brought their money with them or borrowed it from the gamblers. The gamblers were willing to loan money. If you had a business like the bar business where they’d put their slot machines, or drug stores, they wouldn’t charge you much, wouldn’t charge you anything, really. That’s how the gambling business got started. Al and Kitty Fisher were the main gambling people in town. Great people: give to every charity, and later on went to Las Vegas. That was a way that the town really started. If you didn’t have money, you couldn’t borrow it from a bank. I was very fortunate, though, I had a fellow named Alan Coad who was chairman of the board of a county trust company.



1959, J. Frank Raley said, “You know, Jack, we’re missing something.” “Yes, I know what we’re missing. WE’RE MISSING MONEY. We don’t have any money.” We didn’t have FHA; VA not coming into our community with any amounts of money. So we decided to start a

bank. J. Frank and myself, yes. And others. We had some naval aviators that we brought in. One was Cato Merchant. Jack Rue. We had other naval officers: a fellow named Arthur Rysticken who was most influential in the early days of setting up this community. He was a lawyer and helped everybody. We got the bank started in 1959. That changed everything. We started a bank in 1959 and immediately started having good growth and money started coming into the community from other spots. We had savings and loans coming in that never came in before, and that allowed the community to start growth. The community of Town Creek started, Esperanza started, Barefoot Acres started, Greenview Knolls, all this group started. We began to have money. The community grew then.

Q: Jack? How do you explain Leonardtown's lack of interest in Lexington Park?

JD: Leonardtown was made up of the older families. They didn't really believe Lexington Park was going to stay here. To this day, to this day it's almost that way. As I told you the other day, Lexington Park is all made up of newcomers. There's only – I can tell you – only three people that I know of that are in Lexington Park that were in the business that were natives. That's Francis Taylor, George Aud, and J. Frank. Those were the only natives we had. J. Frank, his first business was started behind my Esso station, which my first business was an Esso station. No cinderblocks so I bought a Quonset hut, cut half off that front and that's where my first business was. J. Frank needed a place. I had a boiler room behind with another piece. He says, "I can go in there: So I cut a partition around the boiler, put him in. That's where the insurance company (today's Raley, Watts and O'Neill) first started.

They're great guys; all these guys we deal with in the Navy and Marine Corps are great people, high class people. I guess to go back to what unit has meant more to our community than anything else, without a doubt is the test pilot's school. The test pilot's school brought the best the Navy had into our community. They work with us. They went to our churches. They directed our Little Leagues, our Babe Ruth leagues. At the end of their tour at the test pilot school many of them stayed here. I always gave credit to that group that helped build Lexington Park. We had an advantage over other towns because of that. We had well-educated people. That gave our community a boost. Gave our educational system a boost. Meant so much to the community. Many people don't have any idea what happened. This was all done – as I go back – eight years after the start of this base, six years after the start of this base. I guess when you talk about what happens and how a community works together with the Navy and how the Navy works with the community, that's not always true, you know. Sometimes you have people there that are very conservative running their property and working for the government. They're interested in their welfare and want to be sure that they're promoted and will not take that chance. That's the main reason that I can think of that our town is better than other towns of our size.³²

³² Jack Daugherty, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives



Thomas Daugherty: Patuxent River was a wide open area. Anybody that wanted to start a business could be successful. They had nothing for consumers, they didn't have any gas stations, they didn't have any drug stores, they didn't have anything; they had slot machines. One of the first businesses my father had was a flying service. He had a sporting goods store that did well. Had a furniture business which is now Raley's, he sold that to Bill Raley; that was called Jack Daugherty Merchandise Mart. He had the first gas station in town, then an Esso station. Brought in WPTX [radio station]. When they first had WPTX here they used to broadcast from "high atop the Daugherty Building in downtown Lexington Park."

But he started different businesses. Started a moving and storage company. Then probably his biggest thing was he started the first new bank in Lexington Park. It was quite a feat: getting a bank charter was quite difficult at that time; still is. They had the first new bank charter for St. Mary's County in over a hundred years. And he started what was Citizens National Bank of St. Mary's, it's now Maryland Bank and Trust Company (currently Old Line Bank), and that's where he really started going was when he started his bank.

These were all young guys trying to get started, they needed to borrow money. The banks were all in Leonardtown, they looked at these people in Lexington Park as nary-do-wells trying to make a fast buck and probably beatin' feet out of the area and they didn't want to invest with them. So everybody who started a business in Lexington Park had to go outside. My father borrowed money from his father but also from a fellow named Paul Rogers who was a banker in Baltimore, and Paul lent a lot of money, his family did through what was then Mt. Vernon Savings & Loan. And of the Maryland institutions he probably did more to help finance Lexington Park.

At the very beginning Leonardtown had all the money. And they were calling the shots. My dad was sort of a natural business person. He liked people, he was very gregarious, and he saw lots of opportunities here. He had lots of businesses. His next major business was a moving and storage business called Anchor Van Lines. We were a Navy community who were moving out every three to four years and it was a great business. They had to store their furniture, they had to pack up, they had to move, and he had the first decent warehouse in the area. I remember my father saying you were only limited by your imagination as to what business you could go into because there was nothing down here for consumers.

Samuel Baldwin: Did all of your dad's businesses succeed?

TD: He had some losers. One of them was a small loan business where he would make payday loans to the sailors and then try to get paid back and he often said that he learned every deadbeat in the county [laughter]. He had a toy store that I don't think really was great, but he was instrumental in really helping to develop Lexington Park.

Samuel Baldwin: Your dad just thought, because there wasn't a Lexington Park at the time, 'what does a town need?'

TD: Yeah. It needed a newspaper and it needed a radio station -- it had to have means of communication and that gave it means of communication because it was not being promoted by Leonardtown, Lexington Park, it was not promoted in Leonardtown.

Samuel Baldwin: Why not?

TD: Well, there was a belief for quite some time that the base was a flash in the pan, that it was going to not be something permanent so therefore the banks in Leonardtown did not really want to lend money to businessmen in Lexington Park because they thought the business was going to fail.



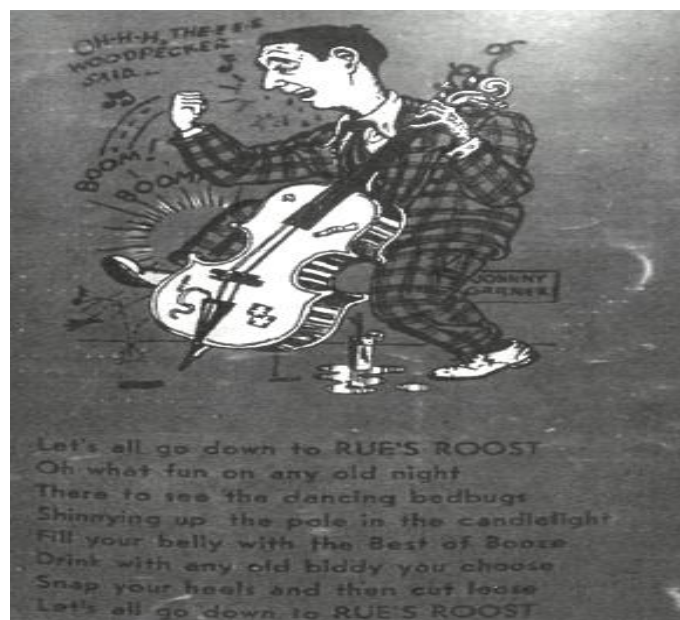
Left to Right: Jack and Kay Daugherty,
Bill and Betty Chapman, Tom
Daugherty, Circa 1966

Samuel Baldwin: Why did they think that Lexington Park wouldn't last, that the Navy base wouldn't last?

TD: You know, I don't know? I could give a flip answer...There was really no need for it. Tobacco and water life was really the lifeblood of this county and these foreigners coming in flying airplanes around was a flash in the pan. Larry Millison was a good businessman. He inherited the business from his father, Hiram, and expanded it greatly. His Belvedere Hotel and Restaurant were a major addition to the social life and everything of St. Mary's County. And he developed the area over where the Belvedere used to be. He did a lot of developing on his own and he was an effective County Commissioner. He and my father had kind of a love-hate relationship. They were against each other politically quite often, yet they found common ground. My father provided capital for the growth—he provided loans for people to build houses and buy houses, for people to start businesses through Maryland Bank and Trust Company. Larry built rental space and real estate development, you know, that was his niche.

Samuel Baldwin: Anyone else who was instrumental in taking Lexington Park from a woodlot to what it is today, in the early years?

TD: Jack Rue. Jack started Rue's Roost which was the restaurant in St. Mary's County for years. When I was in the Navy, I could go to any naval air station in the world and if I said I was from Lexington Park, they'd say, "You know Jack Rue and the Roost?" I mean he was that well known. Reminded me of the old joke about the guy standing up next to the Pope in St. Peter's Square and says, "I don't know who that guy in the funny hat is, but that's Jack Rue standing next to him" [laughter]. He was a character. He was larger than life. He was part of what made Lexington Park.³³



³³ Tom Daugherty Interview with Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



The Growth of a Community

Lexington Park in 1945. There was not much to it. The town had just finished building its first neighborhood, still known as the Flat-tops. There was one restaurant and one service station. Less than 15 merchants served the area.

The Navy base had been built three years before, and it was providing an increase in population that the town could not keep up with. There was a very bad housing problem—some people were forced to live out of tents because they had no other alternatives. The Naval Air Test Center continued to bring in more and more people, even though the surrounding area could not accommodate them. In a reaction to this, many people found the community stressful and aggravating, because it had so little to offer. But then there were some who found it impressive and encouraging, because it had so much to offer.

Jack Daugherty was one of the first and few who reacted on the fact that Lexington Park was changing. He realized its potential and took an immediate interest. His contributions have resulted in the growth and development of the formerly weak and needy town, which Daugherty now refers to as his “Garden Spot”.

“Lexington Park really began to grow when we started the bank,” Daugherty says. “J. Frank Raley, Robert Gabrelcik, Jack Rue, Lewis Merchant and myself. We couldn’t get any money. So we sold stock to all of our friends that would buy it, and we started the bank.”

He made it sound so simple. In its great time of need throughout the late 40's and early 50's, Jack produced for Lexington Park an appliance store, TV store, furniture store and a moving and storage company. Mr. J. Frank Raley describes Daugherty as being "extraordinarily smart at tactical business."

Daugherty is also responsible for the relocation of The Enterprise, which was originally operated out of Leonardtown. In order to accomplish this task, the entrepreneur approached the editor and offered to put him on his payroll at \$125 a week—upon the paper's arrival to Lexington Park. The editor agreed. The additional clause in that deal was that Mr. Daugherty guaranteed the owner to two full pages of advertising every week for as long as he remained in business. After 30 years, that agreement still holds to this day, with an estimation of "\$750,000 worth of advertising committed to The Enterprise," said Mr. Daugherty. The advertising involved here is that of the Bill Raley Home Furnishing Center.

The list of accomplishments made by this man are almost endless. When asked about when he plans to retire, he replies, "Never. I don't plan to retire. I enjoy the business."

The next background profile we have is that of Mr. J. Frank Raley Jr., of J. Frank Raley Insurance. Mr. Daugherty hails him as "one of our leading citizens".

J. Frank summed up their plans of development as being, "some coordination, some strategy, and some right off the seats of our pants."

Mr. Raley is a native of St. Mary's County, and his father was involved in politics. He describes St. Mary's as being a "community of nothing" when he was growing up. The county did not have electricity until 1940.

Although the Raley family was better off than most, J. Frank worked very hard for his money. At age 16, he alone farmed five acres of tomatoes and made a business out of it by selling them to a canning factory that was operated here. He made \$3,000 out of that crop.

After graduating high school he went on to Georgetown University, and then enjoyed over two years of the Army. After the Army, he came back home and still had no idea of what he planned on becoming in his life. He cites his best assets as being patience and perspective.³⁴

³⁴ "The Growth of a Community" 1985, J. Frank Raley Archives, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

Lewis Cato Merchant

The building of a great Naval Station was a dramatic and historical event, planned as part of the strategic vision of the United States Navy. But the town outside seems to have no history; it simply became and responded without logic or focus it seems.

The historian has not yet come along to chronicle the events of the building of this town out of the woods, or to tell us how it happened, or record as some believe, a town built on pure greed and nothing else. Was there something more?

As a witness and sometimes participant of most of these events of the past 50 years, there was something more. Public virtue was in the mix, indistinguishable though it may be; there was a public dynamic in men like Cato Merchant.

The man we honor today, Lewis Cato Merchant, who together with his ex-shipmates and navy fliers, Jack Daugherty, Gabe Gabrelcik, Arther Rysticken, Jack Rue, and others put together the necessary sinews and structure of the town to provide the foundation of civic leadership. I think it can be said that without this foundation, Pax River would not today be the headquarters of all Naval Aviation.

Cato, like his compatriots, started and structured many businesses from service station to stockbroker. He was a key player together with his old friend ,Jack Daugherty, in forming Maryland Bank & Trust Co., the new town's old bank and critical source of capitol. Cato was the first chairman of the board and his skill in business organization and structure was essential in those beginning days. He also was the balance and foil to his friend Daugherty, the President, whose enthusiasm needed some balance.

In a hostile political environment he faced an awesome responsibility to design, organize, and provide the funding for a multimillion-dollar project, the first of its kind in the country. He did it with great skill and the project became known in Maryland as one of the most efficiently developed in the State.

Today is the ending of our mortal connection with Cato but his work and who he was remains.³⁵

³⁵ Eulogy for Lewis Cato Merchant, Church of The Ascension, Lexington Park, Given by J. Frank Raley

Eulogy for Jack T. Daugherty

Given on August 17, 2000 by J.Frank Raley

In 1946 when Daugherty looked out of the gate at the Air Station after his Marine wartime service in the Pacific and as his test pilot days at Pax were ending, he saw a vision, an economic dream. Daugherty's vision was powered by the fiercest entrepreneurial spirit that I have ever seen.

Standing at the gate, there wasn't much to look out upon, for what he saw that day was mostly bars, girlie shows and gambling. That was where the money was in those days-bars, girls and slots. That didn't make any difference to Daugherty, for I know what he saw that day as the patterns of his life would reveal in the future. He didn't see what was but what could be. His entrepreneurial spirit just jumped with anticipation. Never again in his lifetime would he have this opportunity and returning home to Kentucky was over forever.

He set out to build a town and a community in Lexington Park and the 8th District. He lured in a radio station and a newspaper. He organized a political bloc of the new arrivals and began to use this political power to counter the hostile Leonardtown political establishment. He scoured the country looking for investment money for the town, as local banks were not interested in investment here. He ran for political office but was narrowly defeated. But he helped organize a political alliance of parts of the county to join with the growing population in the 8th District.

All the time he was starting new businesses from service stations to small loans, too many to remember or to list today, except to recall the Daugherty pattern—try enough businesses and the winners will overcome the failures.

Jack Daugherty also began to learn about political power and the connection and the importance of the State Government in providing resources to develop what was an economic backwater. He recognized and helped implement the major State development programs for St. Mary's in the 1960's and again in the 1990's, the infrastructure program for Southern Maryland to support the base consolidation. He involved himself in the political structure local, state and federal. He understood this vital connection. He was criticized as a part of the 'Good Old Boy Network' which he proudly accepted. The charge was insulting and meant to be by the critics as a term for a greedy manipulative behind the scenes operator. Daugherty's work to bring roads, sewers, bridges, schools, banks and state investment served the people. It helped to provide structure and bring jobs and a decent living and security for the people of Southern Maryland. It helped bring fairness.

When the shadows of BRAC closures began to darken and St. Inigoes was about to be closed and thousands of jobs lost, Daugherty helped mobilize the "forces" and build a counter force. The Navy Alliance was formed and Daugherty asked me to lead it. I told him we needed \$100,000 as a beginning. The money was there immediately and Daugherty became the driving force for funding the Alliance to support the Navy at Pax and St.Inigoes and to successfully protect the community from closures and layoffs. To the last, Daugherty was faithful as a board member, fund-raiser and his indomitable will never wavered in leadership of the Alliance and what it had to do, preserve, protect and defend his beloved Navy.³⁶

³⁶ Eulogy for J.T Daugherty, Given on August 17, 2000 by J. Frank Raley, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

CHAPTER EIGHT: JOHN BRISCOE LEAVES **ST.MARY’S COUNTY, 1952-1956**

John Hanson Briscoe attended St. Mary’s Academy in Leonardtown from grades one through 12. “I had terrible marks,” he said.” And my father said, “You really need to, as soon as you graduate from St. Mary’s Academy, you need to go away and get a college education”. It was the last thing in the world I wanted. And of course, the last thing I wanted in the world was what I ended up getting. I guess I wouldn’t have been as successful as I was if I didn’t have that college education.”³⁷He wanted to go on to the University of Maryland, but instead attended Mount St. Mary’s College in 1952, because his father, John Henry Thomas Briscoe, wanted him to go there. “I didn’t have any real goals,” Briscoe said.³⁸



This photo was taken in Penny’s Bar in Leonardtown in the early 1950’s. Because John Briscoe could not legally drink beer and his father, John H.T Briscoe was the State’s Attorney at the time, his bottle of beer was replaced with a bottle of coke. Just before this photo was taken.

³⁷ Southern Maryland Perspectives with Brad Gottfried

³⁸ “I’ve had a Wonderful Life.” Jason Babcock, St. Mary’s County Enterprise. Jan. 3, 2014

John Hanson Briscoe: I went away to college, which I really didn't want to do and I was supposed to take a pre-law course and my father, because of his age, he didn't know what courses to take for the law. So, he took me up and put me in a bachelor of liberal arts thing. Well, you know, I really struggled in college because all my subjects were in things I really had no background in. I was trying to decide what I was going to do. I found out I like psychology and philosophy, that kind of thing which ties into law. I really didn't know where else to go. I wasn't going to be a business administration person, I didn't have that background. I had no ambition when I went to college to get a pre-law degree and had no intention of necessarily going to law school.³⁹

I played baseball in college; I was a pitcher, I threw my arm out. I didn't take care of my arm but I was a good pitcher in the county, but southpaw and I threw hard. Somebody tried to show me how to throw the perfect drop and you had to twist your hand like this and never do that, and I used to do it. I had a drop, Sam, I swear to God it dropped 4 feet; some of those St.Mary's County players remember it. But it killed my arm. I played for about 3 or 4 years and Penny's was our sponsor, Penny's Bar.⁴⁰



Mount St.Mary's baseball team with future Delegates Leo Green (2nd, from left) and John Hanson Briscoe (far right).

³⁹ Southern Maryland Perspectives with Brad Gottfried

⁴⁰ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.



James E. McCleaf

Jim McCleaf: We attended Mount St.Mary's all 4 years. We traveled in different groups; he was in the "in crowd". They seemed to have more freedom. They were gone on weekends and vacations.

Samuel Baldwin: So was this freedom that they gave themselves, as opposed to the school gave them more freedoms?

JM: I think some of both. Some of the crowd were ball players, basketball players. I think they, the school, tended to overlook some things that were happening with them that they wouldn't overlook for other students.

Samuel Baldwin: Any idea of what type of student he was?

JM: He said one thing to me after I got down here in St. Mary's that was kind of funny. He said words to the effect that he was envious of me because he had to study his ass off to do well and it just seemed to come easy to me.

Let me tell you what I know about John Dorsey. Walter Dorsey's brother. John was at the Mount my freshman year. My freshman year, his freshman year, too, and he was a very dynamic person. He was a lot like Walter. You know, very commanding presence when he was around. I think he didn't come back our second year. He was at that point selling pots and pans. He brought his wares with him and put on his demonstration for us, had us all in stitches. He'd pick somebody out and say, "Now mother, you want something that'll last so let me show you." And he'd jump on one of the pans (laughs) and then he'd say "I did this once and the damn pan broke" (laughs). But he had his whole spiel, what he'd say to young married couples and all that. Then he disappeared again. And I don't think we ever saw him again at the Mount.



John Rule Dorsey

Samuel Baldwin: Another photo, Johnny and Sylvia Weiss (later, Briscoe) and Walt Dohrman. He was a basketball player?

JM: I'm pretty sure he was a basketball player. He was one of the people who had a car. And to give you an idea of how unconnected I was, I was in that car 1 time in 4 years(Laughs). Walt had some idiosyncrasies; he didn't want anybody smoking in his car. Nobody ever smoked in his car, only people in his group rode in his car, too.⁴¹



Walter Dohrmann, John Briscoe, Jerry Mentz, Sylvia Weiss, Jane Gallup Mentz at Hood College 1956

⁴¹ Jim McCleaf interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

John Fenwick: John Hanson and I were both at the Mount together.

Elizabeth Fenwick: And you rode up and down together. He told jokes the whole time up and down.

JF: We traveled together a lot at the time which was Thanksgiving, Christmas, or spring break or whatever.



John Francis Fenwick

Samuel Baldwin: Would he have occasion to borrow a car from you?

JF: (laughs) Not real frequently, and I had no problem lending the car to him; he didn't abuse it. It was occasional. Never had any accident or anything like that. The only thing I can remember about it, that I wished he would've handled a little bit differently was that when I came home from my junior year, I guess it was, that would've been his sophomore year. I received a citation from the police department of Frederick, a parking ticket. And I knew I had never forgotten one because I had rarely gone to Frederick to begin with. I had no reason to go down there. I said that had to have been John Hanson and he probably just tore it up or ignored it. He probably thought it was for \$15 so it wasn't a big deal.

EF: John, what did you guys do after class in the evenings if you weren't studying? At the Mount, wasn't there a place to hang out at the Mount?

JF: We would go to Emmitsburg and have a few beers.

EF: You know John Hanson didn't want to go to Mount. Did you know that?

JF: He told me why he went to Mount St. Mary's and it was his father's decision. Well I think John Hanson, knowing his background as a kid, of course he was the only boy, the youngest child. I'm sure he was given some privileges that some other people might not have had, without coming down on him a little hard. Maybe I'm wrong. But most single boys and youngest kids get a little bit of privilege along the way. But anyway, I think that they thought John Hanson, not only academically so much but might get in trouble, you know? Particularly if he went to Maryland because of all the fraternities and parties and that kind of stuff. I think the old man, his father, had some insight there.⁴²



Emmitsburg, MD

⁴² John and Elizabeth Fenwick Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



John Hanson Briscoe and
Sylvia Weiss, Ocean City, MD

In looking at the Mount St. Mary's yearbook, it is noteworthy that John Briscoe, the future Speaker of the House of Delegates, was not a member of the Honor Society (recognition for high scholarship), not a member of Who's Who (outstanding students), was never involved in the student council, not a member of the Shamrock Club (the most active and successful social organization on campus). He was however a three-year member of the International Relations Club ("programmed towards promoting the awareness of events happening in our fast-moving world of today...bringing the college closer to the swirl of events that make history and news, the club had a firsthand account of this big business we call the government").



1954



1956



1956

Joseph Rhode: Though John and I were classmates, we probably only shared a few classes early on like first year English, religion and philosophy. What I did come to know about John was the way he related to others, shown by his tone of voice, body language and the way he always looked you in the eye with sincerity, interest and a twinkle. Well, of course being a Catholic school, attending mass every Sunday was a church mandate. So, we, as Catholics, did that and the priests and the administration were the enforcers. But then there was also daily mass in the chapel and some of us attended that with more or less regularity. Let me say, laughingly, there was no beer allowed on campus. [laughing] Because there was beer on campus. I lost track of John after graduation until I started attending 5-year reunions. He was usually there. A magnet around whom we classmates would gather. He would hold court which, of course, was easy for him. Then the stories. Quite the raconteur! We all felt proud of John's accomplishments: member of the Maryland State Legislature and Judge. I don't think any of us were surprised. Seemed like a natural fit."⁴³



Joseph Rhode

course,

Bonnie Briscoe: He had to take a final exam over again and, in the meantime, he applied to law school. So, with those two things going on, he didn't have to answer the draft because he was making up a class and he had applied to law school and was accepted. He got married to Sylvia Weiss after he graduated; Sylvia was a Hood student. They married and moved to Baltimore.⁴⁴

John Hanson Briscoe: I went from college to Baltimore. I worked for the Montgomery Ward catalog warehouse. I got a nice job because I just happened to have a BA degree and Montgomery Ward wanted to hire me because I had that. I was supervisor of the mail order department. Your parents and mine would fill out what they wanted to order like Sears, but this was Montgomery Ward. 'I want three sweaters, one brown...etc.' So, it would come to Baltimore, Monroe Street; there would be an army of women with baskets like what you would get in the grocery store and they would run up and down the aisle which was stacked with sweaters of all colors and sizes, they'd fill the order. So, I was their boss, and I knew nothing about mail order and that kind of thing, but I got it because I had that degree⁴⁵

⁴³ Rhode, Joseph G., Interview with Samuel C.P, Baldwin Jr.

⁴⁴ Briscoe, Bonnie Interview with Samuel C.P, Baldwin Jr.

⁴⁵ Briscoe, John Hanson, Interview with Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

CHAPTER NINE: THE DORSEY MACHINE, 1950's

Marvin Kaminetz: “The Dorsey Machine”, I’m not sure they called it that, but the state certainly recognized it. People from out of the county knew what it was and the people that were involved in it knew what it was. It meant that they had people in every area of the county that supported their candidates. The candidates like Paul Bailey, like Joe Weiner for State’s Attorney, like delegate Frank Combs. People like that, ok? They were the ones, and Judge Dorsey, he controlled jobs because of that. People who worked for the county got jobs in the courthouse, county jobs. It was with that blessing from Judge Dorsey. It worked but it was closed. If you weren’t in it, merit didn’t have a lot to do with it. It had to be who you voted for.

Samuel Baldwin: Why was there a need for new leadership?

MK: To open up and do more on merit and to give other people in the county an openness, to have an opportunity to have jobs, to get elected to public office instead of the handpicked people that the Dorsey Machine wanted.⁴⁶

Ern timer Bell: The Dorsey Machine as I remember it was much more patronage, particularly with the state senator and all back in the forties and fifties. There was no merit system in the county and everybody served pretty much, particularly with the state road. That was the biggest employer in the county. It was a lot of patronage. I think whoever was in office had a lot of control. I guess it created what they called the “Dorsey Machine.”⁴⁷



Left to Right: Candidates for Attorney General,
Philip H. Dorsey Jr, Governor, George P.
Mahoney, Comptroller, J. Millard Tawes

⁴⁶ Marvin Kaminetz Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

⁴⁷ Ernie Bell Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

John Weiner: Judge Dorsey would come over and talk politics with my father and other people would meet there. To illustrate how things were different, I remember a conversation; they were talking about an election coming up. They loved talking about politics. They're all very personal. They were talking about an election. Phil Dorsey says "Has anybody been down to see Priscilla Gant?" Priscilla Gant was the mother of Bobby Gant; she lived down in the 1st district and apparently she was a lady who was interested in politics. Somebody said "No" and he said "I understand that Priscilla's not right. And she's got 17 votes. Somebody needs to go down and see Priscilla Gant because she not right." [Laughs] That always struck me. I always remember that conversation because it was such, he knew how many votes, and I bet that was true. Priscilla Gant had 17 votes; if she supported you that was 17 people, her family group, and she was like a local leader in that community.⁴⁸



Dick Arnold

Walter Dorsey: Dick Arnold used to be a county commissioner and he worked on the State Highway Administration. He was like old Senator Claghorn, he always had a story to tell and back in the '50s a bunch of these watermen were there and Dick Arnold had his red hair flapping, and said, "Those damn sport fishermen are trying to take over the Potomac River. They're not interested in the commercial watermen. But I can tell you one thing. Jesus Christ picked as his disciples twelve commercial watermen. He didn't pick any sports fishermen and what's good enough for Jesus is good enough for Dick Arnold" [laughing]. But they've lost their political influence that they used to have. I have too many friends that are commercial watermen and I've always been supportive of them, right or wrong. I know what a hard life they lead. I have friends over the years that have been involved in the water and you see them go out there in these small boats and it's rough and it's freezing and they get up early and they don't get much money now. They didn't used to get much money for their work. And it's just a wonderful group of people. Very independent. You'll never see it again in St. Mary's County. Like all the local bars were like social clubs. They'd come over to Captain Sam's. They'd sell their oysters. At two o'clock in the afternoon, there'd be 40 or 50 of them in there, all over the county it'd be like that. And we had Charlie Davis down at Wynne, he had a hundred and some people employed picking crabs. It's a bad way to make a living but at least it was a living. And people have gotten very soft. They don't realize the difficult times we used to have down here. Most of these county roads now, they're blacktopped. When I grew up, they were mud. They weren't even gravel, these county roads. All these side roads in Leonardtown were dirt 'cause there weren't any cars. I remember asking my father, I said things must have been pretty bad in the Depression. He said 'no it wasn't'. He said "nobody had any money before the Depression, nobody had any money during the Depression, nobody had any money after the Depression." And that's it.⁴⁹

⁴⁸ John Weiner interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

⁴⁹ Walter B. Dorsey, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

St.Mary's Is a Great Place If You Follow the Rules

For more than 20 years, politics was dominated by a Democratic organization under the leadership of Philip H. Dorsey, Jr., now a Circuit Court judge.

When the new comers got settled they tried many times to unseat the machine but were always stymied by a third faction within the Democratic Party that opposed the Dorseys but also hated Lexington Park. Thus, the Dorsey's might not have received a majority of the vote, but they always won.

Campaigns were, for the most part, appeals to loyalty. Political favors done years before—such as a school bus contract or a repaired road—seemed to tip the scales. Actual political issues were virtually ignored because to publicize them would be to admit the basic feelings of St. Mary's County. And that would never do.

Six years ago, however, when the county weekly, the Enterprise, dared to criticize alleged political dealings by the Judge in making lucrative appointments, a grand jury returned indictments against the editor and publisher. This was expected to embarrass the paper into silence, but the county was hardly prepared for the storm of criticism from all parts of the United States of this attempt to muzzle the press. The Enterprise, contrary to county custom, did not sweep its "shame" under the rug. The prosecution of the charge was feeble and the indictments were quickly dismissed.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ "St.Mary's is a Great Place If you Follow The Rules," by Donald L. Hymes, Washington Post, 10/27/64

CHAPTER TEN: SLOT MACHINES, 1940's-1950's

Judge Admonishes Jury To Consider Gambling Menace

Now Rampant In The County

The Circuit Court for Saint Mary's County, March Term, convened on Monday, with His Honor William Meverell Loker and Associate Judges Charles Marbury and John B. Gray on the bench.

Judge Charles Marbury delivered a forceful charge to the grand jury, explaining their duties and responsibilities and stressed aspects of the alleged violations of the commercial gambling laws with particular references to "slot machines".⁵¹

"To the Voters of St. Mary's County." Letter to the Editor. November, 1947

We wish to take this opportunity to inform the voters of St. Mary's County of our position on Senate Bill No. 36 which will be voted on at a special election on December 9th next.

The Bill in substance grants Home Rule to St. Mary's County. It authorizes the County Commissioners to legalize any coin-operated machine and impose a gross receipts tax which under present law can be as much as ten percent and a license fee not exceeding Fifty Dollars per machine. We have been informed by competent legal advice that we can impose restrictions on the license.

In our opinion a conservative estimate of the combined license fees and gross receipts tax would yield the County a net revenue of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars, (\$100,000.00).

The Bill does not legalize coin operated machines but does empower the County Commissioners to legalize them and we will state frankly it will be our purpose if the Bill is approved by the voters at the forthcoming election to do so.

Probably no county in the State is faced with more serious financial conditions than ours due to the great increase in population. Each week new demands are made upon us necessitating additional appropriations. We have endeavored to practice strict economy but were forced this

⁵¹ 'Judge Admonishes Jury To Consider Gambling Menace', Washington Post, December 10, 1947

year to raise our tax rate. The prospects for the coming year are far from bright, unless some new source of revenue such as is provided in this Bill is found.

For the past several years the Federal Public Housing Administration has been paying the County over \$10,000.00 in lieu of taxes on the housing projects at Lexington Park. This property was recently acquired by the United States Navy and the amount previously paid in lieu of taxes will be the last to the County in the future.

In conclusion we wish to state that the argument has been advanced that this Bill places too much authority in us, the County Commissioners. In reply we can only say that you entrust us with the responsibilities of erecting your schools, aiding your fire departments, providing police protection and setting your tax rate. Our body is one close to the people. If abuse creeps in the administration of the proposed law we and our successors will always be close at hand where complaint can be made and the abuse corrected.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

MATTHEW R. BAILEY, Pres.

J. FRANK RALEY,

FRANK BAILEY⁵²

John Hanson Briscoe: My mother used to play slots, my father couldn't stand them, so she'd do it behind his back at Seven Gables. When they were going to pull the numbers raid, my father already had intelligence down there. The state police knew it was down there and they knew who was involved in it and when they were going to do the raid. They said, "Mr. Briscoe, this is state police intelligence, should we notify your sheriff?" He said, "Heavens no." Willard Long, he was in on it. They made a raid; he was sitting home watching television. They raided Greenland Gardens; they had to school bus all these people up to Leonardtown and Willard Long was sitting home watching television; he was one of the boys. Part time Sheriff, you know you could tell them to wink at certain things. No, it was really bad. It was as bad as anywhere you could imagine.⁵³



Seven Gables located on the Patuxent River near Town Creek

⁵² "To the Voters of St. Mary's County." The Enterprise; Letters to the Editor. 11/21/47

⁵³ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr

Special Referendum Gives County Slot Machines

Slot machines were legalized in St. Mary's County today, December 9th (1947), by a margin of nearly two to one, unofficial returns of a special county wide referendum showed late tonight.

The referendum was technically on the question of whether the slot machines should be taxed but, as pointed out by both proponents and opponents, approval was tantamount to legalization of the machines.

In addition to taxes, the State will collect one-half of 1 per cent on the total receipts. The legalized slot machines, bitterly opposed by the St. Mary's County Civic Association, will net the county about \$100,000 a year in added revenues, officials estimated. Since the commissioners still must adopt a resolution authorizing them, it probably will be January 1 before any are placed in operation.⁵⁴

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, when I was young, I thought slot machines were wonderful. I didn't spend an awful lot of money in them because you could use all your allowances; I wanted my spending money to go to the movies, to buy comic books and go to the local carnival in Leonardtown; that was all there was and fortunately, I lived in Leonardtown because that was the county seat and there was really nothing else in St. Mary's County by way of nightclubs, entertainment, things of that sort. Course, I was too young to go to nightclubs anyway. But Leonardtown being the county seat had the movie house, had most of the drug stores and pharmacies where you could get your comics. So, I enjoyed them. My friends and I used to go around different places and we'd play them from time to time and that's of course when I was in high school; and my mother used to like to play them. You can become addicted to them, thinking you're gonna hit the big jackpot and win a lot of money. My father happened to be state's attorney; he was the prosecutor and he did not approve of slot machines even though they were legal. He just didn't like gambling. And he didn't approve of my mother playing the slot machines but every chance she'd get, if she wasn't with him or if she was with him and either one of my sisters or I were along with her she would use us to guard her when she was playing, if my father was off talking to somebody as he was prone to do, go off and talk politics and so forth. And we would stand guard and keep an eye on him while mother played the nickel machines; she never played any more than the nickel machines.

Every bar and restaurant in St. Mary's County, including barber shops, had them. Every grocery store would have some, every little country store. Drive all over this county wherever, from north, east, south, west, any little store had one or two machines in it. Then the big bonanza came when the Naval Air Station was created in 1942 and you had these hundreds, probably thousands of young sailors came down here and many of them didn't have automobiles. They couldn't drink, you had to be 21 to drink. So, they'd walk out of the main gate at the Naval Air Station and they walked right into a little Las Vegas. What 15 years ago were nothing but farms, tobacco farms, were now night clubs, bars and what they called arcades. An arcade in those days was not

⁵⁴ "Special Referendum Gives County Slot Machines." Washington Post. December 10, 1947.

where you go in and play video games and everything. It was slot machines, banks of slot machines. My best memory of one of the largest arcades was right, walk outside the Naval Air Station, walk across the street and you'd walk into an arcade and it might have had fifty machines in it lined up, dime, nickel, quarter, fifty-cent machines, and they had nothing but slot machines, sandwiches and something to drink, and that was it. And places like that of course were scattered all over the community.

The Naval Air Station wasn't affected by the slot machines, the slot machines came to them. The people who owned them at the time and had them scattered around little small places just looked at the market; here's these young men, they get paid every Friday, and, what else are they gonna do, they can't drink. They come off the Naval Air Station, they might have had a movie house there, they come off and all they can do is get sandwiches and Cokes and they could fake their IDs, they could get a beer and just play slot machines, go to these night clubs, and of course many of these young men used to go to Washington. They'd hitchhike or drive up, take a bus to Washington, D.C. because at that time you could drink beer in Washington at the age of 18, not hard liquor, and of course all these young boys did, so they did a lot of driving back and forth up to D.C. to be entertained and of course they'd go into night clubs because you only had to be 18, you had to be 21 here, they could not drink here, but the slots were there. If you didn't have a car that was it, that was entertainment. And they'd spend their paycheck, unless they had to send some home, they'd put their paychecks in there, in the slot machines. The slot machines appealed to everyone, really; I've seen 70, 80, maybe 90 year old women standing there, come down to get the newspaper from the local drug store, stand there and put 8, 10, 12, 15 dollars into the slot machines. So, everybody of all ages really, would play them. The religious people (Catholics) have never been generally opposed to gambling; they have bingo, that's how they'd build their churches. But, you've got these Protestant religions coming into the county with the Naval Air Station: Presbyterians, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, mostly anti-gambling people. They would not, any member, strict members of a Baptist, a Methodist, a Lutheran, a Presbyterian church usually would not play slot machines. They did not believe in it, okay? In fact, they were the ones who obviously garnered up a great deal of the opposition to slot machines leading to the eventual prohibition. But everybody played them, they appealed to everybody. I think you had to be maybe 18 to play them.

Q: Did that stop people?

John Hanson Briscoe: No, absolutely not...I think there was an age limit on it but it was absolutely not enforced. Never, cause I would have been in jail several times. I'm sure I played it many times when I wasn't of age.⁵⁵

⁵⁵ John Hanson Briscoe, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

St. Mary's a Great Place If you Follow the Rules

By Donald L. Hymes

St. Mary's County is a paradox surrounded on three sides by water, on the fourth by pride.

The Maryland County displays a thousand slot machines and a hundred gracious mansions. It also has moonshining and carousing and some of the kindest and most hospitable people you can meet anywhere.

Its citizens are proud of the County's heritage of religious freedom while they jealously guard the traditions that tolerate what city folks would call lawlessness.

The rural county of 40,000 persons begins less than an hour's drive from downtown Washington, but in attitude the residents are a world away. Behind an all-but-invisible wall lies a way of life that cut itself off from the rest of the 20th century until two decades ago.

Washingtonians knew little of St. Mary's except, perhaps, as a prime source of high-quality moonshine during Prohibition. Far into the 30's steamboats provided a large portion of the transportation into St. Marys. And between 1790 and 1940 the population of Maryland's first county actually declined.

Change came suddenly. In 1942, the Navy chose an undeveloped farm area at a crossroads called Jarboesville for an air station. Hordes of construction workers found the county to their liking, for it was possible for taverns to spring up overnight, complete with gambling tables and slot machines—and they did.

Jarboesville became Lexington Park, now St. Mary's largest town. It was a boom town created to serve the needs of the sailors. It had bars and more bars, and a neon strip to rival Las Vegas.

Lexington Park, with all its strip shows and honky-tonks, became a source of annoyance to the county native. The newcomers were resented for "destroying our way of life" but the native found the Patuxent Naval Air Station a lucrative place of employment. The average income in the county increased ten times in a few years.

While the old time resident viewed Lexington Park with distaste, he nevertheless began to participate in its activities. St. Mary's never had been a prudish place, and the neon strip merely transferred after-dark activities to a better-lighted location.

Slot machines were legalized by referendum in 1950. Somehow the county authorities continued to turn their backs on flagrant violations of the county's liberal liquor code, and zoning requirements were non-existent.

What happened was that Lexington Park, for better or for worse, became a part of St. Marys County and that was that.⁵⁶

Paul Bailey: I would like to tell you that at first they even allowed us, our native people, to put slot machines, on the air station. And the Navy used the very large receipts they got out of those machines for the naval relief fund. And [chuckle] they had them there for years. Finally, I think, they took them out and they never went back in, legal or illegal. At first, I never will forget some of the commanding officers connected with the station who consulted with me as lawyer, then of course in the Senate, about the legality of the machines on the station. And I told them, I said “Well, they’ve been here in Saint Mary’s County, in our various business establishments as long as I can remember,” and they had been. And I said, “The grand jurors don’t choose to indict anybody as to them.” And I said, “And they made so much money out of them there was very little complaint about them for many years after the establishment of the base.”

Q: So, was it difficult convincing some of the people in the county?

PB: No, not at all. Only once it became established and so many people were feeling the benefits of it, and it wasn’t doing any real harm here to any of us, you see, but you must remember that the vast acreage down there was owned by farmers, let us say. So, we could care less, you know what I mean. I bet I’m the only person that lived and worked in Leonardtown who ever fished on those farms and in those creeks, and I never saw any other than John H.T Briscoe, who took me down there to go fishing in those creeks, walk around that beautiful land, when I was only there doing that. I don’t recall ever seeing any other of our Navy people around. It was an area, let’s say more or less foreclosed back in those days to most of our native people who wouldn’t hesitate to visit me on my farm, and I’ve always lived on the water. In other words, you know there is a big difference between New York millionaires who own a thousand acres or so at Cedar Point, than there is between Paul Bailey who lives on a relatively small farm somewhere away from that area. Big difference.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ “St.Mary’s is a Great Place If you Follow The Rules” by Donald L. Hymes, Washington Post, 10/27/64

⁵⁷ Paul Bailey interview by Jennifer A. Hartsig, St.Mary’s College of Maryland Archives

CHAPTER ELEVEN: J. FRANK RALEY ENTERS POLITICS, 1954-1958

Tom Waring: Sam, the county had probably 10-15,000 people before the base and it took a long time before it got big. It got big only because of the base. The reason Lexington Park took a long time to be part of the county (politically and socially) was that most people came here and it was '3 years and a flip'. Tour of duty here 3 years and then they were gone. It was constantly changing. They never registered to vote. You'd see more Florida licenses than you'd see Maryland licenses. The Florida license didn't cost you anything, the Maryland license did. And that's why they never had any power. The officer personnel were usually married and they would bring their families. Particularly for the 3 years tours. The enlisted personnel, First Class and Chief would be living here but there was a great big part that lived in the barracks on the base. This whole Great Mills Road was strip joints.

A lot of the growth was with Navy personnel. Navy officers and a lot of enlisted. They had a lot of people in that kind of squadron. They had a lot of people who did not vote in the county. So you might've had clusters of quite a few people living in the 8th district. But they didn't vote. So they had no representation. All the representatives and commissioners were people who lived outside of the 8th District.⁵⁸

Jack Daugherty: In 1954 we decided that we have to go into politics to get anything in our community. We put together a ticket, mostly of people in Lexington Park. I ran for the Senate, J. Frank Raley ran for the House of Delegates, Bill Raley ran for the House of Delegates. We didn't elect anybody but J. Frank. I got beat by 29 votes. If we'd had voting machines there ain't no telling how much I would've won by. But we had the political machines controlled by Phil Dorsey. Now in my race we had four people running, and I beat everybody except Joe Mattingly, who later became judge, if you remember. He beat me by 29 votes. But some funny things happened in that election. I got to know more people. After that 1954 election, the community, because of that, they realized that we had the votes here to move. If you have 600 votes you can control almost anything, a solid vote. If you just pick your candidate, put the 600 votes to it. Their politicians realized that.

Q: And what was it that you hoped to accomplish by political...

JD: Then we could get some voice in government. We had no voice in government. No voice in the county commissioner's office. It was all out of what we call the 'Walled City,' which was Leonardtown.

Q: And why did you call it that?

⁵⁸ Tom Waring interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

JD: That little group controlled everything. Nobody could get around the wall. It was nicknamed the 'Walled City.' The next election was 1958; I ran again with three people. That time, Walter Dorsey won the race. Now the Dorseys had controlled politics in this county since maybe early 1940's, maybe even before that. They had always won because if they ran for an office they always had two other opponents. They didn't have enough to run head to head and win. If they could split up the vote they'd win. Judge Dorsey never had an election where he had anything going for him unless he had the split .⁵⁹



Jack Daugherty, Jack Rue, J. Frank Raley, Bill George, Circa 1956

J. Frank Raley: I wasn't very old when I went to the House of Delegates of the State legislature. I got elected at 26; I guess I may have been 27 when I got there. You must remember, my father was a county commissioner and I lived around politics all my life, and was aware of it and aware of the political people. I met them through my father. At that time, the political, I don't want to say boss, but the political leader was Judge Dorsey.

As Lexington Park after the war began to mature and as it started to seek political power, as ordinarily that happens and the population was growing here, Leonardtown became very upset. I guess they always thought of Lexington Park as an upstart. Leonardtown had been the county seat, the controlling force in St. Mary's County; it's where all the professional people lived, lawyers, doctors, and some of the larger businessmen lived there. That's where the courts were, that's the only place there was prior to the war a movie theatre. The only place where there was an A&P (grocery store) then, and a drugstore, and a five and ten cents store. So when it saw this force, this economic force beginning to gather down here in Lexington Park they began to see their power being taken away and there became a very intense feeling between Lexington Park and Leonardtown.



J. Frank Raley

⁵⁹ Jack Daugherty interview by Andrea Hammer, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

The people of this end of the county were seeking greater political representation. They were obviously interested in better schools, better public facilities, particularly as this started into the '50's. The population had been predominantly, 80 percent, Catholic and that was swinging over to be, well Catholics were a minority and Protestants were in a majority with all the new people that had come in. And I think then, of course, that put the pressure on for most of their children were in public school, not private Catholic school, and that was putting pressure on that they wanted more public facilities, public investment in education. And the first challenge came in 1954 when they fielded an entire Lexington Park ticket against the incumbent political system. And I ran that year myself for the House of Delegates. Now, I wasn't officially with them but they were supporting me. So, that was the first breakthrough that had occurred where it began to show that this area, I got elected primarily because I had the support of the new people in Lexington Park. It was a breakthrough and the conflicts were these people here who felt that they were not getting any return on the kind of money that was going into the taxes for this part of the county. And so it simmered on.⁶⁰



Left to Right: Tom Hodges, Malkie Guy, Joe Taylor,
Robert F. Kennedy, Bo Bailey, Harry Lancaster, J. Frank
Raley, Frank Coombs

Lexington Park, 1960

⁶⁰ J. Frank Raley Interview, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives



JOHN F. KENNEDY



HEADQUARTERS • 261 CONSTITUTION AVE., N. W. • WASHINGTON, D. C. • National B-8206

May 6, 1960

Clerk
Circuit Court for St. Marys County
Leonardtown, Maryland

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the election laws of Maryland, this is to advise you that Mr. J. Frank Haley, Jr., 117 Coral, Lexington Park, Maryland, is my Campaign Manager in St. Marys County. He is hereby designated as my Political Agent for St. Marys County during my campaign as a presidential candidate in Maryland's primary to be held on May 17, 1960.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy

cc: ✓ Mr. J. Frank Haley, Jr.
117 Coral
Lexington Park, Maryland

cc: Maryland Kennedy-for-President Committee
309 Emerson Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

JFK:gb

U.S. SENATOR...



STATE OF MARYLAND
JOHN F. KENNEDY
FOR PRESIDENT

★ ★ ★ ★

HEADQUARTERS - 307-9 EMERSON HOTEL, BALTIMORE & CALVERT STS., BALTIMORE 2, MD., SA 7-7.

September 27th, 1960

The Democratic Party is organizing and conducting a drive for the Kennedy-Johnson Ticket in each county of this state. This is going to be one of the most intensive drives ever conducted for the election of our ticket.

In St. Mary's County we are organizing a group in each District, and you have been selected as one of those to lead the fight in your District. You will be contacted, and we suggest that a meeting be called in which you will set up your plans for the organization in your District. If you have not been contacted, someone will be in touch with you in the very near future.

On Thursday night, September 29th, at 8:30, there will be a County-wide meeting in the Trial Magistrate's court room, which all political leaders will attend, and the Campaign will then be kicked off. We certainly request your presence, and I know that we can count on you to carry the Democratic Party to Victory in November!

Sincerely,

J. Frank Haley, Jr.
Co-Chairman

Frank A. Combs
Co-Chairman

CHAPTER TWELVE: JOHN HANSON BRISCOE STARTS HIS LAW PRACTICE, 1956-60

Bonnie Briscoe: “He had to take a final exam over again and, in the meantime, he applied to law school. So, with those two things going on, he didn’t have to answer the draft because he was making up a class and he had applied to law school and was accepted. He got married to Sylvia Weiss after he graduated; Sylvia was a Hood student. They married and moved to Baltimore.”⁶¹

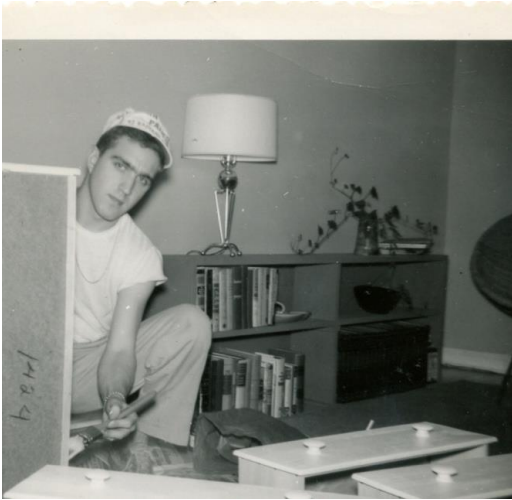


John Hanson Briscoe and Sylvia Weiss
Briscoe flanked by John Henry Thomas
Briscoe and Hilda Maddox Briscoe, 1956.

John Hanson Briscoe: I think I just got to the point where I said I’ve got to do something, so I’ll go into law. So I went into law school at the University of Maryland and I was really frustrated there. It was a method of teaching that was totally foreign to me, a lot of reading, a lot of research. My first year, I quit. Mike Delay was a classmate of mine in law school; he and I had the same problem. He was going to quit. He and I talked about it and he said, ‘don’t quit. I’ve seen Dean James at the University of Baltimore.’ Mike told me to go see him. I said, ‘why is that?’ He said, ‘it’s because he can talk to people who have this same problem with the University of Maryland’s strict study habits, researching and all that stuff, and it’s a problem for some people, but they have a teacher program at the University of Baltimore and they have experts in the field that are practicing lawyers and judges.’ The University of Baltimore wasn’t certified at the time, but you could go there, graduate, and take a bar exam. It wasn’t recognized amongst the Atlantic coast because it didn’t have a full time librarian and didn’t have full time professors. I’ve said it many times, I could not have been taught by people who really inspired

⁶¹ Briscoe, Bonnie, Personal Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin. Jr.

me in law more than those, and I know a lot of them. I ended up in the top tenth of my class. Because it was lectures, you see, the lectures. I could really listen. They allowed me to really comprehend, whereas at the University of Maryland you had big ol' books you had to research. So that's how I ended up in the top tenth of my class, and it was there that I knew that law was my profession.



I'm painting a baby's chest in 1957.



That's up in Baltimore, 1958. I was in law school. That is Sylvia holding Jan, and Lisa in front. We lived in the apartments back there. (on Wilkens Avenue)

Samuel Baldwin: Were you working for Montgomery Ward during the day and then going to law school at night?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, that's exactly right. I was working full time and then I'd come home and get on a bus and go down to Howard Street, where the University of Baltimore had their school, you remember the old place. And I'd go through 4 hours of classes. I don't know how I did it. I did it because I had a family to take care of and I wasn't getting any money from anywhere else. Yeah, Montgomery Ward (laughs).⁶²

⁶² Briscoe, John Hanson Interview Personal Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



Sylvia Weiss Briscoe and John
Hanson Briscoe, 1957



“My Hubby” Baltimore, MD, 1956

John Hanson Briscoe: I went to night school 4 years, it was a quite a...

Brad Gottfried: You must’ve gone every single night then?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, no. But I carried 12 hours a week with a full-time, day-time job.

BG: Wow, you must’ve been exhausted by the time weekends came around.

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, I hadn’t studied up until that point, so I had saved up a lot.

BH: (laughs)

John Hanson Briscoe: I studied very hard when I was in law school and frankly became a very good student.

BG: And how many years did it take you to get the law degree?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, it took me 4 because I started at the University of Maryland which I really didn’t like and take to. They had the casebook theory of learning the law meaning you had to read an awful lot. I never was a great reader, but I do absorb things that I’m interested in, so I transferred from the University of Maryland to the University of Baltimore, which had the lecture theory of teaching law. And I took to it like a fish to water. And I studied hard and got the best marks in those 3 years; I wasted one at Maryland. Those 3 years I studied harder and got the best marks I ever received in my life. Passed the Bar exam the first time. It was natural. Lecture theory; I can absorb what someone is telling me and take notes.

BG: Did you always want to be an attorney?

John Hanson Briscoe: No. Absolutely not. The only time I really decided I wanted to be a lawyer was when I had gotten out of law school and decided what can I do best and my dad was a lawyer.⁶³

Steve Rosasco: I was a classmate of John Hanson's at the University of Baltimore. We went 3 nights a week from 6-10, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The law school was located up on Howard Street, it was right across the street from Maryland General Hospital. When I met him I thought he was an adjuster for an insurance company. You talk about Montgomery Ward; there's a golf course right next to it, Carroll Park, and that's where we played often. It was a 9 hole course and we would just play it twice. But it was a stone's throw, a good golf shot away, or in my case 3 or 4 shots. You know when you're working and going to night school, you don't have a lot of time to do social things. What we usually did, we'd play Saturday morning and then we'd get done maybe by noon or so. And then you could squeeze that in with your studying and your family obligations. We played golf and I know absolutely nothing about golf but John had played. We'd play and we always walked. We played mostly at Clifton Park in the city and then Carroll Park down by Montgomery Wards. And we always walked. I don't think they even had golf carts. They were city run and my most vivid memory of John would be playing golf. Since I knew absolutely nothing about it, I'd holler over to John, he'd be on the other side of the course, "John what club should I use?" "Steve, use a 9-iron". And he had the patience of Job because I guess most people wouldn't like that but every shot I'd ask him what club to use. And as I say he was very patient and very tempered. He always was kidding, it was a perpetual joke that "I'm going to go home and play the back 30." He was really a nice guy, one of the nicest guys I ever met. A testament to his people skills, 50 years later he even remembered me to my son (a lawyer) who appeared before him on occasion. I am sure John is playing the "back forty" somewhere and I am certain he rests in peace.⁶⁴



University of Baltimore, Howard Street



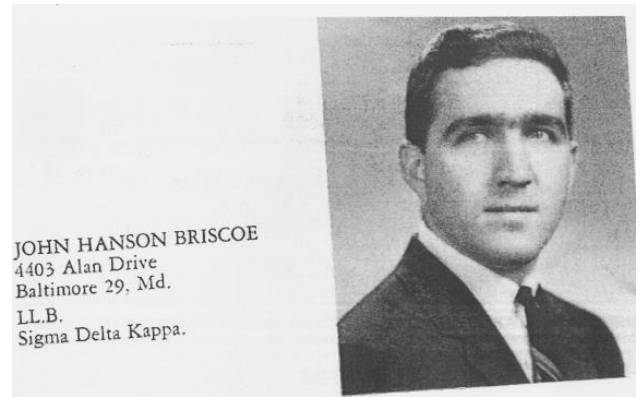
Montgomery Ward Warehouse and Retail Store
next to Carroll Park, Baltimore, Maryland

⁶³ "Southern Maryland Perspectives" with Brad Gottfried

⁶⁴ Rosasco, Steve J. Email to Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr. [Rosasco retired years ago as an Associate General Counsel at Baltimore Gas & Electric Company]



John Hanson Briscoe holding Jan,
beside Lisa in Baltimore 1959



JOHN HANSON BRISCOE
4403 Alan Drive
Baltimore 29, Md.
LL.B.
Sigma Delta Kappa.

University of Baltimore School of Law

Samuel Baldwin: So, working in Baltimore and going to law school in Baltimore, when did you decide to move back to St. Mary's County?

John Hanson Briscoe: As soon as I passed the bar. Because I had always intended on coming back here. I had never intended on staying in Baltimore. I said, 'what am I going to do when I go home'; there weren't any jobs here with a college degree. There's so many things in life you don't always know how they are going to turn out. I was married and had one or two kids at that point.⁶⁵

John H. Briscoe Passes Bar, Plans County Practice

Among the names of successful candidates for admission to the bar recently announced by the Maryland State Board of Bar Examiners was the son of John H. T. Briscoe of Hollywood.

Briscoe, who is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy, Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md., and the University of Baltimore Law School, recently returned to St. Mary's County.

He plans, upon his formal admission to practice by the Court of Appeals of Maryland, to be associated with his father with offices in Leonardtown.

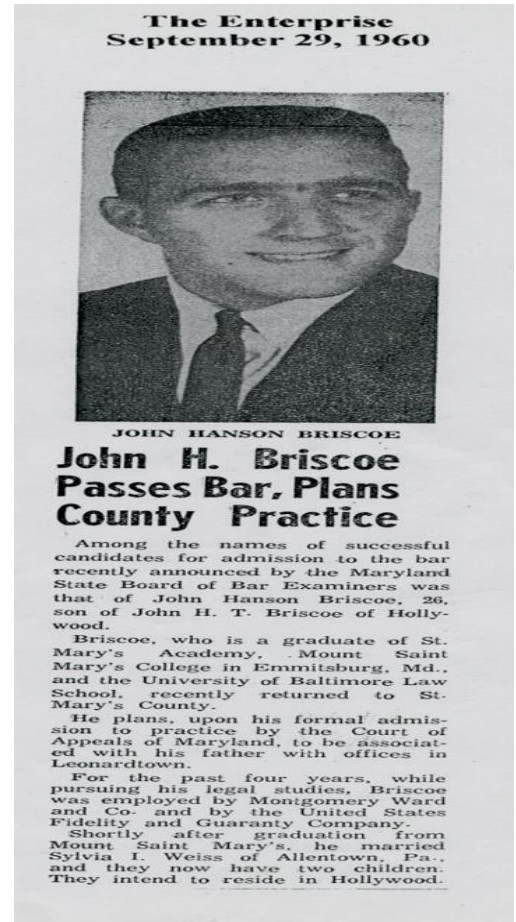
For the past four years, while pursuing his legal studies, Briscoe was employed by Montgomery Ward and Co. and by the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ Briscoe, John Hanson, Personal Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

⁶⁶ "John H. Briscoe Passes Bar, Plans County Practice." The Enterprise, September 29, 1960



Getting alumnus of the year award
in '77 from the University of
Baltimore



John Hanson Briscoe: Frankly, when I left St. Mary's County in 1952 I really felt St. Mary's County was somewhat backwards. It was really rural, there was nothing going on there. The Naval Air Station was it, but there was nothing. No city. I wanted to go to the University of Maryland and join a fraternity and that was not to be. And I just wanted to get out of St. Mary's. I thought it was backward frankly, as I said. You know, as a teenager. And then I went to college and law school and I couldn't wait to get back. After I realized what I left of this great place, the land of pleasant living, truly, St. Mary's County. So, I was delighted when I passed the Bar exam in 1960 and came back.

Q: Was your father still practicing when you came back?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yes. He was still practicing, but because of our big age difference, he was 45 years old when I was born, so by the time I came back here he was retiring. So, I didn't practice in a partnership with him. I shared an office with him. I had to pretty much go on my

own because the older people in St. Mary's County would only go to the old lawyers. They didn't think the younger lawyers knew anything, so it took me a while to generate some business, which usually happens with young lawyers.⁶⁷ I was able to get some business because of my name.⁶⁸

A lawyer in Leonardtown wanted to be a partner to me, as a young lawyer, and he had a good reputation at that time. My father was a very wise man and he said, "Son, you do not want to go into practice with him. He's a smart man and he made some money and if you go into practice with him you'll do all the work and he'll be a playboy." And he was absolutely right. He was showing me plans for our building when the rumor on the street was he did something unethical. But I came in there and he knew I had heard the rumor. And he's got these plans on his desk. He said "Johnny, here's your office" because he was going to do all that, finance it. And he kept looking at me and I kept looking at him and he said "You don't seem like you're listening real good; have you heard the word on the street?" and I said, "Well, yeah" and he said, these are the very words he said, "If I'm going to do something wrong it's going to be a lot more than what you've heard." And you know what, he was right. And he dropped it and he could tell I lost interest.⁶⁹

Tommy Waring: When Johnny came into business, we had an office in Lexington Park.

John Hanson Briscoe: He started me.

TW: This was down where the post office was; we had a business, we owned the water company.

John Hanson Briscoe: That's a story in itself. Tommy gave me a chance, because my father gave his father a chance. I had no business; went to Lexington Park. They had a water business and people would come in and pay their water bills. And then at lunchtime, they'd lock the door and put up this folding partition and give me about this much space (motions) to see clients.

TW: (laughs)

John Hanson Briscoe: And they're in there raising hell about; what'd you play, pinochle mostly?

Mike Whitson: Playing cards? (Laughs)

⁶⁷ Southern Maryland Perspectives with Brad Gottfried

⁶⁸ Babcock, Jason. *I've had a Wonderful Life*. The Enterprise, Jan. 3, 2014.

⁶⁹ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

John Hanson Briscoe: Absolutely. And that got me a start.

TW: John, when you first opened your office in Lexington Park, were there any other lawyers in Lexington Park or were they all in Leonardtown?

John Hanson Briscoe: They were all in Leonardtown, pretty much. Yeah, they'd be over there playing poker and I'm over there talking to a client.

TW: It worked very well because we were very close to Johnny's father.

John Hanson Briscoe: Tommy gave me my seed money and space, charged no rent.

TW: See, Johnny's father helped my father.

John Hanson Briscoe: Absolutely, my father really loved Tommy's father because he came here from Chicago (during the Depression) and needed space for..

TW: He needed space to start.

John Hanson Briscoe: And that's the way it was in those days. You just waited until they got started. Tommy waited for me to be able to pay my electric, well even then I didn't really...

TW: Actually, from that, Frank Barley sold real estate for us.

John Hanson Briscoe: That's right. All in that little space.

TW: And Johnny and Frank became good friends and went into the mortgage business and moved to Leonardtown together.

John Hanson Briscoe: But everybody's got to start; we couldn't have done it without a start.

TW: And it was a wonderful start.⁷⁰

⁷⁰ Interview with Tom Waring, Mike Whitson, John Hanson Briscoe, by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

BRISCOE BORN TO POLITICAL SUCCESS

Nearly 13 years ago, when John Hanson Briscoe walked into the offices of a St. Marys county weekly newspaper to announce his new law practice, the editors knew almost instinctively that he had a political future there.

It was the Kennedy era, and John Briscoe was young, 26, and politely aggressive.

He was to be a lawyer in a county where virtually every lawyer is in politics.

And in an area that respects family as much as anything else, he had a surname established in Southern Maryland since the Ark and the Dove arrived to start the colony and the given name of the Marylander who served as the first President of the United States under the Articles of the Confederation.

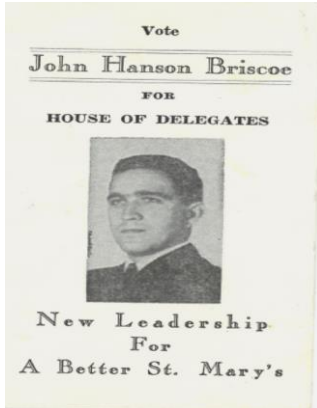
“We knew right away that this was a man who was going places,” said Donald Hymes, then an editor with the *Enterprise*, a county weekly.⁷¹



Donald and Val Hymes

⁷¹ Baltimore Sunpapers, 11/11/73

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: THE “NEW LEADERSHIP” PLATFORM, 1962



Jeanette Dakis: Oliver Guyther met with J. Frank to try and get things started, things that they thought the county needed. They were just convinced that the county could be so much better than it was. They talked a lot about how the county was growing so fast. They wanted to start committees that would see what the county needed and act. ‘The shape we are in today is awful. The roads are in terrible shape’. They were all common things that they thought the county really needed.⁷²

John Hanson Briscoe: Growing up, my father was in politics, but he did not talk about it at home. Until I got into it in 1962, I never thought about it, wasn’t interested in it. In Leonardtown I sensed in the air reform, people running for office... I couldn’t care less.

When I came back here to live, my father took me around the county for a drive. “You see that name up there?” “Yeah, Traveler’s Insurance. J. Frank Raley Insurance .Who is it?” I didn’t know who the hell he was. He said, “He’s a very fine young man.”I’ll never forget this. “He’s a very fine young man, and I have gotten to know him real well and I respect him and I want you to get to know him.” This was before I thought about running. I didn’t know him from Adam and I forgot about it. And that was the end of it. But I will never forget my father pointed him out. My father saw him as leaving the Dorsey organization and being ready to reform and really go against his old friends, the Dorsey people. My father could see it. He went to meetings. He could see by J.’s actions that he was politically involved. And he was on the right track. He wanted to do good things. But I’ll never forget he said ‘that was a good man’. I said “Good, that’s nice” and forgot his name until we got together.

I was drafted by Oliver Guyther, J. Frank Raley and others; I wasn’t interested. I didn’t know what was going on politically. I wasn’t exposed to it. John Rule Dorsey, whose mother and father ate and drank and lived politics, we were great buddies even though our fathers were political opposites.

My father was retiring. Then this air of reform, and an election coming up. They said ‘let’s get John Briscoe’. My father was John Henry Thomas Briscoe, I was John Hanson Briscoe. ‘Let’s get young Briscoe and use his name and they won’t know the difference.’ I knew they were using me. I had to decide if I wanted to let them. I said “Dad, I’ve been approached by Oliver Guyther, Mervell Dean, J. Frank Raley.... maybe Aleck Loker.”

⁷² Dakis, Jeanette. Personal Interview with Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

My father told me “Son, it’s a good opportunity.” So I ran. My father knew what he was talking about.

Oliver Guyther was to raise the money. Henry Fowler was already popular. We had Charlie Molitor, the Enterprise... and Mervell Dean had influence over Charlie. We had the Enterprise supporting us. Mervell Dean couldn’t stand Hiram Millison, Weiner, Dorsey, Bailey –all that slot machine gang that controlled the politics. I didn’t have a concept of that... I wasn’t living with the Dorsey Machine because of my eight years away. I paid no attention, literally, until 1960.

When I started to run, I didn’t know what to do. J. Frank had been in the legislature before. J. Frank was a Dorsey man. Big time Dorsey man. Absolutely. He was a runner for the Dorsey organization. He used to hand out leaflets. But then he had the foresight and the character enough to see the Machine had dragged St. Mary’s County down with slot machines. Yes, the base jobs were here, but they did not have the technology here. They had the base jobs and this huge slot machine industry in restaurants and night clubs; you know what it was like. J. Frank just felt that was dragging the county down. County government was running on the seat of its pants. They never knew how much money they had. Frank Combs had to pass a special law to give them enough money to make payroll. J. Frank saw all of this. He had the vision.

“New Leadership for a Better St. Mary’s”. We met in Oliver Guyther’s office in the Mattingly Building. We all sat around a table. Mattinglys and the Lokers and my father and a lot of the anti-Dorsey people. Before, they had fought each other among themselves. Could never beat the Dorseys. You see the Dorsey’s had 40 percent of the vote they could guarantee, and the opposition, which had 60 percent of the vote could never get together. So Dorsey would divide that 60 in two and you know the rest of the story. So for 25 years with Phil Dorsey at the head, an outstanding politician. He was the best. He gave out their jobs.. all jobs were political. All state highway administration, all county offices. Everybody was on the political dole.

That’s how it all started. I said I’ll go along. I had no policy, no agenda, no issues, until J. Frank Raley developed them. Whatever he said, I said ‘yes’. What he said made sense. He was the one who came up with the ideas for getting this county out of the ditch, out of the sewer. It had been dragged down. It was just stagnant... totally stagnant. J. Frank’s platform was getting new leadership in, getting fresh ideas and change. They needed change and reform. And J. had a platform, and wherever we’d go the platform was developed. I’d sit there the best I could. I could talk fairly well because I had a law degree and went to college.

We ran for every county office from state senator right on down to the courthouse, except Dick Greenwell. He did no harm. We filled every office and we didn’t lose any. Dick Greenwell liked everyone. Everything else was a mess. I didn’t pick any of them on the ticket; they picked me. My father approved of them. That was important. My father was very, very influential. He didn’t know what the hell I would do when I was a young kid.

So they picked me. They drafted me, literally; I had no intention of doing it, I had no interest in running for political office. I didn’t know how to politic. I just went around. I had much of my mother’s politeness. My father wasn’t a politician at all. He was terrible.

We didn't have a lot of money, but Oliver Guyther went out, and we got maybe \$10,000. We had volunteers, we had this cleaned-cut ticket; brand new. Just ready for reform.

It was decided we would run it just like the Kennedys. Not go into barrooms and that kind of thing. That was the old way of doing politics. And we knew the barrooms wouldn't be with us anyway. So what did we do? How were the Kennedy's successful? Coffees, teas...little town meetings in people's homes. So I would leave my office at 10 o'clock and go to someone's house in the neighborhood, and not too many people; 15 people max; 4-5 of us candidates. Everything as a group. J. Frank spoke for everybody. J. Frank was the titular head. We would sit around very leisurely. After about ten minutes, 'Ladies and gentleman, I would like you to meet J. Frank Raley, John Hanson Briscoe... running for...' ⁷³

Deborah Arnold: I remember the day they came to our house, the three of them: Charlie Norris, John Hanson, and J. Frank. I was maybe in the sixth grade and I thought, "oh, these good looking men, wow!" and they came to see dad (Dick Arnold) and they talked and they joked and I remember that day. This was the "New Leadership." They were campaigning on the road, visiting this one and that one. They were stopping by everywhere they could to touch base with people. Well, they knew that they would be welcome there because Dick was very fond of John and he was in Young Democrats with J. Frank when they first started. And he knew Charlie Norris' father from the old days. I think Charlie Norris' father was in the old Dorsey Machine (laughs). So I don't know what they meant about the "Machine" because there was no "Machine" we were aware of. ⁷⁴



⁷³ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

⁷⁴ Deborah Arnold Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

J. Frank always laughed when he told this story. J. Frank and the New Leadership, as many people did back then, had teas during their campaign, and one tea that came to mind was at the home of a couple, which was in Medley's Neck. The host had previously been married to a lady named June, was divorced, and, so his new wife was pretty sensitive to being called his ex-wife's name. And it happened frequently in the County, and they didn't mean any harm, but it caused a little strife in the family. So, this one coffee in particular, John Briscoe and J. Frank were in the living room, and they had a couple cups of coffee or tea, and the host's new wife Beverly, asked if anybody would like another cup. And at this time, John Briscoe said "yes, I'll have another, June", and she went over and he held his cup out and she accidentally (on purpose) moved the spout a little to the right and she spilled hot coffee all over his leg!

John Hanson Briscoe: We would go see key people at their places of work. We went to black bars. They were ready for reform. No blacks had any jobs. At the time, they become Democrats when the Kennedys ran. 99 percent Democrats. During the day with NAACP or a prominent black with us. Irving Hewitt in Callaway, Hewitt Lumber Co, could get us into Happy Land. Prominent blacks in every district. Dorsey wouldn't fool with them.

If we get this county out of the ditch, out of the gutter, and get infrastructure and education, and general welfare of the county, and St.Mary's College, and cultural things, it will attract good, light, clean industry. Like Montgomery County! We had nothing, none. No technology. When J. Frank mentioned Montgomery County, we'd get that (technology) down here, we all said, 'Yeah, sure. Right. Not in your life, fella.' But we thought it was a good idea. And now we have the technology corridor. Isn't that amazing?

He had his vision, you see? I thought how are we ever going to get them. We're a dead end down here, we didn't have the labor force for it. But that's what we wanted. We wanted good clean industry, to not rely on slot machines.⁷⁵

John H.T. Briscoe: I told my son when he came along, I said, "Son, you will no doubt be approached by different people to run for office because a lawyer should be in politics," which I think I have no complaint about that, but I'll put it this way: if you decided you'd like to run for office, don't let them talk you into running for State's Attorney. That's one job you don't want." I said, "if you do decide that you want to run for public office, I'd advise that you go to the legislature,"⁷⁶

⁷⁵ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

⁷⁶ St. Mary's Bar Association recording of John HT Briscoe

John Hanson Briscoe: I was a young practicing lawyer, and my father and I shared an office and he had his business and I was trying to start one. I was right over there in Leonardtown, right across from the courthouse where all those lawyers were. And then I don't know how it happened, but I had no idea for running for public office, none, even though my father had been. I had a family to raise, I had a law office to establish, absolutely no political ambition and I can't remember what triggered that. Oliver Guyther and Mervell Dean or some of these business men around here who didn't like the Dorsey's, they decided they wanted to put together a new leadership team. St. Mary's County was in really, really bad shape. It had no government to speak of; it had a county government but it was very ineffective, dysfunctional, it was a machine. Everybody's job was dependent upon their families and Phil Dorsey, and Joe Weiner, and Paul Bailey and Walter Dorsey. That's what the jobs were. They didn't look after the roads and the parks. You know, that doesn't appeal to the machine politicians. What they want is jobs for their people; slot machines. So all of that was kind of discussed. And I was approached but I had absolutely, coming back after 8 years, 4 years at Mount St. Mary's College, 4 years in law school, and coming back here. I had no intention to run for public office, didn't have an interest in it. And one thing led to another and these people were pushing me, you know, "You've got a good name, your father's got a good name. And you can win, maybe not on your name, but on your father's name."⁷⁷

When I came back in 1960 to practice law and raise a family, I never realized that 2 years later I would be drafted, literally, by an organization in St. Mary's County who wanted to get some new leadership, some new people in politics. And I was literally drafted. I had no idea, even though my dad, in addition to being a lawyer was also a legislator, but he did not prompt me to do that. My father said, "Son, you run for the legislature, don't run for state's Attorney" even though he was State's Attorney for 17 years. He said, "The legislature is one of the greatest experiences you'll ever have. I only had one term, but I enjoyed it. It's the greatest opportunity to learn the law, and to learn people from every corner of the state of Maryland." I had no idea about running for election. My mother [Hilda Maddox Briscoe] didn't like politics, she thought it was ugly. I had no ambition. And he was absolutely right.⁷⁸

INSTINCTIVELY KNEW BRISCOE WOULD BE A POLITICAL SUCCESS

The county was really two worlds. Old established families cemented into political power were centered in Leonardtown. Outsiders, thousands of former naval personnel who were once stationed at the Patuxent Naval base and then settled in the county, were 13 miles down the road in Lexington Park. They were a dormant but potentially powerful political threat to the old-guard hierarchy.

⁷⁷ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

⁷⁸ "Southern Maryland Perspectives" with Brad Gottfried

J. Frank Raley, a county insurance man, spotted Mr. Briscoe as one who could bridge both worlds. “He was young, clean and from a distinguished family,” Mr. Raley said.⁷⁹

J. Frank Raley: Our platform was ‘New Leadership for a better St. Mary’s’ and it went into things like education, appointments of people to various boards, doing better planning, building some public facilities, not just education, but doing more libraries, schools. That was essentially it. It was also that there was a shift in power, too. Shifting power so that for the first time there would be a better allocation of money for public services and particularly for schools.

Q: You mentioned that Leonardtown suffered from the growth in Lexington Park?

JR: I don’t think they suffered, I think they felt personally they were passed by. Leonardtown had been passed by. Economically it was passed by and it, I won’t say deteriorated but it certainly wasn’t an economic powerhouse by any means. It hardly changed at all in these years. But it was not just solely power or economics, it was also the dethronement of their leadership and their power for so long in St. Mary’s County. That is it is not necessarily even. It was just the feeling of being in Leonardtown as important people and as looked up to by the farmers and the others of the entire county. You know, it was something of a psychological loss.⁸⁰

The old leadership was built on laissez-faire and patronage. Laissez-faire as far as public problems are concerned, and low taxes, patronage, and slot machines. That was their primary goal. It played out very well for a long time, because Southern Maryland doesn’t want much government, it doesn’t. It’s less so now, but at that time, they wanted minimal government, they wanted no government interference. And for example, just to indicate that in a historic context, the county certainly rebelled against Prohibition; it was pro-confederacy in the Civil War, and they were for little government, low taxes and freedom. They had gone too far. They could not simply continue to let the schools deteriorate, and the public infrastructure, or the economic security of people deteriorate; it had gone way too far, and I and my team had nothing more than the perfectly sensible approach that we would have to do something about those issues, and we did.

At that point in time, 80 percent of the county voted Democrat, so this was a fight within the Democratic Party, the old and the new. I was in the new, I’d been in the old – I’d ran with the old system when I went to the House. I’d ran with them, but then I broke and formed this new group. Things that made me break with the old style of leadership, whether it was school funding, public infrastructure, particularly for the Lexington Park area, taxation, those causes, and the position I took that would be supportive of the greater recognition of the newer people in the Lexington Park area that had come here from the base. There was a very strong anti-feeling against the newcomers by the old county.

⁷⁹ Don Hymes, The Baltimore Sun, November 11, 1973

⁸⁰ J. Frank Raley Interview by Jason Peeters. March 9, 1998. St.Mary’s College of Maryland Archives

My break with the Dorsey faction during my first term was truly philosophical for me and really practical. I felt there had to be so many changes that needed to be done in this area and the overreliance on slot machines for the economy just simply had to be faced. It was not something I could do with the Dorseys. They were not for change. I ran again in '58 and was defeated primarily because of breaking with the Dorseys.

The amount of money being spent by the county for the needs of this area was very restricted and there began to be a support that something would be done about that. That was where the major control of the old county controlled the government and Lexington Park was not an incorporated town, and therefore they didn't look with favor on spending an unusual amount of money on these newcomers. This wasn't going to work anyhow, that kind of policy, because the base was turning out to be a real economic support structure, and it obviously had to be supported and all the people of the county were benefitting from the base money. But there was another factor in that too, like all things politics, they're all multiple and layered. We had slot machines. Having slot machines and this operation was sold on the fact that it would keep taxes lower. So the political structure here was almost entirely in the control of the slot machine people, the slot machine ethic. Therefore they would keep taxes down, that therefore justified slot machines, and they would keep taxes down by not spending money. But it all was involved in myths and politics and interests and slot machines and old county, new county – you have to sift through that in a political campaign and it doesn't come out very clear at times. Even trying to look back on it, it's so intense, and it was here, the intensity of the divide between the old and the new people was very bitter, and that balanced, at the same time, to do something to put some policies together. Slot machines, civil rights, greater expenditures in public projects— even the Potomac River Compact – all of these issues were a break with and generally opposed very strongly by the old county. This was a change taking place, and it was resisted and opposed for various reasons. Some were ashamed because of their support for slot machines; but all of those things were part of the break, usually opposed not by all, but by a good majority of the old county.

I ran three times but all times I ran, I had to figure that I was going to win only if I carried a heavy vote in the new population. And that's how I did win, every time. The new people would turn to vote for that, the old people would vote against. New people being people who would come in to this county. Through the base, primarily through the base. Some retirees. I could not have been elected a single time without the heavy vote I got from the new people. It was very clear [laughing]. Look at the returns. There was one exception to it, that's where I came from, my home. They always voted for me. First district, that's where the college is, they always voted for me. They weakened a little bit the last time, but they still stuck with me.⁸¹

Alec Loker: Dad was one who I think subscribed to the idea that Lexington Park was going to be the ruination of St. Mary's County. When I was born there were 15,000 people in St. Mary's County. When the American Revolution was concluded there were 15,000 people in St. Mary's County. It had not grown; in fact, it had declined in population. And then the war started and the Navy Department bought that huge tract of land, nearly 8,000 acres and all of a sudden, probably

⁸¹ J. Frank Raley, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

Samuel Baldwin: If the base came here in the 40's, why did it take 20 years for somebody like J. Frank to say 'we need this, we need that, and we need this'. The growth in the county was Lexington Park.

Whenever you have in any community, wherever you have so much political power vested in one person, or one group, decision making becomes, it's not open...there's not free participation any longer. It's injurious to the democratic process. And you know, I'm not naïve; there are always these sorts of things that take place and I'm not a big proponent of full transparency in government. There are some things in government that need to done privately; selection of county administrators is a good example, those sorts of deliberations should be in private. And political negotiations, setting of priorities and so forth; that sort of thing is also going to be done, to some extent, in private. But there needs to be sufficient dialogue within the community that the different viewpoints have a voice. And when you have a machine that is all powerful then that dialogue stops and it's a matter of political favoritism at that point.

And the New Leadership that you referred to, it was not necessarily that it was going to be that new, but it was going to be at least a counter-balance against what had previously existed.⁸²



Dorsey Attacks Editorial, Charges 'Twisting Truth'

March 15, 1962

Realizing that in an area such as St. Mary's County, which is experiencing a rapid growth with attendant problems affecting all such areas, and knowing that many of our fine citizens are new to the community, it is popular to holler that the County is in the hands of a corrupt political machine interested in furthering its own cause to the detriment of the County.

For many years you have gleefully attacked a mythical political machine conceived only in your warped and twisted editorials. The word 'machine' in itself connotes power and infers complete control. I ask the Enterprise to name the elected officials with me that form a combine or machine that controls the County.

On the contrary I would like to call attention to the fact I succeed Hon. Joseph A. Mattingly as Senator whom the Enterprise now says is aligned with Raley.

I ask the people of this County if this has been such a one-man rule by some selfish, corrupt politician interested only in perpetuating a machine to serve his own interest and who has kept the county in a stranglehold of decadence for more than 100 years. If it is, then I must say that it is certainly a very weak machine.

The Enterprise has inferred that I have not represented the people well during my four years in Annapolis. However, I have tried to the best of my ability and I would compare my record of four years in Annapolis against Raley's record of four years in Annapolis any day.

I did not withdraw from this race because I was afraid of Raley. I know that there are enough good thinking people in this county who would not be misled by your paper. I have devoted eight years of my life in public service to try in my small way to help this County. I see where you and others before you with the Enterprise have contributed nothing of your time and energies in constructive efforts to better the County. You have merely criticized, offering no constructive comment nor sacrificing any of your time.

I came to my decision not to run for re-election not because I was afraid of Raley, but because, as I have stated, I had reached the point, as those familiar with my financial conditions are aware, that I must think of my family first and devote my time to earning a living for them.

I have known J. Frank Raley for a number of years and am personally very fond of him, but had I run again, I would have faced him confident of victory because your support in the past has proved a burden that no candidate can withstand.

No. I wasn't afraid of defeat; never before for a moment did I feel that the people of this County would be taken in by foggy editorials and the double talk of your candidate, J. Frank Raley. Because he is the same J. Frank Raley who accomplished little in Annapolis in four years except introducing legislation to bond the County for \$200,000 to build sidewalks in Lexington Park so that a few of his friends and clients in business could be relieved of their own obligation.

He is also the J. Frank Raley who stated in May of 1958, after his last defeat, in an article appearing in the Washington Post—"Now that I have been defeated, I can speak honestly and say what I think is right." This certainly inferred that he had double talked in the last campaign as he is double talking today.

While you may feel that you control public opinion in this County and mould the thoughts of people to think along your lines by slanting news articles and twisting editorials,

your support, and the support of the group associated with you has proven in the past, as I hope it will in the future, to be “The Kiss of Death.”- Walter B. Dorsey⁸³

My dear Walter,

I hope you don't mind this public letter, but your letter to the Enterprise of March 15, 1962, contains a number of statements and allegations concerning me and my legislative record that are in error. There is included in your letter a reference to double talk, the meaning of which I am not sure but the only plausible inference is that I am untruthful and could not be considered reliable in my legislative work should I become senator of St. Mary's County. Since you oppose “twisting of truth”, I know you would extend the same protection to me; so the most charitable conclusion I can make is that you are misinformed. I shall attempt in this open letter to inform you.

You have indicated in your letter that your machine is not in strong condition and in the last few years I am inclined to agree with you. There is evidence that the machine might be falling apart.

It is a pleasure to know that you support education, so do I. And I am glad that now you are in favor of the State Park at Point Lookout because when we approached you for your help on this project, you expressed disapproval. I am sorry though that you saw fit to authorize the construction of a dog pound to take care of dogs before considering the long needed nursing home to care for our old and infirm people. However it is not my intention to engage in petty bickering with you about who has the better record. For surely many things you were interested in were good and the fight is not now with your record but with your man Friday's record. May I point out to you also that because you say so does not in any way make my record a failure. Long after you and I have gone and our little exchange here today is forgotten, I think you will agree that the Maryland Economic Development Commission will be an active positive force for the betterment of the people of this state.

In conclusion I wish to you every success in your new job and in the years to come.

-J. Frank Raley⁸⁴

⁸³ ‘Dorsey Attacks Editorial, Charges ‘Twisting Truth’, The Enterprise, 3/15/62

⁸⁴ J. Frank Raley to Walter Dorsey, March, 1962, The Enterprise



J. Frank Raley, Jr.
FOR
STATE SENATE

New Leadership
For
A Better St. Mary's

John Hanson Brisco
FOR
HOUSE OF DELEGATES



STATE SENATE
J. FRANK RALEY, JR.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
JOHN HANSON BRISCO

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
3rd Commissioner District:
F. ELLIOTT BURCH

STATE'S ATTORNEY
CHARLES A. NORRIS

JUDGE OF ORPHANS' COURT
JOHN S. BEAN
J. CLAUDE JARBOE

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
THOMAS L. CRYER
MALCOLM A. GUY JR.
MARVIN C. JOY
J. MAGUIRE MATTINGLY JR.
ROBERT B. SWANN

DELEGATE TO CONVENTION
EDWARD S. BURROUGHS
OLIVE H. BRADBURN

Dear Fellow Democrat:

I am writing this letter to remind you of the importance of voting in the Democratic Primary May 15.

It has been impossible, during this campaign, to speak personally with every voter, so I am using this means of asking for your consideration in this vital election.

I have conducted this campaign on what I know to be the real issues confronting St. Mary's County. I have tried to be fair. I have tried to be constructive. My main concern has been to inform you of the many things that can be done to make St. Mary's County an even better place for us and for our children.

Some of the issues I have discussed are:

1. Efficiency in government, so that you will be guaranteed the proper services for your tax dollar, and so that tax increases will not be required.
2. A return to respect for law and order in our community.
3. Development of the great potential in our County, and preparation for the tremendous future we all have here if we use wisely what God has given us.

These are some of the things that I have talked about, because I sincerely believe they must be done for the best interests of all our people.

We have formed a ticket of men who believe as I do, and together we will dedicate ourselves to bring to St. Mary's County a new and brighter future.

This has been a very enjoyable campaign, because it gave me the opportunity to know my County and its people better. If I am successful, I will extend to you my cooperation, my dedication, my sincerity, so that all of us working together may hold our heads high with pride, and bring to St. Mary's County new hope and a new era.

Yours for a better St. Mary's,
J. Frank Raley, Jr.
J. Frank Raley, Jr.



J. Frank Raley, Jr.
FOR
STATE SENATE

New Leadership
For
A Better St. Mary's

John Hanson Briscoe
FOR
HOUSE OF DELEGATES



STATE SENATE
J. FRANK RALEY, JR.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
JOHN HANSON BRISCOE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
THOMAS L. CRYER
MALCOLM A. GUT JR.
MARVIN C. JOY
J. MAGUIRE MATTINGLY JR.
ROBERT D. SWANN

DELEGATE TO CONVENTION
EDWARD S. BURROUGHS
OLIVE E. BRADBURN

Dear New Voter:

We are most happy to welcome you as a new voter in St. Mary's County. Your registering to vote indicates an interest in the political life and government of our County and State, which can only lead to the improvement of our government and, ultimately, the living conditions of St. Mary's.

It is indeed a pleasant experience for me to have this opportunity to anticipate and thank you for your active participation in the the coming election.

Sincerely yours, for better things
for our County and State,

J. Frank Raley, Jr.
J. Frank Raley, Jr.

JFR/ga

**PROGRESSIVE
LEADERSHIP**

**VOTE
THE
RALEY TEAM**

For State Senator:

J. Frank Raley, Jr.

For House of Delegates:

John Hanson Briscoe
Henry J. Fowler

For County Commissioners:

F. Elliott Burch
J. Wilmer Bowles
Clarence H. Ridgell, Jr.

For Judge of Orphans' Court:

J. Claude Jarboe

***For Democratic Central
Committee:***

Malcolm Guy
Fran Harris
Marvin C. Joy
J. Maguire Mattingly, Jr.
David Sayre

For Convention Delegates:

Olive Bradburn
John Slade

I Pledge To You the
Continued Progressive
Leadership To Meet
the Problems of
Southern Maryland.

J. Frank Raley



**J. FRANK RALEY
FOR
STATE SENATE**

**PROGRESSIVE
LEADERSHIP**



**RALEY
FOR
STATE SENATE**

Today the citizens of Southern Maryland are faced with the greatest challenge of these modern times. In order to preserve our heritage and traditions, we must take positive action now to meet the problems of Southern Maryland — one of the fastest growing areas of our State.

THE ISSUES

● **Education**

We must act now to provide a college education or technical training for every one of our children regardless of their financial position, and to provide an educational system second to none.

● **Local and State Government**

We must act now to upgrade our county and state government so that it can positively and efficiently meet the needs of our people in the fast-moving world of today. County Government must be given more power to meet its problems on the local level.

● **Tax Reforms**

In the main, money aids in solving problems. We must act now to reorganize the unfair tax situation of this state. Another source of income should be provided by the state for our counties to meet its needs, rather than rely on the property tax. A Cooper-Hughes type of tax reform must be passed.

● **Natural Resources**

We must act now if we are to control the ever-changing pollution monster which already has destroyed much productivity of our national and local waterways. State policy, backed by strong laws, must insure us that pollution will be halted.

● **Local Economy**

We must act now if we are to provide sound business conditions and supply employment for our constantly expanding labor forces, by creating programs that develop and utilize our historical and recreational facilities and the business potential of our area.

Authority: Bernard J. Johnson, Treas.

PROGRESSION 1955 - 1966

● Southern Maryland can be proud of its State Monument school, St. Mary's College of Maryland. Development, expansion, and immediate plans for a four year institution will afford a formal education to many of our children who otherwise might be unable to attend college.

● Southern Maryland can be proud of the growth and improvements in public schools and library expansions. State aid has increased the per pupil allocation. Also, a much needed vocational school will be under construction immediately.

● Southern Maryland watermen can be optimistic about the future. Oyster production greatly increased from 1963 until 1965. This was effected by efforts in working with the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs and the expanded oyster seeding program.

● Southern Maryland can look forward to increased tourism, greater convenience, and general modernization due to allocations for the construction of a bridge across the lower Patuxent River.

● Southern Maryland will greatly benefit from the law enacted which provides injunctive powers to the Board of Pollution Control. Specific steps have already been taken by the creation of a sanitary district.

● Southern Maryland can be proud of its accelerated road program. From a possible six year period to a four year period, dualization, widening, paving, and general repair have and will greatly improve our road system.

LET US CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH
J. FRANK RALEY

EXPERIENCE

MEMBER:

- House of Delegates — 1955-1958
- State Economic and Development Commission — 1959-1967
- State Senate — 1962 - Present

SERVICE IN SENATE:

- Member of Finance Committee
- Member of Cooper-Hughes Commission
- Member of Taxation and Fiscal Affairs Committee
- State Representative on Atlantic Coast Marine Fisheries Committee

Headquarters: P.O. Box 273, Leonardtown, Md.

NEW-LEADERSHIP -TAXES

Yes, it is important for the people of St. Mary's County to ask themselves this question?

WILL THE ELECTION OF J. FRANK RALEY
BRING ABOUT AN INCREASE IN COUNTY
TAXES?

Raley has stated that the system of County Government in Maryland is obsolete. There are only two counties in Maryland, Baltimore and Montgomery, that are different from the other 23, having a county charter form of government. THESE TWO COUNTIES HAVE THE HIGHEST TAX RATE IN MARYLAND. Is this what we can look for with the election of J. Frank Raley? Remember that the taxpayer of St. Mary's still enjoys the LOWEST TAXES in Maryland when the ratio of assessment is considered. We have seen much accomplished in the County in the last four years. Look around. Charles County's budget is almost twice that of ours and yet we have 10,000 more people. Does Charles County appear to offer more than St. Mary's? Is it such a better place than our county. DO WE WANT TO DOUBLE OUR BUDGET OR OUR TAXES? Raley says to move from the OLD TO THE NEW AND UNKNOWN. We should know where we are headed. SHOULDN'T we know what his platform will cost? Can he do all that he says without substantially raising our taxes? Will he do what he says? He didn't before when he had the opportunity as a legislator. Much more has been accomplished for our county in the last four years than when Raley served in Annapolis. KEEP ST. MARY'S ON THE MOVE!
KEEP OUR TAXES LOW!
KEEP FRANK A. COMBS IN ANNAPOLIS!

(authority Robert L. Miles)

CHAPTER FOURTEEN: THE NEW LEADERSHIP TICKET SWEEPS THE “DORSEY MACHINE” 1962

Ernie Bell: I know that certainly the New Leadership election was probably an election of elections. I mean everybody was involved in it and there were certain allegiances there. Some families becoming divided, old county families. Things were changing. I think it was the writing on the wall. I remember the base came in '43 or '44 and so here ten years later, which is short in the scheme of things, the shifting of power in the eighth district and... Everything was kind of centered here in Leonardtown, the rest of the county was growing... And the county was changing. I mean this was an agrarian/watermen area. Just over night there were a lot of changes...⁸⁵

John Slade: It was a changing point in this county. The county had been run by a small group, a so called 'machine' of politicians. You know, mostly family, and back then you could see the family head and the family head would influence the family members. They had their own organization and they were well organized and they could easily win an election just through their organization. They had money and people support. But the county was growing; the base had been established here. The population was increasing, the people and the Navy were concerned about gambling, it was pretty rampant here at one time. There was a slot machine everywhere I think but in the confessionals at Church. Every little country store and drug store had a slot machine. The county at one point didn't even have a record of how much money they had. They had to borrow money to continue the county's operation. So John Hanson, J. Frank and others said, 'you know, we've got to reorganize this and implement some modern structures for budgeting and finance and for governance.' So they ran on a so-called "New Leadership" ticket. Charlie Norris was on there as State's Attorney, a brilliant young lawyer. He had a brilliant legal mind and was a good lawyer; I mean a good prosecutor. And they got some prominent business people from the community to run for county commissioner like J. Elliott Burch, Wilmer Bowles, and Buzzy Ridgell from down the county. Oliver Guyther was quite an organizer; he was the attorney who organized the New Leadership. He helped put that campaign together, put the ticket of candidates together.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ Ernie Bell Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

⁸⁶ John Slade Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



Olive H. Bradburn files for the nomination as Delegate to the State Convention with Election Board Clerk Kenneth B. Duke as J. Frank Raley Jr. and John Hanson Briscoe, running mates for the Senate and House, look on.

John Hanson Briscoe: Oliver Guyther was our treasurer in those days. He was a real mover and shaker and he could get money, but we didn't use a lot of money in those days, very little. That's when I met J. Frank Raley and we talked about what we wanted to do for St. Mary's. He'd been in the House and was later defeated. But he was always interested in what was going on in St. Mary's. My father knew him and my name looked very nice, son of an icon in St. Mary's County, my father, which is true. And I talked to my father, you know; I've got no law practice to speak of, I've got a couple kids at that time and no income to speak of and I've got to support the family. So I was very hesitant to do this and they said, "Oh, you can do this." And my father even had something to do with me running. He didn't ask me to run, but he said, "Son, if you're going to run, run for the Maryland Legislature." See everything was up, Senate, House, County Commissioner, Sheriff, Register of Wills, Clerk of the Court. All of those

offices were up, right? And my father said, "Son, this is one of these cases where you should take my suggestion and run for the legislature. You'll get incredible experience, you'll meet a lot of people, you'll learn a lot and you'll be creating new laws. It's a wonderful experience." Because he'd spent 4 years there himself and he talked me into it. And I ran for the House with J. Frank Raley, Henry Fowler, Charlie Norris, Sheriff Miedzinski; all the offices were up. And then we did a very successful campaign having coffees in those days; this is '60s, remember? The Kennedy's did a lot of coffees; they didn't go to bars and all this lobbying and spending money on all this stuff. They did coffees. They'd find one responsible person in a part of Town Creek, and say, "Mrs. Jones, would you do a coffee for the New Leadership team?" And you know, you'd have to tell them about it. If she was into it, it'd be during the week, 10 o'clock in the morning, husband's at work, and she'd have a coffee and invite her lady friends mostly, some retired men, and it was very informal. It'd be 8 or 10 guests and us candidates would come and tell them what we wanted to do for the county and we'd answer questions. And I'd let J. Frank do most of it, because, you know, I didn't have any platform or agenda. I mean, I believed in everything he said; you know, we've got to clean up the courts, we've got to get roads and schools and parks and recreation and that kind of stuff. And you'd do that there and then you'd do another one there in Town Creek, because that's a big area. And you'd do one in Esperanza and Medley's Neck. And we did. Of course I didn't have much legal business then anyway. And you'd spend half the day sitting there in someone's living room, very informal, and it was casual. And it was a lot of fun because you could just relax. Very effective campaigning. They'd take your posters and the theory was if you could get people like that and you could get 10 people besides the host, if you impress them they'll go out and get 5 more people or 10 more people in the neighborhood, you know. You can't do that now; but those coffees, they were started by the Kennedy's.

Our wives were involved and we had all kinds of pins and literature and our wives would go to events and wear little straw hats with “Briscoe” and “Fowler” and stuff. And we’d go to firemen’s parades and chicken dinners. You didn’t have any debates. You just expose yourself and you’d get, like that Maryland House of Delegates poster you gave me, they’d put them up in their stores. Very effective.



Pretty “Politicians” Parade

Wives and relatives of candidates on the J. Frank Raley ticket wave as they drive off to Maddox to “politic” for their men.
Front Passenger: Sylvia Briscoe; Driver: Patricia Raley

We ran against the Dorsey organization to put it simply. The Dorsey Organization had run... Well, it’d be 25 years and the people were very upset that the county was in terrible financial shape and it just seemed to come together. The anti-Dorsey people who used to be split up just came together. That would be Judge Phil Dorsey, he was the main man and he ran a tight organization. And his son Walter was a state senator and of course Paul Bailey, Dorsey, Weiner and their loyal followers in the 7th District, the watermen and farmers. And they liked ‘em, of course the ones who had jobs with the State Road Commission, driving trucks and cutting bushes and stuff. But we really put on a campaign and we had the newspapers behind us and we had some very fine women who believed in us and wanted to clean this county up. And they’d actually do little honky tonk radio commercials for us. And every Saturday, Dick Myers, who was running WKIK at the time, would invite the candidates to come on from 12 to 12:30 and it was primetime because that’s when all the farmers would be in the house for lunch. And the Dorsey organization had a very weak candidate in Frank Combs, the insurance man, who had already served in the legislature as a delegate. As a matter of fact, I ended up taking his place.

They ran him for the Senate against J. Frank. And he was a nice guy, very popular, but a terrible candidate because he couldn't make a speech. And you know, J. was very articulate.⁸⁷

Senate Race Sparks St.Mary's Campaign

Leonardtown,Md, May 5th (Special)- The primary in St.Mary's County has only one dimension, but that isn't standing in the way of vigorous and at the times bitter campaigning. The entire campaign is focused on a two-way battle for the state senate, with the control of the Democratic Party at stake. Most of the other major races in the county are split behind either of the Senate candidates.

MAJOR COUP

This was a major coup in the county for Governor Tawes since the old-line Democratic organization headed by Judge Phillip H. Dorsey Jr. and his son, Senator Walter B. Dorsey, customarily supported George P. Mahoney in his past bids for office. And in all but one attempt, Mr.Mahoney carried St.Mary's.

Just prior to Senator Dorsey's announcement that he was supporting the Tawes ticket came his decision not to run for re-election. Already in the race for the state Senate is J. Frank Raley Jr., of Lexington Park, who served in the House of Delegates from 1954 to 1958, and is now a member of the Maryland Economic Development Commission. Mr. Raley was defeated in the re-election to the House of Delegates in 1958 by 30 votes.

Upon Senator Dorsey's surprise withdrawal from the race, Delegate Frank A. Combs of Leonardtown filed against Mr.Raley, and the county's leading politicians immediately lined up in an organization and anti-organization split.

RALEY'S CHARGE

Mr.Raley charged that Mr.Combs, who has served in the House of Delegates for two terms, is running as a "substitute candidate" for Mr.Dorsey. Mr.Combs denied this. Mr.Dorsey, however, has made no bones about his support for Mr.Combs.

The Raley campaign is being run, according to Mr.Raley's filing statement, to allow the county to "break loose from the strangulation grip of the political machine in power." Mr. Raley has enlisted as his running mates men with little or no previous involvement in politics. The No.2 man on his ticket is John Hanson Briscoe, a 28-year old attorney from Hollywood, running for the House of Delegates.

A two-way battle of state's attorney is directly linked to the Senate race, with Mr.Raley supporting Charles A. Norris of Hollywood, while Mr.Combs is running with William O.E.

⁸⁷ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Sterling of Leonardtown, who was appointed to the post last year. Each Senate candidate is bidding also for control of the Democrats' State Central Committee.

Mr. Raley is indorsing five men for the six seats-Malcom A. Guy of Ridge, J. Macquire Mattingly Jr., and Thomas L. Cryer of Leonardtown, Marvin C. Joy of Hollywood and Robert B. Swann of Piney Point. Mr. Combs has indorsed six-Samuel M. Bailey Jr. of Bushwood, Joseph E. Bell and W. Clarke Mattingly of Leonardtown, Dr. William D. Boyd of Chaptico, John Sheafer of Tall Timbers and Carroll B. Messick of California.⁸⁸

New Leadership

FOR A BETTER ST. MARY'S



F. ELLIOTT BURCH, SR.
CANDIDATE FOR
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
BUSINESSMAN



J. FRANK RALEY
CANDIDATE FOR
STATE SENATE
Member of House of Delegates, 1954-1958, where, among other bills, he drafted and introduced the historic legislation changing the Government of 1954, and drafted and introduced the bill creating the Maryland Department of Economic Development; served as a member of the State-Water and Marine (Finance) Commission.
Appointed by Governor Tawes to Maryland Economic Development Commission, 1958 and acted as its operations officer of the Department of Economic Development; Chairman of Legislative Study Committee of St. Mary's County, 1959-61.



JOHN HANSON BRISCOE
CANDIDATE FOR
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
PRACTICING ATTORNEY



CHARLES A. NORRIS



MAGUIRE MATTINGLY, JR.
CANDIDATE FOR

⁸⁸ The Sunday Star 5/6/62

J. Frank Raley: Many of the people in the county had a cultural aversion to the new people coming in. The changing, the pressures on their own culture. My family welcomed it because they also looked at it as an economic opportunity and so, they welcomed it and exploited it, in effect. And made friends and had connections and indeed, some of the business people started businesses with this new opportunity. But, my father was in business anyhow, he had an opportunistic view of that, so he entered into it, made alliances and cultural connection with the new people. And when I ran for both the House and the Senate, but particularly in the Senate, what I had done is that I came forth with the first pro platform program for the new people. It had been always before one of division and you would run on the fact of, beat up on the newcomers’.

Q: Do you remember any specific claims that the majority of the people felt toward the new...

JR: Well, the claims were that they didn’t want these newcomers to take control of the county. That worked out in policies in many ways such as there was not much development moneys spent over here in the eighth district area. This county was primarily Catholic, most of the students were in Catholic schools, and since the majority of the people were Catholics, they didn’t feel like they wanted to spend a whole lot on public schools when they’re already having to pay for their own children at Catholic schools. And since everybody who would be elected would be a Catholic, public schools were not funded very well here and our educational system, I think, had trailed. I looked upon that as a change, one of my policies when I went in to the Senate and with the group as a ticket was that we were going to reverse that and we did and got heavier funding of public schools.⁸⁹

SOLID PLANK:

J.Frank Raley lived up to his promise to give the voters of St.Mary’s county some meat to chew on for the May 15 primary when he adopted the citizens committee report as a basic plank in his platform.

By doing this, Raley has incorporated into his campaign a detailed series of proposals on all phases of county government, surely the first time this has been done in a local campaign in ages.

He was being held to the committee campaign anyway of course, because he served as the chairman. But other members of the committee come from other areas and presumably other political schools, indicating the report’s universal appeal.

The document itself exceeded 100 typewritten pages, and unfortunately cannot be reproduced here. It was published in full in February, 1961, when it was hailed as a milestone in the county.

⁸⁹ J. Frank Raley Interview by Jason Peeters, April 2, 1998. St.Mary’s College of Maryland Archives

At the time, our readers may recall, we noted that the report, if put into effect, “would make our county a model of efficient government,” And the beauty of it is that no revolutionary changes in the government structure is required, just a common-sense revision of the system we now employ.

The report was greeted skeptically in many quarters of the county. First and foremost, of course, was the usual hostile reaction to something new and different, an attitude that has forced politicians for years to consider any platform changes as “political suicide.”

But this idea, as Raley noted in his speech to the Rotary Club this week, has changed drastically. The people of the County see the need for equipping our government to handle the very complex and pressing problems of the 1960's.

Another very strong objection voiced against the report, primarily by those who hadn't read it, was that it would cost the county too much money. Even a quick glance at the report shows the opposite. In effect, the recommendations would make money for the county both in efficiency of operation and in needs, and give the county employees the security they deserve.

This type of county government is necessary if we are to prosper. And certainly the future prosperity of the county should be the keystone of any political campaign.

The issues Mr.Raley promised to raise in the course of the campaign are now etched firmly in black and white.

We have little question that the bulk of thinking people of St.Mary's County are grateful for it. For whatever their particular gripe, law enforcement, roads, education or development the committee report provides an excellent framework within which corrective measures may be taken.

Mr.Raley's announcement, then, puts the campaign in a much more powerful light. This is what we asked for at the start. The voters will at last have a choice of the type of government they want to work for them. As we have said many times, they deserve that choice.⁹⁰

Political Leaven

May 10, 1962

In the past few weeks some people have indicated that the Colonel (Duke) would not approve of my stance on this political race. Anyone who knew him knows that he never was afraid to try something new and the answer to this political race is clearly indicated in the slogans of the two slates.

Which do we want—to vote for the kind of experience we have been having, or do we want to vote for a new leadership in St. Mary's County?

⁹⁰ The Enterprise, 1962

From my experience and knowledge, I would say it is time for us to try a new set of spark plugs in the governmental engine of this county.

I reached this conclusion after long and hard study, because many of the candidates on the Organization ticket are old schoolmates; but they are captives of the Organization—they are bound to commitments that have been piling up for 35 years.

Thirty-five years ago the Organization was a new leaven in our political bread, and 35 years ago ox carts meandered along our highways. Today astronauts who were stationed on the base orbit the earth and that “new leaven” has become old and tired yeast.

It is time for the people of St. Mary’s County to try a clean sweep with a new broom. I ask my friends to join with me in voting a new leadership for St. Mary’s County.

Vote Raley⁹¹



Left to Right: ?, Elliot Burch,?, Henry Fowler, J. Frank Raley, John Hanson Briscoe

⁹¹ Roland Duke, Letter to the editor, The Enterprise, 5/10/62

Dorsey Organization in St. Mary's Suffers Setback as Raley Wins

May 16, 1962

Leonardtown, Md., May 16 (special).—The 20-year-old power of the Dorsey organization in St. Mary's County politics suffered a severe setback yesterday with the democratic primary victory of J. Frank Raley, Jr. for the State Senate and the success of most of his running mates in yesterday's Democratic balloting.

Mr. Raley had campaigned on a platform of new leadership. He carried almost his entire ticket, bringing in younger office seekers and giving them a substantial victory over persons who have been in politics for many years.

State Senator Walter B. Dorsey, son of Circuit Judge Philip H. Dorsey, Jr., withdrew from the Senate race but nearly all of the Dorsey organization-backed candidates were losers.⁹²

J.Frank Raley: I was elected with a force enough to do something. Control of the commissioners and control of the legislative delegation. That was the big change over the Leonardtown control, even the Catholic control, in direct control and they made the big change over to more investment in public facilities. It was the end of the Catholic rule. And we began to see other types of people in office and that is essentially the direction it has taken since then and this area here (Lexington Park), now of course politically is a powerful force when it's organized. From the days of the base coming, it took 10-20-30 years almost for it, before those changes began to be felt politically.⁹³

Peter Wigginton: As with everything, it faded. The Dorsey Machine faded. It lost its glory. There were people who simply opposed him and simply called themselves "New Leadership." I don't think there was that much ideological or deep political philosophies involved. I think it was the personalities.⁹⁴

⁹² 'Dorsey Organization in St.Mary's Suffers Setback as Raley Wins', Washington Evening Star, 5/16,62

⁹³ J. Frank Raley, Oral History, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

⁹⁴ George Peter Wigginton Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

John Weiner: The New Leadership came into the office smearing the Dorsey name. They were calling it a corrupt machine; they probably used the word. I don't remember anything specific about being corrupt. But they had the power and I don't know whether there were any other issues except one faction against another faction. You'll hear a lot of revisionist history about good guys versus bad guys but I don't think it was much of that. It was just one group had power and another group had power. It worked. The New Leadership swept into the office.⁹⁵

The New Era

May 17, 1962

The new era for St. Mary's County began Tuesday. It was, without a doubt, our finest hour.

With a determined finality, the voters cast out the old and made a substantial investment in a new generation of leaders.

From the moment the polls opened with a rush of activity, until they closed with hundreds of voters still in line, it was evident what the outcome would be. The people had decided it was time for a change.

For the Dorsey machine, which for 20 years was far from mythical, it seemed to be the death knell. Even in the districts where the voters used to follow the line without a waver, J. Frank Raley and his New Leadership ticket ran strong.

The last-minute campaigning was furious, particularly by Combs. The airwaves were filled with political broadcasts from dawn to sunset right through 7 o'clock Tuesday. The Combs' faction threw all it had into the race. Money poured in at the last minute from the slot machine interests, and figures from all over the county were recruited for radio speeches urging the election of Combs.

As usual, the rumors flew hot and fast. At the last minute, even the old bugaboo over parochial school bus transportation was thrown into the arena to scare voters away from Raley. Obviously, it didn't work.

And Raley, meanwhile, continued to conduct the type of campaign he promised at the outset. He threw no last-minute bombshell, but continued to stress the issues facing the County.

His victory, then, was a positive thing because it proved that County voters are more concerned with the problems that must be solved than they are with personal ties and individual popularity. We daresay this has set a pattern that County elections will follow from now on.

The most remarkable thing about the outcome of the primary was the way the top of Raley's ticket swept to victory. Men completely new to the political arena walked all over those with long political careers. This, more than anything else, showed the desire for something new, and was a mandate for the new direction our County must take.

This is not a time for crowing, but a time for sober evaluation of our role, and that of the winning candidates in the future of St. Mary's County.

⁹⁵ Personal Interview of John Weiner by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

Tuesday's victory was the beginning, not the end. It was a signal to start working to bring to the County its rightful destiny.

Mr. Raley's statement, honestly given, was one of humility. Rather than being relieved because he triumphed, he suddenly felt the great weight of responsibility that the County's voters had thrust upon him. This was the reaction that was the most gratifying to those of us, and re-affirmed our faith in his sincerity in what he stood for throughout the campaign.

It was long, and it was bitter. But now it is over. New Leadership will soon be a reality, and with it, St. Mary's County will move ahead to its place in the sun. Tuesday's victory, then, was not as much a vindication as it was a challenge. We aim to meet it.⁹⁶

Samuel Baldwin: The base comes here in the 40's and there's a huge influx of people. But I don't really hear much in the legislative field until J. Frank in the 60's. So what you're saying is, 'yes we had that growth, but the growth didn't explode to the point that we needed legislation.' Coming back to J. Frank, did he introduce those bills because finally those people had a voice?

Tom Waring: No. He was a thinker. He was a visionary, very much so, but it was not because people sat down with him and said we should do this or we should do that. Johnny didn't...Johnny Briscoe was a very good politician. Frank was not necessarily a good politician. He had more – he was very smart. He was always thinking. He did a tremendous amount for St. Mary's College; he was very influential in getting it separated and independent from the state. J. was a brilliant person.⁹⁷

⁹⁶ 'The New Era', The Enterprise, May 17, 1962

⁹⁷ Tom Waring Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



J. Frank Raley, Jr.
FOR
STATE SENATE

New Leadership
For
A Better St. Mary's

John Hanson Briscoe
FOR
HOUSE OF DELEGATES



STATE SENATE

J. FRANK RALEY, JR.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

JOHN HANSON BRISCOE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

3rd Commissioner District:

F. ELLIOTT BURCH

STATE'S ATTORNEY

CHARLES A. NORRIS

JUDGE OF ORPHANS' COURT

JOHN S. BEAN

J. CLAUDE JARBOE

STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

THOMAS L. CRYER

MALCOLM A. GUY JR.

MARVIN C. JOY

J. MAGUIRE MATTINGLY JR.

ROBERT B. SWANN

DELEGATE TO CONVENTION

EDWARD S. BURROUGHS

OLIVE H. BRADBURN

May 21, 1962

Mr. Arthur Briscoe
Compton, Maryland

Dear Buck:

I deeply appreciate all of the work that you did for me in this past campaign.

You worked hard and long, and I shall never forget you.

Sincerely,

J. Frank Raley, Jr.

JFR/gs

LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN
CANDIDATE FOR STATE COMPTROLLER
PRINCE FREDERICK, MARYLAND

PHONE 100



May 22, 1962

Hon. John H. Briscoe
Leonardtown, Maryland

Dear John:

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you upon your great victory in the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, May 15th. It will be a real pleasure to campaign with you between now and November 6th for an overwhelming victory in the General Election.

Again I wish to thank you for the help, support and vote of confidence which you gave me in my campaign for re-election as State Comptroller of Maryland.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes, I remain,

Most cordially yours,

Louis L. Goldstein
Louis L. Goldstein



John Hanson Briscoe & Louis L.
Goldstein

November Sixth

November 1, 1962

Next Tuesday the people of this County will go to the polls to make their choices of the various candidates for State-wide and local offices. It is important, of course, to vote for whichever candidate that you might prefer, but we feel that a few points should be brought out concerning the candidates, in view of the election that can result in a great opportunity for St. Mary's County.

This paper has supported J. Frank Raley, Jr., since he filed for senate last January; and when there were added to that ticket other members, it supported them. Now, there are for the people's selection a full local democratic ticket; a ticket that offers to St. Mary's County a real opportunity to make a choice for progress in the coming four years. This is one of the few times that issues have been discussed and plans formulated, such as streamlining and modernization of County government along the lines recommended by the County Study Committee. Steps taken in this direction will make possible our County's being able to provide services for its people in a businesslike, economical manner.

This aggressive group have formulated plans which include economic development for St. Mary's County. Plans are moving rapidly for a four-year college at St. Mary's Seminary, and a tourist development program to bring more people to our County. They have pledged to provide and see that there is carried out vigorous law enforcement. They have told you that they consider education as one of the most important community investments. Let us re-state that this is one of the very few times that we can remember in St. Mary's County that there is submitted to the voters a plan of government.

In general, this group of Democrats have planned and worked and have submitted to the people of the County a comprehensive plan for progress. They are a group who are willing and dedicated to carry it out. They have gone to all the districts, and they have discussed these things, and they have asked you to give them a chance. THESE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING J. FRANK RALEY, JR., FOR SENATE AND THE REST OF HIS DEMOCRATIC TICKET.⁹⁸

⁹⁸ 'November Sixth', St. Mary's Beacon, Novemebr 1, 1962

DAVID HUME
EUGENE L. STEWART

HUME & STEWART

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

CABLE ADDRESS
HUMST

June 11, 1962

Mr. John Hanson Briscoe
Lexington Park Hotel
Lexington Park, Maryland

Dear Mr. ^{John} Briscoe:

Congratulations on your recent
victory. Let me know if I can be of
help in the General Election.

Sincerely,

David

David Hume

*P.S. Your victory helped soften
a defeat. I believe you have
the potential to go all the
way - and I hope you do.*

D.

Note: David Hume lost the
gubernatorial primary to Millard
Tawes

JOHN C. LUBER
4001 W. FRANKLIN STREET
BALTIMORE 29, MD.

5/23/62

Dear Mr. Briscoe:-

congratulations upon your splendid
victory last Tuesday.

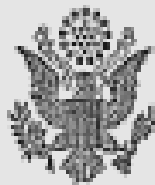
I am confident you and your
Democratic Running Mate will win easily in
November.

Are you in any way related to the
Briscoe that served with me some years ago?

Kind regards,

Sincerely,

John C. Luber
Former-Speaker-House of Delegates



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DANIEL B. BREWSTER

June 11, 1962

Dear John Hanson:

Just a note to congratulate you on being selected
by our party as a Democratic nominee for the House of
Delegates.

I am deeply appreciative of the support I
received in Saint Mary's County.

Looking forward to seeing you and campaigning
with you between now and November, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Brewster", written in a cursive style.

DANIEL B. BREWSTER, M. C.

Mr. John Hanson Briscoe
Leonardtown, Maryland

Mr. Speaker, how did you launch your political career, and what motivated you to pursue a role in politics? Were there any special individuals that influenced your decision in this area?

John Hanson Briscoe: I returned to St. Mary's County after being away some eight years, a young practicing attorney with a wife and two small children, knowing that I wanted to spend the rest of my life where I was born and raised. Seeing the atmosphere and the political setup existing in the county at that time, it was apparent that the county was dominated by a fairly conservative organization, both from the legislative and local government set point. And, of course, this shoots out into all the departments, boards and agencies of the county.

It became apparent to me after about two years of practicing law that the people wanted a change. This political atmosphere, the type of government in St. Mary's was lagging behind. It was obvious the people wanted some new leadership in the county. They wanted some progress made in local government reform and some new faces.

It was one of those things that just happened, I guess. The warring factions who always tried to defeat those who were controlling the politics finally got together and melded a ticket, and it was during the Kennedy era when the young new faces were very popular. We formed a fairly young ticket with some experienced and with some people who really didn't have any political sins. It was obvious to me that the county was all for this and wanted such a change after about 25 years of the political organization that was running the county.

So in 1962, the people did voice their opinion by sweeping the ticket of which I was part into office. I had no political aspirations up to that time, but being a young person in the community and being an attorney, you get drafted, you get involved. Being an attorney, you can see so many of these problems dealing with the county government every day, being at the courthouse, working with the agencies, boards and departments. And you see the defects, you see where progress could be made, but is being restarted. And that is probably what inspired me, because up until that time I had no intention of doing anything other than practicing law and raising a family. So that was the beginning twelve years ago.⁹⁹

⁹⁹ "Dialogue with a Legislator" Maryland Quarterly; Summer 1974

CHAPTER FIFTEEN: JOHN HANSON BRISCOE— THE “GREEN AS GRASS” DELEGATE (1962-1965)



Rt- John Hanson Briscoe and John
H.T. Briscoe. 1963

Samuel Baldwin: You go up to Annapolis as what you call a “green as grass delegate”, right?

John Hanson Briscoe: Right

Samuel Baldwin: And because Governor Tawes knew your father, liked your father, he made sure you were taken care of. And you became Vice Chair of the Environmental Committee?

John Hanson Briscoe: It was actually the Chesapeake Bay Tributaries Committee, that’s what it was called. Which was very rare for a freshmen legislator.

Millard Tawes, who was governor and obviously had a lot of influence, he told the Speaker of the House, the majority leader, he said, “There’s somebody coming up here and his name is John Briscoe and he’s the son of a very good friend of mine. Do something for him.” And that’s the way they did it. And when I got there they took me in a room and all these old veterans were there and they didn’t know who I was. And I was told I was going to be Vice Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay and Natural Resources Committee which was, you know, it’s not the best, a very low committee, but it was a vice chairmanship. And



John H.T Briscoe and Governor
Millard Tawes at dedication of
Point Lookout State Park

they're saying, "Who the hell is this guy?" and I'm saying, "Oh, boy..." .He was such a good friend of my father's. He really liked my father, that's why I got my start. J. Millard Tawes found out I was coming into the legislature and found out I was John H.T. Briscoe's son; he didn't know me from Adam. My father was so good to him, politically. He said 'that boy's father was so good to me; when he gets up there let's give him a leadership position.' Brand new! Don't think those other fellas didn't know that. You know when I got that, I didn't ask for anything. I was green as grass but he gave me a Vice Chairmanship when I got there and we got to be great friends and he did it because of my father. Otherwise, he didn't know who the hell I was. But that was the beginning of it and I was Vice Chairman and I was very careful because the Chairman was from the Eastern Shore, Randolph Harrison, and he resented the fact that this young whippersnapper from a liberal, rural county is coming in here; 'he's going to mess things up,' because I knew a lot about the Chesapeake Bay and natural resources and Harrison represented the watermen of the Eastern Shore and they don't want any regulations and they wanted to do what they want. And he and I got along ok because I kept my mouth shut. I'd let him do what he wanted to do until he got going a little too far, and I'd kind of slow him down a little bit. And the DNR people could see that; that I was not going to go along with all this liberalization of harvesting fish and oysters. And finally, Harrison died and I became chairman and I moved on from there.¹⁰⁰



Left to Right: ____ Russell, John Hanson
Briscoe, Tommy Dillow, J. Frank Raley,
Otis Wood, Clarence Greenwell at
Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
Event

¹⁰⁰ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe
and Governor Tawes



Left to Right: Marvin Mandel and
John Hanson Briscoe

JHB: Oh my God, the Governor's yacht. '64? I was just a freshman legislator, I mean I had a Committee, but '64, I hadn't really gotten into stuff but I got in with the right people. J. Millard Tawes was governor and Marvin Mandel had his boys always set these trips up. He loved to smoke cigars.



John Hanson Briscoe driving: J.
Frank Raley sitting behind Briscoe.

Oh my goodness, oh my goodness. Yeah... '64! That was a parade of some sort. You know, they'd have these parades and the politicians were asked to get in the car. I think that's me driving the damn thing and J. Frank Raley back there. It was one of those typical parades and they'd like to show off the politicians and you'd get there and wave. I think it's across from Father Andrew White, that street that goes downtown. But, yeah, isn't that interesting. Look at that car. They'd like to put you up in the car and you'd wave at the people. It was so civilized in those days, the politics, and there wasn't anything...a lot of work. But it was really gratifying.¹⁰¹

Enterprise August 6th, 1964

Dear sir:

There appeared in the July 30th edition a letter coming from Mr. Walter B. Dorsey concerning The Colony with certain allegations about members of the "New Leadership" team advocating the pollution of our rivers. The letter-writer has, as so many times in the past, either neglected to acquaint himself with the fact or chosen to ignore them.

The problem of development, its attendant problems, and its conflict with seafood interests was a predictable one in the years past.

The pressure of development for housing in the years to come which is pointed out in the particular development known as "The Colony" will be ever increasing and the solution to orderly development without harmful effect on seafood interests is difficult. But responsible officials must accept the fact that developments are necessary for jobs and business and a way must be found to insure that there can be development without the impairment of our natural resources.

This problem has long been recognized by "New Leadership" people and steps were immediately taken upon their assuming office to begin to meet it. We must point out that this is not simple nor painless but involves planning, complex engineering surveys and governmental structure to direct and guide and supervise.

We have set up the Sanitation Commission of St. Mary's County as a governmental unit with legal power and authority to direct and guide our handling of this problem. This cannot be completed in one day or one month, and the decisions we make today affect how we arrive at solutions in perhaps 25 years, or for that matter whether any decision can be made.

The intricate problems pose a number of possible solutions that are costly and need a good deal of study such as:

1. Reducing the points of discharge of effluent, thereby minimizing possible polluted areas.
2. Piping effluent into the Bay channel.
3. Long range possible solution of piping effluent into the ocean

But these solutions of this very involved problem cost a great deal of money, will require research, planning and study, and are not now available.

The attention of St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission' has been called to this proposed housing development. We hereby give notice that the said Commission is opposed to

¹⁰¹ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

the discharge of treated sewage into either the waters of Cat Creek or Patuxent River. Rest assured that St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission will give proper consideration to this proposed development; however it must be assured, one way or another, that no harmful pollution of the waters referred to above will result.

We do not minimize this as a simple problem. It is an involved thorny question; much research needs to be done; much planning must come. But at least the county government of St. Mary's has recognized its responsibilities and is taking the first steps to solve a thorny problem so that development may come in an orderly fashion that will not harm the natural beauty, hinder the seafood interests or cause future governmental problems.

J. Frank Raley, Jr.

Member, Maryland Senate

John Hanson Briscoe

Member, House of Delegates



“August is John Hanson Briscoe Month.”

He was appointed Aug. 15, 1962, at 28 years old, to the House of Delegates seat left vacant by Del. Henry J. Fowler, when the latter was named to the Maryland Senate after former Sen. Walter B. Dorsey's appointment as assistant attorney general for the State Roads Commission. That same Senate seat was filled in November by former Sen. J. Frank Raley Jr., who was Briscoe's running mate on the New Leadership ticket.

As a freshman delegate, he was named to the powerful Judiciary Committee, was vice chairman of the Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries Committee and a member of the Education Committee. In 1964, he became chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Committee, which was reorganized in 1965 to the Natural Resources Committee.

He was the only delegate serving at one time on two major committees, while handling the chairmanship of one of them.¹⁰²



John Hanson Briscoe, takes the oath of office as member of the House of Delegates from House Speaker Perry O. Wilkinson. Briscoe, a candidate for the House in the November election, was named to fill the unexpired term of Henry J. Fowler, who was appointed interim senator after the resignation of Walter I Dorsey. Fowler was scheduled to take the oath as senator th Tuesday in the Baltimore office of Senate President George Della.

¹⁰² “August is John Hanson Briscoe Month.” Val Hymes, The Enterprise, August 5, 1971


August 8, 1962

Governor J. Millard Tawes
State House Building
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Governor:


The following members of the Democratic State Central Committee at a meeting held on August 7, 1962 have unanimously endorsed to fill the vacancy in the House of Delegates, the Honorable John Hanson Briscoe of Leonardtown, Maryland.

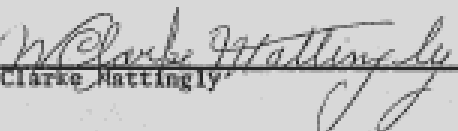

Dr. William Boyd, Co-Chairman


Maguire Mattingly, Jr., Co-Chairman


Malcolm Guy, Secretary


Samuel Bailey, Jr., Treasurer


Robert Swann


Clarke Mattingly

August 14, 1962

Dr. William D. Boyd, Chairman
Democratic State Central Committee
Leonardtown, Maryland

Dear Doctor:

Governor Tawes has received two letters signed by you and the other members of your State Central Committee on August 8 in which you advised that you are recommending the appointment of Delegate Henry J. Fowler to the State Senate, and the appointment of John Hanson Briscoe to replace Mr. Fowler in the House of Delegates.

The Governor has asked me to thank you for both of these letters and to advise your Committee that these appointments will be made by him as soon as a resignation is received from Delegate Fowler advising of his intent to vacate his seat in the House. I have talked with Henry on the phone today and understand that the resignation should be in our hands tomorrow morning.

On behalf of the Governor, I want to thank you for the attention that you and your Committee have given this matter.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of State

LLS:mad

cc: Delegate Henry J. Fowler
Mr. John Hanson Briscoe



J. MILLARD TAWES
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

August 15, 1962

John Hanson Briscoe, Esquire
Leonardtown, Maryland

Dear Mr. Briscoe:

I take pleasure in advising you that I am today appointing you a member of the House of Delegates from St. Mary's County for the remainder of a term of four years from the General Election of November 4, 1958, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Honorable Henry J. Fowler. Your Commission, which is effective this date, is enclosed herewith.

You no doubt are aware that the Speaker of the House of Delegates administers the oath of office. I would suggest that you contact the Honorable Perry O. Wilkinson, 6404 Queens Chapel Road, University Park, Hyattsville, Maryland, and arrange a date to be sworn in.

With kindest personal regards and
best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Governor

JMT:daw
Enclosure



J. MILLARD JAMES
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

November 19, 1962

Hon. John H. Briscoe
Hollywood, Maryland

Dear John:

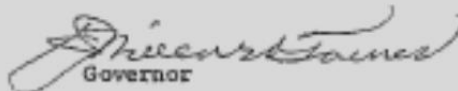
May I take this opportunity to extend to you my hearty congratulations upon your election to the General Assembly of Maryland and to tell you how much I am looking forward to seeing you at the Legislative Orientation Conference in Annapolis on Tuesday, November 27th, to greet you personally.

The 1963 Session of the Legislature will have many important measures to consider, and I am sure the people of our State who have placed their trust in our hands are looking to us to discharge our responsibilities in a manner that will justify the confidence they have placed in us. We have an opportunity to make many important contributions to the betterment of our State and I want to assure you, as Governor and Chief of the Executive Branch of our government, that you, as a member of the Legislative Branch, will receive my wholehearted cooperation.

If I personally, or the members of my staff, can assist you in any way with your legislative problems, you have only to call upon us.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Governor



Democratic Leaders powwowed when they gathered for the installation-dinner of the St. Mary's County Women's Democratic Club. From left are: FRONT ROW — Delegate John Hanson Briscoe and Acting Speaker of the House of

Delegates Marvin Mandel of the Baltimore 5th Legislative District. BACK ROW — Delegate Henry J. Fowler, State Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein of Calvert Co., and Senator J. Frank



STATE BUDGET — Shortly after opening session of the Maryland Legislature, Wednesday, Jan. 17, Jim Mause, clerk of the House of Representatives in Annapolis, John Hanson Briscoe, and Henry J. Fowler, Delegates from St. Mary's County, check over the State Budget.



J. Frank Raley and Kay Daugherty
1965



“Library Association Plugs Bill”
Briscoe, Daugherty, and Fowler
St.Mary’s Beacon, Leonardtown, MD.
1965



John Hanson Briscoe and Sylvia
Briscoe



John Hanson Briscoe: My God. That's interesting. There's my good friend who was the Clerk of the House, Jim Mause, with the moustache to my right and me and a couple of other characters. We were at some lobbyist party, we were being entertained. Of course Jim and I always went to the lobbyists' parties. This would've been...God '63. Brand new up there in '63. The guy with a moustache to my left, he was a World War II pilot who spent a year and a half in a German prison camp. He was one sharp guy. Mause looked after me. "Briscoe, go over there and do that," "No, don't do that," "Don't speak to that guy." He was my handler. The Clerk of the House manages all of the processing of all the bills. You know, the reading and the calendars and he's got a whole bunch of girls to do that. He just comes out there and looks over things. And he's got a lot of girls to help with that, you know you're talking about thousands of bills you've got to put on the docket and he's got to journal everything.¹⁰³



Center: House Clerk, Jim Mause;
John Hanson Briscoe

¹⁰³ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN: JIM KENNEY OPENS HIS LAW OFFICE IN LEXINGTON PARK, 1963

Jim Kenney: I grew up on the Eastern Shore. I went to Dickinson College in Carlyle, Pennsylvania. Law school at GW. When I was in law school, I worked at Covington Burlington for about 2 and a half years. The firm that is now Patton Boggs was formed in that period of time with some lawyers, primarily one from Covington for whom I was working, Jim Patton, and I left with him, just to work with him when that firm was starting. And then I became an associate with that firm. In those days the firm was known as Banco, Cook, and Patton and later became Patton Boggs. At that stage (1963) I was probably planning to go back to the Eastern Shore, thinking I'd stay in Washington for a few years and learn the ropes. And I went over to the law school because I'd become friendly with the dean over there. And I told him my plans. While I was waiting to talk to him, I was sitting in his office and there was one of these cork bulletin boards on the wall and there was a 3x5 card on there that said, and this is almost literally true. I should've copied it. I should've taken the thing off the wall. It said, "Town in Southern Maryland Looking for Lawyer." And I found it very intriguing. So when I was talking to him, I said, "Ed, I'm fascinated by that sign. I didn't think there was a town on the East Coast that was looking for a lawyer" and he said, "Well, a state senator from St. Mary's County called me..."

Samuel Baldwin: Would that have been J. Frank Raley?

JK: Yeah. And he said that the town of Lexington Park, there had been one lawyer that died, a Navy guy who had retired and opened a practice there. And a number of the businessmen had gotten together and they wanted somebody to come down and open an office. They didn't want to have to go to Leonardtown all the time; they wanted representation. I called Mary Nock, who was in the state senate from Wicomico County at the time and asked her if she knew this fellow named Raley and she said, "Yes, I not only know him, I'm having dinner with him tonight." So I said, "You know me, tell him about me. It's just a curious thing." She muttered something, "I thought you were coming back to the Eastern Shore," you know, that sort of stuff. And I said, "Well, this thing is just intriguing." So, about 11 o'clock that night I get a phone call from J. Frank, who I certainly didn't know. Well, he apologized for calling me so late, but that was the night of the public accommodations bill in the Maryland Senate and he felt he could not leave the floor that night. But anyway, he called me and said, "I'd like to meet you and come on down." It was near the end of the session so we set up a Saturday or a Sunday. I came down the following week, just to look around.



SB: You'd never been here before?

JK: Nope, all I knew about St. Mary's at that time was probably 5th grade history. And so I met with him and I liked him; we did some riding around. And then he set up a meeting a week or so later with a whole bunch of business people. Bill Raley, Jack Daugherty, Gabrelcik, Cato Merchant. They asked me questions. I told them what I would need to do it...I needed a place (laughs). There was an office in the Bank Square building that would work. That was J. Frank's building, Gabe's building. Now, we made a deal. I said I'll try this for a year on the theory that if it's not working, I'll go back to Washington or I'll go back to the Shore. Probably to the Shore, because that's really always what I thought I wanted to do. Well, that was a lot of years ago.¹⁰⁴

Jack Daugherty: All of these things started because we needed a lawyer. Our lawyer was Arthur Rysticken, he died in 1963. J. Frank knew Mary Nock. Mary Nock was a senator from Salisbury, and he happened to say something: "We need a lawyer." Mary said, "I know just the boy. You won't make a mistake if you get this young man." J. Frank says, "Who's that?" "Jim Kenney." So, Jim came over, he interviewed. We decided he would be the man: didn't have any money, didn't have a dime. So we built him a house out in Town Creek. Gave him enough money, start his life, law practice. I can remember to this day the bank examiner said, "Why on earth are you doing that?" We just simply said, "We needed a lawyer." And that was that. They wrote us up that we got a lawyer. Jim has been outstanding."¹⁰⁵

Jim Kenney: John Briscoe came to my office on a Saturday morning (yes, we had Saturday hours in those days) before heading to Ridge with J. Frank Raley for a Memorial Day parade. The visit began with a firm handshake and the announcement "John Briscoe." We drank coffee and talked about the then wide geographic and cultural divide between Leonardtown and Lexington Park, and how we might help each other – this was before faxes and e-mail – how I could avoid frequent trips to Leonardtown to check something in the courthouse that he could check and how I could provide coverage for him when he was in Annapolis, and, in that first meeting, we discussed the possibility of a partnership. Partnership was an ongoing discussion for nearly two years that was delayed in part because of the legislature, but mostly because when we would meet after work at the Roost or some similar spot to discuss the details we would run into friends and clients who had gathered there for "happy hour" which turned into "happy hours," with little business being accomplished. We officially announced our partnership in the Spring of 1966.¹⁰⁶

You know, John had to spend a certain amount of time in Annapolis and in those days, nothing was online or anything like that, so anytime you wanted to check something in the courthouse, I had to come over. So we knew he needed some coverage while he was away. I won't say daily

¹⁰⁴ Jim Kenney interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

¹⁰⁵ "Daugherty, Jack Interview." Personal Interview by Andrea Hammer. St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

¹⁰⁶ Kenny, Jim. Eulogy for John Hanson Briscoe.

coverage, but ‘just save me a trip to the courthouse.’ And in a short order we kept talking about finding a way to formalize this.¹⁰⁷

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, Jim Kenney and I went into partnership. He was an only child, by the way. And I just had a good feeling about him, his integrity and all that because I had a number of solicitations to go into partnership; two lawyers who later went to jail; so I was very reluctant, but he was my first partner.¹⁰⁸

Samuel Baldwin: When you came down here he’d already been in practice 2 years. And my understanding is he started at first using some space in Tommy Waring’s office. Right there in Lexington Park.

Jim Kenney: He was there for a very, very short period of time. And I think for some of the same reasons I had, like having to go to Leonardtown all the time, and obviously his dad was up in Leonardtown, he just thought that was an easier thing.

SB: So he just stayed in the Park briefly and then came up to Leonardtown?

JK: Well, he was probably working out of both places at the time. That was probably in the Mattingly Building. Joe Mattingly owned that building and John H.T. Briscoe had space in there, and then ultimately we took some space in there. So anyway, it took us about 2 years of talking about it, but in some ways we were...what we realized was that we were really combining two practices that were both growing.

SB: Did you have similar practices? Similar in some respects, different in others?

JK: Well, you know from practice down here, at least in the beginning you’ve got to do a lot of different stuff. So I’m sure we both did wills and we both did a certain amount of real estate work. One of John’s clients, and actually it was really a big client for both of us, was the Barley Company and their relationship with Baltimore Federal. Frank Barley was a mortgage broker. And then later his son, Warren, came into the business. And at that point that meant we really had to keep something in Leonardtown, just to satisfy client needs. And so we had space in the Mattingly Building; later we had space in what was called the Loker-Wigginton Building. Over the years we probably had space in every piece of Leonardtown. So it might’ve been a little less than two years, but we formalized it enough to where we announced it after the legislative session in ’66. I was in the State’s Attorney’s Office for a while. Actually I was the first assistant in the county when Charlie Norris was the State’s Attorney and that happened probably 6 months or so after I got down here. And again I wasn’t looking for it. They just asked me if I would do it. And in those days you could do it and maintain your private practice. In fact, in those days State’s Attorneys could maintain their private practice. So then, Charlie was not successful in the

¹⁰⁷ Jim Kenney Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

¹⁰⁸ John Hanson Briscoe, Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

next election. He was defeated by Joe Weiner. And Joe asked me if I would stay on for a while and I said, "I'll stay on long enough for you to find somebody." I'm sure I was with Joe for close to a year before he found someone. If I'm not mistaken, I believe Neal Myerberg became his assistant.

When I got here, at least the popular wisdom was, whether it was true or not, or whether it was a concept, was that the lawyers from Leonardtown really didn't want to go to Lexington Park, except to play maybe. They didn't think it was necessary, because there were no financial institutions there, and business couldn't grow. And business mortgages were hard to get because the base was never a sure thing. And a lot of the money that was being made in the county, other than the normal agricultural and the water industries and things like that was built around slot machines which was iffy.

SB: So what you're saying in 3 different ways is agriculture, aquaculture, and slots. The Base-generated economy was not as significant?

JK Oh, it was significant. Everybody was always on pins and needles. It was built in World War II. "What's going to happen after World War II?" Every time they talked about cutting the defense budget, people would grab an extra drink at dinner or something. People would go to banks to borrow money for a small business and the bank would go "I don't know, it's kind of shaky down there. We're not really sure we want to do that." And a lot of the attorneys, some of whom were getting older, were saying "Well, they'll have to come to me. I don't have to be there." One of the reasons for creating what is now Old Line Bank and was in those days Maryland Bank and Trust was to bank down in Lexington Park. Almost everything was centered up in Leonardtown. The lawyers were here, the doctors were here...

SB: But you talked about the business people that were looking for a lawyer and those were business people down in the Park.

JK: Right, and some of them were feeling frustrated with their inability to expand and things like that. They had a few old names like the Raley's and the Taylor's. They could find a few guys that would deal with them, but the new guys, they couldn't find anyone.

SB: Daugherty and Gabrelcik.

JK: Yeah. And I don't pick those out, they were just representative of what was happening.¹⁰⁹

Marvin Kaminetz: Jim was doing everything. Jim was just general practice. Keep in mind though he had been the Lexington Park lawyer. You have to understand in those days, that Leonardtown and the Leonardtown lawyers thought of Lexington Park as almost "Sin City." A Navy town. Unincorporated, obviously. They felt as though it almost wasn't part of St. Mary's County. It was here but it was full of "foreigners," if you will. Transient people. But there was a

¹⁰⁹ Kenny, Jim Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

lot of businesses and a lot of the lawyers, believe it or not, in their old ways didn't want to fool with people or businesses and activity in Lexington Park.¹¹⁰

Irene Parish: Jim Kenney had called down to St.Mary's College to see if he could find someone to work for him for the summer, and Dr. Walker from the college asked me if I'd be interested in a summer job. I interviewed with Jim and there were two reasons why I got the job: one, my dictation was pretty good, but I spelled "wave" wrong, w-a-v-e instead of w-a-i-v-e. And my last name was Bailey, and since Jim was not a countian, I think he felt that would bring some additional business to him.

Samuel Baldwin: So what were those early days like, where Jim Kenney was solo practitioner?

IP: They were very, very tough. On Friday we would decide who needed to get paid, who needed the money more. He and his wife Carol, or myself. One of the nice things that Jim used to do in the morning was, every morning, my first job was to go over to The Galley, which is the famous little restaurant, and get us a cup of coffee and a coke, and that started every day. We weren't able to afford a coffee pot. I mean, when you first start a practice, you have to build it; it doesn't automatically walk in the door. We had a lady come in, didn't have any money, and she made an agreement with Jim that she would come by every Friday and pay \$5.00, and she paid her bill in full. It was probably, maybe \$50.00. But it was an agreement. You know, he tried to work with people. He was excellent at that.

SB: And what was Jim's practice when he was a solo?

IP: Well, he did a little bit of everything. I think my favorite thing that we did was an adoption. I had to go and get the baby from the base hospital and then meet the new parents, and it was wonderful; Jim just did a great job. At that time, if you were in the military, you would be discharged if you became pregnant, and so she gave the baby up, and so a private adoption was done, and that was very, very rewarding. But Jim did everything. He did wills, he did deeds, he did just about anything anybody needed. And he wasn't expensive. I loved Jim Kenney. At the end of the summer I didn't want to go back to school because we were having so much fun. I stayed, with the condition that I would take so many classes per semester, which I did, and then, when I got married, Jim said he couldn't require me to finish, and I didn't.

Jim, at one time, was the State's Attorney and that was the side that he preferred. In the courtroom. He liked to resolve issues and problems and help people do things the right way. Jim was very consistent in his belief that things had to be done the right way or not done at all. He was meticulous, especially with wills – every page of the will had to be initialed, so someone couldn't take a page out. Typographical errors just didn't happen. He was very, very precise in practicing his law.

Over the years, it feels to me that the secretaries are practicing the law now, and not the attorneys, and that was something that Jim simply was not going to allow. He did a lot for me in

¹¹⁰ Kaminetz, Marvin, Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

teaching me right from wrong, standing up for what I believed in, not being worried about the consequences, because it was the right thing.

SB: There came a time that Briscoe and Kenney joined. What did you think of that merger?

IP: It would give Jim some free time to do some things with Carol, his wife at that time, and they had started a family. And then it helped John Hanson to let him know that things were being taken care of for him, so that when he came back from the legislature, everything would be current.

SB: Did the two of them, once they joined practices, did they split the duties?

IP: Because we grew so fast, they had a meeting and they decided they were going to split the law firm in half. And Jim was going to do the legal side, and John Hanson was going to do the real estate side. Not that they wouldn't take another case, or they would talk about cases together, but that's how we divided the firm. Shirley Hardman came on and was actually assistant to Jim Kenney, and she ran what we call the legal section. And she basically made recommendations as to who to hire and what attorney they would be assigned to, and she did the billing. And she was just an excellent, excellent employee.

SB: What was her background before coming to the firm?

IP: She worked at Hewitt's Lumber in Callaway. She was their book keeper. Oh, the book keeping was so important, so important. Because, in those days you did everything with a pencil. So, she was responsible for payroll, taxes, keeping the schedules with the lawyers, making sure they were where they needed to be, what time, and she was just miraculous.¹¹¹

Tom Daugherty: Well, I first met Jim Kenney when I was a sophomore at St. Mary's College. That was his first year that he taught down there and he taught some kind of law course. I remember three of the people that were in that course: Walt Sawyer, myself, and Johnny Fletcher. Lexington Park did not have a lawyer at that time. The fella who had kind of been the lawyer was a guy named Arthur Rysticken and it was found out later that Arthur was never a member of the Maryland Bar Association (laughter). But he practiced for many years. My dad and J. Frank Raley put a note, you know, "Wanted: Attorney, St. Mary's County" with a phone number (laughter) And my father had done his research and found out that Jim had been a Sigma Chi at Dickinson College and he tells the story that Jim comes down and my father out of the recesses of his mind remembers the secret Sigma Chi handshake and Jim is going, "What is this? (laughter) Oh yeah!" So he came down and met my father and J. Frank and decided, said, okay he'd give it a try. They got him in the bank, made him take a loan too, so he purchased a house in Town Creek.¹¹²

¹¹¹ Irene Parrish, Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

¹¹² Tom Daugherty Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Claire Delozier—I have the utmost respect for Jim Kenney, always have, always will. He is very intelligent, he is very caring, he’s a great teacher, he is so even keeled; he is, to me, the best attorney is St. Mary’s County, hands down. [I have] the greatest respect for him.

Shirley Hardman was the queen of Briscoe and Kenney. You know, she had worked for Kenney all her career. She was very knowledgeable but very stubborn in her ways, but she was a very good-hearted person and she was another worker-bee that worked tirelessly. One thing: she could sign Jim Kenney’s name better than he could himself. One time I had to go over to the bank to deliver something Shirley had signed for Mr. Kenney, which was fine, but then when Jim went over to sign they questioned his signature. So, you know, he really depended on her a lot.¹¹³



Jim Kenney and John Hanson
Briscoe, 2002

Jim Kenney: We got talking and we were saying “One of us is going to have to learn something about some land use.” And you know, John was probably doing more real estate than I was at that point. But I had had occasion to...there was a little bit of zoning in Lexington Park and a little bit of zoning in Hollywood and I had gotten a text amendment made to the zoning board so you could build townhouses, so technically I had experience on that. I drew the short straw, “Ok I’m going to learn something about land use.” And I did. I signed up for a course out in Texas and went out. Went to Texas. Went to one of those ABA conferences. I certainly learned some things and came back with a ton of materials. That was right before county-wide zoning, but we knew it was coming. And we knew we had clients that were going to be affected. And then, I started attending the ABA Land Use Committee meetings and eventually became national chairman of it. I got so I did know something about it. But what was exciting was, you were on the ground floor, no pun intended, of water and sewer changes. You soon learned water and sewer drives development. If you wanted to go a certain way, you just might want a sewer line that way and not the other way. And then of course we had one of the first “air installations

¹¹³ De Lozier, Claire Interview, Personal Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

compatible use zones” in the country to accommodate the base. I got to learn a hell of a lot about airplanes taking off and landing. And how you might implement that. Then, with the zoning came the whole concept of planned unit developments. So I learned a little bit about them. We didn’t have that type of zoning before, even in these little piecemeal areas. I was very lucky that I became an advisor to the Conference on National Uniform Laws. Mainly because I was chair of this other committee. I got to travel for about three years around the country on weekends with some real experts, both academic and practitioner experts. A lot of what we did was serendipity (laughs). If we decided we were going to do it then we would try to either do it correctly or get somebody who could do it correctly.¹¹⁴

¹¹⁴ Jim Kenney Personal Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: NEW LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES, 1962-1965

J. Frank Raley: Governor Millard Tawes. We had a governor who had taken the lead. He was an old time politician. His old friends down in southern Maryland were critical of him. They were oriented to the gambling industry. We in the legislature formed a little group. We hammered away in the press that if the state is going to do this, abolish slot machines, they had an obligation to southern Maryland to support rebuilding its economy. And we did more than that. We put together a package and included the College, St. Mary's City Commission, planning commissions, roads, bridges, etc. We hired a consultant who developed this thing for us. We put a strategy together to change the direction from a gambling based economy to a viable, productive economy that would also include support for technology of the naval establishment.



Q: Now, you said you had a little group. Tell me a little about your little group.

JFR: Primarily three of us, state senators, state senator John Parran, state senator Ed Hall, and myself. We represented, before reapportionment, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. We would meet every day. I also had help as I was close to the Economic Development Commission of Maryland from their staff.

Q: This was the four years where you served on that commission?

JFR: I had four years previously served. When you present something you must know its cost. You fit it in so it has a reason. We had powerful positions but powerful positions are useless without the ideas that support it, support it by facts.

Q: You had a group of three. How many people were there in the state senate at that time?

JFR: Twenty-nine.

Q: Twenty-nine. So three out of twenty-nine. You weren't that big. But you still needed half of twenty-nine, right?

JFR: Well, that's right. We did have other members of that committee. The three of us were really kind of the executive committee. We had members of the House also on that committee. But we had ideas and we used publicity. This was an issue that had deprived this area of substantial income and livelihood. And certainly to any depressed area the state must respond. And here is what you can do. We stood with our plan.

Q: So, you had your idea; and you did your homework; and you had three, two other really strong supporters and you.

JFR: Well, we had more than that. We were getting press support.

Q: And you felt you at least had the door open with the governor because he suggested getting rid of gambling. What's the next step in this process?

JFR: The next step was funding and authorizing it. There was a series of legislative initiatives; bridges, St. Mary's City Commission, and St. Mary's College, an enormous number of local initiatives, changes that went through the legislature. Those things had to be passed through the legislature and budgeted.

Q: My question for you then is, in this process, now you obviously knew what you were doing. You did your homework, but it seems to me, you've got to work these guys. Tell me how you worked them.

JFR: Okay. First, in Maryland, if you have the Governor's support, that's a powerful factor, particularly on capital improvements he pretty well dominates it, and some of these things were capital improvements. Some of it the governor could do just by saying to his cabinet, 'This is going to be our policy.' And it went through the legislative process as administrative policy. The governor accepted our plan as a policy of his administration. Democrats were in control in the legislature and the governor had substantial control of the party.

Q: Well, what about your fellow senators?

JFR: They sometimes bucked, kicked and said we're getting too much, but they went along. And another key to it is also tactical. We set up projects without money. It's much easier to pass; then you fund it later. A legislative commitment is much easier, instead of presenting a hundred million price tag.

Q: But going back to working your colleagues in the Senate. Would the important decisions be based on the debate that took place on the floor, or would you meet them for lunch...

JFR: No, it was lunch and individual talks. There's just twenty-nine of us. I'm with them all the time. I go to dinner with half of them. It was a clubby thing there. We would use the Senate to start 'cause we had power there.

Q: Okay. So the next step, then, was to get it passed.

JFR: Yes.

Q: And you got a favorable vote on –

JFR: Most of it.

Q: Most of it. So, what were some of the things that maybe didn't make the cut off? Were there some things that you wanted that you didn't get?

JFR: Some things that we wanted that didn't get funded immediately. Many of these things came to pass eventually. For example, there wasn't a community college in southern Maryland. Now

we have a very strong community college system, but we included the genesis for it. It took a little while. And some things we talked about we never even tried to fund, but did have studies made that provided a basis; for example, a waterway improvement fund.¹¹⁵

Jim Kenney: You know, certainly when the slots went out that changed the dynamics around the area. I would assume that probably a majority of the people here didn't necessarily want them to go out, which made it harder on J. Frank and probably to a lesser extent on John.

Samuel Baldwin: My understanding is J. Frank championed the removal of slots and John, I'm almost quoting him, kept his mouth shut on that.

JK: He did. That's a fair statement. J. thought it was the right thing. But J. Frank also thought it was the opportunity, because it created leverage to get some things up there in Annapolis. He knew the slots were going away. John probably knew they were going, the way J. Frank thought; J. didn't think much towards the next election (laughs); "We can get some stuff out of this." And we got some good stuff. We got the bridge, we got the college expansion, and I'm sure we got other things, too. The bridge and the college were big things. What happened when the bridge opened, a lot of the business people in Lexington Park got business from the lower end of Calvert County because those people were going all the way up to Prince Frederick. And people in the county could go across the bridge and have a meal over there and visit those restaurants and bars or whatever. In some ways we probably got the better end of that deal. Business people went over there and opened places over there. And there's still a big development gap between Solomon's and Prince Frederick. There's not a lot in between on that stretch of Route 4.

The bridge made living over there easier for those people who were here because of the base. I mean there was a lot of things offered. I think Solomon's itself prospered. I'm sure people say that now it's too developed and all that stuff, but you know, I think the Lexington Park area got a lot of stuff out of it too.¹¹⁶



Thomas Johnson Bridge, Calvert County Shore

¹¹⁵ J. Frank Raley Interview by John D. Krugler, September 11, 1999, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

¹¹⁶ Jim Kenney Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Governor Harry Hughes: Paul Bailey was a senator and colorful trial lawyer from down in St. Mary's County and he fought for the slots. Supporting the ban, of course, were all the churches. In the Senate with me was J. Frank Raley, also from St. Mary's and a good friend and fine legislator. He favored the ban, but his position cost him his reelection. But I think Raley was right. He said the economy was on a terrible basis down in southern Maryland. The social problems were just terrible. Once they got rid of the slots in southern Maryland, the economy got on a healthier footing.¹¹⁷

Don Hymes: Charlie Molitor (of the Enterprise news paper) was highly invested in David Hume. Hume got 2,100 votes in the St. Mary's County to 2,500 for Tawes. Mahoney got 1,200. Hume called me up the next morning, and said "I have been called to meet with Millard Tawes. Now, what do you think I ought to do ? Off the top of my head I said, "Tell him you'll throw your support to him if he says he's against slots." Hume says " Tawes isn't against slots." "Well, you've got a lot of votes and Mahoney got a lot of votes." He did that and Tawes kept his promise.

Val Hymes: He kept his promise. Slots would still be here if it weren't for him- and you.

John Hanson Briscoe: We didn't get involved with that . There was enough on our plate. We knew there were the slot people, but there was just more of the corruption of the government. By the political system. I didn't have any concept of slot machines. I kinda liked them. My mother liked them. My father didn't like them. But he couldn't do anything about it.

Don Hymes: I think we all concluded that getting you involved in slots would muddy the water.

John Hanson Briscoe: J. Frank Raley's father owned slot machines, had them in his motel. Buzzy Ridgell had slot machines. Henry Fowler had a lot of slot machines. My God... The idea was to get elected on the real issues. J. Frank always knew they were bad but he was smart enough to know.¹¹⁸

A \$60,000 WHITE ELEPHANT

Duke's Restaurant has been a Leonardtown gathering spot since the 1930's. Each evening, local men come in for a beer or two and play pitch, a card game. The bus stops there and that provides additional traffic. "It's a country store kind of crowd. A crowd I love, but that crowd doesn't spend the money that the slots bring.

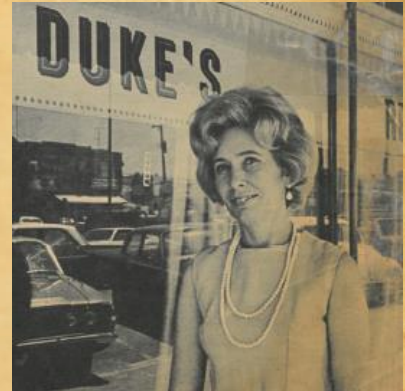
¹¹⁷ Hughes, Harry Roe, "My Unexpected Journey."

¹¹⁸ Don Hymes interview of John Hanson Briscoe

“So what. People wanted to come in and squeal and scream. To try and live a little and hit the jackpot. But to hear the people who are against the slots, it was like we were cashing welfare checks and only giving nickels change. They say tourism will replace all this. Yeah. People will bring their tents down by the water and in three days they’ll be gone. And I’m sitting here owing \$60,000 on this white elephant of a place.”

The slots exodus makes her bitter, transforming her usually smiling face into a mass of furrows. “Food places, bars like this; they are a dime a dozen. Who’ll come out of their way to come to Leonardtown now? We have little to attract people except the slots.”

-Ginny Duke



‘It Was Entertainment’



Larry Millison, 34, is the biggest single taxpayer in the mother county of Maryland, he says. He built a southern Maryland empire with two simple devices: seven- day work weeks and hundreds of slot machines. “Okay, they go and we move on to another thing,” he said. You could visualize Larry Millison behind a cluttered desk in Las Vegas or New York’s East-side, but in a railroad car shaped office beside a small town bus depot, he appeared to be misplaced geographically.

But here he lives in Lexington Park, a man whose business and whose entertainment is wheeling and dealing. While other slot owners howled that the day the machines go, thousands would be unemployed, Larry Millison started planning so none of his employees would have to be released. He has just completed a new A&P for his town of 20,000, is working to complete a shopping center, Millison Plaza, and has substantial interests in home building and real estate development.

“Sure it’s going to hurt me, slots are about quarter of my income now,” the stocky Mr. Millison said. He sat behind his desk like some inscrutable Buddha. “But this county is just getting moving, there are a million ways to make money. Like A&P. We put a delicatessen in there and people are nuts for it. Imagine a delicatessen in St. Mary’s County. I’m putting in a Laundromat and some slot machine mechanics will be fixing washers and dryers.

Beyond the money they brought him, the slots have another meaning for Larry Millison. “They weren’t gambling, you can’t beat my machines and I run the loosest ones in Maryland. It was entertainment. A person could buy a thrill for a nickel. Listen, you didn’t get Marilyn Monroe after watching her in movie, did you? The slots were the same way. You could dream for a little while.

“If it weren’t for the slots, I’d be driving a truck someplace. Now we have to make it without the slots. The big boys, (J.Frank) Abell and (Philip E.)Gray over in Charles County are walking away when the slots go. I was born 2 miles from here. Here I stay and wait until Washington discovers us; this area will develop like crazy.”—Larry Millison.¹¹⁹

Governor Marvin Mandel: I was in the legislature when they did away with slot machines, but I had no strong feeling against it. I think the issue was over-played. I can remember the debate on doing away with the slot machines in the county, and I can still – this was a committee hearing – and I can still see the ministers, some of the ministers getting up and arguing against this sinful thing, this gambling was so bad, terrible, and then the attorney who was the spokesmen for the owners of the slot machines getting up and saying, “We hate to disagree with the minister, but when you play slot machines you’re not gambling, because gambling you can win or lose; when you play slot machines you can’t win, so it’s not gambling” (laughs).

I had no objection to revenues from gambling, and the only reason why slot machines were done away with in this state at that time was that the state was not getting any revenue from it, and the owners of the machines didn’t want to pay any taxes. That’s the real reason. It got down to that. Sure there was a lot of people complaining about the gambling aspect of it, and there were a lot of religious people who, for religious reasons, were opposed to the slot machines, but when it got down to the nuts and bolts of it the whole issue was there were no taxes. It was only in three counties, number one, but they were not being taxed, and the legislators thought that if they were going to have this then they ought to be taxed, and they wouldn’t agree on it. They didn’t want to pay tax. So we said, “Okay you, then we’ll just close you down,” and they did. That’s the real source of it. And as far as gambling is concerned I have no problem with gambling as long as there’s some regulatory control over it.¹²⁰

Loretta Norris: I don’t know that it wasn’t a good change after it was all done; however, in the process it wasn’t all roses. It was quite a controversy from one to the other. The slot machines, that was the big issue. Because so many people made money out of slot machines and they claimed that the poor people were putting their money into the slot machines and that’s still true. Then we come along and get rid of the slot machines and come along with the state lottery. What the hell’s the difference, huh?¹²¹

¹¹⁹ “It was Entertainment”, The Baltimore Sunpapers

¹²⁰ Governor Marvin Mandel interview by Van Aldridge, St.Mary’s College of Maryland Archives

¹²¹ Loretta Norris Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Jane Yowaiski: And what people don't realize, people that are gonna gamble are gonna gamble. You're not gonna stop em.

MW: Did it stop anybody?

JY: No! What did we do? Of course, not, I'm not being nice when I say this, but we had people in the legislature that at the time were getting rid of slot machines, whose parents made their living with slot machines. It was a political thing, but they got rid of slot machines and then they put go-go girls in Lexington Park, and I'd much rather have a slot machine in my place than have go-go girls.

MW: Did they introduce go-go girls...

JY: Honey, they never outlawed go-go girls in Lexington Park. And the striptease, you know, they never got rid of that. But they got rid of slot machines.¹²²

J. Frank Raley: The economic plan for developing St. Mary's proposed by the St. Mary's delegation was what a democratic government should do. The St. Mary's Delegates should put together a plan [for development] that was rational.

The governor authorized funds for \$25,000 for a development consultant who was to help put together a plan for moving ahead. Our approach was gradual. You can't ask for too much at the beginning of a project.

A consultant was hired. He did an analysis of the economic development proposals and made recommendations that needed to be done. They included one, communications corridors, two, avoiding a too strong reliance on the military, and three, development of waterfront property. The specifics included bridges, highways, and education—including community colleges in each county.

St. Mary's County was isolated. Its citizens had a low education level. I wanted to elevate educational levels in the county. St. Mary's County had a population of about 35,000. Many of the inhabitants were very poor and many lived on welfare.

I spearheaded the movement to bring about change. You had to look in the mirror to see where you are.

I initiated the first state economic development commission when I was in the House of Delegates (in the 1950's). The governor appointed me to the commission. It was a valuable learning experience. I resigned from the commission to run for the senate from St. Mary's County. Service on the commission provided me with great contacts with professionals. They educated me on economic issues and development.

I was of the same party as the governor. The governor liked me and my support made it easier for him to secure his goals.

There was a state initiative to put community colleges in the three Southern Maryland counties. We got a Southern Maryland Community College system and a Johns Hopkins facility

¹²² Jane Yowaiski Interview, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

at the Patuxent Naval Base. The state also put money in the public schools. It became a higher level of priority for the county. The technical school for St. Mary's County may have been the first for a county in Maryland. Economic planning did not involve local schools directly. As the economy changed and prospered, we believed that more local tax money would be generated for schools.

My business supporters were satisfied as they saw that the program was working. One issue that became very controversial was sewers. This led to protests, even a referendum. My opponents charged that I supported sewer lines as a means of making my supporters rich.

I had total cooperation of the county commissioners.

I've often thought about this. Economic development seemed to be an obvious, common sense, issue. My opponents, the antis, feared a loss of political power. The fear of change seemed irrational.

My opponents thought that I was naive. It got to be nasty. My wife was afraid. The opposition got to be pretty nasty. She was afraid to turn on the car's ignition.

What was proposed may have seemed radical, but I never considered myself to be radical. I know I could have handled it [the proposed changes] better politically. I moved too fast. I was elected for a four-year term and I wanted to make a difference for Southern Maryland. I had served two years as a Delegate. The big issue then (in the 1950's) was river rights between Maryland and Virginia. I was blamed for the agreement that had been mandated by the US Supreme Court. I introduced the legislation to comply with the court's ruling. The local headlines said something like "Who gave the river away?" I was blamed and it led to my defeat for reelection to the House of Delegates.

I had a sense of urgency as Senator because of my defeat.

Yes, sir. I had a sense of urgency. My friends in the Senate told me: "Raley, you're going too fast for that county of yours." I made numerous speeches on the economic development issue. I wrote my own speeches. I initiated hundreds of bills. I did my own research with the assistance of a state-hired man.¹²³



Sewage treatment plant at Pine Hill
(Henry Fowler in middle, J.Frank Raley 3rd from right)

¹²³ J. Frank Raley Interview, from St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

September 9, 1964

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Under the law passed in 1963, the slot era must come to an end. But St. Mary's, one of the most rural sections in the Mid-Atlantic states, turned to legalized gambling for economic survival in the years past, and the coin-operated machine income become embedded in the economy over a period of years. Those who are close to the scene, and I know you too, will recognize that the transition is difficult and will create problems. We must be realistic and sensible in our approach and try to view this issue in perspective recognizing also that this transition will not be easy and will create problems for people who did not make the system but inherited it as a normal way of life. So that you will be familiar with background and have a deeper understanding and clearer picture, let us review of what our economy consists, what are the prospects for the future. The local officials have given considerable



Left to Right: Senator John Thomas Parran (Charles), State Comptroller Louis Goldstein (Calvert); Director of Economic Development Bill Chapman, Senator Ed Hall (Calvert), Senator J. Frank Raley (St.Mary's)

time and study to this. Our findings indicate that the economy of St. Mary's County is primarily based on defense spending of the Naval Air Station of \$42,000,000, agriculture \$5,000,000, seafood production \$3,000,000, tourism including retirees living here \$7,000,000. An analysis quickly and vividly indicates the main basis of our economy is military spending comprising about 75%.

To you at the State level who recognize our problem, and I am sure you do, I respectfully submit the following suggestions. I think first that the policy of the State, and this would be a change, is to recognize as public policy the spending of State monies is not only for the convenience and welfare of people, but should consider also the economic impact to the areas involved. If this policy were adopted, many programs could be initiated immediately without waiting. The number one priority on the list that I submit to you is the answer to our number one problem, the elimination of our isolated position by the construction of roads. The dual highway should be constructed into St. Mary's County from Washington, D.C. not by 1970 or 1975 but immediately in line with engineering and management problems. I further suggest that roads should be constructed to move people safely and quickly without, as so often in the past, creating bottlenecks because of pretty short range local interests. The bridge should be constructed across the Patuxent River connecting the end of Calvert to St. Mary's. The dreamed of scenic highway from Annapolis to St. Mary's City where the land has been purchased should immediately be developed instead of at some remote time in the future. The 4-year college at St. Mary's and its building program should proceed quickly. In a state blessed with water resources that Maryland has, a program should be initiated that would include the control of eliminating pollution. I expect to bring this matter before the next General Assembly in the form of legislation. There should begin a feasibility study of a bridge from Calvert County to Dorchester County and a

bridge across the lower Potomac. The State should appropriate sufficient money for renovation and proper administration of the old State House at St. Mary's City. Research should begin on the elimination of the sea nettle problem. Finally for the promotion and development of tourism and industry. This could be handled by the Economic Development Commission to provide a coordinated program with emphasis on the historic colonial background and the recreational assets of the area. The fund should be interest free and repayment not required for at least the first five years. We who live in St. Mary's are aware of the problems that face us. We think it is our responsibility as county officials to make these problems known, and although at times conditions seem insurmountable, we tell you today there is a willingness and determination on the part of St. Mary's County officials and its people to use every available resource. With state aid and cooperation and where available Federal assistance, there can be reasonable hope with high optimism for the future. Our problem is difficult; we will do the best we can. These are very real problems that have to be decided, on which a position has to be taken which can be opposed and approved but cannot be ignored. We are confident that ways will be found. We trust you will understand our position.

J. Frank Raley, Jr.
State Senator
St. Mary's County

Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller: I'd liken J. Frank to Adelaide Stevenson. Quiet, intelligent, very thoughtful person, but not a good politician. Somebody like Walter Dorsey, or Paul Bailey, would have no problem working a crowd. Glad to have people, and tell the people what they wanted to hear. That was not J. Frank's style. He had a vision, but it would be unfair to say he traded slots for a lot of what he obtained was because the leaders recognized that this was gonna happen in St. Mary's County and also Calvert and Charles and also that there should be some system, there should be some progress to change the sleeping area into a more modern type of, progressive place to live. And because J. Frank Raley was such a decent guy, and because there were other people, like John Hanson Briscoe, they recognized that these people needed to have something to take home. You know, the Tri-County Council was created; the Thomas Johnson Bridge was created. I'd like to think of J. Frank as being associated with the renaissance of St. Mary's College.¹²⁴



THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.
Prince George's County 3rd

¹²⁴ Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: SLOT MACHINES ARE OUT, 1963-1967

Walter Dorsey: I'm no proponent of slot machines today. I was back in the days when our total budget was \$400,000 and the machines were generating \$200,000, but today I think it's a good thing they're not here. But the Washington Post used to say, "Oh, you gotta get rid of the slot machines in Southern Maryland because they're controlled by the mafia and all these gangsters." Well they were all local people, you know, that had slot machines down here, and it was good for the economy. We didn't have much of an economy at that time.¹²⁵



John Hanson Briscoe: I left St. Mary's County in 1952. Graduated from high school and went away to college, then law school, then marriage and children and I came back in 1960, as a lawyer. Started practicing law and then I ran for political office in 1962. Of course the slot machines were there, I wasn't playing them then, I can assure you, because I had a young family and starting out in a law practice I did not have any extra money. I was indifferent as to them at that time. And then when I ran for office in 1962 with Mr. J. Frank Raley and others it became apparent to me that slot machines were so prolific throughout St. Mary's County. They were everywhere and they really didn't generate great revenues for the county. Of course, people worked for the people who ran the slot machines; they had jobs and the mechanics to fix the slot machines and of course bars, it was very attractive.¹²⁶

Governor Harry Hughes: I was involved in getting rid of the slots. Well, just one of the strong supporters. At that time, there were only five places where slot machines were legal: one in the state of Nevada and four Southern Maryland counties (laughs). And there were all kinds of stories of gamblers from Phoenix, Arizona and taking money off the top of slot machines and flying it to Chicago or some place and it was a self-reporting system. It just smelled pretty bad and Governor Tawes made it an issue. He was forced into it because his opponent in the primary (David Hume) came up with the idea of doing away with the slots. It wasn't Tawes' original idea, but it caught on, so Tawes adopted it, too. So after he was elected, I guess this was his second term, he promoted doing away with slots and it was a fierce battle.

Samuel Baldwin: And not real popular in Southern Maryland, it may have cost J. Frank his...

¹²⁵ Walter B. Dorsey Interview by Bo Knutson, February 12, 2001. St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

¹²⁶ John Hanson Briscoe, Oral History, from St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

HH: It probably did cost him his election. At least, I always thought it did and he did too because the supporters were out to get him. He was the only one I guess that really stood up against slots. I've always assumed, and so did J. Frank, that that's what defeated him. I mean there were some unsavory characters down in Annapolis trying to defeat the bill that would do away with slots. And they kept coming back. I think we phased it out over four or five years. And they'd come back the next year to try and get it back in. And all kinds of stories of prostitutes that they brought down to Annapolis. Pretty bad.¹²⁷



For 21 years, Slot Machines Ruled in St. Mary's

In the years before 1965, slot machines could be found most anywhere in St. Mary's County. The revenue they made was the crutch the county operated on, but along with the gambling came social and structural problems. St. Mary's County used to be one of the poorest counties in the state before the Navy base moved in and before the modern economy took hold in the late 1960s. When Patuxent River Naval Air Station opened on April 1, 1943, it brought better-paying jobs to the county and finally reversed the population losses and fluctuations that the county had been experiencing since the first U.S. Census in 1790. Just a few years after the base opened and Jaboessville was renamed Lexington Park, St. Mary's became the second county in Southern Maryland to legalize slot machines which had already been here for decades before. Before 1943, "This was one of the poorest counties in the state," said former state senator J. Frank Raley in an interview. "Near last in investment in education."

¹²⁷ Governor Harry Hughes Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

After that, slot machines proliferated. “They were everywhere except churches,” said John Hanson Briscoe.

With gambling everywhere, “St. Mary’s County was really in the dumps. It was known for slots. Everything else was suffering. All of the great assets were sitting there stagnating,”.

With the prevalence of slots in so many businesses, burglaries of machines were commonly reported. But more than that, the slots were funding political machines and draining incomes of the Navy base’s sailors.

In January 1947 a community meeting was held, and The Enterprise reported, “It was stated that a checking up of bars, garages, stores and barber shops in the county shows 250 bars and 400 slot machines in operation here in the above places of business.

When J. Frank Raley Jr. ran for state senate in 1962, he bought along an entire slate of candidates to take on the Dorsey machine and was successful. By 1962 there were enough grumblings in the Southern Maryland communities that gambling had once again become an issue. An editorial of the Feb. 14, 1963 edition of The Enterprise stated, “If more than 3,000 counties in the United States can operate their local government without slot machine revenue, the four counties of Southern Maryland can do so, too.”¹²⁸

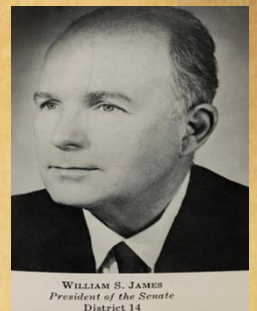
An Open Letter

July 6, 1964

Senator William S. James

Dear Senator James:

During the Legislative Session of 1963 slot machines were abolished in the four Southern Maryland counties. At that time pledges were made to consider the economic impact on these four counties. Governor Tawes himself requested the Council to begin a study and report to him. Further commitments were made by other legislative leaders. The Council in the summer of 1963 did make a cursory tour of the Southern Maryland counties affected. At that time we in St. Mary’s County submitted certain recommendations and proposals that pointed out the significant problems that have to be considered.



I cannot stress too strongly the economic impact on my county. I am sure you are fully aware of the declining tobacco economy and the importance of slot machine revenue to the county’s treasury. This becomes even more significant with the pending reapportionment of the

¹²⁸ ‘For 21 years, slot machines ruled in St.Mary’s’ The Enterprise, Wednesday, July 26, 2006 by Jason Babcock

Senate and the consequent loss of State support. Further there have developed some inquiries as to the extension of the period for legalized slot machines.

It is my understanding also that Governor Tawes is anxiously awaiting the economic report from the Council before taking action and has requested this report on a number of occasions. With this background and the seriousness of the economic situation, it is incumbent upon the political leaders to make preparation to alleviate economic problems that will inevitably develop. I am sure you will agree that the State has some machines to be legalized and develop into an integral part of the economy. It would seem then that after a period of almost two years, the Council should begin a serious study of this entire problem; and although there are many important problems in this State, this affects the lives of thousands of people who through no fault of their own have been caught in this web of circumstances. I therefore respectfully request that the Council fulfill its obligations and carry out the commitments which were made at the time of the passage of legislation abolishing slot machines. I am equally sure this is the Governor's wish, and the legislative leaders such as yourself would feel an obligation to fulfill the pledges made in 1963.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
J. Frank Raley Jr.¹²⁹

St. Mary's Seeks to Offset Slots Loss

St. Mary's County is facing the future with high optimism despite the impending loss of 15 percent of its revenue when slot machines go.

A vigorous program of legislation achieved by a newly elected reform ticket has set the groundwork for Maryland's mother County to meet the crisis on its own.

"We won't lie down and die," said State Sen. J. Frank Raley Jr., who led a "new leadership" ticket to victory in a bitterly fought primary election last year. "We've got all we need right here to pick up the slack once we point ourselves in the right direction.

One of the first moves of the new administration will be to initiate a planning study, an unprecedented move in St. Mary's "so we can learn to make maximum use of our resources," Raley explained.

The senator, who was a member of the Maryland Economic Development Committee before his election, pointed out that rural St. Mary's "has too many natural assets not to thrive."

The area is virtually surrounded by water, making it a prime attraction for Washington-area vacationers, and has retained much of its old-world heritage, giving it a flavor that Raley hopes to exploit for history-minded tourists.

¹²⁹ Letter, J. Frank Raley to Senate President William James; St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

The problem of community services is being faced by a new Board of County Commissioners headed by a veteran businessman, F. Elliot Burch.

Burch, who was elected on his first political effort, also is “very optimistic” over the future of his county.

“I always figure if you’ve got something to do, you go out and do it,” he said, indicating that the new board was willing to raise the county budget where necessary to provide new services and clean up the backlog of old problems.

Raley’s ticket ran on a platform of increased efficiency in the government.

“One of the problems we’re facing,” Raley gave as an example, “is the County road system. Too many roads were built too cheaply. Now they’re all beyond maintaining. That’s money down the drain, although we still have to meet the payments on the road bonds.”

His goal is “More government for each dollar” but he conceded that this will take more dollars to get started. Generally, he feels that overall administrative efficiency will increase the county’s revenue considerably.

His recent legislative program brought to the county a modernized sheriff’s department with uniforms and marked cars, a merit and retirement system for county employees, a county fiscal officer, and increased funds for development and administrative reform.¹³⁰

John Hanson Briscoe: It started shortly after I was elected to the legislature for the first time in 1962.

My first legislative session was 1963 in Annapolis representing St. Mary’s County along with J. Frank Raley and Henry J. Fowler. I was a delegate and J. Frank Raley was the senator. And there was a

gubernatorial campaign, at the same time. One of the gubernatorial candidates, his name was David Hume, he was out of Charles County. He ran on an anti-slots platform. He did not win but he continued his relentless pursuit of the prohibitions of slot machines and then he started getting all these religious people, ministers and pastors who believed that they preyed on the poor. And many people put money in, you may have heard me say that I’ve seen people who were in drug stores; and in those days, welfare checks were given out, literally checks, you got cash. You’re supposed to go and cash them, buy food, medicine and drugs. And they’d go in to pharmacies and cash their checks, put the money in the slot machines. Because they had them in pharmacies, places of necessity, that’s what made them so offensive. If they were in bars and nightclubs, that’s one thing; but in drug stores, places of necessity. So there was this build up, you could just feel it and for the sessions of 1963 and ‘64, you could see there were rumblings about anti-slots from all over the state. And they were getting well organized, the church people particularly were organizing them. Finally, nineteen-hundred sixty five, that legislative session, legislation was introduced. And I don’t know who the sponsor was, maybe the governor, Governor J. Millard Tawes, a good old Methodist from the Eastern Shore of Maryland and they didn’t have slot machines down on the Eastern Shore. I think he sponsored the bill as part of his administrative package and there was a lot of fighting. The rural members of the legislation tend



¹³⁰ ‘St.Mary’s Seeks to Offset Slot Loss’ ,The Washington Post, Saturday April 13,1963

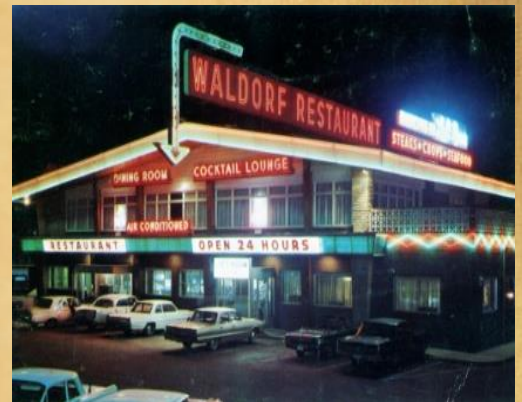
to be conservative, tend to be, you know, ‘live and let live. We don’t have any problems with gambling!’ and the urban areas, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Baltimore City, those areas tend to be more liberal and liberal people don’t believe in gambling. You look at the state of Maryland, from Western Maryland, Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland; they like slot machines, they thought they were okay, even the ones who didn’t have them thought they were okay. But he obtained sufficient votes in both the House and the Senate to pass a banning, prohibition, outlawing of “one-armed bandits,” as they’re fondly referred to, slot machines, with a three year phase-out period. There was a lot of lobbying, a lot of money, nobody will ever know how much money. These slot machine people who had lots of machines, we’re talking about the big times, not these little tiny Ma and Pa places, but the ones who had these arcades and had lots and lots of slot machines, spent lots and lots of money in Annapolis to try and defeat the measure. And I think it passed the first year, it might have been introduced in ‘64, but it finally passed in 1965. And in order to make the prohibition not as hard on the people who owned them, they allowed them to phase them out. Over three years, from nineteen sixty-five to nineteen sixty-eight. Each year you must get rid of one-third of your machines. If you owned thirty, in 1966 you had to get rid of ten, in 1967 you had to get rid of ten, and in 1968 you had to get rid of the last of them. And then they were totally outlawed, they had to be warehoused, registered and couldn’t do anything with them.¹³¹

“Under the Dome: The Maryland General Assembly in the 20th Century”

Outlawing of Slot Machines

In 1963, four Maryland counties – Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s, and Anne Arundel – offered the only legal slot machines outside of the state of Nevada. Many restaurants, stores, and taverns lining U.S. Route 301 housed the gambling devices, and the area became known as “the strip.”

This similarity to Las Vegas concerned some State residents who feared that slot machines attracted undesirable elements and corrupted the moral fabric of the State. Many residents of the four counties, however, argued that slot machines had served a vital role in the local economies, attracting tourists since the 1940s. After all, the “one-armed bandits” were a form of entertainment unavailable anywhere else in the eastern United States.



Governor J. Millard Tawes’ 1962 reelection campaign pledge to ban slot machines alarmed many in Southern Maryland. One supporter of slot machines in Anne Arundel County lamented: “First the Bay Bridge killed us because people could get to the ocean quicker. Now they want to do it to us again by outlawing slots.”

¹³¹ John Hanson Briscoe, Oral History, St. Mary’s College of Maryland Archives.

Much to the dismay of slot machine supporters, Governor Tawes fulfilled his campaign promise and, in 1963, introduced a bill abolishing slot machines. The proposed legislation that required slot machine owners to gradually reduce, in each of the three subsequent years, the number of slot machines in each establishment, until the machines were completely phased out by July 1, 1966. Governor Tawes accurately predicted that passing the legislation would be the “roughest fight of the session.”

Compared to the battles to come, the bill moved through the first phase of the legislative process with relative ease. The House Judiciary Committee preserved the intent of the bill but added a two-year moratorium delaying the complete abolishment of slot machines until July 1968. During the moratorium, new slot machine licenses would not be issued. By providing the four Maryland counties with additional time to offset the reduction in gambling revenues, the Judiciary Committee hoped the bill would garner the support needed for passage.

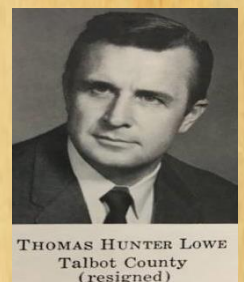
The most challenging threats to the bill’s survival occurred on the floor of the House of Delegates. In urging the delegates to accept an amendment exempting three of the four counties from the law, Southern Maryland legislators asked the House to honor the General Assembly’s tradition of local options, or “local courtesy,” which asks that legislators defer to the decisions of delegations in matters affecting only a limited number of counties. However, many legislators believed the amendment exempting three counties would nullify the bill. Others thought the impact of slot machines extended far beyond the borders of the four Maryland counties. One delegate argued, “An evil is an evil, and you can’t differentiate between a local evil and a statewide evil.” The House showed strong support for maintaining the committee’s version of the bill by decisively voting down the amendment.

Victory in the House seemed certain. The events on voting night, therefore, startled delegates and legislative observers alike. The bill banning slot machines failed by two votes. Recalling the previous support shown for the bill, one delegate referred to the vanishing “aye” votes as “the big switch.”

During the floor debate, legislators alluded to bribery and hinted about the power of the lobbying interests. One delegate admitted he had been offered money to vote against the bill or abstain from voting.

Two days after the failed vote, Judiciary Chairman Thomas Hunter Lowe used a rare legislative maneuver, motioning for reconsideration of the bill. There seemed to be a concern that the tense and suspicious atmosphere during the initial voting session had clouded the democratic process. Several days later, the delegates approved Chairman Lowe’s motion. According to reports appearing in the *Baltimore Sun*, the legislators considered the bill for one “emotion-packed hour” and then, without debate, passed the legislation on a 93-42 vote.

The bill then moved to the Senate, where legislators opposing the ban were preparing their attack. In the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, an amendment extending the moratorium and the phase-out period to a total of ten years failed on a tie vote. Supporters of the amendment continued to argue that the four counties needed more than five years to plan for and adjust to life



without slot machines. Eventually, the committee approved three amendments intended to weaken or kill the bill. One of these amendments added a year to both the moratorium and the phase-out period. However, because many Senators worried about sending an amended bill back to the House where they feared it would die in the waning days of session, they rejected the amendments on the floor of the Senate. The House version of the bill emerged from the Senate intact, thus tolling the death knell for slot machines in Maryland.¹³²

John Hanson Briscoe: The reason why slot machines were outlawed was because the big areas where they had the machines, like our area, had no accounting systems. We're talking about a multi-million dollar business. Where the owners made the machines, cleaned the machines out, emptied them. When they emptied them into their big bags, their people emptied them. No inspections. They'd take them into their dark rooms, all those nickels, dimes, and quarters. They were supposed to count it honestly and to write down how much, once a month, and they were to come to Leonardtown and say "we got \$7-8,000" worth of revenue and we are paying a 20% revenue income tax to the county'. And it's their reporting, they just took their word for it. Can you imagine that? You're talking about putting a lock on a door to keep an honest person honest. There was no accounting. They came up, whatever they said; it was all silver and nobody could prove it. It's all silver and it's put in the bank. They could stash it, they could launder it. It was absolutely disgraceful for all those years. And that was one of the things that helped kill it. And they didn't want to change it. And they were just making a fortune, Phil Gray and Chackles and Millison. And they'd take that money and they didn't put it into great things here. They'd take it to Florida and different places and invest it. It was absolutely disgraceful. That led to the downfall and of course the ministers. The fact that they were every (emphasis) place you could go in Southern Maryland, drugstores, restaurants, everywhere. You couldn't get away from them and it was so obnoxious. And it finally got enough support in the General Assembly. Governor Millard Tawes was a good Methodist governor and he fought hard and a lot of money was spent in Annapolis, believe me, by the slot machine people to lobby and to get votes, you know, to prevent the prohibition of the slot machines, *a lot* of money. And you know, we as Southern Maryland delegates could have put our hands out and gotten literally thousands of dollars to support it. But, you know, J. Frank was against it, I was against the slots.



John Hanson Briscoe, attorney from Leonardtown and Campaign manager for Finan in St. Mary's County, greets Thomas B. Finan, a gubernatorial candidate, Friday evening at the Belvedere Motor Inn in Lexington during the open house. Left to right: Francis "Bill" Burch, candidate for attorney general, Finan, Louis Goldstein, incumbent Comptroller, and Briscoe.

How do you like this for irony, they said 'you get rid of slots and you're going to kill the economy of Southern Maryland, the restaurants, bars and everything'. And the transition was

¹³² "Under the Dome: The Maryland General Assembly in the 20th Century." 2001.


very easy and you know the rest of the story. People didn't want to come here with that gambling and what went with it and the control of the politicians. And it really did control the politicians, it really did for years. Paul Bailey and Walter Dorsey. Fortunately, J. Frank and I had a lot of the same opinions, J. Frank as you know is very anti-gambling, very, very...yeah that was quite a story.¹³³

NO THREAT TO PAX. RIVER

St Mary's Beacon Jan 4, 1965 Pg 1

WHERE'S CHARLIE ? ? ?

**BAILEY DEBATES
EMPTY CHAIR
CHALLENGE IGNORED
BY MOLITOR**



Senator Paul Bailey gestures toward the chair unoccupied by a publisher whom he had challenged to debate the slot issue (the publisher has been an advocate of this loss of tax revenue). Moderator is Mr. Oliver Guyther, well known St. Mary's attorney. The meeting was held at the courthouse in Leonardtown this week.

Senator Bailey brought to the attention of a huge audience, the fact that despite Senator Tydings' threat, legal gambling is accepted by the Navy throughout their overseas bases.

He also emphasized to the public, when introducing the original bill in 1948, that slot machines existed on the Patuxent River Base and were accepted as a form of recreation for the servicemen.

An overcrowded Courthouse listened to Senator Bailey debate an empty chair. Bailey had challenged Mr. Charles Molitor, president of Lexleon Corp., and publisher of The Enterprise newspaper to a debate on the slot issue. Neither Mr. Molitor or officers of the Lexleon Corp. appeared at this meeting which overtaxed the facilities of the Courthouse. No one from this Corp. or The Enterprise appeared to defend the editorial policy this newspaper has taken.

¹³³ John Hanson Briscoe Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Editorial WJZ-TV13

“Plain talk from Southern Maryland”

The slot machines which once dominated and distorted the economy and politics of four Southern Maryland counties are now being eliminated under a three-year phase-out ordered by the General Assembly. It is not surprising to find gambling interests struggling to find a way to keep the slots in use even after the state has rejected them.

Under the phase-out plan, one-third of the slot machines were to have been eliminated in June of 1965, another third in June of 1966, and the final third in June of 1967. What has happened, however, is that the slot machine interests have attempted to get around the law by providing tandem slot machines—actually two or more machines in one housing. This, they claim, is one machine. It is easy to see that by this means the phase-out could be delayed. Fortunately, in the midst of this confusion, Senator J. Frank Raley of St. Mary’s County has cleared the air. This is what Senator Raley said this week:

“It is unrealistic for slot machine owners to waste valuable time attempting to skirt around the law. It seems to me that the time has come for those of us in Southern Maryland to accept the fact that slot machines are over—that there is no chance for the legislature to rescind its ban. Our efforts should be toward making the transition from a slot machine economy to a more stable one based on the good natural assets which we have. Suitable industry and tourist development can offer much better job opportunities and business expansion.”

Such plain talk has been entirely too rare in Southern Maryland. Senator Raley seems to be one that realizes the futility of hitching any hopes to the falling star of the slot machine industry. Despite this last-ditch resistance, the slots will soon be gone, and the former slot machine counties will move on to a sounder and better economy.¹³⁴

Q: Alright, you said every place, basically, had slot machines. Were there any places without any?

John Hanson Briscoe: Oh, yeah, I don’t mean every store; but believe me, if any place had a liquor license, and St. Mary’s County was known to have probably more liquor licenses per capita than anywhere in the United States at one time. So what I’m saying is every grocery store, I say every, now I’m sure there were exceptions but, so many of these little stores; driving down the road and you’d see a little place no bigger than this room, you know, they’d have a little bar and they’d have a few little things and they’d have some slot machines. And it was a great money maker, so they were prolific, they were everywhere you could put them. I used to say that they had them everywhere but in church, and if they could have gotten away with it, they’d put them in churches, too. So they were, they were everywhere and that’s what made them so

¹³⁴ Presented by Kenneth T. MacDonald, General Manager WJZ- TV13, February 8, 1966 - 11:30 PM; February 9, 1966 - 2:20 PM, 6:25 PM

offensive. You couldn't get away from it, and as I became an adult, I'll tell you what offended me was going to a place like The Roost in Lexington Park; nice, it was a really nice nightclub. You'd go there and have drinks and there's a wall of probably, probably had six slot machines up there, and you're trying to talk and have a nice quiet evening and *of rrrrugh*, you'd just hear it, *bangity*, you know what they sound like when they run, then change... and pull the handle down and very offensive when you're out trying to have cocktails and a nice dinner. They were everywhere, everywhere.

Q: What were the social tensions created by the slots, if any?

John Hanson Briscoe: Social tensions, there weren't any other than the church people wanting to get rid of them and the people who owned them and the people who liked them thought the church people should just mind their own business, you know, 'just leave us alone, they're wonderful'. I know a lot of people came to St. Mary's County because it's a great place to fish, Chesapeake Bay one of the greatest fishing areas in the country and people would come from New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Baltimore, would come down here, to go out fishing and they'd bring their wives, talking about men mostly, not women, and have to bring their wives along and how did they entertain their wives when they went out fishing? They'd give them whatever money they needed and they, wherever they stayed, in a motel or a B&B and they'd just sit there and play slot machines. They loved them and when the slot machines were outlawed, some people literally told the tourist office in Leonardtown, they're not coming back any more because, 'heh, my wife loved those machines, she's not coming back to St. Mary's County when she'd love those,' what'd she, how'd she put it, I saw it in a letter, "I really miss those nice slot machines." And that had an economic, not a social thing; but socially no, it wasn't a big, it wasn't a big deal. People didn't play them, that was it, just little things like I found it offensive being a nice bar and restaurant and they were in drug stores at the time. I could have cared less when I was young but then it became obvious to me it was an inappropriate place. But yep, everywhere. Nothing went to the government because the people who opened their own machines here, we're talking about change; we're not talking about checks, we're talking about cash and they'd go in their little dark rooms, sit at a table like this, you know, and they'd haul these just mounds of nickels, dimes, quarters, fifty cent pieces. Thousands of dollars and what these people are supposed to do, sit here with three people here counting it all out and then honestly report to the county government once a month how much they took out of it and said, "We took three thousand four hundred and eighty dollars out of all our machines, County Government, and we're going to give you 21% of that," that's what the tax was. It's the honor system; you don't do that.

Q: There were no checks?

John Hanson Briscoe: ABSOLUTELY NOT. They emptied their own machines, they took the money back literally in the little dark rooms and just poured it out That was all cash, there was no way of checking them, nothing. So you can see why when people found out and saw the government was getting really very little out of it, there were a few jobs people had, but it was all

the honor system and some of the little tiny stores, Mary and Tom Smith who owned a little country store, they're usually pretty honest. And they'd report what they got and some of these big people reported 50, 60, 100 machines and some of them hardly reported as much as the little ones. They could see they were just stealing from the county government their income and also income tax, they were paying income tax, federal, state.

Of course the phase-out was to give people time to adjust and of course the human cry was 'if you get rid of slots, St. Mary's County, Charles County, Calvert County, Anne Arundel County is going down the tube, they're going to go into economic depression because all these bars and restaurants are going to close and all these people are going to be out of their jobs'. So, the state of Maryland helped in a number of ways, Patuxent River Bridge, St. Mary's College, they beefed up supporting all these infrastructures. And said, "Okay folks, you're crying, you're going "woe is you," we're going to give you this extra money to build a bridge across from Calvert to St. Mary's, should help for tourism. We're going to give you more money for St. Mary's College, give you some buildings. We're going to help museums and just all kinds of infrastructure type of things, speed up building your roads, okay? Because you're gonna become poor and economically depressed." Well, fact of the matter is it was the best thing that ever happened to St. Mary's County, Charles. All the bars that closed because of that were joints—shouldn't have been open in the first place. They were only open cause of slot machines; they usually had liquor violations, they weren't nice restaurants and bars. Sure, they shut down, most people went off and found jobs. Waldorf was like Las Vegas and they were all gone now, and look, look what's up there. And look at St. Mary's County, it's got the economic, it's a technology corridor of Southern Maryland. There you are, look at St. Mary's College. So nobody can say, "See, we told you so." We didn't know what was going to happen, those of us who opposed them, what was going to happen, but we knew this was an absolutely fabulous place. We had valuable waterfront and the Naval Air station was here, and something would happen someday, hopefully, we'd get technology here. There was none of this here then that you see that's here now. We had the Naval Air Station, that was it; nothing on the outside. And now you know what's on the outside and that's jobs, money, and the average income in St. Mary's County now is one of the highest in the state.¹³⁵

J. Frank Raley: I thought the slot machines were a negative when it came to positive development. The gambling interests maintained that they were keeping taxes down in the county.

I was twenty-five years old when I was elected to the House of Delegates. One thing I learned was that the voters like you better when you're out of office. Respect for me among the locals grew as the economy began to change in positive ways. Time proved that my positions were the right ones. The slot machine interests were the monied interests in St. Mary's County in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1966, I was defeated by the slot machine interest. Eventually the slot machine people began to put their money in other [more legitimate] interests and the issue died out. The Navy was upset by the slots. They didn't like them and wanted the

¹³⁵ John Hanson Briscoe interview from St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

government to get rid of them. For me, gambling was not a moral issue. It was a practical issue because of the negative economic impact. The slot machine issue was the most difficult political issue I faced.¹³⁶

John Hanson Briscoe: Harry Hughes was a state senator from Caroline County. And I could see that he was intelligent, attractive, well-respected and he was fearless. And the conservatives, even though he was from Caroline County, the Eastern Shore, people didn't consider him a rural legislator because he was too liberal. And he, with Governor Tawes, fought to get rid of slot machines in Maryland, down here. And I admired him for that because he took a lot of heat in that. He had a lot of lobbyists up there on that and he and Millard Tawes and J. Frank, and some other guys were progressive state senators in the Senate. And I watched them really good. And you know you had the city people who were always against gambling and the rural people were always for gambling and they would fight him. But yeah he was good. He was one of my role models. (I always liked him because he later appointed me judge).¹³⁷




¹³⁶ J. Frank Raley interview from St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

¹³⁷ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

CHAPTER NINETEEN: DORSEY—RALEY, REMATCH, 1966

“A Tale of Two Senators”

Mr. Raley first ran for office and was elected to the House of Delegates in 1954. Mr. Raley broke with the Dorsey faction during his first term. “I think it was truly philosophical for me or really practical. I felt there had to be so many changes that needed to be done in this area and the over-reliance on slot machines for the economy just simply had to be faced. It was not something I could do with that group.” He said of the Dorsey group, “They were not for change”.¹³⁸



Progressive Leadership 1964
J. FRANK RALEY, JR.
CANDIDATE FOR
STATE SENATE
Charles and St. Mary's County
Subject To Democratic Primary
Auth: Bernard I. Johnson, Treas.

1. Founder and First President of the Young Democrats of Saint Mary's
2. Member of the House of Delegates, 1954-1958.
3. Chairman—Saint Mary's County Governmental Study Committee.
4. Member of the State Economic Development Commission and Chairman of the Saint Mary's County Economic Development Committee.
5. Member of State Senate since 1963.

RALEY LINKS UP DORSEY—BAILEY

“Calls it a cynical combination”

State Senator J. Frank Raley, Jr. officially opened the Raley Team campaign Saturday in the first of a series of Saturday radio broadcasts entitled: “PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP SPEAKS”.

Raley emphatically stated: “This campaign is a new ball game, but we are back fighting again the same old machine, the Dorsey-Bailey machine -- who hope to somehow turn back the clock and regain the power and control of this county. I tell you today, as I told you 5 years ago, that we will fight and continue fighting against this strangling control of machine politics.”

¹³⁸ Meyers, Dick. “A Tale of Two Senators”, The St.Mary's Countian, 4/11/90

He concluded his talk with a challenge to the “Machine”: To stop being against all programs for the people without suggesting any other plan or alternate. He stated the wild statements of the “Machine” members in recent weeks have offered no solution to the problems of the people, and he posed specific questions to the opposition when he said:

“Now the Old Dorsey Machine has come along again, in combination with Bailey (a Republican), and using (perhaps unsuspectingly) Sam Linton from Charles, has set up a betrayal of the Democratic Party -- tearing down, offering nothing except that they want power and control for the Machine. But there are some questions I must ask them. There are some questions that I hope you people will ask them. When they had the power for 25 years, was little or nothing ever done?”

“Why were the needs of people ignored?”
“What do they intend to do about pollution? About tax reform? About Economic Development? About other government problems?”

“It is easy to criticize. We have had plenty of this the last few years...but I have not had one suggestion from Mr. Bailey or Mr. Dorsey or their Machine.”

“For 25 years they did nothing and when somebody else did; criticism is the only thing offered by them.”

The platform of dominant issues Senator Raley offered early in the broadcasts were: “We must continue to build; for though a beginning has been made, there is much to be done, and I list the following issues that are dominant: (1) Education, (2) Tax reform (3) Preservation of natural resources and (4) Development of local economy.”

The review of some of the 4-year accomplishments of the incumbent senator, delegates and commissioners included:

“We passed over 100 bills dealing with local government...The result is: today the government of St. Mary’s County is more efficient and more responsive to the needs of the people.

“Programs were started dealing with parks and recreation. The state parks at Point Lookout and St. Clements Island have been established or started.



Left to Right: J. Frank Raley, Louis Goldstein Incumbent Comptroller, Tom Finan Candidate for Governor, Bill Burch Candidate for attorney general, in 1966

“There are new expanded educational facilities. Soon to be built will be the St. Mary’s County Technical Training Center. Over \$4 million has been appropriated for the expansion of St. Mary’s College into a four year college (this is with state funds).

“In 1965 there was passed the first major changing in the education equalization formula since 1921 which meant that every child in the county would be guaranteed a basic minimum amount of \$340 for education costs. This brought St. Mary’s an average of \$429,000 more per year. I was a member of the Tax and Fiscal Affairs Committee that developed this new formula.

“Research programs into tobacco and seafood have begun with state funds. A Sanitary Commission was created and activated to meet the problems of pollution, the cost to be borne by the member users in the district only.

“Library services and facilities were expanded with state and county funds.”
“\$60,000 was appropriated by state and federal governments to begin research on how to eliminate and control the sea nettle; this is the first time in the history of our state such a program has been started.

“Oyster seeding programs (state funds) were strengthened and oyster production in St. Mary’s has risen spectacularly.

“The local Economic Development Commission has been strengthened. They have located recently an electronics firm in Leonardtown.

“Citizens’ Committees have been working: such as the Beautification Committee, the Committee on the Utilization of Human Resources.

“Job placement has progressed and welfare costs have been reduced with the establishment of a State Employment Office.

“Tax relief was given to elderly citizens.”

Senator Raley went on to list additional progress (through state funds) of the present legislators and commissioners such as: setting up a tri-county council to meet and guide the development of our region, additional road building and state appropriations for: \$10 million bridge across the lower Patuxent River, \$50,000 appropriated to preserve the Old City at St. Mary’s, and enactment at the state level of a strong anti-pollution act which gave injunctive power to the Water Pollution Control Board.¹³⁹

¹³⁹ “Calls it a Cynical Combination”, J. Frank Raley News Release 7/25/66

THE KITTEN AND THE COBRA

The theory behind the legislative marriage of Charles and St. Mary's Counties in a state of senatorial bliss was that both areas had much in common. This is true, of course, when you think of tobacco, jousting tournaments, slot machines, tidewater and oysters. But in politics, Charles and St. Mary's are as much alike as a kitten and a cobra. With the campaign only a few weeks old it is not hard to see which is which.

St. Mary's, we must remember, operates in the old tradition of machine rule; and the ruling forces there are not above crossing party lines when necessary to gear the machine for effective operation.

The case in point is the candidacy of Paul J. Bailey on the Republican slate and Walter B. Dorsey on the Democratic side for State Senate. Both men have served in the senate before and it is doubtful that either of them is seeking this high office merely for the prestige attached.



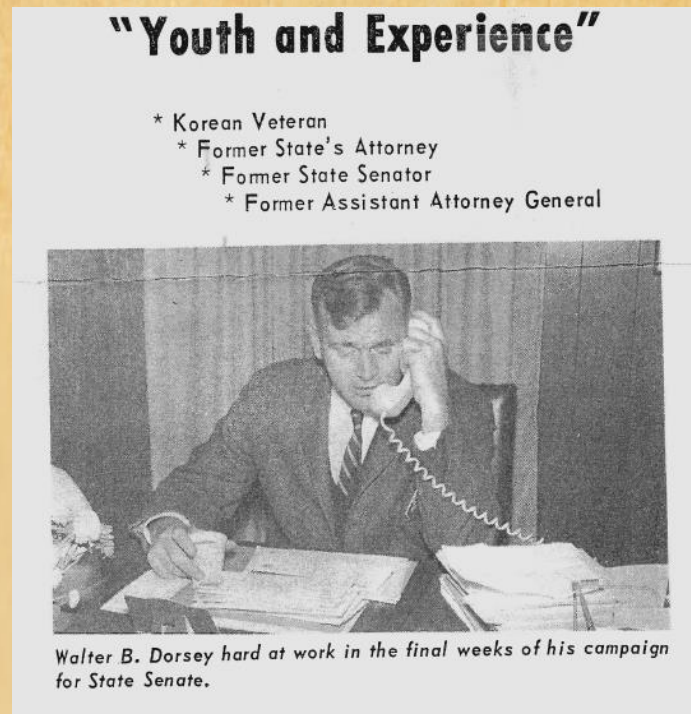
Paul Jacob Bailey

District 5

The fact is that Mr. Bailey, who carries the dubious reputation as father of the legalized slot machine, although affiliated as a Republican, has long been known in St. Mary's as the more-than-loyal opposition to the Dorsey Democratic organization. Mr. Bailey still manages to pick up whatever Republican patronage there is to be doled out in his predominantly Democratic county, and thus he provides fuel for the political machine from both sides of the road.

On the surface it seems strange that Mr. Bailey and Mr. Dorsey are engaged in a primary contest which could bring them to the point of direct confrontation as opposing candidates in the

general election in November. In order to fathom this incongruous situation in St. Mary's politics it is necessary to look beneath the surface.

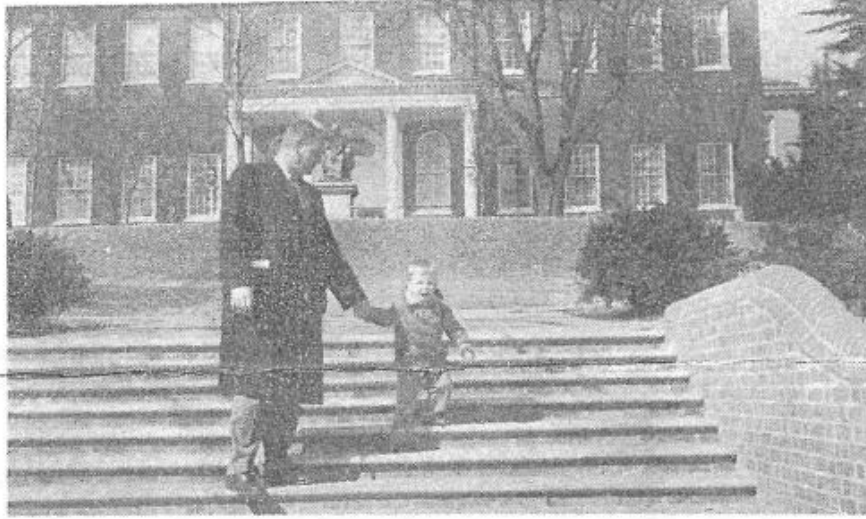


It might be that Mr. Dorsey feels that his two opponents in the primary, Senator J. Frank Raley and Del. Samuel C. Linton, Jr., will cancel each other out, leaving him the nomination from those voters who believe that slot machines and patronage are our keys to the future. But behind this possibility there is the assurance that if either Mr. Raley or Mr. Linton should win, Mr. Bailey will be an ace in the hole to pick up the pieces in November. For Mr. Bailey can, thanks to the generosity of the Republican State Central Committee, count on party support in Charles, and at the same time have enough of the old political magic to pull many votes among Democrats still licking their wounds from the bitter primary battle in St. Mary's. Never in a thousand years, though, would Mr. Bailey campaign in earnest against Mr. Dorsey should the latter be the Democratic candidate in November. Anyone familiar with politics in St. Mary's knows that.

It is painfully obvious that the Charles County voters, the Republicans in particular, are being neatly packaged for delivery to a St. Mary's political machine that was defeated by the Raley insurgents in the last election, but has been given new life by the recent legislative matrimony fostered upon to the counties.

Can anyone doubt that Charles County is the kitten that is waiting to be swallowed by the spell of the old political pros from St. Mary's? They have a gleam in their combined vision that is as sharp as the cobra's.¹⁴⁰

¹⁴⁰ Times Crescent, August 4, 1966



"Like father, like son" -- Walter Dorsey shows his son, aged two, what life is like in Annapolis. Son, Philip, is now ten years of age and attends Leonard Hall School in Leonardtown.

HEADS, I WIN

Have you stopped to think what an absolutely ridiculous spectacle would result if Walter Dorsey and Paul Bailey won in their respective Primaries and faced each other in the General Election? We have. And we gave a little thought to how the campaign speeches might sound. Briefly, it seems to us, they would proceed roughly but essentially along the following lines (no pun intended):

Mr. Bailey would say: Vote for me all you Dorsey Democrats. I'm a better and more loyal Dorsey man than even Walter Dorsey is!

Mr. Dorsey would reply: Vote for me all you Republicans. I've done more for the Republicans in St. Mary's County than ever Paul Bailey has!

Then both would join in chorus: Vote for me all you slot machine operators. I will try harder to keep slots in Southern Maryland than even he will.

We might even be faced with the prospect of Mr. Dorsey getting all the Republican votes and Mr. Bailey getting all the Dorsey machine votes so that the election would end in a tie. Sounds absurd, doesn't it? And it is. So absurd, in fact, that you can bet your boots it will never

happen. For no matter who wins what Primary, Mr. Paul Bailey and Mr. Walter Dorsey just are not going to run against each other. No sir, not this November, nor any other time.

You see, what the Dorsey machine is doing is playing its favorite old game of "Heads I win, Tails you lose" politics. It works like this: Mr. Dorsey files for the Democratic nomination for State Senator. Mr. Bailey files for the Republican nomination for the same office. Mr. Dorsey figures he can draw off enough Democratic votes in St. Mary's County from Senator J. Frank Raley, Jr., to hand the nomination to Charles County Delegate Sam Linton. Charles County is more strongly Republican than St. Mary's. So Mr. Bailey figures to have no trouble getting the Republican nomination (he has only token opposition). Come November, all the Dorsey Democrats, all the St. Mary's County Republicans, all the Charles County Republicans, and many St. Mary's County anti-machine Democrats who don't want a Charles Countian for their Senator vote for Mr. Bailey. Now Mr. Bailey and the Dorsey machine have for years seen eye-to-eye politically, they still do and they always will. So Dorsey still wins--with Bailey. And in the highly unlikely event that Mr. Dorsey won the Democratic nomination, he still has it made because Mr. Bailey would immediately withdraw as the Republican candidate and give Mr. Dorsey a free ride to Annapolis. Cute, isn't it?

Well, there's only one way to knock that little scheme into a cocked hat. That is to nominate Senator J. Frank Raley, Jr., as the Democratic Senatorial Candidate. Senator Raley is the only fly in the Dorsey-Bailey ointment. He is the only Democrat in sight who can beat Mr. Bailey in November. Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Bailey both know this. That is why Mr. Dorsey is fighting so desperately against Senator Raley. Not because Mr. Dorsey thinks he can get the nomination. Only because he wants to pull enough votes away from Senator Raley to set Mr. Linton up for the Bailey kill in November.

It is therefore perfectly obvious to anyone who gives the matter any thought at all, that the newly-created St. Mary's-Charles Senatorial District is going to be represented by a Republican (and a Dorsey Republican, at that) -- unless the Democratic Party in St. Mary's County comes to its senses quickly, unites behind Senator Frank Raley in the Primary and presents a solid front against the Republicans in November. Because a vote for Mr. Dorsey in the Primary is two votes for Mr. Bailey in November.¹⁴¹

¹⁴¹ "Heads, I win", The Enterprise, 8/11/66



St. Mary's Sen. J. Frank Raley Jr., and Delegate Briscoe listen as Anne Arundel County delegate C. Maurice Weidemeyer briefly outlines some re-apportionment and re-districting plans of his prior to the opening of the 1966 General Assembly in Annapolis, Jan 19, 1966

RALEY, DORSEY EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SANITATION

"What's it going to cost," was the major question raised by Walter B. Dorsey at the Town Creek Citizen's Council meeting Tuesday night.

In a meeting that lasted until nearly midnight, Senator J. Frank Raley exchanged views with Dorsey on the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission and their work in establishing a Sanitary District.

Brandishing dollar signs, Dorsey attacked the Metropolitan Commission specifically for plunging the County into an ever-escalating cost war.

Replying, Raley brushed away the barrage of figures thrown up by the Leonardtown attorney, and got down to bare knuckles: "Sure it's going to cost money for sewage, maybe a lot. But think for just one minute how much it will cost you when your cesspools can no longer stand

the pressure, and it covers the back yard and flows down the street. Think how much that will cost you.”

A point in fact, however, was finally raised by Metropolitan Commission Chairman, L. Cato Merchant. The sewage system, financed through a bond issue floated on a possible 25 percent of the assessed value of land in the Sanitary District, will be self-supporting, and will earn enough to liquidate the bonds.

Resorting to another tactic, Dorsey allowed as how the Sanitation Commission was favoring “real estate developers.” He said that a good portion of the line runs through land owned by several local real estate owners. This, of course, raises land value.

Dorsey even attempted to link up L. Cato Merchant, saying that he has “dealings” with various real estate people.

Senator Raley replied, saying, “I resent these insinuations that we are doing anything dishonest or that the Commission or the Contractor are dishonest.”

Raley continued, saying that Merchant and his Commission had done the best they know how. He said, “If Mr. Dorsey had a better solution to this pollution problem when he was in office, I wish he had done something about it. Because, if he had, you and I wouldn’t have to be here sweating out the problem in a critical state.”¹⁴²

To The Editor

Enterprise July 21,1966

Dear Sir,

Your editorial of July 14th is entitled “Stand up or shut up.” I will continue to stand up and inform the electorate as best I can of the true facts.

First: Your characterizations of me and the candidates associate with me as “unemployed politicians,” and your description of our philosophies as those of “hack politicians” are vague and scurrilous. You hope to obscure what every resident of the county can easily ascertain for himself, namely, that the three candidates for county Commissioner seeking office with me are

¹⁴² The Enterprise, August 11, 1966

substantial, responsible businessmen in their respective communities. I myself am actively engaged in the practice of law. My concern over the mounting costs of county government led me to resign my position as Assistant Attorney... General so I could... oppose Senator Raley and his so-called "New Leadership" ticket, because I hold them answerable for those costs.

Second: You suggest that my objections to these rising costs somehow mean that I am opposed to better schools for our county. My record on education adequately refutes your suggestion. That record has not been given fair publicity in your newspaper. Rising educational standards and costs cannot amount for the shocking increase in county government costs. Those costs have doubled, from 1,600,000 to 3,800,000, since the "New Leadership" took office. Educational costs are only a reasonable share of the increase, not the sole reason, as you try to imply. May I also point out that the debt of the county has increased from 2,466,536 when the "New Leadership" took office to 5,626,830 at the present? And that this indebtedness will increase as some of the special programs initiated by the "New Leadership" become effective?

I strongly endorse your statement, sir, that your newspaper has a duty to obtain and make known the real facts in any matter of public concern. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present those facts which somehow were over- looked in your editorial.

Very truly yours,

Walter B. Dorsey¹⁴³

WALTER DORSEY

Mary's County, Senator Raley stated that he would restore a respect for the courts, That he would have vigorous law enforcement within this county. Much of what has occurred under his administration is strong evidence of the breach of that pledge. One of the very first acts of new leadership was to allow a gambling casino to be operated in the very shadow of Charlotte Hall School on the main highway entering into our beautiful St. Mary's County. This gambling casino was operated by racketeers; notorious from Las Vegas to New York, from San Juan to Havana, one of these racketeers was Charles 'The Blade' Tourine, a well known hoodlum, entrenched in the hierarchy of the costra nostra, as the mafia is known in this county. When the local deputy sheriff tried to invoke the law against this casino, the New Leadership office holders gave him no help. He then sought the aid of the



¹⁴³ The Enterprise, July 26, 1966

FBI and the MD State Police. Assisted by them he later conducted a raid of the gambling casino. This raid netted professional gamblers from all parts of the nation. Immediately the grand jury was re-convened by Judge Dorsey, who instructed them to conduct a sweeping investigation. Judge Dorsey pointed out that this was no Saturday night poker game, but a highly organized gambling operation, conducted by professional operators. The grand jury returned indictments against Tourline and Joseph Nesline. But then, unbelievable as it sounds, the New Leadership state's attorney refused to prosecute these known gamblers and gangsters. At this point the Attorney prosecuting these offenders, as he was sworn to do, the New Leadership state's attorney waged a battle on behalf of the criminals and arranged to have the charges against them dropped by placing their case on a stet docket. But the federal government, recognizing the seriousness of the offense, and knowing the reputation of the two men involved, has refused to drop the matter. Thus the two men are now under federal indictment on charges arising from the St. Mary's County incident. This case is scheduled for trial in September in the US Federal District Court. A sad aftermath of this incident is the fact that the deputy sheriff who conducted this raid, and who was the only trained officer on the sheriff's staff, was summarily dismissed from the sheriff's department. Not one member of the new leadership team came to his aid to prevent this tragic travesty. Where is the respect for the courts shown here? As for law enforcement, an examination of the magistrate's docket and the circuit court docket reveals that more than three times as many criminal cases are being dismissed today without trial than before the New Leadership took office. I call this vigorous vote getting. It is hardly vigorous law enforcement.

We have all heard the story of the boy who cried 'Wolf, Wolf' many times. I put it to you that you can believe him. There is a Wolf on the loose. But it's not where he is pointing. No indeed. It's where he doesn't want us to look. The name of the Wolf is the New Leadership. Thank you.¹⁴⁴

J. Frank Raley: My first campaign for New Leadership in 1960, I campaigned primarily for change, without being too specific. When the specifics came in, they didn't like it, so I wasn't re-elected. The big specific being slot machines, and civil rights, which I didn't expect was going to be a big issue, it lost me votes – it wasn't talked about, but it lost me votes. I took a very obviously strong stand for civil rights, and it was in the sixties now we made those changes where we did away with those state's laws that stopped black people from voting. The slot machine people, though, don't want any change. Slot machine people have very little public virtue [laughing]. They just don't want any involvement, they want everything open and free.

It was a head-on fight of two forces and two ways of thinking at that time. We wanted to make changes. We also carried a bit of anti-gambling stigma. We were the first ones that ultimately said no to any gambling, to legalized slot machine gambling. Our platform that year, I remember it very well, was that we were going to put in a lot more controls and taxations.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴⁴ Walter Dorsey, September 8, 1966 Press Release

¹⁴⁵ J. Frank Raley, Oral history, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives



J. Frank Raley (left) & Walter Dorsey (middle)

J. Frank Raley: I'd miscalculated on being re-elected but I never cared. I didn't want to be in politics anyhow. The last thing I wanted to do was spend my life in the state senate. Nothing I ever do will they be able to accuse me of profiteering out of politics. I don't want to. I don't need to. I say to businessmen, 'If we put these things together this will make a rich economy. You'll get your return.' When we put in sewage, when we put in roads, or when we build a museum, we make a richer community that brings more dollars for business development.¹⁴⁶

Raley and Mattingly Endorse Dorsey



Senator J. Frank Raley and former Senator Joseph A. Mattingly join to endorse Walter B. Dorsey and the Democratic platform, and urge all Democrats to unite for Victory.



Optimistic Democratic Central Committee members and candidates take time out from a busy campaign work session "to smile for the birdie." Seated around the table from left to right: Walter B. Dorsey, John Hanson Briscoe, Joseph E. Bean, Joseph D. Weiner, Benjamin H. Burroughs, Jr., Mary R. Bell, William D. Boyd, Sterling Tennison, Malsom A. Guy, Jr., Maguire Mattingly, Jr., and George R. Aud. Standing are Francis G. Cecil, J. Wilmer Bowles and Marvin C. Joy.

¹⁴⁶ J. Frank Raley Interview by John D. Krugler, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

Paul Bailey came out of political retirement in 1966. And it led to one of the most ironic twists of his political life: a race between himself and the son of his old friend and political ally, Phil Dorsey. “That was a strange situation. It was a real hardship, but it was a hardship which can only be overcome by understanding. I didn’t want to run anymore. I had a lot of property, which I had always had. I had plenty of law work, and my health was perfect. I wasn’t playing music professionally, but I still played every day and enjoyed it and had a beautiful life.” Judge Dorsey and his wife Dorothy came to his house and asked him to run again. They assured him their son Walter wasn’t running. “Friendship of people down here is very hard to define. It is mostly in favors, kindness, playing cards together, many facets of friendship. I almost had to agree to run to get them to leave.”

Mr. Bailey agrees with Sen. Raley’s assessment of the election. “I was being put in there by my friends to stop him eventually.” He added, “He should feel sour about that. That’s the sort of thing that had always kept me out of politics”.

Walter Dorsey surprised everyone by filing his candidacy at the very last minute. Mr. Dorsey never explained to Mr. Bailey why he filed. “Walter and I were friends, don’t forget that. It goes way back. When Walter was studying law, I was in the Senate, and he and I were great friends. Phil got a hold of me right away and said we had to talk. I said, ‘You got me into something.’ I said, ‘I’m not blaming you; Walter fooled both of us.’ I said, ‘It’s his privilege. It has put me in a hell of a spot. I have more to do than run against your son for the state Senate.’ Mr. Bailey refused to pull out. He said to Judge Dorsey, ‘I’ve been a sincere and faithful friend of yours and everybody else in this county. But I just can’t do it. It’s just so plain a deal that people won’t appreciate it.’ Mr. Bailey said Mr. Dorsey said, ‘But I can explain it. Walter did it and got us in a mess, but I can explain it.’ Mr. Bailey said he responded, ‘Phil, you can explain anything you want, but I’m not going to do it.’”

Mr. Bailey also agreed with Mr. Raley’s assessment that Samuel “Buddy” Linton siphoned votes in Charles County (the senate district included both counties in those days) away from Mr. Raley, and Mr. Dorsey eked out a close win. Head to head, Mr. Bailey and the son of his long-time friend battled in the political arena. The race caused problems with many county families and friends, because both of the candidates were from the same political camp. Mr. Bailey was the victor.



Walter Dorsey and John Hanson
Briscoe

“All my life, I’ve been involved in controversy,” he said. Politics is like a law case, he said. “J. Frank – I sympathize with him thoroughly. He was hurt; they went out to hurt him. They went out to defeat him, and I was used in that way. But I was willing to be used because I felt we should, my friends and I. I felt like I had more than maybe some others did. You’re never sure. There’s no machine. Forget the word “machine.” In this county, all it ever meant was how many people were on your side. It was how many votes you were going to get. I don’t see any deep

philosophical difference between Frank Raley, Aleck Loker, John Briscoe, Alan Coad. It was some personality in it, but I was never

engulfed in it. I was never bound to any of them in any way except I felt not bound to Phil Dorsey but to his friends. They had been kind to me. They had elected me several times.

“Politics to me means a vote, the people’s right to choose.” He goes to the Black’s Law Dictionary and reads, “Political – pertaining or relating to the policy or the administration of government, state or national...pertaining to or incidental to the exercise of the functions vested in those charged with the conduct of government.” He said, “That isn’t the connotation that newspapers, radio and TV give to it. They regard it as something insidious and under the table. But it isn’t at all.” He added, “It really doesn’t mean doing something personal for one person at all. What it really means in general terms is electing government.”¹⁴⁷

John Weiner: Phil Dorsey in '66 asked Paul Bailey, who was a friend of the Dorsey family, to run in order to beat J. Frank Raley. And Paul agreed and he filed. He filed as Republican because he was Republican. After he filed, Walter Dorsey decided he was going to run too; of course he was a Democrat, he filed as a Democrat for the seat J. Frank Raley had. He asked Paul Bailey, “Paul, you just drop out, I’m going to go ahead and do this.” Paul had too much pride and said “No, you asked me to run, I’m not going to back out of it.” As it turned out Dorsey beats J. Frank Raley in the primary and it’s Walter Dorsey against Paul Bailey who were friends from the same political group. Paul Bailey beat Walter Dorsey at a time when no other Republican could get elected in St.Mary’s County . Politics was very personal.¹⁴⁸

John Hanson Briscoe: Their style of politics was totally opposite. Paul Bailey would talk to a tree if he thought he could get something out of it. He knew no strangers, democrat, republican, black, or white. J. Frank was totally – well, he got elected because he had a lot of people working for him. He was almost apolitical; just had no feel for how to, you know, get people to like him and to politic.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁷ The Enterprise

¹⁴⁸ John Weiner Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

¹⁴⁹ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



The candidates gather. In front (l. to r.) Fran Harris, State Central Committee; Olive Bradburn, Delegate Convention; John Slade, Delegate Convention; Malcolm Guy, State Central Committee; and Marvin C. Joy, State Central Committee. In back, standing (l. to r.) Senator J. Frank Raley, State Senate; David Sayre, Democratic Central Committee; and John Hanson Briscoe, House of Delegates. Not shown are Henry J. Fowler, House of Delegates; and Mac Mattingly, Democratic Central Committee.



Former Senator Paul Bailey

To the Honorable Senator J. Frank Raley, of St. Mary's County, upon the occasion of his 65th milestone,

Dear Senator Raley, I sincerely regret not being able to be among the celebrants at the luncheon party, but please always remember what we are so thankful for upon this occasion, and have always been so thankful for, realizing as we do the many joys and great blessings you, by your presence, your life, and works, have given us, the citizens of St. Mary's, and our whole state!

Your totally unblemished and unselfish personal, business, and political life and leadership to us. Your quiet yet joyful, genial, and useful persona and service to all the citizens of this great county. Your love of, and promotion of, a clean, healthy, wholesome, pollution free outdoors, and all the pleasures that accompany same. And so we are happy for you on this day and all the many many days you have been with us and thank our creator and you for the privilege!!

Happy 65th Birthday J. Frank!!

-Don't get old!!!!

Respectfully, Paul Bailey¹⁵⁰

¹⁵⁰ Birthday Greetings from Senator Paul Bailey to Senator J. Frank Raley, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

CHAPTER TWENTY: CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, 1966- 1969

THE EVENING SUN, BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1967



What Would Webster Say?

Del. John H. Briscoe, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, learns that one missing natural resource at the

Capitol in Annapolis is a good speller. He hopes no citizens will be shocked into grabbing for their dictionaries.

BRISCOE FILES FOR SECOND TERM AS HOUSE DELEGATE

John Hanson Briscoe, one of the county's two representatives in the Maryland House of Delegates, filed for re-election Tuesday. After signing his certificate of candidacy, Briscoe issued this statement:

"The three and one-half years I have served in the General Assembly are the most gratifying to me, in that in my small way I could contribute something to the betterment of St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland.

"I sincerely feel that over the past three and one-half years St. Mary's County has progressed greatly through the efforts and teamwork of our Annapolis Delegation and the County Commissioners."

Senator J. Frank Raley came out in support of Briscoe. He said, "In 1963 when John Briscoe entered the House of Delegates, he was a young lawyer, just out of school. In these past

few years John, who is a practical, realistic and fair man, quickly rose to become one of the leaders in the House of Delegates. Our county is fortunate to have this representation in Annapolis.”¹⁵¹



The people of St. Mary's County have given me a vote of confidence in the primary and general election just past. It gives me the feeling that I am working in the direction that most of the citizens want, and I will continue to work for St. Mary's County in an impartial manner, trying to be responsive to the needs of the people. I want to thank those who took their time to support and vote for me without whose help I would have been unable to convey my feelings about the problems and issues facing St. Mary's County. I want all of the people to know that I will make myself available to them for any problems they might have in the months and years ahead.

John Hanson Briscoe

¹⁵¹ The Enterprise, June, 1966

Delegate John Hanson Briscoe reports that the 1966 session of the Maryland General Assembly was very fruitful for St. Mary's County and Southern Maryland. Many bills were passed which are of great significance to the future economic and social growth of the County: The 10 million dollar Patuxent River Bridge, state assistance in construction and maintenance of public sewage facilities, authorization of the county to look into the possibility of constructing a port authority, expansion of Tri-County Council, authorization of county to purchase Federal Railroad, establish St. Mary's City Commission with state funds for preservation and restoration of Historic St. Mary's City, require removal of unsightly abandoned ships in the Potomac River, control of water pollution through state study, require legislative council to study problems of the tobacco industry in Southern Maryland, and prohibit display of junked automobiles on or near county roads.¹⁵²

BRISCOE CALMLY DISCUSSES CHARGES BY DORSEY MACHINE

John Hanson Briscoe, in a calm and reasoned talk Saturday over stations WKIK and QPTX, replied to the questions and insinuations that are being raised by the Dorsey machine against the Eight District (Lexington Park) sewage disposal plant in the closing weeks of the campaigning.

Briscoe said the law had been passed in 1957 but little could be done until Raley, Briscoe and Fowler passed legislation to put teeth to the existing law and brought it up to state standards.

Briscoe warned that the Dorsey referendum, if passed, will delay this vital project for a few years and could very well cause us to lose the \$1.6 million of Federal and state grants which have been allotted to the project. If these are lost the taxpayers will have to make up the difference.

Briefly Briscoe made the following points:

- The Eighth District was picked because it has the greatest growth and the resulting pollution problems.
- There is no secrecy. The plats and maps are on file at the land records office.
- There is no cost to the rest of the country. The \$2 million that will be raised by the bond issue shall by law be paid by those using the system. Briscoe called attention to the Leonardtown sewage system, which is self-supporting.
- There is a grave need. The first part of this project will eliminate much pollution now going into the St. Mary's River, one of our most important sources of seed oysters
- The areas to be covered by the sewer lines were laid out by an engineer with 44 years experience. He has stated publicly that the proposed routes are the most economical that can be followed.

¹⁵² 'Briscoe Cited For Work On 1966 Crime Bill', April 14, 1966

Briscoe concluded by warning that if this plan is defeated, pollution will spread like cancer; our creeks and rivers will close; property values will be lowered; swimming will not be possible; and the seafood industry and the health of our people will be seriously injured. He called on all people to support this project for the sake of clean waters and the preservation of natural resources.¹⁵³



Discussing the format of the Young Democrats club Wednesday night are from left to right: Dick Cooper, Delegate John Briscoe, Joe Bean, Jim Kent and John Slade. The meeting was held at the Leonardtown Wharf. Delegate Briscoe was the guest speaker for the evening. The discussion was informal and Mr. Briscoe spoke on organization of a Young Democrats club in St. Mary's County. An August meeting is slated.



John Hanson Briscoe, attorney from Leonardtown and Campaign manager for Finan in St. Mary's County, greets Thomas B. Finan, a gubernatorial candidate, Friday evening at the Belvedere Motor Inn in Lexington during the open house. Left to right; Francis "Bill" Burch, candidate for attorney general, Finan, Louis Goldstein, incumbent Comptroller, and Briscoe.

¹⁵³ The Enterprise, Aug 11, 1966

THE ENTERPRISE, Lexington Park, Maryland 8
Thursday, January 27, 1966



St. Mary's County members of the Maryland House of Delegates, John Hanson Briscoe and Henry J. Fowler, at their desks in the House chamber on opening day, Jan. 19. (Staff Photo).

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE: CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIROMENTAL MATTERS, 1969-1971

Samuel Baldwin (SB): You were John's campaign treasurer, campaign manager?

Jim Kenney (JK): Well, in the beginning probably everything. And I was the publicity chairman for the Democratic ticket. I had been President of the Young Democrats over in Salisbury when I was coming along, so I was a little bit of a political junkie at that point. But when John and I became partners I became his treasurer, but also we did our own campaign stuff. I did a fair amount of the writing, the organization of the ads and that sort of thing. It was just one thing I enjoyed doing.

SB: What was campaigning like for him?

JK: John was pretty good about staying under the radar and he didn't have to worry as much about Charles County, not that he would necessarily get hurt in Charles County, but he could concentrate on St. Mary's. If I recall the first campaign wasn't particularly earth shaking. I doubt if we spent 2 or \$3,000. I mean we may have had one or two contributions but most of it was just home money (laughs). It just didn't take that much and John really did not like the politicking part of it. He loved being around people to a certain degree and he got pretty good at it. But I don't think it was anything he ever looked upon with a great deal of relish.¹⁵⁴



Samuel Baldwin: This is "Politicking in Leonardtown Square."

John Hanson Briscoe: He's called "Shorty." See, this is a Monday. I'd have lunch at Bailey's and talk to my friends and then come back on Friday.

SB: Did you have to do much politicking here?

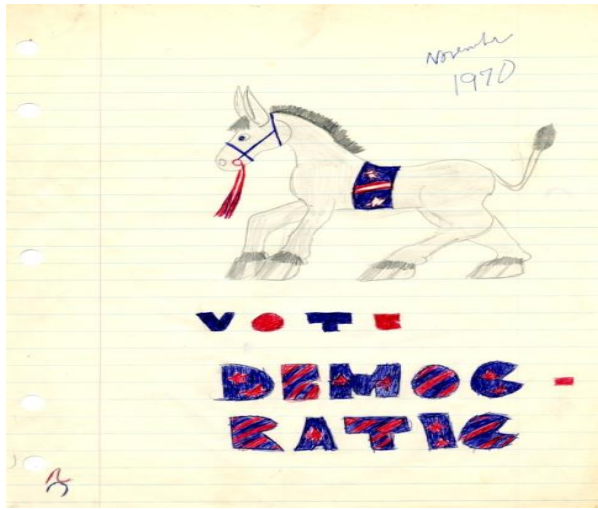
John Hanson Briscoe: Not much. Just be there. See, these people knew me. I didn't have to do anything. I mean I'd

go and have breakfast and see all the players.

¹⁵⁴ Jim Kenney Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: Now, a picture of you, Sylvia, and your parents with the campaign poster in the back, “Briscoe for Delegate.”

John Hanson Briscoe: We had a little coffee over there at Sotterley. We’re starting a little second campaign there.



Samuel Baldwin: November of 1970. “Vote Democratic.”

John Hanson Briscoe: Frank Barley, Marty’s daddy, had a dear friend who lived over in Kingston, and he did that for me. Just a nice little gesture. I had a lot of friends who did that kind of stuff; they liked that.



Samuel Baldwin: And then “Briscoe, House of Delegates” - another friend?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, you know campaign material, yeah.



John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, the good ol' days of politics. George Guy would bring these Clydesdales in town. And he called and said, "come on out and see them."¹⁵⁵

Marvin Kaminetz: When Larry Millison had become a county commissioner and then decided he wanted to run for House of Delegates, his campaign adviser, I don't know whether he was technically his campaign manager, but his advisor was clearly Walter Dorsey. No ifs, ands, or buts. He had aspirations. He said, now this a quote from Larry to me, "I really wasn't running against John. I wanted the second seat. I wanted Henry Fowler's seat." Okay, but who does he attack politically, which is clearly Walter Dorsey written all over it. That's his style, okay? Claiming conflict of interest with our law firm with the Metropolitan Commission. He attacks John. So, Larry sort of apologizes to me for going against the firm. You know, if he wants to attack something that John voted on or John's record or something like that, that's fair game. But to accuse us, our firm, of doing something dishonest and a serious conflict of interest, well that was all put up by Walter. So, when Larry apologizes to me here's what he says, he says, "Well, Walter told me the best way to get elected was to go at that man at the top." John was the man at the top, okay? "No, you probably won't beat John but you don't want to attack the ones who probably aren't going to win. John's going to be the one that's going to win and only two were going to get elected."¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁵ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

¹⁵⁶ Marvin Kaminetz Personal Interview by Samuel C. P. Baldwin, Jr.

BRISCOE CLEARS THE AIR

The public has been overwhelmed by certain accusations thrown at me by one of my opponents. It is not in my personal make-up to engage in name calling. But the charges which are being leveled at me and my associates, Jim Kenney, Neal Myerberg, Marvin Kaminetz and John Slade, have been malicious, unfair and hurtful to them, their families and their law careers. I must answer these charges with facts.

These are half-truths and innuendoes, cast at me and my associates by a person who has more interests to protect and more questions that bear hiding than anyone in this campaign. Although I do not like contests where issues are masked behind character assassinations, so many people have been harmed by Larry Millison's charges - THAT I MUST EXPOSE HIM AND HIS ACCUSATIONS TO THE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUDGEMENT OF YOU, THE CONCERNED VOTING PUBLIC!!

FIRST: Let me respond to Millison's accusations:

1. Millison asks why I have refused to disclose the fees my law firm has earned this year from the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission.

THE TRUTH IS - These fees have been, are, and will always be a matter of public record. Anyone who wishes to, including Millison, may examine the public records of the Commission to learn of any and all expenses paid by it. For the record, since 1966, my firm of 5 lawyers has received an average per year of \$3,571.01 for legal services rendered the Commission.

2. Millison indicates that the State Roads Commission won't tell him that my firm has received a certain amount of legal fees from it.

THE TRUTH IS - The records of the State Roads Commission, which anyone can check, indicate that the information about our fees was made directly available to him. And, despite the fact that he had this information, he has still deliberately made a very large MISSTATEMENT of these fees. For 5 years, up to September 3, 1970, this firm of 5 lawyers has received from the State of Maryland legal fees in the amount of \$8,130.25. IT IS A FACT that the Attorney-General sends title searches for roads to be built to every attorney in this county who is willing to do the work. Even Millison's own attorney, Charles Norris, has received these fees.

3. Millison wants to know what fees my firm has received with reference to the pipeline right of way.

THE TRUTH IS - The Baltimore Sun never accused me of conflict of interest, as he has accused. This is another way in which Millison uses half-truths to his advantage. What the newspaper actually said was:

"A Legislative Council subcommittee moved today to block plans by the Steuart Refining Company to build a new oil refinery at Piney Point which opponents say could pollute the Bay... THE RESOLUTION WAS SUPPORTED BY DELEGATE JOHN HANSON BRISCOE (D., ST. MARY'S), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL, despite the fact that his law firm is representing a company seeking to build a pipeline to the Steuart land..."

There is nothing improper with my firm's representing a private company where we are only responsible for searching titles. WE DO NOT REPRESENT THE STEUART PETROLEUM COMPANY, DESPITE MILLISON'S IRRESPONSIBLE CHARGES, IN ANY MATTER RELATING TO AN EXPANSION OF ITS REFINERY - BUT CAN THE SAME THING BE SAID FOR MILLISON'S ATTORNEY, CHARLES NORRIS, AND HIS POLITICAL MENTOR AND SPEECH WRITER, WALTER DORSEY, BOTH OF WHOM ARE PAID ATTORNEYS FOR STEUART!!!

BUT WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT MY OPPONENT?
LET HIM ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Since he is so concerned about how I make my living, why doesn't he disclose his large financial interests to let the voters see if his election will result in a conflict of interest?
2. Isn't he really against the Metropolitan Commission because he will be required, as the largest single land owner, to pay a great deal of money for water and sewerage, AND THEREFORE REDUCE HIS RENTAL PROFITS?
3. He speaks of protecting the interests of all of the people - but whose interests was he protecting when he, as one of the county's largest pool table owners, sent his attorney, Charles Norris, to me to request the introduction of a bill which would have avoided taxes on coin-operated pool tables? ISN'T THIS BACK-ROOM MANIPULATION? ARE THESE THE TAXES HE WANTS TO LOWER?

WHY DOESN'T MY OPPONENT OFFER THE VOTERS ANYTHING POSITIVE
IN HIS CAMPAIGN? Obviously, the answer is very clear --

In his very own words, he said, after filing for
the House of Delegates:

I CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO RUN BECAUSE
I'VE GOT TOO MANY INTERESTS TO PROTECT!!

Is he fighting me so hard because he knows I WON'T PROTECT HIS
INTERESTS OVER THE GOOD OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY!!

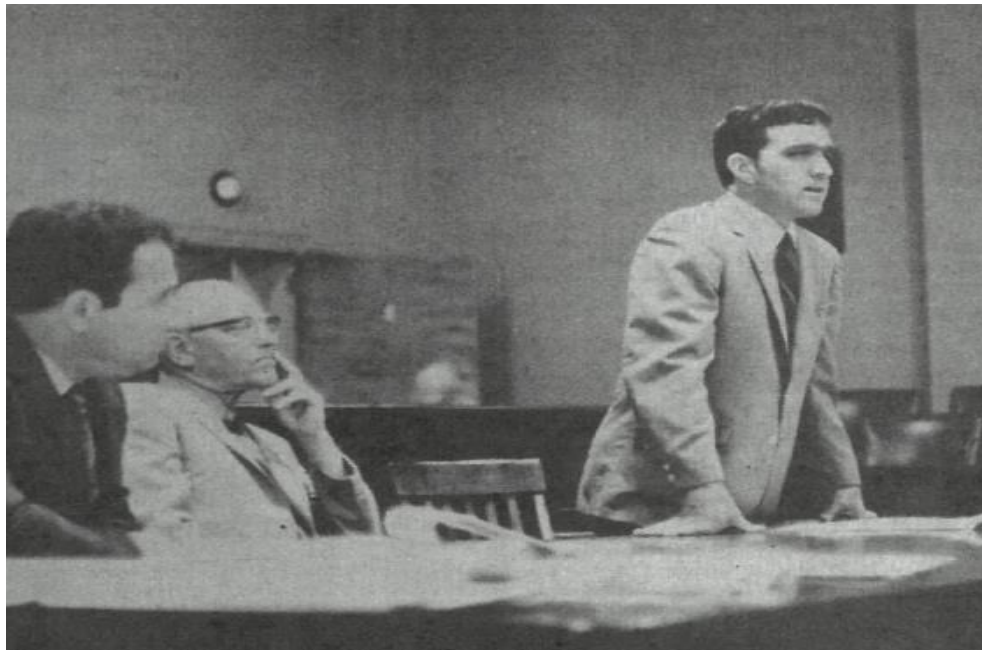
Remember:

"...SHOW ME A MAN WHO BELITTLES ANOTHER...
WHO IS NOT CHARITABLE...AND I'LL SHOW YOU A MAN
WHO IS NOT FIT TO LEAD..."
Vince Lombardi

VOTE FOR JOHN HANSON BRISCOE
"Exceptional Leadership for St. Mary's"



John Hanson Briscoe: I wanted to debate Millison; he kept coming out with all these charges and things that I wasn't doing and so forth. And he put ads in the paper which weren't true, but he had a right to do that. And Jim Kenney and I said we've got to stop this, let's have a debate and let him bring out all these terrible things that he thinks I've done and why I shouldn't be elected as a delegate. And how were we going to do this. I decided to challenge him to a debate on the front steps of the courthouse, but then we decided that was a little hokie. Weather might be bad. So we negotiated to come into the very courtroom where I later presided for 16 years. It was good because George Sparling's father was a good moderator and I'd get up there and run my mouth and then Millison would run his. And it was a good debate because Millison wasn't a good debater, not that I was great, but he didn't have anything to say. It was very effective. I basically said "Mr. Millison, get out what you want to talk to me about and put in the newspaper because I want to have the opportunity to challenge you." See, he brought out this ad, something about this big (motions), and said "Briscoe, Kenney, and Kaminetz is doing this and that." Very effective, we had a very effective campaign because we knew who we were dealing with.¹⁵⁷



DELEGATES RACE- Del. Briscoe, during one of the meet-the-candidates meetings in 1970, faces candidate Larry Millison, left, as moderator George Sparling, looks on.

¹⁵⁷ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

Steuart Petroleum

Samuel Baldwin: Tell me about Steuart Petroleum.

John Hanson Briscoe: They established a storage area for oil. They'd have barges come in and send the oil up onto the shore. They'd have these storage tanks and trucks would come and distribute around the Washington D.C. area. See, they were big time. When they first came, it wasn't that bad. People were raising hell because they had all these trucks and leakage and all that stuff. When it became controversial was when they wanted to put in the oil refinery. Oh yeah. Paul Bailey and I worked in the legislature at the same time, and we were against it, very much against it. It ended up on a referendum and people voted not to have the refinery. Which went overwhelmingly against because they figured oil spills and all kinds of stuff. And Steuart spent a lot of money advertising and lobbying for it big time. And of course it put pressure on us up in Annapolis, Paul Bailey and I and whoever else, you know; 'this is going to bring all these jobs down here' and all this stuff. And it was tough. Actually, Steuart was one of our clients (laughs) at the time. But, yeah very controversial; and it just didn't come off.¹⁵⁸



The Steuart Petroleum Facility In
Piney Point

¹⁵⁸ John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

C .Clarke Raley: When I arrived we were just beginning to see the very, very glimmer of the beginnings of the planning and zoning activity. It used to be said that our planning and zoning person was a great, big, red haired woman and she carried the office files around in a bra. She was the one who gave a permit to Steuart Petroleum to build a refinery. “Oh, you need a permit to build a refinery today? Well fine, here [laughter].” Oh, how things have changed.¹⁵⁹

George Aud, County Commissioner, released a statement this week in which he stated that permitting the Piney Point project to proceed would be “a safe and financially intelligent decision.”

Aud is the only Commissioner to officially endorse the project since Elliot Burch, Commission Chairman, ordered a stay of their original approval.

His statement is as follows:

“I have been attacked by the Potomac River Association and some others because of my position in favoring Steuart Petroleum’s expansion plans for Piney Point. I reaffirm my stand in support of such expansion plan and would like to state my reasons for this decision clearly and explicitly.

“We in St.Mary’s County face serious financial difficulties in the immediate future. A projection of the basic needs of the County for the next fiscal year indicates that in order to provide our present services a deficit in excess of \$1,000,000.00 could result, which for practical purposes means that our tax rate must be increased by one Dollar. When this is added to our present rate the taxpayers of this County will be paying \$3.30 unless we find other sources from which to raise tax revenues.

“I, as your County Commissioner, oppose any unnecessary tax increase. However, last year we in the County Commissioners office found it necessary to increase the real estate tax by approximately 17% in order to provide the services which the public demanded. This was in addition to the 50% surcharge previously levied. I know that unless some other substantial source of tax revenue is found that additional tax increase must be levied. I strongly oppose this but we must raise the money to meet county expenses which we have attempted to maintain as low as practicable.

“These increased tax rates are necessitated by several factors: (1) The loss of tax revenue from slot machines amounting to \$300,000.00 per annum. (2) If the rumored cutback in Federal funds for impacted school areas occurs, this will amount to an additional reduction in receipts of \$120,000.00 (3) The probable cutback of expenditures at Patuxent Naval Air Station which will necessarily bring about an additional tax loss to the county. (4) The State’s estimate of County share of income tax revenue being approximately \$88,000.00 less than anticipated.

¹⁵⁹ C. Clarke Raley Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

“All of the above factors result in an estimated loss of tax revenue in the amount of \$508,000.00.

“Not only is the County faced with this substantial loss of revenue, we also have a partially met obligation, already over a year delayed, to further increase the salaries of our County teachers.

“If we in the County, which is increasingly becoming a commuting community, are not going to tax ourselves at increasing rates in the future, a situation which works particular hardship on many of our citizens, such as retirees, who live on fixed incomes—we must permit selected industry to come into the County. In no other way can we broaden our tax base, establish a stable and balanced economy, and permit our citizens to have the County services which they rightfully need and demand.

“Piney Point is exactly the type of capital intensive industry which St.Mary’s County needs. The company has already been here for 19 years and thus is not even introducing anything basically foreign to our economic structure.

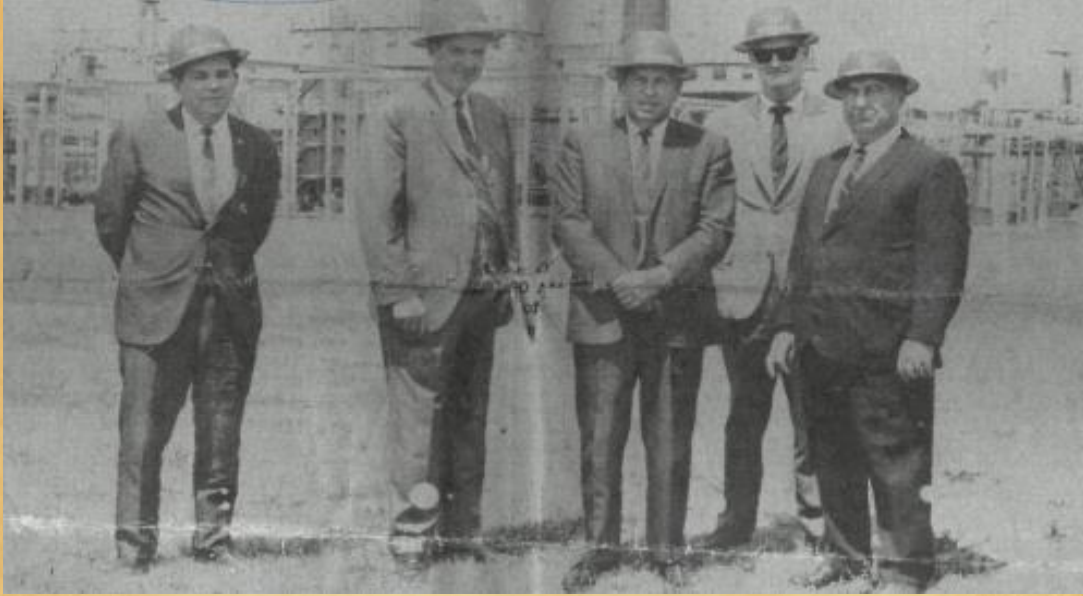
“Official estimates show that the annual real and personal property taxes accruing to the County as a result of the expanded Piney Point operation will amount to \$834,900. Moreover, the Steuart installation will not cost the County a single dime, since no new public services such as roads, water, and sewage will be required.

“As a County Commissioner, its my responsibility to ascertain, on behalf of the people of the County, that nothing being built at Piney Point will contaminate the air or water, or interfere with our present seafood industry or recreational activities.

“I am convinced, after studying the new air and water pollution laws, both federal and state, that these laws have teeth and will be enforced by expert government authorities. Furthermore, after personally examining the new technologies which have been developed to eliminate industrial waste of all kinds, especially petroleum products, I am convinced that Steuart’s new facility can easily meet the most stringent anti-pollution requirements. Personal observation by on-site trips to similar installations bear out this Conclusion:

“We in St.Mary’s County will be making a sound, safe and financially intelligent decision if we permit the Piney Point project to proceed.” ¹⁶⁰

¹⁶⁰ Thursday, August 15, 1968, St.Mary’s Beacon



The County Commissioners toured a refinery in Delaware Monday that is similar to the one proposed by Steuart at Piney Point. Shown (Left to Right) are George Aud Commissioner; Wilmer Bowles, Commissioner; Oliver Guyther, Attorney; John Mills, Director of the Tri-County Council; and Elliot Burch, Chairman of the County Commissioners.

“Refinery Move Is Debated”

A proposed General Assembly resolution designed to block plans by the Steuart Refining Company to build a new oil refinery at Piney Point recieved a friendly hearing today before the subcommittee on Natural Resources. They put off action on the measure until next month , but memebtrs left little doubt during the four hour hearing that the resolution would pass. More than 27 spokesmen for Bay area civic groups testified in support of the measures, warning that construction of the topping plant and desulphurization would endanger marine life in the region.

“Three in Opposition”

Only three persons appeared in opposition to the resolution; two spokesmen for the refining company, and William A. Pate, director of the state Economic Development Commission, who warned that it might discourage the industry. The measure, introduced during the last legislative session, would ask Walter K. Hickel, the Secretary to the Interior to deny an application which Steuart has submitted for permission to import residual oil. Officials of the company have said that construction of the facility would be uneconomical unless foreign oil could be brought in. Federal regulations forbid U.S firms to import crude oil without permission. The Steuart application was filed last year after an earlier request by the Washington-based company to establish a duty-free “foreign trade zone” at Piney Point was shelved because of local opposition. The current application was first apporved by St.Marys County’s board of zoning officials who

say the \$60 million facility would provide the county with an annual payroll of 1.2 million and bring in more than 800,000 in taxes for the southern Maryland area.

“Isn’t worth Price”

But conservation groups contend that pollution from the plant would kill fish and oil spills could spoil beaches. “It just isn’t worth the price,” a spokesman for one group said today. During the hearing, Leonard Steuart, the company vice president, told the subcommittee that the facility his firm is planning is a “modern one,” where the possibility of pollution-and-spills- would be “minimal.” “It’s easy to be against this plant,” he told the panel. “But it takes independent, analytical and rigorously objective thinking to be in favor of it.”

“Cannot Be Built”

His contention was directly opposed by another witness, Chalmer G. Kirkbride, a chemical engineer, who asserted the pollution-free refineries “cannot be built... because technology is just not available.”

“I can assure you,” he said, “That if the... company is permitted to build an oil refinery at Piney Point, they will pollute... not only the Potomac River, but the Chesapeake Bay.” Mr. Steuart seemed to generate some sympathy from the panel members when, supported by Mr. Pate, he charged that the resolution was “unfair and discriminatory” because it “singled out” his firm by name.

Delegate John H. Briscoe, chairman of the subcommittee, said later he thought a “general statement” might be more appropriate. But he said “That won’t alter the thrust of the measure.” At one point, Mr. Pate drew fire from the subcommittee, when he fought against angering the industry on the grounds that the bay area “may need” it to survive. His remarks brought a retort from Senator Paul J. Bailey; “Do you think any amount of money would pay us for losing clean water and clean air?”¹⁶¹

THE STEUART PETROLEUM COMPANY DEEP WATER TERMINAL

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¹⁶¹ Baltimore Sunpapers, 6/19/69

¹⁶² Steuart Petroleum publication

DATA ASKED ON OIL SPILL

State Agency Calls Steuart Firm to hearing July 17

Annapolis, July 9. The state Department of Water Resources has summoned officials of the Steuart Oil Company to a hearing next week to explain the circumstances surrounding a recent oil spill at Piney Point, Md. The Steuart firm was ordered to file a written report on the spill and appear at the hearing at 10 A.M. July 17. The department will try to determine whether the spill was an unavoidable accident. The spill occurred at about 11 P.M. A company spokesman said about 200 gallons of no. 6 bunker oil had been dumped into the river when an 8-inch rubber, wire-wrapped hose split. Oil was being pumped between the German tanker Olivia and the company's bulk storage tanks ashore.

Estimates Called Too Low

A Coast Guard source said the spill was between 500 and 1,000 gallons. Area residents say both estimates are far too low. Mrs. Mary L. Jansson, of Valley Lee, said today "The oil is still there in quantities" despite company efforts to remove it from the water, beaches, wharves and piers. She said she took a sample of a dozen of her oysters after the cleanup effort started. "We found two dead and eight so reeking with oil that they couldn't be eaten. Heaven knows what happened to the rest." Mrs. Jansson has "about 10 acres" of oyster beds. "We examined some crabs and found a couple with their lungs full of oil," she continued, adding that "the fishermen are complaining that the crabs have all disappeared." Mrs. Jansson said that despite an all-out company effort to contain the oil slick, "we know it went up the river as far as St. Mary's City".

The Steuart firm hired a number of teenagers to shovel up oil-soaked beach sand and grass and to swab down piers and wharves with solvent. A meeting with area residents was scheduled for tonight at St. George's church in Valley Lee to decide whether to sue for damages.¹⁶³

Study Chairman Is Linked To Piney Point Pipeline

By: Michael Parks

The law firm of the chairman of a legislative committee now considering the Steuart Petroleum Company's proposal is representing a firm planning to build an oil pipeline from the refinery to a power plant.

¹⁶³ Baltimore Sunpapers, 7/10/69

But Delegate John Hanson Briscoe (D., St. Mary's), chairman of the Legislative council's Natural Resources Committee, dismissed the possibility yesterday that his law firm's connection with Steuart might represent a conflict of interest.

"The pipeline will be a common carrier-anyone can use it," he said. "Its construction is not contingent on Steuart's refinery being approved."

MOST OF WORK BY PARTNER

Mr. Briscoe said that most of the legal work for the pipe-building firm, Pace Pipe Company of Washington, is being done by his law partner, James A. Kenney, 3d.

"He talked with me when he accepted the client," Mr. Briscoe said, "and assured me that there would be no possible conflict because of Pace's plans to build the pipeline no matter whether Steuart's application is approved or not."

Mr. Briscoe's Natural Resources Committee is scheduled to vote Wednesday on a resolution asking the federal Department of the Interior to deny Steuart's application to build the refinery.

Introduced by Senator William S. James (D., Harford), president of the Senate, the resolution is expected to be modified to include a request to the interior Department to deny permits to all on-the-water oil-handling facilities that could pollute Maryland waters.

"IT WILL PROBABLY PASS"

"In this form," Mr. Briscoe predicted, "it will probably pass."

As chairman of the 28-member committee, Mr. Briscoe would only vote in the case of a tie.

Whatever the committee's action, the resolution will then go before the whole Legislative Council, the General Assembly's between-sessions study and policy arm. The resolution is addressed to the Secretary of the Interior who now holds a request by Steuart to be allowed to import 100,000 barrels of residual fuel oil a day.

Much of the oil is expected to go to the new Morgantown generating plant of the Potomac Electric Power Company.

"If they can't get it there by pipe," Mr. Briscoe said, "then it's by truck or by barge. Actually the pipeline was designed to alleviate complaints from conservationists".¹⁶⁴

¹⁶⁴ Baltimore Sunpapers, 7/18/69

LEGISLATIVE UNIT OPPOSES REFINERY

Annapolis, July 23- A Legislative Council subcommittee moved today to block plans by the Steuart Refinery Company to build a new oil refinery at Piney Point which opponents say could pollute the Bay. By unanimous vote, the subcommittee on Natural Resources gave firm approval to a resolution opposing the new facility, and indicated it may go on record later against all pollution-prone shore industries. The resolution was supported by Delegates John Hanson Briscoe (D., St.Mary's), the chairman of the panel, despite the fact that his law firm is representing a company seeking to build a pipeline to the Steuart land.

In approving the resolution, panel members expressed the general agreement with Senator Paul J. Bailey (D. St.Mary's), who called for the broader regulation against industry proposals that could be pollutant. Recounting a "small accident" in which a boiler leak at Steuart's existing storage facility at Piney Point caused a 75-foot-long oil slick last Friday, Senator Bailey denied "picking on" Steuart.

ST.MARY'S OPPOSED

"That's just the way life is," he said, "You just have to pull one weed at a time. I think this is a step." The proposed \$60 million facility was opposed by the St.Mary's County Board of Commissioners, despite company contentions that it would provide more than \$800,000 in taxes for the Southern Maryland area.¹⁶⁵



Enjoying a private conversation while attending the Clam Festival in Annapolis last Friday are John Mills, Tri County Council, Delegate John Briscoe, and former Senator John Parran.

¹⁶⁵ Baltimore Sunpapers, 7/24/69

Governor Marvin Mandel: Steuart Petroleum was the only industry down there. When they decided that they were going to go out to build a plant down there, a refinery, St.Mary's County representatives immediately introduced legislation to prohibit the building of a refinery in St.Mary's County. That passed through legislature and was put through referendum down there. So it's fairly obvious that the anti-business attitude – and I'm not going back too far, I'm only going back to the seventies – the anti-business, I shouldn't say anti-business, it's an anti-growth problem. They don't want to grow. That industry they'd bring, they're not anxious to grow very rapidly.¹⁶⁶

Grand Reunion of Citizens Coalition Against the Refinery

Proponents cited what they claimed would be 85 new jobs and a help to the county's tax base as reasons for voting to allow refineries.

In reality, after Senator Bailey introduced the referendum bill, he became the focal point for the opposition. During the special election campaign Senator Bailey went on the speaking stump with a dozen other Coalition leaders. From that time on, the same point was made over and over. When it came time for people to make a choice, the promises of the refinery being a centerpiece of economic development fell on deaf ears when the voters passed the referendum banning refineries by a two to one margin.



PAUL JACOB BAILEY
District 5

A by-product of the opposition was the issue of by-product. Many feared that paints and other petroleum products were going to be made in the area as a result of the refining process.

A Steuart Petroleum official had gone to the Courthouse, and actually obtained a construction permit for an oil refinery from a secretary while the person responsible for issuing building permits was off work. The County, under pressure from a newspaper article by Jack Kershaw, a reporter for the Enterprise, that disclosed the astounding news, quickly revoked the permit.

A hearing on the bill in Annapolis was held where a great many citizens packed the hearing room. Simple but eloquent remarks were delivered by many county residents such as then Watermen's Association President David Sayre. Sayre later served two terms as a county commissioner. Lexington Park county historians Fred McCoy, Edwin Beitzel, and Robert Pougé, and retired civil service engineer Jack Witten all joined in the organizing of the group that became known as the 'Citizens Coalition Against the Refinery.'

¹⁶⁶ Governor Marvin Mandel oral history, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

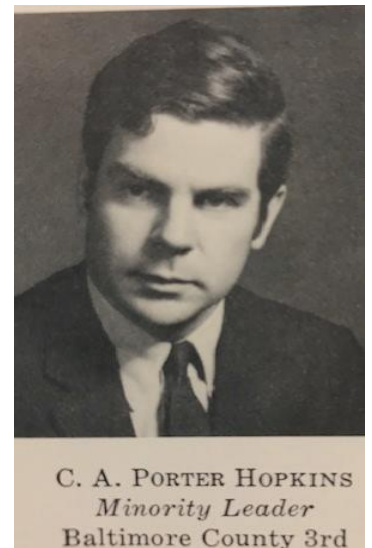
The Bill to allow the referendum was passed by the General Assembly and the only obstacle that remained was a veto hearing scheduled before Governor Marvin Mandel.

Two people did rise to symbolize the effort and provide leadership. Senator Paul Bailey, the St. Mary's County member of the legislature that filed the bill allowing the referendum. The other was Witten. The spry environmentalist became a catalyst for all who opposed the refinery but didn't know that so many others felt the same way. At one church the clarinet-playing lawyer [Paul Bailey] took two simple lilies to the podium. The Senator simply explained to the congregation that the simple flowers symbolized all that is good about the county's natural beauty and the clean environment. He then told the gathering that any of those who have driven through New Jersey know what the stinking smokestacks and the hazy skies were like around the refineries along the turnpike. The voters passed the referendum banning refineries by a two to one margin."¹⁶⁷

Wet Lands Protection

Porter Hopkins: Among the other things that were happening in the sixties was the beginning of a national and a state concern with natural resource development. We had watched the oyster harvest almost disappear, we watched overwhelming development around the major cities. The farmland of Frederick and Howard County disappeared under the Columbia concrete. Howard County was one of the best agricultural counties, had some of the most productive land, been there ever since Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Wheat crops coming off of Howard County in that area, they were taking wheat to Europe before Baltimore was even a major city. So we came in during that sort of crunch time.

I can remember the first time I saw John Hanson was at some Civil War event. Our shared interests were the Civil War, the war of Northern aggression, if you wanted to call it that, and the outdoors. I mean the hunting and the fishing. And I took a contract job as the editor of the Maryland Conservationist and I'll never forget, I wrote an editorial on wetlands. And my titular boss would've been Millard Tawes who was the Governor and I think one of the Tawes was the head of the Board of Natural Resources. And then I put this editorial out on how we ought to do something about the vanishing wetlands of the state in the sixties. '62, '63, maybe it was '64. The same time Assateague Island was about to be developed and I became the chairman of the citizen's committee for the preservation of Assateague Island. And all of this stuff was happening at once and John Hanson couldn't have been more enthusiastic about this. He wasn't in a position to be doing anything about it. I ran for the House of Delegates in '66, got elected, and the only reason I ran was I saw all this stuff around Maryland collapsing, this stuff that I was interested in; from the hunting to the oysters to the fish to the bay and so on. And I got there as



¹⁶⁷ Rossignol, Kenneth C. "Grand Reunion of Citizens Coalition Against Refinery ." St. Mary's Today.

a freshman delegate. John Hanson was by that time a veteran having served four years. One of his close pals was Thomas Hunter Lowe, they had roomed together in that first term. Of course, Marvin Mandel was Speaker. Marvin was a very fair Speaker, listened to everybody. You know the structure of government, all county offices were in the statehouse at that point. Because I was there, seeing what was going wrong with the state of Maryland with agriculture and the development and bad things happening to the land and the water. And that's what I'd spent most of my life up until that point working on. I said, "John, I know I can't get any bills passed without your help." I got him to co-sponsor a number of these bills which his name on them made the difference and we got the stuff passed and the stuff done that couldn't have possibly been done otherwise.¹⁶⁸

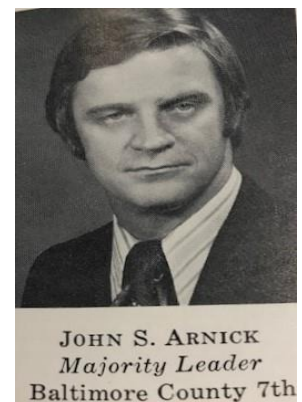
John Hanson Briscoe: Marvin Mandel reorganized the committees. We had about 12 committees in the House. You know, a committee for this, a committee for that...standing committees. And Mandel was an organized person, he consolidated them all and took the Chesapeake Bay committee and the natural resources stuff and put it under the Environmental Matters Committee. He created that, it was brand new, which took Chesapeake Bay and Fish, Game, and Wildlife and all that stuff, anything's related to the environment, right? And it was called the Environmental Matters Committee. I was the first chairman of the committee when it was formed, which I really liked because it was right up my alley, you know the Chesapeake Bay, game, fish, tributaries, clean air, environmental stuff, wet lands, but it's called the Environmental Matters Committee. We passed the Wetlands Law. It is on the books today. It was far reaching, controversial, but it's in effect today to protect these areas. You look up on this little swampy area on Cuckold Creek, you could build a house there. And down in Ocean City, you know how they did it, filled in all those wetlands. The Department of Natural Resources could see that it was ruining the ecosystem, ok? And Bill James, who was President of the Senate, he was a great environmentalist and a good friend. He knew I was, too, and we talked about it. He says to me "we've got to stop this invasion by Mr. Kaine" who was filling in all those wetlands in Ocean City, and he filled a lot of them. It took us 2 or 3 years to stop him and everybody else. And I was the floor leader on that and I took a beating on that. You know, people didn't want to be told they couldn't fill in these marshy areas and stuff. And it's a tough law; if you go fooling with them, the wetlands, they're all marked, right? And they have a record of all the wetlands in the state of Maryland. This little place right up in my cove here, if I start fooling around with it and you decide to tell them about it and I didn't get a permit.. If I dug up some stuff, they'd make me put it back and reclaim it. That was my environmental claim to fame: Wetlands Act. I always was considered to know a lot about the environment, like wetlands, I got deeply involved in that. And, I always loved the outdoors and always wanted to be a conservationist. My father taught me that. He knew up in the legislature they'd try to sneak and get away with whatever they could. And I followed his footsteps and I ran a very tough

¹⁶⁸ Hopkins, Porter. Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

environmental committee. I really liked it because it was fish, crabs, oysters, Chesapeake Bay stuff; loved it.¹⁶⁹

I'm an outdoor person; I'm an environmentalist. I think the Chesapeake Bay and the tributaries are one of the most incredible assets that nature and God have given to us and I'm very protective of it. The Chesapeake Bay is very fragile and you've got all the shorelines. I've always been a protector of the environment. And I was very instrumental in getting the first wetlands legislation passed. It was a very difficult piece of legislation. That is to protect and to guard the areas above the high water mark in the tidal areas of this state, which in the past has always just been considered a haven for raising mosquitoes. But then the ecologists convinced us that the wetlands were very fragile and part of the ecosystem. If you get rid of the wetlands, you get rid of the food chain for rockfish and crabs and the food for oysters and everything. And then what stimulated me more than anything is that back then in the '60's the wetlands of San Francisco had been gobbled up by development. 83% of the wetlands, valuable wetlands, had been lost to development and the same was happening in Maryland. Down in Ocean City, a developer down there was taking all those marsh lands, tidal lands, down there and developing them into condominiums. I was the chairman of the committee that got the first wetlands bill through and it was very difficult. Because we had to even fight Bethlehem Steel who had wetlands up there and the first year it didn't pass; we passed the second year. And I like to think today, the wetlands of this state are being protected as a result of significant contribution on my part. Because it was difficult to get through.¹⁷⁰

I had a fight with John Arnick and Bethlehem Steel. You see, because Bethlehem Steel up in Baltimore, they were always doing dredging and stuff for their business and we wanted to stop them from doing that and tearing up the marshes and everything. John Arnick, being from Dundalk and Bethlehem Steel and all of those steel workers, they didn't want to cost Bethlehem Steel a lot of money to put in all these environmental controls and John Arnick got up and he's good; I mean he is good on his feet. He was better than me, I was green; he got up and he was very polite but he talked about how many jobs this would cost Baltimore County and the State of Maryland and I could see the handwriting on the wall. I said 'I can't get this bill now; I am not going to fight him anymore'. So he killed the bill that year. And then the second time we brought it up they resisted it again but we had more support. Paul Sarbanes came over from the Baltimore City delegation; I didn't even know him, he was brand new. He came over and knelt down next to me, he said "Mr. Chairman," and he said "I'm Paul Sarbanes from Baltimore City." He said, "I really believe in this wetlands and environmental conservation bill" and he said, "I would love to help you." This might have been when I had gotten beaten up on it. But he said, "if I get up, you know I'm considered liberal, they will really attack me, see, but I want you to know that I believe in it and I want to help you." That was the first time I met Paul



¹⁶⁹ John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

¹⁷⁰ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Brad Gottfried. Southern Maryland Perspectives

Sarbanes. It was great, him kneeling next to my chair there; I was getting really battered. Anyway it passed the next year.¹⁷¹



Family and friends gathered at the George Tsirigotis residence in California Saturday to honor Rep. Paul R. Sarbanes and his wife. The Tsirigotises and the Sarbanes families came from Greece.

Samuel Baldwin: What do you think your legacy is with respect to Maryland politics?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, leadership on the environmental issues, passing some substantial legislative reform in conservation like wetlands. Wetlands are a good one people don't even know about. It's been so long.

SB: Why do you think that was such an important issue during your time?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, see, I was always into environmental stuff even before I got into the Ways and Means, and I was always told by the DNR; I was always close to them, they always came to me because I was always sensitive to them. They said 'the ecosystem, which is made up of small plants, is being harmed. All the small fish would come up in there and feed the bigger and ect. So we decided it was important, but we had a hard time getting some of the conversationalists to agree to that. They'd say "Mosquitos, what the hell good are they?" But that's what it was. And Billy James and I and the DNR could see what happened. What

¹⁷¹ John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

stimulated the wetlands is the west coast, San Francisco, they destroyed valuable wetlands there. And the word got out. True story: And it wasn't easy; we had to fight for it because the people in Baltimore, of course they were tied very closely to Bethlehem Steel and they did a lot of filling and stuff. And Billy James and I and others fought very hard to get the bill and I'd say that was one of my legacies.¹⁷²

Porter Hopkins: I think his legacy is probably somewhere in the natural resources end of things. Keeping Maryland, Maryland. Not allowing it to turn into another New Jersey. I mean development pressures were tremendous. They still are. John worked to create some pockets of resistance to this overwhelming development that was taking place both in the Washington area and in other places around the state. I got him on the Scenic Rivers Bill, which passed into the law and that didn't maybe save every river in Maryland, but the Pocomoke and the Youghiogheny and a couple of others were around. He was interested in doing that. I got him on a natural lands bill which after 30 years, they just started, picked up some of these undeveloped pieces around the state; Wetland's law which hasn't been what it could've been, tremendous opposition against that from everywhere. Ocean City primarily. That kind of development. Assateague which then became a natural seashore around that time.¹⁷³

It has been Briscoe's interest in the environment and Maryland's natural resources that has virtually catapulted him to legislative leadership, with more major committee chairmanships under his belt than any other delegate of his age in recent memory.

During his tenure with the natural resources committees, the State of Maryland saw more unique and powerful anti-pollution legislation passed than in any other state in the Nation. Most of the bills passed under his chairmanship have become models for other states, conservation and environmental groups and even industries.¹⁷⁴

Protecting the Wetlands

Some conservationists will be unhappy with the wetlands protection bill that passed the Maryland House of Delegates, but it appears to be the reasonable compromise and ought to be passed by the Senate.

The measure, reflecting the strong interest of Marylanders in protecting the ecological balance in the Eastern Shore's marshlands, empowers the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt

¹⁷² John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

¹⁷³ Porter Hopkins Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

¹⁷⁴ "August is John Hanson Briscoe Month." Val Hymes, August 5, 1971, The Enterprise

regulations on use of wetlands. A real estate developer, for instance, would have to meet the test of ecological harmlessness before filling in the marshland to build houses on the land.

To be sure, there are checks to the secretary's authority. The major one, which was tacked on as an amendment in the committee, gives the Maryland Agricultural Commission veto power over proposed regulations. Some conservationists have deplored that amendment.

Their fears may be groundless. The bill's author, Del. John H. Briscoe (D., St.Mary's) accepted the controversial amendment in the pragmatic spirit that it was necessary to get a bill passed.

He points out that 80 percent of the privately owned wetlands belongs to farmers and their interests must be met. Farmers are more aware of the need to protect the environment than conservationists. What group, after all, is more dependent economically on a quid pro quo arrangement with nature?

The Briscoe bill should be regarded as a major step forward in the environmental protection. There is cause for rejoicing—as soon as the Senate completes the action on the bill needed to make it law.¹⁷⁵

ROY WALSH PRESENTATION TO BRISCOE

(Mid-Atlantic Sportsman)



John Hanson Briscoe, of St.Mary's County, has been presented the Governor's Award and the Roy E. Walsh Memorial Trophy by the Maryland Wildfire Federation. Briscoe, an avid sportsman, serves as chairman of the committee on Environmental Matters and was a Leader in getting the controversial "Wetland Bill" passed in the last meeting of the legislature. He was prominent in the move to divert boating taxes from the general fund into a special fund for the construction of public launching ramps and channel markings. He was also a leader in the fight to have controls put on construction projects to reduce the amount of silt that ends in our waterways.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁵ Briscoe's Archives

¹⁷⁶ The Mid- Atlantic Sportsman, November, 1970

Peter Michael: I asked him if there was one accomplishment of which he was most proud of from his days in the Maryland General Assembly, and without hesitation, he replied that it was getting legislation passed that began protection of Maryland's wetlands and the Chesapeake Bay."¹⁷⁷



John Hanson Briscoe: First Oyster Shucking Contest, with Junior Thompson. We were the first ones to volunteer to do that contest, see?¹⁷⁸

The 1st place prize, \$1,000, was donated by his cousin Arthur "Buck" Briscoe

Under the Dome: The Maryland General Assembly in the 20th Century.

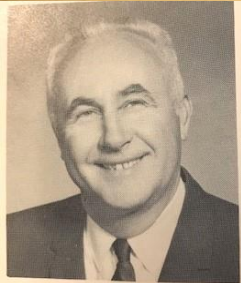
Between 1955 and 1978, approximately 24,000 acres – five percent – of Maryland's coastal "tidal wetlands" and inland vegetated "nontidal wetlands" disappeared. In part, this loss was due to an increase in the development of Ocean City and the subsequent loss of tidal wetlands. According to the Daily Record, "the development of Ocean City wetlands has been largely responsible for the growth of the resort." Accordingly, "who owns the beach?" became a major issue for debate among Maryland legislators, the courts, developers, concerned citizens, and the media by the late 1960s.

¹⁷⁷ Wilson, Ike. "Friends Remember Ex-House Speaker." The Frederick News-Post, 16 Jan. 2014. Quoting Peter Hanson Michael

¹⁷⁸ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Maryland claimed title to all land below the high tide mark. State officials were severely criticized in the news media for selling this land to developers, who filled it in and resold it as building lots for reportedly high profit. After many attacks in the media, the Board of Public Works placed a moratorium on the low-cost sale of State-claimed wetlands to land speculators.

The legislature then got involved in trying to balance the protection of the wetlands and the rights of the property owners. In 1969, the Maryland General Assembly considered legislation which tried to strike a balance between developers and conservationists. As reported by the Daily Record, this legislation failed due to “a solid wall of vested interests claiming that the constitutional rights of individuals would be violated.” Following the defeat of the legislation, during the summer of 1969, the General Assembly’s Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Delegate John Hanson Briscoe, toured the Ocean City wetlands and undertook a study of the issue to craft legislation for the control and conservation of the wetlands. This legislation was introduced during the 1970 session of the General Assembly. A Department of Game and Inland Fisheries’ study released at that time classified 240,000 of the 321,000 acres of State-owned wetlands as being in danger of destruction within the next ten years.



FREDERICK C. MALKUS, JR.
District 16

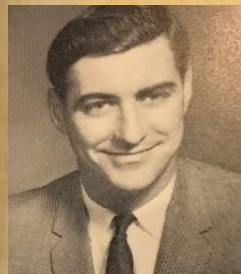
After the summer fact-finding tour, members of the Maryland Legislative Council began drafting two bills establishing clear legislative guidelines for the administration of wetlands. These bills, for the first time in State history, specifically acknowledged the economic, ecological, recreational, and aesthetic value of the wetlands and recognized the possibility and the danger of their total destruction if despoliation were to continue. The first bill, backed by Governor Marvin Mandel, defined “wetlands” and proposed to impose strict controls over the sale, transfer, or development of State-owned and privately held wetlands. The second bill proposed to bar property owners from dredging or filling their private wetlands without first obtaining a permit from the Secretary of Natural Resources.



RUSSELL O. HICKMAN
Worcester County

The bills drew opposition from Eastern Shore legislators, who tried to persuade the House of Delegates to give local governments veto power over any rules drafted by the Secretary of Natural Resources. When the veto power amendment failed, the opposition grew even more heated and Worcester County Delegate Russell Hickman reportedly commented that the bill “is the nearest thing to totalitarianism I’ve ever seen.” The Evening Capital later reported that Dorchester County Senator Frederick C. Malkus, Jr fought the measure with an emotional floor speech

summing up his opposition, saying “I don’t want our wetlands ruined by a bunch of bungling, deskborne, chairborne bureaucrats.”



VICTOR L. CRAWFORD
District 2-B

Late in the session, the General Assembly passed both wetlands measures. The newly created conservationist measures were almost rendered meaningless, however, by a seven-word phrase in a relatively unnoticed local bill. The local legislation was intended to permit conditional zoning in Worcester County, but it contained a phrase not found in any similar zoning law, permitting the county commissioners to zone and impose other development conditions “notwithstanding any other provisions” of State law, including the wetlands law. Montgomery county senator Victor L. Crawford caught the phrase and realized its unintended

consequences. The phrase was quickly amended out of the local bill before its passage.

As the century ended, the State continued to struggle with balancing conservation and development, as well as with other pressure on the wetlands, such as the rise in sea levels and the erosion of the shoreline. According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, however, the regulatory program first established in 1970 had limited the loss of vegetated tidal wetlands in recent years, to less than one acre per year, with Maryland realizing a net gain in tidal wetlands through mitigation and enhancement projects.¹⁷⁹

Back To Steuart Petroleum

Potomac Free Port Sought by Oil Firm

By: Richard Corrigan

Leonardtown, Md.—A plan for a \$40 million petroleum refinery and free port zone along the Potomac River near here has been at least temporarily blocked by startled and upset citizens of St. Mary's County. The application for the foreign trade zone at Piney Point on the lower Potomac was scheduled to be submitted to Federal authorities last week on behalf of the Steuart Petroleum Co., the major fuel oil distribution for the Metropolitan Washington area. Now the application has been held up, on the direct order of Gov. Spiro T. Agnew, after last minute public outcries that the project would transform this riverside "Land of Pleasant Living" into a Maryland version of the polluted Jersey Meadows. St. Mary's, the historic Mother County of Maryland, long has been famed for its fishing, boating, seafood, tobacco and wild politics. The latest controversy here represents a classic case of private interests and assorted government planners being accused of drawing up a plan without interruption. As Catherine Barnes, a leading critic of the project put it, "Everyone was represented but the people." The plan, which has been in the works for more than three months, had the endorsement of State and County officials but not of County residents, who first heard about the proposal after their three County Commissioners already had conditionally approved it—without holding any public hearings. One Commissioner reportedly said that silence was maintained so as not to "upset" the residents. The secret manner in which the project has been handled outraged some county residents as much as the nature of the plan itself. Robert M. Sparks, deputy director of the Maryland Department of Economic Development, declined to discuss the plan with a reporter on the grounds that "the Company has asked us not to divulge the facts.. my hands are tied... there's certain things that it's not in the interest of the people to know until the right time." The right time, according to Sparks, would be after the application had been submitted to the Foreign Trade Zones Board of the Commerce Department. William Saul, chief of Steuart's operation at Piney Point, said yesterday, "We're not trying to hide anything from the public about something the Maryland Port Authority is going to do before they do it." The proposal for the topping plant

¹⁷⁹ *Under the Dome: The Maryland General Assembly in the 20th Century*. 2001

at Piney Point seems to be directly related to this new standard. Steuart apparently hopes to bring foreign crude oil directly to Piney Point and then remove the sulfur from the oil rather than contract for higher priced, high demand domestic oil or buy desulfurized fuel from other sources. The three County Commissioners—F. Elliot Burch president; J. Wilmer Bowles and George R. Aud—notified the Maryland Port Authority on May 24 that they would approve the application subject to several conditions. The major conditions were that the zone would not only be exempt from real and personal property taxes but would presign a written obligation to “use every method to prevent pollution” of the air and water. Steuart spokesmen and local advocates of the project say it would create 75 local jobs and millions in taxes and would be a boon to the County, which has just lost its legalized slot machines. “If we can put a man on the moon, we can make a plant that won’t pollute the water and air,” said the old-timer Buck Briscoe of the County’s Economic Development Commission. “I don’t believe it will be the big bad wolf that everybody’s been led to believe.” But conservationists, residents are alarmed. Even if all precautions are taken, said David Sayre, an oysterman and chairman of the County Watermen’s Association, oil leaks will be inevitable. “I’ve seen these slicks stay on the water as long as four or five days at a time.” At a citizens’ meeting here last Friday night, a Humble Oil Co. film was shown to demonstrate what a big refining plant looks like. To a swell of inspirational music, the narrator talked about “unlimited riches for our well being” and declared the “the work of a refinery never stops.” As the audience of 180 groaned at the sight of the towering technicolor structure, it seemed obvious they didn’t want one in St. Mary’s County.¹⁸⁰

\$834,900.00

**will go a long way
toward solving
the financial
difficulties
that are facing
St. Mary’s County!**

- This is the officially estimated tax revenue that St. Mary’s County will receive from the Steuart Petroleum Company Piney Point project when completed.
- This equals approximately 17.64% of our current total budget.
- This \$834,900 would otherwise have to come from present tax-payers and would be comparable to an increase of \$1.00 per hundred on real property.

A GROWING ST. MARY’S COUNTY NEEDS ADDITIONAL REVENUE! STEUART PETROLEUM WILL DO ITS PART!

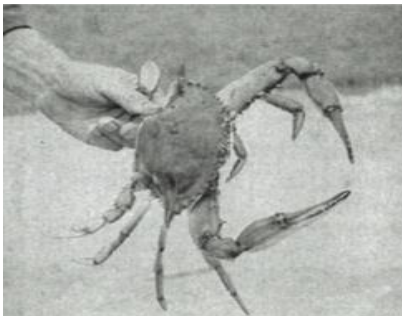
The above figures were verified with the office of the County Director of Finance.

¹⁸⁰ Washington Post, 7/18/68

NEIGHBORS



These Have Been Our Neighbors For 19 Years.
We Get Along Beautifully Together, And We Plan To
Enjoy Each Others Company For Many Years To Come.



Photographed At Steuart Petroleum Company
Piney Point, MD. STEUART PETROLEUM
COMPANY

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO: MARVIN KAMINETZ JOINS THE LAW FIRM, 1968

Marvin Kaminetz: My grandfather immigrated to this country in the 1890's into the St. Inigoes area. His name was Harry Waranch and in 1908 or 1909, my grandmother, who was at that point 17 years old, was brought over as a bride for him, through family, and they were married in St. Inigoes in 1909. They both came from Lithuania, actually. And then my grandfather stayed in that area. 1910 or 1911, shortly after his marriage, he rented a store at Cedar Point from Captain Luther Miles. Captain Luther Miles happens to be my bailiff Jenks Mattingly's grandfather, young Jenks Mattingly's great-grandfather. Which is an amazing coincidence, 100 years later here comes Jenks working for me as a bailiff. But anyway, my grandparents stayed in that store. I have a couple of aunts and uncles that were born in that store at Cedar Point. Of course this is way before the base, this is 34 years before the base. The Bells were down there, the Fishes were down there, a lot of St. Mary's County people. Jarboesville was there and Cedar Point was right there together, back in those times. 1915, fast forward four or five years, my grandfather moves to Oakville. Right on the corner of North Sandgates and Route 235, a little bit back off the road was my grandfather and grandmother's house and store. And in that store my mother, aunt and an uncle were born.



Luther Miles' House, Cedar Point,
1942



Left to Right: Rose Waranch, Harry Waranch,
Unkown, Isaac Waranch, Leona Warach, Lenny Wood,
Jean Waranch, Wilbur Dean, Briscoe Wallace, Zach
Pilkerton

Marvin Kaminetz: This would've been North Sandgates Road. That building in the back is my grandfather's store. That is my mother Rose Waranch, on the far left as a two year old. So this picture would've been 1917 because my mother was born 1915 in this house in Oakville. The rest of the men in the picture are all local customers and neighbors of the family. These are all local guys who would come to my grandfather's store, you know, smoking cigars, chewing tobacco.

In the 20's they moved to Baltimore County which was then country. So my older aunt and uncle went to school down here, my mother may have just begun school here—this was before the move, before they moved to Baltimore County, and then my mom went all through the school system in Baltimore County. They lived in the Sparrows Point-Dundalk area, which was a rural part, believe it or not, except for the Sparrows Point Steel Plant, which was a part of Baltimore County.

When I was about 5 or 6 years old we moved to Baltimore city. But when people think of Baltimore city they think of the downtown area. Well, we were not in the downtown area; we were in the Forest Park area. I wound up going through the public school system, and graduating from Forest Park High School. The first few years of my life in Baltimore County, in that same Dundalk area, during the war. I was born in '43 so this would have been right in the middle of the war. And for at least the first four or five years I lived in Dundalk with my mom and dad.



On the left Marvin Kaminetz and on the right Ben Cardin

This would've been right around January or February 1961, and this would've been my high school fraternity. I was President of my high school fraternity my senior year of high school, getting ready to go into the Army and the new President beside me is a fellow by the name of Ben Cardin (U.S. Senator). This is me handing over a gavel to him, that's the significance of the handshake and then these are just a bunch of our friends and fraternity brothers.

Joe Weiner's aunt who raised him, Sadie, had a general store in Beechville and married my grandfather's cousin, Albert Waranch. So the Waranch-Weiner family through that marriage, second marriages for both of them, they were both widowed, that marriage brought our families together, and through that connection, and probably Joe Weiner's sister being a good friend of my mom, because they both had been born in St. Mary's County, had put Joe's daughter Diane Weiner the object of a 'match make' with me. We dated off and on for two years. So I was coming to St. Mary's County.

Well, back in those days, Paul Bailey was on the state roads commission as commissioner. Of course, he was later a state senator but in this period he was a commissioner, and I used to come down because I worked four summers for them, and have him sign my application for summer employment, being a commissioner, and somehow or another I wound up getting it every time, the job. So it got to be my senior year of college, and I had been working three years, and I actually wasn't seeing Diane anymore but I still came down to see Paul, and of course Diane and the family were good friends, and Paul sat me down and he was sharing offices with Joe Weiner; they weren't partners but they shared space, and Paul sat me down and spoke to me a good hour, hour and a half. This would have been '64, about the idea of going to law school and coming back to practice law in St. Mary's County, that there was a need for young lawyers in St. Mary's

County. So we talked and we talked. And he really got my interest. And the rest is history. I wind up going to law school and wind up coming to St. Mary's County.

I graduated law school in June of '68, University of Maryland, and I was law clerking for a fairly small firm in Baltimore City. After I found out I passed the bar exam, which would have probably been in October of '68, Neil Myerberg, who was the brand new young associate of Briscoe and Kenney, came to the law firm where I was clerking, because he had gone to law school with one of the partners of that firm and Neil was getting a divorce. He's from Baltimore, also. He was an IRS agent, he had a tax background. And he had been with the firm for close to a year. With Briscoe and Kenney. How he got to St. Mary's County was through the Internal Revenue. He was auditing an estate and it happened to be Larry Millison's father's estate. Neil was auditing the estate, and he met Jim and John, somehow or another, and they decided they needed another lawyer, especially with John in the legislature and Jim trying to hold down the firm, especially with John moving into what was some subcommittee leadership in the House, taking up more time, so they picked Neil.

Samuel Baldwin: And what would have attracted him to come down here from Baltimore?

MK: I think a job that had potential. You have to understand, Neil was probably the twelfth lawyer in St. Mary's County. I was the thirteenth. When you came and you became a member of the St. Mary's County bar, you had to sign at the clerk's office in the circuit court a certification that you were practicing law in this county. And I was number thirteen. So Neil's in the office in Baltimore, I'm there; he's waiting to see the partner about his divorce.

SB: Did you know him at that time?

MK: I didn't know Neil Myerberg at all. Knew one of his younger brothers. Of course, one of his younger brothers is Roger, who practices law in Lexington Park; but he had had another younger brother in between him and Roger named Jody, who was a fraternity brother of mine at the University of Maryland. In fact, I was his 'big brother.' So Neil and I started talking about that. The next thing I know Neil tells me he thought the firm was interested in possibly picking up another attorney, and that it had to do with an attorney in St. Mary's who was about to go away. And that the firm had been approached by Jack Daugherty, who was President of the Maryland Bank & Trust, about Jim and John doing the bank's work while his other attorney was going to be away. That other attorney did all the title work for Briscoe and Kenney.

I get sworn in right before Thanksgiving in November of '68. I set up this interview to come down the Sunday after Thanksgiving of '68. And Jim was away, but I met at the Roost with John Hanson and he brought along his then-10 year-old daughter, Lisa. And it was probably around 10 o'clock or so. My wife and I had driven down. We were living in Baltimore and we didn't have kids. And my wife was not familiar with St. Mary's County at all, but of course I was very familiar with St. Mary's County.

SB: So her initial reaction on the drive down was?

MK: "You've got to be kidding me," okay? Very rural, okay? I mean you have to understand, 42,000 people, no fast foods, no real shopping. We met and we had, I thought, a very good

interview. In fact, because I thought the situation with the other attorney was fairly imminent, one of the things I think helped me get the job was I could be ready part-time immediately.

So about a week later John and Sylvia, Jim and Carol, and I and my first wife, Marlene, we met in Annapolis. Of course, I was living in Baltimore and we met in Annapolis and had dinner, so Jim could meet me and the women could meet each other. And we just had dinner and at some point they ended up talking to each other and wound up offering me a proposal.

I still had cases I was working on in the law firm in Baltimore that I needed to finish up. And the next thing I know is here comes an offer. It was, want me to get into the pay? Well it was a big salary. It was \$5,000 a year.



Left to Right: Carol Kenney, Marvin and
Marlene Kaminitz, Jim Kenney, J. Frank
Raley, Barbara Raley

SB: Just to put things into context, what kind of work did you start doing?

MK: You might've gotten \$25 for a deed in Lexington Park and \$15 or \$10 in Leonardtown for a deed, okay?

SB: And then if you had something like a misdemeanor criminal case?

MK: Well, keep in mind there was no district court. We had what was called the trial magistrate's court, and the trial magistrate was John H.T. Briscoe and Alice Taylor was his

assistant. Interestingly she was not an attorney, so she could only do civil cases and payable traffic tickets?



JUDICIAL O.J.T. — St. Mary's County Trial Magistrate John H.T. Briscoe explains some legal phrasology to Mrs. Alice R. Taylor of Ridge, recently appointed Asst. Trial Magistrate. Her term will not begin until the second Monday in May, but she is using the interim time to become acquainted with the functions of her new post. She is believed to be the first woman Trial Magistrate in Southern Maryland. (Staff Photo).

Alice Taylor & John H.T. Briscoe, 1966

SB: So if you had to do a misdemeanor type of case or something similar to that?

MK: \$25-\$35, and sometimes people needed to make payments.

SB: If you charged on an hourly rate?

MK: Well, you didn't really need to do that in the beginning. Now later, Jim was the first in our firm, and now you're into the 70's, the middle 70's, before Jim starting billing hourly. And I can't tell you exactly what it was but it was probably like \$35 an hour. But I can tell you this, when I went on the bench in 1983, if you were billing \$100-125 per hour if you were a top-notch partner in a St. Mary's County law firm.

SB: So \$5,000 a year...

MK: I didn't accept that offer! I said, "That's great, that's a good salary," because I'm gonna tell you why.

SB: That's not even \$500 a month

MK: That's correct. But you got to keep this all in context. The deal was, that's fine as a salary, but I really needed \$500 moving expenses to get here, because I was married and living in an apartment, and my wife was teaching and had a contract teaching in the Baltimore County school system. So, they said fine, extra \$500. It was \$500 to move and \$5,000 a year salary. In those days Sam, you know everything's relevant, when young law students get out in 1969 was, to ask themselves "In five years, can I be making \$10,000?" \$10,000 was a big salary in those days. Now, I asked that question and the answer was, "The potential is here, clearly, for that to happen."

With that other attorney about to go away and with my title background, they wanted to find somebody who had a background in title work, and I had worked my last two years of law school, part-time all-summer, and part-time in the winter, for one of the biggest title companies, it was the Lawyer's Title, in Baltimore. And I had a good recommendation from them as far as knowing what to do about title work. And so I said, 'I know a little about title work.' And I think the other reason they decided to even give me an interview was because I realized St. Mary's County wasn't on the Eastern Shore. And of course I knew that because of my family ties here and coming here all through my childhood. So anyway, I showed some interest in the job. The other job I was pursuing was an assistant State's Attorney's job in Baltimore City.

SB: What would you have gotten as an Assistant State's Attorney?

MK: About that. Maybe \$5,200, \$4,900 something like that. Starting salary for teachers was a little under \$5,000.

I was working within two weeks, the week between Christmas and New Year's. I was down here three days a week commuting back to Baltimore because my wife was still under contract until June '69 to teach in Baltimore County. So I'm back and forth. I'm staying down here over night for a couple nights a week and then back up there. April of '69 I was here full-time. I had finished all the cases that I needed, I had to go back maybe one or two times, because back in those days there wasn't a public defender's office, and I was on a list of court-appointed lawyers for criminal defendants in the circuit courts, doing criminal trials and things like that, that I'd been appointed to and were in the works. So I had to fulfill those obligations. But I was here full-time April '69.

My practice was a country lawyer's practice. I needed to be close to the record room everyday because I did all our title work. Steuart Petroleum wanted to do a pipeline. And this pipeline was going to go from Piney Point all the way up through the county, through Leonardtown, all the way through the county and then branch out to go to Morgantown and to Chalk Point in Charles County, those two Charles County plants, and there is a pipeline that goes from Piney Point to where their storage facility was. The pipeline is still there. And I did all the title work myself. It was a \$16 million dollar deal. So it was huge. It was a project I worked on by myself for at least

2 years. We weren't tied into the refinery, which came later. This was a good environmental thing. It was going to keep trucks off the roads, it was going to keep the roads from getting torn up, this was going to avoid accidents, spillage. This was mainly going to run #2 fuel up the road to those power plants. And it did. And I can tell you, when I took on that project, there was no copy machine in the record room, and Steuart had their own surveyor from D.C who had surveyed this route, had given me the properties and I had to go and search every one of those properties. They hired two right of way people who went out and spoke to the owners, I wrote a right of way form, they signed and paid the people money, and got easements for the pipeline. The scary thing, Sam, is if I screwed up on one of those titles the pipeline gets shut down. I had to go up to D.C. for the closing and it was a massive two-day, \$16 million closing, which was a lot of money. There were a couple of huge, huge retirement plans, like the railroad retirement plan, there were several banks, and there was more than one title company. This was too big a deal for any one entity to do. The first day of the closing was all the bankers and the lawyers. The second day was all the lawyers and the real estate part of the settlement. The first day was the terms of all the agreements they had amongst themselves. When I left the closing my job was to go to La Plata, and to go to Leonardtown to record the deeds of trust because the property was in both counties. The property being the pipeline and the easements. I remember the clerk of the court, Dorothy Kutcher, had to keep our courthouse open for me twenty minutes extra that day, because I had to give her a check for \$99,000 for stamps. That was a big, big deal back in those days. But that kind of stuff started coming our way.¹⁸¹

John Hanson Briscoe: We vetted Marvin very carefully. He came out of Baltimore; we didn't know anything about him. And as you know he's one of the closest friends I have; he's like a brother. And I say that he and Jim Kenney are my brothers. They don't have any sisters; they're only children.¹⁸²



Left to Right: Jim Kenney, Marvin Kaminetz, John Hanson Briscoe, 2007

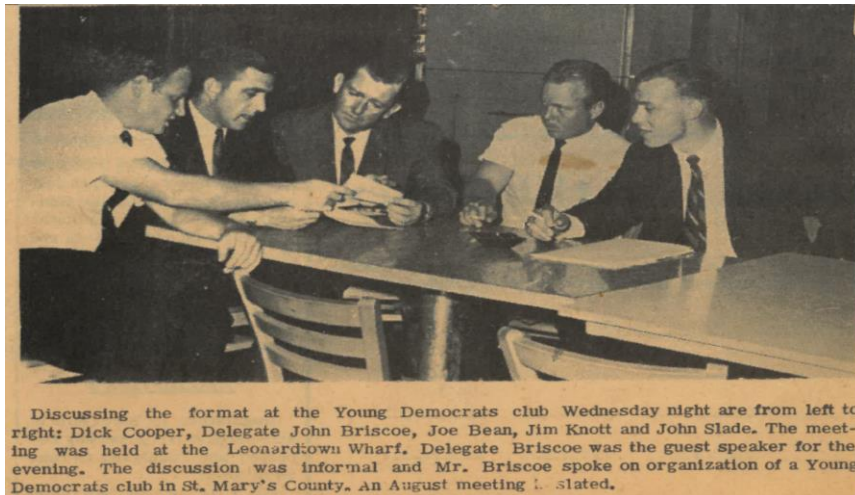
¹⁸¹ Marvin Kaminetz Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr

¹⁸² Briscoe, John Hanson Personal Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Balancing Law & Politics

Samuel Baldwin: How did John not only balance law and politics, but do it efficiently and produce results?

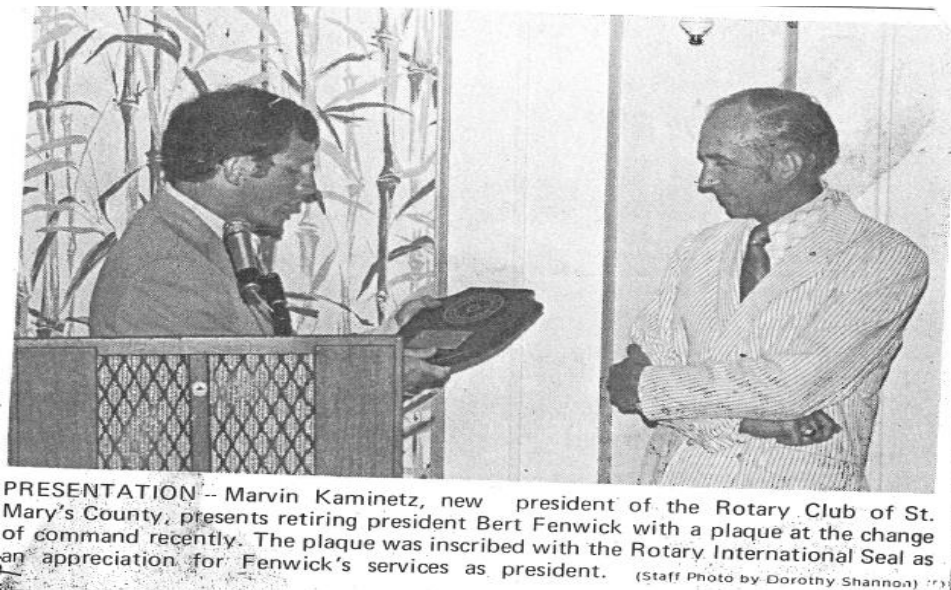
Marvin Kaminetz: It's very simple because I was part of it, after I got here. Now, you have to understand he'd been there for like five years. First of all, the legislators met Monday nights, so he would be in the Leonardtown office working Monday. The session started Monday night for the week. So he would be gone from the office Monday night and he would come back Friday afternoon. So he would come to the office Monday morning; we used to eat lunch together, probably at Bailey's Restaurant for the most part. There was no shopping center in Leonardtown. There were two restaurants; there was Bailey's and Duke's. And we were Bailey's people and we would go there and have lunch. Then John would leave early afternoon on Mondays. Early in the session, everything gets done in the committees. And the House isn't actually in session for a long time. They might be in session for 20 minutes and then break out into committees. All of the early work is done in committees. Not in session, unless it's something very unusual. The culmination of a 90 day session is where they bring the bills to the floor, ideally to pass them. So right around his birthday was when the session would end and they would be in session a very, very small amount of time, but because he was in leadership he had more responsibilities than the general delegate so he was up there more. A lot of those delegates would commute in the early parts of the session, but not John. They were all on committees but they didn't have the duties that the chairman had. And he was Chair; he wasn't Vice Chair, when I got here he was Chairman. There's another little piece I want to tell you about how things got done. I actually got a job working for John as a bill analyst while I was with the firm. What I did for John, even though I was technically a bill analyst, I wasn't worried about the statewide bills and reviewing any of those. I dealt with the local legislation because John was in Annapolis. I did that probably for about three or four years. Every bill affecting St. Mary's County, that's the kind of stuff that I would review if John had questions about it and he wasn't here. I would get answers. There were Democratic Club meetings. This is how I got to meet so many people early on. Democratic Club meetings.¹⁸³



¹⁸³ Marvin Kaminetz Personal Interview by Samuel Baldwin C.P Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: You had a private practice down here in the county, representing clients, but also a second job up as a Delegate in Annapolis. How did you balance those two jobs?

John Slade: Well, you have to work seven days a week. Of course, during the legislative session you are in Annapolis during the week so you're there full-time. So to make ends meet you have to practice law on the weekend on Saturday, Sunday, and usually Monday morning. The session doesn't begin on Mondays until about 8:00 in the evening, so you can work until about 2:30 or 3:00 and then drive to Annapolis. So you have a three-day period there Saturday, Sunday, and Monday morning that you can practice. You have a practice, a family to support. You can't escape reality. As a legislator, you not only have to serve during the week, you know attend committee hearings and sessions of the General Assembly. You have a local responsibility of attending important events: ribbon cuttings and dedications and 50th anniversaries. You know, these are all special events in people's lives and they expect you to be there.¹⁸⁴



Associates Added to the Firm

John Slade (JS): While I was in law school, I clerked for Briscoe and Kenney, that firm was just being established by Jim Kenney and John Briscoe. And so I would work on weekends and during the summer. And then when I graduated, I went to work for them full time.

Samuel Baldwin: And what was the nature of your practice for them?

JS: Well, I did research, pleadings, I handled cases for them too: civil, criminal... I complemented Jim Kenney. It was just a small practice then. John Hanson, of course, was in the legislature, so he was away a lot; we rarely saw him. So Jim pretty much ran the firm. I pretty

¹⁸⁴ John Slade Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

much assisted him. I did whatever he assigned to me to do, whether it was a criminal case or a divorce case, some sort of lease or whatever.

SB: Do you recall what your pay was at Briscoe, Kenney when you were hired?

JS: I started at I think, \$50 a week. I cleared \$42.50. I haven't forgotten that. I lived on that for awhile.¹⁸⁵

Joe Densford: I was taken to lunch by Jim Kenney, which is how I think he got his hook into most of the young associates who joined that firm. You know, he seduced them over lunch. But that was a big thing. That was quite a plum job back in those days. My salary was \$20,000 or \$22,000 a year, which in those days was an exorbitant amount of money. I thought I'd finally struck it rich. I remember to seal the deal I was invited over to John Hanson Briscoe's house at Half Pone Point and the whole firm was there. When I say the whole firm I mean all the partners and their wives were there and we got in John's run about on Cuckold Creek and he took us out of the creek, over the river-this was before the Solomon's bridge was right there. And we went to lunch there, at one of these restaurants there. And I thought, "My God, I'm in the big time now. House of Delegates, Jim Kenney, Marv Kaminetz, their wives, were in this boat going over the river to a waterfront restaurant for lunch. And I'm sitting there going, "I've hit the big time here, I'm on my way." So that's how they do it.

SB: Tell me about working at Briscoe, Kenney and Kaminetz.

JD: It was an interesting time. There was a lot of business development in the Lexington Park area, and we were right in the middle of it. And John Briscoe, at that time, was in the House of Delegates, so he divided his time up between Annapolis and the Lexington Park office. He would be down in the Lexington Park office, you know, probably most of the days of the week when the General Assembly was not in session. I assume he would have committee meetings and other things that took him to Annapolis a day or two a week, even when they were not in session. And then when the General Assembly was in session he was up in Annapolis almost all the time. He might come to the Lexington Park office either late on a Friday or early on a Monday morning and spend a couple hours there and then ride up to Annapolis again. He and I had sort-of interchangeable roles. We were busy doing real estate settlements because he obviously had to be involved with things that were going on in the office and could be started and completed in a short period of time. He and I had overlapping functions in that regard.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁵ Slade, John, Interview with Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

¹⁸⁶ Joe Densford Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: You're sounding like a factory now. The way you grew and you had it compartmentalized and each unit was somehow or another likely to benefit the other. Real estate would benefit something else or...

Jim Kenney: Well, yeah. We'd sit down once a year and say "We didn't really make a lot of money in that section. But we did *x* number of settlements, that's *x* number of people walking through the door." If you didn't irritate them or something like that, chances are they'll come back to you. Wills sometimes lead to estates. I would say that we would at least think about these things because every now and then we'd say "Do we really want to keep doing this?" We'd do the pros and cons. I was pretty much burned out on doing domestic cases. Thank God Karen Abrams came along



Karen Abrams & Jim Kenney

because she was certainly able to do them probably better than I could. If we saw a gap we said "Ok, can we afford to fill it and how do we do it?" I actually believe we had nine people on the letterhead at one time.

We hired Helga, first woman lawyer in the county. Her husband was a legal officer for the station. He and she both went to Stanford Law School, she was a Georgetown undergraduate, smart as a whip, wanted to do some work. We were very happy to have her. I think at that time it was probably Helga, John Slade, Neil Myberberg, Marvin, John, and myself. Helga, she was a dynamite. The case she remembers the most was she had to replevin a coon dog (laughs) for one of our clients. When I was joking that we got port-a-potties as part of a fee...

SB: For your beach party.

JK: Yeah. This guy, his coon dog had run away or something like that and some nice old gentlemen had found the dog and was taking care of him and didn't want to give him back (laughs). And you know, we said "Helga, we've got the perfect case for you." I think what was kind of significant about the coon dog case was, this was a case where we could not make money (laughs), but we did other work for the guy. And that was part of our firm approach, we've got to be able to do these cases even though we can't make money off of them because that's what keeps the big cases. You know, you've got to do a certain amount of real estate because that's what gets people in the door. Then later on when they've got whatever going on, they'll come back. The real estate would create a little cash flow but it wasn't, what I referred to as "take home money". It paid the rent, it kept the lights on, it paid the staff. You know we had a big staff for a small firm. We hired the first woman. We probably hired the first paralegal. We trained a certain number of our regular staff to be paralegals in certain areas. I mean Liz Passarelli probably did all of Marvin's paralegal work in terms of negligence cases.¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁷ Jim Kenney Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Irene Parrish: John Slade and I grew up together. We used to double-date when we were in high school. He worked very hard on the Wilson Line, shoveling coal to earn the money to go to college, and then on to law school. The Wilson Line being a steam boat that sailed out of Washington, D.C., down to Mount Vernon. So, he actually earned his college tuition, his law school money, and graduated, and came back, and went to work with us.

SB: You grew up here. But Neil Myerberg comes down from Baltimore; Marvin comes down from Baltimore, Jim Kenney from the Eastern Shore. How did the firm attract these attorneys from other areas and make them feel welcome down here, make them feel part of the community?

IP: Well, at that particular time, we were growing like crazy. So, the income was coming. The numbers, for the demographics, were here. The base was expanding. And then, they had kind of gone into specialty items within their practice. And, Jim and John had outgoing personalities to where they could bring people in, and then they would introduce them to the new lawyers and work with them. And then, basically, you know, hand them off—maybe that's not the proper word. But, we had a huge account with the Barley Company, and a huge account with Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan, and we did a lot of land acquisition and development loans in Charles County as well as St. Mary's. We also did a lot of work for the State of Maryland in reference to doing abstract work for right-of-ways. They would actually keep the record room open at night, so that we could come in and do abstract work, because we had so few attorneys at that time, especially those who knew real estate.

All the attorneys who came, I think they spent a lot of time on making decisions on who they were going to recruit. Because we were going to be a family, and we had to work as a family to be successful. And, Jim and John, they were excellent. What one could do, the other couldn't, and vice versa. And also, even when they hired their secretaries, they did a wonderful job. I mean, they hired people and people stayed. So that's got to tell you, you know, what a family it truly was. It was wonderful to know that you worked with Jim Kenney from the beginning where you didn't have two nickels to rub together on Friday, and to see all of these men progress in life and become Judges, and to be good Judges. I don't know anyone in the county that has bad memories of them. They did their job. And they did it quite well. It was a wonderful education, for me.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁸ Irene Parrish Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



Marvin Kaminetz and Jim Kenney at the Maryland State Bar Conference
in Ocean City, MD

Marvin Kaminetz: Just like in 1962 there was new leadership in politics. We would've been the new legal firm in St. Mary's County. I was clearly, when I came, the youngest member of the bar. We three were the three youngest lawyers in the bar. A lot of the business, a lot of the banks, a lot of the electric co-op business, the hospital, those things, all the older lawyers had those jobs wrapped up. I did get a job as attorney to the Alcohol Beverages Board back in '70 or '72. I had to give it up when I became Magistrate in '74. But we started getting inroads and we really were, really the first, I'm going to call it the first bigger law firm. When we had 5 lawyers we were by far the largest law firm in Southern Maryland. There was a time when Paul Bailey, Joe Weiner, John Bailey, and Will Broms were together, but I'm not sure that they had a complete partnership like we did. I know Joe and Paul shared space, but they called it Bailey,

Bailey, and Broms because Joe Weiner was on the bench. So they had almost as many lawyers, but at some points we had 6 lawyers. I can tell you right now we had 5 or 6 lawyers for the longest period of time. And we were very proud of that.

We were very involved with the State Bar as a firm. Jim Kenney had a lot to do with that. He was always keeping us involved. I was very active in the Real Estate Committee of the State Bar. I was co-chairman of some sub-committee of the State Bar. That's why we went to those meetings in Ocean City. I like to consider us as progressive. Eventually, as the older attorneys retired or passed on, we got a lot of those kinds of jobs representing some of the newer industries. The Met-Com Commission, we were their attorneys. We did work for other companies on a case-by-case basis. But our client list picked up. Maryland Capital Savings and Loan, which was a derivative of Maryland Bank and Trust, we wound up being their house counsel. We did banking stuff every day, Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁹ Marvin Kaminetz, Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe,
Ida Morgan Kaminetz, and Marvin
Kaminetz



John Hanson Briscoe and Marvin
Kaminetz.

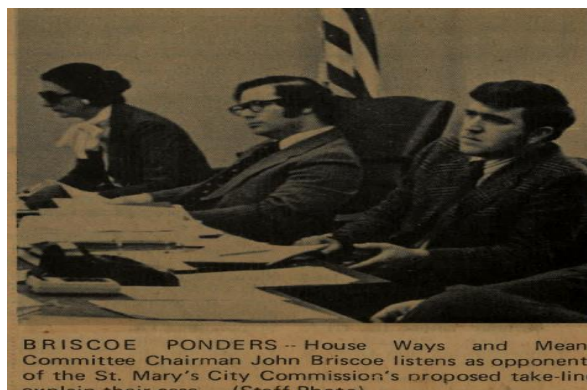


Left to Right: Ron Schwartzman, Howard Cardin, Marvin Kaminetz, and Ben
Cardin At Sarasota,FL, Baltimore Orioles Pre-season

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE: CHAIRMAN OF THE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE, 1970-1973



***J**ohn Hanson Briscoe: The Ways and Means Committee is the fiscal committee; very, very important committee. And something I never had any desire for, you know; you get into figures and taxes, not my thing. Tom Lowe was Speaker of the House, and he was also my roommate, (laughs), but there was a void there and he called me up and he said, “John Briscoe, I want you to be Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.” I said, “What!?” You know the last thing in the world I would want; the judicial committee or something. But he told me “You’ve got to do it; you can do it.” You know, he gave me this ego thing. “And I’m going to give you a lot of good people to help you do it. I know you don’t like fiscal matters and you’re not an expert on it.” And I was really reluctant to take it because I really loved where I was, but I took it over in 1970. And he gave me Ben Cardin and that was the reason why I had a very successful tenure as Chairman with the Ways and Means Committee; not because of my fiscal acumen, but because of Ben and a lot of smart people.¹⁹⁰*



Ben Cardin (center) John Hanson Briscoe (right)

¹⁹⁰ John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: When Thomas Hunter Lowe asked him to be Chairman of Ways and Means Briscoe said he wasn't really comfortable with numbers. He preferred the Judiciary or the Environmental Committees. He said specifically that the only way he able to get through successfully as chairman was that you were on the committee with him.

U.S Senator Ben Cardin: I'll agree with part of that. No question. He had no idea of the agenda of the Ways and Means Committee. It's not what he wanted to do. He was very happy with the Environmental Committee. He didn't really want the Ways and Means Committee because of its agenda. So he was sort of talked into doing it.

I don't think the two of us knew each other very well prior to me being Vice Chair of the committee. We knew each other but we didn't know each other well. We did fit pretty comfortably together. I had a passion for the agenda of the Ways and Means Committee and what I found was that John and I had a common philosophy, and that is a pretty pragmatic philosophy. It wasn't so much about getting our particular agenda done, it was more about getting things done and trying to figure out a common way forward, recognizing that there are different views on the committee and different views on the State, and how do we find that sweet spot? So, that was John's talent, as you pointed out, mediator. His talent really was to solve problems. I think I did provide technical help on the agenda of the Ways and Means Committee. No question. I did the tax code, I had written articles about the tax code, I was a student of it. I knew the health code. I knew a lot of the issues that went through the Ways and Means Committee. I think over a relatively short period of time, John had confidence that the information I was sharing with him would lead to that agenda, that common agenda being done.



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
Baltimore City 5th

Samuel Baldwin: He pointed to his chair at the head of the committee table and said that you would normally be sitting right next to him in this committee. What was your role as Vice Chair of the committee with him?



U.S Senator Ben Cardin: Well, that's true. I did sit next to him. My office was next to his office in the committee room. This was when there were not really nice facilities for members of the House...so we shared a lot of that. The staff of the Ways and Means Committee were for all of us. So, it was still before the reforms on a much more orderly way in which bills were considered and hearings were had. It was still a little bit haphazard at that time. But what John would do is, he would go over agenda items with me and we would try to find a common way of moving them forward. So, it was the sharing of information between the two of us, how to make certain suggestions. I can't ever remember a time that requests that I had were not honored. He always was very kind in making sure that the agenda of the committee reflected our mutual needs.¹⁹¹

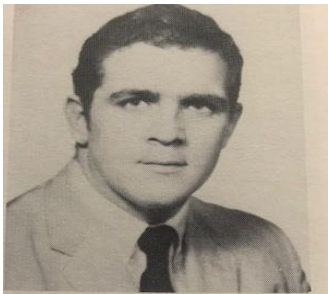
John Briscoe was a very close personal friend. John was a real gentleman and a person who could bring different views together and someone with unquestionable integrity. He was a great listener, and as a result, could reach consensus.¹⁹²



¹⁹¹ U.S Senator Ben Cardin interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr

¹⁹² Wilson , Ike. "Friends Remember Ex-House Speaker." The Frederick News-Post , 16 Jan. 2014.

Marvin Kaminetz: With John selecting Ben as his Vice Chairman of Ways and Means, I did have some influence. John and I were riding up the road to Annapolis. Governor Mandel was behind Ben because they ran together on the same ticket in Baltimore City years ago. He would've been a Mandel choice and certainly the Baltimore City delegation. And there was this other guy from the Eastern Shore. John had to make a choice. John being a rural delegate, from a small rural area, probably would've been leaning towards a rural guy as opposed to a liberal guy from the city. I told John, I said, "John, let me tell you a few things about my friend Ben Cardin. Not only is he extremely smart, very, very smart and in financial kind of matters but two, he is extremely loyal. You know, he's an extremely liberal guy from Baltimore City, but I'm telling you he is a loyal guy. You don't need to worry about someone undercutting you, you don't need a maverick." He selected Ben; I mean it was all up to him, and he selected Ben; and the rest is history. He was very, very helpful to John and John always appreciated that. ¹⁹³



THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR
Prince George's County 3rd

Senate President Mike Miller: He was liked by everybody. And, he was very much like myself. He was a lawyer, had his door open to everybody. But he wasn't a financial wizard on the Ways and Means Committee. He was Chairman, but they had Ben Cardin on the Committee and others. Briscoe would come up with the ideas and would work with the President of the Senate on the ideas, then he would have work groups and come up with the legislation. But it was his job to explain the Bills on the floor. What he did, he did it in a great way. ¹⁹⁴

When, in 1971, he became chairman of the most prestigious House committee, Ways and Means, Delegate Briscoe found himself acting as floor manager of some of the year's hottest issues, including parochial school aid, the beer tax, public defender system and the repeal of the admissions and amusements tax. Even as chairman of the Environmental Matters Committee, he was faced with the politically delicate and inflammatory abortion bill of 1969, which resulted in the liberalization of Maryland's law, a law now supported by opponents of this year's attempted abolition of the statue. Political observers, colleagues and reporters repeatedly commented on Briscoe's deft handling of those issues. He was able, under the most strenuous circumstances, during the wetlands bill fight, for example, to apply diplomacy, good taste and humor to an objective presentation of the facts about the issues involved.

In spite of his success, "John Hanson" as he is known in Annapolis, would like to spend more time in his native St. Mary's County, especially since the Legislative Council has gone into a summer-long continuation of the regular committees, meeting at least twice weekly. Briscoe must attend Council meetings, chair the Ways and Means Committee and attend meetings of the

¹⁹³ Marvin Kaminetz Personal Interview By Samuel C. P. Baldwin Jr.

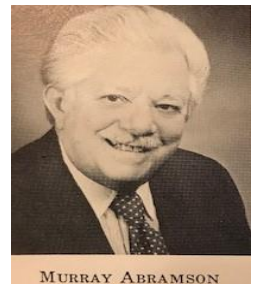
¹⁹⁴ Maryland Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Joint Committee on Budget and Audit as well as those of the Committee on Rules, Organization and Facilities.

He still had time, however, to serve a term as president of the St. Mary's County Bar Association and to be active in the Maryland Bar Association.¹⁹⁵



John Hanson Briscoe: Somebody is testifying before our committee; off the screen, at the end of this table. And Murray Abramson is watching and listening. (Abramson, who is on the left.) A ***** delegate. This other delegate is one of the guys from Baltimore County, a good friend; really these guys are almost mafia. They are all good friends. Yeah, very quiet, very supportive. Not terribly smart but, you know, a good soldier.



Samuel Baldwin: You didn't mean mafia really?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, I'd say baby mafia. They ran grocery stores and all kinds of things. Scrap metal in *****county; he and there was another fellow, I had at least two or three really good friends but they were really in the business, but I never asked them what they did. But oh, yeah, they were there. They didn't talk much but they were there when you needed them. Never say anything, never asked any questions. Boy, he was tough. He would say, 'you want me to get this for you or that'. To my left, is my legislative assistant, Bill Ratchford at the far right – fiscal genius. He served everybody, the governor, the legislators and he would tell us instantly what a bill was going to cost. He was a fiscal genius. We wouldn't do anything without getting his approval. He put a fiscal note on it, 'you guys do this thing, you are going to cost the state of Maryland 5 million dollars a year.' Another guy that's been around for a long time.

¹⁹⁵ "August is John Hanson Briscoe Month." August 5, 1971, Val Hymes, The Enterprise

He's listening, wheels and deals, he is very bright. He is a bean counter. He always got something going, you know what I mean. Yeah, a good friend of mine named Ratchford. He is a brilliant fiscal person. And I'm listening to testimony as well. I was Chairman of the Ways and Means. Yeah, big deal. Money committee; sales tax, wine tax, lottery, it all came out of here. You know who I don't see here, and he should be there, is Ben Cardin. Ben Cardin would be sitting on my right. Yeah, Vice Chairman. He was my brains.

People would pop in my committee room all the time just to chat.

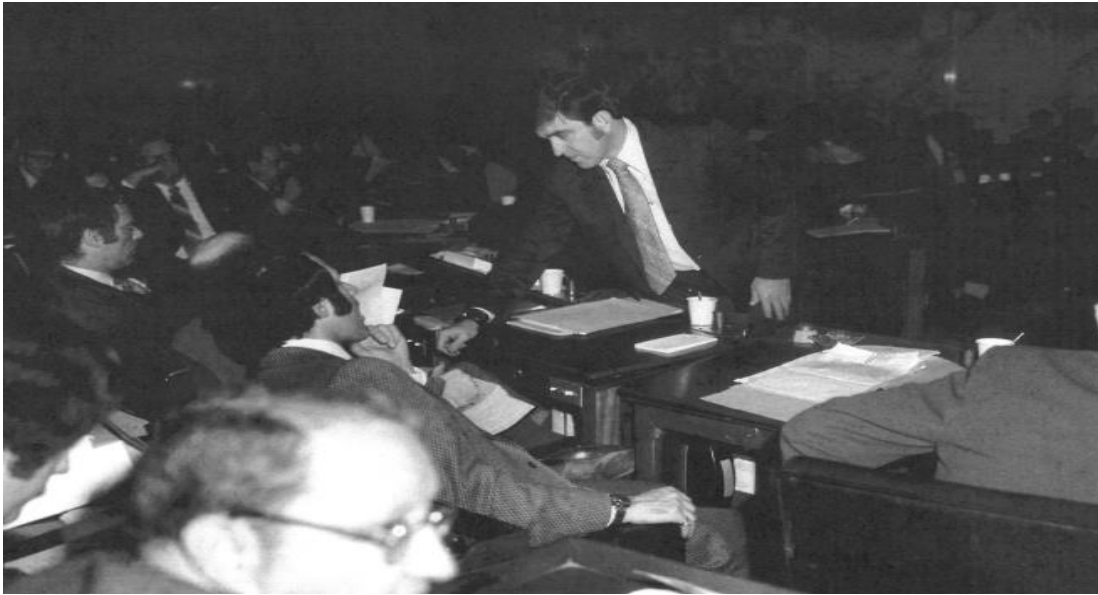
Marvin Mandel would pop in there every now and then if it was a tax bill, see what we were doing. Quite a group of people but I had a good committee and they always supported me. ¹⁹⁶



James Manning McKay (left) John
Hanson Briscoe (right)

John Hanson Briscoe: I am sitting next to my associate from St. Mary's County, James Manning McKay who was a delegate and worked with me. We were just talking about legislation that is coming up and if something is on the floor that is not real interesting, we would just chat about things. Normally, we will just talk about what's going on in the world, St. Mary's county; unless there is something interesting.

¹⁹⁶ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.



John Hanson Briscoe: I'm back speaking with a delegate from Baltimore County. He might have asked me something and I was addressing his concern or just talking with him. I was doing what I usually do and he was asking about a bill or something and I was explaining it to him. I was taking the floor because as a committee chairman, when your bills come and you report them out favorably, you have to explain them and answer questions.

Samuel Baldwin: So, taking it from that first set of photos where you are in the committee room, taking testimony, assuming as it gets out of the committee favorably it comes to the floor for a general vote...

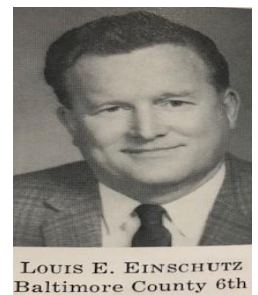
John Hanson Briscoe: And amendments.

Samuel Baldwin : And discussions and your job then as chairman would be to explain it.

John Hanson Briscoe: And defend it and support it. You bet.

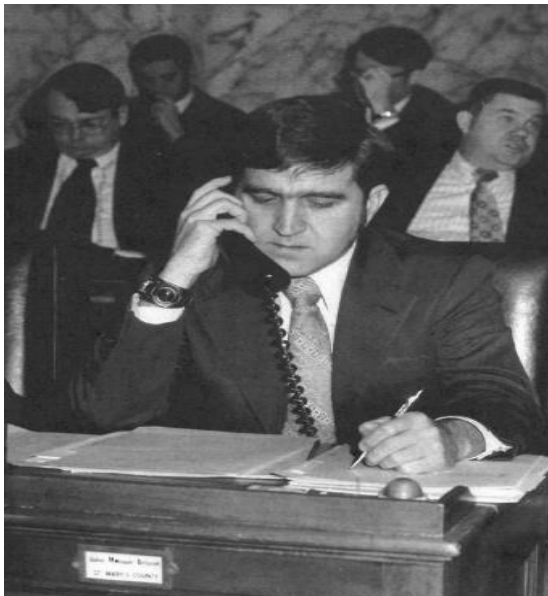
Samuel Baldwin: Did you ever have anything that came out of the committee that was difficult to defend or support.

John Hanson Briscoe: That is a good question. We usually didn't bring things out that we couldn't support but I had Ben Cardin and Lou Einschutz who were really good fiscal guys, I wasn't a fiscal person. We wouldn't usually bring it out if we couldn't do it. I never really got sucker punched on something like that. You see if you bring it out on the floor, you have delegates from all over the state on the committee and they are going to protect you. Unless it is something bad, they will vote and their people will figure it is okay. If Frank Santangelo voted for it; he is looking out for us in Baltimore County.





Typical scene, see. I sat back there when I was chairman. And I was making a speech, and my buddies were sitting there watching me.¹⁹⁷



Governor Hughes Hanson: He was Chairman of Ways and Means, which automatically made him floor leader, and I was Secretary of Transportation at the time. I remember sitting up in the balcony on the phone with John Hanson, when he was floor leader, advising him on legislation affecting the transportation in Maryland. Just an arrangement we had made.¹⁹⁸

John Hanson Briscoe: We seldom lost bills on the floor.

Samuel Baldwin: You didn't bring a bill, if you knew you were going to lose it

John Hanson Briscoe: Exactly right¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁷ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

¹⁹⁸ Governor Harry Hughes Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

¹⁹⁹ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



Left to Right: Former Governor Millard Tawes, Arthur "Buck" Briscoe, John Hanson Briscoe, John H.T. Briscoe

John Hanson Briscoe: That was a big deal. My father and I, through Buck Briscoe and Millard Tawes, got approval to put a sea wall at St. Clement's Island. It's where all the erosion was, see. Spent a lot of money in it. And they kind of gave me credit for it, because I got the state people here, and Millard Tawes, he was a good friend. I was a chairman of Ways and Means, July, 1971, yeah, a young delegate.

Samuel Baldwin: And your dad was out of politics by then, wasn't he?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, yeah. But he was interested. Yep. That was the beginning of the erosion control at St. Clement's Island



Samuel Baldwin: That looks like you and Louis Goldstein on your right.

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah. John Thomas Parran on the left; he was a senator from Charles County. And then Dudley Diggs. I don't know whether he was on the bench in Charles County, but he eventually, you know, got to, the 'big court ' (Maryland Court of Appeals). Well, November of 1970, that might have been when he was appointed judge. And John Thomas Parran, my good friend and senator from Charles County.



John Hanson Briscoe: It was one of those junkets that we went on. On the boat, on down the Bay and Baltimore Gas and Electric Company really wanted us to be excited about them building that plant. See, that plant was being built in '72. Calvert Cliffs. So this was a big PR thing, you know, have all these important people. I was a chairman of Ways and Means at the time. 'Come there and look at everything,' hard hats and all that stuff. Ben Cardin was probably with us. Yeah, that's what that was, one of those Bay junkets. God they were fun. ²⁰⁰

THREE LEGISLATORS GOT FREE ROME TRIPS FROM AUTO DEALERS

Three Maryland legislators accepted in 1972 a free week-long trip to Rome at the expense of an automobile dealers' trade association, all three acknowledged yesterday.

John Hanson Briscoe (D-St.Mary's), said he was invited to speak on a half-day panel at the Maryland Automobile Trade Association's annual conference.

The association, a 65-year old organization of about 400 state-regulated new and used car dealers, provided transportation on a charter flight and hotel accommodations for the lawmakers and their wives—a package that cost paying members about \$300 each, according to association lobbyist J. Cavendish Darrell, who arranged the seven-day trip between Nov. 26 and Dec. 3.

Briscoe said that his acceptance of the free trips implied no wrongdoing or potential conflict of interest, although he added that the changed political atmosphere since the Watergate scandal places in a different perspective such activities by public officials.

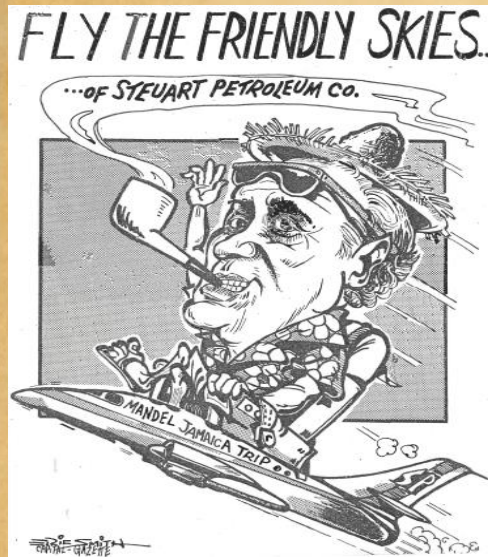
Briscoe said that such invitations to officials should get early and wide disclosure, although he said printed programs for the Rome conference listed the legislators as speakers and were distributed to car dealers statewide.

As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, at the end of the Rome trip Briscoe said he handled no motor vehicle related bills, and was certain in his own mind of an absence of a conflict of interest. He said he was more concerned about how much his trip would cost the association, he said.

²⁰⁰ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

“I satisfied myself that it was no big deal... no great gift,” Briscoe said. Congressmen, executives and other officials have accepted such trips “for years, and will probably continue, but under stricter guidelines,” Briscoe said adding that “it’s like an honorarium.”

Maryland public officials’ travels have been brought into questions in recent weeks since it was disclosed that Gov. Marvin Mandel traveled free on a Steuart Petroleum Co. plane to a Jamaican vacation in January and had received free rides on planes of other companies regulated by the state.²⁰¹



Left to Right: John Arnick, Ron Shriver, Frank Harris, John Briscoe, Governor Mandel, Thomas Hunter Lowe

²⁰¹ Briscoe’s Archives

JUNKETS

John Hanson Briscoe: Oh my God. That's George Bauman on the right. He used to be a broadcaster for WBAL television. And that's William S. James, President of the Senate. And I was Chairman of the Committee at the time. Governor's yacht (laughs). My job was to set up a cruise down the Bay, you know, a junket. We'd go in there for a couple of days and come up with some reason to go down the Bay and celebrate and go into this place and that place. Everybody would meet us and greet us; we wouldn't do any work. They'd have meetings and stuff. And Billy James was always straight and I think George Bauman would say, "Mr. President, what are ya'll going to do?" I don't know how he found out. Billy James was such a



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe,
Billy James, George Bauman

nice guy, he said, "We're going on a business trip." He (Bauman) said, "What do you mean, business trip?" And he (James) said, "Let me get somebody." And I had come out of the hotel. I had been up there all night and probably was hung over. And he said "Let me get you the chairman of this committee. Briscoe." So they call me over and I don't know who took the photograph, but you can see that it's being televised. He (Bauman) said "Mr. Chairman, where are ya'll going and what are you going to do?" And you know, God, he caught me. You know I probably had a headache, and I said, "Well George, we're going down to Southern Maryland. We're probably going to stop at Baltimore Gas and Electric Company." They were building Calvert Cliffs at the time. And then we'd go down to the Eastern Shore. We'd go on both sides of the Bay, see. Just seeing how all the seafood is doing. Doing all that stuff, you know any excuse to go down there. You know, we've got this huge yacht and we've got a chef and we're eating and drinking and having a wonderful time. Right? He (Bauman) said, and he was a good friend of mine and an excellent journalist, he said, "Mr. Chairman, how do you justify taking that boat that burns a lot of fuel? How do you justify taking that out on the Chesapeake Bay?" And I said, "You know George, the Chesapeake Bay is one of our greatest natural assets. Both sides of the Bay, fish, crabs, recreation, and we'd like to go look at it and make sure those assets are being conserved and protected." All that stuff. And he kind of looked at me as if to say 'you can do that by car'.

SB: (Laughs)

John Hanson Briscoe: And I said, I knew he was skeptical, I said, "George, the other thing is, do you own a boat?" He said, "No I don't." I said, "It's a very expensive boat and you spend a lot of money to keep it maintained and if you don't use it, it's just going to deteriorate. You've really got to run it and use it." And he (Bauman) kind of rolled his eyes and Billy James, he's such a wonderful fella, he just rolled his eyes too. He (Bauman) said, "ok" (laughs) and I don't know if he printed that, it was on television. But that's what I told him, I said "You know this yacht is

here and if you don't use it, then it'll deteriorate. What a better way to use it than to go out on the Bay we want to protect." And I was pretty good in those days.²⁰²

REFINERY ISSUE HOT IN ST.MARY'S

A favorite expression by humorist P.G. Wodehouse pretty well sums up the state of affairs in St. Mary's County right now: "Things are hotting up nicely," in preparation for a referendum July 23 on the 100,000 barrel a day oil refinery proposed for construction by the Steuart Petroleum Company, feelings on both sides of this sizzling issue are running high, and the subject has been dominating the front pages of the local papers for several months.

Here, briefly, is an attempt to summarize the situation going into the final two weeks before the referendum:

Steuart Petroleum Company would like to be the first company to successfully construct an oil refining facility on the East Coast. They floated a similar plan six years ago, but were defeated by the opposition of local people, largely on environmental issues.

In addition to the need for a refinery on the East Coast, Steuart hopes to sell the project to the people of St. Mary's County by promising to bring in 130 new jobs and some \$25 million in tax revenues over the next 10 years (although it is not clear yet whether the new refinery would be taxed as personal property, or on a per-barrel basis). The petroleum company's present 900-acre tank farm at Piney Point is already the biggest employer in the county, with about 140 jobs.

Advocates of the refinery cite St. Mary's County's need for new jobs and new sources of tax revenue. According to a 1971 economic inventory of the county, the number of households there earning less than \$3,000 is twice as high as the state average.

Opponents of the refinery cite a number environmental problems. They claim there will be groundwater contamination, air pollution (partly due to odor), oil spills, and a general degradation of the clean rural environment because of heavy industries which would be attracted to the area by the refinery.

Both the proponents and opponents are organized and vocal. Local meetings are being held almost nightly.

The St.Mary's County Commissioners, however, have not taken a stand. Instead, they appointed a 13-member Refinery Study committee to make an objective study of the proposal. A week before the Committee was due to submit its report, four members resigned, complaining that the Committee was basing too much of its findings on information supplied to it by Steuart, and that its final report was "biased in favor of the proposed refinery." The report was released last Friday.

A strong and consistent opponent of the refinery has been State Senator Paul J. Bailey, who sponsored the legislation which mandated a local referendum on the question to be held July 23. Now, despite the referendum, the final outcome of the issue is uncertain. If the people vote 'yes' on allowing Steuart to build, the company will have to obtain rezoning in order to construct

²⁰² John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

the refinery, since the area is now zoned agricultural, and this could raise the whole issue again. If the people vote 'no,' then Steuart will not necessarily pack its bags and go away, but may very well take the referendum bill to court. As one well-informed professional observer of the scene put it: "I don't think it will end on the 23rd."²⁰³

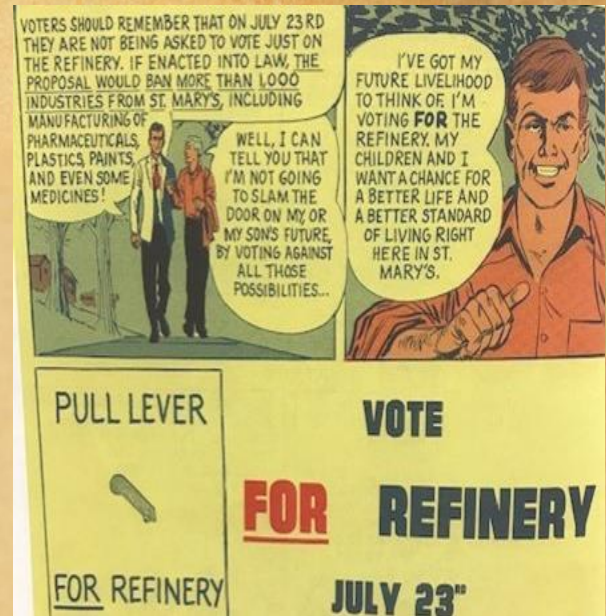
BRISCOE OPPOSES REFINERY

Del. John Hanson Briscoe has declared his opposition to construction of the Steuart Petroleum refinery, on which his St. Mary's constituents will vote in a referendum next Tuesday.

Briscoe said he has consistently opposed heavy industrial development in St. Mary's, and that his concern for the environment outweighs "the questionable and unknown economic benefits of the refinery."

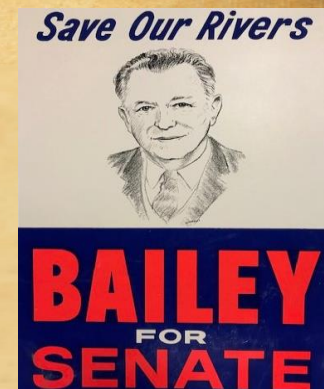
He calls attention of voters to "the kind of blight that has followed oil development" in the country--influx of fly-by-night speculators, control of local politics, rural slums and demands on taxpayers for new schools, police and roads.

To balance the possible economic loss the county would suffer from not building the refinery, Briscoe suggests that the Economic Development Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, and the St. Mary's county commissioners hire a professional to "actively solicit desirable light industry and commerce."²⁰⁴



POLITICS OF OPPOSITION IN ST.MARY'S

The Steuart Petroleum Company's plan to build an oil refinery in St. Marys county is still dominating politics in Southern Maryland. According to *The Sun*'s James A. Rousmaniere, Jr., no candidate, Democrat or Republican, dares to venture forth to meet constituents without registering complete and fervent opposition to the proposed refinery. There is little wonder. St. Marys residents have tried to demonstrate their displeasure with the project. They voted 2-to-1 to reject it in a special election last summer. But the company, contrary to an earlier promise to accept the outcome, has moved ahead with construction and has asked the courts to declare the vote



²⁰³ The Baltimore Sun, mid-July 1974

²⁰⁴ 'Briscoe Opposes Refinery', Mid-July, 1974, Baltimore Sunpapers

meaningless.

Maybe private corporations can ignore community will, but elected politicians cannot. The pressures on individual candidates because of the Steuart controversy has led not to questions of are you for or against, but how much more against are you than the other fellow. This has caused considerable breast-thumping and heart-crossing on the part of candidates from both parties. Whether it brings a desired result to local residents opposed to the refinery is altogether uncertain, however.

At present St. Mary's county Circuit Court has the question before it and if the judges declare in favor of the company, nothing short of a reversal by the Maryland Court of Appeals will stop the project. Politicians are dandy when it comes to making laws. But Steuart officials are relying on some of the laws working in their behalf. They are arguing that permits for construction of the refinery were issued and the actual work begun before the General Assembly authorized the referendum.

Nevertheless, one may assume that politicians still recognize that right makes might, and in Southern Maryland the people are always right. The only possible objection is that a one-issue campaign may suffocate the discussion of other important questions. And we wonder whether voters can become fully familiar with the men and women who seek their support²⁰⁵

OIL IS THE ISSUE IN ST.MARY'S COUNTY

Leonardtown--In heavily Democratic St. Mary's county, where politics ranks with the Navy and tobacco growing as a major industry, the primary has usually been the election.

But this year, even the September 10 primary may prove to be an anti-climax.

For the past year or so, St. Mary's county has been preoccupied with oil--more specifically, with a \$163 million, 100,000 barrel-a-day oil refinery the Steuart Petroleum Company was planning for Piney Point on the banks of the lower Potomac.

The refinery's supporters argued that it would bring jobs, tax revenue and development to this rapidly growing county.

Its opponents argued that along with the jobs and taxes would come pollution and traffic and over-crowding to a once remote county that is now, incredibly, in the path of the expanding Washington suburbs.

The issue was debated bitterly and finally given to the voters to decide. On July 23, the county voted 2-1 against the refinery and all other heavy industry.

But, as many candidates who have campaigned through St. Marys agree, it is still the refinery--especially since Steuart has continued construction in the face of the referendum vote--that holds the interest of St. Marys voters.

"That refinery is still on everybody's mind," said Michael J. Sprague, a county commissioner from Charles county who, as a candidate for the House of Delegates in the 29th District, is campaigning for the first time through St. Mary's.

²⁰⁵ The Baltimore Sun, September, 1974

"I wouldn't say the people are preoccupied, I'd say they are damned angry--and they have a right to be," said Dennis A. Dooley, another Charles county Democrat running for the House who is also getting his first taste of St. Marys county politics.

"I think the tempo is picking up a bit, but for a while the refinery was all people were talking about," J. Manning McKay, a Democratic member of the House of Delegates who is now running for president of the St. Marys county commissioners, said recently.

Whether the refinery issue will continue to dominate political life in St. Marys still remains to be seen. But for the Charles countians running in St. Marys, it is clearly making campaigning more difficult.

For the first time, Charles and St. Mary's counties--which share a shady, tobacco-rich peninsula between the Potomac and Patuxent rivers--will also be sharing a four-man delegation to the General Assembly.

Although the two counties previously shared a state Senator--the retiring Republican incumbent, Paul Jacob Bailey--each county until this year had its own members of the House of Delegates.

With redistricting, however, St. Marys politicians are for the first time campaigning in Charles, and vice versa--a situation that has candidates wondering whether party loyalty will hold sway over county loyalty.

And the Charles countians admit campaigning among St. Mary's fructuous, free-wheeling Democrats has been an eye-opening experience.

"Understand? Hell, no, I don't understand politics down there," one Charles countian said recently. "I called one guy for support and he says, 'Only if you don't call so and so and keep the other fella at arm's length."

"Well," another Charles politician said, "they have five factions down there--but I'll be damned if I can tell you what they are."

But, most seem to agree, campaigning in St. Mary's is fun. "The people down there really love politics," says Mr. Dooley, a Waldorf lawyer who is struggling to get his name known in St. Marys, "It's different than anything I've ever seen before."

Or, as an aide to Governor Mandel put it during a recent campaign swing through Southern Maryland: "Everybody in St. Mary's county is a politician."

In the House race the situation is much the same. Five Democrats are vying for three slots on the ballot, and at this stage only one is considered to be a sure winner.

He is Delegate John Hanson Briscoe, a 40-year-old Hollywood lawyer who in his two terms in the House has risen rapidly through the House leadership to a key committee chairmanship.²⁰⁶

²⁰⁶ The Baltimore Sun, September 1974

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR: SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, 1973-1979

A.) ELECTED SPEAKER

Lowe Chosen Special Appeals Judge

Promises of committee chairmanships and other legislative favors already have begun in Annapolis as delegates scramble to replace Mr. Lowe.

Before becoming speaker, Mr. Lowe was chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

As speaker, he would often sternly lecture his House colleagues—often in red-faced anger--when he felt legislative decorum was breaking down.

An athletic and powerfully built man who regularly wrestled midshipmen at the Naval Academy, Mr. Lowe occasionally would break his gavel in two as he brought the House to order.

He was cautious about taking an active stance on controversial legislative issues, regarding himself more as a neutral except on his favorite subjects such as the need for more legislative control over the University of Maryland.

While frequently calling for legislative assertion in the face of a dominating executive, like the current Governor, he was generally co-operative in dealings with Mr. Mandel.

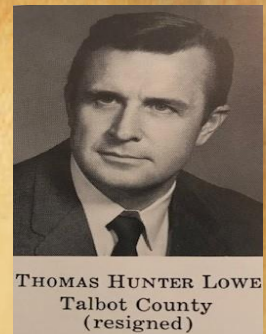
Mr. Lowe said yesterday that as speaker he was most proud of his renovation of the legislative page system. Previously, the pages were retired men with political connections.

Now, they are high school students, selected by the State Board of Education, and paternally protected by Mr. Lowe from the legislators' after-hours festivities.

The speaker of the House has been perhaps the most powerful elected official next to the Governor. His near-total authority in picking House committee chairmen, and his influence over the flow of bills gives the speaker extraordinary leverage. Mr. Lowe was not averse to using it.

The nine-judge Court of Special Appeals primarily handles appeals of criminal cases. Its role will soon be expanded, however, as the Court of Appeals narrows its scope to important, precedent-setting cases, leaving more cases to the Court of Special Appeals.

Mr. Lowe was selected from among seven lawyers whose names were submitted to the Governor by the Judicial Selection Commission.²⁰⁷



²⁰⁷ The Sun, Sunday, September 23, 1973

BRISCOE STRONG CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER OF HOUSE

Del. John Hanson Briscoe (D-St. Mary's) is officially a candidate for a seat that appears likely to become available within three days—speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

Briscoe is confident that he has the votes in the House to get the job and looks forward to being selected

Of his competitors, Del. Briscoe says: “They’d need some pretty good coalitions, which they can’t put together in my opinion.”

“You’ve got the big counties that don’t want to see one get ahead of the other one, and then you’ve got Baltimore City. You might say they don’t want to see the liberal counties get it, and the liberal counties don’t want to see Baltimore County get it,” Briscoe said.²⁰⁸

John Hanson Briscoe: I had never had any ambition to become Speaker of the House and sometimes when you don’t long for things and show you have a real desire for it, it comes to you. People who look overly ambitious, people are suspicious of. I had no intention of doing that, but I was a chairman of a major committee. I’d like to think I had friends that were conservatives and friends that were liberals, Republicans and Democrats. And they felt that I was a statewide type person even though I came from a rural area. I wasn’t parochial enough that I didn’t see the problems of the metropolitan areas. And it appealed to the people and I was sort of drafted there to run. Ben Cardin, who is a United States Senator now, he was a delegate from Baltimore City. He said, “John, you could win this”.

I’d been there for 11 years and I had served under speakers and since I was a committee chairman, I was fortunate enough to have been in leadership most of my time. I worked very closely with the speakers and met with the speakers. I had two speakers, Marvin Mandel and Thomas Hunter Lowe, Mandel becoming Governor. So I worked with them and so I knew what the job entailed. It entailed all the responsibility of appointing all the chairs of the various committees, and to lead these committees and to manage 141 people. That’s what the size of the House was, including me, from all corners of the state. You had to be fair, you had to be firm, and be impartial. And I knew what the job entailed. I didn’t know how good I would do, but I knew what I had to do. As the old saying goes, I always had to have 72 votes, and that’s the majority. And as long as you have 72 votes as the Speaker of the House you can do anything. It means you’re in control of the committees and the legislation.²⁰⁹

Thomas Hunter Lowe was Speaker and in 1973 he was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals and then that opened up the speakership, see. And I was approached by a number of my friends to go for it.

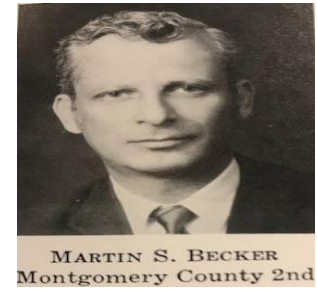
²⁰⁸ The Enterprise, 9/24/73

²⁰⁹ Southern Maryland Perspectives with Brad Gottfried

Samuel Baldwin: Who else was interested in it?

John Hanson Briscoe: John Arnick, Charlie Creziac, Marty Becker, and a couple of folks.

Samuel Baldwin: How do you think you ended up with it?



John Hanson Briscoe: Because of Ben Cardin, my very good friend from Baltimore City. He was very popular and he liked me and he trusted me and he had a couple people from the city that wanted it, but he didn't think much of them. And he came to me and said, "I'll get you the Baltimore City delegation." Which is about 30 votes, in a bloc. And I thought about it and I thought about it and I said, "I don't want to run for anything" and sure enough we had a little campaign and everybody's trying to get enough votes, majority of votes to become Speaker. And I had a lot of people call me and I had a lot of sponsors from Prince George's and Montgomery County and the City. And Ben was the City. I couldn't have done it without him. And of course Montgomery County never trusted the city, Prince George's County didn't trust the city. And I had Prince George's, Montgomery, and Baltimore City, which is a lot of votes and so Ben Cardin and I were counting the votes and once we got to 72, which is what you need, we went with it. And Marvin Mandel was governor at that time. He didn't take sides. He called me up one day; he said, "John, I know you're campaigning to be Speaker and you've got a lot of support, but if there's anything I can do, or you want me to do anything?" I said, "Marvin, I really appreciate it, but I've got the votes." Smartest move I ever made. See, if he had gone out and gotten me a few votes, then I would've been burdened to him as governor and I'm chairman of a committee. And he said, "good." We had 4 rounds of voting I think. Secret ballot. I didn't get enough after the first round and after the next round a couple of them dropped off and it was just me and John Arnick. I forgot how it went, really. And on the last ballot I got more votes than John Arnick. Turned out to be my best friend.²¹⁰

Bonnie Briscoe: He said he was approached and he was seduced into doing it. He said they said, "You have all the abilities" and John said, "I don't know." He wasn't, see, he never sought anything. He was very popular. He was very balanced in his outlook. He had all this power and he never abused it. He never had a secret agenda, he never was a self-promoter and everyone liked him. And I think it was this almost incredible popularity, both sides of the aisle. Mandel really took to him. Mandel really did. By the time the speakership was open he had just, like cream you know, he had just raised to the top and there he was. I think everybody who was promoting him realized that he was fair and he was fair with everybody.²¹¹



John Arnick escorts newly elected Speaker Briscoe.

²¹⁰ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

²¹¹ Bonnie Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

John Hanson Briscoe Is Elected House Speaker

While the caucus went into its second ballot, Gov. Marvin Mandel strolled the area outside the House chamber, talking with newsmen and shaking hands with legislature regulars who had returned so as not to miss the socializing that surrounds meetings of the Maryland General Assembly. Governor Mandel had postponed calling the special session needed to select a speaker while his party tried to settle the nomination without a bitter fight.

When told that Delegate Briscoe had been chosen to hold the speaker's seat, which Mandel held prior to his ascension to Governor, Mandel told the press, "Delegate Briscoe is a very competent legislator and I'm sure he will be an excellent speaker."

Briscoe told the press prior to taking over his new office as speaker that he hoped to cooperate with the press, "just as my predecessor did." The newsmen groaned, realizing, as did Briscoe, that former Speaker Lowe was capable of keeping his enthusiasm for the press well under control.

Delegate Briscoe left for his new office, directly across the hall from the Chamber, in order to prepare for his swearing in and allow the Chamber to reorganize for the occasion.

After a wait of 20 to 30 minutes, House members returned to their seats for the formality that followed. The Minority Leader, one of the few Republicans in the House, rose to praise the Democratic nominee. "We caucused this morning, our brave little group," he began, "and we decided that the man being proposed here is a darn fine fellow and we think he will be a good speaker." Thus Briscoe received both Democratic and Republican support, a mandate for speakership.

Delegate James Manning McKay, freshman from St. Mary's County and owner of two Foodlands in the county, nominated his fellow countain, giving a brief biography of Delegate Briscoe.

Immediately after McKay's words, Delegate Briscoe entered the chamber, his chamber, to a standing ovation. He strode past his wife, who was seated directly off the speaker's platform, stepped up to the middle of the raised podium and began to repeat, "I, John Hanson Briscoe, do solemnly swear..." Another standing ovation followed the new speaker's last words of oath as he delivered his election speech.

Speaker Briscoe thanked those who supported him for Speaker. He acknowledged his law partners and his family who were in the balcony. "I know my 83-year-old father never expected to see this day," Briscoe said, "especially with what he had to go through when I was a younger man." Speaker Briscoe paid tribute to his father and to the Republican side of the aisle. He thanked the Minority Leader for his kind words and said, "I hope nothing but sweet words are ever exchanged between us." As



JAMES MANNING MCKAY
St. Mary's County

the Minority Leader tried to respond, Briscoe interrupted and went on with his speech, bringing laughter from his fellow delegates.

Speaker Briscoe said he expects to make no committee chairman changes except to fill the position he vacates as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. Briscoe had said previously that a tough battle among the seven candidates for Speaker might cause the candidate finally elected to purge some of his opponents. Briscoe discounted any such move, however, indicating he had work with those now serving as chairmen.²¹²

Briscoe Named New Speaker

John Hanson Briscoe, D-St.Mary's the new speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, is the kind of man who wins legislative points with quiet persuasion after adequate research of the subject matter. He always knows what he's doing.

There is nothing flashing about him. He would hardly be noticed in a crowd and would not be inclined to attract attention to himself. That's not his style.

During 11 years as a legislator, he has acquired a reputation for professional competence and knowledge in his work on three major legislative committees. His colleagues have also learned to trust his sense of honor in his deals with them.

Briscoe, a 39-year-old lawyer, believes that the House elected him speaker last week "because of my basic credentials. They looked at my experience and that was the overriding factor."

The quiet, deliberate Briscoe offers the House a new kind of leadership after five years under Thomas Hunter Lowe, a charismatic, strong-willed, authoritarian speaker of keen wit and quick temper.²¹³

²¹² 'John Hanson Briscoe is Elected House Speaker' by; David Densford, The Guardian, November 14, 1973

²¹³ 'Briscoe Named New Speaker' by Ray Gill 11/14/73, Star Democrat 11/4/73

John Slade: Ernie Bell and I had gone through a continuing legal education program in Baltimore. We had spent the night up there. It was a several day program. On the way back from Baltimore, Ernie said, ‘let’s swing into Annapolis and see John Hanson.’ I had only been to Annapolis maybe one time before in my life. So we went to the State House and inquired about John Hanson and they ushered us back into his office. He had just been elected that day Speaker of the House and his father, John H.T. was in the lounge behind the chamber there. So John Hanson asked Ernie and me if we would escort his father out on the floor when he introduced him and we did. I’ll never forget that. We had no idea we would ever serve in Annapolis. I hardly knew how to get up there, let alone be able to serve. And needless to say old man John, as I call him, was gleaming. You know he was really proud of his son because he had always motivated his son. Of course the old man had served one term in the legislature and served as State’s Attorney for thirty years before he became Trial Master and so he had always been involved in St. Mary’s County politics and St. Mary’s County life.²¹⁴

John Hanson Briscoe: My father told me to run for the House of Delegates, and God love him, he got to see me become Speaker of the House. What a thrill that was for him.

1974. Interesting. Arthur Dorman was an eye doctor from Prince George’s County, my speaker pro tem. You had to be sworn in. That’s great.

Samuel Baldwin: And what’s that mean, *pro tem*?

John Hanson Briscoe: When I’m not there he’ll run the chamber. Pro-Tem is “that for now,”; in other words, he would take my place if I couldn’t be there. He was a substitute. “For the time being,” Pro-Tem

Samuel Baldwin: I see. So was this your first oath when you became speaker?



Left to Right: John Thomas Parran, Tom Rymer, Ben Cardin, John Slade, Ernie Bell, Unknown



John Hanson Briscoe and parents, Hilda Maddox and John H.T. Briscoe



“Those Magic Words: John Hanson Briscoe is Sworn in as speaker of the House by Delegate Arthur Dorman as 1974 General Assembly Swung into Action Yesterday.”

²¹⁴ John Slade Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah. You had to do it every year, though.

John Hanson Briscoe: I'd just been elected speaker.

Samuel Baldwin: This is a picture of you and Louis Goldstein.

John Hanson Briscoe: He had come up to congratulate me for being speaker.



Samuel Baldwin: "Good Luck, Marvin Mandel" when you were sworn in and there's Ben Cardin.

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah. See, Ben was my main man when Mandel said, "What can I do for you, to help you get elected, John?" Because I didn't want Mandel involved. So I said, "I'm good" and I told Ben I was going to talk to him. Mandel said, "Well, you let me know if you need anything" [laughs]. And I was smart, I didn't have to. And the newspapers said, "Briscoe did this without Mandel's blessing," which was good because it gave me all that independence.





Left to Right: Senate
President Hoyer,
Chief Judge
Murphy, Governor
Mandel,
Comptroller
Goldstein, Speaker
Briscoe



Left to Right:
Majority Leader
Arnick, Speaker
Briscoe, Delegate
Bill Litton



Samuel Baldwin: You taking the oath. Is that John Arnick beside you?

John Hanson Briscoe: He had to be sworn in as Majority Leader.

Samuel Baldwin: And is that Jim Mause in the front?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, my good friend Jim Mause, look at him [laughs]

Samuel Baldwin: Ok, another picture of you and John Arnick, right?

John Hanson Briscoe: Clayton Mitchell, a future speaker from Kent County on the far right²¹⁵

Mike Miller: I watched John Briscoe at work. And he's just a wonderful man. He was liked by everybody. He had a very pleasing personality, a good disposition, and people trusted him. I think the people that voted for him thought that he would be a good alternative to, even in the Baltimore section of the House of Delegates, or the Washington section of the House of Delegates, he'd be an honest broker. People enjoyed being with him. And, it was important for everybody that Governor Mandel did not have his anointed person as the Speaker. Governor Mandel, as far as I know, didn't ask anybody to do anything.²¹⁶

James Simpson: It was Johnny and his personality. I mean, he was bright, he was smart. He could look in your eye and you couldn't get mad at him. You know, he had a way of smoothing you over. It's like Mandel. Mandel, you'd go in his office and you'd want something, and he's shake his head and chew on his pipe, and you went out, thinking that you got something, and then you'd find out you didn't get a damn thing. He was the best.

²¹⁵ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

²¹⁶ Senate President Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: Were there legislators up there who did not have that personality, those personal traits?

James Simpson: Most of them. Most of them didn't have it. You know, he just was special. He really was. He always made people feel like he cared about them. And I think he really did most of the time.²¹⁷

Although he is from one of the state's smallest counties (population 50,000), city delegates praise him for working closely with them on many issues, and some members of the city administration looked forward privately to his selection as speaker.

Whether consciously or instinctively, Mr. Briscoe mastered two rules of political success in Annapolis: make the right friends and don't make enemies.

Almost all the legislators questioned about Mr. Briscoe regard him as a firm, non-nonsense committee chairman who avoids the chaos often endemic to House committees but who also creates an atmosphere of fairness.

Yet, efficient fairness alone was not enough and Mr. Briscoe concedes that playing the game and observing the rules of the game contributed to his advancement.

Becoming friends with the right powerful or potentially powerful people has been "unquestionably" important, he said. "I've been very lucky and have managed to fall in with the right people...I didn't want to just sit back in the corner and not be heard."²¹⁸

HOUSE LEADERSHIP CHANGE

John Hanson Briscoe has become speaker of Maryland's House of Delegates largely on the strength of legislative experience, a reputation for competence and a moderate political philosophy. One asset he may inherit in the speaker's seat, however, is a large degree of independence. Though a loyal Democrat, Mr. Briscoe gained support from fellow delegates without apparent aid from Governor Mandel, his party's leader. This could strengthen his position for two reasons: One, the speaker will owe nothing to the Governor's legislative designs, and thus should be free to choose only those proposals worthy of support. And two, Mr. Briscoe may now organize the House along his own lines, unfettered by the traditional gubernatorial guidance.

How he uses his independence, backed by the confidence expressed by House Democrats, remains an open question. Mr. Briscoe comes from small St. Marys County. As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee he gained a full education, however, of

²¹⁷ James Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

²¹⁸ The Sun, November 11, 1973

metropolitan and urban problems. He now turns that committee over to the competent hands of Baltimore City Delegate Benjamin Cardin. Mr. Briscoe also has shown strong inclinations to protect the state against radical growth patterns that failed to consider the consequences. In his past role as chairman of the Environmental Matters Committee, he helped win legislative protection for state wetlands. More recently Mr. Briscoe has supported a proposal for statewide land use which would provide increased emphasis on planned growth.

The Briscoe profile will be far different from that of Thomas Hunter Lowe, the man he succeeds. Mr. Lowe relied primarily on personal arm twisting to move House members. Mr. Briscoe believes in diplomatic persuasion. "I am a great believer in getting people to do things by convincing them of the wisdom," he said after being chosen yesterday. That in the long run may prove his most effective qualification.²¹⁹

At the time the speakership became available, there were numerous announced candidates for that particular office including yourself. To what do you attribute the fact that you in particular were selected?

I think I represented a person who had two qualities that appealed to the members of the House. First, I've been fortunate enough to serve some eleven years in the House, and had the rare opportunity of chairing two major committees, the Environmental Matters Committee and the Ways and Means Committee. There is no individual that I know of who has had that unique opportunity. This obviously gave me that much broader background and expertise in those fields which certainly are two of the most important areas of law with which we deal.

Secondly, I think I have displayed over the years a sense of fairness, a person who is not controversial, a person who is not labeled a liberal or conservative, but one who could meet the issues, whichever they were and could go either way on it. I believe I was a middle ground candidate where the people from Baltimore City didn't feel that because I was from a small county I didn't recognize and address their problems. At the same time, I believe in the rural areas and those traditions and qualities that they have, and that we ought to preserve them. I never let either of those stand in the way of what I thought was in the best interest of the State. I think this is what many legislators looked for. They sought a sense of fairness, and you might say a person who represented the middle of the road, who probably has a great deal of flexibility in addressing the issues.²²⁰

Del. Briscoe Elected Speaker

For the first time since 1854, a delegate from St. Mary's County will preside as Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

²¹⁹ The Baltimore Sun, November 10th, 1973

²²⁰ "Banking Talks With The Speaker of The House, John Hanson Briscoe" Maryland Quarterly, Summer 1974

John Hanson Briscoe, in accepting the gavel, said, “We (St. Mary’s County) have been patient for a long time.”

“One of the best results in being elected for this position,” Briscoe later said, “was getting it without making deals and compromises. It was heartening to win when faced with six candidates from larger counties. I had to overcome numbers,” he said, “and that is hard.”

Attending the affair last Friday from St. Mary’s County were Briscoe’s parents, former Judge and Mrs. John H.T. Briscoe, his law partners, James Kenny and Marvin Kamenetz, and former Senator J. Frank Raley.²²¹

John Briscoe Elected Speaker of the House

He said he hoped to be able to “take on those graces of the speaker.” Briscoe spoke casually and did not read any prepared notes while accepting the speaker’s job. He was interrupted several times by applause.

“This is an awesome job,” he said twice, “and it’s truly an honor to take this task on.”

The 39-year-old speaker thanked the people who helped him get the job, naming his wife, children, and law partners.

Then he recognized his 83-year-old father who was seated in the gallery “as a gentleman who gave him the finest advice...he was here in 1939.” The legislative body applauded the senior Briscoe.²²²



Left to Right: John, Jr; Sylvia, John Hanson,
Dana, Lisa, Jan

²²¹ ‘ Del. Briscoe Elected Speaker’, St.Mary’s Beacon 11/14/73

²²² ‘John Briscoe Elected Speaker of the House’ by Jack Kershaw, The Enterprise, 11,15/73

Briscoe Is Tough, Shrewd, But Does It With Soft Sell

Annapolis – John Hanson Briscoe became the new Speaker of the House of Delegates by studiously applying Dale Carnegie's well-honed lessons on how to win friends and influence people.

After 10 years in the House, the St. Mary's county Democrat is one of those rare legislators who has managed to scale the greasy pole to leadership without seriously ruffling the sensibilities or the vanities of his colleagues. Many State House observers and legislators attribute his success to his soft-sell style that combines an inner toughness and shrewdness with a disarming outer unflappability. 'He works by giving everyone a fair shake,' says Delegate Benjamin L. Cardin (D, 5th, Baltimore), who has worked closely with Mr. Briscoe for 3 years on the House Ways and Means Committee. Mr. Briscoe chairs the committee.

Former Speaker Thomas H. Lowe, whom Mr. Briscoe replaced, notes that the new speaker 'never fights down anyone to win and never gets into hassles. He tried to ease his committee into a decision rather than push it.' Those plaudits come from his friends but nonetheless help explain how the 39-years old lawyer ultimately won support from all Democratic House factions and why many House members are already calling him a speaker in the Marvin Mandel tradition. John Briscoe is a southern Maryland politician who learned quickly how to survive the potentially lethal local political war. He entered politics in 1962 as a reformer, running for the House of Delegates at age 28 on a ticket that successfully opposed the long entrenched Dorsey machine. He was a 'natural' for county politics at that moment, local political observers recall. St. Mary's county was beginning to shift from a rural to a suburban county with the expansion of the Patuxent Naval Air Station, and voters were ready for a change at the local level. Mr. Briscoe was a young lawyer, just 2 years out of law school, had an old family name that dated back to the mid-1600's, and worked in Lexington Park, the hotbed of anti-Dorsey sentiment in the county. St. Mary's county politics have been enlivened for the past 30 years by a bitter feud between the Briscoe's and the Dorseys that, politically at least, was as intense as the legendary feud between the Hatfields and McCoys. It started back in the late 1930's when John Henry Thomas Briscoe, John Hanson's father, was a member of the House of Delegates and Philip H. Dorsey, Jr., was a state Senator. They split on the issue of state aid for the bussing of parochial school students. Mr. Dorsey, a Protestant, supported it and Mr. Briscoe, a Catholic, opposed it. Mr. Briscoe's stand was politically suicidal since the county was then 80 percent Catholic. The two squared off in 1956 over the county Circuit Court judgeship with Senator Dorsey soundly defeating Mr. Briscoe for the post.

The younger Briscoe got revenge in 1962 when the ticket he ran on, headed by J. Frank Raley, Jr., defeated practically all of the members of the Dorsey slate. Since his first 'reformer' victory, the new House speaker has moved away from any deep involvement in St. Mary's county's highly personal and factionalized politics. He was handily re-elected in 1966 although Senator Raley was defeated by Republican Paul J. Bailey, an ally of the Dorseys. Some local observers call his decision to cut loose from tickets a shrewd move for political survival. 'St. Mary's politics is quicksand,' says one county politician. 'You get too involved in county politics and it will destroy you.' Even the famous Dorsey-Briscoe feud has cooled with time. Although Mr. Briscoe and Mrs. Jeanne B. Dorsey, the judge's daughter-in-law, technically are still political

enemies, the strain between their factions 'hasn't been that visible recently,' according to local observers.

In Annapolis, Mr. Briscoe quickly recognized, as one Briscoe observer put it, that 'he'd stay a young man unless he hitched onto some group in the legislature. That's when his connection with Marvin Mandel began.' The Mandel connection began to pay off soon. As a freshman legislator, Mr. Briscoe was named vice chairman of the Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries Committee by then-Speaker Mandel. The Committee's chairman died in 1964 and the speaker tapped Mr. Briscoe to head the committee. He was named chairman of the Natural Resources Committee in 1965 and the new House Environmental Matters Committee in 1968. He switched over to the Ways and Means Committee in 1971 at the behest of Speaker Lowe. Mr. Mandel became Governor in 1969 when Spiro T. Agnew resigned to become Vice President. Mr. Briscoe was offered the House majority leader post by Mr. Lowe in late 1970. He turned it down, however, saying that Mr. Lowe's strong personality had 'diminished' the position before he became speaker. The two men remained close personal and political friends despite Mr. Briscoe's rejection.

As a young delegate, Mr. Briscoe marked himself as a moderate, a position sometimes counter to the county's conservatism. He supported much of the state's original civil rights legislation in the early 1960's, the new state constitution in 1968, the abortion bill in 1971, and the unsuccessful campaign for St. Mary's' county charter government last year. 'He's neither too liberal nor a redneck' is the refrain of his legislative colleagues and St. Mary's politicians.

After Mr. Mandel became Governor, Mr. Briscoe stayed close to him. He guided the Mandel administration's landmark wetlands legislation through his committee and the House, and handled the Governor's revised aid-to-education formula this year. Some of his early St. Mary's supporters were at first suspicious of Mr. Briscoe's quick move into the House leadership. 'When Briscoe entered the House,' recounts one of his early backers, 'he unashamedly became Mandel's lackey and he rose quickly. He had a reform image and it looked as though he had sold out. For that first term, we were troubled.' Mr. Briscoe acknowledges his early debt to Mr. Mandel. 'Marvin Mandel was certainly very good to me,' he says. 'He helped me move ahead, particularly in my early days when I was trying to move into the leadership.'

But the two men had a major falling-out in the early 1972 that some State House observers say has left permanent scars. It came over the St. Mary's county Circuit Court judgeship that the Governor had to fill when Judge Dorsey retired. The Governor dangled the judgeship in front of Mr. Briscoe for 8 months before offering it to him in early 1972, only 4 months before a judicial primary would be held in which the incumbent would have to run. Mr. Briscoe turned down the judgeship when the offer finally was made. He charged then that the Governor waited so long to make the appointment that he, Mr. Briscoe, felt he was not in a position to take it. 'This was the turning point,' says one St. Mary's county official. 'Johnny really wanted that judgeship and the Governor put him off. That's when Johnny was literally reborn. John felt at that point he was rid of any obligation to Mandel.' Rumors circulated at the time that Mrs. Jeanne B. Dorsey spiked Mr. Briscoe and was instrumental in getting the Governor to name Joseph D. Weiner, the county state's attorney, who was part of the Dorsey faction. The Governor plans to marry Mrs. Dorsey, a 36-year-old divorcee, as soon as he divorces his wife, Barbara. Sources close to Mr. Mandel say 'there's never been any evidence of hostility toward the Governor after the episode.' But other

State House sources say that, ‘Marvin and John will never get along as long as Marvin and Jeanne are seeing each other.’ The new speaker is reportedly miffed that he has not been consulted by the Governor about St. Mary’s county Green Bag (patronage) appointments. While the once close political ties between the Governor and the new speaker have stretched, their styles are very similar. They are low-keyed leaders who have made their mark by avoiding confrontations, by soothing hurt feelings, and by remaining unflappable even though a crisis might swirl around them. In his committee, Mr. Briscoe only infrequently has to overtly exercise his muscle to get his way. His usual style is ‘indirect and subtle,’ according to one of his colleagues. He tries to develop a controversial legislation like assessments and aid to education. When he achieves his end, then he calls for a vote. In the House, he is known as a staunch committee loyalist who rarely loses a committee bill on the floor.

‘John is by instinct one who wants to avoid problems,’ says Senator Raley, Mr. Briscoe’s former St. Mary’s county political mentor. ‘He’s good at sitting down and working out compromises.’ Other Briscoe observers talk of his ‘keen sense of balance of what it’s possible to do’ and the fact that ‘he’s not a crusader or a headline grabber.’ J. Frank Raley says Mr. Briscoe is so ‘cool’ that he can nap in the midst of a crisis. ‘I recall a great county crisis when I was in Annapolis where the commissioners came up. The county delegation had a raucous meeting, and in the middle of it, I said, ‘John what do you think?’ When I looked up, I saw him stretched out on a couch, sleeping.’

Perhaps one of the secrets to his legislative success is the little things he does that cement friendships with his fellow delegates. During the winter General Assembly session, he brings up to Annapolis a bushel of oysters and an ‘old ham’ cured on the Briscoe farm in St. Mary’s county.²²³

Samuel Baldwin: John Hanson Briscoe said that you had a lot to do with him becoming speaker of the House, and not only you helping to deliver the votes of the Baltimore City delegation, but what was significant to him, and he told me several times, was that when Marvin Mandel offered to help get him some votes and John Hanson said ‘no, no, don’t need your help’, that was also very important, that he could get this speaker position without relying on Marvin Mandel.



“The Speakers Society”: Briscoe, Mandel, Cardin, Taylor, Busch

U.S Senator Ben Cardin: You’re one hundred percent right. I admire John greatly for that because I strongly believe what he was saying was correct, that we should make our own decisions, and again, if you go back to Marvin Mandel and before Marvin Mandel, the speaker was, and for that matter,

²²³ Baltimore Sunpapers, 11/12/73

the president of the Senate, was very much influenced by who the Governor wanted. If the Governor was the same party, it was very much influenced by that. So, it was very hard to be speaker if the Governor didn't want you to be speaker. So, when John was running for speaker, he told me he wanted to get the votes without going to the Governor and I said 'that's exactly the right way to go about doing it'. We should make our own decisions. We shouldn't beholden onto the Governor if we're going to be an independent legislature. That direct conversation took place. By the time the vacancy occurred and Thomas Hunter Lowe became Judge, John and I were very close friends by then. He was clearly my choice for Speaker and I told him that from the beginning, and I did join in getting him votes, Beyond Baltimore City I had a statewide network - I had some friends in Montgomery County that I worked on - so, I do remember getting him the votes.²²⁴

B.) SPEAKER BRISCOE



Ben Cardin: When he became speaker, he really wanted to implement a strong House of Delegates, and it was a challenge because of the history of the Governor dominating, and also, the Senate having more influence than the House at times. So, he wanted the House to have more influence, and he felt he could do that best if he didn't show any cards. So, if he introduced bills, he has an agenda, or if he gave a speech at the beginning of the legislative session - he didn't do that. He didn't do it. Because, he said 'that would be usurping my position to try to be an honest broker for the entire House.' Now, I changed that, I did it differently when I was speaker. But this was a transition time and it worked, because it gave the House confidence that we could coalesce and be a unifying entity and have the impact, I think, that the legislature should have.

²²⁴ U.S Senator Ben Cardin interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

So you're right. He did not introduce a lot of bills. He did not come up with an agenda at the beginning of each legislative session. But, he had an idea of what he wanted to get done, and we had lots of leadership meetings with him, many chairmen meetings with him, John, where we would go over these issues.²²⁵

James Simpson: Well, I think that's absolutely correct in my opinion. Johnny would move the legislation that he wanted to move, or there was enough votes for, but I didn't think he was ever interested in initiating Legislation. He didn't figure that was his position as much as moving it or killing it or whatever you want to call it²²⁶

BANKING TALKS WITH THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Now that you have had some six months' experience in this vital role, how do you view the duties of Speaker of the House in the legislative process?

I have always highly respected the office of Speaker having served under three very able Speakers, Gordon Boone, Marvin Mandel and Thomas Hunter Lowe, and, of course, I knew the position carried a great deal of responsibility. I've enjoyed it thoroughly.

Of course, going from a committee chairman to being Speaker is a rather traumatic change. When you are committee chairman, you basically have the responsibility of knowing and working very closely with the 26 or 28 members of your committee. But as Speaker, you have the responsibility of appointing all committee chairmen and vice chairmen and all members of all committees so as a result your rapport and communication has to be with every member of the House, and the many needs and problems they have with which you have to deal day to day. There is a great deal of administrative work involved in being Speaker. What you see then when I'm out on the rostrum is only a part of it. The paper work, the administrative duties are enormous.

What significant changes did you undertake in reshaping the speakership to your own image?

I think the basic difference between Thomas Lowe, the former speaker and my predecessor, is the personalities really. How the House should be run, its independence from the executive and the judiciary (which I think is very healthy, and which we strived for and believed in very strongly); basic progress in legislative reform and other important issues throughout the State, we were in general agreement. We were very much alike in this respect. Our only difference and I think many people acknowledge this and see it, is strictly in personalities.

Tom is a very capable, very intelligent individual. He is very strong willed, and believed that whatever decisions he made were in the best interest of the House. As I was saying, I think

²²⁵ Senator Ben Cardin interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

²²⁶ Former Senator James Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

our primary difference is that Tom would assert his power more to accomplish things, to get people to go along with changes or things that he wanted. Just by my nature, rather than asserting power to get things done, I would much prefer to take the time to explain to the individual or individuals the wisdom of doing something or not doing it. I feel it is important that a person do something because I've convinced him of the merits of it, rather than because I'm the Speaker, and I'm his boss. That's the basic difference as I see it.²²⁷

C.) BRISCOE'S REPUTATION AS SPEAKER



Ernies Bell: I remember Governor Schaffer telling me, “My God, I never thought I’d see the day where some rural legislator, John, could see the picture.” John was good for Baltimore. He was understanding. He understood the need for a subway system. Did he go up there; did he know all that before hand? No, but he was a good listener. Knew who to listen to, and then had the ability to weigh and evaluate, make the best decision. The ability and the willingness to hear both sides of an issue and then to render a decision. He was good at that.²²⁸



John Hanson Briscoe and William Donald Schaffer,
Baltimore, November ‘82

²²⁷ Banking Talks with the Speaker of The House’, John Hanson Briscoe” Maryland Banking Quarterly, Summer, 1974

²²⁸ Ernie Bell interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

A Cool Speaker

John Hanson Briscoe assumes the speakership of the Maryland House of Delegates with a reputation as a cool thinker, low-key negotiator and clean politician. All are premium qualities for a man whose powers to appoint committee chairmen, channel vital legislation and guide the careers of aspiring young delegates make him one of the most influential leaders in Maryland government. Making his election even more striking is Mr. Briscoe's entry to the House from St. Mary's County, one of the state's smallest subdivisions, distinguishing him as the first Speaker to be elected from a rural area since the Supreme Court's reapportionment decision giving metropolitan areas a fairer shake in the allotment of legislative seats.

To travel this route successfully, he has managed somehow to retain the support of the local constituency without embracing the shibboleths of its old-line politicians. Example: he refused to be stampeded into pushing for restoration of the legalized slot machines which were the bread-and-butter issue, if not the bread-and-butter itself, of the county Old Guard. At the same time, he swam against strong religious currents in the county by refusing to fight for maintenance of barriers against abortion.

What comes through is not the reckless idealism of a maverick but the independence of a mature politician. Given his reasons, he hoped the folks back home would understand. They apparently did, for he was elected three times after his initial appointment to fill a vacancy in 1962.

It is this independence which Mr. Briscoe says he hopes to emphasize in his role as Speaker and in the relationship between the legislative and executive branches. That, along with his reputation for being cool and clean, should mean a good start in his new job.²²⁹

Samuel Baldwin: How did you, over time, make that transition from the "green as grass" Delegate to the success you were as Speaker?

John Hanson Briscoe: Instinct. I just knew the players and I watched and saw and kept my mouth shut and spoke only when it was important. And it would be something people would listen to. And in that kind of business you've got a lot of politicians that all they do is talk and show how important they are, but they're not. I just had the instincts and I think my father basically told me to go up there and keep my eyes open and my mouth shut and look around. And that's what I did and I could see all the players and important people and they picked up on me. They just felt I was a rural guy who had a moderate philosophy on the legislation and wasn't ambitious, that's the big thing. I never showed any ambition for anything. I never asked for anything. And you know when you don't ask for things, people think they can trust you, you know. People say. "How'd all this happen to you" and I said, "it just happened." And then I learned over the years

²²⁹ The Evening Sun Baltimore, Wednesday; November 14, 1973

to know that that's the way it works in politics. If you're an effective, smart person, mind your own business and you're moderate and you're not trying to climb over everybody to gain

recognition and feather your nest, they say, "That guy's ok. He's moderate, he's not too conservative, and he's not too liberal. I think he'd make a good leader." And you know, you've got Baltimore City, and Somerset County, Montgomery County. They all have special interests. You have Baltimore City with their special interests, and Somerset County, very poor in the rural areas. The rural legislators did not trust the city, and liberals. And I was never considered a liberal. I was a progressive, rural delegate. I would support liberal causes and I'd support conservative causes. And see, you get that kind of a reputation and people say, "You know, he's ok, we trust him." That's how it happened.

Samuel Baldwin: Now you pointed out something that you've said repeatedly that you didn't have to make deals or compromise and every time you say that it begs the questions—was deal making and compromise the norm up there?

John Hanson Briscoe: Absolutely. In other words, running for that office, speaker, I controlled everything in that House: money, committees, everything. And I didn't have anybody come up to me and say "Briscoe, I can get you 10 votes in Harford County, can you do this?" or something like that. And I was proud of that. And I think they knew me and they knew I didn't want to do that. Sam, I'm not saying this for an ego purpose, but that was a policy I always had. I don't think anybody could ever tell you that I suggested that I would do something like that if I got it. Particularly from Baltimore City because that's where votes come from and what protected me from that was Ben Cardin.



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe & Ben Cardin

Samuel Baldwin: How did Ben Cardin protect you from that?

John Hanson Briscoe: He just told people that I was the best person and nobody asked me. It's a great feeling. It really is. That's probably the legacy that I really cherish is leaving there with nobody putting their hand on my shoulder and saying "Briscoe, I want this or that."

Samuel Briscoe: Tell me more about Ben Cardin.

John Hanson Briscoe: Absolutely, a good friend. He was my bean-counter. He controlled a lot of votes in Baltimore City and you had to have them to be a speaker. And see the thing is, the press knew that Mandel had contacted me and asked if there was anything he could do, and I very diplomatically said "Marvin, I've got the votes". True story. Because I didn't go to him until I knew I had them because I liked him a lot. And then Ben Cardin, you talk about a worker. I'll never forget it. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for him because he trusted me, a great story.

Samuel Baldwin: This article seemed to say if you're moderate you can be used as a tool of the Governor, but it also went onto say that you need to be the one to move the Governor's agenda. But you move the agenda for the betterment of the people.

John Hanson Briscoe: Absolutely, not for him. That's true. That's what we did and I had a fabulous legislative relationship with Marvin. I mean his goons would come and see me and we'd do stuff but I never promoted and got my people together to pass legislation that wasn't good. I was very proud of that. Didn't have to give deals, didn't have to give in to any of his special interests. Marvin was a very smart person. He knew me. He studied me. He found out I was not going to be a fool. In fact, one of the editorials said that "Briscoe is clearly his own person; he went to Mandel and told him he would work with him."²³⁰

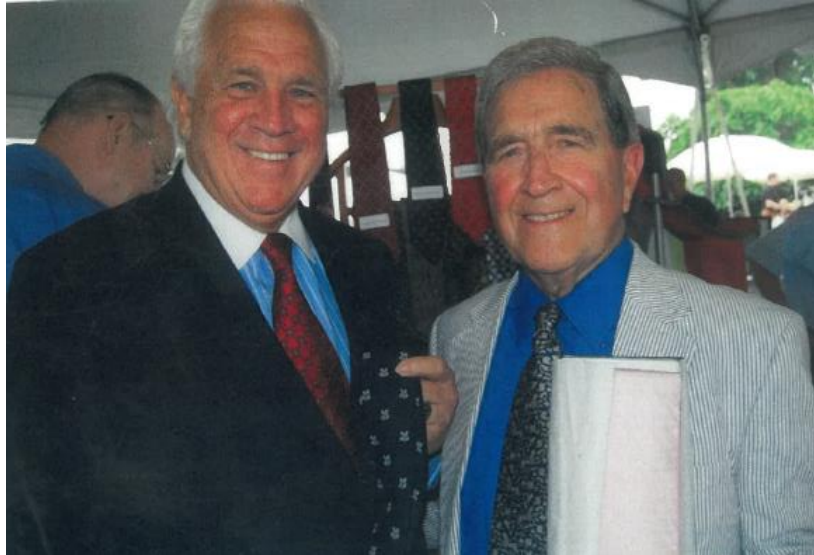
Mike Miller: As Speaker he was like an empire, and he let the legislation come to him. He had some bright people, like Paul Sarbanes. Very bright people. When people like Sarbanes saw something untoward on the floor, they would address it. And, it was, sometimes, very embarrassing moments. But, John Hanson Briscoe was sort of above the fray. He was liked by everybody. He was honest, intelligent, hard-working, but he kept his Southern Maryland demeanor. Always a gentlemen.

Samuel Baldwin: He said there were enough smart people in the House that he didn't need to initiate the legislation, propose legislation.

Senator Mike Miller: Very much so. In fact, what it is, the way you keep your power, the way you keep being in control is that you let the spotlight shine on other people. You let the body and the members sponsor the bills. You work to make sure there's not roadblocks. You know, you have so much power because, it's like democracy's coming to all these countries around the world but yet hasn't come to that House of Delegates or the Senate. Because the Speaker names who the Majority Leader is, names the Chairmen of the Committees, names the members of the

²³⁰ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

committee, and then assigns the Bills to the committee. Basically by virtue of his actions he or she can decide the outcome of any Bill because of what he does. And so, the check and balance on that is being fair. Every year you've got to stand for election. And so one of the most important things you can do is not just be perceived as fair, but be fair and let all the members have an equal opportunity to promote legislation and bring legislation to the body rather than somebody strong arming people.²³¹



Thomas V. "Mike" Miller and
John Hanson Briscoe at Sotterley



"Speakers Society" Left to Right: Ben Cardin,
John Hanson Briscoe, Marvin Mandel, Clayton
Mitchell, Casper Taylor

²³¹ Senate President Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: How do you think John Hanson, his style as Speaker differed from his predecessor, Thomas Hunter Lowe?

Porter Hopkins: Well, Tom Lowe was about 2 foot taller for one thing, or a foot and a half (laughs). John was of smaller stature. Tom was sort of imposing up there, but sort of casual. He didn't like to button his tie and you never saw Tom Lowe with his tie pushed all the way up. He also didn't like shoes very much and he often had sneakers on. I remember after he had been appointed judge on the Court of Special Appeals, him passing me on his motorcycle with his helmet on and these sneakers down underneath on the Bay Bridge. And he just lifted his helmet up and waved at me so that I would know who it was as he went to Annapolis to go to work. John Hanson was always immaculate, very well behaved and polite, not that Tom Lowe wasn't polite...

SB: How about in corralling votes or handling...

PH: Well, I never saw any of the heavy handedness. He had a good committee system, he had some good chairmen, John Hanson. I didn't know Tom Lowe's committee chairmen the way I knew John's.

They had their committees pretty much in control. When I say in control, they didn't bring up a whole lot of trash out on the floor. But John Arnick never was still. It was hard for John Arnick to sit in the same place for very long. We used to call him "the Easter Bunny"; he was there talking to somebody and then he was off and he was getting stuff done while he was doing it. He did not sit still. But he was a lot of help to John Briscoe. The personal friendship also figured in on that and those guys in particular, they had dinners together, not inseparable. I mean, Tom Lowe and John Briscoe were very close friends. And I know that Tom Lowe taught John Briscoe a lot of just what goes on down there.

As a chairman he was very skillful and a good bit of fun to serve with. He wasn't nasty to people. He wasn't shutting people up unless they had to be shut up, you know, time schedules and everything. And I don't think he lost many bills once he got them out past second reader and on the floor. And you didn't lose many bills in the House of Delegates anyway. You'd lose them in the Senate. But if you sent a bill over to the Senate that was questionable or had gotten a lot of opposition in the House, you could bet that there was going to be even more opposition over there.²³²



²³² Porter Hopkins Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Brad Gottfried: Has it changed much being a delegate now versus when you were a delegate?

John Hanson Briscoe: When I was a delegate in 1963, the legislature had mostly Democrats, vast majority Democrats, mostly lawyers, minorities were very lightly represented there. And at that time the finances, the economics of the state were just positive. During my 16 years there we never, ever, had any worries about deficits.

The biggest fights we used to have were about where the money was spent, it wasn't "Have we got enough money? Are we going to have to raise taxes?" Now one of the complaints I hear from people that are still there that I know, now you have too many activists in the legislature. They're all trying to change the world. And there are not enough lawyers there. I know a lot of people say we're better off without lawyers, but believe it or not lawyers contribute greatly to the consideration of, the study of, and the passing of legislation, because they have the training. The vast majority are lay people, a lot of retired people there who run for the legislature because the salary is sufficient now that they can live off of that and their retirement. And as a result of it, there's a lot of activism there. And some people, at least old-timers, think there's a little too much of it there and they try to just solve every problem in the world. So it has changed considerably, yes it has.²³³

Samuel Baldwin: John Hanson thought that the legislature needed more lawyers. That lawyers were good to have up there because lawyers know how to write laws, and they're not going to introduce frivolous laws. Ernie Bell talked about the variety of people that were in the Legislature, whether it's a farmer or a welfare mother, or people from all walks of life. Is there a certain balance?

Mike Miller: Well it's just good to have both. It's good to have diversity. In the Senate we'd have an optometrist, we'd have a farmer, we'd have freshman, and we'd have lawyers. The lawyers were a Godsend in the sense that we didn't have to hire any stuff. We had an independent Department of Fiscal Services, an independent Legislative Reference Bureau, and they weren't hired based on politics. The way there were hired, they were hired based on their ability to do this job. But, having a lawyer on the committee, having him serve as chairman of the committee, as the vice chairman of the committee, it was easier for them to explain the Bills on the floor of the Senate, it was easier for them to explain what the legislation was and why it needed to be passed. And, unfortunately, lawyers today don't have the time to be lawyers and at the same time be members of the House of Delegates.²³⁴

²³³ Southern Maryland Perspectives with Brad Gottfried

²³⁴ Senate President Mike Miller Interview By Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



Left to Right: John Pleisse, John Cordeman, Bruce Bereano, John Briscoe

Bruce Bereano: His approach and demeanor and body language and what have you was very gentlemanly. His body language and his demeanor just gave people a sense of comfort and a relaxation. His body language never displayed a hurriness or quickness or shortness or anything like that so people were very comfortable around him. And in my view he had a very dry, very very dry, fabulous sense of humor. I mean he really did; very witty and for those who saw and observed him, and of course when he was speaker I'd see him when the camera and the lights were off, he and Steny were very devilish guys. I mean he loved kidding around with people, he really did. Very pragmatic and enormous common sense and an extremely strong sense which guided him enormously in my view and a very strong sense of the institution. He really acted like a fiduciary not only when he chaired the committees but when he was speaker.

I learned a lot from just watching John Hanson Briscoe. In his own way, because of his stature, his handsomeness, his name, his demeanor, his persona, he was very strong, very commanding whether it was presiding or whether he was chairman of the committee and he, I thought very hard and I'm not saying he never did, but I can't really remember an instance where he really raised his voice and got all whipped up like I do (laugh). I just have no recollection of him getting out of his demeanor.

One of the beauties and balance with him being speaker was everybody knew he was close with Marvin Mandel but he wasn't a puppet or a rubber stamp. He established his reputation as a legislator. He knew he was independent and he acted that way and most importantly Governor Mandel treated him that way and so when Governor Mandel treated him that way it really enhanced Governor Mandel. It showed he respected stature and attention. "I'm not taking it for granted."

When you're Speaker and you're elected from a county or an area, no question about that, but you must, and the office even forces it upon you, you have to have a state view. You have to because you are the leader of all the legislators.²³⁵



Left to Right: Speaker Briscoe,
Steny Hoyer, Senate President
James. Governor Mandel

Samuel Baldwin: I saw an article where there was talk about who, around the state, was going to move into the Governor's office after Governor Mandel and the article talked about the people in the Senate, but the House did not want to be overlooked. The article quoted you as saying that John Briscoe was a favorite son of the House members.

Senator Ben Cardin: That's true. John was loved, I mean just loved by everybody because he respected everybody. I mean he really, from the most conservative members of the Eastern Shore to the most liberal members from Montgomery County or Baltimore City - everyone respected John Briscoe and knew that their views were going to be heard. So, he really was a person who, if we had our druthers, if he wanted to be Governor, we'd be with him.²³⁶



Senate President Steny Hoyer in the House Chamber with
Speaker Briscoe (fixing a loose microphone).

²³⁵ Bruce Bereano Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr

²³⁶ US Senator Ben Cardin Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

One of your first duties upon assuming the role of Speaker was to select major standing committee chairmen in the House of Delegates. This is a particularly difficult assignment for the Speaker to fulfill since there are essentially 142 Delegates who would like to serve as chairmen. What criteria did you follow in determining those individuals you would appoint to the leadership roles in the House of Delegates?

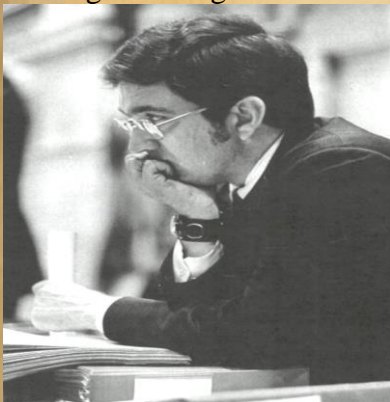
John Hanson Briscoe: Obviously whatever kind of job the committee chairmen do is a direct reflection on me. I stated during the campaign that I had no intention of making any committee chairman changes unless there was a vacancy, that the people who were charging the committees at the present time were friends of mine. They were people I respected and felt were very capable of doing the job. Even though some of them were my opponents in the election, there was never any bitterness or hard words against one or another. It was all done in a good political spirit. Therefore I pledged to maintain the same committee chairmen and did not make any deals or proposals to substitute anybody for the purpose of gaining votes.

I feel that a committee chairman should be a person who, when he comes out on the floor of the House with legislation, can command the respect of the members of the House as a person who has no special interest, knows his field of work, handles himself well on the floor and by and large, can back up, substantiate, control and manage all of the legislation that is worthy of coming out of his committee.

During the last session it appeared that the General Assembly, both House and Senate, exercised a great deal of independent thinking or actions in relation to the Governor's legislative program. For example, land use legislation, though passed, bore little resemblance to the originally introduced bill, and scholarship legislation experienced a defeat. Is this a sign of the times, where the legislative body will be placing their own imprint on legislation irrespective of the wishes of the executive branch?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yes, hopefully I think you will see this happen. Tom Lowe always felt very strongly, as I told you, in the independence of the legislative from the executive and the judicial branches of government. This is the way it should be. This is where you get your checks and balances. It has nothing to do with wanting to get away from Governor Mandel or Chief Judge Murphy of the court. In the best interests of the State you have these three independent and distinct branches, and they should not be tied to each other. I think the more independent the legislature gets from the executive, the more healthy it is for the legislature as well as the executive, and Tom always strove for this. It was a basic concept and part of his philosophy. Even though you have a Democratic Governor, you work with him and cooperate with him, but you must still maintain your independence, in that the House comes first.

I carried this through, and the last session of the General Assembly certainly displayed a great deal of independence of the executive as well as the judiciary. Again, it is no reflection on Governor Mandel. It would be that way no matter who was



Governor as far as I am concerned. I think the proof of the pudding is in the resume of summary or critique that the news media and others made of this last session as being a productive one, and I would like to say that I played a small part in that, but principally I think it was the independence of the legislature. As I say, we are working with the governor, cooperating with him, but at the same time, being independent in addressing the issues. I think that went a long way in creating that productive session that we had.

In carrying out your responsibilities of Speaker of the House, what legislative contact do you have with your counterpart the President of the Senate as it relates to the moving of legislation through the two bodies?

We have a great deal of contact. I meet with him as much, I guess, as I meet with my own leaders over here in the House, because it is very critical that we keep in touch with each other, knowing the flow of the legislation, the time, the status of legislation, making sure our committee chairmen are cooperating with one another in the opposite house. And there are many administrative decisions that President Hoyer and I have to make. We must name heads of legislative departments; we have to select committees, approve expense accounts, and rule on expense accounts when there is some question. We work very closely together, and it is essential to the proper and orderly flow of legislation.

In your capacity as Speaker of the House, what contact do you have with the governor during a session and what, if any, responsibility do you personally feel you have for administration of legislative programs?

John Hanson Briscoe: In answer to the latter question, about what responsibilities do I feel; I feel that Governor Mandel has been a very good Governor for the State and he has certainly proposed many, many good programs over the period of time that he has been Governor. When I was chairman of the two previously mentioned committees, I worked very closely with him and guided much of his administrative legislation through, legislation in which I believed and for which I fought very hard. Naturally, there is a closer relationship when you have a Democratic governor and you have a Democratic Speaker. I felt my duty was to keep in close contact with him to discuss the administrative issues which obviously are the big issues of the day and to tell him which of those I felt were worthy of consideration and those which I felt were not, those that were not in the best interests of the State or were not worthy of passage. I attempted to keep in contact with him and let him know the status of administration bills while working very hard to try to guide the passage of those I believed in through the House. I worked very well.

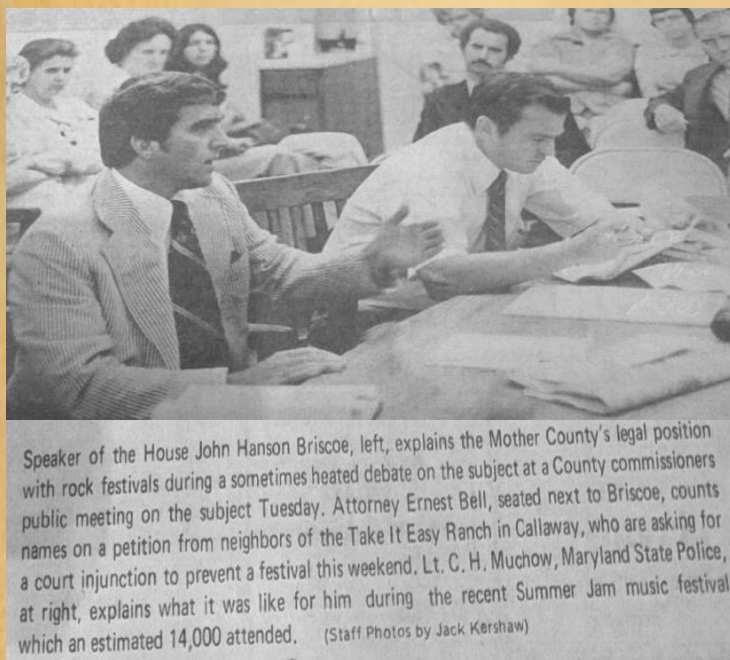
In carrying out your duties as Speaker of the House, how has this changed your role as Delegate Briscoe representing your constituents in St. Mary's County?

John Hanson Briscoe: It has doubled my work, because I always have the fear that as you progress in leadership in the Legislature, you might tend to forget your people back home. I've certainly not done that. I guess I've worked as hard this session on local bills as I've worked any session and also carried out my job as Speaker which was a very large task. What it has done is increase the amount of time I have to spend here in Annapolis going to meetings, and working on

legislation both from the standpoint of local needs of St. Mary's County as well as statewide. Now, of course, with reapportionment, I'll be representing Charles County as well as St. Mary's next time which will increase my work just that much more. But I keep from neglecting the local area that I represent because it's first in my mind and has to be.

On occasion, remarks have been made that individual citizens particularly from the Eastern Shore and southern Maryland are more interested in their elected representatives devoting all of their time in Annapolis to the needs of their particular county as opposed to assuming the heavy burdens of leadership at the possible expense of local issues. Do you feel there is any validity to these comments, and how do you feel your constituents in St. Mary's County approach this issue?

John Hanson Briscoe: At the present time, I'd like to think that the citizens of St. Mary's, since I've just been Speaker since November 9, are very pleased and proud that I've gotten there. At least that's what I've heard from people who have talked to me. However, returning to the other issue, you can see why the constituents might feel that a person has, you might say, outlived his usefulness as a representative from a county when he seems to be spending all his time on statewide matters and problems of the State and allowing the problems facing the subdivision to become third class in his mind.



Speaker of the House John Hanson Briscoe, left, explains the Mother County's legal position with rock festivals during a sometimes heated debate on the subject at a County commissioners public meeting on the subject Tuesday. Attorney Ernest Bell, seated next to Briscoe, counts names on a petition from neighbors of the Take It Easy Ranch in Callaway, who are asking for a court injunction to prevent a festival this weekend. Lt. C. H. Muchow, Maryland State Police, at right, explains what it was like for him during the recent Summer Jam music festival which an estimated 14,000 attended. (Staff Photos by Jack Kershaw)

This is the political danger of getting into leadership, because then the citizens feel he hasn't time to bother with us now that he has much more important things to do. It's unfortunate, but you always run the risk of becoming complacent and thinking that just because you are Speaker or chairman of some committee, people automatically are going to elect you. Particularly in the smaller rural areas, they like to feel closeness. There is a great deal of personal contact expected from you. They like to see you on the street; they like to see you in restaurants;

they like to see you attending local affairs. Of course, when I became Speaker, I acquired a calendar full of engagements to speak and to appear and talk, and these are mostly out of St. Mary's County. It takes a great deal of my time out of the county. They like to see you around.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago the voters extended the length of the General Assembly session to ninety days. Do you visualize the Maryland General Assembly becoming full time or operating yearly for more than ninety days, and if so what time table would you put on such a change?

John Hanson Briscoe: Really I don't see that happening in the immediate future. I'm convinced that all that is necessary at the present is to have the proper leadership in both houses,

and to organize it efficiently. I think we provided it this year, the House certainly did, in handling the thousands of bills in a very expeditious manner to the point that one week or ten days before the end of the session we were caught up with all of our work. We had deliberated upon all House bills, we had committee hearings, we had them voted up or down, and our work basically was finished. And that was ten days before the ninety days were up. So it proves to me what I've always believed: that Maryland is not ready and that it is not necessary to go beyond the ninety days now.

Of course, the in-between sessions of the standing committees are important. They start in the summer studying and analyzing programs and major legislation for which there wasn't enough time during the regular session.



Florida, about the size of Maryland, is a good example of a state where you don't need a full-time legislature. I think you are just creating work for yourself going beyond ninety days. That is sufficient time, particularly if you can get the budget to the point where it can be looked at a little longer.

I'm a firm believer in not taking up legislative business after a full and complete day of legislative work, go to dinner and come back again. I think your mind gets stale and you tend to become a little frivolous. You perhaps become less serious and more cognizant of emotional issues than you would during day-time work. I set up something that even Thomas Hunter Lowe didn't do, that he didn't believe in nighttime sessions either. I had morning sessions to take care of the work that was ready for the full body to handle and then cut the session off at one o'clock, let the committees go in, have their hearings in the day time, then bring them back in around four o'clock to start again. We would hold them there until all the work of that day was completed, while it was fresh in their mind. We would stay there until just about dinner time, and it worked very well. The delegates were not as loquacious, they did not waste any time. I think an awful lot of time was wasted in the evening hours. You are tired and rundown, and you tend to be lackadaisical. During the day time, your mental attitude is much different. With 141 members, I think they did a remarkable job in not having night sessions and in getting their work done ten days before the end of the session.

Despite the fact that you served as Chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee for several years, the responsibility thrust upon you in your new role as Speaker has substantially increased the demands on your time, not only during the session, but in the months intervening between the sessions. You have been a successful attorney in Leonardtown. How will these new time demands affect your private life, both personal and from a business standpoint?

John Hanson Briscoe: It does concern me because it affects my personal life considerably. I have four growing children, three teen-agers and one below teen age. I enjoy my home life very much. I live on the water, and I enjoy the outside and all that goes with it. I find

more and more that I have less and less time to spend with my family and in the outdoors which I enjoy so much, and it concerns me quite a bit that this is the case. However, as long as I hold the office, I'll spend whatever time I have to, but I've always taken the position that my family comes first and my law practice second, and then I spend as much time as I possibly can afford in the work of the legislature. It affects my business considerably. I have very fine law partners who are most considerate and who have maintained the firm, but I find that I am away much more than I used to be and that concerns me quite a bit and would influence any future plans. I am not that much of a political animal that I enjoy all this coming and going at the same time.

If we are going to have orderly development of this state, than this, of course, affects schools, roads, health, education, welfare, the environment. If we were to allow the State of Maryland to become just a developer's paradise, with neon signs from here to Rehoboth, and developers to come in and bare the earth and use every inch of land that's available, in the long run everybody has to suffer Government has to suffer, real estate has to suffer, the developers, lawyers, all the people will suffer, because it's been proven, if you wind up with a sick state no one really benefits.

I believe the orderly development of this State has to be a slow growth pattern, one where you couple economic development with compatibility of the environment. It can work, it will work, and as a result of it, everybody, even those who are violently opposed to land use, are going to benefit from it. This affects so many things. Population. If you just let everybody come in here, than you have to get rid of their sewerage somewhere. There is a saturation point. I feel very strongly in a slow growth pattern, obviously one with emphasis on economic development, but with compatibility with the environment.

That's why I feel so strongly about the land use bill. I believe the local subdivisions have such tremendous pressures on them for creating a tax base, they are not looking at what that particular activity is going to be twenty, thirty, forty or fifty years from now. There is a lot of short sightedness. It is not intentional; it is just the character of local government to do that, and now the State will have the opportunity to involve itself in the areas where the counties are perhaps being a little shortsighted, and maybe slow them down a little and make them take a second look at a particular activity that might adversely affect the character of that particular subdivision or of the entire State.

In today's political climate what advice would you extend to a young man or woman seeking your opinion on whether they should pursue a political career?

John Hanson Briscoe: I'm faced with that question quite a bit now as it is nearing election time, and there are a number of new positions available. We have two additional county commissioner seats, and my colleague has decided not to run again for the House so his seat is available. There are a number of people, friends of mine, who want to get their feet in the water and run either for the county commissioner's office or for the House. They come to me as I am supposed to be a veteran and know all the political answers, which I certainly don't.

The first thing I ask them is if they are interested in running because they really want it, or are they being pressured by constituents, people of special interests who want them to get in

there and represent their interests, or do they really want this The advice I'll give them is to think very carefully about how this will affect their family, which is very important, and their business, and try to tell them not to be fooled just because the legislative session lasts for only ninety days-that's not all the time you have to worry about being away from home and from your business and family. I show them my book of where I'm going to and what I'm doing. When the ninety day session is over, you want to get back home and get your business back together, and you've still got all these other things to do.

I tell them not to get in just for the thrill of it. If they get in they should be just as interested at the end as they were at the beginning, because if they don't run a good hard campaign whether they win or lose, then people have less respect for them than they did when they first started to run. Don't just give up in the middle even if they lose, they win if they run a good campaign.

Of course, I always tell them you can point out deficiencies in an office, problems that you'd like to correct, but you never relate that to the individual holding the office. Never try to tear down a particular office because you think the individual in there isn't doing a particularly good job. You sell yourself, and don't try to undersell the other party.

After all that, I say if you can meet all those criteria, then you ought to go ahead and run.

The makeup of the Maryland General Assembly contains a preponderance of Democrats. The fallout from Watergate conceivably could reduce the ranks of Republicans to an even smaller number for the next session. How do you, as a Democrat, view the two party system in our state and how vital do you feel the two party system really is?

John Hanson Briscoe: I think it's essential, I really do. I think it's good, I think it's healthy. We have a Democratic dominated legislature, but I work with Republicans. I respect them all, and we work together.

I think of the two-party system is like two businesses. If you have two grocery stores or more in one neighborhood competing against each other, I think the benefit inures to the customers. But if just one has a lock on the business, that store tends to be sloppy, tends not to cater to the people because it has captive customers. I think you can almost look at the two-party system that way.

The stronger the Republican Party gets, the more on their toes the Democratic Party is going to have to be. I'm not saying that because there are such a large number of Democrats and a small number of Republicans. As a matter of philosophy, I think the two-party system is a good idea, for the benefit of the public.²³⁷

²³⁷ "Banking Talks with the Speaker of the House, John Hanson Briscoe", Summer 1974

CHAPTER TWENTY- FIVE: FORMING LEGISLATION



John Hanson Briscoe: Leadership in Mandel's office. Starting on the left: that's Charlie Krysiak from Baltimore City and John Arnick from Baltimore County, Joe Owens, Chairman of the Judiciary from Montgomery County, Ben Cardin, Marty Becker from Montgomery County, and John Hargreaves from Caroline County. This was a leadership meeting. This was when I became Speaker in '73. And that was my line up.



Samuel Baldwin: Marvin's sort-of at the head of the table, but that looks like Governor Tawes in the top-left.

John Hanson Briscoe: This is Governor Tawes' party, you see. Mandel was Speaker then. See, to keep everybody in line Marvin would invite the leadership and people who had a lot of votes and everything to a breakfast at the governor's mansion.

Samuel Baldwin: These breakfasts meetings...

John Hanson Briscoe: Very different. I'd set them up and Arnick would do it. We'd get in there and we'd talk about what's on the agenda and politics. Great stuff.

Samuel Baldwin: What would you have been there to do?

John Hanson Briscoe: To discuss the day's work.

Samuel Baldwin: And that would be almost a daily occasion?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yup. We got this and that and somebody would say "Mr. Speaker, you ought to put this off, there's a lot of opposition to it." Fascinating. That's the way it's supposed to work. I had a wonderful group; we got a lot done. No disappointments. I didn't leave any unfinished business. It was great.

Samuel Baldwin: So you'd also have meetings in your office?

John Hanson Briscoe: Oh yeah, mostly in my office. And we'd plan strategies, always had to have 72 votes. I had good committee chairmen. See, they get to select their own members. I said "Be sure to keep them in line so we don't get embarrassed" and they did.

Samuel Baldwin: If it was your idea to do a "Wetlands Bill" or some new legislation, who actually wrote those bills for you?

John Hanson Briscoe: Legislative reference. A number of people. They'd use a computer and go to the Code. It's a lot of work. You know, you've got to go to the Code.

Samuel Baldwin: When you're creating legislation from scratch, do you look at other bills from around the country or...?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well yeah, but you actually sent what you want to the legislative reference, see? You've got a guy; you'll send it to him and he'll send it to his bill drafters. That's what they are and they've got to go to the Code and it's complicated. You've got to get the title. But they're good, we just didn't worry about who drew them up.

Samuel Baldwin: So I know you worked several years on that Wetland's Bill. How long would it take to craft that bill in the first place?

John Hanson Briscoe: 3 years.

Samuel Baldwin: So you'd have the idea, you'd send it down to legislative reference, they'd work a week or so putting a preliminary draft together?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah.

Samuel Baldwin: And would they come to you with issues?

John Hanson Briscoe: Sure, sure. Titles and stuff, amendments. It wasn't easy; you had to work it. But we had all these people who would help us to do. Bill drafters, they could get in the Code and do stuff.

Samuel Baldwin: And while they were doing that at the legislative reference, are you canvassing your committee chairs to see if you'd have enough votes for it to pass?

John Hanson Briscoe: Exactly, you'd never put anything in that you can't pass. And Mandel too, we had a good system.



John Hanson Briscoe reflecting on his days as
Chairman of Ways and Means.

Samuel Baldwin: Ok, so this is you at your committee table, right?

John Hanson Briscoe: Oh yeah, staff members.

Samuel Baldwin: So that would've been where you conducted your hearings during the day?

John Hanson Briscoe: We were open; we set bills up, you could come in and have lobbyists come in and offer amendments and we'd vote on it. I think this was a markup session.

Samuel Baldwin: Markup session, meaning you would markup the bill?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah and all these people would, these are committee members, and these are the only ones that could talk about it once we've had the hearings and they'll talk about it and will vote up or down on certain amendments and once it's finished it's taken to the floor.

Samuel Baldwin: And you've shown me this photo before from a different angle. This is where the public comments would be made, the lobbyists and so forth, once the public comments are over, the delegates mark it up and say what they'll vote for and what they won't.

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, right.

Samuel Baldwin: And you work with all these committee people to put it in final form?

John Hanson Briscoe: Exactly. Yeah.

Samuel Baldwin: Would these committee meetings have taken place while the bill was still being worked on? Was it a continuing process of you all canvassing with the governor and committee members?

John Hanson Briscoe: Pretty much so. I mean we wouldn't do anything until we had the votes to pass it. We'd have hearings and amendments would be offered.

Samuel Baldwin: Public hearings?

John Hanson Briscoe: Absolutely. Everything was completely open. You couldn't get away with it.

Samuel Baldwin: How would the lobbyists and people know that you were working on a bill?

John Hanson Briscoe: Because it's advertised. Absolutely, everything was...they knew ahead of time if House Bill 472 was coming up and they'd get their amendments together and the lobbyists would come in and come up to the clerk and say "I need 15 minutes with whoever I need to speak with" and we would give it to them.

Samuel Baldwin: And the speaking would be here in these committee rooms?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, absolutely. Because by the time it went down to the floor it was ready to go.

Samuel Baldwin: It was a finished product?

John Hanson Briscoe: Pretty much. They could raise hell about it, but we knew we'd have the votes. Great system. And it worked.

Samuel Baldwin: Do they still...they must still do it that way right?

John Hanson Briscoe: I hope so.²³⁸

²³⁸ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



Porter Hopkins: I was minority leader when he was Speaker to begin with and the cooperation between the minority leader and the majority leader, whom I sat right next to, John Arnick, and the Speaker at the time, particularly as it involved some of the bills that really should have never been in the House of Delegates to begin with. You're talking about the Vietnam War, some of these crazy resolutions that people were bringing in as much for getting press coverage as anything, I believe. And the minority leader and the majority leader were two votes and we'd talk, now I mean I wasn't invited to many of the Governor's breakfasts or the Democratic leadership's breakfasts either, so I wasn't part of all of that. But we'd have our own little meeting and John Briscoe would say, "What's this doing here?" Most of the time John Arnick and I couldn't say that there was any good reason for it to be in there and he'd say, "Well, let's kill it" and it didn't take more than our appearance in a committee room sitting at the back knowing that there was going to be a vote taken that day in the committee. That turned things around, just the threat of losing the vote or that this is the way it was going to go. It irritated a lot of Democratic members of the House of Delegates that I had a vote on these committees. I didn't use it very often, but I did use it a few times after consultation. I didn't just walk in there on my own and say, "I'm voting against this because I don't like the bill" or whatever.²³⁹

²³⁹ Porter Hopkins Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

The Men and their Bills Have Improved in 10 Years

PAYNE WHO supervises the research and drafting of the approximately 4,300 bills introduced each session, said he is basing what he calls “Payne’s Theory of Legislative Behavior” on a noticeable reduction in the number of frivolous or “garbage” bills, as they are sometimes called.

These are the bills that are introduced simply to satisfy constituents or to sound off on an issue. Some examples of the frivolous bills include annual proposals that the Eastern Shore secede from Maryland or a measure introduced a few years ago that would have forbidden screen star and political activist Jane Fonda from entering the state.²⁴⁰

The House of Delegates, Target of Reform

At the beginning of the current legislative session, Bruce Adams, a member of the staff of Common Cause, said House Speaker John H. Briscoe was “the last stumbling block to legislative reform” Speaker Briscoe was asked to respond

The question is not reform but how much reform is consistent with good governmental process. My experience with the procedures of the House of Delegates is that they are reasonably open to the public. For instance, there are toll-free telephone lines that any citizen may use to find out the status of any pending legislation. The date and times of committee meetings are published in the paper. Free copies of all bills, synopses of bills, and schedules of all public hearings may be had upon request at the statehouse.

If a citizen lives at a distance making it impossible for him to travel to Annapolis, then he can get his information in the mail by calling his delegate’s office in Annapolis. In addition, the procedures of the House of Delegates require that each committee must provide 24 hours notice to all members when bills are due to come to the floor.

If a majority of the committee requests it, the chairman must provide a reason why the bill was accepted or rejected. When a bill is in committee there is a 10-day to 2-week prior public notice before the hearings which are completely open to the press and to the public, as are the discussions and deliberations by the members of the committee. There are no secret hearings or secret voting sessions.



The point of the “sunshine bills” is to make information more readily available to the public. This is something that should be done but I am not sure that the provisions in these bills

²⁴⁰ ‘The Men and Their Bills Have Improved in 10 Years’, Star January 11, 1978

would make the best information available to the largest possible part of the public. Good law-making needs public participation from all sectors of the community. This means consultation with the elected officials from all over the state as well as input from business through lobbyists. After all, business has a right to its say, too.

The people who propose the “sunshine bills” have the best of intentions. To their minds, if more openness improves the processes of government, then total openness should produce the best government. The logic of this is appealing and many people have uncritically adopted this line of thinking. But total openness, or, I should say, openness that seriously hampers the flexibility and productivity of government is not necessarily a good thing. The practical effect, then, of good intentions would be to isolate public officials from each other at precisely the time they need consultation and advice from other professionals.

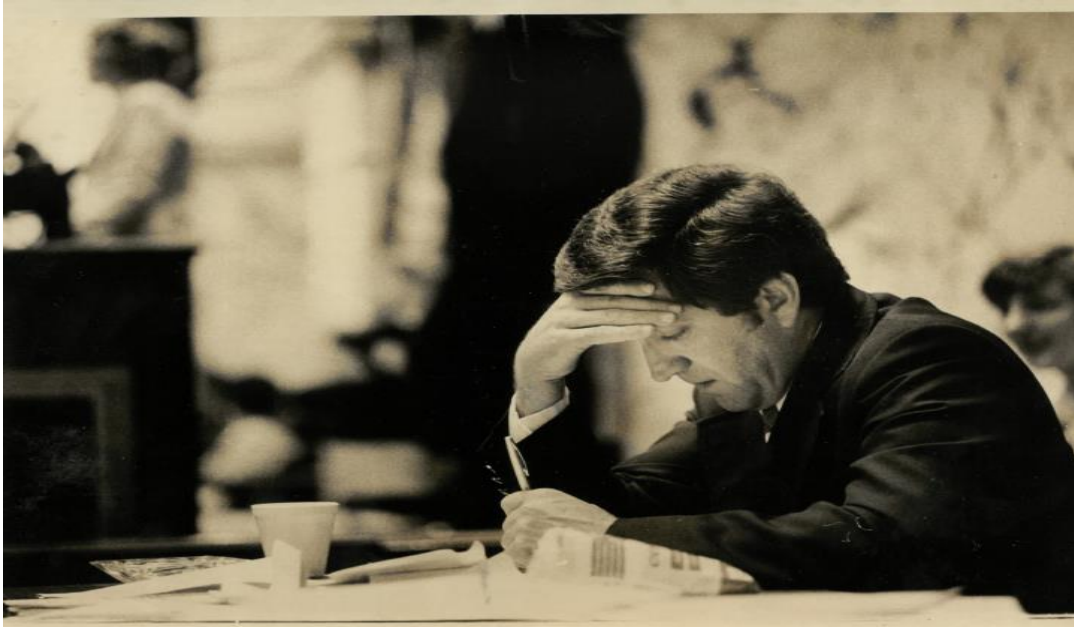
But most of all, good law-making needs the press in precisely like the adversary position it responsibly takes. We need the press to make decisions known and we need the press as representatives of the public to question, criticize, and editorialize on decisions we make as legislators. The press can and does put more “sunshine” into government than any bill concerning governmental processes can. I am not trying to shift any burdens. My point is the openness we already have in the Legislature in Maryland is flexible enough to allow the smooth flow of business and to ensure free access by the press and by the public.

Watergate has made the public even more skeptical about politicians. The small percentage who voted in the last election shows how many are disenchanted with politicians and government. For the record, let me say that 99 percent of the legislators are honest and competent. In competition with each other they represent their constituencies to the best of their abilities. This competition alone ensures that very little that happens in the Legislature is underhanded or unfair.

The legislative system as it is now is workable and consistent with good government. Those who want to change it have not yet made a convincing argument that it needs change. To vote against the proposed changes incorporated in the “sunshine bills” will take political courage; or, I should say, political leadership.

We must remember that in government, as in private life, nothing is ever as straightforward and simple as we would like it to be. Reform is an idea that has its problems as well as its blessings. The question, therefore is not whether to have reform or not, but how much reform is consistent with responsible working government.²⁴¹

²⁴¹ Washington Post, January 22, 1975



Jay, Peter A.. 'Too Bad for Briscoe; Study Group is Here.'

Before the last Maryland General Assembly session convened, a group of legislators took a short list of proposals they believed would improve the Annapolis process to the House speaker, John Hanson Briscoe.

Mr. Briscoe, normally an amiable man, was flustered. Legislative leaders in Maryland, or at least those who, like Mr. Briscoe, received their indoctrination in the old crabcakes and heehaw days when all political power flowed on a grid connecting rural courthouses with the city of Baltimore, are accustomed to docility in the flocks they tend.

"You're not getting anything at all," the speaker said, losing his temper. He followed this triumph of vanity over tact by a frenzied effort to defeat on the House floor his visitor's chief goal: the recording of votes, by name, in legislative committees.

Accomplishing this, in addition to contributing to public wonderment that anything a legislative committee did could be considered important enough to warrant concealing, almost gave the House leadership the institutional equivalent of a coronary thrombosis. But by a narrow margin, Mr. Briscoe prevailed and committee votes continue unrecorded.

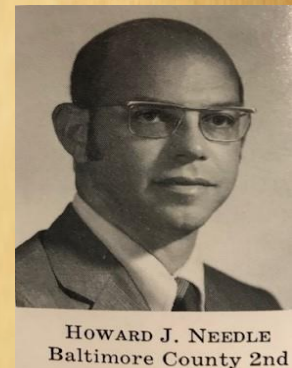
At the 1976 session, the speaker's visitors will be back. They have duly constituted themselves as the Legislative Study Group, patterned generally on the liberal Democratic Study Group in Congress, have hired a small staff, developed a functioning organization and are likely to be a bit more influential. Their membership is about 40.

They have been meeting through the summer and recently sent a polite letter to Mr. Briscoe and Steny H. Hoyer (D., Prince George's), the Senate president, outlining their program for 1976.

These proposals, slightly augmented and revised but quite similar to those that produced such a hysterical reaction in the House last year, include: earlier deadlines for introduction of bills, an effort to reduce the absurd congestion that characterizes the last weeks of every session; notice by committees of scheduled votes on bills at least until 10 days before adjournment; and that old bugaboo, recording of votes in committee.

Most of the bomb-throwers who support this radicalism are suburbanites, dwellers in the comfortable subdivisions that ring Baltimore and Washington, who came to politics not from the city clubs or the country courthouses but from nonpartisan school boards, citizens associations, the league of Women Voters or the 1967-68 Maryland constitutional convention.

This may explain why a man like Delegate Howard J. Needle, a lawyer from Pikesville and the group's chairman, creates such a case of nerves on the part of Mr. Briscoe, a product of the St. Mary's tidewater squirearchy.



Thomas Hunter Lowe, Mr. Briscoe's predecessor and speaker and now a judge, was in many ways a far less engaging man. He was opinionated, often arrogant, usually autocratic. But he could be reasoned with, in a way that Mr. Briscoe has shown he cannot always be and had far fewer troubles with the bomb-throwers.

The changes are coming anyway, whether Mr. Briscoe and the other good ol' boys like it or not, as public attitudes about government come increasingly to favor openness and accountability.

Mr. Hoyer, a suburbanite himself by upbringing and constituency though quite possibly an Eastern Shore volunteer fireman in his heart of hearts, has recognized this and adapted to it. That is why he may one day be governor and Mr. Briscoe won't.²⁴²



Left to Right: Speaker Briscoe, Majority Leader John Arnick, Senate President Steny Hoyer. "Last Night of Session"

²⁴² Jay, Peter A.. 'Too Bad for Briscoe; Study Group is Here', Briscoe's Archives, Fall 1975

Improving Maryland's Legislature. October 1975.

October may seem an unusual time of year for a status report on the Maryland General Assembly. The lawmakers have been in adjournment since April and it will be another three months before the 1976 session convenes. Nevertheless, the Assembly is alive, and in a very real sense, well – or at least hard at work trying to figure out ways it can do a better job. Having ourselves recommended just such an exercise in self-examination and self-improvement on the part of the Assembly, this seems the right time to review what has been happening in the State House since the windup of this year's session. What's been happening, in a few words, is a serious effort to overhaul the Assembly's legislative practices in order to make it more efficient and accountable.

The undertaking is not just the rumbling of perennial rank and file "reform" activists; the Assembly leadership, Senate President Steny Hoyer and House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe, has been instrumental in the move to improve procedures in Annapolis. The two men have formed a study group made up of legislators and representatives of concerned organizations and it has been assisting the Assembly's policy committee in reviewing practices in the legislature. The House Legislative Study Group has also met regularly to consider – and carry through on – proposals for changes in the way business is conducted in the Assembly.

For example, there are steps being taken to relieve the legislative logjams that have faced the lawmakers each year. A new process has been instituted to cut down the number of hearings. Legislation that already has been debated in past sessions but has been rejected, as well as certain bills that have been prefiled for introduction at the next session, will come up for shortened hearing in the next three months. The House Environmental Matter's Committee already has been holding hearings on four such bills.

Delegate Briscoe notes that the new procedure will allow committees to vote on bills early in the session and then send them to the full legislature in the opening days. Not only could controversial legislation move more quickly from one house to the other, but the time of each chamber could be better allocated. Another proposal, included in a list of recommendations developed over the summer months by the Maryland branch of Common Cause in collaboration with other interested groups, is for the House to make use of the consent calendar approach for strictly local measures, bills to correct legislative drafting errors and minor matters. The Assembly's policy committee, which is scheduled to meet this month, also may consider recommendations for better notice of pending action, improved record-keeping, better accountability in committee votes and increased staffing to strengthen the legislature's technical expertise.

At this year's Assembly session, conditions did not favor any grand move to streamline the legislature. It was a new legislature and there had been no period for the prefiling of bills. Now, however, there is an opportunity for constructive change. If the leadership continues to support the effort, the result could be a much stronger and more efficient General Assembly in 1976.²⁴³

²⁴³ 'Improving Maryland's Legislature', Briscoe's Archives, October 1975

Samuel Baldwin: You told me earlier that you had no agenda.

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah. Absolutely not other than I wanted to run the House orderly like Tom Lowe and Mandel did. I didn't have any agenda. Wetlands might have already been passed by then. I just had such good people around me. And see I didn't have to generate issues, the issues were there. And I would get with my people and say "What are we going to do with this? Is this good?" and you know we'd worked it the way you're supposed to do it. We had no agenda other than run an orderly House of Delegates and that's what I did.

Samuel Baldwin: How do you contrast yourself to Thomas Hunter Lowe?

John Hanson Briscoe: Thomas Hunter Lowe was very smart, very bright, my roommate, good close friend. He has a way because he is so smart, he can convince people to do something. He's very aggressive; he would even threaten them a little bit. I don't mean retaliation or anything, but he'd say "If you go pass that bill..." or something like that. My experience had been with the committees, Ways and Means, and I would take the time to convince the voters of it because of the wisdom of it.

Samuel Baldwin: They referred to you as a mediator. What did they mean by that?

John Hanson Briscoe: Ok, that's a good point. If Steny Hoyer, Democratic President of the Senate, and someone on my Democratic Committee couldn't get together, I'd get in the middle and say "What are we talking about, let's change this a little bit." Just like regular mediation, you get in there and look at the two ends of it and suggest something, particularly if you don't have an agenda,

Samuel Baldwin: You would mediate between the House and the Senate?

John Hanson Briscoe: Sure. Just like you, would with court cases. You've got to be very fair.

Samuel Baldwin: Had that not been done previously?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, some weren't good. I happened to be very good at it. Yeah, I was a good mediator. If Steny would get... you know he was a hot shot, if he would get something with a committee chairman, I could talk to both of them. You know, I didn't have to go to the chairman or the committee and say "You got this job because of me." I would convince him why it would be easier to do it now. See, I never tried to get everything done overnight, I would like to do it piecemeal. And I was good at it. Just like I did pre-trials as a judge, it's all a part of it.²⁴⁴

²⁴⁴ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



Left to Right: Senate President Hoyer, Governor
Mandel, House Speaker John Briscoe

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX: MEANWHILE BACK IN THE LAW OFFICE OF BRISCOE, KENNEY, AND KAMINETZ

Samuel Baldwin: How did John Hanson's legislative obligations affect his law firm work day, work week?

Claire Delozier: Not that I ever saw. He was always charged up, ready to go. I mean, the man had a tremendous energy level. He definitely did everything. You know, he was a worker bee. When his driver (State Trooper Ron Ely) would come and pick him up, and he'd go, he would always make sure that we were set and that we had everything we needed before he would go to Annapolis.

With John Hanson, I have more fond memories of him than I have with any of the others because I worked more for him than with any of the others. One time, I was upset, and I can't even tell you what I was upset about at the time. And I was holding it in, and holding it in, and he came right to me, right to my typewriter and he put his face in my face and he said, "I know you're upset. Now, are you going to tell me about it or are you going to soak up?" I always remembered that because he knew me so well and cared so much, because he did, he cared about all of his employees and his family, and I said here's this guy, he's Speaker of the House and he's worried about how I'm feeling. That always impressed me. If you had a problem with something in your life, you could go talk to those guys. And that's where the family part came from.²⁴⁵

Samuel Baldwin: So, John Hanson, being in the legislature—how did that affect his work hours at the office, coming in, leaving?

Irene Parrish: Well, his normal hours—he would come in as early as you want him to come in, as long as you greeted him with a cup of coffee. Then John Hanson and I would sit down, and we would do dictation. And, we'd do the schedule for the day. I took shorthand, which you don't do nowadays. I had my shorthand pad, and I had my correspondence from the day before, and I had the events for the day, and we would go through that.

Samuel Baldwin: And so, you'd go over his calendar also?

Irene Parrish: Right, right, and it could be both the law firm schedule, and his House of Delegates schedule.

²⁴⁵ Claire De Lozier Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: So, how would that work?

Irene Parrish: Well, he would be telling me in advance what would be happening on a certain day; that, if he was going to meet the Governor in Annapolis and that was a normal working day, that I would know not to schedule a settlement that day. And we worked well with his secretary in Annapolis. And then, when he was in the legislature, he was concerned that the staff didn't really understand what he was doing in Annapolis, or how important it actually was to each and every one of us. So, each year, he would take the staff to Annapolis. We'd go to his office. We would sit in the galley and watch what was going on, and then he would take us to lunch. And, he wanted to make sure that we understood so that, you know, when someone would complain about "why isn't he doing this," we had a better understanding.

Samuel Baldwin: Now, you say he'd come in as early as you'd want him in there. How about when he left?

Irene Parrish: He wanted to leave, every day, by 3:00. If you would do his schedule, he would want to come in early, and he wanted to leave at 3:00, because he wanted to go to the farm and take care of the animals and the things that needed to be done there.²⁴⁶

The Beach Parties



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe, Jim Kenney,
Marlene and Marvin Kaminetz, Carol Kenney,
Sylvia Briscoe

²⁴⁶ Irene Parish interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

John Hanson Briscoe: This was really something. (Pauses) Really something. Jim Kenney was very creative; and the girls, you know, Carol Kenney and Marlene Kaminetz and Sylvia Briscoe. Marvin and I were just kind of props. (Pauses) God we were so young then. See, I don't know whose decision this was; maybe it was Jim, Marvin that said "Look we've got this beautiful beach here."

Samuel Baldwin: Briscoe Beach

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah. Our friends loved the water; they had boats and stuff. 'Let's do a beach party; invite all of our friends, and important clients'. It was mostly to be a social thing, but they said why not bring people who were significant clients. And that beach, Sam, I don't know if you remember it. That beach was huge. We invited, I think as many as 200 people there on a sand beach coming off the farm. You had good walking and swimming off to the left and off to the right the water was deep. You could bring a boat in there. We didn't have tents or anything. We had a portable bathroom. We had crabs and clams and everything that goes with it. And we had a huge party with all the trimmings, the booze and everything. We had volleyball; we could really do volleyball that's how big it was. People would come in their boats and push them up to shore. Some of them would get drunk and stay on their boats. We had everybody. Just about anybody in St. Mary's County. You know, good friends. We had them here; we had a good time. And it was a great social thing and you know, we didn't hand our cards out to everybody but the commercial people appreciated it, the people we represented and they were good clients. And it was a great, great deal. And you could really have a good time and you could carry on.



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To you

From the Mick, the Wasp and the Jew.

It's Beach Party Time!

Chicken and Clams we plan to do
And of course, there will be plenty of brew.

We have the River and the Sand
And the sun's in our plan.

With all this and Crabs, it would never do -
Indeed it would be no fun -- without you.

Date: September 2, 1979

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Briscoe's Beach, Half Pone Point

Rain Date: September 3, 1979

R.S.V.P.: 863-7054 (Regrets Only)

Samuel Baldwin: Ok, getting back to the beach party. Here's the invitation

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, this might've been the second one. "To you, from the Mick, the WASP, and the Jew." We always liked to do a little humorous thing and you know Marlene Kaminetz and Carol Kenney and Sylvia did these things. We put them together and we got a big kick out of it. We had a good time, God it was great. There was never any problems. It was wonderful!

Samuel Baldwin: You are holding a pitchfork, Jim Kenney has some surveyor's equipment, and Marvin has a white doctor's outfit on and he's examining a skeleton. Why did you all dress up that way?

John Hanson Briscoe: So Marvin, of course was looking over an injured client with a stethoscope. I had a pitchfork; I guess maybe I was farming at the time with my father. And then Jim Kenney was our planning expert.²⁴⁷

Marvin Kaminetz: The idea about the beach parties, to me, was very simple. You've got to understand John, Jim, and I socially, I mean we spent just about every weekend together socializing. We weren't just business people, "see you again Monday"; we spent weekends doing stuff. And many, many of our social friends were also our clients, so we decided that we would have a firm beach party to celebrate our law firm, to celebrate our friends. Where better than Briscoe Beach? So we put these beach parties together and our friends showed up. In the beginning we'd have crabs, we always had clams. And of course beer and sodas and fried chicken and a lot of our friends would come by boat because it was a drop off, Briscoe Beach. The kids could swim in the shallow water. This was pretty much an adult party.

And of course there's always a few stories. I'm sure you heard about the one time we had to anchor the outhouse. We had a client who owed us some money and money was not easy, so we got part of our fee for representing him, by him supplying us with outhouses, ok? "Johnny-on-the-spots." So he would deliver usually two or three port-a-potties down on the beach. Well one year in particular we had high tides and there were some storms coming in and the beach flooded. We had to postpone it. Usually it was on Sunday. We had to back it up to Labor Day on a Monday because the weather was so bad over Saturday and Sunday. But the port-a-potties had already been delivered so we tied ropes around them and had to anchor them to the sand to make sure they didn't float up or down the river (laughs) and that's a true story. But anyway it was a

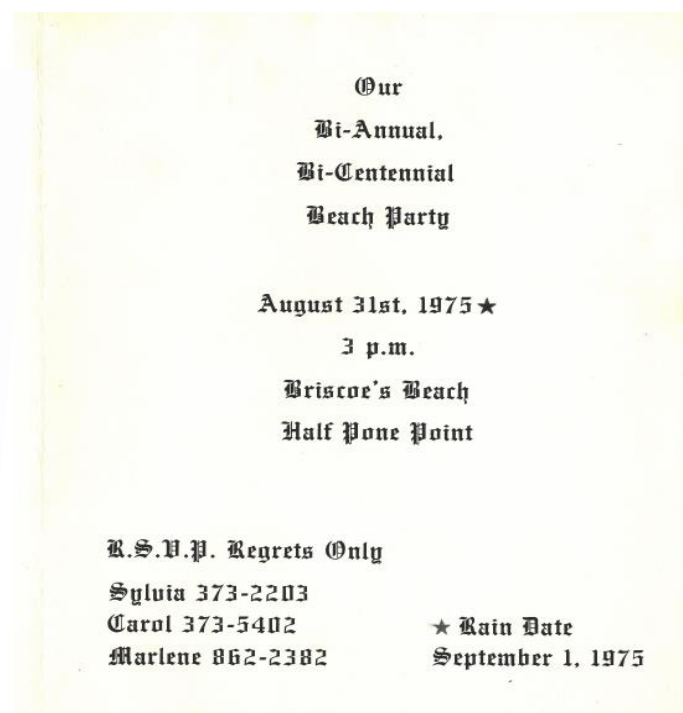
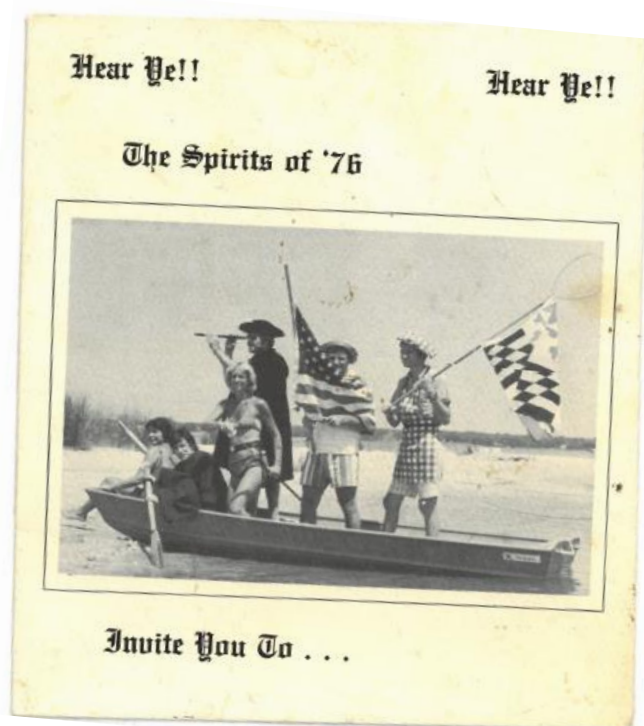


Left to Right: Shirley Hardman,
Donna Ely, Jim Kenney, Ron Ely

²⁴⁷ John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

great time. And there's one other great story, too, about that. Our firm did a lot of work back in those days with a law firm in Baltimore that one of my former roommates in college had just become a partner in, Goodman, Meagher, and Enoch in Baltimore. And two of the partners, one was my roommate and one was his partner. Well, we invited them to the beach party. Somehow or another, whichever secretary was doing the...some of those invitations. Well it went to a different lawyer, Grossman, who got the invitation and the guy called back to the RSVP and he said, "Look, I don't know any of you, but this sure looks like a hell of a lot of fun to come to this party."²⁴⁸

Claire de Lozier: We had those beach parties every summer. And of course they were always fun. Everyone's family was always invited to come. There was food, and booze, and all kinds of good stuff. But, really they were more a family party, though there weren't any real little ones around for a long time. And then once some of the little ones came along the parties became a little less crazy. There was also skinny dipping at the beach parties too; they went into the



night.²⁴⁹

Left to Right: Sylvia, Dana, and John Hanson
Briscoe, Marlene and Marvin Kaminetz, Jim
Kenney

²⁴⁸ Marvin Kaminetz Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

²⁴⁹ Claire de Lozier Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Darlene Guyther: I would say John Hanson, Jim Kenney, and Marvin Kaminetz tried to have a fun place to work and they socialized. It wasn't just working together; they enjoyed each other's company. It wasn't all business. It was: "We are family and we're all after the same thing."²⁵⁰

Family

Jim Kenney: I was very serious when I said, at least among the three of us, we treated the firm as family. If my kids get together they're going to talk about dusting books in the library. Jan and Lisa both, in the summers they would be around and do stuff. Whether it was filing or whatever. Messengers, whatever you need, you know?²⁵¹



Barbara and J. Frank Raley, Jim
Kenney seated Williamsburg, Dec
1972



Marvin & Marlene Kaminetz with
Briscoes on Christmas Morning

Claire Delozier: Jan came into the office more so when she was probably a young teenager, but of course we knew all of the kids. My husband and I actually babysat all four of the Briscoe children for Sylvia and John Hanson when they would go away. But Jan was the only one who showed an interest for coming into the office, and we always thought that she was the one who would follow in her father's footsteps. This firm, Briscoe, Kenney, and Kaminetz, the attorneys and staff, it was like family. Johnny Hanson, Jim Kenney, and Marvin, they were just like another set of parents for me. They were the three amigos. They were the trio.²⁵²

²⁵⁰ Darlene Guyther Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

²⁵¹ Jim Kenney Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

²⁵² Claire Delozier Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



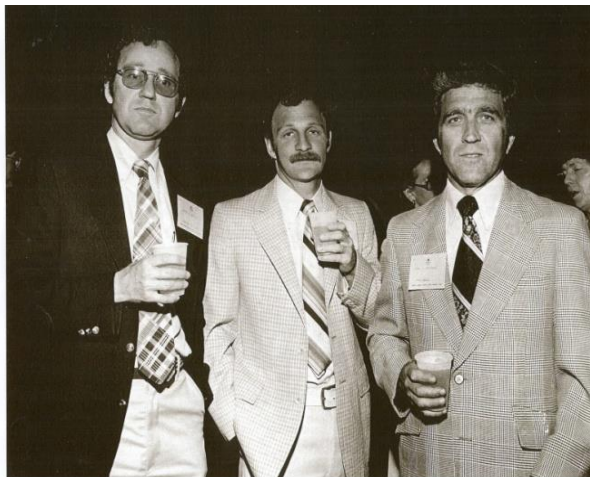
Janice Briscoe



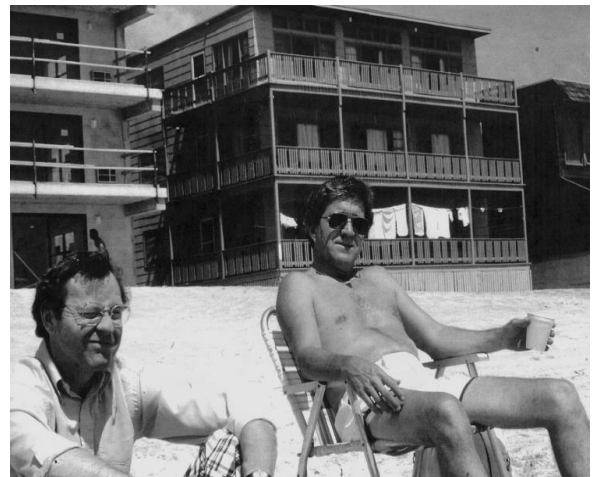
John Hanson Briscoe & Janice Briscoe

Ocean City

Marvin Kaminetz: We were at the State Bar Association in Ocean City and we would go over in June and we would stay for 2 or 3 days. And they always had a Governor's Reception, the Governor being whoever was the head of the State Bar. I'm sure we were all drinking lemonade in that picture. Iced tea maybe. Now that would've been where we all would've brought our families, we would get a suite of rooms and we would bring our kids. And Lisa and Jan would be the babysitters for all our kids, the Kenney kids, the Kaminetz kids, the younger Briscoe kids. They would stay in the room, all the kids would get put together and they would babysit and we would do the Bar Association thing.²⁵³



Jim Kenney, Marvin Kaminetz, John Hanson Briscoe



Jim Kenney & John Hanson Briscoe

²⁵³ Marvin Kaminetz Interview by Samuel Baldwin Jr.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN: GOVERNOR MARVIN MANDEL



SPEAKING OF SPEAKERS

Traditionally, a Democratic Governor can exert powerful influences over a House controlled by his own party when he has chosen to do so.

Back in the early 1960's, A. Gordon Boone, a Democrat resigned as House Speaker when he was implicated in a savings and loan scandal. Governor J. Millard Tawes quietly sent word down from his upstairs executive suite that his choice to replace Boone was Delegate Marvin Mandel. Needless to say, Mr. Mandel received more than enough votes. It is not recorded what his supporters in the House received, but Mr. Tawes had ways of rewarding good party loyalists.

So successful was Mr. Mandel as speaker, he had little trouble retaining the post even when Republican Spiro Agnew became Governor. In fact, most experienced observers of the Agnew years were surprised at the unusual burst of bipartisanship between the clever little Speaker and the new man upstairs.

Then a double thunderbolt shot through the political skies. Mr. Agnew was elected Vice President and Mr. Mandel, with most of the votes in the legislature at his command, became the next Governor. Almost routinely, the word went down that Mr. Lowe was to be the next House Speaker. He had more support than needed, though some would say he won it by unpopular demand.²⁵⁴

²⁵⁴ 'Speaking of Speakers' 10/22/73

James Simpson: He was the strongest Governor. I'll never forget his first State of the State. I was a freshman and, it was new legislature for him too. And so, he said, you know, in so many words, what he wanted to do, and boom, boom, boom, boom, and he says, "and I am Governor of this state, and I want you to know, I am going to govern". And it was really impressive. He knew how to do things. He had the same temperament as Johnny Briscoe. I mean, Johnny could listen and listen and nod and nod, and you think "everything's good", you could walk out and you didn't get anything. I mean, you didn't get it. But, you were happy. He came out, very happy, and all of a sudden, you know "he didn't say anything". So, he governed. There's no question about it. He made the system work, really. You know, he governed and he had the Senate and the House to work with him. But he came out with good ideas and things, and when he went for them he could make it happen.²⁵⁵

KEEP MARYLAND ON THE MOVE!
Exercise Your Right To Vote and vote Democratic Tuesday, November 3rd



JOSEPH D. TYDINGS
U.S. Senate



DAVID S. ALAND
1st Congressional District



MARVIN MANDEL
Governor of Maryland



LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN
Comptroller



FRANCIS B. BURCH
Attorney General



BLAIR LEE
Lt. Governor

ELECT
DOROTHY BAILEY KUCHER
Clerk of Court
MARY D. BELL
Register of Wills
FRANCIS G. CECIL
Treasurer
LAWRENCE WILLIAMS
Sheriff
Judges of Orphans Court
CLYDE RALEY
PAUL BELL
ERNEST L. STONE



JOHN HANSON BRISCOE
House of Delegates



J. MANNING MCKAY
House of Delegates

By authority of: Marvin C. Arty, Chairman; Joseph E. Bean, Vice-Chairman; Francis B. Hewitt, Secretary-Treasurer; William D. Brady, Kenneth B. Deane, J. Reginald Mestaglio, Jr., and James T. Tennyson, Members, St. Mary's County Democratic Central Committee.



JOSEPH S. GUY
County Commissioner



J. WILMER BOWLES
County Commissioner



GEORGE AUD
County Commissioner



OLIVER R. GUYTHER
State Senator
for Charles & St. Mary's Counties

²⁵⁵ James Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Do Nothing Legislature Needed Guiding Hand

The 1975 General Assembly did much talking but very little doing on the way to its most unproductive meeting since the mid-Sixties. Like a rudderless ship, the legislature ran aground early and often. The few times it appeared to be off and sailing, another controversy would spring up to bring a legislative process to still another frustrating halt. Perhaps the one thing clear is that the legislature, despite its efforts to appear independent, needs a guiding hand if it is to function with anything even approaching efficiency. That guidance may come from any number of sources but, at least in recent years, it has emanated from “the man upstairs on the second floor,” that is, Governor Mandel.

Much Expected From Him

The chief executive, fresh from an overwhelming victory at the polls, was expected to make his presence felt, especially with the 70 freshman senators and delegates who looked upon Mr. Mandel's reputation as a man who gets his way with something approaching awe. But the Governor became so preoccupied with squelching the small field fires of controversy springing up about him before they became major conflagrations that he largely ignored the legislature. And the controversy stalled the Assembly. It began early, even before the session opened January 8, when the governor and his wife flew secretly to a Caribbean hideaway with some friends aboard the corporate jet of Steuart Petroleum, a locally based oil company that was currently in litigation with the state over a controversial proposed oil refinery in Southern Maryland.

The Coverup Route

A minor indiscretion, perhaps in the beginning, but the Governor chose to go the coverup route, putting out one explanation, then another, and then a third before finally halting the process. The resultant clamor among Mr. Mandel's detractors monopolized the Senate's time for weeks. Even the Governor's most loyal supporters privately voiced disgust over the episode leading to an almost unprecedented rebuke of the chief executive by the senate.²⁵⁶

LEGISLATIVE POWERS OF MARYLAND'S GOVERNOR

BY: WILLIAM S. JAMES

Today, Maryland's Governor is the State's most important legislator. He has both the prestige of statewide elective office and the mantle of state party leader. In this latter role, if he commands a majority in the Legislature, he is a powerful force in the party caucus which selects the legislative leaders.

²⁵⁶ “Do Nothing Legislature Needed Guiding Hand”, By Jeff Valentine, Spring 1975

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, under Maryland's legislative rules of procedure, appoint the committees of the Legislature and designate their chairmen. A natural consequence is that gubernatorial power flows through the legislative leaders and into the important committees.

The Governor has almost unlimited power to initiate legislation. During his campaign for election he completely dominates the drafting of the party platform. A governor swept into office has a powerful mandate to submit proposals transforming the party platform into legislative enactment. For reasons of custom and courtesy, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, upon request of the executive, will present his proposals for consideration of the Legislature.

During the sessions of the General Assembly the Governor has many conferences with his legislative leaders and with individual members of the Legislature. As Governor, the prestige of his office gives him strong powers of persuasion. His position in these conferences is strengthened by his power of appointment and by his constitutional budget and veto powers. All of the expertise of his department heads, his personal legislative drafting service, the office of the Attorney General, and the General Assembly's staff is available to give technical assistance in converting his ideas into concrete legislative proposals.

But governors must proceed with caution. If they were wise, they analyze the reactions of legislators to ideas well in advance of formal presentation. The salutary check of public opinion is always omnipresent. As time erodes their terms, power fades until it is terminated or revitalized by new elections.



William James, John Hanson
Briscoe, Mandel Mandel

The measure of the Governor in the eyes of observers and historians seems to rest upon whether he is successful in obtaining the enactment of his legislative programs. Although he is constitutionally the chief executive, his mark in history is largely dependent upon his success as a legislator.

The general public holds the Governor responsible for the success or failure of legislative programs and votes accordingly. However, prevention of the Governor's excessive invasion of its legislative province is the heavy responsibility of the General Assembly of Maryland.

*...Mr. James is President of the Maryland Senate.*²⁵⁷

²⁵⁷ Baltimore Sun, 1/9/74



Oden Bowie, clerk of the senate, William James, Senate President, Governor Marvin Mandel, House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe

Samuel Baldwin: John mentioned a number of times how important it was to maintain independence from the Governor and focus on what was good for different parts of the State. So on the one hand, he had meetings with the governor, but John also mentioned regular meetings with his Committee Chairs.

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin: Well, that's right. You have got to understand the transition that was taking place here. Before Marvin Mandel was Governor, the Governor, they basically controlled the General Assembly. It was a pretty direct relationship, so that the majority leader would be the Governor's person, not the members' person in the House. And when Marvin Mandel became Governor, Thomas Hunter Lowe followed that course but he said, 'you know, we have to be a little bit more independent'. So, Thomas Hunter Lowe started the reform of the General Assembly particularly in the capacity for staff, committee, structures, etc..It was Thomas Hunter Lowe who really set up the structure that allowed the Delegates to be independent of the governor. But it was John Hanson Briscoe who really implemented that. He was the first Speaker that really said to the Governor 'we're not going to carry your water. We're going to have our own agenda and we're going to do what we think is right. We're certainly going to work with you,' as John worked with everybody. "But, we're going to be independent". So, he did establish the independent thought of the General Assembly and expected us to be loyal to the House of Delegates, not to the Governor; to Maryland, but not to the Governor. So he did have a regular routine. My recollection is there were different interests on the Ways and Means Committee in different parts of our State that would meet regularly with Chairman Briscoe to go over major issues as to how we wanted to proceed.²⁵⁸

²⁵⁸ U.S Senator Ben Cardin interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



John Hanson Briscoe, Marvin Mandel, Sheila Hixson, Ben Cardin

Bruce Bereano: Mandel himself being a legislator was one of, if not the, greatest Governors of Maryland in terms of what he did. So many times he would tell me, while he loved and respected



Left to Right: Majority Leader John Arnick, Frank Harris, John Hanson Briscoe, Ronnie Shriver

being governor, his greatest love was being in the legislature, being speaker of the House. His greatest love. He had such knowledge of the legislature and the humanity of it as an institution. Secondly he, on some of his bills, not thinking his stature was being diminished or anything like that, he'd go to different committees and testify; pretty powerful. Not every bill, but still pretty powerful. He also had, this is during the reign when John Hanson was Speaker and I think this is relevant when Ben Cardin was Speaker and even when Thomas Lowe was Speaker, Mandel had a policy. His lobbyists Ronnie Shriver and Frank Harris executed it and he would tell legislators, Senators and Delegates, any legislator, Democrat, Republican, Conservative, didn't care where they were from in the state. If any legislator told Ronnie Shriver or Frank Harris "I wanna see the Governor" they were up in his office in 10 minutes. No one asked what they wanted to talk to him about. The meeting was just the Delegate or Senator and the Governor, one on one, alone and to my knowledge he's the only Governor who did that. None other have done it since. The reason I bring it up to you is that the

mere fact that a state legislator

knew that he had direct, immediate, unfettered access to the Governor on anything, that didn't just give the Governor unlimited power but it also muted the power of the presiding officers. Mandel wasn't trying to cut the rug from under John Hanson or Thomas Hunter Lowe but the point is that a Senator or Delegate knew that he or she could go directly to the Governor and get what they want or bargain to get what they want didn't make them as dependent on the officer.

Samuel Baldwin: Of the House of the Senate you mean?

Bruce Bereano: Yeah, today, getting something the members of the Senate or the House and legislature are very dependent on their presiding officers because Governors haven't filled that vacuum. But if you're in the legislature and you know that all you have to say to Ronnie Shriver or Frank Harris 'you wanna see the governor' and in 10 minutes or less you're up there and Mandel was never worried because what, are you going to go up there and waste the Governor's time and make a fool out of yourself? I mean you have to come up because you have something to talk to him about. What, you going to go up there and ask him how the weather is or how the Colts did last night or what have you? And Mandel would do things like help them on bills. In the old days politics were different. Some of them, they wanted race track passes. The Governor had a load of them. You go home to your district, I'm not exaggerating on any of this, you go home to your district and you give out to your workers your race track pass that you got from the Governor, that's a good time. First of all they are indebted to you and they are very impressed that you got it from the Governor and you did get it from the Governor.



John Hanson Briscoe and Ben Cardin at Pimlico Racetrack for the Preakness

Samuel Baldwin: John Hanson told me that the Governor had lobbyists talk to the Delegates on the floor.

Bruce Bereano: Under the old rules of the Senate and the House there was a rule allowing the Governor's representatives to physically be on the floor and work the floor. Would you stop and think about that, the branches of government, and the Governor, through his representatives Frank Harris and Ronnie Shriver. Frank Harris came out of the House, and they would walk the floor and they would arm twist working in the Senate; I saw it, I couldn't believe it, I just couldn't believe it. I liked the way they expressed the Governor's interest in the bill; that's an understatement but it's true. So that was invoked when Mandel was there.²⁵⁹

Samuel Baldwin: Bruce Bereano found it significant, remarkable, that the Governor's lobbyists were working the floor, promoting the Governor's Bills. Is that remarkable?

Senate President Mike Miller: People took it for granted in the sense that Marvin Mandel was a creature of the Legislature. He was from Baltimore City. And, at that time, Baltimore City had more than 40 members of the General Assembly, of the 141. They had 13 State Senators. So, it was a very powerful coalition. But the Governor assembled this lobbying team, including his appointment secretary. And when he had an issue that he wanted to get passed, he would assign Frank Harris, say, to talk to people from the Eastern Shore. He would assign Ronnie Shriver to talk to members, say, member of the Jewish faith in North West Baltimore City. He had Mo Wyatt, Maurice Wyatt, to talk to people. He had, oh gosh, he had some very bright people with him-John Eldridge who was later on the Court of Appeals. When things got dicey on issues, he would send in his lobbying team to work. And, you know, like on guns-mandatory jail sentence for gun issues. I wasn't about to vote for it. And they needed my vote on House Judiciary Committee. So they brought me up to see the Governor. And Governor Mandel said, "look, here's what you do. Move for it in the committee. And you can vote against it on the floor of the House of Delegates". I said, "can you do that?" And says "yea, you can do that!" Alright, so we knew. So, I had it both ways. You know? But, he was very good at what he did.²⁶⁰

James Simpson: Mandel was the strongest Governor that I served under, of all the five or whatever it was. He knew how the system worked, and he worked the system. They knew how to get the votes, to get the Bills passed. He had it all. He had his own people lobbying. He weren't lobbyists. They worked for the Governor and they had titles. Such as this and such as that. They worked out of the second floor.

SB: The second floor being where the Governor was?

²⁵⁹ Bruce Bereano Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

²⁶⁰ Senate President Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

James Simpson: Yeah. No question about it.

SB: Frank Shriver and Ron Harris.

James Simpson: And then there was another-Moe Wyatt, who was Appointment Secretary. But they were the two main ones. They were representing the Governor, so you never thought. I mean, and they didn't walk up and down the aisles. You know, they would stay up where the press would sit, and sit there or they'd catch you out in the hallway or in in the Senate Lounge. Or they'd call you, or talk to you. Yeah.

SB: But "lobbyists" probably isn't the correct term?

James Simpson: No. They weren't. I mean they would work the Bills.

SB: They were representatives.

James Simpson: They had titles-Assistant to the Governor-whatever.²⁶¹



Ronnie Shriver, John Hanson Briscoe, Frank Harris

²⁶¹ James Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



“John, whatever you ate couldn’t be that bad. Marvin Mandel Governor”

John Hanson Briscoe: What a progressive governor he was. Look at all the things he’s talking about. That’s not sexy stuff; the more I think about it, the more I really admire him for his progressive leadership.

Samuel Briscoe: Well the tax legislation, was that something that Mandel came up with?

John Hanson Briscoe: No, Steny and I, everybody was thinking about it and we got together a program and sat down and debated it. Not very sexy because most legislators didn’t understand how it’d work, the break-off at a certain income level and you wouldn’t pay taxes, great stuff. I was just reminiscing about how progressive it was when I was there. We passed a lot of that stuff. And it wasn’t special interest either.²⁶²

²⁶² John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT: SENATE **PRESIDENT STENY H. HOYER**

New Senate President Hoyer

At 35 Youngest to Win Post

Two sweethearts from Suitland High School in Prince Georges county once ran for office in student government. She ran for vice president against the star basketball player, and lost.

As a result of the election , Steny H. Hoyer made two decisions:

- It was a good idea to marry the girl who won the race for student government secretary
- Never run against an athlete

On Wednesday, Steny H. Hoyer was elected state Senate president. At 35, Hoyer, according to political historian and State comptroller Louis Goldstein, is the youngest person to hold that office. Goldstein, when he was 42, was the second youngest.

Flanked by daughters on either side and a three-year old daughter on her lap, Mrs. Judy Hoyer sat in the well of the senate chamber and watched her husband assume the prestigious office.

“I’m always happy when Steny achieves what he wants,” whispered Mrs.Hoyer while the Senate was in session.

Indeed, determining her husband’s goal is not always the easiest job. Throughout his meteoric rise in the state politics, Hoyer has entertained thoughts of running for Congress and four years ago ran unsuccessfully for Prince George’s county executive.

The image of being ambitious in a profession of the super ambitious has stuck with Hoyer. Wednesday, when his colleague , state Sen. Meyer Emanuel Jr., D-22 nominated Hoyer he called his ambition “controlled by guidance and self-restraint”.

Hoyer, whose trim figure and crystal blue eyes make him appear even younger than he is, admits succumbing to the political infection long ago.

If his critics are unable to score points playing on Hoyer’s political success ethic, they are confident he is vulnerable on his reported close association with Gov. Mandel.

When the discussion focuses on Mandel, Hoyer becomes considerably more sensitive.Taking the gavel in his hand for the first time, Hoyer turned to his 46 fellow

senators and said in a deep voice, “I have some remarks Gov. Mandel gave me before I came to the chamber.” The senators and press thought that was uproariously funny and laughed with Hoyer. As with many jokes there’s probably a dash of truth in his. Hoyer is fully aware that his credibility rests, in part, in proving his independence to the Senate and the public.

If it’s any indication as to whom Hoyer holds in highest respects, there’s no photograph of Mandel in the new Senate president’s burgundy- carpeted office. Just over Hoyer’s desk there is a print of a sketch of John Kennedy. On a side wall Hoyer has placed the famous photograph of John and Robert Kennedy huddled in deliberations.

Hoyer’s style and words confirm a still strong identify with John Kennedy. On the wall besides the sketch of Kennedy is a photograph of the successful candidate for Suitland High School Secretary.

“That one went up first,” Hoyer said, glancing at his wife’s picture.²⁶³



Right to Left: Dennis McCoy, John Hanson Briscoe, Steny Hoyer

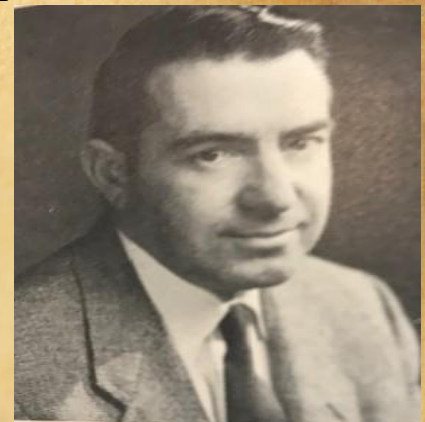
His Own Man- Or Mandel’s?

Assembly’s Big Question: Steny Hoyer

January 6, 1975

The big question mark on leadership in the state legislature this year is whether the newly elected Senate president, Steny H. Hoyer (D. Prince Georges, 26th), will be his own man or allow Governor Mandel to share the office of President.

The Senate Democratic Caucus elected Mr.Hoyer as the presiding officer December 4, during an open-door meeting that bubbled with political intrigue. Most of the audience in the Senate chambers was aware that Governor Mandel had secretly agreed to support Mr.Hoyer two days before the vote. But hours before the election, Senator James Clark, Jr., (D., Howard 15th), the only other candidate, was saying that he had the 20 votes needed to beat Senator Hoyer and the Governor. Of course Senator Clark was wrong. He misjudged he Governor’s clout by at least four votes. Mr.Hoyer won the election 22-to-26.



JAMES CLARK, JR.
District 3-C

²⁶³ “New Senate President Hoyer At 35 Youngest to Win Post”, by Rich Hollander

Who Was Winner

Most political observers are saying now that the Governor, not Senator Hoyer, won the presidency; and that the traditional independence of the Senate is now in jeopardy. However, that remains to be seen. Hoyer, 35, is considered bright by colleagues and he shows a lot of the aggressiveness that some oldtimers say the Governor showed when he was a young legislator.

The House Democrats' caucus is expected to select its leader on the day the legislature convenes, January, 8. However, there does not appear to be any serious opposition to Delegate John H. Briscoe (D., St. Mary's 29th), last year's speaker of the House. Before Mr. Briscoe began his first full term as speaker last year, he was tabbed as an independent who would not allow gubernatorial demands to interfere with sound, responsible judgment.²⁶⁴

Bruce Bereano: So there was an opening and Hoyer steps up. He was 32, 35, something like that. So he steps up and he and Peter O'Malley had the political machine of Prince Georges; that was a real machine. I saw it. I participated in it. I attended meetings. So he puts in for it and Roy Staten from East Baltimore, for Beth Steel, very close to Mandel, puts in for it and Hoyer goes to Mandel and he lacked 2 votes to become President of the Senate. He goes to Mandel and Mandel gets him Jim Simpson and I forget who the second person was but even though he was so close, Mandel was so close to Roy Staten, he knew because of his appreciation for the legislature that Staten wasn't the right person to go into the 20th century and that you needed a young, vibrant, intelligent, speaker. Hoyer came in '67 and he's a Senator for 6 or 7 years and he had a track record for working hard, articulate, strategic, and all that kind of stuff. So Mandel made Hoyer President of the Senate. Everybody knows it, everybody knew it. Steny Hoyer never denied it. Got the 2 votes and he wouldn't have had them otherwise and again one of them was Jim Simpson. So based upon that and Hoyer is a profoundly loyal individual and so whatever Mandel wanted he did and there was sometimes where there would be some fierce debate going on like something unexpected where Hoyer would say 'go up there and speak to the Governor and see what he wants me to do on this'.²⁶⁵

Samuel Baldwin: Why did Marvin want Steny as opposed to Jim Clark?

²⁶⁴ 'Who was winner', Briscoe's Archives

²⁶⁵ Bruce Bereano Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

James Simpson: Because he could handle Steny. And he couldn't handle Jim Clark who was a very independent person and he was-he would be his own person. If the Governor wanted a certain Bill, Steny was going to do everything he can to get it. He had an obligation to the Governor, there's no question about it.

Samuel Baldwin: Steny did ask for and receive help from Mandel in becoming Senate President; but in return, he might have had a sense of obligation to be Governor?

James Simpson: There's no question. He couldn't have been President without Marvin Mandel. I mean, I was one of several that swung our vote. That was-we hadn't committed to Jim, but we were leaning to Jim Clark. No question about it. And there was, I know about three of us, because Mandel said he needed-and we were all new, the ones that switched. I didn't know Jim Clark. I knew Steny because he was from the county above us. And we were leaning towards Jim Clark and went with Steny. Primarily because of the Governor, Governor Mandel.²⁶⁶



Left to Right: Senator James Simpson, John Hanson Briscoe, Acting Gov. Blair Lee III

Samuel Baldwin: The articles suggested that President Hoyer might not have been seen as independent when it came to Mandel.

Bruce Bereano: It wasn't a secret of how he became President of the Senate. But for Governor Mandel and his intervention and his essence of choosing the President of the Senate it would not have happened.²⁶⁷

Annapolis Notes

The Legislative Governors-in-Waiting

A handful of ambitious law makers are off to an eager start in the new General Assembly session. Their concentration is as much political as it is legislative. They are serving with a lame duck Governor, and each in his way is jockeying for advantage.

²⁶⁶ James Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

²⁶⁷ Bruce Bereano Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Senate President Steny H. Hoyer is the latest to join other lawmakers as a Governor-in-waiting. He began the new session by establishing relationships with other politicians, especially those who can aid him.

John H. Briscoe, Speaker of the House of Delegates, also knows the meaning of patronage and power. Though his small-county background may be considered by some a handicap, he has what is known in cloakroom parlance as “legislative temperament.” But where Senator Hoyer has in most instances co-opted progressives and reformers, Delegate Briscoe has raised the ire of Common Cause, which considers him the last stumbling block to openness in government.

Rarely has Maryland dipped into its legislative chambers for gubernatorial candidates, much less a Governor. Traditions change, however, and 1978 could prove a political breakthrough for aspirants who have marked time in the General Assembly while lesser men passed them by.²⁶⁸



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe, John Arnick, Steny H. Hoyer

SESSION COULD TURN ON BRISCOE AS “BROKER”

“I’ve had so many good things happen to me by events merely taking place,” he said in his soft Southern Maryland drawl. “The only two things I ever actively sought [both were judgeships] I never got. So maybe I’ll just sit back and let things happen to me.”

²⁶⁸ ‘The Legislative Governors-in Waiting’, Baltimore Sunpapers, January 11, 1975

This willingness to stand above the fray has been the source of Mr. Briscoe's success in the House of Delegates. His colleagues universally describe him as a calm, detached and evenhanded leader, a born mediator in an assembly that is so often divided.

In contrast to Steny H. Hoyer, his counterpart in the Senate, Mr. Briscoe is rarely out in front on any issue, preferring, as he says "to avoid the limelight." When Mr. Hoyer coaxed him last year to join him in a press conference to announce an ill-fated tax rebate plan, his discomfort was palpable.

"Unlike Steny, he doesn't feel it's his role to advocate new programs," Delegate Benjamin L. Cardin (D., 42d, Baltimore), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said "He feels that without his suggestions there will be more than enough ideas to keep us busy. And he feels the less personal stake he has in what's going on on the floor, the more effective he can be."

It is a posture that has often placed Mr. Briscoe in the shadow of the ambitious young Senate president, but it may prove to be an ideal ingredient for this particular session of the General Assembly.

"He's going to have a commanding role in this session," Mr. Cardin predicted of Mr. Briscoe. "He's not a statewide candidate, and at this point no one else in the House is a statewide candidate. That makes his motives less suspect."

Mr. Briscoe hopes to make his mark in the area of property tax reform, which is widely regarded here as the most crucial issue of the session. Mr. Hoyer and Mr. Lee are pushing their own programs, both keenly aware of the political dividends that will accrue to the candidate who can claim to have eased the problem. A compromise seems to be in order ²⁶⁹



Left to Right: Senate President Steny H. Hoyer, House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe, Acting Governor Blair Lee

²⁶⁹ "Session could turn on Briscoe as 'broker'", by Donald Kimelman, Baltimore Sun, January 29, 1978

Bruce Bereano: Hoyer and Briscoe got along together so well that Hoyer, in addition to my full time job with him, lent me to Briscoe. First of all he and John Hanson did joint legislation together. They had what was called a ‘leadership package’ which was like the first 10 bills of each session which were introduced in the House and the Senate by the President and the Speaker and they were the ‘leadership package’ and that was one of my jobs was to honcho that and get it all drafted up and work it during the process. They weren’t competing with Governor Mandel. Every Governor sends down the administrative package with all their bills but it was one time, and I do not recollect that it has ever been done before or since the two of them did that.

Samuel Baldwin: The “leadership package” for the first 10 bills: John had told me as Speaker he really wanted the members of the House to generate the bills and he personally wouldn’t generate the bills. Would these 10 bills...

Bruce Bereano: Steny was the motivator of that because it fit in line with his ambitions for the future.

Samuel Baldwin: But these would be 10 bills that Steny came up with and suggested to John that these were...

Bruce Bereano: Primarily, my recollection, but some of them might have come from John. But bottom line, John with full knowledge, he accepted them, he went along with them, he thought they were meritorious. They were bills that didn’t conflict with the Governor. And some sessions it was 10, sometimes it would be 8. They were reserved. I thought it was very fascinating and in a sense the members, seeing that the presiding officers got along so well, I think it created a mood and an atmosphere in Annapolis. You’re always going to have the basic jealousy between Delegates and Senators, but to see the presiding officer’s trust and work well together, you don’t get that.²⁷⁰

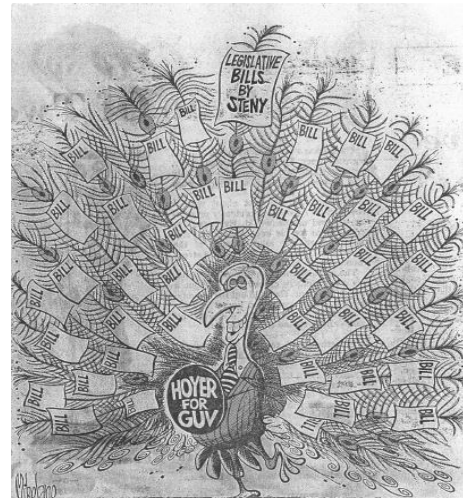
Samuel Baldwin: Bruce Bereano mentioned the Legislative Package that John and Steny, primarily Steny, but the two of them would promote at the beginning of the session.

Senate President Mike Miller: That’s true.

Samuel Baldwin: And he didn’t think it had been done before or been done since?

²⁷⁰ Bruce Bereano, Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Senate President Mike Miller: I don't think it's been done before. Steny was very big on initiating legislation with his, and having his name associated with the legislation, and getting it through the Senate. But obviously there's another House involved. And, John Briscoe, he wanted good government; wanted the Legislature to work, so that there was no taint that was associated with the legislation. There was good legislation for everybody. And coming from St. Mary's, he was sort of an arbiter. Steny came from Prince Georges but he wanted the Baltimore segment to support him for Governor. And, John wasn't concerned about running for higher office. He was just selected because he was the best person available to be the Speaker. And, the majority of Steny's issues, he agreed with. But the ones he didn't agree with, he didn't pass.



Samuel Baldwin: So tell me the issues with the Baltimore subway. There was the article about the Baltimore subway, and how, at the last minute, it might've been Delegate Doctor, had started a filibuster of sorts. And Briscoe was able to cut it off. And then, as other people stood up to explain their vote, Briscoe ignored them, used a Parliamentary maneuver to force it to a vote, and saved it in the House. But, the article that I read said that in, on the Senate side, debate continued for days.

Senate President Mike Miller: Eight days.

Samuel Baldwin: And Steny couldn't cut it off. Bruce Bereano was explaining that the rules are different in the two Chambers. In the House you have 140-some members-there's one set of rules; but in the Senate, there are fewer members-maybe it's easier to debate. Can you explain that?

Senate President Mike Miller: In the House, they've got a procedure called-the Speaker recognizes somebody, and he knows in advance who he's going to recognize, and he knows in advance what the motion's going to be. The motion's going to be to move the previous question. "All in favor; all opposed." The previous question is-that's it. That cuts off the debate. In the Senate, you had to have 32 members that agree to cut off the debate. In the House it was simple majority. And, so when the subway Bill came up in the Senate, they were really votes short. And, Marvin Mandel had a friend of his, an old friend of his, who had been a former Speaker Pro Team in the House, E. Homer White, Jr., to switch his vote, and vote contrary to everything that rural Senators wanted. And he was defeated the next election. But, he was the deciding vote. They filibustered and

filibustered and filibustered until finally, they were able to get the last vote, which was E. Homer White, voted to cut off debate.²⁷¹

House Being Asked To Reconsider Rejection of Subway Compromise

Hoyer Criticized For Senate Logjam

Annapolis-Steny H. Hoyer, the young president of the Maryland Senate, stood at the rostrum last night with handkerchief in hand, dabbing off drops of blood on his chin. He said he cut himself shaving. But the blood might as well have come from the beating he has taken in the past few days in a subway fight that he insists is not his. "This is the Governor's proposal, not mine," said the 37-year old Democrat from Prince George's county. But the governor has managed to avoid most of the brawl, leaving Senator Hoyer with his chin exposed. Unable to move the Senate out of its nine-day old deadlock over the Baltimore subway proposal, Senator Hoyer now finds himself having to defend his leadership from a growing number of critics.

His counterpart in the House, John H. Briscoe (D., Southern Md., 24th), lashed out at the senate logjam earlier this week, contending that Mr.Hoyer has not used his power as president to knuckle the opponents into submission. "I'd use any means I could to force that filibuster to break," Delegate Briscoe said in criticism of Senator Hoyer's decision not to force the issue.

Angered by the attack, Mr.Hoyer worked to keep his short temper in check, carefully wording his response. "The criticism is somewhat unthinking," he said. "What do they want me to do, line the opponents up against the wall and shoot them?" It is the most serious test yet for the preppy-looking president, who is only in his second year in the leadership role. Politically ambitious-he is being touted as a likely gubernatorial candidate in 1978 - Mr.Hoyer is trying to keep the problem from developing into a bitter rift in the Senate-and to emerge with as few enemies as possible. He has given opponents on the floor every courtesy, making no effort to outmaneuver them or push them into test votes to determine their strength.

Meanwhile, he has worked behind the scenes to keep open the dialogue that has brought the fragile Senate compromise that is now before the House. "My responsibility is to see that legislation supported by a majority of the Senate comes to a vote," he said early in the fight, "I will do what I think is most effective to bring the issue to a vote." But House critics, and even some members of the Governor's



PAUL E. WEISENGOFF
Baltimore City 6th

²⁷¹ Senate President Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

staff, contend he might have ended the issue days ago by pushing the opponents until they gave in. “Steny’s going to have to stand up and exert his leadership,” Delegate Paul E. Weisengoff (D., City. 37th), head of the city’s House delegation, said last night. “If he doesn’t know how to do it, he shouldn’t be president of the Senate,” Mr. Weisengoff said. Senator Hoyer scoffs at the notion he could have worked down the opponents by keeping the session going 24 hours a day.²⁷²

Filbuster cut off

Obscure House procedure gave joyful Mayor Victory

By: Anthony Barbieri, JR. and Barry C. Rascovar

Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Annapolis-If Mayor Schaefer needs a suitable inscription for the cornerstone of Baltimore’s proposed downtown convention center, he might consider the following from Mason’s Manual of Legislative Procedures:

“A member who resorts to persistent irrelevance or to persistent repetition after the attention of the House has been called to the matter may be directed to discontinue his speech by the presiding officer.”

In the frenetic last hour of the Maryland General Assembly session Monday night it was a rather obscure rule plus quick gavel and convenient loss of hearing – that enabled John Hanson Briscoe, speaker of the House of Delegates, to end a mini-filibuster and push through the \$35 million convention center bond bill.

The dramatic- and near chaotic- close to the Assembly session allowed Mayor Schaefer to carry home two signal legislative accomplishments- approval of the initial appropriation of the first Baltimore subway and the enactment of legislation that will enable Mr. Schaefer to finally build the convention center he is convinced will put Baltimore on the lips of every group looking for a place to meet.

“It was wonderful, just wonderful,” Mr. Schaefer gushed after the final gavels pounded down in both the House and Senate. For a while, it looked like filibusters would scuttle both of the Mayor’s dreams. First the Senate talked for eight days in an attempt to kill initial subway appropriation. And then, to the surprise of almost everyone, a Washington-area congressional candidate rose in the House of Delegates to begin filibustering the convention center as it was on the verge of enactment. But John Hanson Briscoe (D.,

²⁷² The Baltimore Evening Sun, Thursday, April 8, 1976

St. Mary's), speaker of the House, refused to let the filibustering by delegate Charles A. Docter (D., Montgomery) last more than an hour.

As outraged city delegates squirmed in their seats—and at least one was pushed back into his chair by a state senator visiting the House—Mr. Briscoe orchestrated a leadership coup that seized the House floor from the talking Mr. Docter and delivered it into the hands of taciturn city loyalists who immediately cut off debate.

To take the floor from Mr. Docter, the speaker invoked a little-known rule from Mason's Manual that prohibits a House member from repeating himself or straying from the subject at hand – two offenses that normally are ignored in the House. The Doctor filibuster “was almost in a sinister and fiendish way” explained the normally even-tempered Mr. Briscoe yesterday. “It was frivolous, dilatory, beyond reason.” The majority of House members agreed. They ignored it when Delegate John S. Arnick (D., 8th, Baltimore county) –who was presiding for a time – repeatedly ruled out of order motion after motion offered by anti-convention center delegates trying to stall until the mid-night close of the session. And they ignored it when Mr. Briscoe, retaking the podium, refused to recognize delegates trying to exercise their time-honored right to explain their votes. “Outrageous,” shouted Mr. Docter. “this is no way to run a democratic body.”

“I guess it was a bit discourteous of me,” a smiling Mr. Briscoe conceded after the tumultuous House session. Mayor Schaefer, besides himself with joy, inexplicably gave credit for the maneuver to Governor Mandel, who was observing the show from the House gallery door.

“That was the most magnificent thing I've seen in a long time,” said the Mayor, “Anyone who says the Governor has lost his touch is crazy. He never lost control. He was the coolest man I've ever seen.” And as for Mr. Docter: “I don't even know that man's name,” said the Mayor. “It's completely rejected from my mind.”

Mr. Briscoe defended his actions in gaveling down the House filibuster. “I was determined no House bill was going to fail for lack of time if I had anything to do with it,” the speaker said.²⁷³



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe, John Arnick, Torrey Brown

²⁷³“Obscure house Procedure”, Baltimore Sunpapers 4/14/76

\$3.5 Billion Budget Voted by MD

By: James B. Rowland

ANNAPOLIS—Maryland's General Assembly has ended its 90-day annual session, channeling a flood of legislation to Gov. Marvin Mandel after nipping in the bud three new and potentially crippling filibuster attempts. Before stopping at the stroke of midnight, the assembly sent the governor his \$3.5 billion operating budget intact — including the \$120 million Baltimore City subway item that fueled an eight-day Senate filibuster.

The Finale's most raucous display came in the House of Delegates just before midnight when a swift and unexpected parliamentary dictum shut off Del. Charles A Docter, D-Montgomery, after a 20-minute talkathon against a \$35 million state loan for a convention center in Baltimore City.

"This is outrageous...this is an abridgement of procedure...it makes the legislature look stupid...there have been a lot of deals on this," Docter sputtered.

As Gov. Marvin Mandel looked down with smug satisfaction from a packed gallery, the Docter cutoff was engineered by House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe, D-St. Mary's, and Del. Benjamin L Cardin, D-Baltimore City, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Coaching from the sidelines was Sen. Harry J. McGuirk, a Baltimore City Democrat who earlier had coaxed the upper chamber to go for the bill quietly pushed by Mandel. The governor recently had said the state could not afford the expenditure.

When Cardin suddenly announced Docter was being repetitious and out of order, Briscoe immediately agreed and called for the final vote. As opponents stood to explain their votes at length and thereby execute another delaying tactic, Briscoe simply refused to recognize them.

The bill passed, 77-22 — six votes more than the minimum needed for enactment. "It was very discourteous of me, wasn't it," Briscoe admitted to a reporter later.²⁷⁴



HARRY J. MCGUIRK
District 12

²⁷⁴ '\$3.5 Billion Budget Voted by Md..' By James B. Rowland, Briscoe's Archives, April 1976



John Hanson Briscoe: “This is a classic photo. We were right in the midst of a lot of controversy. And of course John Arnick was my beancounter, and Ben Cardin was my brains, see. And we came down to the harbor to take a break. I love that photograph. It’s a good one, isn’t it?”

Bruce Bereano: Some of them are significant bills; could be the capital budget, could be what have you. The last day of the session even today is emotionally charged. It is the end; people are trying to get their bills passed; people act in a way that they have not acted in 89 days. It just happens because this is the now and legislators fall in love with their bills; they want their bills, and people are holding up bills because this person is holding up that bill.

The Senate is different from the House, Mr. Baldwin. The House is so large you have to use parliamentary rules and the speaker can cut off the debate in the House. Mandel wanted the subway badly. I remember it because I was there, we went until 1,2,3 o’clock in the morning. You can only limit debate in the Senate. I know it’s torture and what have you but you just gotta let it steam out.

Samuel Baldwin: As I recall John Hanson cut off the debate and one of his comments was he wasn’t going to let the legislation fail because they ran out of time in the discussion. He said that about the House and I was assuming that the clock was also ticking in the Senate.

Bruce Bereano: But they are just different bodies. The Speaker has enormous ability to cut off debate of a member and for example in the House if the Speaker doesn’t recognize somebody who stands at his or her desk to speak that person can’t speak. You can’t do that in the Senate. There’s some different things that come into play procedurally and you just gotta play it out.

Briscoe and Hoyer trusted each other, they liked each other. It was very simple. Their personalities jelled. First of all, neither was a political threat to the other. Their ambitions were different. I mean, Steny was young and very ambitious. He wanted to be Governor one day and I knew that during his Senate Presidency there were a number of things he made me do so he could position himself in '78 after 4 years of being Senate President. John Hanson, I know they weren't clashing. They weren't competing or what have you; and then Steny was younger but they were in the same age bracket in a broad sense and they just liked each other. You're absolutely right. I mentioned to you, his legislative package; never been done before, never has been done since. You gotta have real faith and trust in each other and know that your members aren't going to get resentful; ya know', 'we are a front and we're going to pass these bills'.²⁷⁵



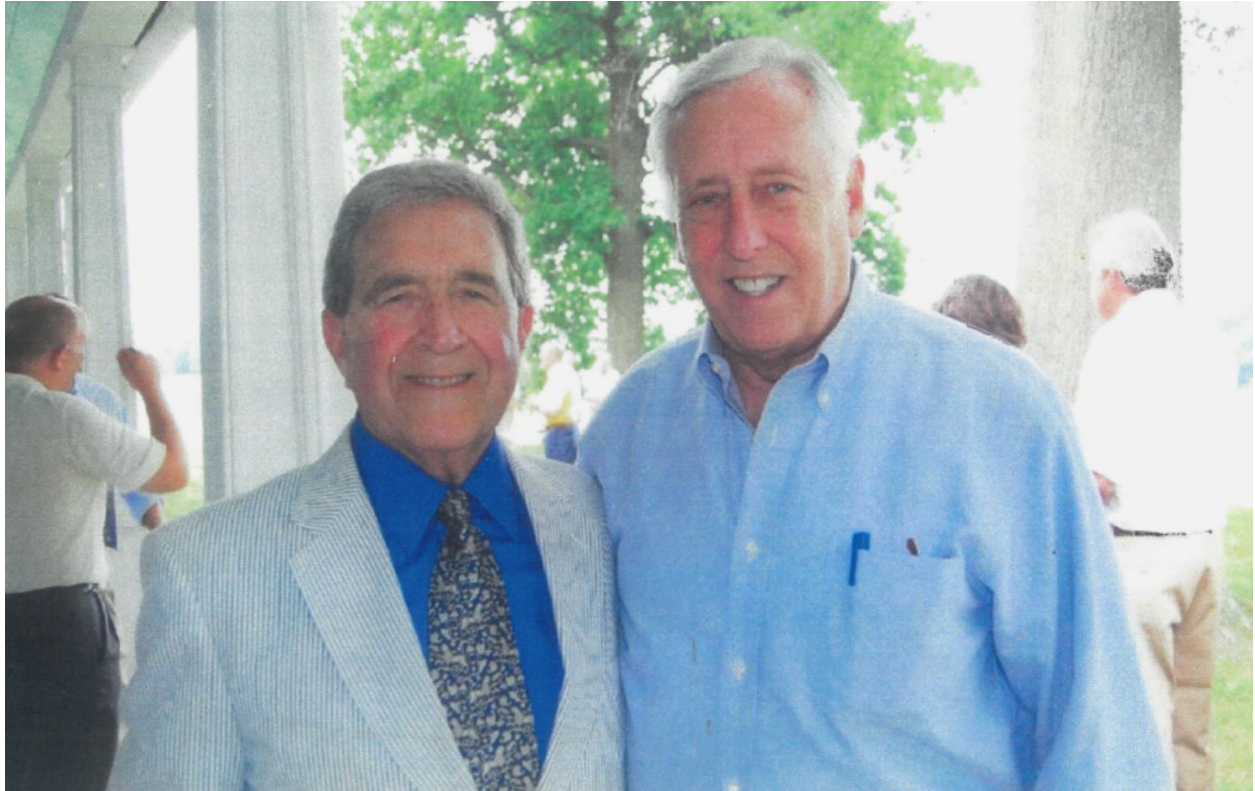
Senate President Steny Hoyer, House Speaker John Hanson Briscoe, Comptroller Louis Goldstein, Acting Governor Blair Lee

Senate President Mike Miller: They were very close. And they both understood where each of them came from. They were both very different. Steny was running for other office. And he was very keen on sponsoring legislation, moving it forward. And it was very difficult to defeat any type of legislation that he was in favor of. He was the President of the Senate. He has all the powers. John Briscoe was just the opposite. John Briscoe would look at the legislation, he'd study it. But he was like Harry Hughes in the sense that he said, "Let the legislature make their best decisions". And he relied on the committees to bring work to him.²⁷⁶

²⁷⁵ Bruce Bereano Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

²⁷⁶ Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

James Simpson: I think they got along, especially Johnny. Johnny was interested in the process. And he didn't have any personal ambitions that was gonna taint his views, he really didn't.²⁷⁷



John Hanson Briscoe & Steny Hoyer at
Sotterley

²⁷⁷ James Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE: ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES



John Hanson Briscoe: I always leaned on the gavel. I rested there. I never sat during the proceedings. Because if I sat down those son of a bitches would talk and smoke and drink, and it worked. Never used it.²⁷⁸

TASTE AND DECORUM

This session, as are most, was marked by frequent deviations from the distinguished good manners which most legislators are wont to affect. And in the year of the Green trial, it was only fitting that Baltimore county should take the lead.

- To begin the session, two Baltimore county delegates, unable to resolve a patronage dispute with mere words, squared off in the House lounge for what was generously described as a “Shoving match”.
- Another county delegate followed an erudite, 20-minute scientific dissertation by a black legislator with the following question: “What’s this got to do with the watermelon?”

The rest of the House of course, could hardly sit back and let Baltimore county take the undisputed lead. Whenever a bill having anything to do with animals was presented, the delegates broke into barks, yelps, whines, and howls.

²⁷⁸ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

When one of the delegates stood on the floor to complain that he did not have a copy of the amendments being debated, scores of his colleagues crumbled up their copies and pelted him with amendment-balls before he could sit down.

As expected, the Senate's breaches of decorum were less frequent and more erudite, but presented nevertheless.



John Hanson Briscoe &
Tom McMillen

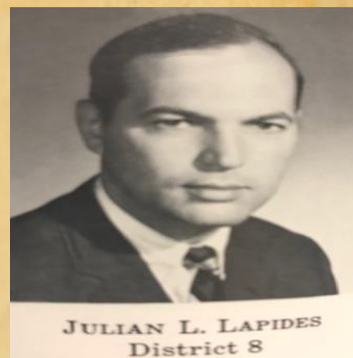
first couple weeks they said I seemed to be weak, that I didn't want to make the difficult decisions... everybody had to try me on the rules, procedures and parliamentary actions. But after two or three weeks, I think I adjusted. There's quite a different atmosphere up there" on the speaker's rostrum alone, than there is on the floor as one of the 142 delegates, Mr. Briscoe noted.²⁷⁹

The height (or depth) was reached when Senator Steny H. Hoyer (D., Prince Georges) pushed through a resolution commending the promoters of the Largo sports arena over the vocal objections of Baltimore's Mr. Lapidès. When Mr. Hoyer presented his next resolution commending a star basketball player, some five minutes later, Mr. Lapidès stood and said:

'Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I am pleased to rise and concur, at least in this instance, with the Senate's chief athletic supporter.'

As has been true in the past the House went about its business at a brisk pace, rarely holding the stamina-taxing night sessions that the senate was forced to endure.

"I got great co-operation from the leadership," Mr. Briscoe said. "The



BRISCOE'S RULES OF ORDER

When the Maryland House of Delegates routinely votes at the beginning of each session on resolutions, members rise to their feet for any item expressing regret over a death. House Speaker John H. Briscoe sometimes wishes that method of voting was used more often because it has one immediate effect—silence.

"It's somewhat ironical, but I do think the House is noisier this year than in the past," said Briscoe, a St. Marys County Democrat. "It is not spring fever or friskiness. It's just that the more we simplify our operating procedures, the more idle time we create."

²⁷⁹ 'Taste and Decorum', Briscoe's Archives

While the noise level during any given House session has increased, decorum on the floor is much better than in past years, according to Briscoe. “We’ve come a long way,” the speaker said. “You wouldn’t have believed it a few years ago. Instead of high school pages, we had political cronies getting \$10 a day. Delegates slept at their desks; ate their meals at their desks, and just dropped the mass of handouts they got each day on the floor.” Briscoe has overseen several changes in the House procedures since becoming speaker in 1973.

For example, this is the first year in which delegates have not received copies of each bill when introduced. They must now wait until a measure undergoes committee action. Periodicals and handouts are also routinely sent to each delegate’s office now instead of to their desks on the floor. “What you’re seeing is more than idle time on the floor,” Briscoe said. “They get bored, restless and they don’t have any of the reading material that used to fill their desks. So much of the session is routine they just turn around and start talking to fellow legislators.”



IT WAS ONE OF those calmer moments at the General Assembly, when the delegates and senators were out to lunch, and the State House was left almost empty. A statue of John Hanson looks over the quiet senate chamber as pages put newly printed bills into senators' bill books, preparing for the afternoon session.

With the noise level rising, Briscoe continues to refine his methods of dealing with it. “The most effective one is simply walking away from the microphone,” he explained. “After a couple seconds with no one talking, they stop taking themselves and try to figure out what’s happening. I just don’t like continually using my gavel.” The speaker

said he also likes to use “a good, cold stair, darting my eyes around to those delegates who are talking during proceedings.”

He has also been known this session to ask a talking legislator to go up to the public gallery “with the voters and see how it sounds from up there.” Then there is the tactic of asking the chairman of the protocol committee to monitor legislators. Changing meeting times has also helped. “When we get to the point of having to meet more than once a day, we’ll do it at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.,” Briscoe said. “We used to meet at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., but that was just awful. They’d come back from supper or a party after having a couple of drinks and nothing would get done. This way, meeting at 4, they begin to get a little tired, thirsty and hungry and they hurry up.”

While he won’t be able to do it when the rush of the session’s closing days are on, Briscoe has ordered that there be no third reading calendar tonight. When a bill is on third reader, it is being voted on for the final time. By eliminating the third-readers from Monday night, Briscoe hopes to avoid the debate that most often accompanies final votes.²⁸⁰

Samuel Baldwin: What John Hanson told me is that the committee had members from different parts of the state, so, when the Bill went out onto the floor, members of the legislature might not know much about the Bill, but if they saw their Delegate from the Eastern Shore or Western Maryland or wherever, who was in favor of it, that the other Delegates could assume that it was ok for their constituents.

James Simpson: Well that has a lot of truth to that. Usually, the House, they had 23, 25 members in a committee. You had the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and then they have subcommittees. And, let’s say you’ve got 23 people on the committee. 13 of those people probably don’t have a clue what that Bill does. I’m telling you. They don’t have a clue. If that Chairman wants that Bill, the Vice chairman will go with him and that Bill’s probably gonna come out of the committee if that Chairman wants that Bill. Senate Bills were printed in white and the House Bills were green and blue. And I used to take the Floor and say “you know why these Bills are white and this one is blue? So the House knows which one is their Bill.” I mean it, you had people in Baltimore who couldn’t read. Couldn’t read the Bills. So, they just went by their committee system.²⁸¹

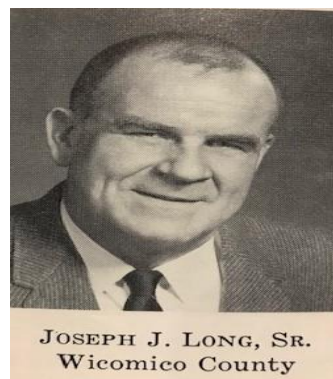
John Ruark: I was a page in the House of Delegates. We had pages in both the Senate and the House. I was selected to be a page from Wicomico County, Maryland.

²⁸⁰ Evening Capital., Feb 23, 1976

²⁸¹ James Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: How did that happen?

JR: My mom worked as a legal secretary for a local lawyer by the name of Victor Laws who later was very involved in the Democratic Party. He had a certain client, Senator Joe Long was his name, and several of the delegates from the Eastern Shore were very close buddies with Victor Laws. Mr. Laws kind of took an interest in me, and he always encouraged me to go into the field of law, and he knew what my situation was; I was from a family that had good intentions, but could not afford to go for those kinds of programs. And in high school, I had an interest in student politics. One of my mentors was Governor Tawes from Crisfield. I use to be invited to his Sunday afternoon crab cake thing. My connection to him was his daughter; Jimmie Lee Wilson was my high school physics teacher. He was not governor; he had retired at that point. I was about fourteen years old when I use to go to Governor Tawes' house on Sundays. That was about 1970.



John Briscoe was one of the people the governor always talked about when he had these Sunday afternoon crab cake events on the Eastern Shore in Crisfield. Governor Tawes loved politics. He loved keeping current with it. He loved it even when he no longer was in office. He lived, breathed, and talked about politics all the time.

John was Speaker of the House then, and that was how I first met John. The page program had this really good woman who was responsible for the housing, the direction, the drop allocations, and who was scheduling in which house we should be pages, and what we were going to do, what we were not going to do. That kind of stuff. But, John Hanson was the one who would come in at the beginning of every week's session and give these pep talks to pages.



Brittingham is page

Samuel Baldwin: Was your page position a one week position verses a ninety day position?

JR: It was a two-week position, but the two-week increments were in separate parts of the school year so we wouldn't miss much school.

Samuel Baldwin: Okay, so you go up there and, and you're there at the beginning of the week with another group, and John Hanson comes in at the beginning of the week?

New page, Rod Brittingham, 17, left, of Easton, talks with House Speaker John H. Briscoe Tuesday at an orientation session for the high school seniors who will serve as pages for the General Assembly when it convenes in January. Brittingham is a senior at Sts. Peter and Paul High School in Easton. [AP Wirephoto]

JR: Correct. He would come in at the beginning of the week, and basically do an overview about what our expectation might be, and what Maryland state government was about. Part history lesson, but one of the things I remember very clearly is that he turned what could have been just an ordinary talk about, you know, this Maryland government, into an inspirational thing. I mean he literally encouraged us all to consider going into politics; to take advantage of the state university system. I remember one of the outcomes of being the page, and apparently doing a reasonably good job at it, I won a political scholarship to go to any state school Maryland. So he tried to encourage us to go to the state university system, talked about how much money they put into state education, both at the high school and at the university level. They were, you know, 'this is a great state to grow up in. You are blessed to be born here. This is how much money we put into public education. Even if you can afford to go away to private schools, we would encourage you to stay in Maryland because we put all this money here and you should take, and you should be proud of the fact that you're from Maryland.' He would do little history lessons about how old the state house was, that George Washington lived there and stuff. So, it was just this amazing history lesson combined with really inspiring you to make something of yourself. Be proud of being from Maryland.

Samuel Baldwin: So that was the beginning of your first week, and then what would you do during the week? You were assigned to the House, you said?

JR: I was assigned to the House. What we had to do was, our responsibilities were that when there were specific bills that were being put together that can be physically distributed, we would go up to the front and we would pass them around to the individual delegates. Interestingly enough, one of the first delegates I was assigned to work with, on that side of the room, was Roy Dyson. It was his first year up there. I was a page, and it was his first year as a delegate. It was in my local newspaper in Salisbury.

We were physically assigned to be in the House of Delegates, kind of like runners. To pass out what amendments were made, suggestions were made, and the copies were made, to then take the copies, then distribute them to the delegates. When the delegates needed something, or were missing something, they would press a button if I remember



MUTUAL INTERESTS. Although they are from opposite ends of the state, these two young men have some mutual interest to talk about outside the State House in Annapolis. Del. Roy P. Dyson (D-St. Mary's) exchanges banter with John Ruark of Salisbury. Young Ruark, a student at Wicomico Senior High School, is serving as a page in the House of Delegates for a short period, under a special program. Del. Dyson is the grandson of Mrs. R. S. Meise Sr. and the late Col. Meise of Salisbury and his mother, Mrs. Leroy B. Dyson of Great Mills, Md., grew up in Salisbury.

correctly, and a page would be sent to the desk, and they would distribute such things a water, or orange juice, or something to drink, or something like that. When the legislation stayed open late at night that was when they would stop the clock. That was really kind of cool about being part of that process and basically watching how government actually really, really happens in the state of Maryland.

The page experience allowed us to take some issues we personally felt strongly about, or had an opinion, or wanted to learn more about, and actually go to the actual sub-committee hearing, which is where the majority of the work is really done. There were a lot of dialogues, and a lot of conversations between the Delegates about what's coming up, what's not coming up, and what I was able to participate in and observe was, because you're physically there, listening to the conversations between delegates, and I remember very clearly one of the laws being debated at that time was the Maryland Death Penalty. Whether or not the death penalty should continue in the state of Maryland and this was debated for several years in the mid-seventies.

I was a very impressionable young guy. I was a bit taken aback by how, how would you say it...this to me wasn't done with a lot of compassion. It was just like another political deal. It was... it was a deal. 'I'll vote for you on this, if you vote for me on that.' I learned about horse-trading in politics on the open floor. It was done in sidebar conversations almost always. When you got to the public speaking with the microphone and stuff, by then I think the decisions have already been made. Deals have already been struck. I was shocked, just really taken aback. Like it was the pit of the New York stock exchange where there is so much activity. It was not quiet at all. People get up, move over here, talk to this person, lean over, you know they would whisper into each other's ears and so forth, and do the horse trading and what's necessary for politics.

Samuel Baldwin: I've seen photographs where John was involved as the Speaker. He's standing up, and he's got the gavel in his hand. And what he said to me was, he said, 'I stood up because it sort of sent a message to the delegates on the floor, we're here for business, we're not here to socialize.' The gavel in the hand, he was ready to use it but he never had to use it.

JR: Correct, and what you just described is one of the clear memories that I have. He had such respect, and such dignity from so many people. Again remember this, the scene in the House was filled with chaos, and people were running around and talking. Some people were on the microphone talking. But yeah, it's still people talking around him, and over him, doing other kinds of stuff. The pages are running around. The secretaries are running around. The person that's recording the actual minutes is; the session is recording. The vote machine is up there, and they were actually voting. You know, it takes a long time to go through the votes, yes or no, so forth and so forth. Making amendments. So it was this chaotic type of thing. And that's why I very clearly remember it. When John would stand up, and he was not a really tall guy, right? When he would stand up, that dignity, and that respect he had, really that room would go quiet. By him just standing up. The room would go quiet.

Samuel Baldwin: When he stood up, what was he about to do?

JR: He wanted to say something. Or he wanted to bring the room back into some kind of organization, get something moving.

Samuel Baldwin: Okay. So you have your first week. You have a week off or so, and then you go back for the second, and you're a little bit kind of a veteran at that point.

JR: Correct. You're feeling a bit better, and in part responsible the second weekend to help the new people, the other youth who are there for the first time, basically kind of introduce them to the process, and what to expect and what not to expect. How to basically kind of be there, but not get into anybody's way.

Samuel Baldwin: How did that experience as a page change you?

JR: As young people we didn't have a real good impression of how politics worked in the state of Maryland at the time. And the impression I learned from John Hanson when he gave these talks was, he totally changed my perspective as to what really is power and how politics is really done. He didn't try to defend it, Spiro Agnew's scandal, or any of the bribery, or any of that other kinds of stuff. But, he just always spoke positively of people, he always spoke so positively about the state of Maryland, he appealed to each of us as individuals to look inside, to understand that part of being a citizen of the state of Maryland was to give back to the state of Maryland through public service.²⁸²

Ruth Sterling: It was great. This was back when I was a senior in high school, so that would've been early '74. And I went up there as a page and was actually there the last day of that session. And John Hanson was so good to me, and I'll tell you, he commanded a lot of respect. He had been in that position a while but he was really nice to me when I was up there. You know, you went up there for a couple weeks. And that piqued my interest in law. He was an important guy, and it was sort of like, little St. Mary's County was on the map then.

Samuel Baldwin (SB): Tell me about the last day of the session, because I've seen photographs of confetti coming down and John Hanson told me that the pages did that.

RS: Oh, we did that, yeah. It was a big deal. You got asked back if you did a good job. Not all the pages went back. It was just a small group of us at the time, and I really enjoyed that. We had special things we did, too. The page coordinator, she was really a sweetheart and kept us on our toes. And I think everybody up there; it was just a really fun time.

²⁸² John Ruark Personal Interview By Samuel C. P. Baldwin, Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: What did you do as a page?

RS: Oh, well, we did everything. It was kind of like working on the Hill now. You'd do everything from filing billbooks to picking up people's dry cleaning to running and finding a site for somebody or something. It was really whatever you were assigned to do for the day, or whatever your delegation needed and taking care of what they needed. But mostly filling billbooks and that kind of thing, or the general, "I need you to go and look this up for me" kind of thing. A lot of it, too, was running errands for people, like lunch. You do a little bit of everything, kind of like being a jack-of-all-trades.



John Ruark is standing top, left
back row

You're in the middle of the General Assembly, and you're listening. The time I was up there they were doing the capital punishment debate, and it was just, I've got to tell you, being there and watching the process, you're really a part of it. You're not just sitting in the gallery. People are actually asking you to do things, you're kind-of skimming what you're putting in the books, you're meeting people that are important and have a lot of influence, you're listening to people. It's like when people are talking and you think, "Okay, I could sit down there." Plus, you're in Annapolis, which is just the absolute greatest place in the world; you're there with kids your age who all have like interests. And it was just a lot of fun.

Samuel Baldwin: What was the capital punishment debate like?

RS: It was interesting. It was, 'how would you feel if someone in your family would be murdered?' And, of course, being the Catholic in me, of course I'm like, "Oh, I don't care, that's for God," but you just had to shut your mouth and listen to all of the different viewpoints. And that went on and on and on. It was a real eye-opener, because this is the way the legislature works, and good decisions have to be made, they have to be vetted and talked about. It was interesting. You really felt like you were a part of history there.²⁸³

²⁸³ Ruth Sterling, Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Pages write legislators into Assembly lampoon

January 18, 1974

By: Anthony Barbieri, JR.

Annapolis Bureau of The Sun

Annapolis—Between trips to the bill room, coffee runs to the lounge and cigar—buying missions to the canteen, the capital's legislative pages found time last week to gently tweak the noses of the legislators whose needs they tend.

Appearing mysteriously in the desk of each House member Friday was a mimeographed copy of the pages' "Golden Legislators of the Week" awards.



WILLIAM RUSH
Baltimore County 6th

High on the list was the Golden Glove Award—given to two Baltimore county delegates, William Rush (D., 6th) and William H. Peters, Jr. (D., 5th) who squared off briefly in the House lounge last week over a patronage squabble.



WILLIAM H. PETERS, JR.
Baltimore County 5th

The man who broke up the shoving match, and lost a coat button in the process, was Delegate Lester V. Jones (D., 5th Baltimore county), who naturally won the pages' "Referee Award."



LESTER V. JONES
Baltimore County 5th



JOSEPH R. RAYMOND
Baltimore City 2nd

Baltimore's Delegate Joseph R. Raymond (H., 2d), whose boyish appearance blends in better with the high-school age pages than the middle-aged legislators, was dubbed "Baby Face," and the House speaker John Hanson Briscoe—who is often referred to as John Handsome Briscoe—was given the "Doll Face" Award and annointed "The Briscoe Kid" by the pages.



John Hanson Briscoe with his administrative assistants, Vickie Gibbons and Susan McHan



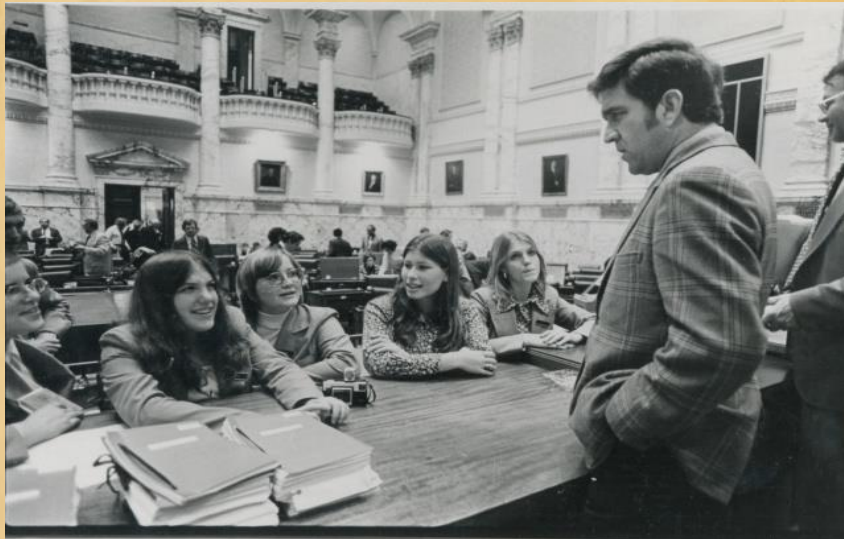
JOHN S. ARNICK
Majority Leader
Baltimore County 7th

Mr. Briscoe's roommate, Annapolis's swashbuckling swinger, John S. Arnick the majority leader, was voted—probably by the girls—the “Cassanova” Award.”



C. A. PORTER HOPKINS
Minority Leader
Baltimore County 3rd

Finally, the pages showed they have no lack of political savvy. C. A. Porter Hopkins, (R., 3d, Baltimore county) leader of the usually out-voted Republican minority, was recognized with the “Underdog” Award.²⁸⁴



John Hanson Briscoe & House Pages

Bruce Bereano: A great deal of horse trading goes on even today but there are some issues, i.e abortion, i.e gay marriage, i.e death penalty-no horse trading going on.

Samuel Baldwin: They are too serious?

Bruce Bereano: It's too personal.²⁸⁵

²⁸⁴ ‘Pages write legislators into Assembly lampoon’ by Anthony Barbieri, Jr. Baltimore Sun, 1/18/74

²⁸⁵ Bruce Bereano Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Death penalty wins first-round vote of delegates

By: Donald Kimelman

Annapolis- The Lee administration proposed capital punishment law cleared its final hurdle quietly and without rancor yesterday. The bill had been bottled up in the House of Delegates for the last week, as the Black Caucus attempted to delay action by proposing amendment after amendment.

But yesterday, through an arrangement worked out last week with the House leadership, the black delegates ended their effort, and the House gave the measure preliminary approval by voice vote.

John Hanson Briscoe, the House Speaker, praised the black delegates yesterday for surrendering in a gentlemanly fashion, saying he was happy not to repeat last year's showdown. "Nobody wanted to go through that again," he said. "We had a good, rational debate and I'm pleased with it."

"It [the death penalty issue] obviously lacked the passion it had last year," Mr. Briscoe continued. "No matter how you feel about the death penalty philosophically, the support for such a bill is obviously growing." He predicted that at least 90 of the 141 delegates would vote next week in favor of restoring capital punishment.

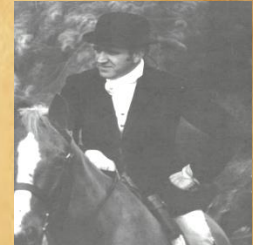
The bill gives juries the right to impose the death penalty for certain kinds of murder, such as mass murder, the murder of policemen or murder committed during a rape or armed robbery. ²⁸⁶

²⁸⁶ 'Death penalty wins first-round vote of delegates', The Sun, 1978

HOUSE GIVES TALLYHO TO SUNDAY FOX HUNTING

The House of Delegates voted yesterday to allow unarmed fox hunts on Sundays, but only after getting a few hearty laughs at the expense of Maryland's horsey set. "Mr. Chairman, what exactly do people do down there do when they catch foxes?" Delegate Robert A. Jacques (D., Montgomery) asked.

"A bunch of people get up very, very early in the morning, dress up in ridiculous clothes, have nice drinks and a good breakfast, get on big horses with a pack of yapping dogs who are apparently hungry and then they all go chasing after a little fox." Delegate John S. Arnick (D., 8th, Baltimore county), the House majority leader, explained.



"This goes on until eventually the clever little fox says, 'I'm tired of all this jazz, I'm going to lose these folks,' and then he does, and goes off on his merry way." Mr. Arnick continued. "Then all the people in the ridiculous clothes on their big horses ride home and have another drink and take off the funny clothes." "But sometimes the clever little fox doesn't get away," Mr. Jacques protested. "So what you have is the spectacle of all those big people organized into a posse, tracking down the fox and standing around watching while the dogs chew him up, and then they go have their drinks and go home." "They don't usually catch the fox," Mr. Arnick countered weakly. "Then why do they do it?" the Montgomery county delegate persisted. "Don't they have better things to do than gang up on little animals?"



"Maybe it's an excuse for drinking before noon," Mr. Arnick replied. "Anyway," interrupted John Hanson Briscoe, the speaker of the House, "this sport usually involves people of high society and your chances of being invited to a hunt are nil anyway." "I once went to a bullfight..." Mr. Jacques mumbled. Delegate Gerald F. Devlin (D., Prince Georges) put an end to the weighty debate with a quotation from Oscar Wilde.

"Wilde," he said "once described fox hunting as the unspeakable chasing the uneatable." The bill, allowing "unarmed persons in organized groups to hunt foxes on Sundays," now goes to the Senate.²⁸⁷

Tune Falls Short of pleasing all

Annapolis—Randy Newman's current hit record, "Short People," would be banned from Maryland if a city legislator can get his bill enacted. The song characterizes those of less than average stature as having among other congenital defects, "dirty little minds," "grubby little fingers," and nasty little feet." "I think its offensive, at least to me and to a lot of other



ISAIAH DIXON, JR.
Baltimore City 4th

²⁸⁷ House gives tallyho to Sunday fox hunting', The Sun, January 28, 1978

short people,” said Del. Isaiah Dixon Jr., D-City 38th, who is 5-foot-5.

Mr. Dixon has been quoted as saying he thinks the bill has a good chance to pass because he expects the House speaker, John Hanson Briscoe who claims to be 5-foot-8, to be in sympathy with the measure. Mr. Briscoe, D-Southern Md. 29th was asked on the House floor last night if the bill had his support and if he intended to establish a short People’s Caucus.

“I’ve always felt nature had a great way of equalizing those things,” the unflappable Mr. Briscoe replied rakishly. “It’s never been a problem of the speaker.”²⁸⁸

SESSION COULD TURN ON BRISCOE AS “BROKER”

By: Donald Kimelan

“His even temperament balances off against the rest of the leadership,” Delegate John S. Arnick (D., 8th, Baltimore county), the majority leader, said. “I’m the bad guy. I’m the heavy. When someone needs a “no”, I’m the one who says it.”

Despite his less than imperial stature—he stands 5 feet 7 inches tall—Mr. Briscoe is a commanding presence at the speaker’s rostrum. Standing ramrod straight for hours on end, he closely follows the often distracting arguments on the floor, knowing when to be stern and when to be light-hearted, his dry wit creates a reservoir of goodwill among the delegates that makes it easier for him to crack the whip periodically.²⁸⁹

General Assembly begins; leaders re-elected

Steny H. Hoyer (D., Prince Georges) the Senate president, and John Hanson Briscoe (D., St.Mary’s) speaker of the House, were both re-elected for the final year of the current four-year term, but in very different fashions . Mr. Hoyer, a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, used the occasion for a major speech, while Mr. Briscoe found himself on the receiving end of some House humor.

While Mr. Hoyer yearns for the Governor’s Mansion, Mr. Briscoe has long hungered for a judgeship. He had hoped to leave the House last year for a seat on the Court of Special Appeals, but the selection commission refused to nominate him.

Delegate John S. Arnick (D., 8th Baltimore county), who had hoped to replace Mr. Briscoe as speaker, displayed on House floor a “very limited edition shirt” emblazoned with the slogan

²⁸⁸ ‘Tune falls short of pleasing all’, Baltimore Sunpapers , January 24, 1978

²⁸⁹ ‘Session could turn on Briscoe as ‘broker’,’ by Donald Kimelman, Baltimore Sun, January 29,1978

“Arnick for Speaker.” He presented Mr. Briscoe with a T-shirt bearing the slogan “Briscoe for judge.” “Anything to relieve the tedium of opening day,” Mr. Briscoe muttered.²⁹⁰



Sexy Salons: Pink Panel Picks ‘Prettiest’ Politicians

By: Hal Burdett

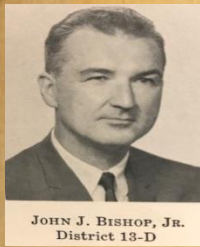
If a male candidate possesses boyish charm and baby blue eyes, the purveyors of puffery explore and discover gambits to accent his potential for youthful dynamism and leadership although he may have led nothing more than a Boy Scout patrol.

If a candidate has silver in his hair and interesting lines in his wise, mature face he can be marked as solid, thoughtful, experienced and confidence-inspiring, although he may not have had a creative impulse or made an important decision in the last decade.

Before the inevitable happens, The News American has asked a 13-member Pink Ribbon Commission of women to reduce a segment of Maryland’s politicians—members of the Maryland General Assembly—to basic sex appeal. The distaff panel includes an attorney, three journalists, a psychologist, two co-owners of the only restaurant-bar on State Circle in Annapolis, a secretary of a legislative agent, a political consultant, and four employees of the legislature.

The Winners of the Pink Ribbon Commissions’ Legislation sex Symbol:

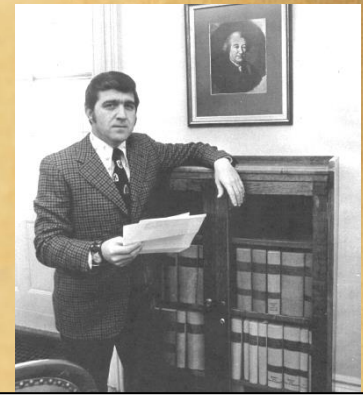
²⁹⁰ ‘ General Assembly begins; leaders re-elected’, The Baltimore Sun , January 12, 1978



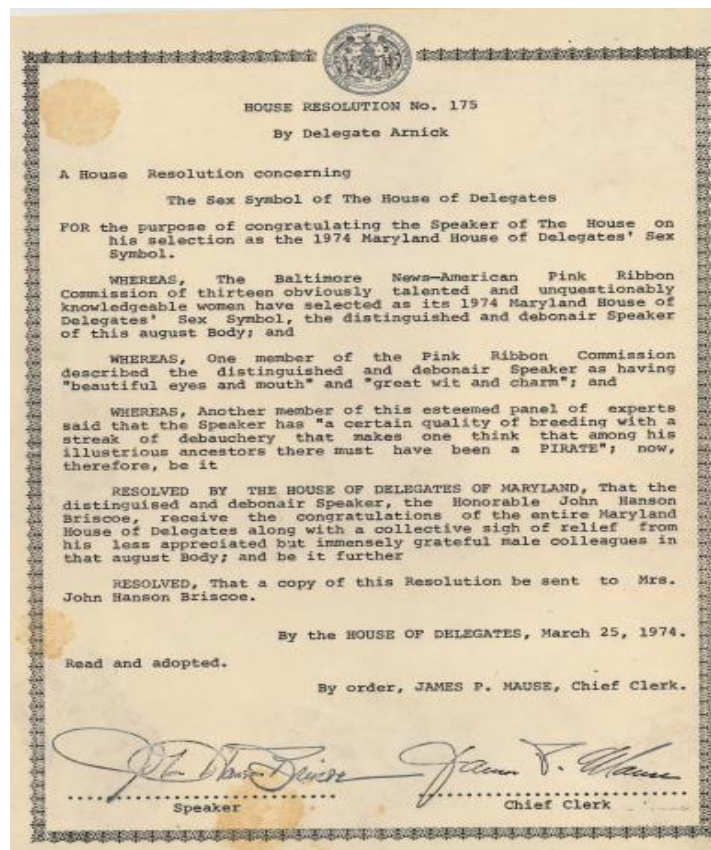
- Sen. John J. Bishop, R-Baltimore County, with 70 points—Sex Symbol of the Maryland Senate
- House speaker John Hanson Briscoe, D—St.Mary’s, with 80 points—Sex Symbol of the House of Delegates

One Panel member described Speaker Briscoe as “Absolutely the sexiest guy in the House—beautiful eyes and mouth, great wit and charm.” Another said he has “definite overall sexiness, but maybe he’s too short.” And a third commented that Briscoe, who is descended from John Hanson, the first President of the Continental Congress, has “A certain quality of breeding with a streak of debauchery that makes one think that one of his illustrious ancestors must have been a pirate.”

In accumulating his 80 points, Briscoe had three first-place votes, three second place votes and one third-place ballot.²⁹¹



Speaker Briscoe and portrait of President John Hanson



²⁹¹ Sexy Solons: ‘Pink; Panel Picks ‘Prettiest’ Politicians,’ by Hal Burdett, News American, March 24, 1974

Asked whether the learning phase of his tenure as speaker is finally over, Briscoe noted that “it never ends”. Particularly the freshman. “We have 60 new members and a lot of them get carried away in the beginning,” explained Briscoe. “Later they’ll settle down and realize you can be more effective if you don’t get involved in trivia. Save your clout. Sit in the back rows quietly and speak when you want to be listened to, not just heard”.

“John’s strength is that he’s calm and very self restrained,” said Mrs. Briscoe, crediting her husband and the characteristics he would like to see the delegates have.²⁹²

‘JOHN—JOHN SHOW’ IS THE TALK OF ANNAPOLIS

Annapolis--the third peal of the 10 a.m. bell is fading in the white corridors of the state house before the delegates drag themselves from the clubhouse-like comfort of their lounge.

Once in House chamber, Speaker John Hanson Briscoe, D-St. Marys, pounds his gavel, scolds some disruptive delegates and announces the first order of business.

House Majority Leader John S. Arnick, D-Baltimore County, rises to address a bill. He is rumored to be the most likely candidate for judge in the Baltimore County Circuit Court, but is known to many as the man who “helped usher in the era of gaudy double-knits in Annapolis”

This day, however, a three-piece black suit with a plain white shirt has pre-empted Arnick’s usual noisy plaids. Briscoe, his roommate for the 90-day session, cannot resist the temptation to twit Arnick’s change in style.

“Dressing more like a judge today in your black suit, aren’t you?” he whispered into the microphone just loud enough so most House members could hear.

Arnick replied with a private joke no one could hear.

The repartee that began that session last week is not uncommon for the Briscoe-Arnick team, alternately referred to by colleagues as “those two Johns,” “the wingers,” and more often, “the men who really keep the House on the run.”

In an overwhelmingly Democratic assembly, Briscoe and Arnick are seldom faced with the difficult tasks of uniting a divided House or with the frustrations of losing votes because of partisan politics.

With easy demeanors while on center stage, with jokes that sometimes relieve the tension on the floor, they politic together, steer debate on the House floor together and party together regularly with colleagues.

That last is a very serious duty.

The business of the legislature takes Briscoe from a farm, a law practice, a wife and four children in St. Mary’s County to regular weekday evening sessions at one of Annapolis’ few watering holes.

There he drinks and dances with legislators or lobbyists, just, as he says, “trying to find out what’s irritating them, what they’re thinking about.”

Never far from the 41-year-old-House speaker is his more flamboyant friend John Arnick, usually surrounded by a coterie of either delegates or the lobbyists and hangers-on often called “legislative groupies.”

²⁹² “Briscoe Again House Speaker- Didn’t Heed His Mother” The Enterprise, 1/9/75

Arnick, 42 and planning his second marriage -- to the daughter of Baltimore sportscaster Charlie Eckman -- left his 350 Harley motorcycle home in Dundalk, Md., for the session.

He leaves his Eldorado parked in his driveway and walks downtown for the nightly festivities which he, too, claims are “mostly political in nature.”

“Almost every night we make the rounds together,” Arnick said. Then, hastening to explain away the reputation he has gained as a carouser, he added, “Things aren’t always as they appear.”

Although Arnick and Briscoe look like they have been the best of friends for years, three years ago they competed against each other for the speaker’s gavel Briscoe now holds.

As the polished politicians most of their peers admit they are, perhaps Arnick and Briscoe do manage to patch up political differences with their colleagues over a drink as easily as they patched up their own difference three years ago.²⁹³



Samuel Baldwin: So the next one, looking through a window.

John Hanson Briscoe: This is good. This is the same guy (Weyman Swagger). He’d walk by the window and take a picture of John Arnick and me.

Samuel Baldwin: And you were Speaker at the time, John Arnick was...

John Hanson Briscoe: Majority leader. He took it outside from the sidewalk.



Left to Right: Ann Hull, John Arnick, John Hanson Briscoe

John Arnick was one of my good ones; majority leader. I depended heavily on him to get stuff done. Very effective. I appointed the first woman Speaker Pro-Tem. She was from Prince George’s County, very loyal. Ann Hull.²⁹⁴

²⁹³ “John—John Show’ Is Talk of Annapolis”, Washington Star, 2/2/76

²⁹⁴ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

John Hanson Briscoe: Back then the average number of bills that were introduced, believe it or not, were about 3,000, plus or minus. There's probably that much now. And of course, the committees sort out the bills and only about 1,000 will pass. About 1,000 out of the 3,500. It's tempting once you go there and you read and see something on the news and you think, "maybe I'll introduce a bill to cure that problem." And it's amazing how many pieces of legislation and the ideas. And then there are those people, and I like to think I was one of those people who didn't believe I had to always be introducing legislation because somebody else will. I was a consensus maker. You don't have to worry about timely topics being before the legislature. Somebody is going to introduce a bill. I was fortunate enough to end my career as Speaker of the House I like to think I had something to do with a lot of good legislation over those years.²⁹⁵

Samuel Baldwin: John Hanson thought that the Legislature needed more lawyers. That lawyers were a good thing to have up there because lawyers know how to write laws, and they're not going to introduce frivolous bills. Ernie Bell, in talking to him at one time, talked about the variety of people that were in the Legislature, whether it's a farmer or a welfare mother, or you know, people from all walks of life. So, I guess, is there a balance to that?

Senate President Mike Miller: Well, it's just good to have both. It's good to have diversity. In the Senate we'd have an optometrist, we'd have a framer. We would have a commercial fisherman, and we'd have a lawyers. The lawyers were a Godsend in the sense that we didn't have to hire any staff. We had an independent Department of Fiscal Service, an independent Legislative Reference Bureau, and they weren't hired based on politics. The way they were hired, they were hired based on their ability to do the job But, having a lawyer on the committee, having him serve as chairman of the committee, as the vice chairman of the committee, it was easier for them to explain the Bills on the floor of the Senate, it was easier for them to explain what the legislation was and why it needed to be passed. And, unfortunately, lawyers today don't have the time to be lawyers and at the same time be members of the House of Delegates. I remember my first house I bought, the neighbors complaining about John Hanson Briscoe. Their settlement was delayed for an inordinate amount of days because he couldn't be back in his law office. And I tried to explain to them what role John had. They said "look, we need our house, we needed to move in." But, it happens.²⁹⁶



John Hanson Briscoe, John Arnick, and Torrey Brown

²⁹⁵ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr

²⁹⁶ Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

John Hanson Briscoe: This is a great photo. This is classic. I was Speaker of the House and that is John Arnick, my majority leader, one of my best friends and one of the most politically savvy guys I have ever known; from Dundalk, John Arnick. Torrey C. Brown, a doctor from Johns Hopkins Hospital but also was a legislator. He became the Secretary of Natural Resources and he is almost singularly responsible for the saving of the rockfish because the governor wanted to ban rockfish for five years. I think it was Hughes. That took a lot of balls to do that. Can you imagine that? With all of these watermen out there; he caught a lot of hell for it. But he was one of those guys. He had the watermen against him. He had everyone against him. But by God, he implemented it as the Secretary of Natural Resources. Put a rule in there you don't take rockfish for five years and I'm telling you he caught more hell but you know what? Rockfish came back in big numbers. It might have been up at the podium or in my speaker's office but we were great friends. It is a great picture. I love it. I love it.²⁹⁷



John Hanson Briscoe: Two of Marvin Mandel's chief lobbyists. Ronnie Shriver. Baltimore City attorney and one of Mandel's lieutenants who worked with the legislature. Frank Harris, another one, he was from Cecil County.

Samuel Baldwin: What's the occasion here? You've got the big glass, and what were they doing here? The one says, "John, to a great guy, Ronnie," and the other one says, "Great job," signed by Frank, and on the back, "Aid to Non-Public Schools."

John Hanson Briscoe: That's Catholic schools, see, that's a big deal. They were great guys. Great friends. They were very effective lobbyists. They could really count beans.

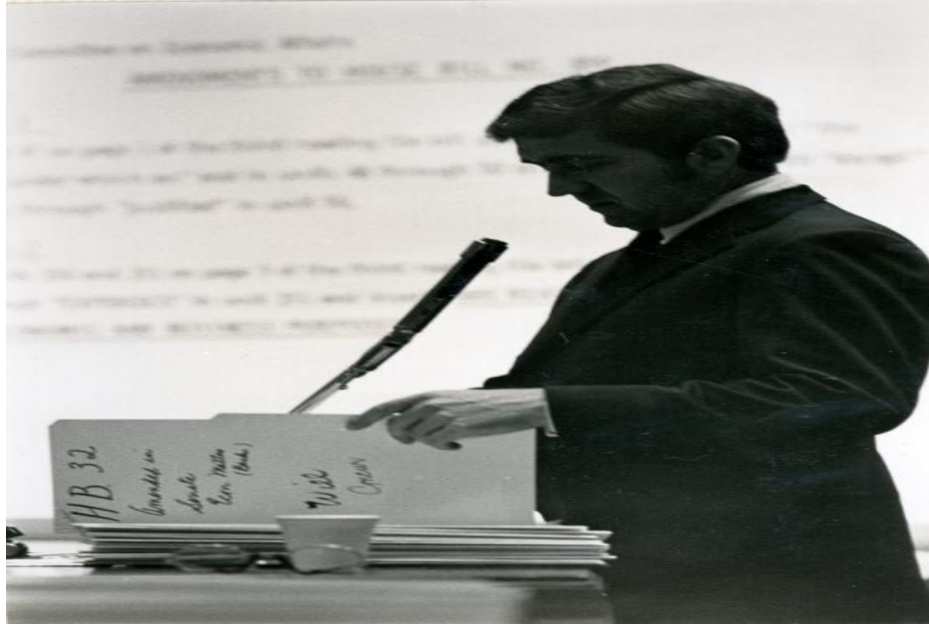
²⁹⁷ John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



John Hanson Briscoe doing the introduction for Marvin Mandel for the State of the State address.



State of the State Address: John Hanson Briscoe, Senate President William James, Governor Marvin Mandel



John Hanson Briscoe: First year as Speaker, 1977

Samuel Baldwin: Well, you're looking at a House bill. What is this behind you? Was the House bill up on a screen?

John Hanson Briscoe: You got it.

Samuel Baldwin: And is that how they normally did it?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, towards the end, because they had so much stuff, yeah you're right. What's the name of it.

Samuel Baldwin: Well, it says, "Amended in Senate, economic matters", "will concur."

Which means what?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, the Senate changed our bill and we agreed to concur with it. That's the way the legislature's supposed to work, see.²⁹⁸

²⁹⁸ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



John Hanson Briscoe & Bonnie Briscoe

Bonnie Briscoe: He never sat down. He didn't ever, and there's this big ol' cushy chair. I mean cushions like this (motions) and all of the back all cushy. He never sat in that chair. He stood this entire time, every single legislative session. From day 1. And he stood at that rostrum and he held that gavel. Held it with the gavel part up and the handle down and he never sat down. And he never stopped watching. He said, he told me one time, he said, "I had a room full of prima donnas."²⁹⁹

²⁹⁹ Bonnie Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

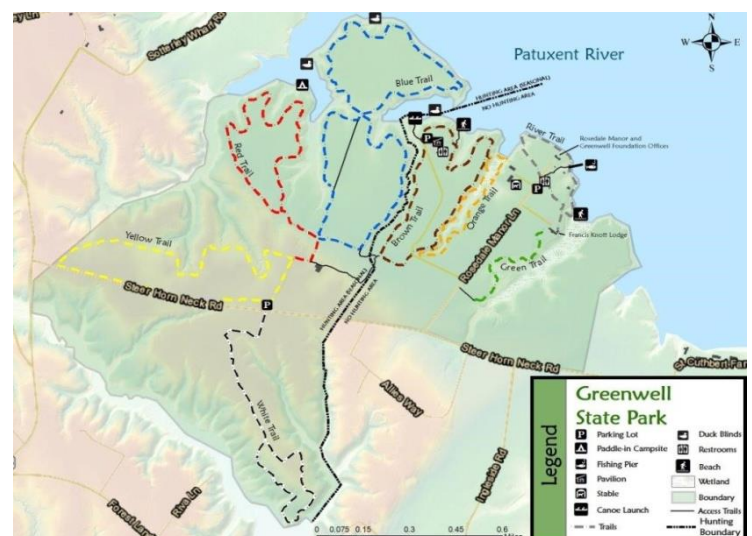
CHAPTER THIRTY: GREENWELL STATE PARK

Samuel Baldwin: Let me ask you about Greenwell State Park. You had a little bit to do with saving that from development? Tell me that story.

John Hanson Briscoe: In the early '60's, Phillip Greenwell, a philanthropist, was a devout Catholic and had a real strong feeling about handicapped people. He checked around and found out that handicapped people could not enjoy and visit the state parks in this state because it just wasn't suited for them, you know with ramps and that kind of thing. So, he approached the state of Maryland and said "I want to give "Rosedale", 198 acres, beautiful, beautiful, property. "I want to give this to the state of Maryland on condition..." I mean this property is worth millions... "that it be developed with an eye towards accommodating handicapped people" because there weren't any in the state of Maryland. The state reluctantly took it and they were supposed to come up with a plan.

Located between "Rosedale" and Sotterley was a separate property known as "Hectors," which was at one time owned by Dr. Briscoe of Sotterley who transferred it to his son-in-law, Thomas Bond. This property, known as the Bond property, today hosts the model airplane field and numerous wooded trails. Phil Greenwell had already given his property to the state of Maryland and as soon as the last of the Bond people died then all the Bond boys and girls inherited "Hector's". That's the name of the farm, Hector's. 468 acres. Phil Greenwell got wind of the fact that Marv Franzen, a developer, found out that the Bonds didn't want to hold on to it; the kids didn't want anything to do with it. Beautiful spot. And that they were negotiating a contract with the developer, Marvin Franzen. Phil Greenwell called me and he was really upset. He had just given this beautiful property for the handicapped called "Rosedale." And he was really upset that right next door to it there could be as many as 500 homes. He came to me and he said "John, we've got to do something about this."

Marvin Mandel was Governor, and I don't know if I was Speaker of the House or Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, but I was very close to him. He says "We've got to stop this." You couldn't have done this any other time. And I got a hold of Marvin Mandel; he was familiar with the area and I told him what was happening. And he said "Let me get Fred Askew, (he's our property management man) to come down and look at the property." And he came down, Fred Askew, and looked it all over. This is Hector's now. This isn't Rosedale. And he reported that it was, you know, a lot of waterfront and a big farm, but they didn't know how much acreage was there. Marvin said "Let's get the Board of Public Works to approve it." He said "Fred, you've got to put a value



on that.” And Fred did some checking, checked land records and stuff, and said “looks like there’s about 468 acres there, that’s just by the farmers, you know, and what they plow and what they estimate. Waterfront on both Patuxent River and Cuckold’s Creek. So they took that figure ,468, and went to the Bond people, who were negotiating with Marv Franzen and they said we’ll pay you \$1000 an acre, cash. Can you imagine that? No appraisal, just a windshield appraisal. \$468,000. And they were just about on the dotted line with Franzen when they all said, ‘well, we’re going to get this money from the state of Maryland.’ This is my cousin Jackie Bond and her brothers.

And Marv Franzen found out about it and he was just, you know, about a dot or a line or a signature away from getting that whole place, and he was furious and he filed suit against the Bond heirs for interfering with his contract, right? He did. Went to court and filed for, you know, breach of contract. And he was a signature away from getting it, but he didn’t have it. And the State made the deal and the court upheld it. And they paid all that cash for the Bond farm and Franzen didn’t get his deal.

And if it hadn’t been for Phil Greenwell and me, because of my connections with the government, never would have happened. They did it, Sam, almost overnight! They got down here and reviewed, looked at it, and said “ok”. We didn’t even know how much acreage there was. So they bought it sight unseen; \$468,000 and the Bonds didn’t care (laughs); that was a lot of money. And they finally surveyed it and it ended up, they ended up with 60 extra acres they didn’t even know they had. What a bargain. That property is worth millions! They paid that for it. And we could have never have done it. That was the last of the times that you could call the governor and he’d call his people and they’d do all this stuff. No checks and balances there. They just did it. He had the power to do it. And you talk about raw politics. I mean it was a good cause. You could never do that today! You’d have to have hearings and official appraisals and surveys. What a bargain the state of Maryland got with that property!³⁰⁰



³⁰⁰ John Hanson Briscoe Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Point lookout State Park

In the early 1960's the peninsula was just the site of a few homes. The Point Lookout Post Office had closed its doors in 1943. Gov. J. Millard Tawes included \$305,000 in his 1962 budget to purchase 300 acres at Point Lookout, but the deal got hung up at the state level.

"He could really be called the father of that park," John Hanson Briscoe said. The land acquisition was "hung up in the bureaucracy," he said, until his cousin Buck Briscoe told him, "Johnny, you get the legislature council down here."

Back then there were about 14 movers and shakers in the legislature and "We ran the show," Briscoe said. Buck Briscoe told his cousin, "I'll get a school bus and I'd love to take them down to Point Lookout."

After touring the area, the school bus parked and the group decided to buy the land for the state right there at the peninsula's tip, "A motion was made at the end of the park by the lighthouse," John Briscoe said.

He said of Buck, "It wouldn't have happened if he hadn't done it. You never said 'no' to Buck."³⁰¹

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, it all began when I was in legislature. Marvin Mandel was the Speaker of the House and I was the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and Buck Briscoe asked me if I could get a group to come down from the legislature, you know the legislative council, which was all the key House and Senate people, you know, that did things during the summertime, just junkets and everything. He said "You think you can get Marvin Mandel and the council to come down to St. Mary's County?" and I said "What for?" and he said "I want to show them Point Lookout State Park." This would have been in the 60's. Sure enough, Buck arranged for them to come down, had a school bus and drove all around the park, there was nothing there. There was nothing there, but the old lighthouse, all that beautiful beach and everything, but that



POINT LOOKOUT -- Buck Briscoe talks with former Gov. Tawes outside the registration office for campers at Point Lookout as Spencer Ellis, director of Parks, and James Coulter, with the Natural Resources Department, listen.

³⁰¹ The Enterprise

was it. And Buck got up on the school bus and had all the top Senate and House people there and I was one of 'em. And they all looked at this place and of course there was no camping there at the time, just beautiful sand beach and everything. And Buck Briscoe said "This place is only good for a park and recreation. It can't be developed because it floods and its got all these problems with it." And I swear to you that Roy Staten, the Senate Majority Leader, they all knew Buck Briscoe, got up and said "Well, what do we need? The Department of Public Works of the state of Maryland is going to have a look at it, review it, and acquire it." I don't know whether the county owned it at the time or not, but it was just sitting there. And sure enough there was a vote on that bus of, well, all the top Senate and House people that were there, I happened to be part of it, and by God they took a vote right there in front of Buck they took a vote and said, 'We vote to recommend that the Board of Public Works review, appraise, and acquire Point Lookout. And that was on a school bus. And that was Buck Briscoe did that. Nobody else could've done it. And sure enough, they all went back to Annapolis and they went through the process and, of course, in those days the process was a lot simpler than now. And sure enough the state acquired it and it got the camping and did all the work and the sea walls and fixed it up so people could come down there and fixed it up so that it became one of the most popular campgrounds in the state of Maryland. It's beautiful down there!



And, so as time went on, I think it was Harry Waller, he did call me up and says

"Johnny Briscoe..." he said "You know we oughta do something for Buck Briscoe. He's such a great man." And I said "Well, what do you want me to do?" He said "We need to have a monument for him and recognize him before he dies, all the good he's done." We investigated and I talked with the Department of Forest and Parks of Maryland because they owned all of Point Lookout State Park, and I talked to my good friend and I said "Look, Buck Briscoe's founded this. You can't go and name it Buck Briscoe Park, I realize that, but you've got to consider naming a portion of this park to him. He's such a great guy." Sure enough, they cordoned off a place, they created a monument that's down there today. Millard Tawes came over and we dedicated part of the campground, you know, and it's a beautiful monument dedicated to Arthur F. L. Briscoe. You know, preservationist and everything. And I was really happy with that and we had a ceremony down there. And Governor Millard Tawes came over

Buck Briscoe and Governor Tawes at Point Lookout State Park, June 19, 1976. Courtesy of Historic Sotterley

from the Eastern Shore and made a speech and I was there and I made a little speech. And it was a wonderful tribute to Buck before he died. He never wanted that stuff, he didn't go for that stuff, you know? But that's what happened and you really oughta go down and see it, it's there today. It's a great story. ³⁰²



Left to Right: Buck Briscoe, Governor Tawes, and John Hanson Briscoe at Point Lookout State Park.
Courtesy of Historic Sotterley



Left to Right: Hilda Maddox Briscoe, Arthur Fenner Lee "Buck" Briscoe, John H.T Briscoe, Gov. Millard Tawes

³⁰² John H.T Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE: GOVERNMENTAL IMAGE “IN SHAMBLES”



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE John H. Briscoe (D-St. Mary's) addressed members of the Greater Waldorf Democratic Club last week at the Martha Washington Restaurant. Briscoe urged party unification in Charles County to help bring about a Democratic sweep in the November elections. Sitting are county commissioner James Simpson (left) and club president Fred Mower. (Beacon, 1974)

Government Image ‘In Shambles’ Says Briscoe”

Some 80 people turned out to hear Speaker of the House of Delegates John Hanson Briscoe at the Greater Waldorf Democratic monthly meeting. The St. Mary's County Democrat commented that ‘the image of government is in shambles,’ and urged political participation by all citizens. He said that the phrase ‘politically active’ is not one to be ashamed of and that it's a citizen's duty to be active. People in many countries, he pointed out, would like to have the right of political participation Americans have but often neglect.

Stressing the significance of the 1974 fall elections, he pointed out that ‘elections are won and lost at the precinct level’ and urged his audience to make a strenuous effort to get voters to register.

Scoring the political laziness and apathy of people, he warned that many will not take 15 minutes to register and ‘you have to practically go into their living rooms.’ He praised the Charles County Board of Elections Supervisors’ program for sending registration officials out to register people at shopping centers and other gathering places.

The importance of electing a Democratic delegation to the House of Delegates and the Senate, Briscoe explained in his speech, lies in the necessity of county commissioners having to go to Annapolis for legislation. ‘We don’t have code home rule,’ he pointed out. He described the county situation, with Republicans in Annapolis and Democrats as county commissioners, as a ‘mixed marriage’ that doesn’t work in government.

Briscoe talked at length and with great seriousness on behalf of a state land use law, which is actually, he said, a protection for counties and local areas from their larger neighbors. He cited the Patuxent River pollution, as an example, pointing out that people in the three Southern Maryland counties had been put out of work as a result of pollution originating in Prince George’s County.

He said that local officials are under great pressure to bring in environmentally harmful industry for tax advantages, citing the pressure for a deep water port in St. Mary’s County. State land use, Briscoe suggested, is a protection from the bad results of such pressure. He referred also to the importance through land use of preventing high density growth on the banks of a river. Such high density growth has already happened in Prince George’s County upriver from Charles, and more is planned.”³⁰³

“Criticisms of the Republicans in Annapolis by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, John Hanson Briscoe has prompted a return blast by Delegate Loretta Nimmerrichter (R. Charles County)

According to Delegate Nimmerrichter, “comments by Mr. Briscoe calling for a complete Democratic ticket in the County and in Annapolis are incredible in view of the fact that in the same week an article appeared in a local St. Mary’s County paper quoting County Commissioner George Aud, a Democrat, where he stated, ‘I think the St. Mary’s Delegation in Annapolis is not attuned to what’s going on in St. Mary’s County...they listen to very few people.’



“What Mr. Briscoe seems to be calling for,” continued Mrs. Nimmerrichter, “is a government run by only one party with no system of checks and balances by the opposing party. If it is his intention that only one political party control any phase of our Government, perhaps he should introduce legislation abolishing the right of the people to elect those persons whom they feel represent them regardless of party label.

³⁰³ “Government Image ‘In Shambles’ Says Briscoe,” March, 1974 St. Mary’s Beacon

“For Mr. Briscoe to state that the Democratic majority has never used their power to override the Republican minority in any manner is a complete misrepresentation of the facts. Whenever the Democratic party gets a ‘call’ from Governor Mandel, they fall in line completely and vote overwhelmingly to override any legislation proposed by the minority party. If one of the Democratic delegates attempts to ‘buck’ the Mandel administration, all the forces of the Governor’s office descend upon him (or her), and in ninety-nine percent of the cases, the delegate soon adheres to the Governor’s party line and remains silent on the issue.

“The statement made by Mr. Briscoe that his party represents the people more closely is completely refuted in just one instance by the action of the two Democratic delegates from St. Mary’s County in relation to the Land Use Bill, which is sponsored by Mr. Briscoe” according to Mrs. Nimmerrichter. “Mr. Briscoe and his echo, J. Manning McKay (D., St. Mary’s), are the only delegates from the rural counties who are supporting this piece of legislation that will give the power to the State over the power of the people in regards to the use of their land. In vote after vote this past week, the two Democrats from St. Mary’s County have lined up with Baltimore City to tell Charles County what to do!



GENERAL ASSEMBLY opened last week and the Delegations from Charles and St. Mary’s got together in the State House for a picture, (l. to r.) Delegate John Hanson Briscoe (St. Mary’s), Senator Paul Bailey, Delegates Loretta Nimmerrichter(Charles), Calvin Compton (Charles), and James McKay (St. Mary’s). (Beacon, 1971)

“It is unfortunate that the Speaker of the House did not solicit more opinions from the people of his county instead of coming to Charles County and calling for a straight party ticket and straight party representation. One merely has to pick up a St. Mary’s County newspaper to read of the dissatisfaction of two people with the actions of the two delegates from that county,” concluded Mrs. Nimmerrichter.³⁰⁴

³⁰⁴ “Delegate Blasts Speaker .” The Times Crescent , 21 Mar. 1974.

LEGISLATORS: Worth \$18,500?

Is your part-time state senator and delegate worth \$18, 500 a year? Does he or she need \$50 a day for food, drink and lodging during the 90-day General Assembly session?

Although legislators now find committees meeting regularly between sessions, their jobs remain part-time. To say most of them work at their legislative jobs six months a year is generous. Some of them are hardly ever seen in Annapolis outside of sessions. These free loaders aren't worth what they're now paid.

The General Assembly, particularly the House of Delegates, remains too heavily populated by hacks whose votes often seem to be available to the special interests and the beck-and-call of the leadership. Two major committees are headed by lawmakers who drink heavily. Tradition and libel law prevent identifying them. Their colleagues know who they are and do nothing about it.

If you don't think your legislators are worth \$18,500 for doing a part-time job, tell them.³⁰⁵

Corruption in High Places In Maryland

The Maryland legislature is, to be kind about it, the shoddiest of any of five state legislatures that I've had association with. There are no angels elected to the other four—in Alabama, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Oregon. This is to be expected. As Kipling wrote under different circumstances, "Single men in barracks don't grow to plaster saints." These four state assemblies contain brigands. But these four also contain a group of legislators who publicly rise when corruption exceeds the "acceptable" knavery and corner-cutting, and becomes, instead, a



CHARLES A. DOCTER
Montgomery County 3rd

continuous brutal savaging of the common-weal. No such group exists in the Maryland legislature. No group similar to the self-styled "dirty thirty" in Texas, who flushed out a corrupt gubernatorial branch, or Florida where a "sunshine law" has forced open the doors of state government. Not to put too heavy a brush to the matter, there are outcries from a Howard Needle of Baltimore County or a Charlie Docter of Montgomery County who call attention to gubernatorial shell-games or legislative hidden-ball plays. And there have been enacted slender beginnings of reform—a financial-disclosure reporting requirement covering state officials and legislators, and a Special Prosecutor's Office of dubious value and an inert campaign public financing program. But Common Cause, try as it has, is unable (1) to

³⁰⁵ The Evening Capital, 1/31/77



HOWARD J. NEEDLE
Baltimore County 2nd

persuade the House of Delegates to record by name votes in committee and (2) persuade the Senate to require committees to accompany bills with explanatory reports. The corridors of power remain darkened.

Maryland is a one-party (Democratic) state run out of the backroom gatherings. Seldom are legislators in other states watched, cajoled and bullied by the governor's men as are those in the Maryland legislature. The legislature meets at night once a week on Mondays. More Marylanders should go down to Annapolis on a Monday evening and watch the obvious shady goings-on—including call-girls from Baltimore waving from the public galleries to their “friends” on the floor of the legislative chambers below. Committees

seldom escape the governor's hand. This year, one committee adjourned after defeating by a tie vote a bill he very much wanted. But half-an-hour later, committee members found themselves reassembled, after a talking to by the governor's agents. The bill was then approved with only two dissents. The gubernatorial fist is not unknown in other legislatures, of course, but seldom does it come down with the regularity and ferocity of Gov. Mandel's.

Post readers should not assume that the fault lies entirely with “that Baltimore and Eastern Shore crowd.” The Clean-Gene legislators from affluent sections of Maryland are not exempt from responsibility. Individually and collectively, the 19-member Montgomery County delegation, for example, is as bright and honest, and well-motivated a group as exists in any legislature. But most of them don't like to roughhouse at Annapolis. Consequently, most, after an attempt or two to avoid the governor's clutches, decide to tend to their chosen legislative list and forgo public comments on what they see (and smell). Thereby, they hope, and sometimes manage to attract to their favorite bills support from the governor. But, in the course of this, these legislators find their conduct departmentalized and their conscience anesthetized.

A member of the county delegation acknowledged this the other day. This member was pleased that a favorite bill had become law with the governor's support, yet the member's distraught tone reminded me of that player in Shaw's “Man and Superman”:

“...but I am so lonely; and this place is so awful.”³⁰⁶

‘Shot Gun’ Charges Against Maryland Legislators

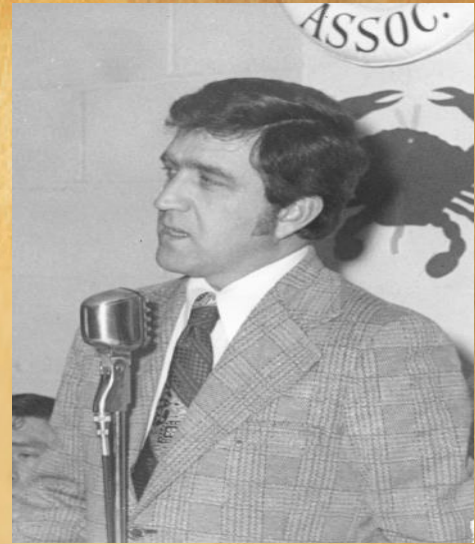
Wes Barthelmes' column of August 22nd, “Corruption in High Places in Maryland,” was an irresponsible piece of writing. The column was also poorly written and intellectually dishonest.

In the first place, his piece was irresponsible because it served no purpose in making sweeping charges such as “Corruption is a familiar feature in Maryland politics.” As Mr. Barthelmes himself reluctantly suggests, later in the same column, there happen to be a great many politicians and public servants in Maryland who maintain the highest standards of integrity and dedication. Mr. Barthelmes disregards these people, cites a few cases of malfeasance, and then

³⁰⁶ Corruption in High Places, Wes Barthelmes, Washington Star, 2/2/76

calls everyone in Maryland government corrupt. This lack of restraint seriously undermines his case.

In the second place, Mr. Barthelmes charges that the Maryland legislature is the “shoddiest of any of five state legislatures” with which he’s been associated. We may smile at his incorrect use of the term “shoddy” when he means “shady” in the sense of “disreputable.” But his intellectual dishonesty in casting aspersions on the legislature is shady because it does not “call attention to gubernatorial shell-games;” it will not adopt two procedural changes advocated by Common Cause; the Governor interferes too much in the legislative process; and, finally, “call-girls from Baltimore” wave to their friends on the legislative floors.



Rock Hall, 1972

None of these charges has any merit and one of them is beneath contempt. Obviously, the Governor has a right to lobby his legislative program just as Common Cause has a right to lobby theirs. But this does not mean that the legislature has no direction or independence of mind.

In sum, Mr. Barthelmes’ shot-gun charges and emotional outbursts do him no credit. We would welcome, as we always have in the Maryland state legislature, honest and rational criticism of our conduct and of our procedures.

John Hanson Briscoe

Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates³⁰⁷

³⁰⁷ ‘Shot Gun Charges against Maryland Legislature’, Washington Post, late August, 1975

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO: BRISCOE COURTED FOR HIGHER OFFICE

John Hanson Briscoe: Harry Hughes wanted me to run for attorney general with him. Ted Venetoulis wanted me to run as attorney general. Walter Orlinsky wanted me to run with him. I was attractive because I didn't want to run... I was just tired and wanted to come home.³⁰⁸



Guardian: A lot of people have mentioned your name as a candidate for governor in four years. Would you like to be governor?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, just as a matter of the honor and privilege of obtaining the highest political office in the state of Maryland: obviously it is very a very exciting thought and certainly one of interest. I can't deny that I haven't considered it, but I don't, at this point, have any particular ambition or am not planning four years from now. I'm trying to keep my thoughts on

³⁰⁸ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

the job as Speaker, getting elected again and doing a good job. I was extremely pleased with the record of this season and I'd like to think that I contributed a great deal to it, with the leadership, keeping the flow of legislation in an orderly manner. I have an excellent working relationship with the press. I think I've probably gone as far as any speaker has ever gone in giving almost a complete freedom to the news media. A very meaningful and tough legislation was passed this year, in reform and meeting the issues head on.

Guardian: In four years, if drafted, could you see yourself accepting the nomination for governor?

Briscoe: Well, I could and, as you know, four years is a long time away. I don't know what my plans will be, how I'll feel about it, whether I'll be in a position to accept it, whether I'd be able to take the time and whether I'd really want to go full-time.

Of course that would mean giving up my law practice and whether at that point I'd be willing to give up many activities and enjoyments and the life I live here in St. Mary's for that, I don't know. Because I do enjoy very much getting home and living in the county and working for the county.

It is indeed quite exciting and certainly an honor and a privilege to even be mentioned as a possible gubernatorial candidate. But I'm not what you call a very ambitious person politically. I takes things as they come and if the position is there, like the Speakership, and I feel like I can handle and feel like I want it, I'll certainly be aggressive toward that. But four years from now is hard to predict, really.³⁰⁹

Delegates' Group Unites for Influence.

Annapolis – About a dozen members of the House of Delegates – most with power bases or organizations of their own – are informally banding together in an attempt to increase their influence in the Democratic party and in the 1976 and 1978 elections. Although the group's members deny they have come together to promote the candidacy of any one of their own, several of the leaders of the informal House caucus are being prominently mentioned as possible statewide or congressional candidates. Amongst them are the House speaker, Delegate John Hanson Briscoe (D., St. Mary's); the majority leader, Delegate John S. Arnick (D., 8th, Baltimore county), and the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Delegate Benjamin L. Cardin (D., 42d, Baltimore.) "At this point, we're not pushing anybody," Mr. Arnick said, "but everybody's talking about Burch running for Governor and Lee running for Governor and Louie running for governor and then who is going to be on their tickets? We just thought they shouldn't be making tickets without talking to us." Besides Francis B. Burch, the attorney general, Blair Lee., the lieutenant governor, and Louis L. Goldstein, the comptroller, the two top legislative leaders, Mr. Briscoe from the House and Steny H. Hoyer, president of the Senate, are being

³⁰⁹ "First year Quite a Challenge", Guardian 4/17/74



HARRY J. MCGUIRK
District 12



ROY N. STATEN
District 13-G

widely mentioned as gubernatorial candidates. Mr. Cardin is being touted as a perfect “ticket-balancer” – lieutenant governor or attorney general – for any suburban Washington candidate seeking the governorship. And Mr. Arnick has long been considering a challenge to Representative Clarence D. Long (D., 2nd). “There is some concern that political strength seems to be going to the Senate,” Mr. Cardin said, “This is a move by the House side to consolidate some of our political strength.” Indeed, many of the members of the House group have more or less been identified with political organizations of others. Mr. Arnick, for example, is a member of the Dundalk-based organization of State Senator Roy N. Staten. One of the prime movers of the group is Delegate Paul E. Weisengoff, chairman of Baltimore city’s 33-member delegation. He has an organization of his own, but is closely affiliated with South Baltimore’s political boss, State Senator Harry J. McGuirk. “Maybe that’s part of what we’re saying – too many people are talking to the senators.” Mr. Arnick said. According to long-time State House politicians, attempts to form a power bloc in the House of Delegates have been started in the past – usually during slack political times such as these – but have run aground when influential members of these

caucuses have either been co-opted by one candidate or another or have been told by “higher authority” – their own bosses – to come back into line.

The group has met once so far. According to some members, the informal caucus sees itself as playing a power-broker’s role in both the 1976 election of a U.S. senator and in 1978’s state elections. Mr. Arnick says another meeting will be held shortly. “We want to get our people together and sit down and talk about who our next Governor is going to be after Mandel’s term runs out,” Mr. Weisengoff said. “It may very well be there is one person we can support – it may very well be there isn’t.” Obviously, should such a House caucus succeed in staying together, it could give a boost for any gubernatorial campaign Mr. Briscoe might undertake. “One of the reasons we got going was for Briscoe,” Mr. Cardin said. “He’s our favorite son.” Mr. Briscoe said he has not yet decided if he is going to run for Governor, but that should he make the try, “certainly it [the group] would form a good nucleus. If I were running for statewide office, I certainly would like to have this group behind me.”³¹⁰



PAUL E. WEISENGOFF
Baltimore City 6th

Samuel Baldwin: I saw an article where there was talk about who, around the state, was going to move into the Governor’s office after Governor Mandel and the article talked about the people in the Senate, but the House did not want to be overlooked. The article quoted you as saying that John Briscoe was a “favorite son” of the House members.

³¹⁰ Barbieri Jr., Anthony. “Delegates’ Group Unites for Influence.” Baltimore Sun. September 25, 1975.

Ben Cardin: That's true. John was loved, I mean just loved by everybody because he respected everybody. I mean he really, from the most conservative members of the Eastern Shore to the most liberal members from Montgomery County or Baltimore City – everyone respected John Hanson Briscoe and knew that their views were going to be heard. So, he really was a person who, if we had our druthers, if he wanted to be Governor, we'd be with him.³¹¹



Left to Right: Steny Hoyer, Blair Lee, John Hanson Briscoe

Marvin Kaminetz: Sam, I was at his house, on Half Pone Point on a Sunday morning, late after church; he got a phone call. This is when Mandel was in trouble, before they were going to have Blair Lee run. But we were in the house. John got a phone call. It was from a huge part of the then powerful, statewide Democratic committee and they were very interested in John running for governor. And John said “Well, you know, I’m just St. Mary’s County. I don’t have a lot statewide.” Anyway, this phone call was about him considering becoming their candidate, this faction of the Democratic Party, and I think it was a lot, quite honestly, of Mandel’s people. And John didn’t answer them right then.³¹²

Samuel Baldwin: Was there a story about Mandel wanting you to be governor instead of Blair Lee?

John Hanson Briscoe: If it was, it was quiet. He probably would have preferred it. Blair was a good friend. He wanted me to be a judge.

Samuel Baldwin: Did anyone else ask you to run? I know Harry Hughes wanted you to run as his lieutenant governor.

John Hanson Briscoe: And who was wooing me with him, big Baltimore people. D’Alesandro. He came down and said what a great team we’d make. Tommy L. D’Alesandro, young Tommy D’Alesandro.

Samuel Baldwin: Who was mayor of Baltimore City, wasn’t he?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah. They came down, took me out.

³¹¹ U.S Senator Ben Cardin Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³¹² Marvin Kaminetz Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



John Hanson Briscoe shaking hands with Ted Venatoulis.

Ted Venatoulis tried to talk me into running as attorney general with him. Or lieutenant governor.³¹³

Bonnie Briscoe: Harry Hughes wanted John Hanson as his lieutenant governor. John had such prestige in the legislature and also was from Southern Maryland, and John had a reputation of fairness for the city and the rural areas. He had a very balanced approach. He had shown it. He had a reputation for being extremely fair in supporting legislation that would help the city and not just always the rural areas.³¹⁴



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe, Mrs. Hughes, Governor Harry Hughes, Bonnie Briscoe.

³¹³ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

³¹⁴ Bonnie Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: You talked to John about running with you as lieutenant governor; what skills did he have that would've helped?

Governor Harry Hughes: Well, he had his experience as a legislator and the Speaker and all that was a great experience. In addition to being smart, he understood state government. Yeah, he would've been fine. But I was only 4 and 6% in the polls and nobody wanted to get on that ticket (laughs).³¹⁵

John Hanson Briscoe: After Harry bought me this big dinner, I thought 'Harry's not going to win.. He's sitting out there..Lost ball in tall grass'. I was honored because he thought of me....

Samuel Baldwin: You'd been in the House for 9 years, you're elected speaker. Did you think at that point, before you were done with public life, you'd like a higher office?

John Hanson Briscoe: Yeah, but I wasn't enthused about it. I didn't want to go up to Attorney General or any of the staff-oh. I knew I'd be pressured by the party to do things if I did a good job, and I didn't push it at all.³¹⁶

Jim Kenney: I remember more talk about a run for governor. But I think in any of those choices there would have been a real expectation of money...that he would be raising money for a statewide campaign. And I think that was just...When he and I talked about it; that was just the stumbling block, and, not maybe that it couldn't be done, but it would be no fun doing it. It would just absorb him to the point to where he just wouldn't want to be there.³¹⁷

Joe Densford: I remember that there was a big reception that was held at Placid Harbor, I think it was called Placid Harbor Yacht and Country Club. John was hosting this big reception for Blair Lee. Blair Lee was acting governor in the next election cycle. And John was supporting him, so he was holding this big reception at Placid Harbor. Some of us, some of the younger people in the crowd, ultimately left the reception, went over to the swimming pool next door, and went skinny-dipping. And that was quite an event. I heard a lot about that later on.³¹⁸

Claire de Lozier: Joe Densford always said he and Marlene Kaminetz were the ring leaders on that, for the skinny dipping at Placid Harbor. But, my husband also partook. [laughter] They

³¹⁵ Governor Harry Hughes Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³¹⁶ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

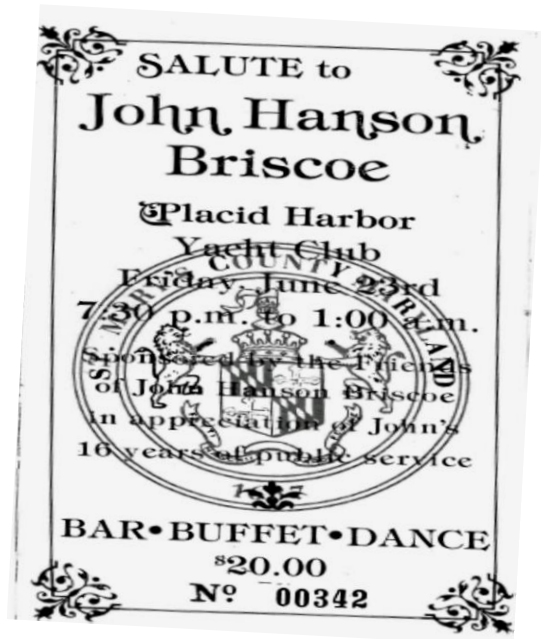
³¹⁷ Jim Kenney Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³¹⁸ Joe Densford Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

were just jumping in because it was an office party. We were all there. I mean, it was an office party.³¹⁹



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe, Jack Rue, James Simpson, Blair Lee at Placid Harbor



James Simpson: I tried to talk to him about running for Attorney General. But, Johnny, if he could have gotten it without getting money and without going state-wide, that wasn't Johnny. You know, when we ran down here, he got money because he was Speaker, but he didn't solicit anything. He rarely went out. That wasn't him. The only thing I asked him, I said "You want to be a judge, don't you?" And he says, "Yes I'd like to be a judge." There was no question. And I think, the one thing he says, "you know, Ben Cardin and I were very close".³²⁰



John Hanson Briscoe & Ben Cardin at Placid Harbor

³¹⁹ Claire DeLozier Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³²⁰ James Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



Congresswoman Barbara Mikulski
and John Hanson Briscoe

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE: BRISCOE RETIRES FROM PUBLIC OFFICE

BRISCOE SEEKS SOLITUDE

“At this point I have absolutely no interest whatsoever to ever be a candidate for any political office of any nature from the local to Statewide level.”

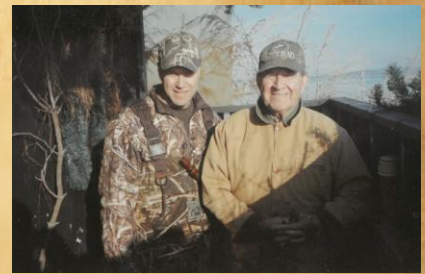
This week instead he will apply for appointment to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals to fill the position of retiring judge Jerrold V Powers of Prince George’s County.

Why?

“Because of the solitude this particular job offers,” is one of Briscoe’s reasons and his interest in law is the other.

Today at 43, Briscoe has spent half of his adult live in the public eye, “and now my son is 16 and I want to go hunting with him and fishing and not miss that,” he says. It is likely that by Oct. 15 a choice by the governor will be made for the judgeship. But a lot is riding on that choice for Briscoe.

If he is chosen to be an appellate judge, there are no options, he says. At that point he will leave his political lifestyle behind to don the judicial robes.



John Hanson Briscoe Jr & John
Hanson Briscoe

Should the delegate from Charles and St. Mary’s counties not be chosen for the bench, then his options begin and he explains them: “If I don’t receive it (the judicial appointment) and I decided to run again,” and here he interrupts himself and displays his mixed feelings, “I’m not at this time sure I would run again.” He rests for a moment on those contrasting thoughts and draws on his cigarette.

With what appears to be much thought behind the statement Briscoe says if he doesn’t receive the judgeship sometime shortly after that he’ll decide if he’ll run for the House of Delegates again.

“At this point I cannot say I would run again...” but then leaving the political door just slightly ajar he qualifies his thought with, “but that depends on my mental attitude, how I feel about it after the judgeship situation is settled,” but reemphasizing his position, “there is a possibility I would not run again.”

All of this new Briscoe attitude and politically pristine image of vying for the bench appears to be motivated by his rebelling to the demands on his time.

What else besides family and position pressure have forced Briscoe into his decision-making corner? His law practice: “I either have to fish or cut bait,” he claims. “I either have to go into the full-time practice of law or get out.”

He claims practicing law on a part-time basis is not working. “It’s not fair to the members of the firm,” he says, to be away from them so much. Briscoe is the senior member of the law firm of Briscoe, Kenney, and Kaminetz. The firm’s principle location is in Lexington Park,

where they constructed a new office building last year. He says not being able to contribute to the day-to-day management problems the firm has is frustrating to him.

The short graying speaker of the House then says, "The 15 years I've spent now is as much as I want to spend in political office."

"I've reached the crest, (in political life) and from there on it would become very burdensome for me and I think I'd be very unhappy," he says slowly.

Although he says he would be unhappy, he says nothing about resignation should he not be chosen for the appellate judgeship. Instead one is given to believe that he would make these futuristic decisions later.

When pressed for some bottom line idea of what kinds of pressures are concerning him, Briscoe says:

"What I'm tired of is the constant exposure and strain of being in contact with lots of people...the demands for your presence at the parades and carnivals and church dinners and meetings which is a tremendous burden on your time and cut very deeply into your personal life and likes."

To solidify even further his adamant attitude about a widening public spotlight, he says he has heard his name is on a list of candidates for a Federal judgeship position should one become available. "But I have no interest in that," he says.

He said a Federal judgeship is a whole new arena, and it would mean Baltimore instead of Annapolis, and it would be a different atmosphere as opposed to Maryland law.

At this point in Briscoe's life he is making firm decisions about himself and his family and states in a matter of fact term, "I have no ambitions for furthering myself politically."

He observes that some persons carry political ambitions all through their lives but "I've been fulfilled, totally." He adds for his personal life he wants some solitude now. The judgeship he aspires to seems the kind of lifestyle he wants. "It's a dull kind of life. You sit and listen. You do a lot of research. You're to yourself and that's what I'm looking forward to."

The speaker says he now had farm he wants to work on and he claims he thoroughly enjoys it.

John Briscoe wants to spend some time with his children too. "I have a son I feel I have slighted," he says, referring to John Hanson Jr. "He's 16 and I think it's a very critical time in his life." Briscoe has four children.

Still retaining a young appearance even though streaks of gray have long since begun to show in his full head of hair, he chides a reporter with, "at least I still have my hair."



John Hanson Briscoe, 2002 Retirement from his Circuit Court Judgeship (Left to Right): John Jr, Dana, Lisa, (Jan was in the Tetons)

On what it will be like not to receive the appellate appointment he says, "I can be very happy just going back into the practice of law and living a normal life."³²¹

³²¹ The Enterprise, 8/25/77

U.S Senator Ben Cardin: I think his love was to be a Judge. I think that's what he really wanted to do. I think he loved law. I think he wanted to return to St. Mary's. He loved St. Mary's County. And I think that's what he really wanted to do in life. That was his prize for everything else. The County is a great place to be a Judge. You don't have a lot of competition. It's a great lifestyle down in St. Mary's County.³²²

Briscoe Again House Speaker- Didn't Heed His Mother

John Hanson Briscoe doesn't listen to his mother. If he did, someone else would be the speaker of Maryland House of Delegates. Every fourth year, with the regularity of election day, the now 75-year old mother of the speaker begs her son to make this campaign his last. "I tell her there's nothing to be ashamed of in politics," says the 40-year old Briscoe. "She doesn't like the charges and countercharges and the strain on me."

Frankly, Briscoe wouldn't mind chucking the cigarette, rubber chicken dinners and glad-handing which comes with politics for some time on his father's farm, fishing or a return to the fulltime practice of law – or so says his wife Sylvia.

"I'm not one of those guys who eats, sleeps, and drinks politics," says Briscoe "I enjoy the issues that come out in the campaign, but the church dinners are another thing."³²³



Sylvia & John Hanson Briscoe

"Introducing...Mrs. Sylvia Briscoe"

"It is easy to assume that Sylvia Briscoe's life with four active children, a political husband, her own pressing job and a waterfront home to care for is hectic and a little mad. Well, if this is what you thought, you'd be wrong, as Mrs. Briscoe is relaxed and amazingly in control.

Mrs. Briscoe's husband, John Hanson Briscoe, is one of Maryland's most active politicians as the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates. At home, Mrs. Briscoe describes herself as a 'helpmate' to her husband and even at work she never leaves the political atmosphere with her work in the Leonardtown Courthouse – the very well-



SYLVIA BRISCOE here is busy at a desk in the Leonardtown Courthouse where she works as a title abstractor.

³²² Senator Ben Cardin interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

³²³ 'Briscoe Again House Speaker- Didn't Heed His Mother' by: Rich Hollander, The Enterprise 1/9/75

spring of local county politics – as a title abstractor.

‘As with everything, politics has it’s good and bad points, but it can be very fascinating and as long as I feel included I have a side tract that makes it even more fascinating,’ she said. ‘This way I know more than just what is in the paper, but what is really behind the scene.’ In light of recent events, the rewards of being a politician may seem few and hard fought. But it is good to know there are those who take pride in accomplishment.

Mrs. Briscoe’s greatest pride comes when: ‘I see something in the County or State that needs to be done and I see the bill formed, go through the legislature, watch its passage and see the results.’

In her work, Mrs. Briscoe confesses that traveling and meeting people are highlights of the political profession. ‘We don’t travel too often, really,’ she said. ‘John makes a lot of flying trips for a day or so and it gets very expensive if I try to go everywhere. Of course, I have four children at home I have to keep an eye on, but usually I go at least once a year.’ ‘John is very involved in the Southern Legislator’s Leaders Conference,’ she added, ‘and every year they have a big convention – this year it is in San Antonio and we are going there; so that is my big trip. I like cities that are a little different so it should be fun.’



Southern Speakers Conference
Point Clear, AL 1977

Mrs. Briscoe’s personal pleasure in her own time is reading. ‘I’m a great reader, but I don’t know, maybe time has taken its toll, because I used to stay up till three in the morning. I get into bed with my sandwich and start reading and within no time I find myself waking up with my arm asleep. I just can’t keep awake – but that is my pleasure. It usually has to be after everybody else is asleep and everyone is finally quiet.’

Always trying to keep abreast of the State and local news, she enjoys the Baltimore Sun newspaper – ‘cover to cover’ even when it is stale news in the afternoon. ‘Hopefully, I can consider myself a literary person,’ she added. ‘I try to keep up, but always seem to be a little behind everybody else. You know, when it is number one on the best sellers list and I haven’t

gotten to it; but with the papers every day, the Time magazine, the New Yorker my mother brings me and my books, I just can't keep up.'

Though her husband is gone much of the year, Mrs. Briscoe speaks fondly of the time the family spends together.' The kids, of course, adore him,' she said. 'Take today. He ran home to take them water skiing – he manages his time well. It is not so much the quantity as the quality. 'As a family, outside of politics, the Briscoe's enjoy boating, water skiing and tennis.' No, we're not tennis nuts,' she said, 'because I'm not very good and John has a bad elbow from playing baseball in the local church leagues as a boy. The kids play a little ,but they're great water skiers and I don't know, as far as vacations go, since we live by the water on Half-Pone Point, why leave during the summer?'

For quick easy entertaining during the summer Mrs. Briscoe advises taking advantage of local crabs. "They're easy and fun to catch and equally easy to prepare," she says. 'I can clean and freeze deviled crabs or I usually have a canned ham I can bake in a hurry. And, of course, we have stuffed ham – doesn't every good Southern Maryland cook?' she added with a smile.

Sylvia Briscoe is an exciting, interesting person – inquisitive as well as informative. Being concerned makes her aware of people and their problems – a most important asset in the politically –oriented career she and her husband share.

It is Mrs. Briscoe's nature to 'feel out' others, thus making them feel more important, comfortable and at ease – a quality indeed. In fact, as this reporter left Mrs. Briscoe, she questioned who actually had been the one who was interviewed!³²⁴

Brad Gotfried: What happened in terms of stepping down from the legislature?

John Hanson Briscoe: Well, that's interesting. I'd served 16 years, I'd like to think I had a very successful career as Speaker of the House for 5 years. And I really missed home, very much. At that time my father and I, on our family farm, we were raising cattle. I was fortunate enough to live on the family farm there on the Patuxent River. I love the outdoors. I love to fish. I love to crab. I love to hunt. And on weekends, because I was in the legislature and into politics, I had to go to all these various affairs throughout the county in the dead of summer when I'd like to be fishing. I had my boat in front of my house and I missed that terribly. And I was being wooed by a number of people from around the state to run for even higher office. I was privileged to have been asked by at least two people to run for Lieutenant Governor or Attorney General with them at that next election. And it was tempting, but I turned them down. And they couldn't believe that I would



³²⁴ Honkala. "Introducing Mrs. Sylvia Briscoe.", The Enterprise, 1974.

literally leave, retire, leave the legislature after 16 years and a fairly successful career and go home without anything; without an appointment, without going for a higher office, and I just didn't want to do that. I just didn't want to stay there. I'd had enough. I'd had a good run and I wanted to go back home and enjoy where I lived and my family and my practice. So, it wasn't easy, and people couldn't believe it; they couldn't understand why I would do that, but I proved it to them. I meant it.³²⁵

Marvin Kaminetz: I can tell you that we had a luncheon meeting. I think it was just John, Jim and me. A couple of things happened, Sam. Number one, the business of the firm; our practice really had started to pick up and grow and the other thing that happened in 1977 was a big, huge, growth spurt for the Base. There was a tremendous influx of people in St. Mary's County. Not compared to today's standard but compared to St. Mary's County pre-1977. And what happened was our real estate practice took off because everybody had a job in our firm. John was mainly the real estate settlement guy and ran the real estate department. Well, when that took off, and I was his back-up, if we had settlements, and he was in Annapolis, I would be the one who did the settlements. Now we had other people backing me up if I couldn't do it, but I was second in line with that. I was number one doing all the title work and examining all the titles. And you know that job; just ask your wife (Janice Briscoe) she'll explain it to you (smiles). I'm just kidding. We had more real estate settlements in 1977 than we probably had in the 3 years before. We needed John back at the firm.

Samuel Baldwin: How did he feel about leaving Annapolis?

Marvin Kaminetz: Well, obviously he had mixed feelings about it, ok? He had made a decision not to seek statewide office. He was very comfortable in that position. I can assure you.³²⁶



John Hanson Briscoe, Marvin Kaminetz, Jim Kenney. 2005

³²⁵ Gottfried, Brad. "Southern Maryland Perspectives."

³²⁶ Marvin Kaminetz Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

Jim Kenney: We were at Lenny's, I remember the booth. And that's when John said: "Would you guys be upset if I don't run again?" Obviously he had been thinking about it because he was clearly growing tired and wasn't enjoying it. The Speaker job is pretty much a year-round job. So when he said: "Would you mind if I didn't do it?" we were just overjoyed. Part of John being away meant we really did have to fill some gaps. I don't know how many people we had at the time, but I think at one time we had 8 or 9 people on the letterhead. Management was getting to be more of a full-time job. Yeah, we were delighted and there were a lot of things, you know, cases that we didn't feel we could take because of John being in the legislature. One of us bought lunch that day for him (laughs), "Think nothing of it" (laughs).³²⁷

Ernie Bell: I think for John, politics was an avocation, not a vocation. You know, you don't get to pick the times you do things in your life. And, you know, it's not like you're going to sit at home and wait for the election to say: "Oh wait; now it's time to come forth." I think he loved the county. And he probably said 'darn it, I've been Speaker of the House, not that I've accomplished everything I set out to,' because you never do. I remember John saying "Ernie, you know when you run they're going to ask you what are the issues, and you know, you don't know what the issues are. If you solved every problem today, there are going to be a hundred out there tomorrow waiting for you." So I think he felt, "Hey, you know, when I leave Annapolis on Friday, damn that's the happiest part of my life." He said that, "You know, the closer I get to home, the more and more comfortable I feel." And God knows he was in a pressure-packed situation.

Samuel Baldwin: How do you think John Hanson managed to keep a law practice, grow a practice with all the time he had to spend up in Annapolis?

Ernie Bell: Probably just budgeted his time and probably spending a lot of hours on Friday evenings and weekends. I can only draw on my experience in that regard. That's a commitment. When I decided to get out (of the Legislature) I remember sitting here one sunny afternoon in August and I got to thinking, "I have not missed working a 6 hour day on a Sunday here in over two and a half years" and I mean you have to say, 'what in the world'. That's not a question of serving two masters, it really does take a toll on you but John learned it. The ability to manage time and himself, he carried it over well in his role as a judge. Yeah, he knew how to budget time, time was his stock in trade; he had to use it very carefully.³²⁸

³²⁷ Jim Kenney Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³²⁸ Ernie Bell Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.



Speaker Ben Cardin, Ann & Ernie Bell and family

Samuel Baldwin: He got to the point where he had to decide-I'm either gonna be full-time in politics to the exclusion of the law firm, or full-time in the law firm to the exclusion of politics. I talked to Ernie Bell 'how do you manage this?' He said it was a lot of Saturdays in the office. How do you manage it? How do you balance your law practice and-?

Senate President Mike Miller: It is a lot of Saturdays. So, for example, during the session, I have appointments in my office on Saturday. I have an appointment clerk who comes in and I have appointments on Saturday. And I meet with him on Saturdays, and then, we don't go into session until 8:00 on Monday night, so you got Mondays you're able to work with them. And you work Friday afternoons. And it's very challenging. Because as Speaker of the House and President of the Senate, you make all the decisions about the governance of the complex. So for example, today I just agreed to close on the Friday before Labor Day so they could have time off, you know, stuff like that. Yesterday I was in my Annapolis office for four hours making administrative decisions. You approve, not just the chairmen or the bills, but you've got to approve the salaries. If you hire a new secretary, you've got to approve the salary. And, like I say, it's a awesome responsibility.³²⁹

Samuel Baldwin: He said that the obligations of the House Speakership were becoming more and more a fulltime job.

Bruce Bereano: No question. Over the years increasingly, while they are just in session for 90 days, they only get paid for basically 90 days, becoming a legislator is a full time job and

³²⁹ Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

particularly in the House when you're taking care of 141 people and there were predominately Democrats, there were very few Republicans. You're like a Parish Priest; you gotta keep your flock happy and they all want this and that, all this kind of stuff and so it was very taxing, very full time.³³⁰

David Densford: I was an editor of The Guardian newspaper. I worked for "Up on the Farm" for Maryland Public Television and when John Briscoe left the House of Delegates and went into private practice, we brought what's called a FRU or a Field Remote Unit. It's an entire eighteen wheeler full of interview equipment and we interviewed him in his father's barn.

He was a local delegate who was a farmer and was coming back to work on the land, as well as practice law in Lexington Park; and having been Speaker of the House, Maryland Public Television felt strongly that interviewing him was a good idea and so did I. It was as clear as a bell that he wanted to be home; that for not just the 90 days from January to April he had gone to Annapolis, but he ended up having to do legal closings on weekends, he ended up having to travel around. He was Speaker of the House. He wasn't Ways and Means or Environmental anymore. And I don't have any doubt whatsoever that he intended to come back, farm with his dad, and practice law. And that doesn't mean that he wouldn't have wanted to do something in the future whether it was be a judge, which he had applied for when Judge Wiener got it in 1972, or I know he cared about other things, but there was no hidden agenda with John Briscoe.³³¹



John Hanson Briscoe



David Densford

John Hanson has a sense of place. He's from a fertile spit of land in St. Mary's County near the mouth of the Patuxent River where his family has lived and farmed since the Ark and the Dove brought the first English settlers to Maryland. Up the road from his property is Sotterley, the stately Eighteenth Century tobacco plantation where Briscoe's father was born. After 16 years in

³³⁰ Bruce Bereano Interview by Samuel Baldwin, Jr.

³³¹ David Densford Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

the state House of Delegates, Briscoe gave up a promising public career a few years ago because, he said; he wanted to go “back to the river.” Now the former Speaker of the House is a lawyer-farmer, living where he grew up, raising cattle, and he says, having the time of his life. “Leaving the legislature was a difficult decision, but with everyday that goes by I thank God I made it. It was right for me,” he says. “I love this land so much. I love the outdoors. I like my weekends at home, the sailing, fishing, swimming and crabbing. I missed it all those years. With all those meetings and speeches and fund-raisers and testimonials from the time I was in my mid-twenties, it seems like I spent most of my adult life taken away from here. It’s good to be back again.”³³²



John and Sylvia sailing with Cathy and John McFadden. 1970



Fishing on Briscoe Beach, 1970

Porter Hopkins: He was a pretty big wheel in those days.

Samuel Baldwin: But why did he leave, then?

Porter Hopkins: Because after a while it wears on you. I mean it’s just too damn much of it. I think today, I couldn’t see sitting over there for a week and I don’t think John would be very happy over there.³³³

In recent years, he had complained of becoming tired of the job and twice tried unsuccessfully to obtain an appointment as a judge. He was so certain he would receive the appointment before the

³³² Seiden, Matt. “Place: Briscoe's Sotterly .” *Baltimore Sun Papers* , 19 Aug. 1981.

³³³ Porter Hopkins Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

latest session that he had his portrait painted to hang the marbled House walls next to other past speakers.”³³⁴



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe, Governor Harry Hughes , Ben Cardin. At unveiling of Briscoe’s Portrait



“To John, best wishes,” Marvin

³³⁴ “Briscoe Retirement Leaves 4 Top Md. Posts Vacant .” The Washington Post , 6 June 1978.

John Hanson Briscoe: I was very gratified that when I left the legislature I had no one to say that I was a hack for anybody up there. I had a lot of power. A lot of power. You know, appointing committees. God. I enjoyed not having to walk around and have somebody tap me on the shoulder and say, “Mr. Speaker, I helped you with this last year” or “I’ve got a problem with this and could you go over and talk to somebody in the Senate?” I just didn’t do it. I never asked anybody to do anything for me, see? Because once you do, once you do then they’re going to tap you on the shoulder. I never wanted that. I hated to be beholden to somebody politically, in that sense. And I walked away from that after 16 years.

Samuel Baldwin: Did you ever go back to this room, the House chamber, after you retired? I was with you once up in the gallery when they called your name out.

John Hanson Briscoe: No, I never go there anymore. It is very nice, but if I went up there, you know what they would do? The speaker would call me in through here and make a big deal and invite me up there. I have done that before and speak to these guys and say, ‘some of you weren’t born when I was a speaker of the House.’ Yeah it’s really nice. I’m just not that way. I don’t like that stuff. A lot of them like all that fanfare. I just never did. I just never liked all that stuff. I mean they are very polite. You know some of my friends are still there, not too many. You know I don’t like a lot of fanfare. But I had a great time up there.³³⁵

Briscoe says he will not run

Mr. Briscoe made comparisons, often faulting Mr. Hoyer privately for pursuing his political ambitions so single-mindedly that he was losing his ability to be human. Standing in his dilapidated century-old barn, showing off the 332 bales of hay he had cut and collected last weekend, Mr. Briscoe could not avoid taking a swipe at Mr. Hoyer while explaining the things he finds important. “I like to be outside,” he said “I like the sun. I like the smell of the new-mown hay. It’s quiet here and the air is so fresh and clean. When you get hot from working, you can strip down and jump in the river. Can you imagine Steny doing this?”

Mr. Briscoe said he has trouble explaining to people in Annapolis why he is willing to give up the faint glitter of state politics for a more ordinary existence down here. The farm has been in his family for 100 years, he said. His 88-year old father lives in a wooded section, while all three of his sisters will soon have houses on the water front part of the property. A year ago, he took over the operation—mostly raising hay at this point—from a tenant farmer and works it with his 17-year old son and several part-time helpers.

“Everybody wouldn’t want this kind of life,” he said, “but I happen to enjoy it.”³³⁶

³³⁵ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

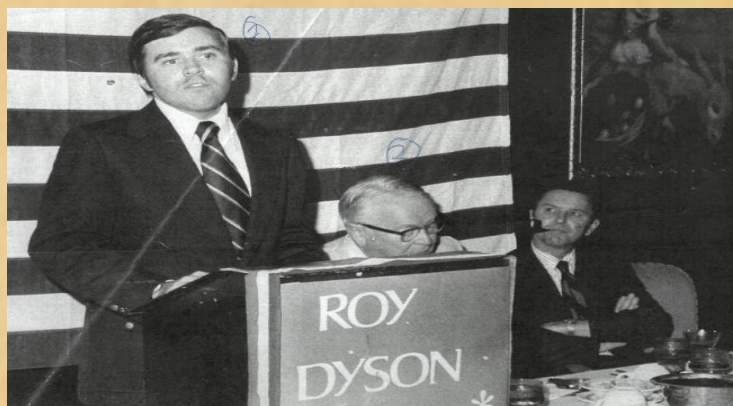
³³⁶ ‘Briscoe says he will not run’, The Baltimore Sun, June 6, 1978



Speaker Briscoe Reviews 16 Years

Briscoe said he talked to some of his close political associates in the County last weekend and told them of his decision and what kind of persons he would like to see in the running for his House seat. "Someone who shares my beliefs and attitudes," is the kind of person he is looking for, he said.

Briscoe's one-time running mate and friend J. Frank Raley, said, "I just don't know; there was a skill and integrity brought forward by him. Now there hasn't been any political leadership coming forward," and Raley frowned and showed concern. Shaking his head, he said, "Are we going to go back to that mediocre way? I just don't know. Even when Maryland had to hang its head in shame in politics (in 1977) John stood firm and the legislative process stayed clean and under his guidance," Raley concluded.³³⁷

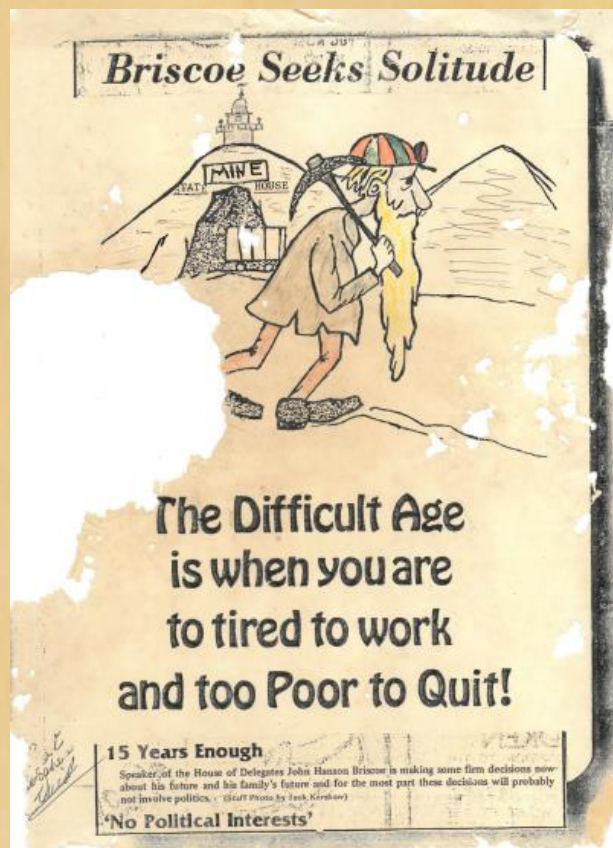


Left to Right: Roy Dyson, Judge
Phil Dorsey, J. Frank Raley

³³⁷ 'Speaker Briscoe Reviews 16 Years', The Enterprise, 6/7/74

In recent weeks many people have asked my plans in regard to the upcoming election. In the interest of candor and fairness to all, I wish to announce today that I do not now intend to seek re-election to another term in the General Assembly.

This has not been an easy decision. I have served four terms in the General Assembly since 1962 and have been honored to be the Speaker of the House of Delegates since 1973. With few exceptions these sixteen years of public service to my County and the State have been pleasurable and worthwhile. With the challenges there has also been the opportunity for involvement in the issues that have shaped our present and to return to the excitement of another political campaign and hopefully, return to Annapolis for another term. Yet, to do so would be to deny other realities. The work of the legislature has become more and more a full time job, especially as Speaker of the House. Execution of that office is not without personal sacrifice and sacrifices to others who have surrounded and supported me... my family and law partners. To meet all my responsibilities, I believe it is now incumbent upon me to devote more time to St. Mary's, to my family, and to my practice.³³⁸



³³⁸ John Hanson Briscoe, Press Release, June 27, 1978

By the River

John Hanson Briscoe did not prove an electrifying Speaker of the House, which was probably a good thing. Electricity, especially the self-serving kind, abounds at Annapolis. Speaker Briscoe brought other, rare qualities. He had a personal balance to offer, a sense of order and of fairness. In the House the delegates respected him for that, also for his personal selflessness. Upstairs, Marvin Mandel was a determined masterful Governor. In the Senate, Steny Hoyer as president was a fountain of reformist ideas and challenging programs. So steady John Briscoe functioned as a balance wheel solidly holding these two often contrary forces from actual conflict to potential. Maryland as a whole is the beneficiary.

He did yearn for a judgeship as a cap to his legislative career. But when that wasn't to be had, John Briscoe decided at only 44 to put the political hurly-burly behind him. He would go back to his big ole family farm there by the Patuxent and work it; "I like to be outside. I like the sun. I like the smell of new-mowed hay. It's so quiet here and the air is so fresh and clean. When you get hot from working you can just jump in the river." That's not some updated Huck Finn talking. That's a genuine voice most of us here, if weakly, inside ourselves now and again. Mostly, we don't act on it. Mostly we struggle along into our 50s and maybe 60s, stuck in the furrow we plowed for ourselves earlier and then couldn't escape.

John Briscoe listened to his own inner voices. He recognized their force and acted on them. Which makes him a wiser man than some of the breathless ones at Annapolis thought. What's more important, it's likely to make him a happier man than most of us.³³⁹



Briscoe house on Cuckold Creek,
Hollywood

³³⁹ 'By the River', The Evening Sun, 6/6/78

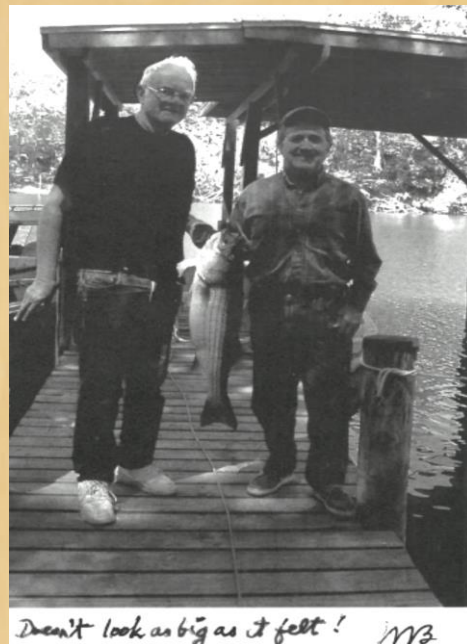
STATE'S LAWMAKERS GO BACK TO ROOTS

Annapolis—Last week they were caucusing, holding committee hearings and delivering emotional speeches. Some were trading votes, making deals and even filibustering. They all spoke a strange parliamentary tongue and addressed each other with titles like “Mr. Chairman” and “my able colleague, the senator from Baltimore County.”

This week you can find them back at work in bars, barber shops and bowling alleys, in hospitals, schools and law offices, and even on horses and tractors around the state. For the most part, their English has re-gained its normal Maryland flavor. They are the 188 members of the Maryland state legislature, which officially ended its 1978 session in a burst of confetti and sentimentality last week.

Delegate John Hanson Briscoe, the speaker of the House, says he likes to get his hands dirty on his St.Mary's County farm. “I get up at 6 in the morning and go plow the fields on my tractor for a few hours, and then I wash up, clean the dirt from under my nails, put on my suit and go to the office,” the lawyer and farmer said. “When I get home, I change back again and go right back out into the fields.”

Mr.Briscoe says that although he has to attend many civic functions, he does not get many constituent calls about local problems. “These people have a quality of life second to none. It's not like in the cities where they have so much to complain about. The people out here don't bother us much. They just thank God they don't live in the cities.”³⁴⁰



Marty Barley & John Briscoe

³⁴⁰ ‘States Lawmakers, go back to Roots’, by Matthew J. Seiden, Baltimore Sunpapers, April 1978

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR: THE GROWTH OF THE LAW FIRM BRISCOE, KENNEY, AND KAMINETZ

*T*ed Weiner: I think Briscoe, Kenny, and Kaminetz represents the change of economic power from Leonardtown to Lexington Park.³⁴¹

*M*arvin Kaminetz: One firm but two offices because Leonardtown was where it was happening. That's where the court was. And John and I were in Leonardtown, and Jim was in Lexington Park, and John started doing more and more real estate settlements as the Eighth District (Lexington Park) was starting to grow, and we had more and more business and more and more settlement real estate work down there. John moved out of Leonardtown, I believe, in '74 when we moved to those round buildings on Shangri La Drive.³⁴²



*S*amuel Baldwin: The difference between your firm, Briscoe, Kenney, Kaminetz, primarily down in the Park, and the older established firms in Leonardtown. Why did your firm do so well down in the Park?

*I*rene Parrish: Well, the base was growing, contractors were coming in, they needed housing, the houses were actually being built, more or less, in Lexington Park or the California-area, and, I guess, location, location, location.³⁴³

³⁴¹ Ted Weiner Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁴² Marvin Kaminetz interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁴³ Irene Parish interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Samuel Baldwin: How and why did you, John and Marvin decide that the law firm's base of operation was going to be down in the Park?

Jim Kenney: That was probably strategic in a sense. That's where we saw the growth would come. We would have people come to us from Leonardtown and I'd always be curious, "Well, why you would come down here?" (Laughs) Usually we always had an office in Leonardtown. I'd say "I could've met you in the Leonardtown office" and they'd say "I don't want all those people to see what I'm doing." And I'm sure there were people in Lexington Park going to Leonardtown because they didn't want to be seen (laughs). It's just human nature.³⁴⁴



Left to right: Jim Marsh, Karen Abrams, Jim Kenney, Jack Gelrud
1984

John Slade: Frank Barley, local mortgage broker, he represented Baltimore Federal and they did all the Baltimore Federal work here and that was the bread and potatoes for the firm. Helped make payroll. Before they got that account it was a struggle, because people weren't accustomed to paying big fees down here; they were use to being spoiled by all the local politicians who would do free or less than full-value legal services. Frank Barley was the agent and of course we had to humor Frank. Frank liked to have a lot of attention. Had to take him to lunch about twice a week, you know. Wonderful old guy, but he is a typical old guy that liked a lot of attention. He would supply a lot of settlements.³⁴⁵



John Slade (Center) & Ernie Bell (Right)

³⁴⁴ Jim Kenney Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³⁴⁵ John Slade interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Sam Baldwin: Marvin Kaminetz told me, at one point, they may have had nine lawyers on the letterhead. And that there were times that they had to get bank loans to make payroll.

Irene Parrish: They did do that. They had to go to the bank and borrow money. Then it got to the situation that we actually had two sets of books. One was the law side and one was the real estate side. So, we would hold our money on the real estate side and then, when they (the law side) came up short for payroll, we would lend them our money. And then Jim would be so excited that we had some money.

At that particular time, we were growing like crazy. So, the income was coming. The demographics were here. The base was expanding. And then, each lawyer had kind of gone into specialty items within their practice. And, Jim and John had outgoing personalities to where they could bring clients in and then they would introduce them to the new lawyers and work with them. We had a huge account with the Barley company and a huge account with Baltimore Federal Savings and Loan and we did a lot of land acquisition and development loans in Charles County as well as St. Mary's. We also did a lot of work for the state of Maryland in reference to doing abstract work or right-of-ways. They would actually keep the record room at the courthouse open at night so that we could come in and do abstract work because we had so few attorneys at that time, especially those who knew real estate.

Jan Briscoe was a young teenager who used to come into the office all of the time. She brought so much joy into that office when she would hit that door and she absolutely loved her father to death. And, out of all of his children, she was the one that was always there. We used to tease her all the time and say, "one of these days, you're going to be a lawyer". and she'd said "no, no, no! I don't know what I want to do". And, today, she is a fine, outstanding lawyer.³⁴⁶

Working here in the summers I swore I would never go into the business. I swore it was just too crazy," said firm the firm's newest addition. "Here I am." After seven years out of the county attending Boston University and University of Baltimore Law School, Janice Briscoe has returned to Hollywood with her new husband, Sam Baldwin, to establish a home and a career. "It's wonderful. It really is. I guess when I went to college I swore I'd never come back. I guess people appreciated it more if they have lived in the city for several years."³⁴⁷



Janice Briscoe Baldwin is a fourth generation lawyer now working with the firm of Briscoe, Kenney, and Kaminetz

³⁴⁶ Irene Parrish Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³⁴⁷ The Enterprise, March 1985

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE: JOHN HANSON BRISCOE, LOBBYIST

Brad Gottfried: When you were a legislator in the 60's and 70's, were there as many lobbyists and special interest groups that really wanted your attention?

John Hanson Briscoe: Oh, yes there were. As soon as you hit the town, that is Annapolis. At the beginning of the session there would be a party and a dinner sponsored by every kind of lobbyist you can imagine. From unions to farmers, to watermen, to police, and they had a problem finding time to entertain the legislators at night, dinners and drinks. It got to be rather obnoxious, I think. And got to be where some people literally felt they could influence legislators by how many times they took them out to dinner. And believe it or not, there were a few of them, if you showered them with sufficient... go to free ball games, if you took them to Redskin games or Colt games and they just did everything and lobbying became very, very influential. I did go to a lot of those dinners and drinks, but I like to think that it never ever swayed my vote. I even had a union fellow, AFL /CIO, they used to entertain all the time; I used to go. You know, free dinners and free booze was kind of... you know. But I had the union man say to me one time, "You know Briscoe, I really like you. I like the way you legislate and I find it interesting. I always want you to come to our union parties; but you know we've had 45 bills introduced over these two years and you've never voted for one of them. But I still like you."³⁴⁸

LOBBY LIGHTS SEEM BRIGHT AS EVER

Annapolis—The band played lively cha-cha. The bar did a brisk business, and couples in evening dress took to the dance floor while bus-boys cleared the remains of a lavish steak dinner. The scene was the crimson and gold-hued George Washington ballroom of the modern Annapolis Hilton. The event was a banquet given recently by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Anne Arundel County for some twenty members of the General Assembly and their spouses.

It was one of hundreds of parties, receptions and dinners hosted by lobbyists and special interest groups for Maryland legislators at an exhausting pace of one, two or more almost every night since the General Assembly session began last month. The wining and dining of legislators and officials continues unabated this year, according to most lobbyists and legislators, despite a new lobbyist discloser law, passed last year.³⁴⁹

³⁴⁸ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Brad Gottfried,

³⁴⁹ The Sun, February 28, 1978

LOBBY LIGHTS BURN BRIGHTLY DESPITE NEW LAW

John Hanson Briscoe, the Speaker of the House, was the only one of more than a dozen key legislators who said last year's law has had any effect here. "You see how thin I am," he said standing up, opening his jacket and pointing to his not-insignificant wasteline. He said he had been to "three parties last night and three the night before," a pace he said was not unusual.

However, Mr. Briscoe said lobbyists are favoring big banquets over intimate dinners this year because the new law says guests' names do not have to be reported if all members of the General Assembly are invited. Aside from attending such banquets, which are "increasing tremendously," he said "most legislators don't want to be seen in public with lobbyists anymore." He said this is "partly because this is an election year, and partly because of last year's law—however ineffective on this issue."³⁵⁰

Briscoe May Be Back

Former House Speaker John H. Briscoe may be coming back to Annapolis this year to help Gov. Harry R. Hughes with his legislative program. Both men said yesterday that they are discussing an arrangement whereby Briscoe would help out on a part-time basis. "I don't want to be a lobbyist," Briscoe said. "I don't want that and neither does he."

The St. Mary's County Democrat who did not run for re-election last year, said his duties would be to advise the new governor and his staff on how to work with the General Assembly.³⁵¹

Retiring Speaker of the Maryland House, John Hanson Briscoe, will not be seen in local courtrooms utilizing his law degree to its fullest it appears, but instead he is presently considering the possibility of becoming, a lobbyist.

"In the interim I'll be involved in real estate," the attorney from Hollywood said in an interview last week, rather than being involved in other legal matters closer to the courtroom.

Since his announcement three weeks ago that he would not seek re-election to the House of Delegates seat representing St. Mary's and Charles counties, the four-term delegate said, "I've been approached by a number of business interests in the State. Their representatives are getting old and I would be prime for them."

It appears, though, Briscoe may not be totally comfortable with the lobbyist idea. "I'm not sure I'd be happy in that role," he said. He added he will be travelling to Baltimore to "negotiate" the

³⁵⁰ 'Lobby Lights Burn Brightly Despite New Law', The Baltimore Sunpapers, February 28, 1978

³⁵¹ Briscoe's Archvies

idea. “But I won’t be getting involved for a while,” he continued. “I’ll be relegated to doing real estate.”

Mulling over how he would address the job of lobbyist, he leaned back in his office chair and said “I don’t know. . . going before a committee, representing. . . I don’t know. I’d really have to be sold on whatever I’m selling,” he said. He added, “I don’t know if it would be offensive or not to me. I’d have to have all the facts.”

Admitting that lobbyists represent major interests, he said he believes he could represent an organization like the Southern Maryland Board of Realtors. “Where I’d be awkward would be with a oil company or utility where there would be a questionable environment activity,” he said.³⁵²

BRISCOE THE LOBBYIST RETURNS TO THE HOUSE AFTER ABSENCE

John Hanson Briscoe, the congenial and soft-spoken former speaker of the House of Delegates, made his debut yesterday as a legislative lobbyist. Representing the Maryland Optometric Association, the 46-year-old lawyer and gentleman farmer from St. Mary’s County faced the Senate Finance Committee on a bill to allow optometrists to use drugs during eye examinations.

Mr. Briscoe seemed a little uneasy as he waited for his turn to testify, an occupational hazard for lobbyists but not for legislators who are usually speeded to the head of the line by committee chairmen. “It’s a little difficult being on the other side of the desk. I’m biased. When I was here I was supposed to be representing all the people of the state.”

Nevertheless, he added, “I feel very comfortable with this piece of legislation. The issue is a sort of turf battle between the optometrists and the ophthalmologists.”

“The State of Maryland is very capable of separating the wheat from the chaff. I know you will,” said the formal delegate. “And we get a lot of help from the House of Delegates,” joked Committee Chairman Melvin A. Steinburg.³⁵³

John Hanson Briscoe: I’ve been a public servant all my life. It’s gratifying to come from a small rural area where you can really make a difference and you get to know the people real well and you do community stuff for them here. And then you go to Annapolis, as I was in the Legislature 16 years, then go up there and support legislation and create legislation that will do good for St.Mary’s County and the rest of the state. You’ve got to differentiate between the two.

³⁵² ‘The Nurse, the Politician, the Superintendent Speak Openly’, The Enterprise, 6/28/78 By Jack Kershaw

³⁵³ ‘Briscoe the lobbyist returns to the House after absence’, 1980

You can't be so parochial that all you think about is St.Mary's County and forget about the rest of the state. So you've got to balance that and support people who have problems in other parts of the state. I've always felt good about going up there and never promoting legislation or programs that weren't in the best interest of St.Marys County and the state of Maryland, as opposed to someone's private interests.

The things I did for St.Mary's County were good. You know, creating a 4 year college at St.Mary's Seminary, and doing environmental and conservation things for the parks and erosion control at St.Clements Island. Those aren't sexy things, but the people really do appreciate it. So I took pride in the fact that for 16 years, including 5 years as Speaker of the House, when I did have a lot of power, that I never promoted anything that was personal to me or friends or businesses in all 16 years I was there. And people were always asking me to do certain things for other people and I just didn't have any agenda up there. Because when I went up there I didn't want to get caught in the "house of cards" things where you get hung up on the special interests. And I just never wanted to get myself in that position. And for 16 years I never did. And when I left the legislature in '78 I held my head up high and I left with integrity and the people thought that I was a very straight and honest legislator. And I was Speaker of the House and I had a lot of power and I could've done a lot of things. So that was a good public service.³⁵⁴

Bruce Bereano: My view about lobbyists and lobbying is that there's plenty for everybody, there's plenty to go around, but I just thought that Briscoe wouldn't like it because I knew him and I didn't think he'd tolerate, once the honeymoon wore over, he would be able to tolerate what you'd have to put up with; a bunch of folks (legislators), and I'm not being disrespectful, that have enormous egos and some of them, their feet are off the ground and their heads are bigger than a door way and it's not like a jury where you can strike them and then they're not there, ya know; they're there for 4 years. It's not like you can say "judge" and "excuse" on that one. So it didn't surprise me. I don't recall specifically but I do recall periodic conversations with him in the hallways and that kind of stuff .He was always called, as he should've been, he's a Speaker. You keep your title, but he really wasn't liking it at all. So it didn't surprise me that he walked away from it.³⁵⁵



Samuel Baldwin: So eventually he left the legislature, took up lobbying...

John McFadden: He did. He said he was lobbying but he said he really just didn't, it really wasn't his cup of tea. What he really wanted in life was a judgeship. I think that he had so much admiration for his father and he just, I think personally, without him ever saying it, I think he just expressed the fact in every way, other ways that he respected his father so much it was just something he aspired to do.³⁵⁶

³⁵⁴ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³⁵⁵ Bruce Bereano Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³⁵⁶ John McFadden interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Disturbed at what he called the “hustling” he was required to do, Briscoe ended his career as a lobbyist in 1985. “It’s difficult to describe why I don’t like it,” Judge Briscoe told The Evening Sun at the time. “I was successful. I was totally satisfied with my work. I never had any client dissatisfaction. But I did not like the things you have to do to be a successful lobbyist. I didn’t quite have the stomach for it.”³⁵⁷

³⁵⁷ ‘Briscoe the Lobbyist’ by Ellen James, The Baltimore Sun 1980

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX: SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION TO ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Larry Millison: St. Mary's County fell in love with the Navy in nineteen forty-two. St. Mary's County has been ever since been a Navy community. In other words, there's no one in St. Mary's County that isn't involved directly or indirectly with the Navy. The people who came here as a result of the base, many of 'em have stayed here, and they've intermarried here. And the majority of people in this community make their living off the base. Directly or indirectly. Kids that I went to school with are now retiring off the base. They've been there thirty years, thirty-five years. And many of the top engineers you see at NESEA [Webster Field, St. Inigoes] they were kids I went to school with, or kids who went to school after me. And now you're seeing the next generation, and their parents were civil service workers or government workers or armed forces members. And now you gonna soon see third generation people affiliated with the base. You know, it's the biggest institution in the county.³⁵⁸

John Paradis: I would say that St. Mary's County has benefited from having Pax here because most of the professional people, whether they're engineers or doctors or lawyers or other things, came here because the Navy came here. First of all it started with the engineers and the pilots who were working in the base and they required these other professional services. What you see now is many, many contracting companies, many companies in the area. There weren't any of 'em here when it started. That started sometime in the seventies, we started bringing them in to help out, which made a tremendous increase in the population and the requirement for services and everything. Grocery stores and doctors and clothing stores and everything. It was a result of the people that came in. Early on the base provided probably seventy-five, eighty percent of the total income to the whole county. Right now I think they're estimating fifty or sixty percent, although the total dollar amount is larger. It's because these other services have come in and people that support the people who work on the base add to the income of the whole place.³⁵⁹

Q: You mentioned how people gained from the arrival of the base; do you know anyone who suffered?

J. Frank Raley Jr: Well, the base is quite benign. It isn't a polluter, it gives you pretty steady employment, it's very helpful to the community. I can't really say that it has been a force that hurt anything. Except if we were to argue, 'well maybe what we ought to have done is just not

³⁵⁸ Larry Millison Interview by Sharon Chewning. March 5, 1987, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

³⁵⁹ John Paradise Interview by Richard Zachary, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

have any military here and made this into a beautiful county'. I don't know what the economic base would be, but maybe beautiful farms. I don't know that could have happened or would have happened, but from the standpoint of where this location is, from an economic standpoint, I doubt that. I can't think of anything that would have done as much for the people economically than the base and less, less problems to them. The less problems meaning, of course, environmentally destructive.

Q: Would you say that the coming of the base made this community closer or drove it further apart?

JR: Oh, I think it has opened it up. It is a much more cosmopolitan population today. It is far different than it was, but none the less the county as a whole has changed enormously.

Q: Could you be a little specific about the change between the old county and the new county?

JR: Well it's certainly different. First, they're richer, they have more money. They have more stability, they have better facilities, their schools are better, they are doing better, they are testing better in schools. Their facilities are better, libraries and – so that's a change, that's very definitive change. It's still the county, of course.³⁶⁰

Mike Miller: It's the driving economic force in the County. It has led to so many positive things happening. The Base has been wonderful in terms of providing jobs for people, and being a good neighbor. For example, I went to camp down in Ridge and Dameron for five different years and the Base would let us use their pool, the Base would let us use their movie theater, and it's just, it's been a good neighbor. And that's been good for St.Mary's County for the most part.

I think people recognize the importance of the Base and the fact that the astronauts were trained there. And people continue to train there in terms of the Navy. I can't tell you the wonderful jobs that exist there, that people enjoy. And, it's just been good for Southern Maryland. It really has. And, like I say, it doesn't pollute, and it brings more jobs to the area, and economic development. At the same time, it sort of governs itself. The person in charge of the Base makes sure it's run well, and makes sure the Base is incorporated into the community. I have a similar situation in my area with Andrews Air Force Base. And, it's wonderful. And, you recognize the importance of it and a similar situation exists in St.Mary's with the Naval Alliance. J. Frank Raley was very big on helping to create this Naval Alliance and making sure that, when they had these cutbacks in the Federal budget, that realm would get its fair share. And so, as a consequence, we had people from Virginia, people from Pennsylvania, moving to St. Mary's County. And, there were good jobs.³⁶¹

³⁶⁰ J. Frank Raley Interview by Jason Peters, April 2, 1998, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

³⁶¹ Senator Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Q: If you were to size up the base, how would you assess its liabilities and its strengths?

Governor Marvin Mandel: I think its strengths far outweigh its liabilities. I think it's a real asset to the county. Not only in the type of people that are working and living in the county – and a lot of them establish their permanent home there. Once they retire from the service a lot of these people decide that they're just going to stay and live there and get very active community-wise. A lot of them are. But it also brings in some outside companies that do business with the base, also brings business into the county. So I think the pluses far outweigh the negatives for that. The only negative, the only major negative that I see, I guess there are a lot of others, but I'm not there that often that I can see it, but the only negative that I can see is the constant concern about what happens if the base is closed down. That is a negative. How much of their economic income in the county depends on the base.³⁶²

Jack Daugherty: People don't realize what we've got. We have one of the few places in Maryland where the economy's great. I don't think there's hardly anyplace else in the state of Maryland where we have an economy like we have here. This is all because of that background. This is all because of the Navy Alliance, the new leadership, and the college. You put all those things together with the Test Pilot School, you put them all together and damnit, you got a hard deal to overcome anything.³⁶³



Photo by Rick Thompson

Recalling Pax River's past

Former St. Mary's County Circuit judge and House of Delegates speaker John Hanson Briscoe, center, recalls efforts made during the 1960s and 1970s to improve the relationship between St. Mary's County and Patuxent River Naval Air Station during the April 17 program "St. Mary's County Before and After BRAC" at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum. The program, the second in a series on the history of St. Mary's County/Pax River relationship, was sponsored by the museum association in celebration of the 100th anniversary of naval aviation. Also pictured are Bob Waxman, left, senior consultant to the MIL Corp. and one of the original employees at Webster Field in St. Inigoes, and Jack Gelrud, who came to St. Mary's in 1948 after service in the U.S. Army and opened the first pharmacy in Lexington Park in 1955.



³⁶² Governor Marvin Mandel Interview by Andrea Hammer, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

³⁶³ Jack Daugherty interview by Andrea Hammer, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN: THE LEGACY OF J. FRANK RALEY

Jack Daugherty: I guess if you had to ask me the one person that's most responsible for what we have today it has got to be J. Frank Raley. Always had above average ability to know what to do at the right time. He was such a good ambassador. He was not like the average politician. Anybody who worked for him admired him.³⁶⁴



C. Clarke Raley: I just always recognized in J. Frank the kind of guy who always had a vision outside of the tiny, little things around him. He always did. I would write letters and talk to J. Frank while I was at college before I even went to law school. I would talk about things and he would talk about the county and how the county was growing. I can remember writing him a letter about how the county, in almost over our head with the military, we have almost no diversity. And suppose California gets a chokehold on the presidency, they are going to take that stuff out of here and put it out in California. Perhaps we should think of some rehabilitation to have diversity and other things. That was part of his thinking to have the bridge deal. One of the things that hurt him badly with politics was the idea of siding with the people who would give you the bridge but take away your slot machines. In the long run it was a wise, wise decision. I get up in the morning and look down there towards the bridge beginning at 5 o'clock and it's lit up. You would think you were in San Francisco because there're cars going on it between the counties. It would have happened eventually, of course, but he was one of the few people that would think about things like that. Whereas Paul Bailey would think like, 'I don't want to build any dual highway down through St. Mary's County and bring all those foreigners and people here from up the road; we don't want that.'



Left to Right: Jim Kenney, John Hanson Briscoe, C. Clark Raley 2002

I think J. Frank had the recognition that we are in the transition period like the rest of the country, where you are changing from an agrarian society to an industrial society. Where you are going from very, very few people controlling a lot of land to the opposite. To where a lot of people want very different things. The more people you get the more things they want and the

³⁶⁴ Jack Daugherty Interview by Andrea Hammer, St.Mary's College of Maryland Archives

more industrial you become. The better the pay becomes; people start to become more educated and they want more. We're no different in that regard. That's my opinion.³⁶⁵

John Slade: J. Frank and John Hanson put through a whole slew of legislation to reorganize our local government, putting in place systems and paving the way to abolish slot machines. Governor Tawes had run as an anti-slot candidate and had won so they were able to get concessions from him to help us economically by establishing the Tri-County Council, bringing the three Southern Maryland counties together for cooperation and building the Thomas Johnson Bridge, establishing St. Mary's College as a four year institution , these were just some of the things that the Governor agreed to do in place of gambling. We've never looked back. The county has made tremendous progress and this is probably one of the best places in the country now to live.

Samuel Baldwin: Where did J. Frank get his vision of what the county needed?

John Slade: Well, his father was a county commissioner. Like most of us, he grew up in a household where politics was discussed and he went to Georgetown for a while and I guess the Jesuits up there probably had some influence on him. But he served in the House of Delegates and so he had a good knowledge of the county and knew we had serious problems. Back then, the people that had the slot machines controlled the day. They had the money and sometimes what they saw as in their best interest wasn't in the overall best interest of St. Mary's county. So I think all of this came into play. You had these young men (the new leadership) who were ambitious and they were looking at the county like it's not making any progress, it's poorly managed, it's time to bring change and they did orchestrate change. Next to "mean" J. Frank you know Johnny was the "golden boy." J. was "terrible" because he "gave away" the Potomac to Virginia and took away gambling, the easy money, so they never forgave him. But John Hanson, that didn't stick on him too much.³⁶⁶

John Hanson Briscoe: J. Frank had a lot of courage in creating legislation that would make the county account for itself.³⁶⁷

³⁶⁵ C. Clarke Raley Interview with Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³⁶⁶ John Slade Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁶⁷ John Hanson Briscoe. Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.



John Hanson Briscoe & J. Frank Raley



Left to Right: J. Frank Raley,
SMCM Pres. Weigel—Ted Lewis

John Hanson Briscoe: I was in the legislation when we, thanks to J. Frank Raley, created legislation that created a four year college at St. Mary's College and changed it from St. Mary's Seminary to a four year college. J. Frank was the mover on that. It just had outgrown its usefulness, it was just a seminary. All you got from there was an AA degree. They felt there was something they could do with that and have a reasonably priced public institution of higher learning. I supported it of course, but J. Frank Raley had the idea to do it. And it became an autonomous board, which nobody liked. Autonomous meaning they could make their own decision, they didn't need the umbrella college group to approve everything they did. And they fought that autonomous thing at St. Mary's College had and it still has it today.³⁶⁸

Q: When you talked about your election for the General Assembly, you talked about your platform being one of planning for educational facilities including schools and libraries. Did that also include planning out Lexington Park and the business aspect of it?

J. Frank Raley Jr: Developing a master plan, yes, because if you do that, that's what makes it easy to keep the Navy and to have some development. If you have a good infrastructure, if you have the good schools, I think you hear that all the time now, as having schools is absolutely essential for a good business climate for business development. Yes, all of those things were basic to keep the Navy here, to expand the Navy, and even to expand the local businesses, such as tourism and perhaps some of the high-tech fallout from the Navy. Yes, that's basic to it.

Q: Could you be a little specific on the programs that you ran while you were in office?

³⁶⁸ John Hanson Briscoe interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

JR: Oh, my gosh. Well, I was involved in setting up the first State Economic Development Commission, to setting up the compact for common management of the Potomac River, to the development of the first economic development program in southern Maryland, including St. Mary's College, the Tri-County Council, St. Mary's City Commission, even a development program on the bridge across the Patuxent. We were very isolated, that's another problem of the economic development is your isolation in this peninsula, to have to consistently be working on transportation. We got the first dual road program underway, but we did it in a plan where we would put it together and say this is what we want and then get it through the legislature over a period of time. I started the first series of reforms of our local government; it didn't go as far as I wanted it, but there's certainly, most of the structure of local government is what I and my other colleagues have left when we were in office. That includes even the Planning Commission, even the community college system that was started here, was a part of our original program, back in the mid-sixties, started in Charles County. So, I can't even remember all the things that were involved, but it's been a fair amount and it was mostly an infrastructure development program because southern Maryland, as I said, had become so poor after the Civil War, its infrastructure, its school system, its cultural level was very far down, it was really down, it was a very, very poor place, all of this has really been done in the last thirty years.³⁶⁹



Left to Right: J. Frank Raley, Ann
& Governor Harry Hughes

Jack Daugherty: In four years he was able to put into this community a four-year college [St. Mary's College of Maryland], St. Mary's City Commission, Metropolitan Commission, the bridge across the Patuxent, and the Tri-County Council. In other words really what he did here was he made a trade. We had slot machines, and he talked to Governor Tawes and said, "Look, you're gonna take my slot machines away from me, you gotta give me something." So Tawes said, "Well, what do you want?" He said, "I want a four-year college. I want a bridge across the Patuxent. I want the St. Mary's City Commission, a Metropolitan Commission and a Tri-County Council." Tawes said, "I can get all those for you." So, J. Frank – in my opinion, that was the

³⁶⁹ J. Frank Raley, Jr. Interview by Jason Peeters, April 2, 1998

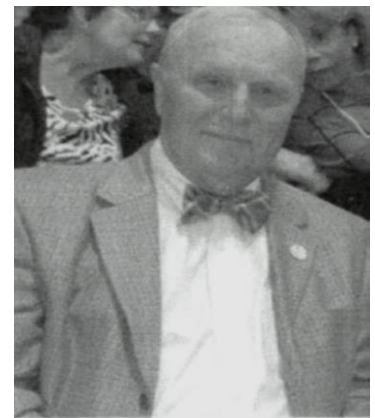
turning point of politics in this county, because that did away with the Dorsey machine and J. Frank was able to do positive things for the county. He did what he thought was best for them at all times. No politics involved; might be a Democrat or a Republican. Nobody that I know of in this county since I have been here has done as much as J. Frank has for his county.³⁷⁰



Jack Daugherty & J. Frank Raley

Thomas Daugherty: J. Frank was a man of principle and he believed what he did was the right thing. I like to reminisce about the good ole days and the slots and jimmying them; I don't think it was a particularly productive image for St. Mary's County to have and I do not think that we would have the growth and the high tech industries that we have and some of the major firms sending big offices in this area, if we still had that wild west gambling attitude with slot machines. Because people would not want to bring their families here and settle in that sort of environment. But J. Frank Raley did a very courageous thing. It was unpopular, he knew he was going to have a rough race, and what really beat him was I think it was a three party race but it ended up Walter Dorsey became the senator, ended up beating J. Frank for that seat. But he did the trade off and he made the deal and it was a good one. But it required a lot of courage.³⁷¹

J. Frank had a vision before anybody even recognized how important it was. He was a true statesman – he saw the benefit of what economic growth can do for an area and he stayed focused on achieving that growth up until the day he died almost. He was always interested in how things were going to affect the county. I mean, he and my father, later on in life, started the Navy Alliance, which was started to help protect Patuxent River from future base realignment, the BRAC decisions. There wasn't anything they were going to make any money off of – in fact, it was going to cost them money – but they knew that this was good for St. Mary's County and for Lexington Park and I think that J. Frank was a visionary and a statesman. Only J. Frank had the vision that J. Frank had. Maybe my father had a little bit of it. But J. Frank connected all the dots. He saw how everything interrelated. Other business people and politicians could connect a few – J. Frank saw the whole clockwork, how it all worked. That's what made him different.³⁷²



Tom Daugherty

James Simpson: I think he was a very honest, honorable guy, and I think he truly believed in St. Mary's County, and he believed in moving it forward. He was forward thinking. J. Frank was

³⁷⁰ Jack Daugherty Interview, St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

³⁷¹ Interview of Thomas Daugherty by Andrea Hammer", St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives

³⁷² Tom Daugherty Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

more interested in the county as a whole and trying to do something with the county. J. Frank had a vision for the county. J. really didn't look to get any gain for himself, you know, he really didn't. He was very bright, laidback.³⁷³

Mike Miller: I'd liken J. Frank to Adelaide Stevenson. Quiet, intelligent, very thoughtful person, but not a good politician. Somebody like Walter Dorsey or Paul Bailey would have no problem working a crowd. Glad to have people, and tell the people what they wanted to hear. And, that was not J. Frank's style. He had a vision, but a lot of what he obtained was because the leaders recognized that this was gonna happen in St. Mary's County and also Calvert and Charles and also that there should be some system, there should be some progress to change the sleeping area into a more modern type of, progressive place to live. And because J. Frank Raley was such a decent guy, and because there are other people, like John Hanson Briscoe, other legislators recognized that these people needed to have something to take home. You know, the Tri-County Council was created; the Thomas Johnson Bridge was created. I'd like to think of J. Frank as being associated with the renaissance of St. Mary's College. In fact, when I gave him the first Citizens Award, that came from Maggie O'Brien, the president of the College. She said, "look, you know we really need to recognize him for his services."³⁷⁴



Senate President Mike Miller
presenting J. Frank Raley with the
First Citizen's Award, February 2006

Joe Densford: The first time I met John Briscoe was, in high school and was working at the Leonardtown Texaco station. In those days gas stations were full service. You pumped gas,

³⁷³ James Simpson interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³⁷⁴ Senate President Mike Miller interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

changed tires, cleaned windshields, oil changes, whatever it took. And I remember John Briscoe coming into the station one day, only time I think I saw him pull in there because we were in Leonardtown, he probably got his gas in Hollywood most of the time, and it was a black Buick Electra. And he had just, either he had a brand new car or had just washed it himself or had someone wash it for him, because the car was just immaculate looking. He pulled in, I filled it up, and I went to clean the windshield and he warned me off. He said, 'don't, don't clean that windshield. You're going to smudge it. That car is perfect right now. I don't want that windshield washed.' So I put it all away, filled it up with gas, and off he went. Young man, beautifully dressed, suit and tie, headed up the road to Annapolis probably, for some big meeting. That would've been probably in '65 or '66, in the summer. And it's interesting because one of his great lifelong friends, J. Frank Raley, came into the station one time when I was there. And J. Frank came in with a broken headlight, so he asked me if I could change a headlight and I said sure. When I looked at his car it was parked off to the side of the station in the parking lot because he didn't need gas, and I went in, found the equipment, the light bulb for his car, and went out with a screwdriver to change it, and J. Frank was also dressed immaculately. He was headed up the road to Annapolis as well. So I'm in my blue jeans, and I'm down on my knees, you know, kneeling down in front of his car with my screwdriver replacing the old light bulb to put in the new one, and I look over and J. Frank is sitting down, in the parking lot, in his suit, to watch me change the light. And I remember thinking, "This guy either has a lot of money to spend on suits, or he's crazy, I don't know which." But he sat down because he wanted to talk to me. He didn't know me, I didn't know him; he just wanted to know about how to change a light bulb. He was just interested in what I was doing and liked to talk to people.³⁷⁵

³⁷⁵ Joe Densford Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

The Senate of the State of Maryland

First Citizen Award



presented to

J. Frank Raley, Jr.

Member of the Maryland Senate, 1963-1966

Member of the Maryland House of Delegates, 1955-1958

*In recognition of
his distinguished service to the people
of the State of Maryland*

First Citizen is the name that Charles Carroll of Carrollton chose to sign a series of articles published by Ann Catharine Green in the Annapolis *Maryland Gazette* in 1773. They form a strong defense of an independent legislature and were among the earliest arguments for a new concept of government based upon traditional community rights and liberties that protected its citizens from arbitrary rule. At the time, Carroll, as a Roman Catholic, could neither vote nor hold public office. With the publication of these articles, Carroll launched a career of public service that would not end until his death at the age of 95 in 1832. In addition to helping draft Maryland's first **Constitution** and signing the **Declaration of Independence** in 1776, Carroll served as President of the Maryland Senate, of which he was a member from 1777 to 1800, and as one of the first United States Senators from Maryland (1789-1792). To be a **First Citizen** is to be a dedicated and effective participant in the process of making government work for the benefit of all.

Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
February 24, 2006

On Being a First Citizen

Remarks by Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, State Archivist
on the occasion of the presentation of the First Citizen Awards to
J. Frank Raley, Jr., C. Bernard Fowler, and Martin G. Madden
Friday, February 23, 2006

President Miller, members of the Senate, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I am honored to be here again today to present, on your behalf, the First Citizen Awards of the Maryland Senate, a privilege that has been delegated to me since 1992, when President Miller instituted this tribute to public service. On each occasion you have heard me relate how a young man, despite the fact that his Roman Catholic religion prevented him from holding public office, chose to take up the cause of the rights of the General Assembly to set the fees collected by public officials in response to his opponent's assertion of the privileges of office. The ensuing newspaper debate in which Charles Carroll of Carrollton called himself 'First Citizen,' made a mark for the young man, and started him down the path of a political revolution in which he would stake his considerable fortune, and from which he would emerge a member of this body and a United States Senator. When it became clear that it was unconstitutional for him to hold both offices at the same time, he chose this body instead of the United States Senate in which to continue his public service, retiring from public life in 1800.

While Charles Carroll's successful fight for religious and political freedom is well known, until the publication of the award winning edition of his letters with his father by Professor Ron Hoffman, few realized how close Maryland came to losing him to Louisiana. In the midst of the French and Indian War, when Catholics in Maryland were being double taxed and persecuted for their beliefs, Papa wrote Charley who was then studying in England that he left his son "to judge whether Maryland can be a tolerable Residence for a Roman Catholic,"

It is true, Nature has been almost beyond bounds bountiful to [Maryland] [Papa Carroll wrote Charlie]. The Climate is very good, & every year improving as the Country is opened[.] The Soil in General is very fruitful & yields with very little labour a plentiful increase of what ever is trusted to it; cattle & poultry of all sorts multiply surprisingly with moderate care & are Excellent in their kinds, a vast variety & succession of several sorts of grain, ... make a famine almost impossible: our fruits are delicious, add to these that no Country in the world is better watered & no water] more plentifully stocked with a vast variety of excellent fish Fowl with plenty of other game: in short if the people could be in any way compared to the country, Maryland in time might be in reality what the most pleasant & delightful countries are described to have been by the fruitful fancy of the best Poets.

Instead of moving to Louisiana as his father wished, Charley came home to fight for his political and religious rights. He countered Papa's despair of the people by providing constructive leadership, in and out of office, taking stands that were not always popular and led to his defeat at the polls. He was a tireless advocate of improved and less

wasteful methods of farming, and caring for the natural resources which his father so glowingly and eloquently described.

Today we honor three former State Senators who in and out office have led by example in the grand tradition of a First Citizen. All three share a love of the environment and have continued to further the cause of preserving and restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Senator J. Frank Raley, Jr., suffered political defeat because of his efforts to wean Southern Maryland from dependence on gambling as the primary source of local revenue. He takes pride, none the less, in the first broad development program for Southern Maryland that he and Senators Parrin and Hall helped to enact in the 1960s, which encouraged an economic resurgence of the region following the elimination of gambling. Senator Middleton recalls that in the mid 1990s when the Pentagon moved about 5,000 mostly civilian jobs to St. Mary's County, Senator Raley was in the forefront of helping them learn what Southern Maryland was like, where they would live, where their kids would go to school, and in general helping to educate the newcomers about the region.

Senator Raley is a strong advocate of the study of democracy and religious freedom and has long recognized how well those lessons can be taught in the context and the story of Maryland first Capital, St. Mary's City, and at St. Mary's College where he is a trustee. When it comes to protecting the environment, Senator Raley, in typical fashion, took personal action in his ongoing effort to lead by example. As the Maryland Environmental Trust pointed out in its 2003 Annual report, "In Southern St. Mary's a lovely property on Potter Creek owned by J. Frank Raley was perpetually protected with a 63-acre easement. It encompasses a scenic rural landscape, agricultural land, and wildlife habitat adjacent to Point Lookout State Park. Today we honor J. Frank Raley with the First Citizen Award.

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT: LEGACY OF THE LAW FIRM OF BRISCOE, KENNEY, AND KAMINETZ



John Hanson Briscoe: Once we established ourselves and our clientele, our belief was that good character was more essential than great riches. We had that reputation in the community our focus was on competence, character and compassion. We had strong suits in those three Cs.”³⁷⁶

Dave Densford: Everybody of any salt, and this is only a slight exaggeration, has gone through that firm. John Slade, Joe Densford, Steve Braun, Christy Chesser, Karen Abrams, Jan Briscoe – I mean, it was a great breeding ground for young lawyers and judges in the later years.

Samuel Baldwin: What was it about that firm do you think that made it such?

DD: The synergy between John Briscoe, Jim Kenney, and Marvin Kaminetz is lighting in a bottle. Those three guys together with their different strengths and skills were outstanding at running a firm. I guess it was Jim Kenney’s retirement, at Millison’s Belvedere, they talked about their strengths and weaknesses and together they were formidable. When you look at Jim Kenney going to the Court of Special Appeals, John Briscoe and Marvin Kaminetz going to Circuit Court, Karen Abrams to Circuit Court, it just is phenomenally successful. I understand that when they started out it was tough sometimes to make payroll. Well, all of us who have run a practice know that. But when you’re a chairman of a committee and Speaker of the House, if I’m a Baltimore bank I would love for him (John



Terry Laurus & Dave Densford

³⁷⁶ “Original Partners in ‘Judge Factory’ All off Bench.”, by John Wharton, The Enterprise, April 4, 2007

Briscoe) to do my closing in St. Mary's County. And Jim Kenney is as fine a lawyer you'll meet anywhere, and Marvin is one of the most personable guys. I've always joked that if the governor, whoever it was, came down to St. Mary's County and walked down the street with Marvin, most of us would say, "Who's that guy with Marvin Kaminetz?" He's everybody's friend.³⁷⁷

Joe Densford: I think at the time it was considered, widely considered, inside and outside the county, as the go-to law firm. It had all the political connections, it was the biggest, and it did some of the most sophisticated commercial work of all the law firms in the county. There was nothing like it in St. Mary's County at the time. And with its political connections, with John Hanson, we had business coming out of Annapolis like you wouldn't believe. We had major financial institutions. We had more referrals for loan closings, the realtors, whoever they'd be, and they all came and brought their business to that office.³⁷⁸

Tom Daugherty: They probably had a majority of the blue chip clients in Southern Maryland, especially St. Mary's County, but they also had clients from Charles and Calvert, especially after the bridge was built. They were just a class act. They were three individuals who I think had strengths that complimented the other. John Hanson had political knowledge, had everything as being Speaker of the House. He also had a fine knowledge of real estate law. Jim Kenney helped draft ordinances, county ordinances for planning and zoning and he established himself as a quality land use and development type of lawyer. I mean he did other things but if I had to say, that was Jim's strength. And I think Marvin was probably the litigator of the group, that he handled the majority of the more complicated litigation. But they were just a good group of guys and back then it was really kind of neat—the Roost restaurant was going so we all went there to have lunch and we'd run into each other and then on Friday evenings people would be down there for Happy Hour and it was a very collegial, congenial group.³⁷⁹

Jim Kenney: I suspect that we were able to hold it together as long as one of the three of us was there. You almost have to have the culture of the firm as opposed to an association of people. You've got to have glue. And I guess our glue was we were the new guys and you know, we were Avis, we knew we had to "try harder."³⁸⁰

³⁷⁷ Dave Densford Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁷⁸ Joe Densford Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁷⁹ Tom Daugherty Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁸⁰ Jim Kenney interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr.

John Hanson Briscoe: I trust them implicitly; they're my best friends, they really are. I was very lucky to have that. You know how it is in partnership, you get some good ones, but we never had one cross word between us for all these years. They did an article on us, a newspaper article. They called us the "judge factory" and as the senior partner they asked "why did you get along so well and how did you manage?" I said, "Well, we really trusted each other and we had a very, very strong feeling about the ethical practice of law. And these boys probably were more ethical than I ever was but Jim Kenney was always our conscience. He was very careful and if we ever had a question about whether we should do this or not, whether it was appropriate as a lawyer or me as a legislator I'd always call on him and he'd always come down, you know, conservatively, and I trusted him. And Marvin the same way, very ethical and that always made me feel good because people felt I always had to be as ethical as they are. And they had a big influence on me, they really did. They said, "how'd you get all those judges?" I said, "Well, I think the people in St. Mary's County believed we had a very good law firm." We were ethical, we were trustworthy, and we wouldn't do anything wrong. And we just tacked together a whole bunch of judges out of there because we had a good reputation. You can't do anything. With the reputation of a lawyer if the people of the community trust you they will tell people about you and then if you're not you get the opposite effect; people stay away and so forth.³⁸¹



Jim Kenney & Karen Abrams

Jim Kenney: Along with Marvin Kaminetz, we have remained partners and, later, judicial colleagues. Marvin and I were only children; John had three sisters, but no brothers. We became the brothers that we had not had, and we treated the firm as family. Our business arrangement was simple. I am not sure it was originally in writing. It was based on trust, respect, and confidence in each other to do the right thing. Work was done by the one who could best do it. Expenses were hopefully paid and what was left was split equally. Fees sometimes included oysters, crabs, and produce, and on several occasions, even port-o-potties for beach parties. We worked together and played together because we enjoyed each other's company, and sometimes it was hard for our families to tell which we were doing.

³⁸¹ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

Even when we differed on some aspect of the practice, we always reached consensus and never had an argument. Over the years, the firm expanded with offices in both St. Mary's and Charles County and later in Calvert County and brought a number of younger lawyers into the practice, including the first woman lawyer in the County. Many of those women and men went on to establish successful practices and careers in public service, as State's Attorneys, legislators, County Attorneys, and judges. John was especially proud of that.³⁸²



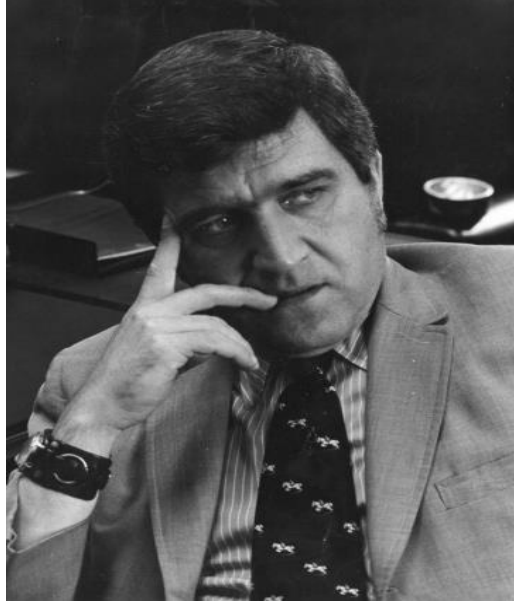
Left to Right: Jim Kenney, Marvin Kaminetz, John Hanson Briscoe

Marvin Kaminetz: I'll put it to you this way Sam, I never had any trouble sleeping at night because I was concerned that John or Jim had done anything that was illegal, anything that went against the judicial ethics. We did things, I like to believe, ethically, morally correct. We didn't sell ourselves just for the buck. We took cases we believed in. If there were clients that we didn't want to represent, we could say 'no.' And we all had a mutual respect for that. John, obviously had a tremendous amount of business that came to the firm because of him. Because A: he was the local guy, B: people thought politically he could help. That doesn't mean he would do all the cases. He would turn stuff over to Jim in his area, he'd turn stuff over to me in my area, and a lot of the stuff he would do. But clearly a vision for this county; clean industry. We could've been involved with Steuart Petroleum when they wanted to put that plant in there and we couldn't go that route. Now we had done the pipeline then because that was clean. That made sense. That was a good environmental thing. But to go and do things that we didn't believe in just because of the money that we could make, we didn't do it. I like to think people recognized that about John as a leader. He certainly not only influenced, but he helped direct my whole career. I would've never been a judge if it wasn't for John Hanson and Jim Kenney. I can tell you right now because they both mentored me. Again, with being ethical, with doing things above board, and they taught me the importance of preparing; you don't go into court unprepared. You have to respect things even if you don't like something. And get involved with the community; you don't just take, you've also got to give it back. And I think the three of us lived by that and John certainly was the beginning of all of that.³⁸³

³⁸² Kenney, Jim. Eulogy for John Hanson Briscoe.

³⁸³ Marvin Kaminetz Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE: THE LEGACY OF JOHN HANSON BRISCOE



In a 1985 article in The Baltimore Sun, he explained that the speakership helped him work out compromises. “I like to think that I have a bit of a talent bringing people together,” he said. “He was a delight to work with. He was low-key and positive, and all of the other adjectives that I can think of to describe his position naturally apply to him,” said Mr. Steny Hoyer. State Sen. Roy P. Dyson served with Briscoe in the House of Delegates during the 1970’s and was a friend of nearly 50 years. “I felt that he was the last leader of the General Assembly that really understood rural people and rural issues. He looked after them, and that always impressed me,” said Mr. Dyson. He credits Briscoe with leading the effort that saved St. Clement’s Island in St. Mary’s County, where the English settlers who colonized Maryland arrived on the Ark and the Dove in 1634. “The island had once been 400 acres but was now down to 40 acres, and was in danger of disappearing. John Hanson led the effort that got it ripped in the 1970’s, and it is there because of that,” said Mr. Dyson. “It was one of the most important things that he did.”³⁸⁴

Harry Hughes: He was smart, very smart. He had a really pleasant personality. It was hard to dislike John and I think that made him very effective as Speaker. He didn’t try to run over people. He was a very gentlemanly-like guy. Not all of them are that way (laughs). He was good. He had the respect of everybody. He wasn’t blustery...Thomas Hunter Lowe was sort of, I don’t mean to say explosive, but he was much more outgoing than John. Much more opinionated than John and they were two

³⁸⁴ “John Hanson Briscoe,” Baltimore Sun, 1/07/14

entirely different people, really. Both very competent. John was sort of easy going; firm but easy going. Lowe was sort of bombastic at times.³⁸⁵

John Hanson Briscoe: J. Frank Raley paid me a great compliment. He was the first person who ever called me a “practical realist.” We dealt with a lot of serious problems and I was a good consensus maker and he’d say, “Briscoe, you are a practical realist.” Nobody had ever called me that before. And I know what he means, and he’s right. He means that I’ll talk through a situation and even though the best thing to do would be one thing, but if we can’t get there now, we’d take something in between, knowing that realistically we can get that now, and practically we can get it. You’re not going to get it all; you might not get it again, so get as much as you can out of something and be practical about it...³⁸⁶



John Hanson & Bonnie Briscoe

Bonnie Briscoe: He was always comfortable with people. He wasn’t really gregarious; he was friendly, he was open and when he got to the legislature and looked around he was comfortable with all of those people. I think it was a matter of...just...he was congenial. He was amenable.³⁸⁷

John Slade: The lack of civility always troubled me. As long as people can sit down and talk they can resolve problems. I think John Briscoe demonstrated that; he was a master at it. And he was not only a good judge at being able to resolve problems but a lot of the legislation that was passed during the time of his tenure was passed because of his unique skills. He was very practical. You could give him a problem and he could just sit there and practically resolve it. You know, just use some common sense and he could come up with a solution. You could read all the books you wanted to, come up with all the legal concepts and arguments. Briscoe knew how to develop a common sense approach that everyone could live with and that’s what it’s all about.³⁸⁸

³⁸⁵ Hughes, Harry, Gov. Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.;

³⁸⁶ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³⁸⁷ Bonnie Briscoe, Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

³⁸⁸ John Slade Personal Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

Ernie Bell: He was understanding. He understood the need for a subway system, things like that. Did he know all that beforehand? No, but he was a good listener. Knew who to listen to, and then had the ability to weigh and evaluate, make the best decision. The ability and the willingness to hear both sides of an issue and then to render a decision. He was good at that.³⁸⁹



John Hanson Briscoe & William
Donald Schaffer

Marvin Kaminez: You know, “politician” sometimes carries a derogatory meaning with it, but John was truly a statesman. When he was in Annapolis, there’s always tough votes, but he had some incredibly tough votes on things like the Equal Rights Amendment, the abortion bills. Stuff that clearly wasn’t real popular in St. Mary’s county, but from a statewide perspective he saw the bigger picture. He wasn’t absolutely parochial and always voted the way that he knew it would be safe to vote back home. I think that’s how he got to be Speaker. Now he had his own convictions, don’t get me wrong. Just because he voted for the abortion bill didn’t mean he believed in abortion, but he knew it was going to pass. And he knew how to do that.³⁹⁰

Idolia Shubrooks: He was a fair man. John Hanson, he took care of business. He thought about everything and he was a very deep thinker. Fair, fair person. That’s the one thing I loved about him. Very fair. He’s going to treat you like a gentleman if you’re a man; he’s going to treat you like a lady if you’re a woman. You know? Only the right prevails when it comes to him. So yes, great man.³⁹¹

Steny Hoyer: John was thoughtful, honest, respected, and well-liked by all members of the General Assembly. He was a terrific partner, was a delight to work with, and had a great vision of where Maryland ought to go. He was such a positive partner and such an easy person to work with, always thoughtful and calm. We’ll miss him. We’ll miss his humor. We’ll miss his wisdom. We’ll miss his sense of history.³⁹²

³⁸⁹ Ernie Bell Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁹⁰ Marvin Kaminez Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁹¹ Idolia Shubrooks Personal Interview by Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.

³⁹² Wilson, Ike. “Friends Remember Ex-House Speaker.” The Frederick News-Post, 16 Jan. 2014.

Gov. Marvin Mandel: He was able to make people come together, and make them understand he was not preferring one over the other. He would put the information together, based on what they told him. He listened to both sides and tried to find common ground.



Left to Right: John Hanson Briscoe, Governor
Parris Glendening, J. Frank Raley

Peter Hanson Michael: What people high and low saw right away upon meeting John Briscoe was an inherent trustworthiness and visible lack of ulterior motive. What one saw in Briscoe is just what one got. This kind of personality made him exceptionally effective as a politician and at the same time very untypical as a politician. Briscoe's quiet charisma may have been inherited. His namesake, John Hanson, was elected the first president of the nation's original government in large part because of his ability to bridge the personal and political differences of others. Briscoe operated the same way.³⁹³

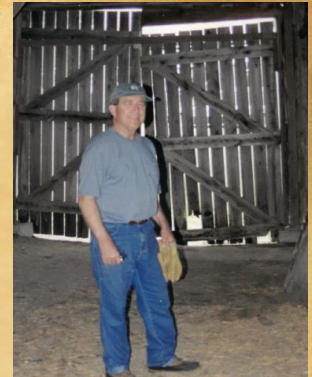
During his five years as presiding officer of the sometimes unruly House, Briscoe rarely sponsored legislation, preferring instead to remain above the fray and retain the neutrality that allowed him to work out compromises on important bills. "I've tried to blend the different philosophies of the House," he explained in an interview. "I always figured I could operate a lot better by not being an initiator. Once you do that (initiate legislation) you get too personally involved in a bill." Standing in an upright military posture on the podium of the House chamber, he closely followed tortuous debates, correcting delegates when they defied legislative rules and often breaking tense moments with an infectious sense of humor. While he was generally praised for his fairness in allowing all sides to argue their positions, he had little tolerance for floor

³⁹³ Briscoe, Judge and Legislator, Dies at 79 1/13/14

demonstrations and was criticized by minority factions in the House for being too rigid in imposing the rules.³⁹⁴

“I kept my mouth shut.”

Briscoe was a mediator, an astute observer of people and politics and greatly respected by his peers. Political grandstanding was not his style. He wanted the legislature to work. That meant compromise, setting aside personal animosities and coaxing the institution to function effectively. This probably did require holding his tongue in many situations. But it never meant sitting back and going along for the ride; he helped steer the legislature during his time in Annapolis. Briscoe was a man of modesty and intelligence, a natural judge of people and what makes them tick. He used those skills to serve his community, and left St. Mary's a better place.³⁹⁵



Governor Harry Hughes: I'm really glad that I can call him a good friend. His was a legacy of good government, honest government, which is about all you can ask for. John really had an interesting life and a very productive life. He was a good legislator, he was a good judge, a good citizen and that's about all you can ask for, isn't it? He was a good man.³⁹⁶

Rascovar commentary: Briscoe and Robinson, when duty is an honor

His polite and gentlemanly demeanor, combined with the patience of Job and a sly, biting humor made him an ideal speaker of the House of Delegates. He proved good at herding political cats. Briscoe presided with optimism, dignity and grace, his Southern Maryland drawl providing a soothing tonic during heated debates. Most of us knew him as John or John Hanson, the latter reference proving a competitive irritant to his Senate counterpart, President Steny H. Hoyer, who suddenly started referring to himself as Steny *Hamilton* Hoyer. *Touche!* His honesty and integrity came in handy. He wasn't parochial, either, understanding that in Annapolis you often have to go the extra mile for other parts of the state. Thus, he alertly steered subway legislation for Baltimore through the House as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He also championed property tax reform, civil rights legislation and environmental protection laws. He

³⁹⁴ Seiden, Matt. "Place: Briscoe's Sotterly ." *Baltimore Sun Papers*, 19 Aug. 1981.

³⁹⁵ "Briscoe Left St.Mary's a Better Place." 01/07/14

³⁹⁶ Governor Harry Hughes Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

was a persuader and a mediator, but when required Briscoe could be firm and stern as a judge. John Hanson Briscoe understood the meaning of public service. He grasped the meaning of acting responsibly and honorably. He reminds us what running government is all about. Briscoe was a calming antidote during the Mandel years in Annapolis. He was the quintessential Southern Marylander, and came by this honestly. John Hanson Briscoe approached government service as an honor. He dedicated his life to making Maryland better for its citizens. For today's legislators and public officials, there is no better example of how to do it -- if you want to leave a lasting legacy.³⁹⁷

Ben Cardin: I think his legacy as House Speaker was to be the transitional Speaker for the House to be an independent body that could act as a policy arm of the government and do what was necessary as far as checks and balances in our system. I think that was clearly one of his legacies. The other was that he was respected by every single member of the House. Each member, whether they be a Republican, whether they be Progressive, whether they be Conservative - should be able to get their voices heard and should be able to represent their constituents and be able to have an impact on the final results.³⁹⁸



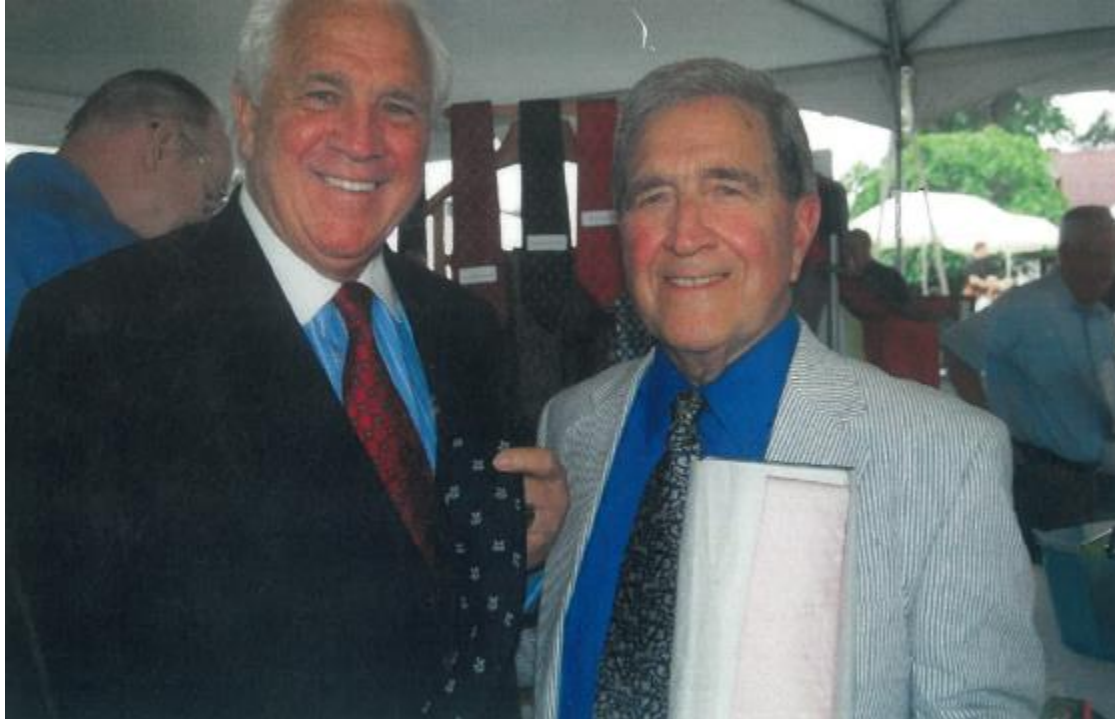
Jim Simpson: He was the best Speaker in my twenty years up there. Johnny was the best. He could get the votes in the House when he needed them. He knew how to work with people. You know, people who were against an issue and he was for it. Johnny had a way of bringing them

³⁹⁷ 'Rascovar When Duty is An Honor', Maryland Reporter, January 12, 2014

³⁹⁸ Senator Ben Cardin interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

around. He just had that knack of being able to work with people and, plus, he was smart. Johnny was very bright and smart.³⁹⁹

Mike Miller: Nobody ascribed anything venal to him at all. Nobody saw a bad side of John. John was always a very honest person. In dealing with him, you liked him very much. He was not a hard sell. He was, ‘what you see is what you get’. And, he was honest, hard-working, and had a very pleasing personality.⁴⁰⁰



Senate President Mike Miller & John Hanson Briscoe

John Hanson Briscoe: I don’t say this to thump my chest. I was always a good politician. In college, in law school, I made friends very easily. You know, I wasn’t running for anything, it was just my personality. So I got to Annapolis and the members picked up on it. They said “This guy’s ok, he’s a Southern boy, he’s got no agenda, he seems to be smart enough to be a good legislator” and that’s how it happened. It was just natural. I really didn’t have any ambitions when I came to Annapolis.

I turned out to be a good judge because I was a rational, reasonable person. I’ve said this a hundred times, Sam. The law is wonderful. I was meant to be a lawyer and a judge and a legislator. I didn’t know that, but I find the law, this is personal to me, that the law makes

³⁹⁹ Jim Simpson Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin, Jr.

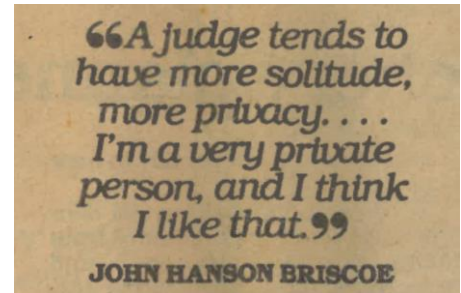
⁴⁰⁰ Senate President Mike Miller Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

common sense. Most laws if you look at them, there's a reason that they are what they are. And being a person who has a lot of common sense, which I do, don't have any quirks. Left or right. Liberal or conservative. It was just meant for me. The law was my profession. 44 years, you know. 4 years of law school, 16 years in legislature, 25 years in practicing law, and 16 years as a judge and I never regretted that I got into the profession.⁴⁰¹

⁴⁰¹ John Hanson Briscoe Interview by Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr.

EPILOGUE

John Hanson Briscoe would achieve his final goal of becoming the Circuit Court judge for St. Mary's County and would serve for 16 years. His law partner, Marvin Kaminetz, joined him on the bench when St. Mary's County was given a second Circuit Court judge. Their partner, Jim Kenney, would later be appointed as judge on the Court of Special Appeals. Four other attorneys associated with the law firm of Briscoe, Kenney and Kaminetz would also become judges: Nelson Rupp, Christy Chesser, Karen Abrams, and John Slade. John Slade would also serve as a Delegate in the Maryland House of Delegates.



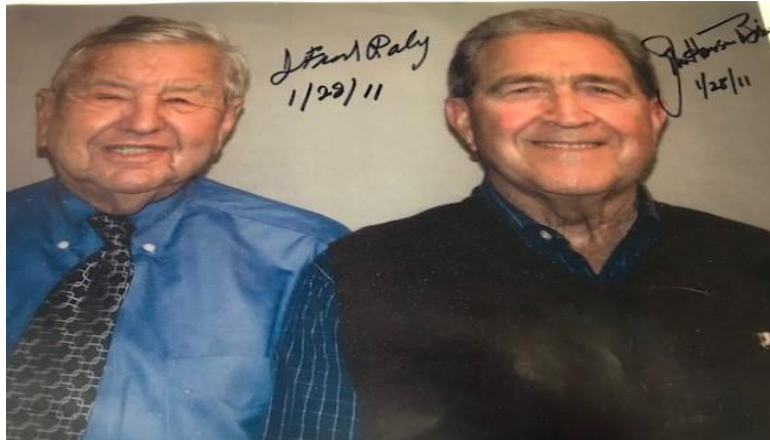
Route 235, little more than a single lane, dirt road in the midst of woods and farm fields in 1942, is now a major traffic artery connecting Lexington Park and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station to Washington, D.C. It has been dedicated to J. Frank Raley, the Founder of Modern St. Mary's County.



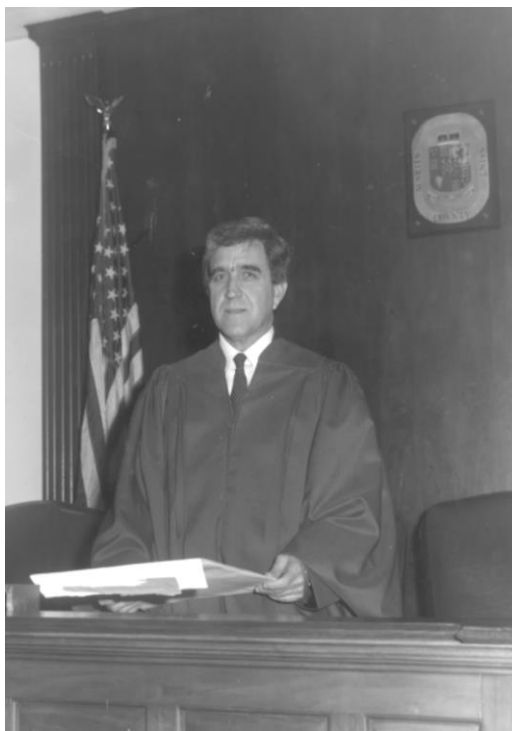
Congressman Steny Hoyer joins County Commissioners, family and friends at dedication of Rt. 235 to J. Frank Raley.

The Patuxent River Naval Air Station continues to be the economic lifeblood of St. Mary's County.

John Hanson Briscoe's papers, speeches, and official photographs are now housed in the Archives of St. Mary's College of Maryland, along with those of his political partner, Senator. J. Frank Raley.



Shortly after his death, the Circuit Court was dedicated to John Hanson Briscoe.



John Hanson Briscoe, Jr. & Janice Briscoe

SOURCES

Arnold, Deborah—County Resident, Daughter of County Commissioner Dick Arnold

Aud, George—County Commissioner 1978-1986

Bailey, Paul—Maryland Senate 1946-1954, 1966-1974

Bell, Ernie—Attorney, Maryland Delegate 1983-1994

Bereano, Bruce—Attorney, Lobbyist, former assistant to Senate Presidents James and Hoyer

Briscoe, Bonnie—Wife of John Hanson Briscoe

Briscoe, John Hanson—Born 04/10/1934—Died 01/1/2014

Briscoe, John Henry Thomas—Father of John Hanson Briscoe

Cardin, Ben—Maryland Delegate 1967-1987, Speaker 1979-1987, Member of the House of Representatives 1987-2007, U.S Senator 2006-Present

Cullison, Joseph H.—County Resident

Dakis Jeanette—Secretary to Oliver Guyther

Daugherty, Jack—Test Pilot, Banker, Businessman

Daugherty, Tom—Attorney, Banker, Businessman

DeLozier, Claire—Legal Secretary to Briscoe and Kenney

Densford, David—Attorney, Judge, Former Reporter

Densford, Joe—County Resident, Lawyer

Dorsey, Walter—Attorney, Maryland Senate 1959-1962

Dyson, Ernest Webster—County Resident

Fenwick, Elizabeth—County Resident

Fenwick, John—St.Mary's County Resident, Briscoe Classmate at Mount St.Mary's

Guyther, Darlene—Real Estate Secretary

Hopkins, Porter—Maryland Senate 1975- 1978

Hughes, Governor Harry—Maryland Delegate 1955-1959, Governor 1979-1987

Hymes, Don—St.Mary's County Newspaperman

Hymes, Val—St.Mary's County Newspaperwoman

Jackson, Murry E.—Maryland State Police Officer Stationed in St.Mary's County

Kaminetz, Marvin—Judge 1974-1989, Law Partner of John Hanson Briscoe and Jim Kenney

Kenney, Jim— Judge 1997-2007, Law Partner of John Hanson Briscoe and Marvin Kaminetz

Loker, Alec—Former St.Mary's County Administrator

Mandel, Marvin—House of Delegate 1952-1969, House of Delegates Speaker 1964-1969,
Governor 1969-1979

Marcinucci, Russ—Enlisted Man, 1949

McCleaf, Jim—Briscoe Classmate, Mount St.Mary's College

McFadden, John—Friend of John Hanson Briscoe

Miller, Thomas “Mike”—Maryland Delegate 1971-1975, Senator 1975-1983, Legislative Policy Committee 1983-1987, Senate President 1987-2019

Millison, Larry—County Resident, Former County Commissioner, Businessman

Norris, Loretta—Leonardtown Resident

Paradis, John—Flight test engineer; technical Director of NATC

Parrish, Irene—Former secretary to Jim Kenney; Businesswoman

Purcell, George—County Resident

Raley, C. Clarke—St.Mary's County Resident, Judge 1998-2011

Raley, J. Frank—Maryland House of Delegates 1955-1958, Maryland Senate 1963-1966

Rhode, Joseph—Briscoe Classmate at Mount St.Mary's

Rosasco, Steve—Briscoe Classmate at University of Baltimore Law School

Ruark, John—Financial advisor, former legislative page

Schaller, Bob—Educator, Former St.Mary's County Director of Economic Development 2007-2012

Slade, John—Attorney, Maryland Delegate 1983-1999, Judge 1999-2009

Simpson, James—Maryland Senator 1975-1994

Smith, Ester—St.Mary's County Resident

Sterling, Ruth—Attorney, County Resident, Former Legislative Page

Stone, Mary Catherine—County Resident

Waring, Tom—County Resident, Businessman

Weiner, John—County Resident, Attorney

Wigginton, George Peter—County Resident

Yowaiski, Jane—County Resident



Kent Randell, SMCM Archivist accepting
John Hanson Briscoe papers from Janice
Briscoe, Bonnie Briscoe, and Samuel C.P
Baldwin Jr.

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Daugherty, Tom—Photographs

Randel, Kent—St.Mary's County Historical Society



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Jordan Beaton suggesting editorial changes to Samuel Baldwin
as this six year project approaches its conclusion



Left to Right: Samuel C.P Baldwin Jr, Alayna Steinmetz,
Jordan Beaton, John Sterling Houser