Chapter One - Johnny Briscoe, A Great Life

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Contributors:

Kennedy Abell - born in 1928, making him six years older than John Briscoe. He's always lived in Leonardtown, born in the house sitting on the corner of Church and Washington streets, next to the house he currently resides in.

George Aud – born 1934. George Aud was a former president of the St. Mary's County Commissioners.

Paul Bailey – born in 1905. During his career he was a professional musician, a lawyer, and a State Senator from St. Mary's County, sometimes simultaneously.

Thomas Webster Bell – born in Pearson, in 1900. In 1918 he and his brother J. Ernest Bell began a farm and appliance store in Pearson. Five years later in 1923 they started a Chevrolet dealership, and opened up one of the first locations of Bell Motor Co. in Leonardtown in a wooden garage on the south side of Fenwick Street.

Joseph Ernest Bell, Sr. – born in Pearson. Married Mary Catherine Sterling. Father of Ernie Bell.

Joseph Ernest "Ernie" Bell, Jr. – born in Leonardtown. Lawyer and former legislator in the Maryland House of Delegates during the 1980s.

Bonnie Briscoe – John Hanson Briscoe's wife.

Jack and Mary Ada Burch Candela – schoolmates of John Hanson's at St. Mary's Academy.

Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss - born on New Year's Day, 1926, in Hurry, between Chaptico and Clements.

Jeanette Connelly Dakis – born on November 30th, 1930 in Leonardtown, and is the daughter of Ford Connelly and Della Reed Ching.

Jack Daugherty – a Navy officer who was brought to St. Mary's County when he went into the Naval Aviation program December 4, 1941, just three or four days before Pearl Harbor.

Webster Dyson – a resident of St. Inigoes.

Peter Egeli - was born on April 19th, 1934, John Hanson Briscoe was nine days older than him. His family moved from Cheverly, Maryland in late 1942 when they moved to Valley Lee, Maryland.

Charles E. Fenwick - was born in 1910. Noted St. Mary's County historian.

Dr. John Francis Fenwick and Elizabeth "Bee" Fenwick - Dr. John Francis Fenwick was born in 1933 at his family's home on Hanover Farm in Leonardtown. His grandparents lived next door to the Briscoes' and because of Sunday visits to his grandparent's home, Dr. Fenwick and John Hanson became childhood friends. Elizabeth Fenwick is Dr. Fenwick's wife.

Adriana Cornelia "Meme" Briscoe Gillaspy ("Meme") – John Hanson's sister.

Alfred Gough – was born in June of 1941, six months before Pearl Harbor. His mother had come down to St. Mary's County from Harford County in 1932 as one of the first public health nurses. Here she met Al's father, the postmaster for Leonardtown. A county historian who has written extensively about St. Mary's County.

Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall – the daughter of Kenneth Duke, Jr. and Lauren Hodges Duke. Her family owned Duke's in Leonardtown.

William Alexander Loker, Sr. - was born in 1909 and was a lifelong resident of Leonardtown, whose family home was in the North End, almost directly across from the Briscoes' home. As both a fellow attorney and a neighbor, William Aleck Loker was a close friend of John H.T. Briscoe and John Hanson Briscoe's godfather.

William Alexander "Aleck" Loker, Jr. - eight years younger than John Briscoe. He grew up in the house currently occupied by Kennedy Abell, near the corner of Church and Washington streets, across from the North Park. A county historian who has written extensively about St. Mary's County.

Laura Mae "Lari" Mako - was present on the scene even before the birth of John Hanson Briscoe. She was born in 1916 and was approximately 18 years old when John was born. Of all the people interviewed for this story, she alone has memories and recollections that span his entire life.

Alfred Mattingly - born in 1936. His father and grandfather owned farm property generally across the street from the Briscoe house.

Joseph A. Mattingly – born 1916. A lifelong St. Mary's County resident, Joseph A. Mattingly was a former lieutenant commander in the United States Navy, a state delegate, St. Mary's County State's Attorney, member of the Maryland Board of Parole and Probation, and a judge on St. Mary's County's Circuit Court.

Larry Millison - Larry Millison was born in Pearson, a village on Cedar Point until the Patuxent River Naval Air Station was built over it. A prominent developer of Lexington Park.

Loretta Beavan Norris – was born on August 8, 1921, making her 13 years John Hanson Briscoe's senior. She was raised on Mattingly farm across from the Briscoes.

Betty Mattingly Shepherd –born in 1933 and attended St. Mary's Academy with Johnny Briscoe for all twelve years.

Norris Shepherd – was born in 1931. Betty Mattingly Sheperd's husband, Norris worked for SMECO for 40 years. .

Idolia Shubrooks - Idolia Shubrooks was born in 1937 in her parents' home in Park Hall, 14 miles from the Briscoe home in Leonardtown.

J. Frank Raley - was born in 1926 in Ridge. He served in both the House of Delegates and the Maryland Senate.

Marie Vallandingham Rowe – was born on her family's farm off of Budd's Creek Road about seven miles from St. Mary's Academy. She began attending St. Mary's Academy in the third grade and graduated with John Hanson Briscoe.

Eleanor Duke Storck - was born in Leonardtown in 1927. Her mother, a Hodges from Avenue in the Seventh District and her father, Kenneth Duke, of Leonardtown. Her father ran Duke's movie theatre; her uncle ran Duke's Fountain.

Tom Waring - born in Chicago in 1924, to a family that had originally come from St. Mary's County. He returned to Chaptico in 1934.

Ann Camalier Wathen – was born in 1932. Her father was local attorney, Henry Camalier. When her grandfather, Judge Camalier, died, she and her family moved into the Camalier House, (across the street from the Courthouse) to care for her grandmother

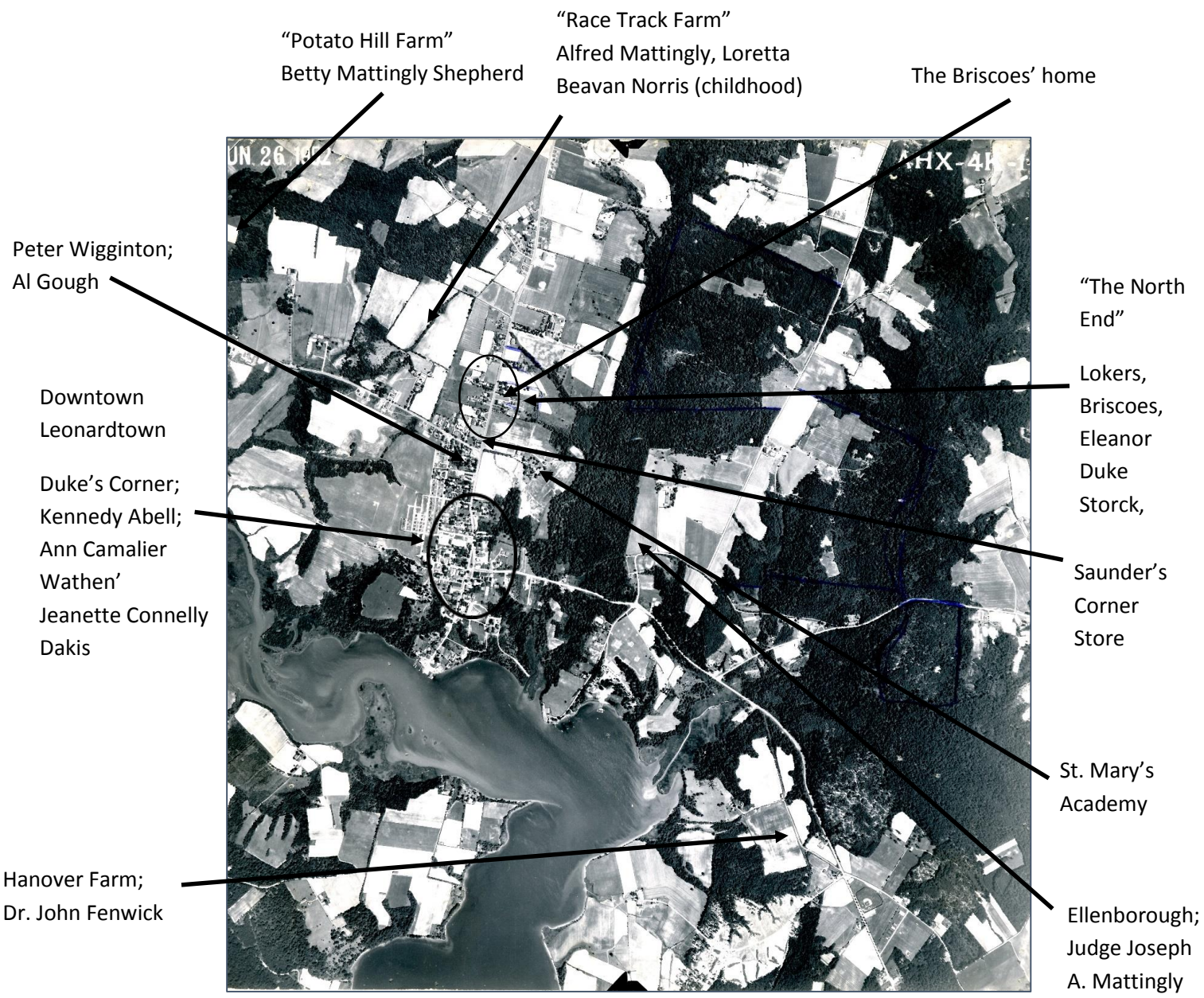
Robert Wigginton - Robert Wigginton, Jr. is the son of the late Leonardtown attorney, Robert Wigginton, and a cousin of Peter Wigginton. Bob, as he is known, was born in 1951 and grew up in the Medley's Neck area, outside of Leonardtown.

George Peter Wigginton - born in 1937 in Leonardtown, in the old hospital. Dr. Camalier delivered him. His mother was Frances Manning Loker before she married his father, George Peter Wigginton, Sr. (His uncle Aleck Loker married his aunt, Margaret Wigginton).

Maps

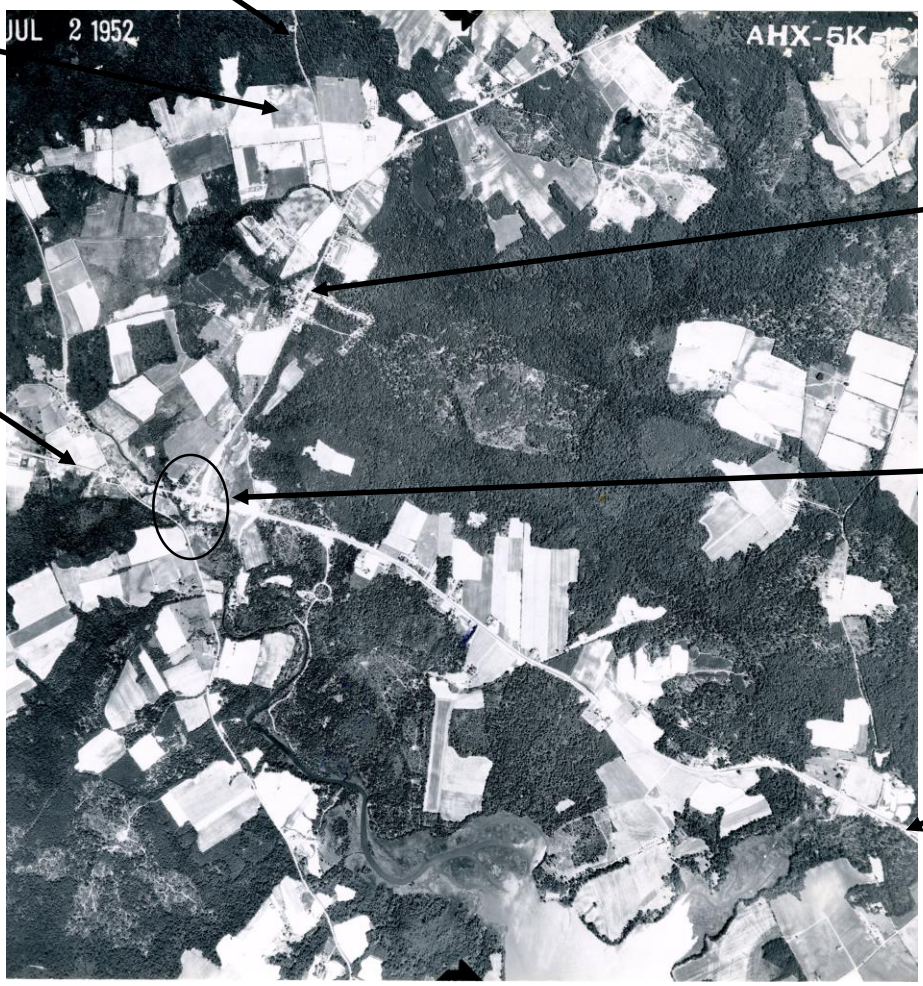
Holding control and left-clicking each map simultaneously will open a larger online copy.

Map 1: Leonardtown, 1952



Leonardtown and its vicinity, June 26, 1952. Some landmarks and homes have been identified.

Map 2: Great Mills, 1952



Leonardtown and its vicinity, June 26, 1952. Some landmarks and homes have been identified.

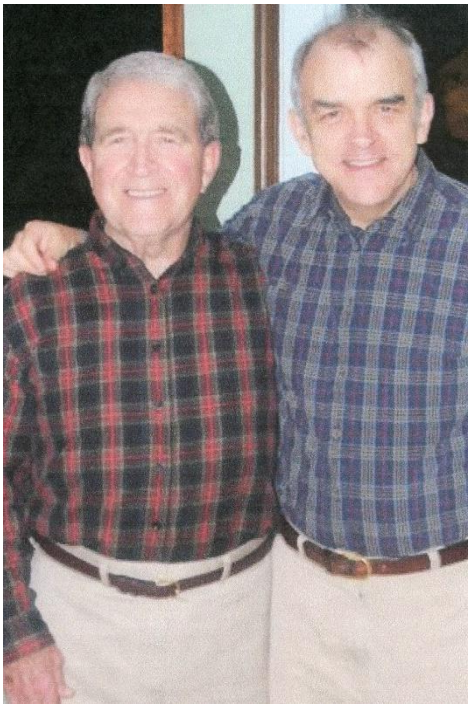
Introduction

In the early summer of 2013, I began six months of interviews with my father-in-law, John Hanson Briscoe. Generally, I'd find him in his den relaxing. He'd smile and stretch out his right hand; we'd shake; I'd grab some photographs or newspaper articles, or maybe I'd simply ask him an open-ended question. But off he'd go with his stories.

Altogether, I conducted approximately 30 individual interviews with John Hanson before his passing on New Year's Day, 2014. Those interviews comprised over 600 typed pages. In order to present the story in a more orderly fashion, I have presented in this work a re-compilation of John Hanson Briscoe's statements. I have removed my own questions from the dialogue. I have, at times, combined statements from various interviews so as to more fully present his story.

In order to put his recollections into a broader context, I then conducted interviews with people who knew him, or his contemporaries. Some people lived lives very similar to his and that similarity helped to explain what John had told me himself. Other people lived very different lives in different parts of the county. For instance, if you were to travel less than one half of a mile out his front door or his back door, you would likely find people living without electricity and without indoor plumbing. The contrasts in those lives adds significance to the personal recollections of John Briscoe and more fully describes live in St. Mary's County in the 1930s-1940s.

Just as I have restructured the statements made by John Briscoe, I have condensed the interviews with other people so as to better present the overall story. The transcripts have been edited for length and clarity. But the words that are put in quotations are in fact the words of the people I interviewed.



1. John Hanson Briscoe, left, and Samuel C.P. Baldwin, Jr., right, in fall, 2012.

Samuel C.P. Baldwin Jr.
September 26, 2014

In the Beginning

The very first interview started with a good, non-leading question from me: "What's the first thing I need to know?"

John Hanson Briscoe: "Well, I was born in Leonardtown April 10th, 1934 in St. Mary's Hospital, same place my three older sisters were born. Named John Hanson Briscoe. My mother and father gave me that middle name because I'm a descendant of John Hanson. And I grew up with that name. As a kid going to school, my parents called me John Hanson, but I never knew what it meant. It didn't mean anything to me. I didn't know who Hanson was until I got older and my father told me that he was a distinguished ancestor. He was the President of the United States under the Articles of Confederation and I would be proud to carry his name. But I never paid any attention to it; I didn't even like the name. I was Johnny Briscoe, that's all I was. That is, until I got older and learned for myself what a very prominent and distinguished patriot for the United States he was and then I was truly proud to carry that middle name."

Audio 1. John Hanson talks about his name:

In other interviews, John Hanson gave this perspective on what his name meant to him over the course of his life:

Video 1. Youtube – John Hanson Briscoe on His Name

Video 2. Youtube – John Hanson's Significance

As for John Hanson's illustrious ancestor, he recalled that his family spent very little time talking about him during his childhood.

Video 3. Youtube – John Hanson, Family Lore

Laura Mae "Lari" Mako: "My mother was born in St. Mary's county. My grandfather, William Clement Mattingly, lived in St. Mary's county. I did not grow up in Leonardtown, but I spent my summers and my holidays here because my mother came home." Before her father died she lived with her parents at Buena Vista, a property owned by her relative T. J. Mattingly. She also briefly attended St. Mary's Academy. After her father's death, she moved with her mother to Washington, D.C. "My father died when I was seven and my mother always came home to my grandfather's for the holidays and then I spent my summers there. I love Leonardtown. I loved it. I was an only child and my father died when I was seven so when I came to my grandfather's I had my uncles and aunts and cousins and I had the town. And when John was born, the Briscoe family was close to my family mostly through my Aunt Leila Hodges, his godmother, and my mother's sister. Aleck Loker, who lived across the street, was his godfather and was related to me on the Ford side. I'm related to almost everybody; we were all like an extended family in those days.

"My Aunt Leila, John's mother Hilda, and her sister Libby Bacon, and I were at Senator Coad's house , known as Clark's Rest, 'for tea', which in those days meant you were drinking. You went for tea and you had a drink. And Hilda was sitting in a chair and she had on a beautiful shade of blue chiffon dress and I could see that she was restless. And finally she said ' I'm going to have to excuse myself.' And she left early because she was in labor or starting. And I remember all of us saying to her 'Have a boy. Make it a boy.' I mean, even the Coad's. That's how we were all involved with that. I'm going to say that everybody I knew, and I knew almost everybody in town, were all wishing for John to be born a boy; we wanted a boy. They both wanted a boy so much and that's all we talked about. When Hilda was in labor it was like the whole town was wanting a boy and along came John Hanson. And I don't think she had him for maybe a day after that or something. But I remember us all going out to the house and we were so happy. Nobody was home; we were just there. And he was born at the hospital. And when I say everybody, I would say old people and young people. Everybody was interested. I'm not exaggerating; the whole town was thrilled about it. So, as he grew up, no wonder he was mischievous. He was spoiled by everybody."

Audio 2. Lari Mako talks about the birth of John Hanson Briscoe:

John Hanson's father, John H.T. Briscoe, was an attorney in Leonardtown.

2. John H.T. Briscoe.

His mother, Hilda Maddox Briscoe worked for a short while as a nurse at the hospital in Leonardtown. But for most of John's life, his mother was a homemaker.

3. Hilda Maddox Briscoe.

4. Hilda Maddox Briscoe in 1956.

John Hanson Briscoe: "When I was around four years old, my mother had me sit for a studio portrait.

5. John Hanson Briscoe, ca. 1938.

“I'm a beautiful kid. My hair was down to my neck and it was blonde and wavy; naturally wavy. And my mother thought that it was absolutely beautiful. She said it was like "spun gold". My father said "that might be ok, but you can't let that hair grow; he's starting to

look like a girl". She said "I'm not going to cut that hair. Don't cut that hair!" (Laughing). She said "It's beautiful". Of course, I didn't know the difference. My mother had that photo in a studio frame in the house. My father said "you're going to have to do something about that". So my mother took it to the back bedroom and, on the left side of her bed, facing the cove, she had a little table and she kept that photo there on that bedside table until the day she entered the nursing home. My father would never allow it to be anywhere else in the house."

6. John Hanson Briscoe, far left, riding bikes with sisters "Meme" and "Lou" on Dr. Camalier's driveway.

"I love this photograph of me. I think it's just great. I'm on my little bicycle and I'm coming out of Dr. Camalier's, our family doctor (today the site of Brinsfield's). Look at that little cap I've got on my head and there's that hair. I look like I'm a girl; I'm beautiful."

7. John Hanson Briscoe, age 2, in front of the Briscoe home in Leonardtown.

“I'd forgotten about this one. Look at that; that's me in my little suit. I think I'm in front of our house.”

Audio 3. John Hanson Briscoe talking about “a great life:”

8. John Hanson Briscoe’s sisters. L-R: Adriana Cornelia “Meme” Briscoe, Maria Louisa “Lou” Briscoe, Hilda Jane Briscoe.

"My three sisters, “Lou”, “Meme”, Hilda, my parents and I had two widows living with us. The first to move in was my father's mother, Mariah Ford Briscoe, after her husband, Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe, had died.”

9. John Hanson Briscoe, right, and sister "Meme", with grandmother Mariah Ford Briscoe at the front of the Briscoes' home.

"Meme and I are standing next to her. I look like I'm scared to death because she was very strict. I never really knew this grandmother as I was only five years old when she died. She was a Victorian lady. The only thing I remember about her, and this is terrible to say, but she was laid out in our living room in Leonardtown, dead. At that time, my mother's mother, Addie Maddox, was residing across the street with the Lokers. Addie Maddox was a clerk at the court, the Register of Wills at the Orphan's Court, and so forth. She was, in my opinion, a wonderful lady who, after grandmother Briscoe passed, came in and lived with us for about ten years. My grandmother Maddox was a dear person and what I liked about her was that, although I was a typical boy, she was very tolerant and very compassionate."

Audio 4. John Hanson Briscoe talk about his grandmothers:

Meme Briscoe Gillaspy: "I really didn't know grandmother Briscoe. My mother's mother, Addie Maddox, I recall well. She was my namesake, Adriana Cornelia Gough Maddox. She was remarkable; a wonderful, wonderful lady. I always say that mixing the generations was a wonderful experience for me with her. We read poetry together and played cards together. I always swore that friends who came to visit me really came to see Grandma first. She was such great company."

10. Grandmother Adriana Cornelia Gough Maddox and mother Hilda Maddox Briscoe.

John Hanson Briscoe: “This is a photo of grandmother Maddox and her daughter, my mother Hilda. Look at her apparel; Victorian; my God, with a choker, polka dot. She didn't believe in drinking. My father was an only child, raised as a Catholic, right. And she made him promise that he would never take a drink as long as she was alive. And I don't believe he did. His mother was very strict."

11. A reunion of members of the Loker, Gough, Dyer, and Maddox families at Solitude farm, in the 1910s. From left-to-right in each row: top row, William Meverell Loker, Mabell Ford Loker, Charlie Gough; second row, Addie Maddox (John Hanson’s grandmother), Mr. Dyer (from Baltimore), Ellen Dyer; third row, Ida Caroline Manning Ford, Oscar Gough, Katherine and Elizabeth Maddox (John Hanson’s aunts); fourth row, Roberta Hayden Gough holding Merrill Gough, and Hilda Maddox (John Hanson’s mother); fifth row, Massey Gough, John “Boonie” Maddox (John Hanson’s uncle), “Little Dyer” and Joe Marion “Buck” Gough; sixth row, Mrs. Morgan, Joseph T. Gough (a Confederate artillery veteran), Anne Elizabeth Gough; bottom row, Frances Loker, Corrinne Dyer, Giles Dyer, Leslie Loker, and unknown Dyer girl.

Laura Mae Mako: "Hilda, his mother, was the outgoing one. John H.T. Briscoe, on the surface, was very dull to be honest. But when you knew him he had a twinkle, he had a spark. John Briscoe was Hilda's child. His whole thinking; his whole attitude. After he was born, I remember seeing him as an infant, of course. But the first time I saw him and he was kind of with it, he was about three years old. I remember him coming shaking hands very formally at three. He was hardly walking but he had class and style."

11. John Hanson Briscoe, ca. 1940.

St. Mary's County Deals with the Depression

Charles E. Fenwick: "The Depression came and I got fired and I had to come back (from Baltimore). I didn't stay up there long but a lot of people came back that had been gone away from here so long that I didn't even know 'em. Everybody came back during the Depression. They came back home. All the local people had their own hogs and their own gardens and their own chickens. They could live on little or nothin' at home, but in Washington and Baltimore it cost money to live. So they had to come back home."

Audio 5. Charles E. Fenwick talks about the Great Depression:

Kennedy Abell said that family economic circumstances were unknown. "Nobody knew what Mr. Briscoe's ability was, and he had a large family. In those days everybody kind of got along. You didn't know who was up and who was down. You'd know who was really wealthy. Alan Coad was the most wealthy person in the Leonardtown area. But I don't think anybody was concerned with who had how much. Things weren't so great in the '30s. My dad was working in the bank but wasn't making a lot of money." Speaking about his current house, Kennedy explained, "That was not our family's then. Mr. Dick Norris, who owned the hardware store in town, built this in 1930. At that time money was pretty tight; things got real bad, so the house went to foreclosure. Aleck Loker bought the house

at foreclosure for $7,000."

Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall: “Oh, times were bad. We weren’t destitute, nobody we knew was but you didn’t have any money. Times were, there wasn’t a lot of money lying around. Back then if you had a quarter you knew where it was. It wasn’t the real depression but it was ours until the base came.”

George Peter Wigginton: "When I was very small we lived in Belvedere (the Wigginton farm on Medley's Neck). Came up here to Leonardtown later and lived with my grandparents. And later we lived in a small apartment on the road out of town here, Route 5. And mom and dad built a house in what's called Tudor Hall, a home in front of the old Tudor Hall building. Dad moved up to Washington and my brother and I unfortunately had to go to school there, but we came home every weekend, every holiday, and every summer." When asked to comment on the different lifestyles in and out of Leonardtown, he said "The kids didn't seem that different to me. We did not have any essential difference. Admittedly, there may have been physical differences; they didn't have electricity, still had outhouses, but we didn't mind. Those things didn't even cross our minds. We had chores and farm work, too, because both my father and grandfather made us. We had to clean out the stable, we'd help with the milking, we had to shell corn, we had to spread manure and we had to work the garden. And cut the grass, too."

12. Young men helping work the fields.

Tom Waring explains why his father moved the family back to its ancestral home in the 1930s: "My father came to the county in 1934 to escape the Depression in Chicago. In Chicago there was no food. There was nothing. There were bread lines. When I was ten,

I came back to the farm, South Hampton, and on the farm you raised enough to live on. We came back here and lived with an aunt. South Hampton was in Chaptico, attached to Deep Falls; about 300 or 400 acres. Everything was subsistence living. There was no difficulty getting anything; there was no demand. There was no such thing as rich people because they'd closed the banks. People went broke during the Depression and the people who had money during the Depression were mostly the merchants like Claude Guy. He actually acquired land and the people stayed on and lived on the land as tenants. Roosevelt closed the banks and so there was a lot of barter. At each crossroad there was usually a store, which was a central part of that district. In Chaptico there was Fowler. There was another at the post office that was Gough. And people would come there and buy gas, there was a gas pump. And the bigger the store, the more credit they would give. One of the biggest stores in the county was probably Claude Guy, at that crossroads that goes to Bushwood and comes through there."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "We didn't have a whole lot. I don't think we were poor. If we were poor we didn't know it because everybody else was in the same situation. It was during the Depression years. But with daddy having the movie theatre, even though it was during the Depression, people went to the movies. It was a relief. There was no television then. In the summertime they had the baseball games and going out on their boats. But going to the movies was, people went out to the movies on Christmas night and Easter Sunday. That was a big social event. It cost twenty- five cents for adults and fifteen cents for children. And daddy, his movie theatre was over the top of Uncle Roland's drug store which is where Cafe' des Artistes is, the big Duke building in Leonardtown. My father had two jobs because that's how business in the Depression was.

"Well now John Hanson was seven years younger than I and I can tell you I have bounced him on my lap. He also had beautiful blond curls; have you seen that picture? Oh my Lord, I swear I think he had that hair until he was about four years old."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We were all alike because we were poor families. We didn't have a whole lot. Now Johnny Briscoe may have because his father was a lawyer and a judge and all that. My father, John F. Mattingly, Sr. married my mother, Annie Jones, and they moved onto Potato Hill Farm in 1938 (located across the street from the Leonardtown Sunoco, it adjoins Clark's Rest). But you know what, honey, we were all in the same boat. I don't think many had riches in our class (at the Academy). We had fun, and we were a close class, I will say that. Very close class."

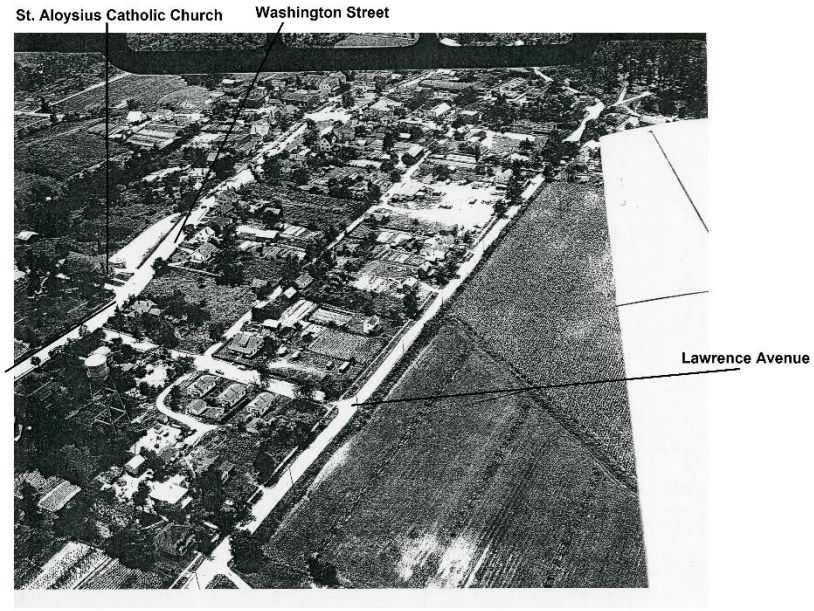
Norris Shepherd recalls that when he was growing up: "We helped one another. If we could help them."

Carolina Cecelia Thomas Countiss explained that her family's farm was between 200 or 300 acres. "It belonged to my family, but they lost it in the later years. It was rough; it was very rough. People didn't have no money. They didn't have nothing. It was hard times. Work on the farm; you didn't get nothing much. You got enough to eat by growing your own garden and everything. Some people went up to the city to work. There used to be a bus, a Greyhound bus that used to go back and forth to Washington every day. The bus had stops, you know, to meet people they'd stop and pick them up."

Lari Mako: "I grew up in Washington, D.C. I graduated from Georgetown Visitation. But all my summers were spent in Leonardtown. I stayed at my grandfather's house. You know where Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home is? That was my grandfather's house. He had on his property a well, a stable with seven horses in the barn, a chicken house, a huge garden, and a blacksmith shop. The contrast between Washington D.C. and Leonardtown was night and day in every way. I'll just tell you this one. I was at Georgetown and my friends were kind of, I guess you'd call them fancy compared to Southern Maryland, you know. But Uncle George was the oldest son and he never left home. He was still on the farm and he used to come after late Mass every Sunday to my grandfather's for a midday dinner. But he chewed tobacco and spit it into a bag. And I said to my grandfather ' Could you please not have Uncle George come because I have my friends down from Georgetown to visit.' And he said he wouldn't hear of it; it was just awful. He took us out on the Hollywood Road in a rubber-tired buggy and a scruffy man and a tired horse came down and my grandfather said, in front of my friends, 'this is your cousin'. It wasn't, but he just rubbed my nose in it. I was ready to kill him. It taught me to be what you are and accept it. Southern Maryland people have elegance. When I think about it, my grandfather never came to the table without a jacket or a coat on. In the hot summertime, it'd be a seersucker jacket."

Leonardtown and the Surrounding Roads

12. Postcard of Leonardtown.



13. An aerial photograph of old Leonardtown.

14. Old Leonardtown square, date unknown.

15. A postcard of the square in Leonardtown, with marks showing where the Briscoe's home on the north end of town was located.

Streets around Leonardtown in the 1930's were laid out much the way they are today. However, there was no Route 5 bypass. On coming south into Leonardtown, "the road either went left to the "North End" where the Briscoes lived, and then out to Leonard Hall, or went right into the downtown area. But the roads weren't nearly as wide as they are

today, and many of the side roads were gravel, not paved. Once you left town in any direction, there was not much more than farms and woods.

J. Frank Raley: "In the time that I was born the roads were in. It was built sometime in the 1920s to Baltimore. Actually the steamboat stopped in 1934. I do remember my father taking me on the boat, though; the boat was still running and I do remember boarding the boat and... you had a state room,.... it would leave at night and you'd arrive in Baltimore sometime in the morning and down where Harbor Place is now is where the boat would come in."

Ann Camalier Wathen: "You have to understand, people really didn't have cars much in those days. They walked. A few people had cars, and you could borrow a car. But of course you couldn't borrow a car every day; and then, since there weren't many cars, not everybody knew how to drive a car."

Charles Fenwick: "While I was in high school I worked for Dillow and Hayden's Bakery....wholesale and retail bakery in Leonardtown. I worked in the afternoon after school and I drove a bread truck on Saturday to Cedar Point and Piney Point and Saint George's Island. They'd just built a bridge to Saint George's Island and they hadn't built any roads over there so you're out of one mud hole and into the next mud hole and you had to ... You carried a shovel and an ax and shoveled a little hole and cut a pine bush and put it under the wheel. Got out of that one and then you're in another one. They was somethin. When it snowed, it was terrible. Course you had to use chains. Didn't have any snow tires. Had to put chains on that old Model T. Of course you had to crank that Model T every time you stopped at a store. Didn't have any battery; it had a magneta. You had to spin it to get the magneta workin enough to start the thing. When it rained, though, we did have a windshield wiper but you had to take your hand and do that to it [moves hand in front of face and laughs]. Wasn't anything automatic, you had to hand wipe it."

"I served bread at Cedar Point for ... well, I started out when I was, I think, twelve, driving that bread truck or somethin like that. I didn't have any license, but we didn't have any cops down here either. So, there was no cops down here. A cop came down once a month to give you a license to drive a car and course he would never be here on a Saturday when I was drivin that bread truck."

Audio 6. Charles Fenwick talks about driving his bread truck around St. Mary's County:

Alfred Mattingly: "The residential area of Leonardtown was off of Washington Street, on Church and Pope Streets. My grandfather's brother, William D. Mattingly, had a blacksmith shop there. He also had a John Deere dealership on Lawrence Avenue. Dr. Greenwell had an office back there, and the fire department was located in what is now the Knights of Columbus on Pope and Fenwick streets. The building now owned by Judge Karen Abrams, currently occupied by Dan Guenther, was the original St. Mary's hospital. The site currently occupied by Father Andrew White School was part of the Academy property, but it was all fields back then."

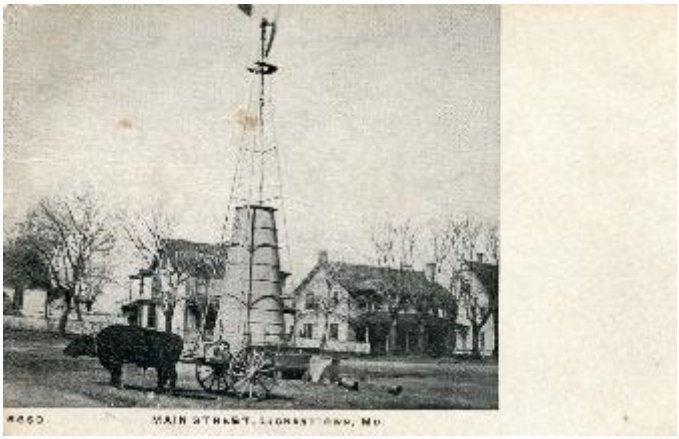
Alfred Mattingly: "This was all farm field. The church that's over the side off of the hospital by the Emergency Room, that was all barns. Tobacco barns and a cattle barn and there was another cattle barn over where the hospital is. All of this was just farm fields from here up." Referring to the bottom of Wharf Hill, "Lawrence Thrift, who had Thrift Oil Company, lived there. And the Thrift Oil Business was right here; they had oil tanks and office buildings back there. There was a Leonardtown bar here. And the locals, they had a dock here and they kept the fishing boats down here. The guys all had boats and they'd fish and go out together. There was an ice plant over here. They made ice; they'd haul and ship it out within the county. They used it for refrigerators; well, they called them ice boxes then. And a lot of businesses used ice, like restaurants. Back when they used the root cellar ice, they cut off that ice from ponds in the winter and stored it; that was mostly done locally. Then there was an ice cream shop, too. Esso had tanks and a dock down here and they brought the fuel in on barges."

"The thing that I've always found quite fascinating was all of the roads that went through the woods don't exist anymore. If you had an aerial photograph that was taken back in the '30s, during the winter, it would show the roads because the leaves would be off the trees. We used to be able to ride on back roads and you could get anywhere you wanted; we never had to use the main roads. We would go over to where my grandfather's place is and we could just ride through the woods."

Lari Mako: "The best part of town was where the Briscoe's and the Lokers lived, and where my grandfather's family, the Mattingly's, owned Racetrack Farm. My grandfather was there originally, but then he bought a small hotel that was in Leonardtown and moved the house around to the back street. But, of course to me it was the important street; I loved it. It was a big deal to drive down here from Washington. I remember the road had a hump in it. When we had the wharf, I had come down with my mother on the old paddle boat, The Dorchester. It went between Leonardtown and Washington."

In his book on Leonardtown, Aleck Loker referred to an editorial in The St. Mary's Enterprise from April of 1928: "Hurrah! For old Leonardtown! Isn't she booming - everything the city has, she has also - electricity, water supply, ice plant, two of the finest newspaper publishers, fire department, stores of every kind, auto sales departments as well as the best repair shops, churches of the most popular kind, laundry, hotels of the finest kind, bus service from there to Washington, D. C. Also freight route to Washington and Baltimore, post office, two banks of the best kind, and a fine court house and a jail to take care of all unworthys and the best of all she is still growing larger every day." He notes that street lights had been installed in much of Leonardtown by 1927.

Travelling east from Leonardtown, near SMECO - Alfred Mattingly: "All of these were farms, both sides of the road. Leonardtown Baptist Church was a Hayden farm. Where SMECO is located and where Wayne Davis is today, the site of the new school, all Hayden's. Nace, Spencer, and Bradley Hayden. All of these brothers had farms here. They were big farms back then. It took a lot of people to take care of a farm back then, horses and a lot of hired help. If you had a big farm, you would have pretty much had to have three or four houses for people to live in. You needed people to work the teams of horses."



16. "Main Street, Leonardtown."

Robert Wigginton describes old Leonardtown this way: Route 5 going north from Saunder's store was a single lane, no sidewalks. The only place of significance going north was the St. Mary's hospital, then nothing but farm land. Similarly, after you drove through the square in town and turned left at Duke's corner to continue south, "nothing was there". From Saunder's store, driving east into the North End you had a stretch of homes that included the Briscoe home. "Leonard Hall Naval Academy was out there. That was the end. A couple little houses here and there, but nothing else. It was farm land."

Alfred Mattingly: "The road leaving town towards Washington was a single lane, paved, all the way. All of the main roads were paved. Now over on Cedar Lane road, which is a country road, that road wasn't paved. It was gravel part of the way and the rest of it was mud."

Norris Shepherd: "Well at that time you didn't travel far and we lived on a peninsula so it wasn't like you passed through. You go out, you had to come back in that same way you came in and that's the way it was."

Al Gough: "My parents lived right where the new St. Mary's nursing home is, in a house my father's father built in 1909, 1910. And he and mom lived there. We were located on what is called Washington Street, going north out on Route 5. It was Saunders' store. There was redhead Frank Combs' home; he owned and ran the Leonardtown wharf. There was the hospital, our home and then Webster Bell's home. Alan Coad lived out where George Clark's farm was, which is now being developed. His house used to be on a hill out there but there's no longer a hill. Going north, it was a single lane road. There wasn't much traffic to speak of on it. And the yards that you see now, I mean the yards extended out a lot further; they've been removed.

"Roads were paved. In fact, the road from what they called Plankbridge Run, was one of the first paved roads in the state. There was a plank bridge there at one time, out where the winery is now. From there to the end of Leonardtown, it was an experiment. I think they thought that if it failed, it was far enough out and nobody would know the difference.

But Governor Crothers came down here in 1909, somewhere in that area, and celebrated this stretch of road and the road was being built all the way up into Mechanicsville that early. There's a picture of him in front of where Ernie Bell's office is now in an ox cart, symbolizing the end of the ox cart era and the start of the modern era.

"They always said Leonardtown was divided into three sections - the Wharf Rats [down by Breton Bay], the Democrats [off of Church and Pope Streets], and the Aristocrats [the North End]."

Tom Waring: "We were ten miles out of Leonardtown. The infrastructure was all farm, bisected by two or three paved roads. The Chaptico-Leonardtown road that went up to Budds Creek went right through there. There was another one. Chaptico was a crossroads. You had one that came down through the Seventh District and skirted down there and came through. The one from Chaptico to Helen was paved. So that'll give you the four roads that came in there. And it was strictly just what you'd expect, a very, very agriculturally oriented community. The only two sources of income was tobacco, and you raised your corn for your livestock that you fed because you used oxen and horses to pull the equipment, and that was it. As a child, I very seldom traveled into Leonardtown. Frankly, I don't remember getting to Leonardtown much before I could drive. We made it down to Chaptico; Fowler had a store there. We were self-sufficient on the farm. Now, the stores would sell shoes and you'd order clothing through Sears and Roebuck."

Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss: "We did not own a car, we had a buggy. Very seldom did we ever go to Leonardtown. The roads were ok; it wasn't as wide, they were narrow. Years ago there used to be a house here and there. You could even walk a mile sometimes before you'd see a house. At that time you didn't see no houses or nothing. There was very few people living around." If someone did want to go into town or the base to work "There would be some people going down there to work and you'd pay them" for a lift.

Audio 7. Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss talks about the changes in St. Mary's County:

Growing Up

John Hanson Briscoe: "For a young man growing up in a county that had not developed, I didn't realize at the time that I was very fortunate. I could walk from my house (across from the current Brinsfield Funeral Home, which was at the time owned by Doctor Camalier) walk out of the driveway and onto a sidewalk. Back in the 'forties, a lot of people didn't have that opportunity; they didn't live in a sidewalk community. I could walk right down past the little local store where you could get miscellaneous things (Saunder's) and just keep on that sidewalk and go all the way down to Leonardtown. It would take me about ten minutes to arrive at Duke's Drugstore. And that is where I would meet my buddies."

Audio 8. John Hanson Briscoe describing life in Leonardtown:

Audio 9. John Hanson Briscoe talks to Brad Gottfried about life in Leonardtown:

Lari Mako: "I knew everybody that lived in Leonardtown. I visited everybody that lived in every house. There's not a house in Leonardtown that I didn't visit. Like, this is besides the point, but Mrs. Ruth Sterling had 18 children; she used to bake rolls on Thursday. I just always happened to be there. It finally got to the point where she'd bake an extra pad for me because she knew I'd be there. That's a little description of the town."

William Aleck Loker, Sr. “As far as I was concerned, at the time that I got old enough to realize what times were like, they were perfect. It was an ideal place then, and for many years thereafter. We were very friendly people and kind people, especially to the wants and needs of, of others in the community and it was a wonderful community to live in, especially for youngsters. There was very little, if any, crime. And by and large it was just a wonderful place, in my opinion. At least it appeared to me that way.”

Ann Camalier Wathen: "I would say growing up in Leonardtown, you couldn't hardly beat it. You couldn't do anything bad because if you did somebody would see and tell your mommy and daddy, and by the time you got home you knew you were going to get it. We didn't get any whippings or anything like that, but if my father raised his voice that was it. That didn't happen very often, though, if he raised his voice at you, oh...I was very happy in Leonardtown. If it was dark in the wintertime or whatever, and we were doing homework, and I said to my mother 'Oh, I used my last sheet of paper', she would say 'Here, take this money, go down to Mr. Nuthall’s store, buy some paper, and come on home.' You could do that. Everybody was very friendly, very nice. I don't see how it could be any better than what we had. Religion was a big part of our growing up, too. You went to church, and they told you what to do and what not to do. We definitely listened, so that made a lot of difference in our lives. I couldn't have had a better childhood."

Audio 10. Ann Camalier Wathen talks about growing up in Leonardtown:

Jeanette Dakis remembers Leonardtown as “a wonderful place to grow up in. I really do. Of course it was so small at that time, you know, it only had the theater and the drugstore. Those were the only two things that were really in town. But to me it was wonderful. We had a lot of friends and a lot of family, my father had three brothers that were in Leonardtown and they all had sort of big families. Most of my family stayed in Leonardtown, some left and some were like my brother and went into the service. I think Leonardtown was a great place to be raised in, I really do. But today worries me, the way things are going today, it really does worry me.”

Peter Wigginton: "Going to church was an integral part of life. People tend to forget how intense the Catholicism was down here. It was the second most Catholic county population-wise in the entire United States. And Catholicism, in retrospect, permeated our life, and church life had a lot to do with our total life. We had Jesuit Fathers and they were brilliantly educated, courtly, in the main, courtly, gentlemanly men. And they provided spiritual and somewhat cultural leadership. We had, essentially, what has been called 'God's Marine Corps', intellectually, brilliantly educated Jesuits. Some of the finest men I've ever met."

Audio 11. Eleanor Duke Storck on growing up in Leonardtown:

Asked about what it was like growing up in Pearson, Larry Millison said: “Well, in a community like that everybody worked. In other words, kids that were five, six years old, all had jobs to do. A little bit different than your society today. Everybody took care of chickens, or they milked the cows, or they helped with the harvest and the crops, or-- my father was a merchant and we worked in the store. Or you cut firewood, or if you didn't have runnin’ water, you toted water. And uh everyone had a job to do. And was glad to do it, you know. Really and truly, young children in those days worked like, worked like what a young adults would work today. Virtually no one got an allowance or anything. And this was expected. Like tobacco was a big crop on Cedar Point, and livestock farming and making hay, things like that. And just everybody worked. I mean, if your father was a waterman, you worked on the water. It was a very proud thing to do. In other words, it was a, the kind of community where men tried to outdo each other on how much they could pick up. Or young boys, how much they could pick up. Or how fast they could run, or how good they could fight. You know, it was a very physical community, where there were those, the ability to work hard and to be strong physically, was very important in the community. It was a form of standing in the community.”

Audio 12. Larry Millison talks about growing up in St. Mary’s County:

Norris Shepherd was born in 1931 in a house on Great Mills Road: "I started to stay with my grandmother and grandfather, John and Ada Norris. When I was only four years old, which I don't remember when it started, but I was the third of six and I guess we were getting too many to have and my mother couldn't take care of us. So I was put there and it wasn't too long after that that my brother, he went to DC and stayed with my grandmother Shepherd. I was with the Norris' but he was with Grandmother Shepherd. He lived with them for awhile until he went back to Hollywood. When I was young I had a brother and a sister that had tuberculosis and then I had it. I was carried away in first grade and my brother and sister was already away, in State sanitarium. And it was out in Western Maryland, in the mountains. When I got out the first grade of school, they took me out one Sunday where I thought I was going to visit them but they left me there at the sanitarium. I don't know. When I come back home it seemed like we'd just stay here and

stay there and stay at other places. I mean, my grandfather died in 1942, and I remember the same as if just two minutes ago because I idolized that man."

"But we never locked the door. And you could take your billfold out and lay it right there. I know when I was working for SMECO, just started and what not, that you could have taken your billfold and laid it up on the board now this morning, went out and worked on jobs, come back, and you know where your billfold would be? Laying right there where you left it. You didn't need somebody to tell you, but you can't do that now. And I don't believe I knew where the key was to lock the door at home because you didn't do it."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "That's kind of rough. He's had a hard life. And you know what he says right to this day, he should write a book. He was "farmed out". Yeah, that's right. He's lived a hard life, let's put it that way."

Audio 13. Norris and Betty Mattingly Shepherd reflect back on growing up in old St. Mary's County:

St. Mary's Hotels

John Hanson Briscoe said: "My mother and sisters, three beautiful looking Leonardtown ladies, used to go there (St. Mary's Hotel in Leonardtown) socially. When they went in together, they'd take the oxygen out of the air.

17. Adrianna Cornelia "Meme" Briscoe.

18. Maria Louisa "Lou" Briscoe.

"They always said that Lou looked like one of the Andrews sisters. It was a wonderful great little social place to go. And I remember as a kid, growing up before I went away to college, you know I wasn't supposed to be drinking but I did, down below that hotel. That's where the bar was; it was about three feet below the sidewalk. You took a couple of steps down and there was the bar, the barber shop, cocktail lounge. I used to date the daughter of the lady bartender, and I could get booze."

Audio 14. John Hanson Briscoe and Kennedy Abell talk about the St. Mary's Hotel together:

The St. Mary's Hotel was located on the south side of the Leonardtown Square between Duke's and the old First National Bank building. Before it burned down, it was owned by Kennedy Abell's family.

19. An advertisement for the St. Mary's Hotel.

Per Kennedy Abell "This was a description of the hotel facilities saying that this was both a winter and a summer resort. Rates were $2.00 per day. Reasonable rate reduction by the week. It was well appointed; offered hunting, fishing, bathing, boating, gas steam heat and baths because it had very up to date heating systems in it. It was the only hotel in this area. This was a form of advertisement as a resort, but Leonardtown was also the county seat, and the court was here. There would be a celebration during court week; everybody would come to town, horse-drawn, cars, everywhere. And the hotel would just fill right up. If guests wanted to go hunting, they would be told they could go to such and such farm. They could make a call and make an arrangement for a time to go duck hunting or fox hunting. They would have a facility and have the fox hounds for you. Fishing was arranged the same way; a lot of boats were around and they could take a fishing party out of right here in Leonardtown. Generally you would have a name given to you, 'go to Mr. Goddard or Mr. So and so'. Or guests could go swimming down in Breton Bay."

20. St. Mary's Hotel.

21. St. Mary's Hotel.

22. St. Mary's Hotel Drawing.

23. St. Mary's Hotel about 1940.

24. Basement Entrance of the St. Mary's Hotel. L-R: Mary Oliver, Jackie Ratledge, Kennedy Abell, Naomi Mattingly.

Kennedy mentions that the basement of the hotel had a bar and lounge where they also sold coca colas and sandwiches there; and even a little bit of gambling occurred downstairs.

25. St. Mary's Hotel burning down on June 8, 1956.

26. Bystanders look on at the St. Mary's Hotel fire, June , 1956.

Dr. John Francis Fenwick remembers his own childhood business venture at St. Mary's Hotel: "I remember at the St. Mary's Hotel, Kennedy Abell's mother and father ran that hotel. And I used to go down and catch oysters down the hill off of Hanover and go out and get enough to shuck a couple of quarts and take them up and sell them to Mrs. Abell

at the hotel after I had caught them and shucked them for 25 cents a quart. Good money."

Audio 15. Dr. Fenwick talks about selling oysters to the St. Mary's Hotel:

Larry Millison: "St. Mary's County was full of those type of old hotels. Point Lookout Hotel was that way, Tolson's Hotel at Piney Point. Old wooden structures that city people would come down, what we call city people, people from Washington, would come down and vacation here. Those kind of hotels wouldn't be acceptable today, but they were, old hotels overlooking the water, with big porches. Big dining rooms were usually included with the price of the room; as was your dinner and your breakfast and your lunch. They prided themselves on very abundant tables. The tables would groan when they would put this, the dinners down on 'em. They made big crab cakes, and big fish dinners and big chicken dinners. That was their specialty. And homemade biscuits. All those kinda hotels had that kinda food. You know, there was no prepared food, as we know today, or institutionalized food as we know today. It was all home cooking. They all competed for who had the best food. And I don't know who had the clean kitchens in those days. Health department-- I don't know if there even was a health department in those days. Usually the kitchens were staffed with local cooks. Lot of 'em would bring their children with 'em, and a lot of 'em lived on the premises, or lived within sight of where they worked. And it seemed like there was always a dog runnin out the back door of the kitchen, and always a bunch of chickens waitin' in the backyard because they would throw the scraps from the table and scraps from the preparation out in the yard. Chickens would hang around eat 'em. If the chickens got too big, we'd eat the chickens."

Audio 16. Larry Millison talks about the old hotels in St. Mary's County:

J. Frank Raley: (Speaking of his father's bar and restaurant in Ridge): "After my father opened up that, his business, he served meals and they were quite good they were all home cooked and my mother they worked like dogs, you know to make it. They worked night and day to run the bar and the restaurant. It was a great, always a great time when the drummers came; you know what a drummer is? They're salesmen, that's what they used to call them. And when the drummers came to visit to sell you whatever hardware and all the other things to the, when the drummers came down and particularly knowing, they used to always stay at my father's place and sometimes at my Aunt Lila's, too. That was always kind of an uplifting time, you know, they were, they seemed to be very sophisticated people from the city and seemed to have money in their pocket.

"I often look back on seeing it and seeing the great social feelings and enjoyment that people would have of coming out, seemed to come out to my father's bar on a Saturday night was a big event, but and they would, they had, always had a juke box there and they, my mother would serve sandwiches and people would dance and it was a very...And then in the, in the daytime it was a place where many people, I used to love to see 'em as a little, my father did not like my brother and I to stay around the bar, but we

always wanted to because we wanted to hear what was going on and 'cause in those days when somebody had come in off the lighthouse or somebody had gone hunting or somebody had some event that happened they would come into the bar and people would talk and we always wanted to hear it. It was a great place for social interaction.

"You had to do lots of chores. We also were having wood stoves then. My brother and I had to do more than that. We had to shuck oysters for the restaurant, and kill chickens and pick 'em for the restaurant. But it was all fresh, they get fresh chickens. And we had to of course help get the wood in too for the, particularly for the boarders we had to get, bring the wood in and pile it by the stove every night. So yes, we had lots of chores. As I said my parents had to work awfully hard and this was pretty true whether they were, my father was in business and actually was, and another thing he made a little bit better living too than average people were down here. But everybody had to work pretty hard, children all, that were on farms...they spent every moment working. A lot of 'em in those days would drop out of school in eighth grade to work on the farm."

Duke's

Duke's soda fountain was located in the first main area of the present Duke's Building, where the Cafe des Artistes is located now. You went there for tobacco, cigarettes, and comic books. Where the Cafe today has its bar counter, that was the soda fountain.

John Hanson Briscoe: "We had little stools we sat up and got soft drinks".

Peter Wigginton: "Duke's was a great place. Everything was going on there. Mr. Roland Duke started building that place on the corner; he planned to do it in '29 and then the stock market crashed. Mr. Duke said ' Oh, no. I'm not giving up on this. I can make a go with this."

"Now my great-granddaddy's store used to stand where Duke's is now. His name was William Aleck Loker. He was born in 1829. And he walked to Leonardtown as a young man and clerked in stores when he was 15-16 and then built his own store. He died in '02 and his old store sat there and they demolished it and built Duke's."

"There was food and it was delicious food. There was a cook there named Liz who made a bean soup and it was known all around the county as being the best bean soup that was ever prepared anywhere. And Liz's bean soup was a great gastronomic subtlety that we all enjoyed."

Priscilla Wentworth Duke Hall speaking of the plan her Uncle Roland had when he built Duke's: "I don't know what his plan was, all my early life it was a drug store that the kids would hang out after school and stuff. It had a separate bar that sold alcohol and it had this long center walkway that you went up the whole length practically of the building where the bookstore is now. But then you walked up there and that's where my father started the movies, upstairs. It was this long hall and when we had the movies, I was young but we all helped back in those days, children helped and you walked down this long hall. Then there was this big wide staircase and there was the movies, on the second floor. And you had, I think it's still there, you could walk out of the movies, they

had a safety exit and it was just a roof but it had a railing on it. So it was fairly hot in the movies, sometimes you had to walk out there and get a breath of fresh air.

“There was a projection box that you could crawl up on. Film came in sections of film in these big heavy metal boxes and my father would go to Washington and that’s when we would get a ride to go to Washington. He went three times a week or at least twice a week because one movie would only run two or three days. Then you’d change to the next movie but they had a projectionist. Not a full time job but he had to be up there when it was running cause you had to go from one reel of film to another and try not to make a break in between. I’m sure that never happens in modern day film but my father stayed right there right until before Pearl Harbor. Most nights the theater would be pretty packed because in 1941 Patuxent River was beginning to be built, there was nothing in Lexington Park, no country store. Eventually little by little they got stuff but still no movies so ours got packed. Some young guys, working people or sailors, it was the place to go for any kind of entertainment as well as the only place where you could see or meet anybody.”

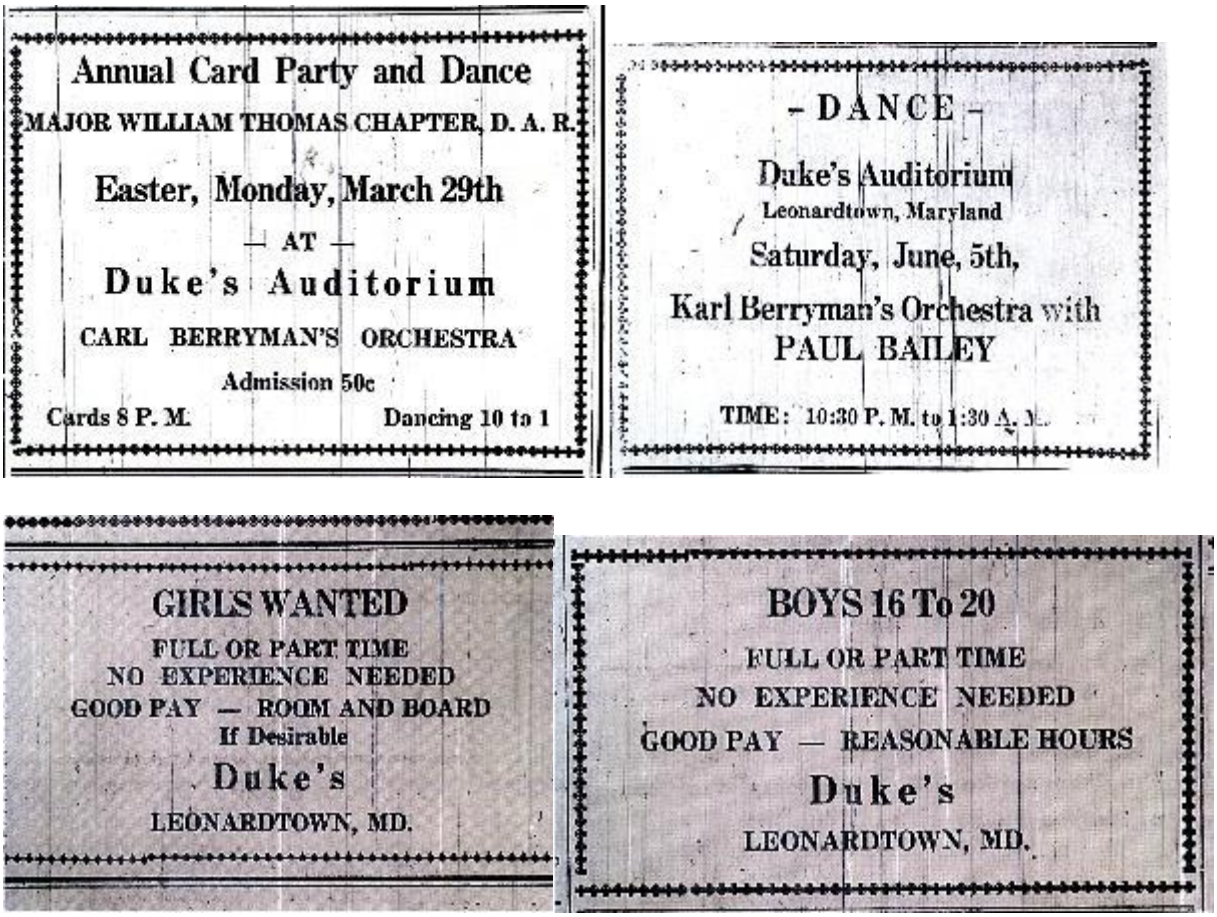
Eleanor Duke Storck: "My father was very, very fortunate. He was kind of an entrepreneur. He started the movie business way back before the silent...like the nickelodeon, right down the hill from the Sterling House which now houses The Front Porch. That big red brick building. That was where my Uncle Roland eventually lived. But that house used to be the town hall; but apparently when daddy started the movies, the old time silent films, they were in that building. Well then Uncle Roland built the big Duke building. The movies changed two or three times a week. That's why people went to the movies all the time. You went into that Duke building and then in the back, behind where Cafe' des Artistes is, there was a long arcade and when you walked through that arcade, you went up those steps and the movie theatre was up there. Well in the summertime he had some sort of fan or something because there wasn't any air conditioning then. I'm talking in the 30's up until '41. You could hear...he'd turn on this switch and it'd go (makes noise) or something like that. A tremendous fan would come on and it would create a nice breeze. The theatre was a sloping floor with a curtain that closed and opened. The theatre was used for a lot of things. But daddy had his movies, back in the 30's, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and maybe Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. After the movies were over on a night like Christmas night, either the Knights of Columbus or the American Legion or some other organization would have a dance. So they'd collapse all those chairs and move them over and Paul Bailey had a band, three or four of them in a band. So that was a big thing.”

"And then Uncle Roland had what we called the drug store, but he was not a pharmacist. It was a drug store but there was booze in there. You could sit up at the counter and there was a nickelodeon and we all gathered there. That was kind of our social place. Then you went in the back, towards that arcade, and over there was that bar. Duke's bar. And then you kept walking and you went up the steps to daddy's theatre.”

"And then during World War II, when my father had moved to another building, that's where the bowling alley was built.

"To get back to daddy, he and mother took a terrific chance. He and mother decided, I

guess in early 1941, let's say January, that they were going to build a new, modern theatre; sloping seats, a movie theatre, the whole bit. And guess when that theatre opened. Three days after Pearl Harbor. December 10th, 1941. If he had tried to build that theatre say six months later, he couldn't have gotten the labor. And he couldn't have gotten the steel. All of that would have been going into the war effort. Wasn't he lucky? "



27. Advertisements for Duke's.

28. Parade in front of Duke's Theatre.

Kennedy Abell: “And whoever was in town hung out at Duke's Fountains Restaurant. He had soft drinks and milk shakes at the Depression counter at the bar. I would have been between twelve and fifteen at the time. When we were in Duke's you'd see John; you know he loved to play slot machines. They were all over town, these slot machines. He'd stop at Duke's; but if he stopped at the Esso station going north out of town on his paper route, they had slot machines.”

Ann Camalier Wathen: "Duke's Restaurant, we went there every day, most of the girls. We met there after school and we would have our little Coca Cola, and have our little chats, and then we would go on home. "

Lari Mako: "That's where everybody went; that was like a magnet. You had Coca Colas there. I don't know how they ever made any money because everybody....you would only have like twenty-five cents for the evening and that would have to take care of the movie and the after. Every Saturday night you had to have a date for Duke's. Duke’s was the hub of the community."

Alfred and Joan Mattingly: "Duke's Corner was the meeting place. Everybody parked on the corner. Most of the time they'd park on the circle where you weren't supposed to park. They'd never use the parking spaces. They had to keep a place open for the Greyhound Bus that came every day."

Norris Shepherd: "That was the little bit of entertainment we had. You'd go to one theatre and of course your quarter to get in. And then when they built the New Theatre across the other way and what not, then you could try to hit two of them together. Bowled at Duke's, too. I don't know if it was a quarter a game, I don't remember. Most of the time we played and rolled the duck. The small pins. Very seldom did we ever roll the big ones. Now when I got older, and even when Esperanza was built over there, it was the big ones.”

The North End and Race Track Farm

Al Gough: (describing who lived where on the North End) "You had Saunders’ Store. Then you had Mr. E. J. Waring who ran the Leonardtown Implement Company. The next house, which is now Brinsfield's, was Doctor and Mrs. Frank Camalier. Then the next house was the Ben Drury house. Then across from the Drury house was Judge Briscoe, where Johnny grew up. Then you had Judge Loker's home where all the Loker family grew up. Then you had a big house, where Rob Mattingly is now, was Ms. Bessie Mattingly. Then there was a little house where Moakley Mattingly, Sr. and his family lived. Then you had Abell Longmore’s house and then John Gardiner's house. Then there was Judge Dorsey and then I guess after Dorsey would have been Judge Joe Weiner's house. I guess that's it for that side."

Alfred Mattingly: "This is how Race Track Farm got its name. In the Spring, and again in the Summer, when they had court, people would bring their horses to town to get them bred. They also raced them. They'd race from Leonardtown up the road to a mile post and back. The mile post was at Mile Post Lane. I was always told that there was a huge old oak tree right here (between Mile Post and Mattingly Streets) and that was the mile, at

that tree. That was across Race Track Farm."

Al Gough: "Back in the 1800s and into the 1900s there was a race track in this area and Mile Post Lane gets its name from, supposedly, the mile post that was there. There are accounts of races being held here. There was a wooden fence around the race track to keep people away from climbing oversold that they could get in for free. They coated it with tar."

Alfred Mattingly: "My dad was a farmer. My grandfather, James F. Mattingly, had a lot of property around town. My grandfather lived in the big yellow house on the corner of Washington Street and Doctor's Crossing. Where today you can see heavy equipment parked, there used to be a cow barn, a horse stable and chicken houses. They cut and hauled wood. And he hauled fertilizer, freight, and coal out of Baltimore. My father and grandfather had the trucks; they hauled cattle and hogs and grain up the road and brought products down the road like fertilizer, lumber, or whatever people wanted. But they also farmed.

"We had a farm on Cedar Lane, too. A lot of times we went over there on horses through the woods. Behind Leonard Hall, which was a short cut, we'd bring our horses right through the woods from the back side of Leonard Hall over to our farm on Cedar Lane, because we farmed on both Leonard Hall and at The Academy, too. I guess that path is still there. You could take a tractor through but you couldn't take a car through. The horse and wagon is the most you could get through; it was less of a strain on the horses to shoot them through the woods as opposed to going all the way around on the roads. It was a 'woods road'."

"In the winter time they cut and hauled a lot of wood. Piles you could hardly see over. A lot of it then was cut by cross cut saws. All of it was hand driven. You'd take a pair of horses out in the woods and cut the wood and load it onto a wagon and bring it in. Sometimes you'd take two loads a day. And nobody ever took water with them; you drank water out of the streams back then. I was amazed as I got older seeing people taking bottled water someplace.

Audio 17. Alfred Mattingly talks about the Mattingly family business:

"In the back end of the Single Tree development, this was all part of what we farmed. This was all field. A lot of times, during the winter, we'd come out here and get the pine chaff, when we didn't have other things to do, and we'd put it in a cart or wagon. It made good bedding for the hogs. Most all of this (the area comprising Single Tree and behind the hospital) was fields. This was part of Buena Vista. My grandfather bought the property from Alan Coad, the state senator."

Staying Warm in Winter

Loretta Beavan Norris recalls what family's like hers had to do for heating in the winter: "There were two or three furnaces in Leonardtown. I remember the Hamilton's

had coal and the St. Mary's Hotel had coal. My grandfather [James F. Mattingly] had a bunch of laborers; they and my brothers would go down to the Leonardtown wharf and haul coal from the wharf and pack it under the Hotel St. Mary's. The Hamilton's had a floor furnace in the middle of their house and they had coal that they heated the house with. The coal furnace was built under the first floor. Heat came up through the grates in the front hall. There were no heat elements of any kind on the second floor. The heat just rose up the staircase; it was very, very open and a very easy house to heat."

29. From left-to-right: Stanton Beavan, Loretta Beavan, and Jimmie Beavan sitting on a hillside along Route 244.

Audio 18. Loretta Beavan Norris talks about her and other's heating for their homes:

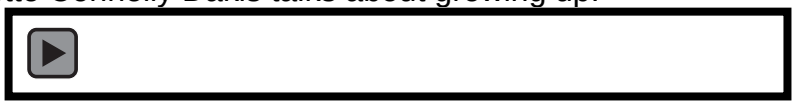
Alfred Mattingly: "My father hauled coal out of Baltimore. He used a flatbed truck, not a dump truck. When he brought it down, it got delivered. He didn't unload it until we went to two or three houses, depending on what the orders were. I remember as a kid putting coal in Judge John H. T. Briscoe's house. We put coal down the chute into the basement. Just shoveled it off of the truck. Judge Loker and the Hamiltons, they all had coal furnaces."

Lari Mako: "We had a wood stove. You sat around the stove or a fireplace. The fireplace you'd have in the spring. In the winter, they'd put a wood stove in the fireplace. You'd set the stove and put the wood in it and you'd sit around it. There was one in the living room; there was one in the dining room; and one up in their bedrooms, I think. We used to use

bricks wrapped in stuff; all the help used to warm the beds with bricks."

Jeanette Connelly Dakis: “My house was heated by wood mainly and one of those oil space heaters. Where we slept upstairs in the house there was no heat. When you got dressed in the winter, you grabbed your clothes, ran downstairs and put your clothes on down by the heater and the wood was really mainly that, that was the big thing. Mother did all the cooking on the wood stove and we had a well out in the yard and we had to bring the water in buckets. It’s unbelievable for the children of today. To take a bath you had to do it with a basin, I mean we had a washtub that we took our bath in, and we’d heat the water, take the bucket upstairs and then take the buckets of hot water upstairs and take a bath. Which we didn’t do real often, maybe every three days was about it. There were 13 of us in my family and I was the youngest out of the 13. I was well taken care of, with all the older ones. But no you had to learn how to share and to conserve what you had. That was all that there was to it. We had an outhouse when I was a younger girl and that was no pleasure either believe me. I hate spiders and there was always spiders in the outhouse but when you stop and think about how times have changed, the conveniences you have today, it’s unbelievable to when we were younger but my mother did a tremendous job as far as I’m concerned.”

Audio 19. Jeanette Connelly Dakis talks about growing up:



Ann Camalier Wathen: "We just had an old wood stove. That's what a lot of people had. Then we got the other kind of standing stove, but they weren't much though. Didn't give out much heat."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "We had a furnace down in the cellar. We didn't say basement. It was a dug out cellar that was part of the house. I guess it would be under where the dining room was. And Daddy would come down early in the morning and stoke that fire and get it going. It was a big furnace and it was wood. He would have wood delivered. I guess it was Moakley Mattingly or somebody that would come with their saw. It was like great big, they were like trunks of a tree; and then they would cut that wood and then we would throw it down in the cellar. Then that heat would come up.”

"My parents' house, "Eldon", that house is the same floor plan as the Sterling's house (today's Front Porch Restaurant) but the Sterling house is much larger. Well anyway, you know how the double parlor doors are there, if you go? And of course over on the left side is the Sterling's dining room; well, we didn't do that, but Sterling had something like 18 children. Well anyway there was a grate and you stood on that grate to get warm and the heat came up right there. It went straight up and there was the landing to the second floor. Maybe that was good in a way because maybe that helped circulate it around. But then we also had wood stoves. We had a wood stove in the dining room and in the library. We didn't say den, we said library. And if it was the morning and it was real, real cold, we'd come downstairs to get dressed. And Marie Kane, who worked for us, we had a big wood stove out in the kitchen and she'd come in and get the fire going in the dining room. But then after a while we just used the fireplace and the cellar. "

“We had a gas hot water heater in the kitchen that was somehow hooked to the plumbing I don’t know much about that part and it was electrical, so we had hot water but had it in this big tank thing in the kitchen but then it moved down to the basement where the new furnace is down there. When we remodeled we took out most of the furnace but not all of it, I mean it was a big metal thing in the corner and it’s just a cellar. It had cement floor and cement walls.”

Before they had a gas heater, Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall said they got their heat from wood stoves. “There was a stove in my parent’s room. A wood stove and we’d get to run in there in the morning and get dressed for school and then run downstairs to the kitchen where Marie Kane had the wood stove going which was a cook stove also.”

“Well anyway one night Lucille Abell had a party and it snowed. We had to spend the night because it was down deep in the woods, the house was down like two miles of narrow gravel road so the parents weren’t gonna come get us. We all spent the night and I can remember Mrs. Abell coming in, I don’t think they had any heat but she was putting another blanket and another blanket, it was just funny, we giggled about it all night.”

Dr. John Fenwick notes how they heated his home at Hanover Farm: “Wood. We had a kitchen stove and a pot belly stove in our living room. On Sunday’s that was lit, otherwise it wasn’t. We lived in the kitchen other than when you went to bed. The stove upstairs was attached to the same chimney as the stove in the kitchen. And that was only lit if somebody was ill.”

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: When asked if they kept the fire going pretty much all the time, "Daggone right, and we didn't have no heated bedrooms. Daddy had brought a big wood stove and had it in the dining room. Now we did have a fireplace in the living room, and that stove would heat. But the next morning the fire would be down, and let me tell you something, I've gotten out of bed a many of times and the toes would turn up because it was so cold. And we had feather beds and I hated them. Dear God, I did hate them things. They were hard to make up. You had to fluff them and beat them and....No sir, I did not like them. And blankets; Mama even had some old buggy blankets when it got real cold. When it got real cold at night in the bed, they would take them and throw them over us because we didn't have heat. Now, it's a luxury."

Audio 20. Betty Mattingly Shepherd talks about staying warm during cold months:

The Help

John Hanson Briscoe: "The only mention of slavery during my entire life with my parents, particularly my father, was there was a tall black gentleman who used to shovel coal in our basement over in Leonardtown, did yard work, milked the cow. Everybody had a cow; everybody had a vegetable garden. And this gentleman used to come and milk the cow behind our house. A tall, lean black man. And one day I was out there and he was out there doing some yard work and for some reason or another I asked my mother who he was. I heard my mother say one day, I don't know how it came about, that his name was George Kane. My mother said 'old George, he is a descendant of one of the slaves at

Sotterley'. That's all I remember. He stayed around and they hired him. He was there during the war. I was about ten years old. That was also the first time I had heard about Sotterley. I remember the old gentleman; very polite, very quiet. He would do work around the house. But I remember he used to shovel - we had a coal furnace and we had coal piled up outside the window. I can see him now; tall lanky black man and he would shovel coal down a chute and it would come down into our furnace. That is the only mention of slavery I can remember during my entire life, and I was with my parents until their deaths. That was my first memory of Sotterley and then, of course, growing up, my father, who was born there in 1890 and lived there with his parents until he was three years old, he would talk about it from time to time. Unfortunately, I didn't pay too much attention to him as a young child. I really wasn't too interested in our ancestral home or the history of it so I didn't remember too much about it."

John Hanson was interviewed at Sotterley Plantation. That interview was taped, and in a portion of that interview that was video recorded he had this to say about George Kane:

Video 4. Youtube – John Hanson Briscoe, "The Help"

Kennedy Abell: "And we had a black gentleman that came up and took care of the cow and milked the cow and brought it over. We even had a black lady that lived in the back of our house who was the cook and the maid and cared for the house. The Briscoe's probably had someone to come in and help around the houses. Aleck Loker did, I know."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "We had someone that lived at our house, sort of over the top of the kitchen and she lived there. Marie Kane worked for us until 1941. We had a back stairway; so did the Briscoe's, they had a back stairway. Her father, who lived in a cabin that was back on our property (behind Eldon), where the Hamilton's house is. Well, his name was George Kane, who we referred to as "Uncle George". He lived in a cabin back there. No running water, no electricity. And he used to walk and anybody who was living with him would walk up to our back yard where there's an outdoor spigot and they would get water from there to take back to his house. That's the way it was then."

Audio 21. Eleanor Duke Storck talks about the help:

Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall, speaking of George Kane, "He was Uncle George. He lived further back, little ways past those woods. It's fields now. We developed it and sold it into a few lots. Yeah if you probably kept going down Eldon Lane, there were two houses of, not great you know, I don't think they were even painted but we had two houses down there and eventually my father wanted to be rid of it and the fire department came down. George lived there and Maria too. Maria, she wasn't a nanny by any stretch but she would come and get the wood stove going to fix breakfast and get us off to school."

"Those houses had no plumbing so they would come with an outside spigot but it stood up and it was a hand pump, it was a lever and I still have it and I use it to water stuff.

They would use it to come up and get buckets of water and take it back down to their houses and that was their water source."

Alfred Mattingly: "A lot of them had hired help; a lot of them had help that lived in the house."

Lari Mako: "Everybody had help. Nobody was rich; they were all poor; but they had help. My grandfather had two helpers. All I remember was there was a staircase that went up from the kitchen and there were two bedrooms up there in the back part of the house. There was a cleaner who would also iron. And there was a cook who brought you orange juice in the morning in your bed. In retrospect I looked back on it and I thought my grandfather must've been really rich; of course he was poor as he could be."

William Aleck Loker, Sr.: "Well, we always had a cook, or maid or whatever you'd call it. A colored woman who would help clean house and prepare meals and that sort of thing. And because my father kept a couple of cows which provided the milk for us, raised six or seven hogs that were slaughtered each year, and had a very nice vegetable garden, we had a colored, young colored boy oh, he was four or five years older than I, who came to live with us, and he did the, a lot of the chores, like milking cows, feeding hogs, working the garden and things of that nature." William Loker Sr. mentioned some of the chores he would have to do: "Cutting grass in the summertime, with a hand operated lawn mower, keeping the wood box filled during the wintertime, so you had something to keep the fire burning in the stove and keep your house warm. That was about it. Wasn't much else to do. There were times, well, I'd gather eggs for instance, there were times if the colored boy didn't show up, he'd, when he got a little older, he developed a penchant for drinking whiskey [laughs] and usually on Sundays he'd show up a little intoxicated or not at all, and I'd have to milk the cows in his absence. And I'll never forget one occasion, he didn't come for a long while, we'd finished dinner and as a rule he would have been there and milk that cow, that time there was just one cow. But my mother told me, "You'd better go down to the barn and see what'd happened to Jim." So I did, and when I got down to the barn much to my surprise it was Jim sitting in the milk stool with the milk bucket in between his legs, his head in his hands, and his elbows on his knees, sound asleep, and the old cow had gotten impatient and walked off and was eating grass. I'd love to have had a picture of it. So, I had to take over that night too."

Dr. John Fenwick remembers a family that used to help at Hanover Farm: "A gentleman by the name of Frank Neal. They had a house on the farm. I don't know if it was originally there or what, but it was not much of a house. It didn't have any running water or didn't have any electricity or anything. And he had 4 children. 3 boys and 1 girl, 4 children. His wife worked in the house occasionally, like if my mother was sick or having a baby, she would come and work there for maybe a couple weeks. But that was all. And my mother did not have any full time help. She did it all."

Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss: "I used to work for Mr. Donald Hurry at his house. Cleaning; even helped cook. I wasn't but ten years old."

Audio 22. Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss talking about helping Donald Hurry:

Telephones Come to St. Mary's County

Idolia Shubrooks: "Everybody seemed to be happy in their own little area of Park Hall. They didn't have telephones, but they found means of conversing and taking care of business."

Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss: "No telephone. One or two people had telephones and you'd go to their house. But in my years there probably wasn't no telephones at all. You'd write letters then."

Jeanette Connelly Dakis: "We didn't have a telephone and so you had to write letters, that was the only way you could do it. I used to love to write letters, I think it's a dying art and it's a shame. I just think that these schools with their computers and everything else, I think that it is awful."

Dr. John Fenwick states that staying in touch with people wasn't a priority. If he needed to reach anyone by phone he states that he'd have to go over to Wise's Store on the corner of Medley's Neck Road and Route 5, near his home on Hanover Farm.

In May of 1936, The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City advertised in the Beacon that "ANOTHER FAMILY JOINS THE TELEPHONE COMMUNITY", adding "Another family goes modern and installs a telephone. Now they really belong.....now they'll take part in the activities they've been missing. A TELEPHONE IN YOUR HOME MEANS: No more hurried dashes here and there in bad weather....No more trudging from store to store.....No more worried moments in an emergency....No more wondering how the children away at school are getting on....No more missed parties....No more uncertainties about schedules and engagements. You can have a telephone for as little as $1.50 a month."

During an interview in 1989, Tommy Bell, Sr. recalled what the first telephones in Leonardtown were like. "Fifteen people on one line. And every time one phone would ring the other one would ring. If someone was tryin' to call me and you was on my line with fourteen other, as soon as mine would ring everybody's would ring. And of course everybody'd take the receiver up and listen to see what was goin on because that was about the only news. We'd get the paper once a week. Local, the Beacon, the St. Mary's Beacon was printed in Leonardtown.

"It was known as Central, the office where the thing was set up was at Great Mills, back over on that road, not on Route 5 but over a bit. Not many phones in existence back then. I remember our phone number at home, where I was born and raised at my mother's was one long and three shorts, that was our ring."

"You'd crank that thing a certain number of times, the longer you cranked it of course the longer it would constantly ring, and then after rang out the long ring then you just give it a couple little quick turns, half a turn, and that was for the shorts. If she wasn't in a good

mood you wouldn't get your party, she'd say, ‘That number's busy.’"

T. Webster Bell, Sr. goes on to recall that people could rely on telephone operators for the correct time and to relay information from other calls.

Audio 23. T. Webster Bell, Sr. on the telephone service:

DANCING—GAMES—REFRESHMENTS
WEILAND'S ORCHESTRA
SUPPER 5-8 P. M. $1.25 DANCE 8-12 P. M. 75c
BENEFIT OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

"Please make it brief!"

What's the verdict on your family's party line telephone manners?

Do they make calls *brief*?

Do they avoid making a series of calls one after another?

Do they answer promptly?

Have your children learned not to monopolize the line?

Good-neighborliness on the party line is catching—the more you remember it, the more other people will.

The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City

laryland Friday, May 24, 1946

What's the good news about the rural telephone?

Q I've been hearing a good deal about rural telephone service lately. Can you tell me something about it?

A Yes, telephone people are doing a lot of work on it.

Q What do you have in mind?

A Two points. One, extend service to families not reached by existing lines; two, improve present service.

Q Has there been much rural telephone growth?

A Since 1935, almost 14,000 rural families in Maryland have had telephones put in — nearly 10,000 since 1940. But there is still much room for improvement, so every means will be explored to make telephone service in rural areas still better and easier to get.

The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company of Baltimore City

29. Phone Company Advertisements.

Alfred Mattingly: "I worked for the telephone company for thirty-three years. In the rural part of the county, if somebody wanted to get a telephone. They would call down and give their name and location and stuff. Then you would go down there, find the house, and most of the time there was only one line going on by. So you'd climb the pole, test the line, and you'd get the operator on the line. Say ' operator, what line is this? ', and she'd say '75'. Then the next thing you'd ask is how many people are on the line? She'd say something like '5'. And then you'd ask her 'what ring is available?' Like, you'd have two kinds of rings, J and W. If it was J, the ring went out on the right side of the wire. If it were W, it'd go out on the other side. So you might have eight people on the line; you'd only hear four rings, see, cause you cut it in half. So you might have two longs and a short. Or three longs, or four longs. But you had to listen to the phone when it rang so you could see if it was your ring. To make a call, you'd just crank for the operator. But if the operator was going to call you, you'd say 'I'm trying to reach 75 w', she would hook you up and she had a key and she'd give you three longs and a short. If you had anything important to say on your phone call, you would have to say that real quick because everybody else on

the line would eventually pick up and listen. That was the way that they found out what was going on. Every time somebody else picked up, that'd cut down on the volume. So towards the end you couldn't hear nothing anyway because other people were on the line. You weren't supposed to listen in on other calls, but people could and they did.

"There were different kinds of service. Magnetite was where you cranked; and then later on out of Great Mills you had manual where you'd pick up the phone and it automatically got you the operator, you didn't have to crank. We had magnetite in Leonardtown. And we had a private line; our number was 83 so that was a private line. If you lived in Leonardtown they weren't so expensive. It was the further you live outside of a certain radius, the more you had to pay for a private line. So when you lived out in the country, nobody could afford a private line; well, maybe a doctor.

"They had to put in an office every so often, just because you wouldn't have to run so many lines. All of the Seventh District, Leonardtown, and Hollywood; that one office became three. See, you'd take ten trunk lines to Great Mills, that would take care of all the long distance calls; then the rest of them would be local. If you tried to feed it all out of, say Leonardtown, you'd have to have an individual line and back then a line was an open wire; two lines going down the road, and if they touched they didn't work.

"And the operator was the one that rang the fire alarm. She would ring it over lunchtime. She had the button there; that's where it was wired."

Audio 24. Alfred Mattingly on early telephone service in St. Mary's County:

Paul Bailey: "We had these party lines, you know. For instance, my line in those days at my aunt's house was 1-4-F-2. That was her number. That meant one long ring, followed by two short ones. And everybody when they heard that number called, for instance, my family was right much gossips, people would raise their phones and listen."

Living With and Without Electricity

Lari Mako: "We had gas lights before we had electricity. They were old coal oil lamps that you lighted. All the lamp glasses had to be cleaned in the morning. Every room had one. During the night, the glass would get smudged. So they had them all lined up on the kitchen table and the help cleaned them."

Peter Egeli: "It was brand new down here where we were (in Valley Lee). I mean, dad had to pay all the extra to put in the poles and the lines and then the extra for having the house wired. Apparently, the electricians were not used to wiring houses. We were lying in bed one night, me and my brothers, and we heard this outboard motor out on the river. We swore that's what it was. We called dad and said ' Daddy, somebody's out there with an outboard motor.' He said ' That's not an outboard motor!' And he ran up into the attic and the attic was filled with smoke. It was a short."

Audio 25. Peter Egeli talks about life without electricity:

Ann Camalier Wathen: "We did have electricity. Outside of Leonardtown, some of them did, but not all of them."

Dr. John Fenwick: “As far back as I can remember we had electricity, but did not have any water other than a well and you’d pump buckets you know? And an outhouse.”

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: “We didn't have electric until 1949. I was born in '33. Had an ice box; Daddy would go down to the Wharf and get a chunk of ice. Well, it depended on the weather. When we come along in the wintertime there would be snow deep and the MacIntosh Run would freeze over, and Frank my brother and them would go down there and get ice, and we would make ice cream. It was fun. One would sit on it while the other one cranked. We had Alladin lamps, kerosene lamps. Many a time we be sitting there doing our homework at night, and that thing would get black, and my father would start raising Hell. He'd say 'What have you done now to make that thing black?' We would have to sit there in the dark and wait for the soot to burn off. Oh yeah, that was the good old days. We had a wood stove. We didn't have no electric. She had a wood cook stove, "Home Comfort."

Audio 26. Betty Mattingly Shepherd talks about growing up without electricity:

Norris Shepherd: "We never did have electric until the '40s."

Audio 27. George Aud talks about the arrival of electricity to St. Mary’s County:

Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss: "It was very late before we had electric. I guess it was in the forties. We used to have lamps in each room. But at the stores they had a Delco plant, they used to call it, and that would keep the light things going for them. Some kind of electric thing they would have; some kind of motor.”

Audio 28. Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss talks about life without electricity, telephones, or cars:

Then, in July of 1936, the Beacon reported "PROGRESS MADE IN ELECTRIC PROJECT. Electric Light Line! Electric High Line!” Applications for electric service were being accepted in the 7th, 4th, and adjacent parts of the 3rd districts. Readers were instructed to "Sign up! Sign up readily! Sign up quickly! Do not delay! Do not hesitate! Do not doubt! Listen to your committee-man's explanation. Calvert County is getting it, so should St. Mary's."

Peter Wigginton, on the situation in Leonardtown: "Of course, we had electricity. Some

did, some didn't. The Rural Electrification Act was still going on when I was a young man and it became more and more universal when I was a kid. It wasn't done overnight. However, there were some people who just didn't want it. They had it available and they just didn't want it. They just didn't see the need for it. They'd spent 240 years without it and.....when electricity failed around here, my mother-in-law would be without power for three or four days and we'd go to check in on her. And she'd say ' What's the big deal? This is the way it used to be. 'Just the way it always was. That's funny.

"Now, when I was a little kid, we had our own generator plant. I remember riding in an old truck with dad and Uncle Bob and right ahead of us was another truck that had this brightly painted brand new generating plant. And dad and Uncle Bob were talking about how fortunate it was that we could get this. Because the war had just started. Apparently they had ordered it before the war. I do remember that when the plant would fail, the lights would get duller and duller and then dad would walk down into the woods and then presto, lights would come back on.

"My grandmother Loker, she was thoroughly modern, and when something came along she had to have it. Now granddaddy worshipped her and always provided her with what she wanted. And she had refrigerators, freezers, vacuum cleaners, radios when they first came out. They got their first TV in 1953. It was their 50th wedding anniversary and the family pitched in and bought them a television set. And they were completely lost watching it. They loved it, but they couldn't understand, didn't understand the plots. So my granddaddy would watch boxing and baseball and would leave the sound off, because he said he didn't need anybody telling him what was going on."

Farm Life

Meme Briscoe Gillaspy: "As children, we lived in Leonardtown, but our milk was delivered from the farm on Half Pone Point in Hollywood. We always had a big hog killing time in the winter months. We would butcher the hogs on the farm and bring them over to Leonardtown. A tenant farmer by the name of John Woodburn was living on the farm at the time. If it was summertime, dad's boat might be here on the farm and we would come over to fish or else we'd take a cruise out into the Patuxent to go swimming. In the winter, we always came to the farm to pick our Christmas tree. And dad would always bring buckets of coal clinkers from the furnace in Leonardtown to lay the foundation for his road to the new farm house on Cuckold Creek."

30. An old ramshackle farmhouse.

Norris Shepherd: "I remember being on the tobacco planter with my grandfather driving it and my mother would be on there dropping the plants on one side and I'd be on the other side. My legs weren't long enough to reach, you had a bar across there and you could put your feet on. A grown person could do it, but a child, we couldn't. But you were sitting down so close to the ground, you were only about this far (motions just a few inches) from the ground. About two or three inches off the ground. But this piece that held you in your seat, you could put your feet up on them in the middle and one on top of the other, see, and that's how I did it. You know, I may not have known how to write my name but I knew how to plant tobacco. And I knew how to plant things in garden and I'd get chickens up, and get wood in. That was what you need to know."

Audio 29. Norris and Betty Mattingly Shepherd talk about growing up on farms:

In 1941, Loretta Beavan Norris and her husband, J. Berkman Norris, moved onto their farm, Wheatley's Content, located near the western end of St. Andrew's Church Road. "When I first came here, the blacktop stopped right here on the other side of my gate and the rest of the road was gravel. You had St. Andrew's Church. You had Brown Road, but it was a very very bad road. The Bennett farm and several houses were down there, but that was all gravel road down there. And, of course, you had Fairgrounds Road, but it was a horse and buggy type road. Down here on the corner (of St. Andrew's and Route 5) was a filling station and Ted White's father had a little country store there. We had milk cows and we had horses. My husband's family, and then my husband, had saw mills on the property. As he cut the timber, he built the buildings that we have. All the material in these buildings came from the timber that was cut from the farm. The timber in my home all came from down here in these woods. My house here was built in 1921 by William H. Mattingly from Hollywood. He also built my grandparents' home, Dr. Camalier's home, and the home that had been owned by Peggy and Robert Lee Miles (site of the Leonardtown CVS). My home was built for approximately $3,300, and that included all of the trim work and doors in this house. Now this is a three story house. There are four

bedrooms on the third floor. There were no inside heating elements or units. Everybody either got warmed by a fireplace or by a stove."

"There were sixteen people that lived here. There were thirteen children and an old bachelor uncle. All of us worked on the farm except the uncle."

"We raised hogs on this farm here. We butchered a lot of them for sale. Hog butchering always took place either the weekend following Thanksgiving or the first week in December. Thanksgiving itself was not a celebration as far as working people were concerned, it was just another day. We butchered then because the weather would have gotten colder and we could then process the meat. The meat would get cold. We used to have people come in who purchased two hogs and took them home and processed them."

"Family would come and help with the butchering. My husband also had a couple of black helpers. One helper, William Mason, stayed with us from when he was a young child until he died and we always called him one of the family. Butchering started by building a fire outdoors. You'd take an iron rod and heat it in the fire and then put that hot iron into a large tub of water to make the water hot. That's how they scalded the hog, in a long bathtub, to get the hair off. Then they would split the hog's two front legs and hang the hog up so it could be opened and cleaned out. My husband did the butchering part, the cutting and so forth, and the rest of them would do different chores. Cutting different cuts and making sausage. And of course the sausage, originally the meat was ground by hand. When I left the home in Leonardtown they were using the saw rig. Everybody had the saw rig that you could cut the wood with to make them the right length to put in the stove. The saw rig had a pulley, so I said ' OK, you take the saw rig and grind the meat by the saw rig'. The pulley attached to a wheel that went onto a sausage grinder for the grinding of that first meat."

"We butchered one beef cow in January or February. We hung it in the meat house and in the wintertime it would stay frozen. I can remember William Mason's father saying that, if it turned hot, they would get together and eat all the meat before it spoiled."

"We didn't have refrigerators. Anything that needed to be kept cold, like butter or milk, was put down in the well. Pork loins were cut into chops. Chops were browned on the stove; you'd then put some grease on them, put them into a jar, and close it up. And if they had beef, they would cook the beef and put it in the jars and seal it. Your pork was salted down. They either had a salted brine, or they just salted it down. We ended up taking a piece of brown paper like they had in the grocery stores and putting your ham in there and putting two cups of salted variety. We had brown sugar and salt and pepper, that's what they would put on this meat. They would use two cups, fold up the brown paper, put it in a brown paper bag and put it in a cotton bag and hang it up. And it would stay there until you used it. Now originally they would have a big box and they'd put the hams down in the box and just put plain salt on them. That was the original one. We'd learn as we'd go along that if you put a little bit of brown sugar in it, then it has a little better taste.

"We only butchered chickens that we knew we needed for ourselves. We never did butcher a lot of chickens that we weren't going to use right away. Now, we had barrels of eggs. We had 10,000 laying hens. A hatchery from down in Virginia came and picked up the brown eggs. They took the eggs back down to Virginia and put them in an incubator. Out in our egg house we would have at least a hundred cases of eggs, thirty dozen to the case; every Monday morning they'd be here to pick up those eggs. That was a big operation; that was the money operation. We needed a profit. The Amish people got into that egg business too. My brother Jimmy in Chaptico also raised a lot of eggs for the same company.

"My husband drove a truck. He took his own cattle and hogs to market. Brought back his own fertilizer. And, of course, we had 10,000 laying hens out here so he had to have a lot of feed. So he would go into Baltimore and take a load of hogs to the stockyard, then go downtown to the market and pick up the feed down on Pratt Street. Sometimes, if it was Christmastime, he would then drive over to Washington, D. C. to the Montgomery Wards. That's where he got the first tractor my son ever had. And one time he brought me back a sewing machine on top of that truck."

Audio 30. Loretta Beavan Norris discussing how meat was produced on the farm:

Tom Waring: "You'd build a barn and you'd cut your own timber down. You'd take it to a saw mill that would cut your boards. And you'd cut all your own pieces. Your rafters and everything were just cut."

Dr. John Fenwick grew up on Hanover Farm in Leonardtown, which he describes as: "…about 170 acres. A lot of it was woodland. It sat on a big hill that went down toward Breton Bay. I mean that hill is level with the highway out there, until you got to that hill and then it went down quite rapidly. Great sledding on it (laughs). But my mom had 5 kids there and we all grew up on that farm. There were 4 boys and one girl. The boys worked on the farm from the time that they were probably 10 years old to some degree. Tobacco was the main crop. That was a money crop. We grew wheat and soybeans and corn. We had mostly chickens and turkeys and pigs up around the house. Frank Neal, who took care of the livestock we had, which wasn't a lot, mainly had cows for milk, we didn't have any beef cattle. We ate a lot of pork in those days. We had a lot of hogs."

Idolia Shubrooks' father, Thomas Fenwick, was an oyster man. In the summers, he fished. He owned his own boat. He owned several acres of land on Park Hall Road that was purchased by Idolia's maternal grandfather, Alexander Armstrong (a member of the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War) in 1891. "We raised chickens. We had an orchard and big gardens. We canned vegetables and fruit. They had their own pork. We canned meat as well, from the hogs, the sausage and all. They didn't bother killing a cow; nobody had that much attention to beef then, really. We had it all; the best. We never suffered deprivation. Everybody was able to make out well. Everybody knew how to make a living. Farming was hard work, but I'm going to tell you what, the Sunday dinners, and all those vegetables, I'm telling you that was great."

Idolia Shubrooks went on to describe what she calls “hog killing time”: "Let me tell you, in those days most the families had large gardens. They planted various vegetables, which consisted of kale, cabbage, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, and Irish potatoes. Of course, the vegetables were the major part of the meal. Almost everybody had pigs and chickens. My dad had a cow. Hog killing time was a time I will always remember. On hog killing time other men would bring their pigs to our house to be slaughtered. There was a lot to be done after the pig was slaughtered. While the men were taking care of the hog killing, the women prepared a hearty meal for men which included the hog liver. The pig meat produced sausage, pork chops, sous, scrapple and many other meals. Chicken was the most important fowl in those days, and it was served as one of the main meats for Sunday dinner. My family raised many chickens.”

"We were very content. When it came to food we didn’t need much of anything from the store. We even had an orchard on the hill which provided some of the most beautiful plums, apples, berries, and cherries.”

Caroline Cecilia Thomas Countiss' family grew tobacco and corn. They had two milk cows, and two horses for pulling the plow. "Used to have two steers, too. They used to call them steers at that time. They were for the ox cart; they had an ox cart." When asked if the cows were butchered, she replied "No, never did. They died on their own.”

"Hogs were butchered every fall time of the year, November. They would have a big pot and they'd make a fire and put the water in. They'd cut the hog's throat and killed it. And then put them in there and scald them and then clean the hair off of them. And then when they got cold they cut them up and made sausage and meat. Sometimes the sausage meat didn't get ground up until the next day; let it get good and cold so it would be easy to cut. We'd salt it down with brine and we had barrels, wooden barrels. They had some pork chops; they didn't make many. At that time people used to can pork chops. You can can sausage, too, but they didn't last that long.

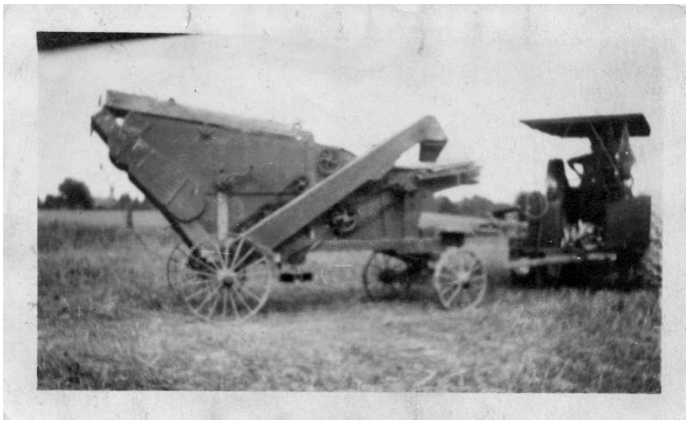
Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We had dairy cattle. We had hogs. My brother and them would raise calves, baby calves when they had them. Raise them and sell them. And then we had chickens, turkeys, ducks, and pigs. Turkeys, we ate them. And believe it or not, people would come there and get them. Mom and I picked a many of turkey and dressed them for people. I ain't like a duck; I don't believe momma ever cooked any of them. Just, my brothers liked them so.....And we ate chickens. She'd get baby chicks, she'd order them through the mail. She would order them from a magazine or something in the paper, then they would come down to the post office. They'd send a little card, and I would go down there and pick them up. They be live chicks; I would say a day or two old is all they'd be. She would get one-hundred. And she would get them for fryers and layers. She had settlers, too. She had a round incubator to put them in. Oh yeah.Sometimes she'd get them from Dave's Hen Yard up here in Loveville. We had guinea keats, too. They were the best watch dog you could have. They did not like people. I ain't kidding you, they did not. But they were good eating, they really were. Some people say they would have a lot of wild game in them, but not to me they didn't. They were good eating. You wanted fried chicken you didn't run down to McKay's and get it. You went out there and cut the head off and scalded and picked that chicken. On Saturday afternoon so we could have fried chicken on Sunday. And stuffed ham. You

didn't run down to McKay's and buy ham. You stuffed what you had. "

Norris Shepherd: "We used hens that were in the hen house to set on the eggs, too. The eggs you'd take and take a pencil, go around the eggs with a pencil so they would be marked so if another hen got in there and laid there you could tell which egg to take out. Her mother (Betty's) had a turkey gobbler, it would set on eggs, and hatched them out. A turkey gobbler."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "Alfred Mattingly, well back there when we come along, they thrashed wheat. They cut the wheat. They would come around with the thrasher, from farm to farm, and thrash wheat and grain. You'd be surprised at the people who would come to help, and Alfred Mattingly was one of them. He would come to our farm, and you know what he told me? He said ' Betty, I will never forget Potato Hill; and Ms. Annie can put a meal on that table.' And she did."

Norris Shepherd: "That was our vacation during the summer. Going around the neighborhood helping everyone thrash wheat."



31. An old wheat thresher, circa 1930s.

Audio 31. Judge Joseph A. Mattingly talks about the thresher that visited the county:

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: As for hog butchering: "Well, dad had a lot of irons, plow points, stuff like that, that's what you heated the water with. They had a barrel, a great big scalding barrel they called it, and they'd put the irons in the scalding barrels. They would build a fire and they'd get that water to a certain temperature. They go kill them hogs, and put them in, and scrape them. And then you hung them on what they would call a gambling pole up off the ground. And then somebody would open them up and take the guts and all out of them. And my mother and Aunt Lucille would scrape the guts for to stuff the sausage with. It would be out like on the back porch; that was a job. And then, we didn't have any electric so they canned the meat. You fry it, put it in a jar, and put a little bit of grease in it and seal it. And can spare ribs; now we would pressure cook them. Hams, we would dry salt them. We had a meat house; we kept them in that. Lay them down for about six weeks and then put them Borox up on it and you sealed it. Make sure you sealed it with red pepper, and then we would put them in a paper bag, and then a

white bag. You had to."

Al Gough: "I remember, as a very young boy, they had killed a hog. And there was a couple of black ladies that were around and they came over. We had a pot boiling out back and they were making lard. It was a wood fire under an old round metal cauldron. And that just made an impression on me. My father smoked sausage, he cured old hams; he had brine that he would make up for old hams. Some people would dry salt them, but he always had a brine in a big 'ol charred whiskey barrel. I remember the brine was ready when you could float a couple of eggs on top of it. You do that, and then it was ok."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "My father was also a meat salesman along with having the movie business. Of course selling meat in St. Mary's county was like taking coals to Newcastle because everybody had their own chickens and the farmers had their own pigs and cows and all that. Of course, you had all the seafood you wanted. We didn't realize how lucky we were to have wonderful fresh sources of meat and seafood. He sold to people like Leonard Hall and St. Mary's Academy that had, you know, boarders and all those nuns. Certainly the grocery stores weren't going to buy much meat from him because most people, like the Briscoe's, they had their own cow and they had their own chickens. So did the Hamiltons. Our family did. The Mattinglys, of course, had all kinds of animals. They had cattle and pigs because they had a big, big working farm.

"When you got your chickens, you ordered them from Rhode Island. "Tick" Gough, we should call him Mr. Al Gough but for some reason he had the name "Tick", he was the postmaster. And he would call up daddy and say "Kenneth, your chickens have arrived." And the chickens would be sent by mail from Rhode Island. They were still in a great big carton and they were still in eggs, and they had timed it so well that by the time those chickens would arrive, or the eggs arrived in Leonardtown, the chickens hatched. And because chickens are very delicate and they could die in the Spring if we have a cold winter.....up in our house in the back steps there was a room that Daddy had those chickens in and that's where the chickens would be until they got to be I guess maybe a month or so old, because you had a light bulb that you put down in the brooder to keep that room warm, because you know our houses weren't very warm. Then he'd put them out in the hen house. "

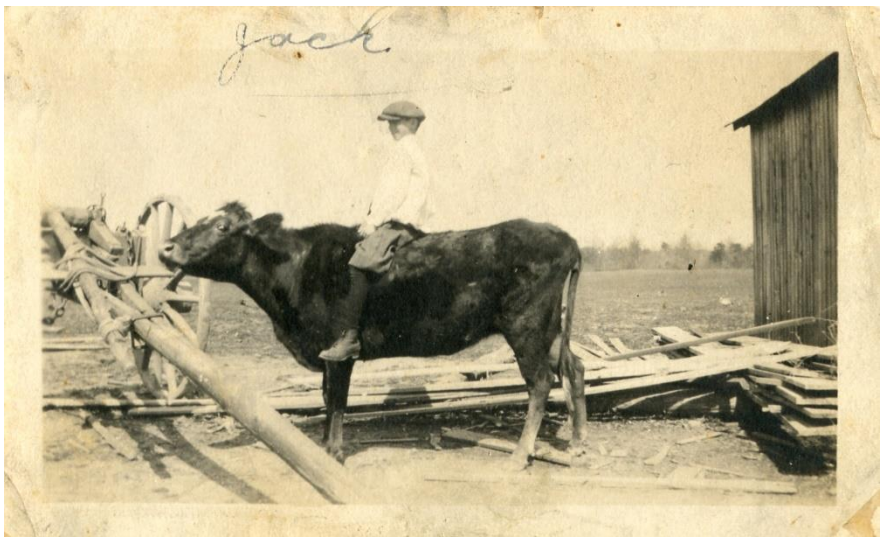
Audio 32. Eleanor Duke Storck talking about ordering mail-order chickens:

Dairy Cows

Loretta Beavan Norris: "While I was there (on Race Track Farm), I did milk the cows. We had a dairy. We milked the cows and we brought the milk into the dairy house. We had a cream separator and a milk cooling machine; it had ice water going through the tubes and the milk ran down beside it. We caught the milk, put it in bottles, and capped it. My brothers then took the milk into Leonardtown for sale. At first they would cart it downtown in a wagon. Then later, my older brother Stanton could drive the Model T Ford."

32. A Model T Ford used to deliver milk.

Alfred Mattingly: "My brothers would drive the cows along Washington street to the pastures in front of Leonard Hall (in the vicinity of SMECO today); all that property where there are houses today was then part of Race Track Farm. Especially the back of it where it joined Buena Vista; where the hospital is built today, that's where the cows pastured and that's where they would drive them from. We grazed cattle in there (across from Leonard Hall). During the milk hours, we'd bring them up along Washington Street. At night, we'd bring them home and they'd run through all these people's yards (along the North End), especially when the flies were bad because they'd run under the trees to get the flies off. There was no fencing along Washington Street. We just drove them up the road after we milked them and put them in the pasture and in the evening we'd drive them back home. To drive them, you'd just get behind them with a stick. The attempt was to drive them up that road that was the attempt."



33. "Jack."

"We didn't always drive them. All of this (on the south side of today's hospital) was on the low land. It wasn't good farming because it was wet. This was all pasture over here. Sometimes we'd drive them up there after we got corn on the field, maybe on a Sunday. We'd drive them up on the corn field that didn't have any fence around and we'd just stand around watching; that was the day off.

Audio 33. Alfred Mattingly on driving cattle down Washington Street:

"You could get them from one place to the other, but the only time we really had a lot of trouble with them is over Cedar Lane, where the apartments are now. That was pasture land, too. And we would drive them through the woods over there and leave them there all summer and they would get wild. The older cattle that you milked and you drove them back and forth, they weren't a whole lot of trouble to get from Point A to Point B. But when you took the young ones over there (to Cedar Lane) they weren't milk cattle; they were just young cattle or young steer. You'd take them over there and leave them for the summer. It was a fenced area. They had water and enough there for them. If the pasture got low we would take hay over there or bring them food over. When you got ready to bring them back home, which got to be a whole lot more difficult. You got a mess on your hands. You might be two or three days getting them all back.

34. A grazing cow.

Audio 34. Alfred Mattingly talk about driving cattle to Cedar Lane:

“This farm where Single Tree is today was a dairy farm. My older cousins, they got up in the morning and milked cows. I was just a kid, I went around more for the fun. They processed it and delivered it before they went to school. Delivered it out of the back of a pick-up truck. My grandfather drove the pick-up truck around town, real slow. The boys stood on the bumper and would have to take the bottle and run. You put a bottle of milk down and you pick up the empty one and run back to the truck. He never stopped; just drove slowly. And then you had to duck every time he spit because he chewed tobacco.

Every day, seven days a week. And they milked the cows twice a day, by hand."

"Clark's Rest is being built over here (on Route 5, just north of town). That was a big dairy farm. In fact, they took over the dairy business when my grandfather.....they became Leonardtown Dairy. The Leonardtown Dairy delivered milk pretty much throughout the entire county and when I say throughout the county, mainly Leonardtown and Lexington Park then. They maybe had a half a dozen trucks and drivers. George Clark had the dairy downtown; he built the dairy downtown on Pope Street. It was a place where they process milk, bottle, and ship it out. Eggs, bread, you know."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "I talked about George Kane who lived on our property for I don't know how many years, but he also milked our cow. He might've milked the Hamilton's and the Briscoe's cows, too. It's interesting, mother grew up on a farm but she said she'd never milked a cow because she said she had so many brothers, she didn't have to worry about any of that. But anyway, here he would come with those milk buckets or pales or whatever and Mother would have big crocks, big bowls out on the pantry, and he'd pour the milk into the crocks and he'd go on. And then later Mother would put the milk into the refrigerator. And if it was summertime, nobody is going to drink too much milk in the summer, she'd leave some of that milk out and it would turn sour. I'm sure the Briscoe's and the Hamilton's did this, too. The milk would turn sour and we'd call that "clabbers"; that would be like today's yogurt. And then, if you didn't eat all of the clabbers because there was so much of it, see he milked twice a day, you put some of the clabbers in cheesecloth and hung it on a stake and let it drip and that's what we called "curd", which people today call cottage cheese. Whey is the liquid that drains. I'm sure that the other people, the Briscoe's and the Hamilton's, they did too. We had a cow. So that meant we had all of our own milk. The thing that I think is so interesting, here's George Kane, who didn't have running water and all that we did, how do you think his hands were after that? We never got sick, we had a built in immunity; isn't that interesting? Of course, the milk wasn't pasteurized and we didn't want to drink it because when the cows ate those fresh onions, the milk tastes horrible. Mother would get mad at us, but we didn't want to drink it. It was horrible, it tasted like garlic; we didn't even know the word garlic."

Idolia Shubrooks: "We had an old icebox. The iceman, Jimmy Capper, had an ice house down in Wynn. He'd come along and he'd say 'iceman, iceman'. And then you'd go and buy a big block of ice. He'd bring the ice and put it on the porch. Then you'd put it in the icebox. And then the milkman, I remember him coming around. I think he must have lived in St. James. My parents had a box on the porch where he'd put the milk. Even though we had our own cow, sometimes we'd get it from him, too. He didn't come around that often. My brother used to be the one who would milk the cow. The dairy cow would knock the bucket over; I think sometimes my brother meant for it to happen. He didn't want to milk that dang cow.

"My chore was to make the butter. Cream was separated from the milk placed in the churner, and to make the butter was not an easy job. Sometimes the particles of butter would not come together, so they called that the “butter went crazy” and could not be used.”

"They didn't have refrigeration. So what they did was, they would put the butter on a

printer. After you made the printer, you would wash it. Then you would put salt in it and beat it up; making sure that the salt go all through it. The butter pounder was a little round wooden thing and sometimes it would have a little flower on the bottom of it. Then you'd put the butter in it, you put enough in it to smooth it out at the bottom. Then you put the top on it, and you'd turn it back over and you'd let it get cold. So that print of the flower would be on top of it. And then they would put it on wax paper, after it molded some. Then you would let it down the well, to cool it off quick. You didn't put it into the water; it went in the bucket. Once it was cool, you put it in the icebox. They also made their own ice cream. Had an old ice cream maker, the wooden ones."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We milked the cows and she had what they called a milk separator. It separated cream from the milk. She kept the cream; we fed the hogs the milk. And she made butter with the cream. I didn't like clabbers. Mama used to cook it and feed baby turkeys. "

Norris Shepherd: How did you keep things cold? " We used to get molasses in a tin can and we'd tie a string on that and lower it down the well. That's where you kept your butter and your milk and your perishable things like that, that would spoil bad. The temperature stayed at fifty-four degrees. And that was enough to keep it. Then in the summertime the iceman would come around once or twice a week and you'd get a block of ice and put that in the ice box. "

Backyard Vegetable Gardens

Loretta Beavan Norris: "We had work horses, farm horses. Sometimes they would have four horses to a plow or to a piece of equipment. We farmed very much like today's Mennonites. We raised our own vegetables in a garden. It was very difficult to garden. You had dry summers. I remember the beans had so many bugs on them. You were trying to raise them and you didn't have water to put on them. We depended on the weather. No pesticides. No means of putting any water on the garden at all. You had a lot of bugs on the cabbage and on the beans. Potatoes and sweet potatoes; there were a lot of sweet potatoes grown in those days because that was the winter crop. And then in the Fall, of course, they'd plant some kale and turnips and some cabbage and that's what they ate. We canned vegetables and lots of tomatoes, corn and beans. Some people canned the little, small potatoes but we never did do that."

Audio 35. Loretta Beavan Norris talks about her vegetable garden:

Kennedy Abell: "We owned this lot and the house on the corner (of Washington and Church streets). In the back we had a barn and a cow for milk. We had chickens out in the chicken house and yard for chicken and eggs. Everybody had a back side source for food."

Alfred Mattingly: "We plowed Judge Briscoe's garden every year. We started off with a plow horse. My grandfather used an ox. Towards the end we plowed with a tractor. Their garden was probably half an acre, located right behind their house; they all had big

gardens. They had a cow in their back yard and their neighbors, Allie Fenwick, had a cow in their back yard, too. Vegetables would be canned. Pretty much they all had root cellars or some form of a cellar. But they did a lot of canning. Most of the families in town had a cow."

Al Gough: "Everybody had dogs, cows for milking, pigs and chickens. My father was a big gardener, I mean he was really into it. We canned. We had to pick stringed beans; seemed like a couple of my summers were endless stringed beans. And canning; and later on they bought a freezer so then we just froze everything.

Idolia Shubrooks: "You couldn't see too many houses on Park Hall Road. You had a lot of trees. Another reason why you couldn't see too much was a lot of people would plant corn. It would block the breeze and visibility, like the trees. Each family planted their own garden and most of the time they included corn."

Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss: "We had a good sized garden, maybe a half of a half of an acre. We had some cherry trees, apples, pears. Then we would can the tomatoes and applesauce; we'd make applesauce. Can preserves, tomato preserves, pear preserves. And you know what else they used to do? They used to dig a hole in the ground called a 'kennel', and put turnips and white potatoes in and cover them over with straw and then, you know, in wintertime that would keep them. "

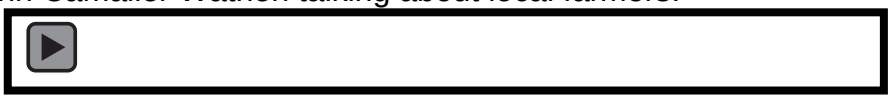
Jeanette Connelly Dakis: "We had all kinds of gardens, things like that. My father when he was living always planted a big garden and a couple of my brother –in-laws would tend to it. We had just about everything in it: tomatoes, peppers, corn. But then we had trouble with groundhogs that ate everything in sight. Just about everybody just had gardens in one way or the other. My mother canned most of the vegetables, especially the string beans, tomatoes, things like that. She would can all of those so we had plenty of them. That and cabbage. I think we were raised on cabbage and potatoes that was just about it."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We had a good right sized garden. We had them; and, well, we canned stuff. We had to. You had Irish potatoes, green beans, we would have sweet potatoes, we had string beans, Lima beans, corn, cucumbers, beets, squash. We didn't have no irrigation back then. If it was a dry year you made what you did. Didn't have pesticides back then neither. You know what they had for potato bugs? Arsenical lead and lime and you shook it over them; but now you can't even buy arsenical lead. It's a poison. You bought that, it had that on the bag, but now it's against the law to even sell it."

Ann Camalier Wathen: "We got our groceries at Mattingly's, right next to Duke's. He had a very small place there to start with. We did not have a garden. A lot of people did. All the farmers did, of course. Now of course we had people like Mr. Schindler. He would pull up his trucks in our backyard and you could go out and buy two or three chickens from Mr. Schindler, or whatever he had. And then Mr. Willy Thompson, he would come with crabs or whatever he had to sell. And that went on; and later on there would be people who came along and parked in front of the bank and they would have fish and stuff like

that. There wasn't any Health Department, I mean, they would kill you now if you tried to do that stuff. But that was the way it was in those days."

Audio 36. Ann Camalier Wathen talking about local farmers:



There were other sources of food aside from farms and backyard gardens. As Bonnie Briscoe relates, “In high school, with Uncle Boonie (John Hanson’s maternal uncle, John “Boonie” Maddox), one time they went way, way out and brought home this, well John referred to it as a ‘trash fish.’ It wasn’t real desirable. But Uncle Boonie said “Let’s rename it and call it ‘Ocean Delight.’” So they did (laughs), and they cleaned up a mess of these fish and they sold them in the alley as ‘Ocean Delight.’ That was Uncle Boonie’s idea.”

General Stores

Fortunately for St. Mary’s Countians, John Hanson and his uncle were not the only entrepreneurs around. Ann Wathen: "There was Mr. Nathanson's Department store (located on the Square). And during the war, word would get around if he would get any stockings in. And it would be ladies lined up for a block trying to get in there and get ahold of their stockings before he sold out. Because he didn't get them very often you see; they needed all the nylon for the planes and all."

Bob Wigginton quotes Berkman Norris as saying, 'If you had to go past Loveville to get anything you really don't need it.' Bob’s reply to that: "It was sorta true. If you had a Morgan's or Saunder's which was out by the North End across from St. Mary's Academy. Saunder's sold everything; it was a general store. I remember going in there to get tennis shoes in the spring time. It was kind of a ram shackled looking building but you know, it was like a lot of other buildings of the time. It had a front porch with things stacked up, probably feed and things like that. And if you went past Duke's, there was Norris and Norris Hardware on the Square. It was an old time hardware store where you went and you told Dick or Jesse Norris what you needed and they'd walk down the aisle behind the counter and pulled out some drawers and, you know, got your couple of half-inch nuts or whatever you were looking for and they sold garden seed by the pound or the ounce or however they were selling it and it was in buckets in front of the store in the Spring. And they had a bar in the back of the hardware store (the Gilded Bar). I think it was there during Prohibition where it was ignored by the local police. And slots were everywhere. Every place had slots. Every little general store or gas station. Playing the nickel slot machines was great fun. The old guy who owned the store was fine with us playing the slots unless somebody came in; when somebody came in we had to stop. That was the times. The stores sold penny candy and they had ice cream; three flavors - chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry. You know, it was a big deal."

In 1935, Deckelman's Specialty Shoppe, located on the Square, invited Easter shoppers to peruse the new spring coats, beautiful dresses, and latest style hats in all new shades and sizes.

Alfred Mattingly: "Norris and Norris was part of the Duke Building. They had a little bar in the back not many people knew about. It had maybe three stools; the whole place wasn't

very big. Mr. Norris knew who wanted to drink and who didn't. He'd come back in and serve the drink. A lot of people didn't realize it was there until later. But the people who needed to know knew where it was."

35. Duke's Bar & Norris & Norris Hardware.

Idolia Shubrooks's family shopped at Bohanan's Store, which was located less than a mile away in Park Hall, right in front of today's Green Door. "They had a grocery store and a little bar in the back. They had everything you'd need. Except shoes; you had to go to Weiner's down in Beachville for shoes. My grandmother used to buy up at Bohanan's. They gave "credit", I've got some receipts, like an IOU. Lotta people got credit up there, too, and I know it. They were really good to people. Everybody seemed to like the Bohanans. It was a community store. My brother had a store, too. He had a little store near the intersection of Park Hall Road and Route 235. He had groceries and people would be walking up and down the road all day. Just going to the store. He had sodas and canned food, bread; necessities, really. The trucks brought his supplies in. He fed a lot of people around here."

On the topic of mail order supplies, Idolia says they shopped from catalogue stores such as Sears and Alden's for clothing. "Sometimes they'd get mail order chickens. You used to get the eggs and sell them, too. And they would come up to Stone's up here to sell them. Stone's used to sell chickens, too. Stone's had a feed store right besides The Green Door. Then there used to be a little ole shoe store called Conwell's, up near the Park Hall post office."

Norris Shepherd: "First bicycle I got, got it from Montgomery Ward. My sister and I both got one. I'd say I saved up money for about three years to buy it."

Larry Millison: "My father had a general store. And it was a little country store, a bar. He was a very aggressive merchant. We had the only Santa Claus in St. Mary's County. I can remember we had, we would do big promotions at Christmas. He had a mimeograph machine. Nobody had a mimeograph machine. People would come from St. George's

Island in the Seventh District, which was forty, fifty, forty miles away. We did a lotta business with the people from Solomon's Island, which was right across the river. He was, he and my mother were good merchants. I remember a big promotion at Christmas was a navel orange for a penny. That was a big thing. Nobody, not many people had seen oranges. An orange was not a native fruit, and you know, you didn't have A&Ps and Safeways and so an orange was a real delight for someone to get. And no one saw Santa Claus. We had a fella named Gene Pilkerton who worked for us. He was a very large man; he didn't need any paddin to be Santa Claus. It would be comical to see Gene Pilkerton, 'cause Gene did everything. We delivered ice to everybody. And Gene would be workin' in the ice house in his Santa Claus uniform. He'd be puttin gas in people's car. You'd drive down the road and there's Santa Claus puttin gas in the car. Gene was a brilliant guy. He could fix anything. He had no education at all, but he just was one of those folks that could comprehend 'lectricity or mechanical things. Loved my father. And my father, kiddin with him one day, said, "Now, Gene, when Easter comes," says, "I've got a Easter costume for ya, and I want ya to dress as the Easter Bunny." And he [Gene] says, "No, by God, I'm not gonna, I'm not gonna do that." Said worse than that, really. And he didn't come back til about Fourth of July. He just stayed back in the woods. He lived back in the woods."

"We attracted a very large black clientele. We catered very much to black people. And they were very, as a rule, very good-natured and very jovial. People enjoyed comin to the store. It was sort of a festive thing for em. They enjoyed sitting around the store, and playing cards and tellin jokes and visitin with each other. It would be not uncommon for people from St. George's Island, which is like eighteen, twenty miles away, to walk to the store. A whole family would walk. And then we had an ol pickup truck, and we would carry em back to St. George's Island for free. In those days, people made fifty cents a day, and seventy-five cents a day, and a dollar a day. So if somebody bought three or four dollars worth of groceries, that may be ten big bags of groceries. We'd put em in a large paper bag, people used to call it a poke or a sack, and when you went back to St. George's Island, maybe there'd be ten people in the back of this ol pickup truck."

Audio 37. Larry Millison talks about his father's store:

Kennedy Abell: "This is a driveway that went into St. Mary's Academy and it's looking from the school towards Route 5. And this is Mr. Saunders' store on the corner (now gone, replaced by the north-bound lanes) and the house that's presently still there. If you went out that driveway today, that store would be sitting right in the middle of that intersection. There had been a gas station on the other side of the street from Saunders' store for a long time."

36. Looking at Saunders' Store from St. Mary's Academy.

Loretta Beavan Norris: "Mr. Al Saunders' store was heated by a pot belly stove. When you walked downtown to go to school, if you didn't cut across the field you went into Mr. Saunders' to get warm before you went up the lane, because the lane was cold as it could be."

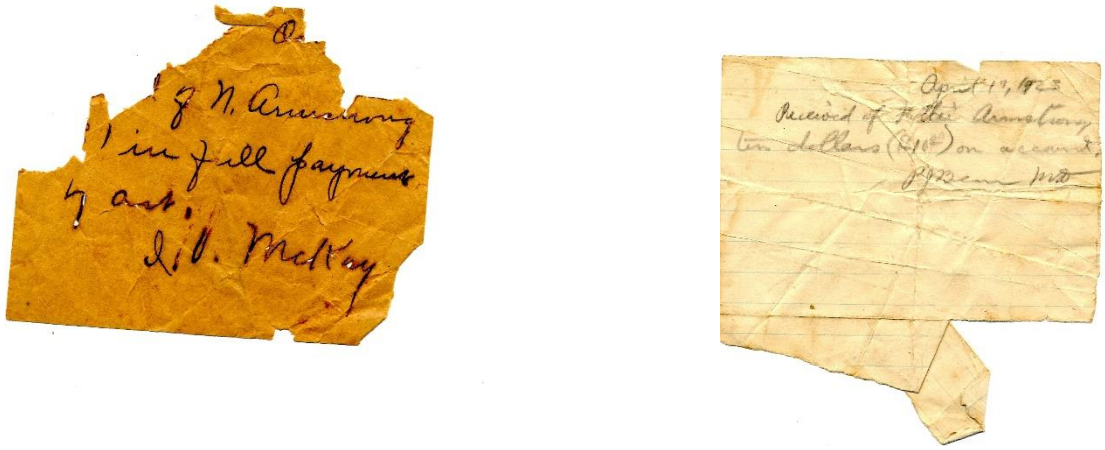
"Saunders' Store was an old country store that had everything in it. You could buy a tube of toothpaste, you could buy goulashes, and you could buy bread and meat and canned things. You didn't have as much merchandise as there is today. There was a lot of cataloging done in those days. There was a department store downtown that the Nathansons ran. Then, of course, Ben Franklin came along."

Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall: "Mr. and Mrs. Saunders ran it 50, 100 years, I don't know how long it was, but it was always there. It hasn't been gone too long. That was a great meeting place for the people that went to the Academy to meet after school. There was no set pattern but the people that walked home, we were walkers and oh I have to tell you this. We came home at lunchtime but we didn't go on the sidewalk, we would go through the Briscoe yard, the Hamilton yard, the Fenwick yard to get to my house and we would only have like 45 minutes to eat a sandwich and go back."

"My mother would send me down to Saunders with a quarter and guess what you could get for a quarter? A loaf of bread and a quart of milk and that would get you through the next meal. I'd go on my bicycle, we all did and it was Mr. Saunders' store who I'm sure ended up having enough money in life but when he ran that store I'm sure he ran it carefully because he sold lunch meat and bread and milk but not meat really, he didn't have a big meat department. Oh and penny candy. "

Lari Mako: "What I remember the most about Saunder's was, right when you walked in, was the candy. But he sold a little bit of everything. Clothes, cheese, medicine; you name it, Saunder's had it. No matter when I came down, I would just take walks and I would stop at Saunder's just to say hi to Mr. Saunders. And everybody called him Mr. Saunders, including his wife. Until the day she died she called him Mr. Saunders."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "We called him Mr. Saunders. He was related to the Drury's. And the Drury's house, put yourself back, right across from the Briscoe's house, not Judge Loker's, but there's another house that's been well restored. It's an attractive house. That's the Drury's house. And Mr. Saunders, I don't know if his mother was a Drury or he married a Drury; but anyway, Saunders Store was always called "Drury's Corner". That corner as you go down towards Leonardtown from the Briscoe's, where those roads meet up, Route 5 and all that. That was Drury's Corner. He sold everything. My father bought all these hats from Mr. Saunders. He sold tennis shoes. I can remember Lou Briscoe and me buying our first high top tennis shoes for something like seventy-five cents. Mother would send me down there to buy two sticks of butter; why she couldn't buy the whole damn pound I don't know, just two sticks. Or she'd send us down to buy a pack of cigarettes. If you didn't have any money, he would write it on a paper bag, how much you owed, and put it in wherever, the cash register, and at the end of the month divvy it up. He sold sugar, eggs, clothes, in that little tiny store. And then he had a nice man, his name was Elmer. He worked with Mr. Saunders and he had a club foot. He was so nice. I remember when Daddy died and he came to the funeral and he made a great deal over my children because they would go over and buy candy when we came down for the weekend or whatever. And then the kids at St. Mary's Academy, a lot of them would go to Saunders and sit on the porch there and eat their lunch, rather than eat in the school."



37. Grocery bills scrawled on torn off paper bags.

Alfred Mattingly: "Old man, Al Saunders; he had that store corner and that was the spot. You name it, he sold it. I mean, he sold clothes, shoes, seed, and candy. They had a big candy case in there. Bologna, ham, eggs, soft drinks. I could either eat at the Academy or I could go to Saunders for a soft drink and something. When we were on recess, almost everyone walked down the lane to Saunders' corner. The road in front was only two lanes. When you walked out of the Academy, you could walk straight across and be right at Saunders' Store. It was just a stop sign there and enough room for two cars to park in front and one on the side; that was pretty much it.

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "Oh my, that was a favorite store. We'd go out there and you'd be surprised at the candy you could get for a penny. I'm not kidding you! And all of the Academy would go out there, get it, and go back. Saunder's Store had this chocolate graham cookie with a marshmallow on it. Gosh I'd like to have some of them things right

now. They were delicious, oh man! Momma'd buy us some candy when she went down to the store. We'd always get that bag and candy and we'd divide it amoung the three children. 'Cause that's how many there were and we'd always come out with an extra piece. You can bet my brother wanted that, cause he loved candy.

Norris Shepherd: "Yeah, you could get five for a penny."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "You probably did, honey, because we didn't have much money. Momma would give us; we got a dollar a week, that was our allowance. And you'd be surprised, because that was a lot of money. And we'd save it and go to the carnival."

38. Saunders' Store.

Al Gough: "Saunders' store was taken out when the road was dualized. Saunders' store was a general merchandise store. We young kids were interested in the candy, but they had groceries, canned goods. They had shoes, work clothes, dress shirts, pocket watches, just about anything. It was a small store but it was packed. It was built by Ben Drury sometime in the very early 1900s; Ben Drury lived right along Washington Street on the North End, next to Judge Loker. His brother-in- law was Al Saunders. Al Saunders was from Baltimore originally but he came into business with Mr. Ben Drury. Saunders' was always advertised as ' across from Sister's Gate ' which was St. Mary's Academy and at one time there was a big gate. It was the North End General Store, popularly known as both Saunders' Store and Saunders' Corner. "

Audio 38. Al Gough talking about Saunder's Store:

Peter Wigginton: "Up there on the corner. We were there all the time because Ma Loker would send us down there to get stuff. And I knew Mr. Saunders, and then later Elmer Hall who took it over after Mr. Saunders got old. Both of those men were nice men. Courteous, old time fellows. I enjoyed going there. It was an old-timely store. I would tell my classmates up the road (at Georgetown Prep) about it and they still wouldn't believe it.

They still had candy in the big glass encasement and you'd pick out what you want. You could look in and you'd see the candy in different trays and you'd say ' One of them and one of them and one of them and he could get them out for you. Also, what was cool about it was that everything appeared to be in fairly good order on the counter, but back where the clothes were everything was in great disorder. And you'd say ' Can you find me a pair of britches to fit?' And he knew right where to find them. The top was just an attic and he had stuff stored up there. And Elmer, when I was about 21, he said ' You wanna see something cool?' And he went upstairs and there were "boaters", honest to Lord; old time straw hats that men wore back in the teens and '20s."

Dr. John Fenwick: “You could get hardly get from aisle to aisle because of all the clothes and different things he sold in there. Our interest in going to Saunders’ Store when I was a little kid was we’d find some Coke bottles or something like that that you could turn in for a nickel. That reminds me of Walter Wise’s father, where that house is on the corner of 5 and 244 (Route 5 and Medley’s Neck Road, which is 244). That big white house that sits there, Walter Wise was born there. His father was named Willie Wise and he used to have a store there. And we lived over in Hanover, which was within walking distance, so we would find a buffalo nickel or something in the yard and get candy. And so help me God I’m sure he gave us more than we should’ve gotten for a nickel, but it was enough for us 3 older boys to get enough candy to make us sick.”

Audio 39. Dr. John Fenwick recalls going into Leonardtown to shop at Saunder’s Store and other local shops:

Paul Bailey: "To get back to the country stores, all of them had a barrel of ginger snaps which you could come in and take free of charge. Take one or two to eat. Nobody ever filled a bag with them, I don't think. But every country store I can remember had a free ginger snap barrel, and nobody would ever go in, people were very moderate in their activities in those days, nobody would come in and fill a great big bag and walk out there with free ginger snaps. You'd take one or two and that was your welcome."

Stills, Moonshine, and Bootleggers

Despite the enactment of Prohibition laws, whiskey stills abounded in St. Mary's County. Aleck Loker writes this: "....when the nation went dry...St. Mary's County rediscovered the value of home-brewed liquor....Bootlegging offered a large return on investment - about $24.00 for each $4.00 sack of sugar." Quoting Dr. Roy Guyther, he says "Reliable estimates by a local attorney in practice during that era indicate that only one in ten St. Mary's residents who were arrested for violation of the Volstead Act were convicted." But bootlegging was not without risk. Federal Revenue Agents shot numerous times and killed Charles P. Gunlach, suspected of making illegal alcohol."

J. Frank Raley: "Things weren't going too well down here, there wasn't much going on, this place had gotten steadily poorer, it was one of the poorest counties and areas in the whole state of Maryland....It went to bootlegging, this was a heavy bootlegging country. I don't know if you knew that but this was ideal for it because it was a peninsula with

heavily wooded, hard to, for the revenue officers to get in without being detected. They even had a surveillance system, a local surveillance system, everybody, all the local people....the community, the citizens they were very much opposed to Prohibition and they of course flaunted the law absolutely and all banded together into a vast network of watching out for the revenue officers when, if they started down the road the lookouts would spy them and then they would call in to make sure that everybody got away from their stills."

Audio 40. George Aud on whiskey and bootlegging in St. Mary's County:

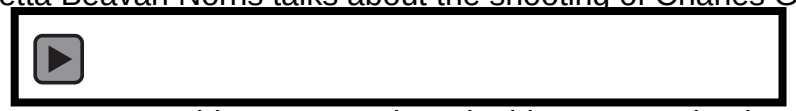
T. Webster Bell: "Well, he's dead and gone now so I guess it's all right to mention his name. Vernon Milburn. And he had a sister. She was a right sharp lookin gal, she worked for the internal revenue, the prohibition department. She knew, she could overhear 'em talkin, these fellas that would come down and bust up these stills. They'd always be two, three, or four, dependin on the size of the operation and how much work was involved. It would take 'em back in those days anywhere from two to three hours to get down here from the time they left Washington. And she would know exactly where they were goin and what still they were goin to raid that day. And course she would call ahead and tell the operator, or Central as we called it, what was getting ready to come off. Then if the people they were gonna raid that day was, didn't have a phone, why she'd raise for somebody to get in touch with them some way or another. So she'd call somebody that did have a phone, ask them to go over and tell Joe Dokes or who it would happen to be that the revenue agents was on their way down and to clean out. Well, course they not only would bust up the still and destroy all their mash and everything that they used to make it, but what they wanted to do was catch these fellas, ya know. But if they got tipped off, why of course they'd have to leave all their equipment behind, but the main thing was not to get caught, ya know. But I've always said that I don't blame people for what they do, I only blame them for gettin caught."

Audio 41. Tommy Webster Bell, Sr. on prohibition:

Loretta Beavan Norris: "The revenue men were always around looking for everybody. In fact, Randolph Brewer lived up over here on Brown Road. And he shot Gundlach over here behind us, two farms over. My husband picked up the shell....old man Gundlach was a friend of this family. He was an old German man and they heard the gunshots and went over there and my husband picked up the gun shell and put it in his pocket. Phil Dorsey was the lawyer and they took Berkman to Baltimore to testify because he had the gun shell in his pocket. But old man Gundlach, Brewer shot him in his door of his house. In the 70's or early 80's the Tech Center was building a house on that property, on that hill, on Brown Road. So Berkman said to my son John, John was the county engineer at that time, "John, they can't build a house on that piece of property; Gundlach is buried there." He said "Oh, dad, come on." He said "John, I buried him. I know he's there." So ok, they start to dig for the foundation and they find Mr. Gundlach's bones. They had to stop digging until they found a place for Mr. Gundlach's bones."

Loretta Beavan Norris said that Revenuers came onto her farm in the 1930's. "They would come checking to see if they could find a still. The saw mill and the grist mill were both down here behind John's house, behind those houses down on that stream. (A running creek was required for the purpose of cooling the copper tubing during the distilling process.) And they would come in here checking to see what was going on and checking to see if there were any stills on the property. Of course, Berkman's family didn't make any whiskey, but they did have the saw mill and they did saw the lumber that the people would come and buy and they made the boxes for the mash. Then they would have the gristmill over here grinding the mash. So of course they knew something was going on. Everybody made whiskey. I can remember my grandfather didn't make whiskey, but he would buy a big keg of whiskey and fill it full of rock candy and peaches, and age it up in the closet."

Audio 42. Loretta Beavan Norris talks about the shooting of Charles Gundlach:



Lari Mako: "There were moon shiners everywhere in this county. Absolutely true. I could tell you stories. Well the thing of it is, when my father and mother got married, he loved it down here and she hated it. And he promised her he'd never take her to the country to live if she'd marry him. His grandfather died about a year later and left him some money and he came down here and bought a 100 acre farm in Helen. And we had a terrible time because there was so much property and there were about six stills on it. He'd get the people off of there and then they'd come back. And my grandfather went almost crazy with it; not my father, my father was dead then, but my grandfather because it was a tobacco farm and we didn't live there. We rented it to tenant farmers. There were like three farms on it. I'd say to my mother, ' Did they get another still?', talking about the Internal Revenue. The Internal Revenue came down to Southern Maryland very often to check on the stills and this is during Prohibition."

"In those days the hotel had burned down so people of the town would take the revenue men in for the night. The largest room in the house was called 'Uncle Claude's room'. It was at the far end of the house. Uncle Claude was dead long ago; they just called it that. Well, that was my grandfather's cousin or brother or somebody, you know, and the story is he came for dinner and stayed for five years or something like that and they called it his room. My grandfather invited two revenuers to spend the night. And they were there two nights and on the third night, the next day after they left, actually the ceiling came down in that room and all this liquor spilt into it. My uncle, Joseph C. Mattingly, had much liquor stored up in the attic. I think my Uncle Joseph made a lot of money in bootlegging. I don't think he was a bootlegger, but he sold it. He worked at Loker's store, owned by George Loker. I think there was a good place to supply liquor in the back room. I think they called that bootleg whiskey and that's all they had. They were drinking it down here. My Uncle Joseph's friend, Senator Tydings, he used to come down and get it regularly. Everybody drank certainly more liquor in those days than they do now. My Uncle Joseph lived in that house, but not in that room. He had put his liquor up in the attic; there was a room that you could close up and lock and he had put the liquor in there. I'm sure he sold it from up there. They must've taken quart jars and taken them up there and got it. Maybe he was in a hurry one day or something, I don't know. But one of the barrels had fallen over and it

leaked. And those houses just had plaster and it leaked all through the plaster.

"It wasn't legal what he was doing and you certainly wouldn't have been inviting revenuers to stay. I'm sure Uncle Joseph was worried when my grandfather did it. My grandfather had no idea the liquor was there, heavens no! He wouldn't have allowed that for a minute. He knew nothing about that. My grandfather maybe drank a little hot toddy every once in a while, but that was it. My grandfather had a wonderful sense of humor. I remember him telling Judge Loker this story and they got hysterical, but it's really a true story. The day after they left the ceiling fell down.

"And in Leonardtown at one time, I'm not exaggerating, we had about seven or eight bars. If you went to the hardware store there was a bar in the back. If you went to the grocery store there was a bar in the back. No matter where you went I can't remember there not being a bar."

Audio 43. Lari Mako talks about stills and whiskey in her grandfather's home:

John H.T. Briscoe: "My father (Walter Hanson Stone Briscoe) always kept a little whiskey in the house just for horses. He didn't drink himself and nobody else got a drink of it either. And when Prohibition went into effect, he went to the stores and all those places and bought up some liquor to have it for his horses if they got sick. But he never drunk any; he never touched it. Mother never took it, either. It was just about before I was married before I myself took a drink. First drink of whiskey I had was when I was 32 years old. I know exactly where it was, too. It was down at Dr. Burch's, at Mary Burch's wedding."

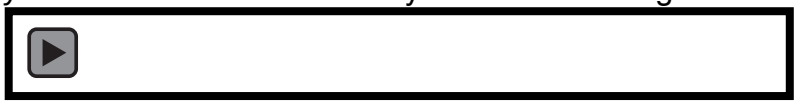
Paul Bailey: "I'm not ashamed ever to say that drinking in moderation was likewise a part of the life here. All the church festivals had beer. Never heard of them selling whiskey at a festival. And even during Prohibition, homemade beer was sold everywhere in St. Mary's county. The county was always called as I told you at the outset of this part of your interview, 'the land of the fiddle and the flask'. It sure was."

Audio 44. Paul Bailey talks about "the Land of the Fiddle and the Flask":

Larry Millison likewise recalled the practice of giving out alcohol at church festivals: "If the father was a drinkin man, you'd give him a pint of gover-- what we called government whiskey. That was, you see ... bootleggin was a very big industry in St. Mary's County, and particularly on Cedar Point. Even after Prohibition was repealed, where in most parts of the United States they stopped making whiskey, they still continued to make whiskey in St. Mary's County. People actually liked homemade whiskey better than what they called store-bought whiskey, or government whiskey, which was manufact-- you know, it was the popular brands of whiskeys we know today. Of course, the tax situation changed so that as time went on, the taxes on whiskey, on alcohol, got very high, which encouraged the manufacture of homemade whiskey. Homemade whiskey is still an industry in St. Mary's County. Of course, during Prohibition, you made friends with the local

storekeeper, like a fellow like my father, who would discreetly supply you with sugar, which was necessary to have to make the whiskey. Sugar whiskey. And mason jars. Of course, the way of capturing, or finding out about the bootleggers was who was buying the, an unusual amount of sugar, and an unusual amount of mason jars. So, the local store merchant had to get em for you. And he also had to discreetly sell em to ya, so that it wouldn't cause anybody any attention. It was not uncommon to take your truck to Baltimore, and get a load of sugar, and a load of bottles and mason jars. And not ever unload em at the store, and load em at someone's farm, or two or three people's farms. You certainly realize that a man with two or three children, buying a ton of sugar every other week, wasn't usin it to bake pies with. Of course, at the local store-- there weren't many telephones. So people would come to the store to use the phone. And the store's-- Roy Dyson's grandmother, Congressman Dyson's, Florence Dyson, she was the telephone operator in Great Mills. She was a lovely woman. Usually the revenue agents would come in to St. Mary's County through Charles County."

Audio 45. Larry Millison talks about whiskey and moonshining in St. Mary's County:



Larry Millison: "Right next to the Officers' Club on the base was a still. It was a little stream. See, when you go to-- the kind of whiskey they made here, you need a stream, cause you need water running over the coils, in order to keep it cool. There was a little stream down there, let's see, what did they call that stream, it's Goose Creek now. See, when I was a kid, that wasn't open. It's open now. The Navy opened it up; it's right by Cedar Point lighthouse there. It was a stream made up in there. I remember it was a still there. There were, I'm sure, twenty, thirty stills on Cedar Point. People would move the stills all the time. You know, as the revenuers found out about em."

"Famous story is that a, was a fella by the name of-- better not call his name, cause he might get in trouble. I'm sure he's dead anyway, but I won't call his name. But anyway we'll call him Mister Jones. He had a still that-- he had bad luck there. The revenuers used to catch him, his still about every six months. He had a very famous piece of I-beam that would hold the kettle. They would blow his still up, but they never damaged this piece of metal. They could always tell it was his still, cause he would go after the revenuers had raided the still, and he would salvage what he could with jars that didn't break. And he would take this I-beam and use it to hold the kettle in the next still he made. So when they found the still in-- he was sorta identified by his piece of I-beam. And ninety, ninety-five percent of St. Mary's County was involved directly or indirectly in the manufacture of alcohol. People would come down from Washington and-- of course, we're talkin about Cedar Point but in Great Mills was called Little Mexico. O course you know the big hill going up by the 'macculate Heart of Mary. It was not uncommon to, for the group that hung in Great Mills, my Uncle Sam was one of em, they would sell a load of whiskey. And when the people would drive off, going up the road, up 'maculate Heart, by 'maculate Heart Church [corrects himself], no, not Immaculate Heart, excuse me, by Little Flower-- they would hijack em. In other words, they would be going up the road in low gear, and maybe they'd be going seven, eight, nine, ten miles an hour, and they would jump on the

runnin board and take the whiskey away from em. Back the truck back into Great Mills and sell it to someone else. It was sorta like a little Mexico. Of course, all these people would come down from Washington, and a lotta the bootleggers had cars with smoke-pots on em. They'd travel in a little caravan, maybe twenty, thirty of em. They'd have false bottoms. Like I say, Missus Dyson would let everybody know where the revenuers were. When they were raiding, they would come down the road, they'd come through Hughesville and Mechanicsville and Charlotte Hall and Laurel Grove. Everybody would hang around the store. And when they would get close to Cedar Point, everybody would go home, put the fires out on the stills, and hide what they felt they wanted to hide. My Uncle Sam had a route. And he and a fella named Senator Elrey that was my Aunt Nettie's boyfriend, and they would deliver whiskey in Washington every Tuesday and Thursday. They would drive right into Washington. They had a fella who was a captain in the Washington police force. He would stand on the runnin board as they went through Washington. And he would sorta fix it so they could double-park. And they would deliver alcohol to their little route of congressmen and senators and government officials. And this captain in the Washington police force he would look out, he would sorta like give em escort service. So it was a big business here."

Charles E. Fenwick: "Every one of the little stores had whiskey in em somewhere. I knowed a man that ran a store in Leonardtown down at the wharf. He was out over the water, and he was very cautious. He had a little trapdoor there and he would let his whiskey down into the water. When somebody came in to drink he would pull the string and bring it up and sell them a drink... We had one man in Leonardtown. He was a big tall man and he had a great big overcoat and he must a had fifty pockets in that overcoat. If you wanted a bottle of whiskey, he'd give you half a pint ... You'd give him fifty cents and he'd give you half a pint of moonshine. That's after the stores closed at night. He'd walk around all night. Anybody wanted to spend fifty cents, he was a walking barroom."

"The Virginians came up here, mostly from Petersburg, Virginia. They were considered a rather rough bunch. They had five hundred gallon a day stills. They would put that stuff in half a gallon mason jars. Course it was 'white lightnin' they called it. No color. Pack it up in Cadillac touring cars, they called them 'The Capital Limited' and they would take out for Washington. They told me they would go so fast that the cop couldn't catch em on a motorcycle. Or maybe they were paid and they didn't, I don't know."

"There was a story in The Enterprise recently about Mister Gundlach. He was buried out here on his little farm. I remember Gundlach very well. He drove his horse to town when I worked at the store. The talk around then was that he had a little still, ya know, ten, fifteen, twenty gallons a day. Maybe five or ten gallons and make two batches a day. The story was that the revenue officers, if they didn't arrest him, then he had to pay them a certain amount. Well, that old fella, he wasn't about to pay them anything and he didn't and they shot him."

Audio 46. Charles E. Fenwick tells the story of Gundlach's shooting:

Webster Dyson: "Most time we boys done the work on the farm. Daddy tell us what's do. He might work a couple hours, but most time he be handlin' whiskey. He was a bootlegger.

"He sold whiskey in half pint bottles. We'd walk the beach, pick up whiskey bottles, and sell ‘em to our father for two cent a piece. He had one still in the barn, one in the woods, and one in the attic. Revenuers come by to the house one time, and they said to my father, ' You know there's a still down by your place in the woods?'. Daddy said ' No, I didn't know it.' They said 'We gonna warn you.' We didn't wanna scare you, but we gonna go down there and dynamite it.' We couldn't say nothin', but it was nothin' but daddy's still. Everybody set there and wait for the dynamite to go up. Everybody heard em go up - BOOM! BOOM! Had two left, and he put another one 'n' no time.

"Then one time a State trooper comes in one night and told daddy that he was a big bootlegger and that they were gonna pick him up pretty soon. So he come in that night and got the rifle, the shotgun, and the revolver, and told me and my oldest brother ' Y'all jus get up an put your clothes on. 'Said' We got some work to do.' We didn't know what was goin' on. He said 'Go down and put the mules to the wagon.' So he come out with the shotgun, the rifle, and the revolver, took us down 'n the woods, and took the still down in the woods - it was down there in back of the base - put it on a wagon, took it up Town Creek, and set it up 'fore that next day mornin. That State Trooper knew what was goin on so daddy got kinda shy.

"I wa'n nothin but about ten, eleven years old, but we stuck by daddy. We liked my father. Sometimes he on the road delivering; he deliver most of it. Some of it, people from the Eastern Shore or Calvert County would come over and get it. After World War I was over, they stuck a lotta ships out there in the Patuxent. Somebody bought them ships and kept them up. And they bought a lot of daddy's whiskey. Sometime they put a whole keg on one of those ships. I think a keg would age for round six month. When the six month wa' up, they come and pick it up. But most time they bought it green. People from Calvert County come down in a boat, and they come down on the bank. We set a kerosene lamp on the shore, and we go up on the bank and wait til they come in. When they come in, we go down, help 'em load up, and pick up the money. Most time, couple of us stay up on the bank in case someone come.

"We had put out fishin lines with small hooks on, you know. You see, you delivered at nighttime, and them revenuers come round one o'clock in the morning. So my daddy takes some black fishing cord, set it 'bout so high from the ground, and put fish hooks on it - 'bout fifteen, twenty inches apart on the cord - and wound it through the woods and round the still. When someone come in the area, they don't see the cord, and they get hung up on them hooks. Once he would get turned away, another hook would catch him. And we had cow bells on em, so the bells would ring, you know, and let you know somebody near. But we never had no trouble cause we always set in case they did come.

"Revenuers had a hard time getting down without us knowin it. So much bootlegging going on in those days, it was fun to sit and tell jokes about how they run certain guys. They run ya, try in' a catch ya. We'd be sittin in school and they'd come past school, run through the woods, and we'd say ' There goes another Revenuers man.'

"My old man have a card party every Saturday night where he sold his own whiskey, and he sold ham and chicken sandwiches. Charge people ten cents 'a come in. People from Carver Town come over, and people from up in the swamp come down. We had a big ol' room called the parlor, and they'd go in there and dance, they would. Had a little band. Like, all my father's brothers and a few others play most any kinda music. We'd have a card party in one room, and they be dancing in the other. In that room where they had a card party, they would raffle chickens and ducks, and you get more money like that than you would sellin em.

"Then we had'a go church every Sunday."'

Audio 47. Webster Dyson talks about moonshining:

The School System in General

One countian recalled what Great Mills High School was like in the 1930s, when his father was a student there: "When my father graduated from Great Mills High School, there had only been a Great Mills High School for four years. Prior to 1930, there was no public high school in St. Mary's county. They had high schools, but there weren't any public high schools. There was a white Catholic high school at the Academy and a black Catholic high school, Cardinal Gibbons Institute. There were private high schools, Charlotte Hall Military Academy and Leonard Hall. The county was overwhelmingly Catholic, and so was the education. Most of the people worked as watermen and farmers; you didn't really need any formal education for those professions."

J. Frank Raley: "I went to school at St. Michael's.....down the road a way in Ridge. It was an old weathered boarded frame building, it had four rooms. The first and second were on the south side and the third and fourth and fifth and sixth were on the north side. And of course...when it got cold and the wind blew from the north, I can remember it and I was a little fella they always set me up front and the big heavier people, the boys they'd sit in the back and it would be so damn cold up front...but I don't even remember it being a, you know, a really bad time, it was just the way it was and, of our living."

"Most of the people at that time went to, most of the people of the county were probably about eighty, it was about eighty per cent Catholic. ...We were poor, anyhow, but the Catholics dominated politics. They therefore were sending most of their children to Catholic schools. They didn't want to be taxed to spend too much money on public schools and since they controlled the election there wasn't much spent and our school system was in a pretty poor position. Although the Catholic schools were better really in those days than the, they were mostly taught by nuns who came here and the ones who taught me were all New England nuns that came here, really dedicated women came down here and they had those accents and that was a problem with these, some of our local people who had, who just couldn't get used to that, in effect used to make fun of it."

Norris Shepherd: "You were talking about going into town and what not, I've traveled to church and store and visited with my grandfather in horse and buggy. And the church at the time was down by Cecil's Store off of Great Mills Road. It's a barn now. I don't believe

it's any kind of chapel now. The last I know it, it was stacked full of hay. But the Holy Face up on the hill was built when I was away on sanitarium (for tuberculosis). The two years I was gone. That's when that was built, but I don't remember it being built. But I went to school at Little Flower, and it was only a two room I guess, or only a one room, for eight grades I guess."

"Only the one place when there wasn't any women there, it was all...I was just a youngster, but it was my uncle had it, and there were five of us who lived there. And we done our own cooking, we done our own washing and clothes, done our own ironing, we done our own sewing, patching, and...That was on Chancellor's Run Road. And we got up in the morning. It was before you went to school. See this was the thing, the hard part about going to school was we got up in the morning, there wasn't, when you got up you had hogs to feed and water, you had horses to feed and water, cows to feed and milk, chickens to feed and water, and then run to the house and try to get some breakfast, and then run a mile to get to the top of the hill so the school bus driver would see you coming and he'd wait for you. If you didn't, you walked. Many a time I walked to the end of Chancellor's Run Road and Norris Road off of Chancellor's Run Road; I walked from there all the way to Little Flower School. About an hour and a half walk is the best I can remember. I get there at best in an hour, maybe. But I didn't go back home because then I would have that to walk.

"I graduated from eight grade over at St. John's school and whatnot. Because I was living with people over in that area. And when it come time to go to high school, the people I was living with, the feller told me ' You go in today so you can sign in so they know you're going to be there, but when you do tell them you won't be back for two to three weeks because we got this crop to get in.' A lot of young boys did the same thing. A lot of young men.....And it happened to them. And of course, when you go in and you're three weeks behind, two weeks behind, you can't catch up, and they can't stop and try to help you along. Cutting tobacco would be the first thing; late summer, early Fall. Be in like late September. It was September and October. But then if it was a good day and we had plowing to do, I stayed home and plowed. School was a secondary thing, work was the first thing. School was secondary for a lot of young men, I can tell you that.

"There was a time when I went there, they had bathrooms in the school but we weren't allowed to use them. We had to use the outside johns. Boys and girls, because Father Johnson wouldn't let us. He was afraid it probably was going to stop the system up, or it wasn't going to work right. This, that, and the other."

Idolia Shubrooks attended school in Jarboesville, taking the school bus to and from Park Hall. "I went to school to the tenth grade and then I worked. They were building some new houses down the road and I started working down there a little bit. Then I went on and got my diploma. You could do schooling by mail; I did that. I took everything I could take. I took so many, many, many courses. There were a lot of things you could do by mail."

Caroline Cecelia Thomas Countiss: "I went to school at Crossroads Hurry, Maryland. One room school house there. And then they had two schools. One was from 1st through 6th grade and then you'd go up to the other school. And they called that the high school.

There wasn't no high schools for the colored people, there was just for the white."

Ann Camalier Wathen: "All of us went to the little school on Lawrence Avenue. First grade to seventh. We had two teachers. First, second, and third in one room; fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh in the other room. And where we went we didn't get bus rides either. We all walked no matter what the weather was. If you lived at the bottom of Wharf Hill, you walked to school. All of us graduated from Margaret Brent High School. We had to take a school bus up to Margaret Brent. I don't know if you know, but Catholics have a holy day of obligation during the year. And they have to go to Mass on those days. So, on this day, the bus driver would take us up to the church in Morganza. He would let us all off, about nine of us. We would go to Mass, and then we would walk down the road to Margaret Brent. Couldn't do it nowadays because there are too many cars and we would be killed; but in those days it would take about an hour to get to school. And of course you needed the little note from your parents saying you had permission and there was no problem with it. Of course now things wouldn't go on like that."

Audio 48. Hear Ann Camalier Wathen talk about getting to school:

Tom Waring: "I went to Chaptico, one room school, when I got here. The school was right next to the church. One teacher teaching all the grades. That teacher boarded at Fowler's which was right across from the school. The little ones would sit up in front. There was a wood stove in the school house; the little ones needed the heat more. Margaret Brent had just been opened and that was a high school. "

Leonard Hall

39. Leonard Hall School.

Alfred Mattingly: "Leonard Hall started as an agricultural school run by the Xaverian Brothers. My father went there when it was still an agricultural school. I went there after it had become a military school. Leonard Hall had a lot of cattle, horses, hogs, and chickens. Where the governmental center is now, they had a lot of barns. They must have had thirty horses. They had a dairy. A real set-up with the feeders and everything for the

cattle, and a lot of hogs. They killed hogs. They produced a lot of their own food because they had probably a hundred boarders there. Two floors of that main building were all dormitory; double bunks right next to each other. And all of the kids that went to Leonard Hall, with the exception of maybe eight to ten, were all boarders. Some of the Brothers stayed in the building that today houses the Office on Aging. And during the summertime, when they closed the school up, the Brothers would go over to where Ryken is today and run their summer camp at Camp Calvert where they had a lot of cabins. We used to go over there on Sundays and sell hotdogs and stuff when parents came down to see the kids. They only had a very few day hops at Leonard Hall. Where, in contrast, the Academy was probably seventy per cent day hops and thirty per cent boarders."

Al Gough: "I went to St. Mary's Academy from the 1st to the 4th grade; went to Leonard Hall School, which was a military school at the time, from the 5th to the 8th, went back to St. Mary's Academy as a freshman. And then Ryken opened and I went from sophomore to senior at Ryken High School. St. Mary's Academy was run by the Sisters of Charity. The Xaverians were running Leonard Hall. Leonard Hall opened in 1909. It opened primarily as an agricultural school. At the time, it was a high school. The Xaverians were the first ones that initiated the County Fair in St. Mary's county. I think the County Fair started in 1914. At some period of time it died out and then it was reestablished right after World War II. It was back on the Brother's property back at Camp Calvert. But in the 1930s, for economic reasons I guess, high school was cut out. They went to a military school from the 5th to the 8th grade. And then, St. Mary's Academy had been an all-girls school and at some point in time they opened up to boys. When Ryken High School opened up, St. Mary's Academy went back to all girls.

"I got along a lot better with the nuns than I did with the Brothers. The Brothers were a little rough. I can't say at Ryken, but they were at Leonard Hall; they were a little rough. I think some of that was because it was a boarding school and they were used to it. St. Mary's Ryken was not a boarding school, so the majority if not all of the students were local."

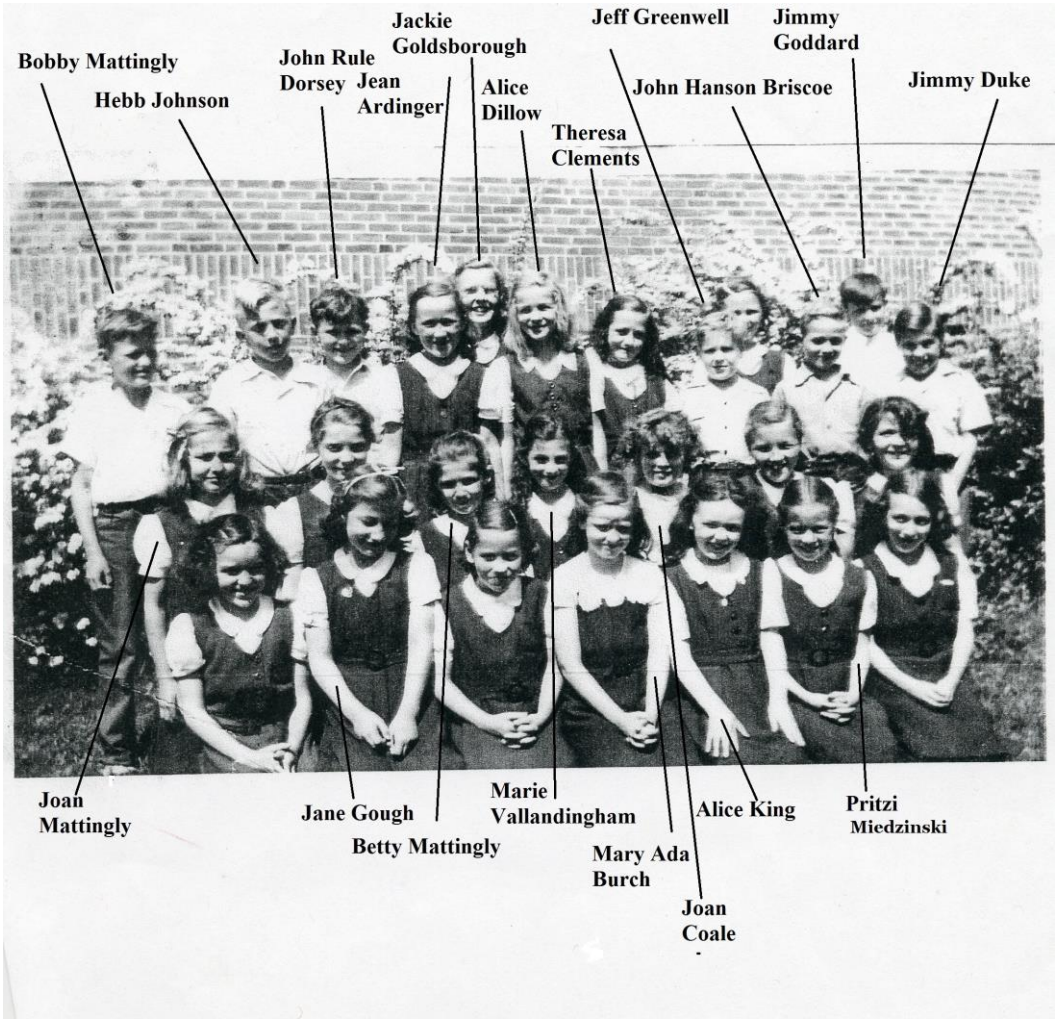
Alfred Mattingly: "We farmed this property (Leonard Hall) for the Brothers. And during the summer we raised a lot of potatoes and other things. The farm extended over to where the State Police and library are today. The Xaverians donated the land to the National Guard. The Guard got their start practicing in a gym that belonged to the Brothers."

Per Aleck Loker's book: "Leonard Hall school discontinued its high school in 1932 due to the tough economic conditions of the Depression era. Thereafter, boys were accepted at St. Mary's Academy High School" … "In 1941, Brother John Chrysostom implemented the Junior Naval Academy theme complete with uniforms, marching companies, and band. He clearly anticipated the important role that the Navy would play in the life of St. Mary's County...."

St. Mary's Academy

John Hanson Briscoe: "I attended St. Mary's Academy (currently the main building at the

College of Southern Maryland) for twelve years. And I spent twelve years there being taught by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, obviously a Catholic education. What was unique for me was that it took me four minutes to get to school because I lived right next door, in the house currently owned and occupied by Jan and Chipper Norris. All I had to do was go out the side door; I could never be late for school. I just walked across a sage brush field; there was nothing there at the time but just that field and I could go right to the school, go in the side door, and that was it. And I spent twelve years there".



40. John Hanson Briscoe's fourth grade class picture at St. Mary's Academy.

Alfred Mattingly: "St. Mary's Academy was co-ed. There were two grades to a room in grade school. In high school they were separate. I walked to school because I lived right here in town, right up the street from Johnny's house. The only problem with going to school at the Academy was you got two classes, like the first and second grade, in one classroom with one teacher. Maybe thirty or forty kids in one class. You didn't get a whole lot of personal instruction. You either made it or you didn't.

"The convent and the boarders' house were located behind what is now CSM. The house

was huge. The girls and nuns lived together. No boys lived there. The grounds keeper lived in a nearby house. A dirt road went down the hill from the area of the old house to a run of water; today it's marked as a nature trail. On nice days the kids would just go down there for walks and stuff."

Lari Mako: "I went to St. Mary's Academy when I was in, I guess they call it kindergarten. In the older wooden building. When my father was ill, I was even there for a boarder. I liked it. I think the second and third grades were together, that's the last I remember.....see, I must've gone there until the fourth grade or so. I remember the Academy when I was very young. There were a lot of people having plays there; people from town, they made their own entertainment."

41. Old St. Mary's Academy. ***Courtesy of John Hanson Briscoe, Jr.***

The new building at Saint Mary's Academy had its corner stone laid in March of 1936, next door to the Briscoe home. The Beacon reported that "The new Academy will be an imposing modern fireproof building.....in dear old St. Mary's Academy many of us learned the mysteries of the "three R's"."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We thought we were just as rich as any others. I mean, come on. But now, when I started school, mama started me at seven because she kept me back there with my brother. Tuition at the Academy was fifteen dollars a person. But with sending the two of us she got it at twenty-five. Twenty-five dollars back in 1940, that was a lot of money. A lot of money because we moved over here to Potato Hill in '38 and I was five years old. In two years I started school, Frank and I did in '40. First and second be in one room, third and fourth, fifth and six, seventh and eighth. But then when I went to high school we had two freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors and two seniors. We got the kids from other schools then, that was a high school, see? They had to; we had the largest class to graduate at that time from the Academy. Sixty-eight we started out with,

and we graduated with fifty-seven or fifty-eight.

"But you talking about ---, her brother --- went to, was in my class, and I felt sorry for that boy. When he come to school, he was always late. He lived with his grandfather and his Aunt ---- , and they treated him just like a slave. And he would have to do all these chores before he come to school. And he'd come to school dirty because he didn't have time to change his clothes. I felt really sorry for him."

Dr. John Fenwick: “Dad would take us to school, he would drive down to Our Lady’s which was about a mile and a half down the road or something like that. We would get up in the morning and get the wood stove going and usually it was my mother that did it and cook biscuits and we’d have sausage or bacon with it. You know? We had a good breakfast. And he would take us off to school. Well my mother, with 5 kids, she often had to iron a shirt or something before we left. All this stuff, we rarely got to school on time. I remember getting, as a matter of fact I found it years later, we were married when I found it: a report card from Our Lady school. I forget what year it was, but anyway it was final report card for the year and it gave you your grades and then it had “Days Absent” and I think I had 2. But then it had “Days Late” – 168.”

Elizabeth “Bee” Fenwick: “But then there for a while the nuns started charging them a quarter for being later. That was at the St. Mary’s Academy and they finally quit doing it because they were still late, it didn’t change their habits. They said these families can’t afford it because they’ve got 5 kids.”

Dr. John Fenwick: “I remember in elementary school, there was a family that lived across the (Breton) Bay that used to row across the bay to Our Lady’s school. They used to leave their boat down at John Drury’s, at Hunter’s Retreat and walked down to the school. Kids got educated early about the water and dangers like that and so forth. And they didn’t have any engines on that boat. They were rowing across. They did have a bus that went from Our Lady’s school, a bus that went 2 runs in the morning and 2 runs in the afternoon to take the kids back. And one of the trips was going over to Newtowne, which is the Compton area.”

Audio 49. Dr. John Fenwick and Elizabeth Fenwick recall what it was like trying to get kids to school on time:

Audio 50. Dr. John Fenwick remembering students who had to row across Breton Bay to get to school:

Loretta Beavan Norris started going to the Academy when her family moved to Leonardtown during her 5th grade. Before that, while at Our Lady's: "We were taught down there by the Sisters of Charity. They would go down there every day as they did at St. John's. They went down there every day with the bus that would take the children. At Our Lady's down in Medley's Neck we might've had three or four grades in a room because there weren't that many children. The school was heated by a potbelly stove."

Then, at The Academy: "The Sisters were all very nice. The school was a very nice school. We had tennis courts out there and basketball. I can remember the new school being built in 1936; Mr. Walter Toegel from Baltimore was the builder, he boarded at our house. The old school was behind the new one. The nuns and the boarders were all together in that one building. All of them, including the day pupils, in that one old building. They didn't have as many boarders as they did after they built the new school. They built the new building for the boarders. There was a big hall and music rooms. The Sisters taught a lot of pupils music. There was a lot of education going on in that building."

(Artist's drawing of the Saint Mary's Academy New Building)

SAINT MARY'S ACADEMY OPEN FOR INSPECTION

Visitors From Far And Near Spend Forenoon Viewing One of Most Modern Schools In Southern Maryland

On Thursday, December 19th, the new building at St. Mary's Academy opened its doors to the public. A large crowd of interested parents and friends of the scholars inspected the new building and expressed their delight that the youth of this section could have such a splendid modern structure in which to acquire knowledge.

A new building has long been a dream of the good Sisters of Charity and many plans made for its erection but laid aside for more auspicious times.

In January 1936, thru the untiring efforts of then Superioress Sister Mary Aline, the contract was awarded to G. Walter Tovell, Inc., Baltimore Contractors who erected the replica of Maryland's first State House, at St. Mary's City, Md. Ground was broken and the long dreamed of event began to take form. On March 26 the corner stone was placed by our much beloved Auxiliary Bishop John N. McNamara, and work has continued uninterrupted until now, the building is complete and ready for occupancy—a two story tile and brick structure, with spacious basement where a fine cafeteria has been installed; fire resisting roof five exits and fire doors, modern heat and light equipment. A veritable monument to the dear Sisters of Charity who have every right to feel a deep pride in their achievement, for only by the constant cooperation and arduous zeal of every Sister who has been stationed at "dear old S. M. A." since it opened its doors fifty years ago has this accomplishment been made possible

42. ***Article from St. Mary's Beacon***

43. Invitation to St. Mary's Academy's 1947 commencement ceremony.

Graduation Night

Somewhere in this pile of happy graduates are Therese Owens Henderson, Marie Vallandingham Rowe, Joe Owens, Robert Woodburn, Richard Wathen, Mary Ada Burch Candela, Ray Donovan, Jeff Greenwell, Alice Dillow, Lois Laughlin, Ann Cameron Miller, Jackson Hall, Tommy Knott and Josephine Corso.

44. A paper's coverage of John Hanson Briscoe's graduation class.

Eleanor Duke Storck: "The only thing we did was we had the glee club and if you played music you had that. And then during the war, I was a sophomore in 1941 when the war started, they cut out basketball. They said "Well, we can't go to the other schools to play." They only played in Charles County. There were no other schools to play, but they said "No we couldn't use the gas." We didn't have anything. You know, we had nothing like the kids do today. But we had a good time."

"Boy, you had to do what the nuns said. Eddie Waring, E.B. Abell, that's Kennedy's older brother, Leonard Johnson, Alfred Dillow, my cousin Walter Duke, were all fantastic violin players. And St. Mary's Academy, that little school, which was a girl's boarding school, boys could go there the first four grades and the last four grades if they lived in the county. They went to Leonard Hall for Middle School. But anyway, they would win all kinds of contests. And one time, they won down in St. Mary's. Then they went to Baltimore and competed against other schools. Then they went to Charlotte, North Carolina and they performed and they won. Isn't that amazing?"

"And they were also good at getting allocution; you know how important that is. Those nuns knew how to make those young men project their voice. And they won allocution contests, too. The nuns really had a very big impression on our lives, the Sisters of Charity."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We walked from Potato Hill House to the Academy. In all kinds of weather. It was a mile from that house to the road, but what we did we went across the field to that house you see in front of the Leonardtown Sunoco station. It was the Edwards property. And then we walked out onto that road. And a lot of times Jake Long, he come around in a state truck and stop and pick us up. Take us to school, he sure did. God, if we walked it would take a right good while. You'd have two miles. I guess we could do it in a half an hour because we were young. But you know what, if I had been in school and we haven't been in there no time and it started snowing, and they would call the school busses. Now, we rode the bus back to the end of the road, and got off and walked. But they would call that bus to come back and pick us up, and that bus had not more than emptied the children and going back and here it was picking us up and taking us."

Audio 51. Betty Shepherd talks about walking to school:

Peter Wigginton: "I had gone to a Jesuit school in Maryland, just outside of D. C., Georgetown Prep. Went to the Academy just my graduation year, '54. I had never been to high school with girls. The nuns were a different style of teaching, a different way of teaching. It was not as rigorous. Their strictness was a feminine strictness. The Jesuits, their strictness rose out of the fact, you weren't afraid of them; you wanted to emulate them. You did not want them not to respect you. It was a leadership in that fashion. Much more demanding, the Jesuits. Down here, it was much more socially educational; to learn to get along with people. Down here there was less studying and more religion; there was more praying and going to church. The Jesuits were intellectual; I mean, they taught classes in Latin."

Students who lived in Leonardtown, like John Hanson and Mary Ada Burch Candella could walk to school. Others rode the bus. Jack Candella: "Paul Bell owned our school bus, such as it was. During the war you couldn't get a new bus."

John Hanson Briscoe: "This could have been in high school."

45. John Hanson Briscoe at St. Mary's Academy.

46. John Hanson Briscoe at St. Mary's Academy.

Foxwell Point and Camp Calvert

John Hanson Briscoe: "And then the other place we used to like to go to was Foxwell's Point, down below Ryken. Not so much to fish, but to crab and swim. Ryken wasn't there at the time; just a camp - Camp Calvert. The Xaverian Brothers provided a boys camp in the summertime. They had cabins, canoeing, and all kinds of recreational stuff and they had a beautiful pier down there. Because the mosquitoes were so bad, they spent money and put a net around it so kids could swim. We'd ride our bikes down there and have to sneak in because it was private. That was our real clandestine stuff we did. We knew that we weren't supposed to be there. The damn oyster shells would cut our feet; but anyway, we would swim over there and get underneath that net and swim because the mosquitos were terrible."

The Beacon reported that, in 1935, Camp Calvert had 81 campers and Camp Leonard (the camp for boys under the age of 13 located a mile away) had 21 campers. These boys would come down on the Grey Hound from Baltimore and Washington. Activities included overnight canoe, hiking, fishing trips, tennis, track, swimming, baseball, volleyball, boxing, cards, and motor boating.

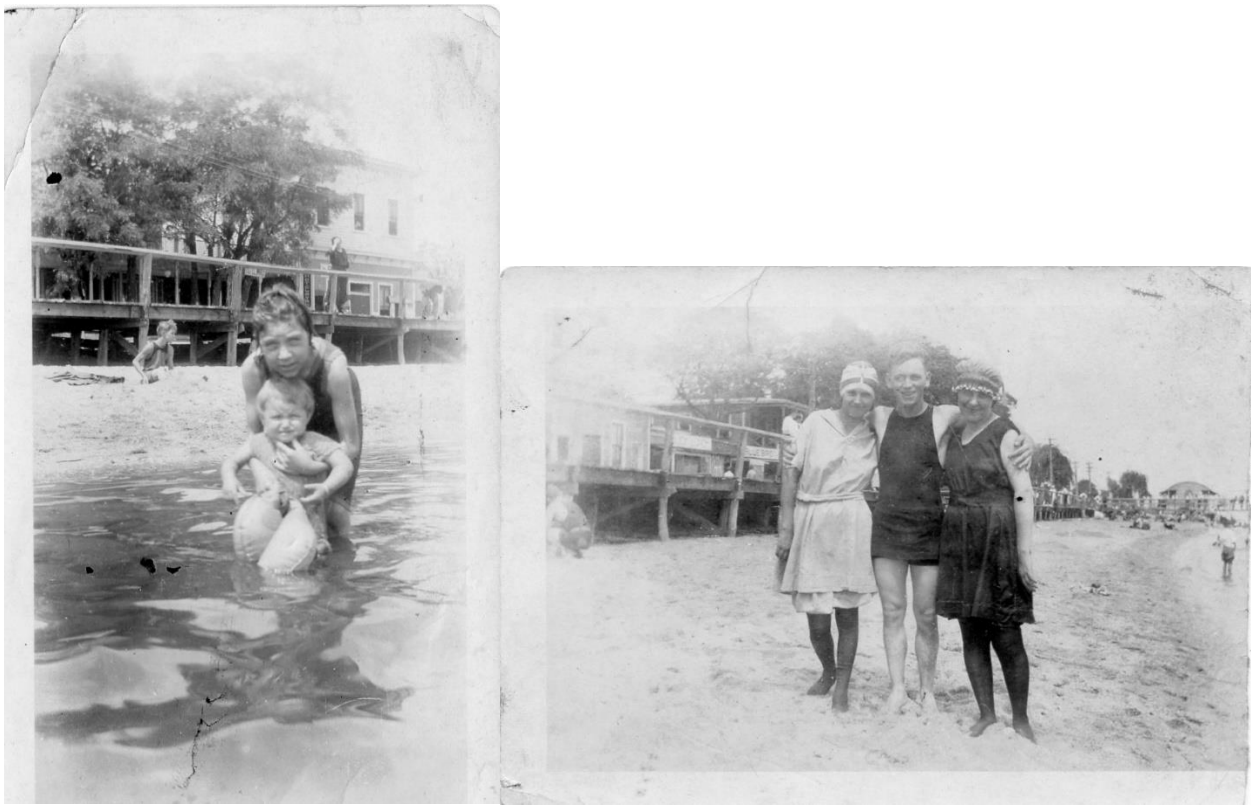
Kennedy Abell: "We went to Camp Calvert to go swimming, on the road out past Ryken, down to Foxwell's Point they call it. On the left was our swimming hole. We could walk through the woods to get there. Our swimming area was one of the first county programs trying to help out county areas. The county put up the money to put the wharf in that we could swim off of. And it was a public site to some extent. Then we would go over to Camp Calvert's swimming area which was a little nicer at times. The whole site, see, was started out by the Jesuits as a camp and people came down in the summer and they had out buildings for camp groups to come in. They had a big swimming pool. It was a beautiful place and beautiful sight right off Breton Bay. And all the way down to the wharf was this great swimming area in the Bay."

Ann Camalier Wathen: "We had a very, very happy childhood. We could go swimming down at Fox's Point. Mr. Willy Thompson had a tiny house down below the courthouse. He would let all the kids come down and swim, and Mr. Willy would sit out there and watch us. In the summertime he would fish and crab and go around town selling fish and crabs to everybody in town. And then we would go down to Wharf Hill, but you had to be careful because it's extremely deep down there, so you could only go around to a certain other place; you had to be careful there because there's a whirlpool. So we knew what to do and what not to do."

Swimming was a big part of the summer in St. Mary's County. Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall recalled of her friends growing up, "Most everybody I knew could swim because you would swim or you would drown." Of swimming at Foxwell Point, she said "It was like swimming in water but not like Ocean City water. There was sea nettles and sea weed and oyster shells. There were oyster shells anywhere you might go in this area. When we was young we swam down there. We all rode bicycles of course and we would go down to Leonardtown. Down Laundry Hill, called that cause there was laundry down there, imagine that. We would go right past where Ryken is now and the Brouns. Their nice house was there. We were friends of course so they would let us change in one of their little houses, some kind of little shed. Then we went back to the bottom of that little hill. Another place we liked to go had a wonderful little name, the Mud Hole. We would go down 4 or 5 days a week and we'd go after lunch and be home before dinner but there would be 10 kids or 15 kids, there was a little pier that we could dive off of. The group was just whatever group of Leonardtown kids wanted to go swimming. If someone had a parent that would drive you, we would go down to St. Clements shores."

"We went over to St. Clements Shore and it was a resort for the summer but not fancy. Houses mostly but they had one building where they, I didn't go because we didn't live there, it was for the residences but it was called the Wigwam. They had the Wigwam and some kind of spring thing that was fun to go and look at. Then they had a nice area fenced off with wires and stuff to keep the sea nettles out. It did a good job, not 100%, but they had a float out past that in deep water."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "I was talking about swimming. We would go down....you know that road that goes down towards the water? (Camp Calvert) You keep going down that and we called it the "mud hole" and it was. We would go down there and there was a little pier, and we'd go swimming. There was absolutely no supervision. You know, we could've had a terrible tragedy because that was funny water there, it went down quickly. Why we didn't get meningitis and polio and you name it. Then for a real treat, Mother would use the car and we'd go over to St. Clements Shores and that water was a lot nicer. Plus, they had what they called a sea nettle net and that was around a certain area, so that when you went swimming.....you had to go out real far to get to deep water.



47. Swimming during the summer months in St. Mary's County.

"But see, our parents worked. They didn't have time to be taking us places. So if we walked over there we hoped someone would pick us up. Sometimes we'd ride our bikes. Well, you can imagine going up that hill by the grave yard and then that other hill. And then the water was so filthy dirty and a lot of us had wood stoves and in the summertime we didn't have that much hot water. You can imagine trying to get cleaned off from that filthy dirty water. You had the Brouns. Mrs. Broun fixed up a little shed so we could change at her house instead of having to go home in wet, dirty bathing suits and everything. They were a wonderful family."

Jack Candella and Mary Ada Burch Candella: "It was Camp Calvert and also Foxwell's Point. It was all one. Kids just went down there on their own. It wasn't an official swimming place. If you look just beyond where the old Ryken dugouts are, you'll see the old cabins that used to be the cabins for Camp Calvert. And there was actually a swimming pool at one time. They had a pier and they had a pool covered by a net."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "We didn't have a recreation hall, we didn't have a country club; we had to make our own fun. If we went over to Foxwell's Point, which is down the hill from St. Mary's Ryken, you know that's a lot of hills. So from our houses and Lou and Hilda Briscoe and everybody up the North End, we would walk, hoping maybe somebody would pick us up. Our parents didn't have two cars. "

Peter Wigginton: "We went down to the wharf to swim and we also went to a wharf that

was down by Stephen Foxwell's and swam. He was a man who respected kids. He was a big, powerful, outdoor kind of man that we thought was cool. He would laugh and talk with us and show us how to fix boats and catch fish and that kind of stuff. We also, of course, went down to Uncle Aleck's and would swim down there. Down Medley's Neck, that's where my cousin, Little Aleck grew up; at Solitude."

Alfred Mattingly: "Foxwell's Point had a diving board and everything. The Xaverian Brothers owned the property."

Just for Fun

John Hanson Briscoe: "My friends and I would then plan what we wanted to do; it all depended. If it was a school day, we'd have to go to school. But if it was on the weekend, we'd plan fishing, swimming, crabbing. We'd read comic books. We'd eat sandwiches and drink soda pops or milkshakes. We'd just sit out on the brick curbstone (in front of Duke's) that's still there today just shooting the bull. We were fortunate enough to have not one but two movie theaters in Leonardtown way back then; and there was a bowling alley above Duke's Drugstore where I could make a little money setting up pins. We always had a place to fish and crab and smoke cigarettes (which we weren't supposed to do) and our summer was pretty much set. We played in the water and swam; that's where our summers were."

48. New Theater in Leonardtown Square.

Friday, August 23, 1946

Introducing Southern Maryland's Finest Theatre

NEW THEATRE

LEONARDTOWN, MD.

Monday Through Fridays Doors Open 6:45 P. M. Sunday, Monday and Holidays 12:45

HEALTHFULLY AIR CONDITIONED

FRI., AUG. 23 SAT., AUG. 24
"IN OLD SACRAMENTO"
Starring
Constance Moore, William Elliott
Featurette "Nautical But Nice"
Also
Cartoon—"The Flying Jeep"
Friday Features At—7:35 P. M.-9:37 P. M.; Saturday Features—1:34, 3:37, 5:40, 7:43, 9:46

SUN., AUG. 25 MON., AUG. 26
"I'LL BE SEEING YOU"
Starring
Ginger Rogers, Joseph Cotton and Shirley Temple
Also Technicolor Featurette
"Coney Island Honeymoon"
Bugs Bunny Cartoon and Latest News Reel
Sunday Features At—1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00; Monday Features—7:47, 9:57

TUES., AUG. 27 WED., AUG. 28
Bing Crosby's Production
"THE GREAT JOHN L"
Starring
Linda Darnell, Barbara Britton and Greg McClure
Miniature "My Tomato"
Cartoon "Watch Dog"
Show Time—7:00-9:00 P. M.

THURS., AUG. 29 FRI., AUG. 30
Alfred Hitchcock's

49. New theatre advertisement.

The Daughters of the American Revolution held their 1935 Easter Ball and Card Party at Duke's Theatre; tickets 50 cents, cards at 8 pm, dance at 10 pm, "please bring cards". In June of 1936, The Beacon reported that "The Leonardtown Players entertained a delightful audience last Monday in Duke's auditorium when they cleverly portrayed the comedy "Goose Money". “It was said that the vocal selections rendered by Rev. Knight and Mrs. J. B. Love, Jr. were enthusiastically received.

The St. Mary's Beacon in February of 1936 gave a front page report of the "New Game, Monopoly, to be Played at Leonard Hall Alumni Card Party". It reported:" Monopoly, the new thrill game of 1936, now gripping the country like our recent cold wave, is to be an added attraction along with bridge, pinochle, pitch, ect. The usual attractive prizes will be at the disposal of the winners. The Leonard Hall Alumni hope that, regardless of snow and ice, members and friends will gather at the school dining hall in goodly numbers at its Pre-.Lenten Card Party which will provide an opportunity for a very enjoyable evening". Those planning on going to a church parish hall for Thanksgiving Supper could expect to pay 25 cents for admission and 75 cents for supper. The American Legion Oyster Scald at Camp Calvert would cost 75 cents for oysters, hot corn bread, sandwiches, and beer.

Jeanette Connelly Dakis: “I hate to admit it but our favorite time was in the summer.

People today wouldn’t believe it but we used to swing on vines down in the woods in the back of our house. We lived down almost to the Leonardtown wharf and we played in the woods in the back of our house. You could find a nice vine that would take you across a gully and swinging on vines was a big pastime. To swim we used to walk down to Breton Bay. We had a little place we called Bathing Shore and we could walk right from home down there. We also used to row boats by Wharf Road and MacIntosh a lot. My brothers always liked rowing a boat. When my sister came home from Colorado that was her favorite pastime as well. We did just about everything outside, you had to, you didn’t have TV or anything.”

Audio 52. George Aud, recalling the diversions the county had in the 1930s:

Eleanor Duke Storck: "I want to tell you what our social life was - it was nothing. We made our own fun. But we had the cornfield between our house and the Hamilton's; you know, when corn grows it forms like a little hill. We would make like a little maze in the corn field and we'd all chase each other. Big deal (laughs). And the Briscoe's always let us play baseball or softball, whatever. They had that huge front yard, so they never had very much grass because we played over there.

"And we had badminton. And one summer, I'll never forget it, because everyone was talking about Europe and England had gotten into the war. It was Labor Day weekend and England had finally gotten in the war with Germany in 1939. And we had badminton out front, horseshoes, and someone brought out a table, we had ping pong. Then Mother and Daddy had this party for my brother's friends, teenagers and all that.

"Nobody else had the big record player like you would see. Booker Mattingly and his brother Jack were twins. They were both born blind. Booker Mattingly could take apart and put together slot machines and nickelodeons and everything. Well anyway, Booker Mattingly would come up with his nickelodeon and his helper up to your house and he would fix it so you didn't have to put nickels in it. For my 17th birthday I had a dance on Friday night. We took up the rugs and moved the dining room table way back so we had room in the middle of the dining room and we had a nickelodeon and we all danced. I had my whole class, including the boarders from St. Mary's Academy. So that was quite the thing to have a dance and a nickelodeon. "

Kennedy recalls how he first met John Hanson: "As I grew up in town, we played football in the north park (that being in the median across from the current post office, the so-called South Park being in the median in front of Duke's and the Hotel St. Mary's). It was just a pick-up game and a mix of locals each time. We never had a team, per se. It was more of an entertainment thing during the afternoons. John recognized tag numbers and remembered the owner of the car by that tag number and invariably he could look at the tag number and tell us whose car that was. He was always this young, smart fellow; very pleasant and handled himself very professionally.”

"In our days in Leonardtown, you kind of just went from one spot to another to walk in and out of a business or a place to talk to people, and next thing you knew you were heading

out to wash something or haul something back down the road, or what.....For instance, a lot of us guys grew up in the North End Print Shop owned by Frank “Dunkie” Guy. It was a hang out. Mr. Guy was so pleasant to talk to, and he was always interested in what you were doing, and he'd give you a little job 'stack these papers ' or 'fix this a little bit'. The boys would hang out there because he was a pleasant, fun fellow."

Dr. John Fenwick, reminiscing about life in the 1930s and 1940s: “Life was not easy back in those days. For anybody. It was just difficult, but you know it was a good time growing up down here. We had to work, I mean in the summer we would work in the fields.” Dr. John Fenwick recalled that getting out of the fields and actually getting to town was the hardest part of playing baseball:.”

Elizabeth Fenwick: “You had to figure out how you were going to get to town to play baseball because you were working in the fields. Dr. John Fenwick: “Yeah, they had practice on Friday afternoon and there was no way I could get there until 5 o’clock. Dr. John Fenwick and John Hanson Briscoe played baseball together in 1953 for the St. Aloysius team in the Catholic League: “The Catholic schools around the county had baseball teams and that was St. Aloysius, St. Francis Xavier, Immaculate Conception in Mechanicsville, and St. George’s down in the Valley Lee area. And they had some pretty good ball players come out. St. Aloysius had a field up at Pennie’s. Back in those days that was kind of the hang out for most of the boys because we played baseball and we’d go in and he’d get us a beer afterwards and so forth. Even though we weren’t of age. But yeah, I remember this very well.” Dr. John Fenwick remembers that practices were not all that formal: “I’d say that practices, once or twice a week at the most. If you got enough together to have a practice. Usually it was just batting practice or hitting some balls to the infield.”

Al Gough: "As a young boy, it was hard to get a job around here for summer. There were some opportunities to cut tobacco, things like that. Unless your father was a merchant and you could work in a store during the summer, there just wasn't many opportunities to get a job during the summer. So, during the summer in our early years, we built rafts, lived in the woods. As we got a little older we played baseball. Before Little League and Babe Ruth, we formed our own leagues here in Leonardtown. We had a league with three or four teams in it and we'd play one another. My father owned a field at the back of the house and he let us build a field back there, so we were called the North End Giants. There was a team, Leroy Buckler, down on the Wharf hill. So he would get most of his guys from that area of town and we'd do the same. There was a team from the back street, Lawrence Avenue."

Audio 53. Al Gough on baseball:

Lari Mako: "As a teenager, my best friend was Henrietta Wilmer and we had a friend, Willy Thompson, who was a fisherman; he made his living fishing. He lived down at the bottom of the hill. We'd wear big hats, and we'd put silk stockings on our arms because we didn't want to get sunburn and we went fishing with him. Breton Bay was a big thing. We had canoes at Foxes Point; we went on canoes, we went swimming. We put boots on

and crabbed for soft-shell crabs. I was very busy. Then I went to everybody's house; I was very snoopy. Everybody particularly made a good can of something and I took one of those home. I just visited, I guess. We had picnics and we went for boat rides and that kind of thing. Like two or three nights a week in the summer there were these boats that would take about fifteen or sixteen people and you'd all sit around and go around the Bay."

Larry Millison: "Surprisingly, there wasn't that much hunting. No, well I didn't ... no, hunting wasn't a big thing. You remember in those days, the country was pretty poor, and when people did hunt they hunted with the idea of eating it. Or if they went fishin, they hunted with the idea of eating the fish. It isn't like today, with people hunt for the sport of hunting or fish for the sport of fishing. It was some sports hunting and some sports-fishing, but mostly these were people who were very practical people. They worked six days a week, or they worked seven days a week, and they didn't have the leisure time that people have today."

Loretta Beavan Norris: "In the wintertime there were a couple of sleighs around so we'd go sleigh riding. Summertime, we'd mostly work. There wasn't a whole lot of spare time; when there was, I'd put on roller skates and skate downtown. I can remember us going over to see Ralph and Rebecca Abell, they lived on the Patuxent where Hollywood Shores is today; deep water. And I remember us swimming over there. The other kids in Leonardtown would go down to the wharf and go swimming. And, of course, there was Foxwell's Point, they always had a wharf down there. The water was pretty shallow down there so they could go swimming. Those that lived across the Bay all had a boat someplace where they could boat across. I myself never did learn to swim. Never did any crabbing or fishing or boating. It was mostly work where we were."

"Ford Loker had a pony and a cart."

50. Photo of pony cart.

"There was a pony cart that would ride the kids around."

Peter Egeli: "Glebe Farm was 200 acres. A mile and a half waterfront on Herring Creek. It was a peninsula. It was also a working farm. There was a tenant farmer at the time;

Bradburn was his name. We would go there and stay in a trailer kept in one of the barns while he was doing the farming. It was a lot of fun waking up to turkeys and quinea keets, go crabbing or fishing, whatever you wanted.

"My father and John H.T. Briscoe became good friends. He used to come down to the farm and sit in the kitchen with dad and talk politics and everything else and drink coffee. That's when Johnny would come down with him. I remember one time when we were all in the kitchen and someone commented on all the ducks that were out in the river and dad walked over to the door where he kept a Sears Roebuck Stevens .22 rifle and he picked one out and it's 55 yards from the kitchen door to the water and this duck was out another 50 yards in Herring Creek and he got him with one shot; the duck just rolled over. And he said 'ok boys, go get him' meaning me and John; so we went down to the shore and paddled out there and picked up the duck and came back.

"Johnny and I'd just trot around in the woods and do all kinds of odd things. Have fun together. We'd shoot plink. I wasn't allowed to have my own gun then except for the BB gun, so we'd just take the BB gun out. We'd shoot pine cones off different trees, or try to.... And in the summer, we'd poke around the shore and see if we could find some crabs. It usually wasn't for a long time because the visits weren't terribly long. A few hours maybe. We just saw each other very intermittently."

Kids could and did ride their bikes everywhere in Leonardtown. Aleck Loker: "It was not unusual for us to ride bikes around from Leonardtown to my house in Medley's Neck; that was five miles. Another friend and I, one Saturday afternoon traveled all the way down to Lexington Park. And we wandered around and wondered 'what was all this talk about Lexington Park', there didn't seem to be anything to it. So we turned around and headed back to Leonardtown. We were maybe 12 years old and the attractions of Lexington Park were not for 12 year old kids."

John Hanson Briscoe: "Francis Jerome Cecil was the County Treasurer. He had twin boys, Francis and Walter, who I pal'd around with. We used to ride our bikes up to McIntosh Run by the State Roads garage, to go fishing. We didn't have a boat. We'd walk down the stream with our fishing rods and bloodworms and fish in that little stream. We could catch little perch. It was a good way to get away and smoke cigarettes. Or, we could go down to the Leonardtown Wharf, turn right, and head up the McIntosh Run from that direction."

Aleck Loker: "One of the things that we used to do was we would make these little coasters that we would ride down the Wharf Hill. They were made out of a 2x6 board about 6 feet long and two 2x4s and the one in front was bolted to the seat with a bolt and it had wheels on the ends of it and then there was an axel on the back with two more wheels. And we would sit on the board and steer the thing with our feet; our feet were on the front 2x4. And we would come down the hill and the things would get up to a hell of a speed. And our tennis shoes were the brakes. And I distinctly remember going home one day and I had worn the heels of my tennis shoes right down to my socks. And one day in particular somebody didn't get stopped in time. Right at the bottom of the hill there was a huge timber which was a wheel stop for trucks. That boy sailed down the hill, hit that

timber, and launched himself out into Breton Bay. So that was one of the things we loved to do."

When William Aleck Loker, Sr. was around 12 or 13, he recalls the floating theater coming to Leonardtown: “We didn't have a lot of formal entertainment, in fact practically none. Other than for instance the Theater, the James Adams Floating Theater. We had no movie theaters then in those days so for any kind of staged productions or theatricals, James Adams Floating Theater supplied it all pretty well. A lot of the kids that were ten, like ten, twelve, thirteen years old found little employment, working on farms, doing manual labor that was in the capacity of young kids. And of course they did a lot of playing and swimming in the water and, and catching crabs and things of that nature. We'd pick a lot of cherries, there were a lot of native cherry trees and that was, that took a great deal of time when they were fit to be eaten and things of that nature and otherwise just, just the usual playful games that kids engaged in. Well, members of my own family. And, and I had friends, and neighbors, and other kids who lived in the neighborhood. We went to school together, and we played together. That was your, really your recreation. There wasn't a whole lot else to do….Your parents would have parties at home for their children and they would invite their children's friends, and they'd always grade on celebrating birthday parties and they'd invite children in the neighborhood and made, they made a big production out of those things, because, as I say, there wasn't a whole lot else to do. You had to provide your own entertainment. But we, we enjoyed it, at least I did. I'd love to go back to it. We played baseball, went to school, and had these house parties, and as I grew older, of course I went to dances and things of that nature. In my case for instance we had a rather large porch, surrounded about half of the house, and we'd use the porch for a dance hall and we'd have a band, comprised of three colored musicians they would supply the music; one part of the band was the use of a washboard, I suppose it sort of took the place of a kettle drum, the operator would use thimbles on his fingers and he'd pluck them up and down the ribs of the washboard, and they'd have a guitar, and a violin perhaps, or banjo. Seldom a piano because it's too much trouble moving it if the household happened to have one- lot of them didn't- but that's the way we entertained ourselves.”

John Hanson Briscoe ran a paper route for a while. He'd get his papers at Saunders’ store. His route went from out beyond the Briscoe home on the North End, then all through old Leonardtown, and down to the wharf.

The front page of The Beacon announced in May of 1936 "FISH HAWK II LAUNCHED HERE. CROWD WITNESSES THE LAUNCHING OF MR. BRISCOE'S NEW CRUISER". The article informed its readers that "Mr. John H. T. Briscoe's fine 35' day cruiser was launched at the Leonardtown landing....a crowd numbering considerable over a hundred well-wishes watched....The Fish Hawk II was built by Mr. U. W. Smith at Mt. Holly Yards, Hollywood. She is powered with two motors to drive the twin screws which it is hoped will give her a satisfactory speed. She is an imposing craft. Long may she float!" The Beacon would then keep readers informed of fishing trips. (“On Wednesday last, Hon. J.H.T. Briscoe entertained guests on a fishing party. Three dozen Black Sea bass were caught."

" Mr. And Mrs. Seward Bacon of Washington spent a delightful weekend as guests of Hon. And Mrs. J. H. T. Briscoe and enjoyed a good day's fishing, capturing many large blues.")

John Hanson Briscoe: "My father had a group of Leonardtown businessmen and gentlemen that he fished with. Tom McKay, George Hamilton, Bascom Braun, then the President of First National Bank. All businessmen, lawyers and merchants. During the rockfish season, when fishing got good, they would literally close their law offices and stores. My father had the boat; he had a big 37' boat that was built here in Hollywood by Humphrey Smith, the "Fish Hawk."

51. John H.T. Briscoe at the helm of the *Fish Hawk*.

“He kept his boat at the Leonardtown wharf because fishing was pretty good out in the Potomac. He and his friends would bring beer, whiskey, food, bait, and everything. They would all dress up; you can see my father has his fedora on. And I was very fortunate because none of his friends had any kids that were interested in fishing and I loved it. So they would make me Captain. I would steer the boat up to the fishing grounds while they sat around the box that covered the motor and played poker and drank whiskey. And they'd put up a pot of money for whoever caught the first fish. Well, of course, you know me; as soon as we got there I put my line overboard and I usually caught the fish. I loved it, being with those older gentlemen. I learned a lot about fishing and I really enjoyed it as a teenager.

Audio 54. John Hanson Briscoe talks about fishing:

"And then as I got older, my father would take the entire family out from Leonardtown fishing. We had a lot of good times. We caught a lot of fish; no limits and no licenses required; you'd have to give the fish away. We would go out of the mouth of Breton Bay,

turn left at a place called Huggins, at the end of Breton Beach Road actually. You'd have the best bottom fishing in the world - blue fish, hardhead, trout and spot. And then the fishing trends would change in the Fall, and when the big fish came in, they would go down into the river, St. Jerome's Creek out there in the Bay. My father literally had to move his boat from Leonardtown down to St. Jerome's Creek down to Mr. Drury's marina so he could fish off of what they call the "middle grounds". I think we only had one car in the family. Mother would drive him down there; or if he had some friends with him, they would go down there. That was all before he had the house and dock here on Cuckold's Creek. He would, however, keep the boat at the farm for the winter because it was protected.

Aleck Loker, Jr.: “And the, the other thing we did was a lot of camping out in the summer times. There were a whole bunch of us - Al Gough, Bob Combs, Ernie Bell, myself, probably at least a dozen - and we would camp out, all around Leonardtown in the woods behind St. Mary's Academy and Leonard Hall and over on Compton Road, over that way. And this was all ad hoc. There was a Boy Scout troop that they tried to form; but in those days it was not very successful because we didn't need organized events like that. We knew how to camp, and to build campfires, and all that sort of thing. We were completely comfortable to go out on our own and do that and our parents apparently trusted us enough that we wouldn't burn the whole county down.”

John Hanson Briscoe: "When I was about 16 years old, I played on the St. Aloysius baseball team. I was still in high school. My teammates included my friend Jeff Greenwell, John Fenwick, John Ramos, George Ferguson, George, Sonny and Charlie Norris, and Ben Greenwell."

52. The St. Aloysius youth baseball team, *ca.* 1953. Top Row (L-R): Albert Thompson, Raymon Ckodnicki, John Fenwick, Davis Groff, Jerry Dietz, Demo Chopris, Gerd Kaestler, Charles C., Penisi (Manager). Bottom Row (L-R): Jeff Greenwell, John Briscoe, Jim Greenwell, John Ramos, George Ferguson, Francis X. Norris, Charley “Sonny” Norris, Ben Greenwell (Bat Boy).

Al Gough: "That 1950’s St. Aloysius team, I believe, was the team that won the Catholic League championship. You had teams like St. Francis Xavier, St. Joseph's, Holy Angels.

Most every parish had a team. I remember seeing the trophy for that at St. Aloysius back in the 1950s. It had their names on it, and I particularly remember Dr. Fenwick, Johnny Briscoe, and Sonny Jim Greenwell."

53. Dr. John Fenwick, present day, with a baseball trophy from the Catholic League.

Kennedy Abell: "We played baseball at Leonard Hall. John was on a team that was just below us, but some of our mixed crowd we'd play together. Every now and then we'd have a mixed crowd play. We went to Catholic leagues, and each church had a baseball team that had activities. We'd practice at least twice during the week and have a game on Sunday. There may be a pick-up game during the week, too.

John Hanson Briscoe: "I was a left-handed pitcher on the baseball team for three or four years. I could twist my hand during the pitch in a way that's never done and I had a drop, I swear to God, it dropped four feet. But it killed my arm and I suffer from it even today. We played out at Penny's and Penny's sponsored us. This was before I went away to college, so it was the late '40s, during the war. Mr. Penisi tried to coach us; he was a good man, but he was an amateur. He kept the ball diamond financed every year and everything. And we used to play all the Catholic teams: St. Michael's, St. Joseph's, and all these local boys. They're still around, some of 'em; good ol' boys, you know. Quades and Hills and Frank "Frog" Klear and everything. It was a lot of fun. We'd practice, but not much. Then we'd go and drink a whole bunch of beer and play the next day. It was a great, great opportunity."

Jack and Mary Ada Burch Candela also remembered the old baseball teams that would form at the churches.

Audio 55. The Candelas talk about the Catholic Baseball League:

Idolia Shubrooks: "In the summertime, some of the children would catch butterflies. Put a string on them and let them fly. The other children would play baseball and hop scotch. They would do things like build an old push cart. In those days people kind of kept their children a little close. They weren't able to just run all over. I used to like staying in the house to hear what the older people was talking about. One day my mother told us about an old musket in the attic that belonged to her father. He was a soldier in the Army, United States Colored Troops. My mother put my grandfather's Civil War musket up in the attic and she insisted that we not go there. So, you know, being curious, we went up there. And when we went up there, there laid an old rusty gun. That became a great part of my mind as a young person and late after gaining knowledge of the importance of the old gun I was determined to spread this knowledge of the history about the United States Colored Troops. Due to the memory of my grandfather a United States Colored Troops Monument is now erected in Lancaster Park of Lexington Park."

Alfred Mattingly: "I never played sports. Never did baseball or football in the park. Our family felt like, if you felt good enough to play, you could work. We worked both before and after school."

Peter Wigginton: On summertime - "Chores in the morning and playing in the afternoon. Gathering eggs. Cleaning out the stable if necessary. There was always corn to be shelled, chickens to be fed. Garden to be hoed. Grass to be cut. We cut grass with old-fashioned wheel lawn mowers. My grandfather actually rigged a harness because I would push and Bobby would be in the harness and pull and then we'd trade places. But we got it done. Later, there was washing and waxing the car. That was part of the deal, too. And then we routinely had a midday dinner around 1:00 o'clock. And after that we generally played in the woods. We went down in the woods and we had trails. And we went to the dammed-up streams and we'd catch turtles and chase frogs and shoot at stuff with BB guns. It was wonderful. I loved it. Johnny Briscoe grew up right across the street. Bobby and I, we'd always run out of bb's and he'd always give us bb's."

Kennedy Abell saw his first television set on a trip to Westminster in March of 1952. "There were practically no televisions in Leonardtown then. I had to go to Washington to buy my first TV, not that they weren't for sale, but I went to Washington to buy mine in 1953. I wouldn't think the Briscoe's had a television, because they were just starting out."

Cecelia Countiss: "We used to play dodge ball and baseball." The radio stations they listened to were from Baltimore most of the time."

Idolia Shubrooks: "I remember we had our radio. All we could get was Wheeling, West Virginia music. Every Saturday night they had a jamboree I remember listening to and enjoying. We didn't have a TV then."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We had a battery radio. My sister and I, we slept together and many a time we gone to bed and put that in the bed under the sheets listening to it, and mom would catch us. We listened to country music from Nashville, Tennessee, Grand

Ole Opry. It was a couple of nights maybe during the week. But we also had a Muntz television, that's the first television we had. I would never forget it. And the knob, my youngest brother used to turn it so much it came off so we got a pair of pliers. Oh yeah, that was the good old days."

T. Webster Bell discusses the types of diversions in the Cedar Point area: “The community hall. Oh, yes, there were two of 'em, the first one burned. Well the way it got started. Everybody that lived on what was know as Cedar Point or Pearson at that time owned their own property and, well none of 'em was rich but they were sort a above the average for example financially. And about a dozen of 'em got together and talked about buildin’ a community hall.

“Someplace where we could meet and have a little entertainment, have a little dance and so forth. So that's the way we got the first community hall. It was all done by volunteer donations and volunteer labor. And I don't know what caused the fire. That goes back a long time, but we rebuilt the second hall, right in the same place that the first one stood before it was burnt. And then we used to have every once in awhile, about once a year, some little show, outfit that would come through the county and they would hold their show there and all of us would go out there every night for about a week or ten days, whatever length of time they'd stay there and then we'd runnin the show. And it was really interestin and was amusement, good amusement, and we looked forward to it. And then we started havin dances there at certain times of the year. And at that time that was 'bout the only place in the county really that you could have any good size function because there wasn't any other buildin of its type in the county.”

“Early twenties…we used to have, every so often we used to have a dance there and we had this orchestra, one of those three piece orchestras out of Washington that would come down and furnish the music. And that was back in the Model T days. And when, let's say the dance was tonight. They'd have to leave Washington around the middle of the day in order to get down in time enough. And then the, all the farmers, there'd be five or six of us including my mother, that would take turns in feedin 'em, there was no place for them to eat after they got down here. There were no restaurants, no public eating places at all. And of course the farmers they would go all out and they'd, I'm sure a big treat to these city slickers that was furnishin the music. Course we'd have ol ham, country ham and fried chicken and maybe fried oysters and anything that, ya know with it and the different people would take turns in feedin 'em. And they would come down to our homes and women would put on the feed for 'em and then they'd go on up to the hall and get set up and then we'd all meet up there that night and we'd have a ball. And the music was so different, oh, we had one or two country outfits down here. We had a man and his wife, a colored family that used to furnish music. [Asked their name, he doesn't remember.] He used to play the violin, if I remember correctly, and she had a washboard, regular washboard like the old timers used to wash clothes with, and she could run her fingers up and down that washboard and then make the purtiest music you want to hear along with that violin. Gettin back to the name. I can see both of 'em now just as clear if it was back in those days, but tell you the truth I don't remember now just what their names was. It'll come to me when I'm not thinkin about it, but right now I can't remember. And then we

had another, we had three brothers. I can remember their names and they were supposed to be the best in the county. Their last name was Watts, W-A-T-T-S, and the first name was, first one was Steve, Steve Watts, Nace Watts, and Neiley Watts. Was three black brothers and I don't remember now the instruments that they played but I'm sure one of everything was a violin, we didn't know about a violin back in those days, we just called it a fiddle so, I know one of 'em played the fiddle and the other two I don't remember. But, I can see those three black brothers now at a dance and we'd have an understandin with 'em that they were gonna play til maybe twelve o'clock and then they were gonna quit. But we wasn't ready to quit at twelve o'clock so somebody would pass the hat around and for donations in the crowd, and we get enough to keep them for another hour. And sometimes we have to pass it a second time around. But that's the way the country people lived good clean country livin."

Audio 56. T. Webster Bell, Sr. on Pearson's community hall:

The "Rat Races"

54. Advertisements for local dances. Photos from the St. Mary's Beacon

Kennedy Abell: "When I was 16 or 17 years old, we'd go to Medley's Neck to the dance hall down there. Only the Catholic Churches were having these dances for the young children. Chaperoned, but not really formal. Like every Friday night there was one here, or there or in Compton, or down in St. Clement's Shores. And the dance hall that we went to in Compton was called the Wigwam. And there were bars in between. Before we got there somebody might stop and buy a jug of wine or something to sip while you took a break. John came along a little later than our dance crowd."

Jack Candela: "The Wigwam was in St. Clement's Shores. It was a big ol' log cabin is

what it was. Made of great big logs. One Friday the dance would be at the Wigwam and the next Friday it'd be at Our Lady's in Medley's Neck.

Mary Ada Burch Candela: "They weren't called dances, they were called 'rat races.'"

Jack Candela: "Well, we all learned to dance in Paul Jones. Basically, what it is, you started out in a circle and then when they blew the whistle the men went one way and the women went the other way and it was hand in hand going round in a circle. Then when the whistle blew the next time, whatever girl you were standing in front of that's who you danced with until the next time they blew the whistle and then you went back into the circle. It was how you learned how to dance."

Mary Ada Burch Candela: "And it was a way to get to know everybody, too. It was kind of cool."

Audio 57. Jack and Mary Ada Burch Candela talk about the "rat races":

"Only a handful of students had cars. Those who had cars chauffeured the rest. The Catholic High schools in Charles and St. Mary's counties at that time each had a club called CSMC which stood for the Catholic Students Mission Crusade. Periodically, the quarterly meetings would be held at a certain school so we would all go to that school for the CSMC meetings. The kids that had cars would pile in 8 to 10, anyway you could get in. The kids that had cars were very generous because it was the only way to get around."

Elizabeth Fenwick remembers her first trip to St. Mary's County with her future husband Dr. John Fenwick: "The first place he ever took me was Tall Timbers Tavern. And it was the funniest thing. I liked to dance and he liked to dance and all of a sudden this whistle blew and somebody went by and I got a different partner and it was a "Paul Jones" and I had never heard of such a thing."

Dr. John Fenwick with a description of a "Paul Jones" dance: "They'd blow the whistle again and they'd form a circle. Man, woman, man, woman, and they'd just dance around in the circle hand in hand. Then they'd blow the whistle again and whoever was in front of you is who you danced with."

Audio 58. Dr. Fenwick and Elizabeth Fenwick talk about the "Paul Jones" dances:

Ann Camalier Wathen: "We had school dances. And then, as I got older, we had, let's see, you'll laugh at this. The priest used to put on dances at the parishes to raise a little money. We called them "rat races". It's "rat races"; no problem, people would get in. Well, the girls would go downtown, and our friends, or boys, or whoever, would pull up in the car and we would fill the car up and off we would go to the dances. We would have the boys who would come up from Great Mills, and they take us; and then the boys would come up from Hollywood and they would take us; and the priests would take your money to get in. We had little bands around here that would play; it was like fiddles and that kind

of stuff. And along twelve o'clock it would be over. And that's how people socialized; a lot of fun. The boys were very mannerly, and that's how a lot of matches got going, you know."

Aleck Loker, Jr.: "You generally went to the dances in your own school. For instance, when I was in Leonardtown, I didn't dare go to the dances in the Seventh District. There would have been a fight, probably."

Peter Wigginton: "Sure, we went to the dances. I was just a kid; I wasn't a very good dancer. But I did go to the dances and laughed and talked. They had local bands. Earlier, it was sort of along the lines of "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" and later it swung into more country kind of music. "

Larry Millison: “In those days, on weekends, there were several places like the Community Hall in Cedar Point in St. Mary's County, which would have community dances. Churches would have dances, and that was a very important social event. When there were no televisions and not everybody had radios, so those dances were a place where not only did friends meet and have good times, but socially, it's where young girls met young men. Or widow ladies met widow men, or whatever it might be. There was an important part of the community. They'd have suppers there. Different little civic groups would have suppers.”

Charles E. Fenwick remembers that near Cedar Point and Pearson they had another venue for dancing: “From here they ran a ferry, and it was a rather large ferry. It carried about eight oars I guess. Large compared to the one at Benedict cross to Calvert County which only carried two oars. This was a self-powered ferryboat that carried about eight oars and ran a regular route ... We boys used to hire it and have dances on it. Two, three black boys would play the fiddle and we would dance and go out in the moonlight night. It was powered by a gasoline motor.”

Audio 59. Charles E. Fenwick talks about dancing on the ferryboat:

Cecelia Countiss: "We went to dances. They had bands of music then. It was fiddles and guitars, drums. They taught themselves how to play country music."

Norris and Betty Shepherd : " I went to the dance. We had the nuns watching us. Most of the time they got bands; country music. Dances occurred at different schools; we had them that way because we were in youth clubs. The different churches had a youth clubs. We would go to St. Joseph's , to Medley's Neck, the Wig Wam."

Lari Mako: "See, I don't know anything about the school dances because I wasn't here then. There'd be a little live orchestra at the Hotel St. Mary's. It wasn't that good; it would be whatever was country, you know. They did have music at Duke's. Or we'd go to Piney Point to a pavilion for a dance. That was a big thing to do in the summer, Piney Point."

Paul Bailey: "St. Mary's County as far as music generally was concerned ....has always been known, and publicly so, as "the land of the fiddle and the flask". ...It was sort of a poem. Everybody in St. Mary's loved music. There was no local entertainment of course. No theaters or anything of that sort except the floating theatre, which came to Leonardtown in the summer. But anyway the people, most everybody in St. Mary's county had what we, everyone called a fiddle and that would be a stringed instrument, of course, either a banjo or guitar or violin. Of course the real name for a violin locally has always been a fiddle. Well, every instrument was called a fiddle. ...And as I say at first, no artificial music of any kind, mechanical as I call it. It was always played at home and locally by the little local orchestra such as like our family. It's been a part of our life always. At a dance there would be customarily in those days one, two, or three fiddle players. They were very proficient; you'd be surprised how well they played "Dixie", "Marchin' Through Georgia", and all the old Southern songs. They were very good at it. And then they had banjos, these long neck banjos which just played rhythm, very little melody played on them. There were a few mandolin players.

Audio 60. Paul Bailey talks about music and fiddles in St. Mary's County:

"Around every bar there used to be a fiddle player who stayed around there. And he would play country tunes and people would clap and pat their feet and sometimes get up and jig which is a dance as you know. And they would have music around all the country stores practically every evening but especially Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes we used to put in a horse and buggy a local fiddler and carry him around the county and stop at the different stores. He would fiddle and people would clap and laugh....and drop a few coins in the fiddler's hat when he got through fiddling. But later as we got some automobiles around the county, I can remember one particular fiddler.....he was about eighteen or nineteen years old. And we would put him in our old car...And we would carry him around from one store to another, so he could get as many pennies and nickels as he could in each place.

"We had a local orchestra called The Carl Berryman Orchestra. When I say local, they were Washington union musicians other than myself. I have a very nice photograph here, taken I'd say in the late twenties or early thirties at St. Mary's Academy. Shows the Carl Berryman Orchestra. You'll see me there with my saxophone. .....We played local events. This was a graduation at St. Mary's Academy. ...Played down there. You know in the old days it was called St. Mary's Female Academy. I played there for various little events they had. Leonardtown had a big Christmas dance and several dances in between, over top what is now Duke's Restaurant. That was a theatre. And we played there for big dances. Played often at Leonard Hall and as I said before lots of times at Marshall Hall in the summer. And all around the county there were lots of events. The old Scotland Beach Hotel had a lot of big dances. ...We played there a great deal. So, there were lots of little events around the county where I played mostly, always with Carl Berryman's Orchestra because he used many of Meyer Davis' men, always used me when he played around here. There would usually be church dances. They were connected with the churches. They had them at festival time, Christmas time, and Easter time. They had their Easter dances. Just like now, you know, Leonardtown has that very fine ball around Easter time.

No, they were always at holiday season at our festivals, church festival, they always had a day set for such."

Christmas and Winter Activities

Lari Mako: “Every Christmas, because Aunt Leila was his godmother, Hilda and John always gave John Hanson sausage wrapped up with a piece of holly on it. He would bring it to her every Christmas and present it to her. That's what I remember about him growing up. I remember him doing it still when he was like seventeen, eighteen.”

55. Left-to-right: John Hanson’s godmother, Leila Hodges, John Hanson Briscoe, and John Hanson’s godfather, William Aleck Loker, Sr..

"On Christmas Day, you had your private time and you had your breakfast and you opened your presents and by the time, I guess that would be about noonish, the first carload would arrive to wish you a happy new year. And it was certain houses that you went to. A certain time we went to the Briscoe's; at a certain time we went to the Loker's; at a certain time we had to be at our house. Almost every house got visited. And it started like with one or two cars; by the end it'll be like a parade. And everybody would come at once and sing Christmas carols and eat fruitcake and eggnog until you were sick to death of it. And then by seven o' clock at night you ended up at Nancy and Bascom Braun's house. And that night, Christmas night, when the Hotel St. Mary's was still here, there would be a dance. "

Peter Wigginton: "Christmas to me was nothing but warm and beautiful memories. The family was all together, there was good times, there was laughter, we all visited each other, we'd go to people we knew, we laughed and talked. My brother and I both look back upon it as almost too good to be true. Christmas breakfast was a great occasion.

They'd go to Mass and in those days you fasted before Communion. So when you came home, Ma would have this huge formal breakfast around the dining room and after breakfast you would go in and open presents. It was just wonderful. The warmth and the family and the good fellowship of Christmas exceeded both Easter and Thanksgiving.

"The fire department for years put a Christmas tree up right in the middle of town square. That went back to the 40's. I remember mother would be excited about it."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "Oh, God, Christmas was wonderful. With my family, we didn't even want to decorate the tree until after we'd gone to bed. We were teenagers. But Daddy said ' We'll put the tree up and put the lights on.' Of course, that was a big job. But the tree was decorated after we went to bed. The next morning we went to Mass, we had the big breakfast, and then we always had to go to the Briscoe's and the Hamilton's and then they had to come to our house. Everybody visited everybody, you know? It was all this back and forth.

"Then we also went over behind St. Mary's Academy and maybe did some sleigh riding. And we wore those awful snow suits. We didn't have nylon like you do now. They were wool and they would rub against your legs and the inside of your leg above the knee. It would get so chapped, I remember that, how it stung, and Mother putting Vaseline on it. I tell ya, the good ole' days; there's a lot about it that wasn't that good I can tell ya."

Ann Camalier Wathen: "We had people who came to our house every Christmas morning. Certain people, and we always had eggnog and everything ready for Christmas. My mother and father, and certain people would come. We couldn't leave town because we knew certain people were coming. And my mother and father always had a big party every year around Christmastime, and it was sort of an open house. Anybody who wanted to come could come, and they would sing and my mother would play the piano. It was just a thing that would go on for a few hours, you know. And it was very nice.

"On Wharf Hill there was not traffic like there is now. So they would close it off in the wintertime and then everybody in town would bring their sleds and they would all go down to Wharf Hill. And my aunt Anita Thrift, she lived there; she would come out and bring us hot drinks and all that. It was a lot of fun. And then when they closed down the Wharf Hill a little bit, they went down the other hill which we called the Laundry Hill because the laundry used to be down there, as you go out of town past Duke's. Betty Long used to run it; that was the first laundry we had around here. Anyway, it was a good life. You couldn't exactly close the street off, it was just that there weren't that many cars around town, and the ones that were I suppose they would take them home and put them off to bed. The people were very kind in those days, you have to understand. If they came upon something like that, they would be very cautious to not do any harm or inconvenience anybody sledding on the hill."

Jeanette Connelly Dakis: "I've often talked about the difference between the weather when I was a young child growing up and the weather now. It got so cold around here that we used to be able to walk across Breton Bay completely and some people would drive cars across the bay. The snows were unbelievable compared to what we have today. My father was a carpenter and one winter he built a sled called the "Mae West", although I am not sure why he called it that. During the winter time they used to close off

the Wharf Hill in Leonardtown to cars and we used the hill to sled. We could maybe get 8 or 10 people on the Mae West. We'd start up at the top of the hill, past the courthouse there. You had to be very careful because you could keep right on going with that sled when it started it would go. That was mainly how we rode sleighs. Some people would ice skate, I did for a little while. We used to go down to Whirlwind pond and ice skate down there. Those were about the two things we did primarily during winter. My family wasn't too well off so we didn't have any big Christmas parties or anything like that."

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We always had Christmas at my house, I can bet you one thing, we had Christmas. Oh, they were fun. I can say that about my mother and father. We'd visit, we really did. Momma would have it one day and then somebody else in the family would have it another day, you went around. It seemed like come Christmas, it was a holiday."

Elizabeth Fenwick on what was important during the holidays: "Nobody had big gifts when John was a child. If they had an orange in their stocking they were lucky. But it was all about eating the food, the big meal, and the old hams and the stuffed hams, and the oysters."

Norris Shepherd: "Families would visit each other. You would go somewhere and sometimes they would have dinner at one house and then supper time at another house. And we being boys and young men and stuff like that, we had this one week a year where we hunted the whole week. Rabbit hunting and squirrels because deer weren't around at that time. No turkeys were here yet, either. "

56. Kids skating on Cuckold Creek in front of John H.T. Briscoe's home.

Besides the holiday festivities, winter brought other changes to life in St. Mary's County. During the cold months, Al Gough recalls: "We used to hang out at Saunders' as kids. There was a big pot-bellied stove there in the center and we would go in there after sleigh

riding or snow ball fights, put our cotton gloves on the pot-bellied stove to dry them out; course, they'd shrink up. It was, you know I remember, Cokes and candy bars for a nickel."

About places to go sledding when it snowed Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall said, “Well Laundry Hill was our favorite but a lot of people went down the Wharf Hill if it was a good snow and you wouldn’t go overboard but you’d think you might. We would go sledding and somebody would stay at the top of the hill, boy usually and they’d send people off down the hill. We’d sleigh ride behind the Academy. We’d start back in my woods or maybe behind the Briscoes. Behind St. Mary’s Academy they had a wonderful hill but if you went to that one, it was really far away in the snow when you were young. So if we’d go there we’d stay for hours. Someone would have to watch out for cars of course.”

Loretta Beavan Norris: “Then there was a sleigh in the winter time that would ride them up and down the road, because you know there wasn't anyone cleaning the roads off. If it snowed, it stayed there until you shoveled it off. I can remember jumping into a snow drift up to my neck. You'd take a string and tie it around the bottom of your pants so the snow wouldn't go up. I can remember snow down on the walk being between two and three feet high. You would be home from school for several days until the sun came out or you shoveled your way out."

57. Snow in Leonardtown. The old Beacon Building is behind the horses; the old jail is on the right.

58. Travelling the county roads in wintertime.

Jeanette Dakis remembers sledding during wintertime.

Audio 61. Jeanette Dakis on sledding down Wharf Hill and Laundry Hill:

J. Frank Raley: "I remember we used to like to go hunting on Saturdays and my brother and I would get our friends to come up and help us shuck the oysters. We were shucking a lot of oysters, I'm talking about a couple of bushels.....You know that's pretty, it's not an easy....So we would get our friends to come and help us shuck the oysters so we could all go out that afternoon and go hunting. ...That was what we did, I mean our recreation. Of course, you can only do it in the wintertime. And then we did a lot of fishing too, did fishing in the summertime. It was a social thing, we just loved to get together with the boys and go hunting and it was, I don't know, it was both the chase, the competition, the feeling free."

Leonardtown Carnival

Ann Camalier Wathen: "And then the carnival came, the big event. That's when all the farmers came to town. You know, they'd save their money, they sold the crops; and when the carnival came to town, all the farmers would come out. They would spend their money on the Ferris Wheel and the merry- go-round and whatever little games they had."

Kennedy Abell: "The fire department had the carnival in those days and we all participated. We went right down into town and set the carnival up on the north park. They blocked Washington Street off and that was the layout for the park. This was basically the center of town. Everybody came; everybody was at the carnival. Looking at my sketch, this was the Greenwell house behind the merry go round, Dr. Hayden, and then Mrs. Morgan where the post office is now. The church is still there, St. Paul's. Back in 1932, '33 this was started and of course that was our big thing. Once a year a big ol' carnival in the midst of Leonardtown. A merry go round and the whole bit. Looking for money that people might have dropped from the Ferris wheel and the merry-go-round was done until early the next morning.

59. Kennedy Abell's sketch of the annual Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Carnival.

The Beacon reported in September of 1936: "VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S CARNIVAL BIG SUCCESS. Cannon-Ball Richards Act Draws Crowd. "He Can Take Anything." FIREMEN'S Net Sixteen Hundred Dollars". It stated "The FIREMEN'S Carnival held in Leonardtown during the past week was a decided success. It was attended by a great many more people than at any time hitherto. The games and concessions were well patronized, as also the stands where edibles and soft drinks were served. An outstanding feature of the entertainment was the marvelous display of strength and resistance demonstrated by "Cannon Ball Richard's" specialty act. Mr. Richards, by careful and intelligent training has succeeded in building up a muscular development that resists the hardest blows from powerful men, and with no protection other than a little tin pie plate to prevent scars permitted the wielders of an eighteen pound sledge hammer to strike him in the stomach. All these preliminaries led up to Mr. Richards catching a cannon ball weighing 140 pounds, fired from a specially designed cannon, at a muzzled velocity equivalent to several tons. It is really a very remarkable performance."

Mary Ada Burch Candella: "Other than not being able to do certain things, we were so young the war really didn't affect us. Even though there was a war on, there was always a carnival at the park there and it was looked forward to by everybody because it was the time that you saw people that you hadn't seen before. A lot of times you'd see kids whose parents knew your parents, but you didn't get to see them frequently; you'd catch up with them at the carnival. And, of course, you'd meet all your classmates there. I remember it was five cents to ride the rides and it was cheap and everybody got to do it. The kids from town of course went every night because we were right there and that was kind of cool for us."

Audio 62. Mary Ada Burch Candela and Jack Candela on the Leonardtown carnival:

Jeanette Connelly Dakis: "We loved the carnival. It was just something that came once a year and we really enjoyed it. You could ride the Ferris wheel and see all over

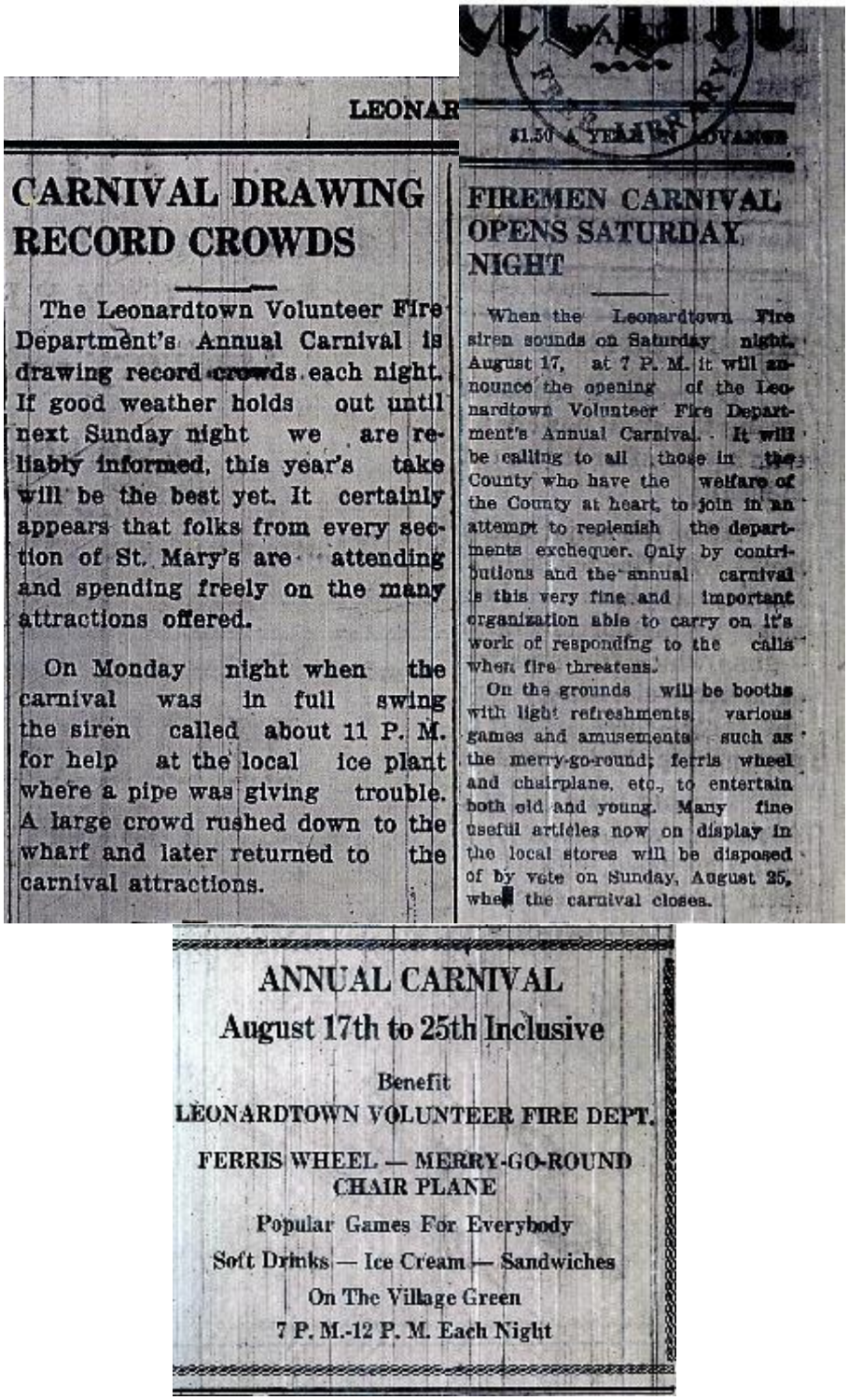
Leonardtown on it. As children, we really enjoyed the merry-go-round. The carnival also brought in a lot of people you just wished wouldn't come such as drunks and so forth because they sold beer there. But it was still good. We would have a party every night during that time and we really enjoyed that. Of course at that time they usually had it on the park, circle there in the town. It was a big event because there wasn't much that was big in Leonardtown at that time."

Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall: "That was the height of the summer, that was the entertainment of the summer, the night part of it. You went swimming in the day and went to the carnival at night. It used to be 2 whole weeks, then it was 10 days and latest was like a 4 day weekend and the next 4 day weekend or 3 day weekend. It was something big that we country folk liked, we had a Ferris Wheel, a merry-go-round that played music, horses and you had games, like throwing the balls that knocked over the milk bottles, like you see in the movies but ours was very small scale."

"And the lights, colored light bulbs on wire, they were hung all around so you could say "there's the carnival, the lights are on!" Oh it was exciting and I can remember them vaguely, they had acts. There was Cannonball Richy, the guy who would go up in the hot air balloon."

Alfred Mattingly: "The carnival was a big deal. One street was blocked off and the merry-go-round was on the end there. Everybody worked at the carnival from around town, just like everybody in the Mattingly family worked at the (Mattingly) funeral home. I probably worked the carnival from when I was ten years old. I would collect the tickets on the merry-go-round or work with one of my parents on the stand or work with the guy who was in charge of the popcorn stand. We pretty much worked around. When we got older, we would work the rides. I don't remember going when we didn't work there, to be honest with you. But it was as much fun; I mean, we didn't have much money to spend so we might as well work there to be there."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "Oh, my God. That was a big thing, yeah. They took up that whole center block. Oh, it was there for a week. Bernard Smith was quite an electrician and he had a big like a sound truck. And, oh my God, all night long you could hear his voice over that loud speaker, probably all the way up to the North End, maybe all the way to Hollywood. But, oh, that was fun. They had the thing with the merry-go-round and the Ferris wheel. And they had bingo and all these other games. This just shows you....in those days they had no facilities for bathrooms, so where did people go to the bathroom? They'd just walk in and say ' Mr. Duke, I've got to go to the bathroom'."



LEONAR

CARNIVAL DRAWING RECORD CROWDS

The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Carnival is drawing record crowds each night. If good weather holds out until next Sunday night we are reliably informed, this year's take will be the best yet. It certainly appears that folks from every section of St. Mary's are attending and spending freely on the many attractions offered.

On Monday night when the carnival was in full swing the siren called about 11 P. M. for help at the local ice plant where a pipe was giving trouble. A large crowd rushed down to the wharf and later returned to the carnival attractions.

$1.50 A YEAR

FIREMEN CARNIVAL OPENS SATURDAY NIGHT

When the Leonardtown Fire siren sounds on Saturday night, August 17, at 7 P. M. it will announce the opening of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Carnival. It will be calling to all those in the County who have the welfare of the County at heart, to join in an attempt to replenish the departments exchequer. Only by contributions and the annual carnival is this very fine and important organization able to carry on it's work of responding to the calls when fire threatens.

On the grounds will be booths with light refreshments, various games and amusements such as the merry-go-round, ferris wheel and chairplane, etc., to entertain both old and young. Many fine useful articles now on display in the local stores will be disposed of by vote on Sunday, August 25, when the carnival closes.

ANNUAL CARNIVAL

August 17th to 25th Inclusive

Benefit

LEONARDTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

FERRIS WHEEL — MERRY-GO-ROUND
CHAIR PLANE

Popular Games For Everybody

Soft Drinks — Ice Cream — Sandwiches

On The Village Green

7 P. M.-12 P. M. Each Night

60. Newspaper announcements for the coming carnival.

Betty Mattingly Shepherd: "We went every night; I did. We didn't go no place else. Oh that carnival, we looked forward to that. Mom and dad would give us a dollar a night. You'd be surprised what you could do on that one dollar; we could do a lot of walking."

Norris Shepherd: "The rides were ten cents. I didn't go to the carnival very much. When I

come along in Great Mills, we went to Leonardtown maybe twice a year."

Al Gough: "The carnival was initially started out in the 1920s. The town Commission had established a fire department and people volunteered to serve in it or enlisted to serve in it. And at some point in 1928, there was a group of fellows that wanted to get it out of the hands of the town commission and form an independent company. That happened and it happened with the blessing of the town commissioner. The town commission had started bringing in carnival groups to raise money. The carnival group would get half, the town would get half. For that time they were quite high entertainment. There wasn't a whole lot going on. It was about the time, I think it was August, a lot of farmers had come in. They had sold their tobacco and they were looking for some entertainment. I think the firemen started having carnivals in 1932 and continued on for 75 summers. In the early days they had different kinds of entertainment; had big attractions to get people in. One I remember writing about, it was before my time, but it was Cannonball Richards. They would shoot a cannonball at Richard. One year they had a balloonist and he would parachute out of the balloon. It got blown off course and came down in the Seventh District, and they didn't have any radios at the time and they had a hard time finding him. It was a lot of fun back in those days."

Audio 63. Al Gough talking about the Leonardtown carnival:

Aleck Loker, Jr.: "In the vacant lot between the house we lived in and the corner house the circus set up. They asked my father if they could plug in an extension cord to run the popcorn machine. And he said "sure". So they ran the thing over and plugged it in. As the day wore on the lights in our house grew dimmer and my father walked over and found that they had everything in the circus on that one cord."

Lari Mako: "I always wanted to be down here for the Carnival. There was not much else down here, you know, there really wasn't."

Peter Wigginton: "The carnival came every August and it was the highlight of every year. Because it was fun. First of all, when I was a kid it was right here in the town park and they blocked the street off. The Ferris wheel sat on the concrete right in front of the Methodist church; it was a level place. And the merry-go-round sat in the grass at the far end down by Duke's. It was an old, old merry-go-round and the story is that the Leonardtown Fire Department purchased it from somewhere in New Jersey and it was an old, used merry-go-round then. And the truck that was transporting it back here, probably 1942 or something like that, there was an accident and some of the horses were broken up. And I was very disappointed that the merry-go-round had to delay its opening night by several nights in order to get it fixed. I was a little, teeny fella, I was very disappointed. I wanted to see it; I wanted to be on it. And it was cool because when the Ferris wheel went up you could see all the way down to Camp Calvert Road. I used to marvel at how far you could see up there.

"I think the carnival was a substitute for the showboat. The showboat had been coming in since World War I. And everybody around here waited for it because it was great

entertainment. Two tug boats pushed it in here. Mom and dad talked about it all the time and how much fun it was, all the melodrama. One night they had the evil villain who was going to turn the lovely young girl and her mother out of the house and somebody in the audience actually got up and was threatening to beat the hell out of the actor. He meant it; he was going to drag him down. When the showboat quit coming the carnival became the source of entertainment."

Dr. John Fenwick: “The streets were also part of it so they were kind of blocked off for the carnival. Of course we looked forward to it because they had a Ferris wheel there and the hammer that you’d try to hit the bell and all kinds of things.” On the Ferris Wheel: “You could see the whole town really because there wasn’t anything taller than that. But most of it was lights. Unless you got past the lights, you couldn’t really see.” He also remembers a special event from one year’s carnival: “They had this tower where this guy would climb this pole and it must’ve been 100 feet in the air. He would climb that thing and there was a big swimming pool down there. I don’t know how wide that thing was. A tank. I would guesstimate that it was probably 30 feet wide or something like that. And he would climb that thing and get up there and sit down, back to the tank behind him and go off that thing and go into that tank. I couldn’t believe that. That was the most amazing thing I’d ever seen in Leonardtown.”

Slot Machines

Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall: “Oh lordy, slots. There were slots everywhere. Everywhere. Cleaners, grocery stores, bar rooms, you name it there were slots.” Asked if children ever played slots, she said, “They’re weren’t allowed to legally. I don’t remember playing on those as a child because we didn’t have any money.”

Aleck Loker, Jr.: "I played them when I was in third grade, waiting for the school bus. They had slot machines in the drug store of the St. Mary's Pharmacy. I used to reach up and pull the handle."

Lari Mako: "They were even at the bakery. I can't think of any place that didn't have them."

Ann Camalier Wathen: "Slot machines, yes, they were all over the place. In fact, I can remember as a child, we would go down to the dump where people threw their trash, and we would take two to three coke bottles and take it over to Clark's Restaurant; they'd give you five to ten cents, you spend it and put it in the slot machines. Have you some luck."

Johnny Briscoe, A Rascal

John Hanson grew up in a time when it wasn’t easy to get away with causing much trouble. Many recalled that growing up in the 1930s and 1940s in Leonardtown meant that “everybody” knew you, and that it was easy to be caught if you were anyplace you weren’t supposed to be.

Audio 64. George Aud on the difficulty of causing trouble as a kid without getting caught:

John Hanson, though, still managed to cause some mischief when he was young.

John Hanson Briscoe: "I had two completely different parents. My mother was the nurturing type, she was home raising the children. My mother didn't do the disciplinary work. My three sisters were another story. I was as much trouble as any young boy growing up could be. My sisters were very highly disciplined on me and I resented it that they kept me in line. When I got older, I came to appreciate their efforts; but still I stayed away from them as much as I could. All in all, they were good girls, though. And my three older sisters, Mimi, Hilda, and Lou, who were obviously physically larger than I was, if I got in trouble they would physically go get me and literally bring me home. They even went so far one time when I was in one of my little fits, they threw me in a cold bathtub to settle me down a little bit. And the punishment in those days was depriving you of something. And the worst punishment I ever received would be being deprived of walking down to Leonardtown, because we had a sidewalk town, Leonardtown, and going down to the drugstore where they sold comic books and I would hang out with my buddies. We had two movie theaters back in those days, believe it or not. And to be deprived of going to the movies on Friday night, which was a big deal; believe me I would've rather had a spanking than being deprived of going down to the Leonardtown carnival."

Lari Mako: "As he grew up he got very spoiled and he was not an ideal little boy. I don't know whether anybody's told you that. Well he wasn't the best. He kind of...if there was any kind of mischief, you know? I remember seeing him in the summers, he always had like two or three people with him. I think one of them was the Hamilton boy. Johnny was kind of the leader of the gang. He wasn't always good. He was just kind of bad growing up; not bad, that's not the word; he was kind of mischievous and kind of full of himself. He was the gang leader that caused trouble."

"But here's where I fell in love with him. He was eight or nine or seven. I was there one day visiting Hilda and John, Sr. came home; he was livid. There was somebody after him to pay a bill for some seeds and he hadn't bought them and he was trying to....and John Hanson said ' Well, I sent for those. I got those but they weren't blooming, and I said there wasn't any reason to pay for those.' In other words, he opened up and took it and I thought it was just darling. So, from then on, we were just buddies."

Mary Ada Burch Candela: "I remember him doing things to Meme. He had put a frog in the john one time and it was Mimi who got the benefit of that. He was rascally as anything. He was all outdoors. He really was a rascal and cute. So he could get away with it."

Peter Wigginton: "Johnny was trying to spray Bobby and me with a hose and when he did, he sprayed across the screen door and the water came in. I think it was Meme who

came out and was giving him hell because it had gone all over the piano. That sounded like something Johnny would do."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "His playmates that I know of were John Rule Dorsey, Walter's brother, and David Hamilton. And they used to get into terrible trouble. Not illegal or anything. I think one time they put water in the gasoline because they thought it'd make more gasoline for Daddy. They did things like that."

Family lore was that John Hanson intentionally set fire to the field in front of the Academy. Here, we set the record:

Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall: “Oh yeah. Well that happened. They had fields that got cut with a farm tractor kind of thing. Not cut like grass, just mowed down. Little boys and girls liked to smoke without their parents knowing it. Smoke with matches. I don’t know the details but I think that John Hanson and David were. David Hamilton and John Dorsey was also, I mean he lived right across the street.”

Kennedy Abell: “Whenever there was a fire, like if there was a fire right there, the fire alarm would go off in town and everybody in school who was on the fire department would come out and go to the fire. Some who weren't on the fire department also came out and went to help put the fire out. In those days, 1944 to 1946, the local boys had gone into the service, so we didn't have many young firemen to attend the fire call so they allowed the junior membership to be an auxiliary member at 16 years old. So, as our higher grades of school, maybe the juniors and seniors, were leaving school and anybody else who could jump in the car was coming down to get on the fire truck to put these big woods fires out and they needed them because they didn't have staffing in town. They were glad to see these young men come along."

Alfred Mattingly: "We all got out of school when the fire alarm went off. We'd get in a car, go to the fire house, and get onto the fire truck. We were "junior members" of the fire department, aged between 16 and 18. We all belonged to the fire department and the kids from Mechanicsville or the Seventh District who went to school at the Academy, when the fire alarm went off they could go, too."

Peter Egeli explained that many people intentionally set their fields on fire both to remove weeds prior to planting and to release nutrients from the burnt grass. Sage grass was a very hot and very intense type of fire, so it could get out of control very easily. When someone was going to burn their field, people would normally walk around the fire with an Indian tank of water on their back so as to limit the spread of the fire.

Kennedy Abell: "John always told the story that he set the field on fire because he knew that he could get us out of school to respond to the fire." The sage field was located in between the Briscoe house and the Academy. "At the Academy, the old school was way back behind where the present college buildings are. The sage fire probably wasn't going to hurt anything. It probably was going to burn itself out. But sage will burn fast." Mary Ada Candela remembers that John got in trouble with both his parents and the nuns for that prank.

Betty Shepherd: "He was a clown the whole time (at the Academy). He even set a fire out there. I want to say it was either the third or the fourth grade. Rapscallion. Johnny Briscoe was just a rapscallion."

Lari Mako on John Hanson setting the field on fire: "Yes, of course he did it. Well, that's mischievous. That's what I'm talking about. He probably had a scheme when he did something. He wasn't bad, he was mischievous, and probably because there wasn't that much to do. But mostly because he was the only boy and everybody in this town felt a fondness for him and even when he was naughty he got by with it because they loved him. And he gave it back to them. I was in the grocery store with him one day and the worst looking man came up to him and said ' Judge, it's so nice to see you.' And John Hanson was as wonderful to him as if it'd been the President. That's the way he felt. I remember somebody telling Aunt Leila something he'd done. I don't think it was burning the field, but it was something just as bad. He caused a lot of mischief at St. Mary's Academy. And she said 'He'll be fine; it's John Hanson. He'll be fine.' But he always, I'm going to tell you something, when he was three or four he had manners. Even when he was being naughty and kind of the bad guy around town he was always polite and he was always upfront. He would always tell the truth. He never lied about it. He'd take his punishment."

Audio 65. Lari Mako on the mischief young John Hanson caused:

Memories

Speaker of the House John Hanson Briscoe recalls the days he was a class cut-up at St. Mary's Academy. Sister Julia Clare and Sister Mary Bernice share those same memories. (Staff Photo by Richard E. Polk)

61. When he was in the House of Delegates, John Hanson remembered when he was a "class cut-up" at St. Mary's Academy. The sisters agreed.

Kennedy Abell: “John was handy with the slot machines. He and Frank Klear learned how to pull the handle to get a free play without having to put a coin in. You call that "jagging" a machine. He was pretty good. He didn't always do that because people were coming through, he'd put coins back to win money. He's playing this; but he may get one or two free plays while he's doing his paper route. John was old for his age. Going out with his sister Lou; they were always into everything going on."

Audio 66. Kennedy Abell’s story on John Hanson Briscoe jagging slot machines:

Alfred Mattingly: "Briscoe was the master slot machine jagger. He just had a reputation that he could clean out a machine. He was apparently the best. What he did was, he'd put the money in the machine and work the handle until the money got past the slots in the machine where it would be like one quarter would push another. Well, he could fool the machine in such a way that he could get the money between those slots and then after that he could pull the handle without putting money into it. He could just keep pulling and the dials kept going around. He'd keep doing it until it paid out all the money it had in it. Everybody knew that he and a few others would cross the bridge and go over to Virginia to Colonial Beach; they had a lot of slots over there, out over the Potomac because that was actually part of St. Mary's County back then. They'd go over there until the owners found out what was happening and they'd run them away.”

Jack and Mary Ada Burch Candela remembered John Hanson jagging slot machines, too.

Audio 67. The Candelas on John Hanson’s “master jagging” at the local slot machines:

John Hanson Briscoe: "There is a funny photograph of me at Pennie's Bar. See, I hung around with much older people. I was probably 16 when this was taken. We drank beer, smoked cigarettes, and had a good time. We played baseball and softball together; just pal'd around. We were all at Pennie's drinking at the time. They said 'you're about to take that photograph; Briscoe's father is the State's Attorney. Get that beer away from him.' The other guys in the photo are all old enough. They said 'give him a Coke'. And you see what I've got in my hand? A Coke. The old bottle Coke. But look what's sitting right next to me. The beauty of this photograph is that there's my beer (laughing).”

62. John Hanson Briscoe (far right), Frank Klear (far left), and Frankie Owens (front row, middle) at Pennie's Bar. September 1951.

Kennedy Abell explained that Coke Cola bottles were all the deal at Penny's to hide the drinks. "We all hung out at Penny's Tavern. Hamburgers, coca cola, and 'other sources of refreshment'. You know he wasn't drinking Coca Cola"

63. Pennie's Bar. L-R: Walter Wise and Frankie Owens.

64. Pennie's Bar. L-R: John Hanson Briscoe and Tom Bennett.

65. Pennie's Bar. March 1952. L-R: Unknown, Regina Lacey, Ruth Bell, Frank Klear.

66. Pennie's Bar. L-R: Regina Lacey, Frankie Owens, Ruth Bell.

John then asked Kennedy about the bar that was located very near the intersection of Rt. 5 and St. Andrews Church Rd, Ted Wright's Tavern. "How many coke and whiskeys did we have at the bottom of the hill?" That was a hang out of theirs for many years "with ice cream, you know; we didn't have to drink all the time" Kennedy said.

67. Buzz's Restaruant, March 1952. L-R: Kennedy Abell, John Ralph Abell, John Hanson Briscoe.

68. Green Street Inn, Westminster, Maryland, March 1952. Frankie Owens.

69. Green Street Inn, Westminster, Maryland, March 1952. Seated L-R: John Hanson Briscoe, Frank Owens, Kennedy Abell, George Norris, Unknown. Standing at the end of the bar: John Ralph Abell.

70. Green Street Inn, Westminser, Maryland, March 1952. L-R: Kennedy Abell, Ann Lacey, John Ralph Abell, John Hanson Briscoe, George Norris.

Audio 68. Kennedy Abell and John Hanson Briscoe discuss the Pennie's Bar photos:

John Hanson Briscoe: "This is me and Kennedy Abell and some friends at a bar in Westminster. Ann Lacey (later, Kennedy's wife), John Ralph Abell, Frank Owens, and George "Dookie" Norris. Frank was a great pitcher and baseball player. We all played ball together and drank and carried on together. Dookie had purchased the bar, the "Green Street Inn" and we went up and visited him there and drank some beer and smoked some cigarettes. I was about 18 years old there, I was still in high school. Kennedy and I grew up in Leonardtown. He is one of the older gang I hung around with. And Kennedy was really good; he let me go to things, go to bars and stuff because I wasn't old enough to drink. He was very popular with the fire department and I used to play cards at the fire department. I enjoyed the older guys."

John Hanson Briscoe: "My father was 45 years old when I was born. As a child, I didn't go hunting with him because, by the time I took up an interest in hunting, he had already given up on it." (John admitted that the following story, recounted in a Hollywood barber shop, was accurate): A call was placed to the game warden to report out of season duck hunting occurring near Half Pone Point. Two wardens responded to the vicinity of the alleged violation and began to silently creep along the shoreline so as to catch the perpetrator in the act. There he was, only they realized that they had a problem. The shooter was the son of Magistrate John H.T. Briscoe. Hoping to defuse this awkward predicament, the game wardens managed to fabricate just enough noise in the bushes to draw the attention of young John. He discovered that he'd been caught. He dropped his gun, abandoned the ducks he shot, and ran home to his father's home on the farm. The wardens retrieved the gun and ducks and ventured to the home of Magistrate Briscoe. After knocking on the front door, young John answered, pretending to have just woken up and gotten out of bed. The wardens said: "We've just surprised a poacher but don't know who he is. Would you ask your father to hold this gun until we can identify him?" John was only too happy and relieved to oblige them; he even went so far as to ask if he could keep the confiscated ducks, too. Those game wardens said that, years later, they would never lose a case before Judge John Hanson Briscoe.

John would recall another hunting mishap, this one occurring during his high school years. He went squirrel hunting with Tommy Bennett. Tommy fired at a squirrel, not noticing that John was sitting with his back against a tree, turned away from him. Tommy's shot peppered the back of John's neck with shot. At home that evening, his mother pulled out what pellets she could. He then went to a high school dance that night and his being shot was all the talk. John says he carried some of the squirrel shot the rest of his days.

Years later when John Hanson was serving as Judge Briscoe, he'd occasionally have a feeling that an adult criminal defendant in his courtroom was looking at him a bit too intently. He'd wonder ' why is that guy looking at me like that?' Then it dawned on him

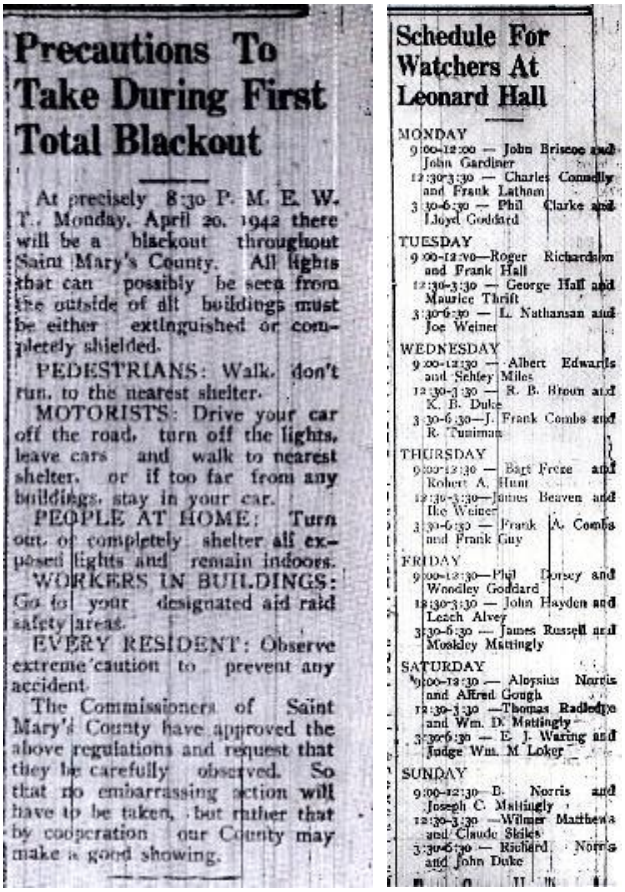
that that particular defendant knew him *back in the day* and was probably thinking “I knew you when…”

St. Mary’s County During World War Two

Peter Egeli: "My father's brothers in Norway were writing to him and saying ' if you live in the city you better get out of it because the Germans have these long range bombers now'. I plainly remember nightly blackouts and all the rest of it. My parents had always been thinking about living in Calvert or St. Mary's County. So anyways, when they discovered the farm at Valley Lee, the Glebe Farm, it was probably in the best shape of any place they had looked at. And we moved in in January of '43. And when we moved down to the farm, there was no electricity so we didn't have to worry about blackouts at night. We had a kerosene lamp in the kitchen and that was our light."

Eleanor Duke Storck: "The blackouts weren't too severe. We didn't think about it too much. Now I know that Daddy used to go over and sit over in the little shack or something in Leonard Hall in the field where there was no noise or anything around. In the nighttime there wasn't that much traffic. He was what they called an airplane spotter. And if the plane flew over, then he called somebody to report it. I guess they were always worried that maybe we were going to be attacked or something. He wasn't an air raid warden because we didn't have air raids."

Kennedy Abell participated in civil patrol, which was the responsibility of going around town on his bicycle at night to see if anybody's light was on during a blackout and, if so, to ask them to pull their curtain down. Kennedy said "They were afraid of the enemy flying over, airplanes. It never happened, but it was possible. We probably did that for six to eight months. It was times when there would be an alert. I don't say we did it every night; but there were times when there'd be an alert and we'd get into it a couple of nights and then the alert would be called off. But we had to understand the silhouette of an airplane and be able to describe them if we saw them just in case it was German. "



Precautions To Take During First Total Blackout

At precisely 8:30 P. M. E. W. T., Monday, April 20, 1942 there will be a blackout throughout Saint Mary's County. All lights that can possibly be seen from the outside of all buildings must be either extinguished or completely shielded.

PEDESTRIANS: Walk, don't run, to the nearest shelter.

MOTORISTS: Drive your car off the road, turn off the lights, leave cars and walk to nearest shelter, or if too far from any buildings, stay in your car.

PEOPLE AT HOME: Turn out, or completely shelter all exposed lights and remain indoors.

WORKERS IN BUILDINGS: Go to your designated aid raid safety areas.

EVERY RESIDENT: Observe extreme caution to prevent any accident.

The Commissioners of Saint Mary's County have approved the above regulations and request that they be carefully observed. So that no embarrassing action will have to be taken, but rather that by cooperation our County may make a good showing.

Schedule For Watchers At Leonard Hall

MONDAY
9:00-12:00 — John Briscoe and John Gardiner
12:30-3:30 — Charles Connelly and Frank Latham
3:30-6:30 — Phil Clarke and Lloyd Goddard

TUESDAY
9:00-12:00—Roger Richardson and Frank Hall
12:30-3:30 — George Hall and Maurice Thrift
3:30-6:30 — L. Nathansan and Joe Weiner

WEDNESDAY
9:00-12:30 — Albert Edwards and Sehley Miles
12:30-3:30 — R. B. Brown and K. B. Duke
3:30-6:30—J. Frank Combs and R. Tuniman

THURSDAY
9:00-12:30 — Bart Freze and Robert A. Hunt
12:30-3:30—James Beaven and Ike Weiner
3:30-6:30 — Frank A. Combs and Frank Guy

FRIDAY
9:00-12:30—Phil Dorsey and Woodley Goddard
12:30-3:30 — John Hayden and Leach Alvey
3:30-6:30 — James Russell and Mosbley Mattingly

SATURDAY
9:00-12:30 — Aloysius Norris and Alfred Gough
12:30-3:30 —Thomas Radledge and Wm. D. Mattingly
3:30-6:30 — E. J. Waring and Judge Wm. M Loker

SUNDAY
9:00-12:30— B. Norris and Joseph C. Mattingly
12:30-3:30 —Wilmer Matthews and Claude Skiles
3:30-6:30 — Richard Norris and John Duke

71. Articles from the St. Mary's Beacon

Peter Wigginton recalls that his father would sometimes wear a metal helmet as he went through town at night to enforce the blackout, ready to blow his whistle whenever he spotted a violation.

Peter Wigginton: "Another thing was the presence of military airplanes. World War II PPYs and Hellcats and Wildcats were overhead. I know that there were stories about lifeboats being found, floating into the Chesapeake Bay. German U-boats were nailing vessels and the incoming tide would bring life boats into the Bay. I can recall the blackouts. Dad had a helmet and a whistle. He was like a warden. He'd go out and blow whistles if lights could be seen. I think mom and dad tried to protect Bobby and me; we were quite young. I was five when the war broke out and I believe that, in retrospect, they thought that it would be an unpleasantry that, there was no point in scaring us about it. I remember seeing news at the movie house and see pictures of downtown London in flames due to the Blitz and it scared the living bejeebus out of me. I said that if they can do that to that great big city, just think what they can do to this little town.

"And there was another thing, they would play the national anthem before every movie and they would show a picture of the flag and we all stood up and sang it. There were war bonds; at every movie they'd say 'buy war bonds'. They told you to ration, talk to you about ration cards. You took extremely good care of your shoes. If you lost your shoes or tore them up, that was it, you didn't get anymore. And the gasoline rationing was really

something. I don't think you were supposed to, but you could trade ration cards. Gasoline was, I think I remember this right, you got an A sticker on your car and I think that allowed you three gallons a week. We all envied the country doctor 'cause as the country doctor he could buy more gas than we could because he needed it more. I know this sounds unbelievable, but back then doctors came to your house, can you believe that?!"

Idolia Shubrooks: "I do remember the blackouts, that's one thing that stuck in my mind. On certain nights of the week you had to these dark shades and you would have to pull the shades down. No light were to be seen in your house as the SPs would come around in the navy truck to check. I remember because I was frightened. I think we had blackouts here in Park Hall because we were in close proximity of the base."

Asked if she remembered black outs, Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall said, "Oh gosh yes. My parents had regular dark, they were navy blue but they were as dark as black. They had dark shades but I don't know that it was because of the black outs but when blackout time came, you pulled the shades and didn't turn on your lights, you'd have a little candle or flashlight or something."

"My father was a lookout along with Mr. Briscoe and all the other men, they went down on one of those long roads, country road. They would take shifts and go down and lookout for the planes that might come and if they came there was like a civil defense person and they were to notify what the plane looked like."

About the types of rationings, "We had meat, sugar, butter and when I say meat I mean everything but your homegrown chicken, rubber, tires, gasoline, replacement cars, replacement tires, you had retreads if you were lucky. We went to Florida to visit my brother. He went to the Naval Academy, then he went to air pilot school. We all went to visit him, my three sisters, my mother, my father in a non-air conditioned car with two retread tires tied on to the roof because you would need it before you got all the way to Florida and then you would stop on the way. Take you 2 or 3 days."

Mary Ada Burch Candela: "You really couldn't get stuff during the Second World War. You couldn't go too far because of gas rationing. My father was trying to build a house on Lawrence Avenue during that time. And I mean he would just struggle to get certain things to put in the house because they just weren't available because of the war. I remember he waited months to get one item. It took him almost four years to finish the house because of not having the things that he wanted."

Audio 69. The Candelas on rationing during World War Two:

Ann Camalier Wathen: "During the war we had to be careful. We had a big pile at North Park; and if you had any old tires or anything that they needed in the war, you would bring it down there and dump it on the end of that park. Had great big piles of stuff. And the government would send these trucks in and they would haul this stuff off, because they would need it for the airplanes and all. And of course we had what was called the

rationing board. You could get like one pair of shoes every so often, or your sugar. You had to ration, though."

Alfred Mattingly: "All I remember were things like rice and gas. You got these little round coupons you could use to buy stuff including gas and they were valuable. People traded them; if somebody had more coupons than they needed they could trade with somebody else for other things. I remember when I heard that the war was ended I was in the car with someone right at the stop sign at Saunders' store. I was relieved because everyone else was relieved. I remember when we went to the mailbox every day we were concerned that my father was going to get drafted. Everybody was affected by the war; everybody had somebody in it. "

About the war itself, Larry Millison recalls that the county was gripped in "wartime hysteria." "I remember 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. It was a-- maybe it was because I was eight years old. But there was an hysteria in the country 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 country 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."

"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 country. But in those days, it just-- 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 if your [inaudible] won, they hung a star in their living room, you know, for the neighborhood to see. And the newspapers were full o stories about local boys who had go-- 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."

The Navy Base Changes Everything

John Hanson Briscoe: "I was a 'Depression Baby'...and the most exciting thing about St. Mary's County was when they started building the United States Naval Air Station in the 1940s. They built it during the Second World War. I felt that I lived in the metropolis of Leonardtown, the county seat. There was nothing else really until the Base came, but Leonardtown. I grew up with that. It wasn't very exciting, but I didn't want to go anywhere. I had very little ambition."

Lari Mako: "The navy base changed everything completely. Before that they were all farmers. There was no business down here. And of course they took the prettiest part of the county so people weren't that happy. They didn't realize how good it would be for the county. The whole county was upset."

J. Frank Raley: “The base arrived almost with the war, the base was, I think ground was broken, it may have been, I think it was broken in 19 ... late 41 or early 42. So the, the base arrived with the war. The reason for that is that the Navy and 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, it was a big, 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. So, 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 that's what the, and then the big impact of the people was that where the current farm wage income maybe 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. And if you had any, a carpenter you'd get 4 or 5 dollars an hour where you'd probably 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 work or employed on the farms either as tenants, sharecroppers, or even just workers and went to work over here on the base. It was a, I just I could hear em, hear the people and I was just when it first started I was not, I was about 14. And 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 was based on barter. But money was scarce.

“Now remember, I'm not, I'm not that, wasn't that old nor was I being ready to chronicle all the events, or interested in chronicling all the events of St. Mary's County. But my father, being in business, I'm sure that's where I first learned of it because he would be aware of those things because of business opportunities. And of course, he did receive benefit and his business did expand because of that. So, I think it came first of the talk that I would hear with my family of the investment that was going to be made here. And I think there was even some disbelief, as I got it, that such a thing could happen down here, talk about this kind of money investment and it just seemed, I got an air of disbelief that this could even be happening here. But of course, when these fellas all started arriving and slot machines were whirling and they had, they were making money and they couldn't, they couldn't spend it very many ways, you know they had all kinds of rationing and you couldn't buy automobiles, a very few, gasoline was rationed. All, with all of those things, and people couldn't spend money and they had, but so when they got here and the people were making the kind, particularly those construction workers were making a lot of money my father had a lot of them down there. And I see, you know they all, it was a, the good times had come, I think nobody ever believed it would ever happen [laughs]. I can remember some of my father's friends talking in the bar when I could listen to em

about that they had gone to work, this one had gone to work for the Navy and getting all this kind of money and he, he just couldn't get over the fact at how little people were working, how little production they got out of it. He'd been used to, he was a carpenter, he'd been used to being a hard worker and you know, living on the edge and he just couldn't get used to the fact that maybe you didn't have to live exactly, people didn't all have to work the, at slave labor.

Audio 70. J. Frank Raley on the navy base's arrival:

According to George Aud, many in the county were against the base when it first came down.

Audio 71. George Aud talks about the navy base coming to St. Mary's:

Charles E. Fenwick: "When it first started, there were so many rumors nobody knew what was goin on. Somebody said that they built a new three hundred room hotel down here. And somebody said, "What for?" Said, "To put the rumors in." Not 'roomers' but 'rumors.' It was a mess because those construction people came in here and they were a wild, rough bunch. They came to Leonardtown to get drunk most time. Even after the sailors came, they came to Leonardtown and carried on. Lexington Park didn't have a very good name."

Audio 72. Charles E. Fenwick talks about the base's start:

Eleanor Duke Storck: "Of course, the war was going on now, and we found out in December of 1941 that the base, we always said "the base" not "Pax River", was being built. So all those people that were coming down from Washington, some were engineers, some were just regular laborers, where were they going to live? They had a hotel, the old St. Mary's Hotel.....

"So it's our patriotic duty to take a roomer. We had a roomer and he was from Washington. The Briscoe's had a roomer, that's how Hilda met Tom Jones; see, his brother lived at the Briscoe house. Well anyway, it was your patriotic duty. We'd never had a roomer before. We never had a school teacher in our house.

"Now you have to remember back in our days we all only had one bathroom. But guess what. We got to church on time; we got to school on time. You just didn't stay in that bathroom and blow dry your hair and all that. I always like to say we had one bathroom, one radio, one telephone, one automobile, but we had two stairways. And that was true of the Briscoe's, too. You had all these people living in these places, but everybody had to get where they had to go and they got there on time. It was kind of amazing.

"But anyway, all these men came down to work on the base and they didn't have any place to live. So one night it was bitter cold in January and daddy came home from the movie theatre, he drove home, you know it was a bit of a distance in the middle of the night. And he said to Mother ' Give me all your blankets'. And she said 'What?' He let people sleep in the movie theatre because they couldn't sleep in their cars. They would have frozen to death. So Daddy went back to the theatre and said 'OK, you guys can sleep here. But absolutely no smoking!' And in those days everyone smoked including me and my parents; everybody. But anyway, no smoking. How many nights he did that I don't know. But I remember him doing that. He let people sleep in the movie theatre because they could not sleep in their cars. It was too cold."

Kennedy Abell: "The war's on. A lot of the people who had come to Leonardtown had trailers they lived in. They came here looking for work on the base. There wasn't any other place for them to live. The St. Mary's Hotel was full almost every night. People came here from everywhere; my sister married a boy who came here from Canada. All these jobs came here as the base was opening up, and people came with a trailer because they knew there was no place to live; they couldn't find houses. We had about four trailer parks in Leonardtown. Charles "Butchie" Fenwick Jr.'s dad had an open lot in front of his house. So he had a driveway that ran all the way back to his house for people to pull their trailers in there. And then he put lines of water and sewer in there to service those units. And he had about eighteen trailers. I'd deliver newspapers to six or eight of those people." When asked how the locals reacted to the influx of newcomers, Kennedy answered "It was happening so fast. They were glad to have the people come to the stores and buy groceries. The jobs were blooming I guess you might call it because of the people. Mostly everyone had a car, but there were also different bus routes from Leonardtown to the base."

Priscilla Duke Wentworth Hall: "Roomers, we had house and board, which means meals. I didn't know there was a difference. Boarders, some people would let them have supper, some would let them have, they could fix their own maybe. Being a roomer strictly meant that you rented a room for 5 years, 10 years, I dunno know how long. Most of them were in the Washington, Baltimore area, so they came during the week and stayed 5 nights or 4 nights then they went back to their home in whatever city they lived in. But you didn't use their room and you didn't go in their room. The Briscoes had two, I think, on the second floor. Almost everybody, if they had a room, they rented a room and I guess there was someone at the base who knew who to call or someone from Leonardtown that had some in because Mr. Mattlingly knew everybody in Leonardtown so I guess he could get by on word of mouth.

Before the base was rural, completely rural, the families made their living farming or agricultural in some way or vegetable farming, all kinds of farming and water. We were oyster men, crab fishermen. Once the Navy base came though and there were more businesses and more everything. Lexington Park started off as just one street, well two streets, 235 and Great Mills road. And then they went from there and have spread but the economy of St. Mary's no doubt was, no doubt, made 100% better."

Per Aleck Loker, "A Most Convenient Place": "The new Naval Air Station at Patuxent

River brought the technology of war to St. Mary's County. Here captured Japanese and German aircraft were quickly put through their paces in the dangerous business of flight testing to determine their vulnerabilities. At the same time, test pilots, engineers, and technicians at Patuxent River evaluated American Navy war planes to ensure that they were fit for deployment. This strategically important base was hastily built in the space of one year in what must certainly have been a Herculean effort - unhampered by modern day concerns of environmental impact or bureaucratic regulations. As a very young boy, I was terrified each time the naval guns at the Dahlgren, Virginia testing station were fired. They seemed to boom continuously in the distance (only a few miles from Leonardtown as the crow flies). Up in the sky I saw the captured planes with Japanese and German markings. My sister, Peggy, delighted in adding to my fear by telling me that the Japanese and Germans were across the Potomac, preparing to launch their attack on Leonardtown."

Jack Daugherty recalled how, in 1944, "… all of a sudden we get orders to Patuxent River. No one knows where Patuxent River is so we took a plane, came up here and landed, just to see what was going on. We got to Leonardtown and we said we got to find out where this place is. So we got somebody at Duke's in Leonardtown, and they said, "Well, don't know exactly where it is, but go down to Great Mills and I think they can tell you." So we went to Great Mills and they said "It's right here; about four miles right up here." And in those days this road from Great Mills to the base was limestone rock. So we went up and went into the base and checked in. And that was in September, 1944. There was no place for us to live. They had just built the Flat Tops (Lexington Manor neighborhood). They built those in 1943. You couldn't get in there unless you worked for the government."

Audio 73. Jack Daugherty, on his first trip to Patuxent NAS:

Peter Wigginton: "I remember seeing servicemen for the first time in town. The Cedar Point Navy Station got started and that was a big deal down here. When it first started there wasn't enough housing for them. In fact, my granddaddy took in naval officers and their families and gave them rooms there. I can remember nice fellows, they were good to me, and Bobby and I played with them. Servicemen on leave would come to Leonardtown trying to get to Washington. Uncle Aleck Loker went to the nuns at the Academy and asked permission of the nuns if groups of servicemen could stand at the end of the Academy lane, out of the state road and on the nun's property, in order to catch and hail down the Greyhound there. And the nuns said 'absolutely not'. With all these young girls to protect, the last thing in the world they wanted was vile males, especially sailors. And I also remember Charlie Fenwick had a trailer park right in his front yard that would provide housing. It was right in Leonardtown, right straight across from where we lived. There were little teeny aluminum trailers and they were hooked into the sewer line.

Remembering Pearson, the village that the navy base would be built over, Larry Millison said the following: “Pearson was very beautiful. It was, it's on, Patuxent Naval Base is on a piece of land that came outta the ocean millions of years later than most of the land

further in. It was the richest farms in the state of Maryland on Cedar Point. So the land was very rich. It had a wonderful smell to it because it was... It was flat land, very rich, and of course it was on a peninsula of land so you always had a nice breeze from the Chesapeake Bay or the Patuxent River. And it was very picturesque. No part of St. Mary's County that I know of today reminds of Cedar Point as much as the Seventh District does. It's still a rural atmosphere there. It was one road, primary one road, going in. There were two little small roads, but the main road was Cedar Point Road, and pretty much dissected the peninsula of land. About six, seven thousand acres of land. And a wonderful place to grow up.

“Where we lived was pretty much the center of Cedar Point. Looking out the back door, you'd a looked at Abbott Woodburn's farm, Dick Hammett's farm. Lotta virgin timber. Flat land, very rich land. Used t' get a lotta waterfowl flying over the peninsula of land, like geese and ducks, and had a lot of, almost all the wild animals that are native to this part of the United States. With deer, a lot of the, all of the small game. And looking out the front door, you would have seen Bell's store, and Cedar Point and Mattapany Farms, where Quarters A is on the base now. It belonged to people by the name of Weschler, who were very wealthy people. And there were three large farms on the Base: Cedar Point Farm, Mattapany Farm ... Cedar Point, Mattapany ... I forget what ya call it, it just escapes me for the moment, the third farm. And a lotta little farms. But it was all, it was a very rural development. Only two-hundred fifty families lived on Cedar Point before the war.” (The third farm, after Cedar Point and Mattapany, was Susquehanna.)

Ann Camalier Wathen: "The base came in; that totally changed everything. For one thing, there were too many people around. I will say this, though. People opened up their houses on the weekends. It would not be unusual for us to have sailors or marines because they didn't have any place to go. They didn't have family here. If they got leave, they could come up to Leonardtown; but if they didn't have leave they would have to stay on the base. And we met a lot of really nice young men. A lot were like seventeen, eighteen. A lot of them had girls from here. That was it, because a lot of matches came from that. In fact, my sister married a fellow who came here in the Navy. We would let them sleep over; they would sleep on our couches, and sleep on the floor overnight. We never had any problems with any of them."

Audio 74. Ann Camalier Wathen on the navy base’s effect on the county:

Talking about the influx of laborers and Navy personnel, J. Frank Raley had this to say about the effect on his father’s business: “Well they had, they of course, they came there, they stayed, he had some rooms, as I said he had a fair amount of rooms, 8 or 15 or so, he also had a restaurant and he had a bar and he had slot machines, all of them that were, they wanted. He had more business then he could handle.”

Audio 75. J. Frank Raley talks about the business the navy brought his father:

Dr. John Fenwick: “Well the first part I remember about it coming here was the majority of the people, unless they were visionaries or in a business that would be supported by more people, most of them were farmers and watermen as you said earlier, so that didn’t interest them particularly, having a lot of strange people moving into the county. I can remember them saying, “All these sailors, all they’re going to do is rape all of our daughters.” And that was the kind of attitude that people had. They didn’t want to be invaded by all this stuff, they couldn’t see what it was going to do for the future. My dad had a Ford agency in Leonardtown and after the war was over they had kind of a boom for anything you had to sell because people were getting employed so they had money and could buy a car. They hadn’t been able to sell many cars prior to that.”

Alfred Mattingly: "My grandfather rented rooms. When my grandparents were next door, they always rented two rooms in the house. And some of the people who had been living in a trailer across the street later moved out of the trailer park and rented a room with my aunt after my grandfather died and stayed there forever. We had a little bungalow (the smaller White house on the eastern side of Doctor's Crossing Road). We didn't even have enough for us. But we closed in. We put a drop cloth down on the porch, half the porch, and rented that during the summer. Just about everyone in town rented rooms."

Idolia Shubrooks: "When the base started hiring many people came here from other areas to find work. My family lived in a big old two story house. Many people would stop at our house looking for lodging. We had a problem with people coming at night, which was frightening. A lot of them ended up staying in various houses around here until they got themselves settled. Some of them ended up renting from families that already existed around here. Our family did not take in any renters; we already had enough to fill our house. My father was employed on base and assisted with building the runway.”

Cecelia Countiss: "Oh, it really changed. At that time we went out and got jobs on the base. All the people started moving in. And on the base you could get three dollars a day and my, that was a lot of money. Cleaning, cooking, anything. It was work all over. It was more down there by the base when the base opened up. It was plenty of work then."

Tom Waring: "There was no labor force down here. A lot of people came in. There were no carpenter base, no electricians, no plumbers. There were no mechanical trades. They had to come in and they built the base. They boarded at places and they just lived all over the place. They lived in trailers; the trailer park was full of them."

Paul Bailey: "(The base) was being constructed and all our people, practically everybody in St. Mary's County, if he wasn't really rooted on a farm, went down there to work. The watermen stopped oystering, stopped crabbing, everybody went to Cedar Point to get a job building the air station because they paid union wages and even high wages had been unheard of here, much less union wages. And you - a water boy, for instance, would make more money down there than a farmer in a month, he would make more money than many farmers would make in a whole year's crop. So, everybody went to Cedar Point to work. The county prospered. We had plenty of bars and slot machines and entertainment for all these foreign people who'd come to work here."

When told that many residents of Cedar Point and Pearson opposed the base being built, Paul Bailey said that he saw the base's construction in a different light. "Well, my view is completely different, then, and it is now. That place, the air station land, Cedar Point is the correct name for it, had been recommended, as far back as the Civil War, as a very fine harbor. I've always understood that it's the best harbor in the world outside of Sydney, Australia. I've always understood that. And, I was very close to Congressman Sasscer who was then in Congress. I talked to him about it, and he said, "Paul, there is either going to be an air station there," which was then on the way of course, or he said "it's going to become a big port, like Baltimore City." He said, "Well, how do you feel about that?" Well I had the same feelings in those days that I have today. I'd like to see as much nature preserved as can be. So the military station there is a far better use of figuring recreational wise, nature wise, and open-country wise. An air station or a military base is better there than would be a port. Later, as you may know, we had a big fight about bringing the port back, near there at what was called Myrtle Point, which is now being subdivided I understand into a big subdivision. Anything would be better at Myrtle Point or in the area that we're speaking of. Deep water parts of St. Mary's County then would have been a port. So, I've always blessed the Navy for coming here. That's the way I feel about it. I feel that they saved a terrific acreage of this county from being obliterated by industry.

"Oh, there was a lot of opposition to it. I wouldn't want to name the people because some of them [pause] no they're not living anymore. But anyway, let me tell you that a lot of the so-called prominent people of this county were bitterly opposed to it. They say, that's terrible, they're taking all that land from our county, removing it from the tax base and don't think it was a very big base anyway because it was all agriculture, and they were removing that from our people. But, most of the people that owned the big tracks there in that area were not our real local people. But some of them were of course. But anyway, I will answer the question this way, I think to have a fine military base there is much better than having it be a big industrial complex, which does nothing but pollute. I was against pollution then, and we're all against pollution! I've never met anybody in favor of pollution."

Lari Mako on where the newcomers slept: "There were huts, they'd call them "huts". And they just sprang up."

Al Gough: "There wasn't any housing in St. Mary's county then, there was a huge influx. My parents had an extra room that they'd rent out to Navy pilots and their wives. Over the course of war they rented it out to three or four couples. "

Larry Millison: "We went from a very agrarian society in nineteen forty-two to a very industrialized, and would say a cosmopolitan society that we live in today. 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, 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. And they used t-- 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, where the Veda was or where used to be. I'm remodeling that now. 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. I used to call it the Gateway. And no one could walk up that road at night. There were gangs that used 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, very close to where the commissary is now. 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 was makin fifty cents a day started makin a hundred and fifty dollars a week. And flashlights that you could buy for a quarter became 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 to haul a lotta gravel in. You know, there was a hundred and fifty, two hundred dump trucks that ran around the clock. You know a lotta these men were leaving here and goin to Guadalcanal or goin to the Phili-- you know, to the South Pacific and to the different island invasions. It was like a boomtown here."

"You know, but this-- St. Mary's County fell in love with the Navy in nineteen forty-two. St. Mary's County has been ever since 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. In other words 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, 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.

"You know you had a big social change. You had the doing-away with Prohibition, you had to do way 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 you started a social change where I think today the majority of women do work. The majority of mothers 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. And it was quite acceptable for women to, for respectful women to work at the E.N. Club or the 0 Club."

When construction on the Base began, Idolia Shubrooks' father gave up being a waterman and turned instead to working construction on the runways. The money from

construction was better. Idolia Shubrooks: "What happened was he went to work five days a week, so he didn't have to go fishing. If he wanted to go out on the water for recreation or to help feed the family he would go out there and do something. But they did pretty good on the Base. He made pretty good money."

Jeanette Connelly Dakis: “To me, the base was a life-saver for this county. The county really blossomed after that. I think that the base brought in a lot of jobs. It brought a lot of people here too. Servicemen came here and spread money out. I think it was a big boost to the county really. And I think that it has continued to be.”

Audio 76. Jeanette Connelly Dakis on the navy base’s arrival:

Johnny Briscoe, In Retrospect

John Hanson Briscoe: "God, what a great life I had.”

Kennedy Abell: "We were all so, so proud of him. I mean me, personally, I'm so proud of him. What he did, getting the training and education that he did and he went that far and became Speaker of the House, was just fabulous. And so much of it all was his mannerisms and being able to get along with people and he was that way all his life with everybody. But more than that, he had the charisma of handling himself well. Down here in Leonardtown, we didn't know all of what was going on in Annapolis until all of a sudden he was Speaker of the House. I just thought he had done so well for a young man in the field of attorneys that were around. He managed so well to become the Speaker and then when he chose to say 'I've done my thing; I'm going home'. I think John was smart enough to try to plan what he wanted to do.”

Mary Ada Burch Candela: "Our class has been very, very close all these years. You know how when you're in grade school and there's little cliques and little this and little that. But John came in here to our reunions and he had the best time with his classmates. I mean it was like they never left. He was cool about that. He came in and he just enjoyed being here and he enjoyed seeing them. It was like he had done it the day before, like he never left. "Growing up in St. Mary's county, you didn't have all the bells and whistles. All the museums and the this and that, it was in the town, in Washington, D.C. You went up there for special things, you didn't just go up there at the drop of a hat. But being down here, you didn't have all that; you made your own fun and I do think you got closer to your classmates, your neighbors, your friends, and formed more lifelong friends than people who lived other lives. An example of that is a funeral down here. When someone dies down here, the people of St. Mary's county turn out. It's far and flung.”

72 and 73. John Hanson Briscoe and members of the St. Mary's Academy class of 1952 at a reunion.

74. St. Mary's Class of 1952 reunion. Pictured from left-to-right are: Jeff Greenwell, Jack Candela, Mary Ada Burch Candela, Kay Hodges Owens, Mary Ann Nice Hayden, Raymond Donovan, Tommy Gray, Francis Gough, Patricia Hall, Ann Cameron Miller, Betty Mattingly Shepherd, Jackie Goldsborough Bond, Mary "Pritzi" Miedzinski Ely, James Hall, Dorothy Ann Johnson Russell, Barbara Ann Gibson "Bobbie" McWilliams, George McWilliams, John Hanson Briscoe, and Marie Vallandingham Rowe.

Jack Candela: "We were all very surprised that he became a successful attorney, a politician, and ultimately a judge because in grade school, like myself, he didn't have that much ambition. I don't know who motivated him once he got to college, but I always lived in awe of him when he had done so well; because if I had tried to predict it when we were in grade school, I would've never predicted that. "

75. John Hanson and Jack Candela.

Lari Mako: "You know, when John took off and was like his "pompous" John, I took right off with him and loved every minute of it. That's all I can say about John. And all my friends that came down here, I could not believe how much, when I said he was sick, how many prayers I had people saying for him, people who had just met him here."

Audio 77. Lari Mako on John Hanson's love of his neighbors:

Peter Egeli: "John had a natural personal trait that made it easy for him to deal with people."

Ernie Bell: "You know, his legacy.....a guy who just enjoyed life, savored every minute, and just wanted to do the right thing. He was very young and unpretentious....I mean John was John. He was a guy, the Speaker of the House, he became a judge, and he was John. He was just very unpretentious. He loved this county, loved it. And he loved Leonardtown in particular, there is no question about that. The last time I was fortunate to be with him was December (just a few weeks before he passed), Al Gough and I. I don't know if he even went out beyond Leonardtown; he talked about all the people he had known, and grown up with, and his fine memories of them and you know it was kind of good. God knows he loved Leonardtown. Everybody from Leonardtown, he gave them something to talk about. And John growing up, everybody had great stories. And that's John. He loved to play baseball; he loved to hunt. He epitomized what most of the kids in Leonardtown liked to grow up and do. He just parlayed that into, not by accident, not by design, but people recognized him for what he was. And here he becomes Speaker of the House and judge of our Circuit Court. I don't think that's something he ever set out in life to do, but the opportunity presented itself and he presented himself. And those who make the decisions, in each case the voters, said 'man, that's a guy we want, he's one of us'. I think that's his legacy, and I think it's an important one."

Audio 78. Ernie Bell, on John Hanson's legacy:

Acknowledgments

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“Meme” Briscoe Gillaspy

Alfred Gough

William Alexander “Aleck” Loker, Jr.

Laura Mae "Lari" Church Mako

Alfred Saunders Mattingly and Joan Connelly Mattingly

Loretta Beavan Norris

Norris and Betty Mattingly Shepherd

Idolia Shubrooks

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George Peter Wigginton

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