



The Claiborne Clarion

A Newsletter for the Claiborne Community
September 2014
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John Scott, September Editor
Barbara Reisert, Clarion Founder and Editor Emeritus
Mary Gregorio, President, Claiborne Association

(Rainbow photo credit, above:
Sarah Sayre)

September Birthdays

- 13 Tim McHugh
- 16 Nancy Higgins
- 16 Will Murdoch
- 23 Adine Kelly
- 24 Shirley Cockey



The duties of the Port Warden are largely ceremonial, but may include leading parades, introducing speakers at events at the Hall, representing Claiborne internationally, and beating the drum for the village to gather in times of emergency & celebration....

Award of the Claiborne Cup

There are multiple ways to accept the *Claiborne Cup*, Claiborne's award recognizing outstanding service to our community and presented at the Claiborne Picnic. This year's deserving recipient, Martha Hamlyn, expressed a couple of them. First, modesty, as we would expect of Martha. But then, even she had to realize how deserved it was. Three cheers for Martha! Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray! Hip Hip Hooray!



Photos by Pete Gregorio

Award of the Port Warden & Admiral of the Port of Claiborne

Claiborne has a new award! At the Annual Picnic on August 23 Jack Harrald, pictured at left) was made Claiborne's first "Port Warden and Admiral of the Port of Claiborne". The award is based on an eleventh century English title given to the person who led the sea defenses of England.

Jack Harrald was given the award for his efforts to build a partnership with Talbot County, to identify the benefits of building a sustainable community and for developing grant requests to fund a variety of projects that would better enable Claiborne to withstand storms and flooding. Jack's success in building a stronger bond with the County has been recognized by the County Manager and the Council.

Ella Poe Burling: Grand Dame of Claiborne

By Jim Richardson



Photo from the Renny Johnson Archives

My earliest memory of Mrs. Burling (my wife, Martha and I always addressed her as Mrs. Burling, not by her first name, Ella) was when she would come into our small country grocery store with her cook from Georgetown to buy food supplies for her Rich Neck Manor country estate. Although our fresh vegetable and fruit offerings were often dismal, she would always manage to find something to buy from us for her guests' dinner. Most often she would visit our store after coming from a supermarket in Easton where they had everything, but Mrs. Burling strongly felt a responsibility to support the sole local business, (the Claiborne Supply Company). After collecting her mail, she would ask about us and our children as well as any news we had about the village. I always felt she was genuinely interested in the welfare of the Claiborne village.

When she heard through the grapevine that we were planning to build our home over the store and were having difficulty finding a bank loan, she invited me to come to her house with my set of building plans. She warned me not to come on Thursday afternoon, however. That was the time of the week she hosted the ladies to play bridge and couldn't be interrupted. Forgetting about her one exception, I mistakenly called her Thursday afternoon for an appointment. She graciously instructed me to come for a few minutes when she and her friends took a short break from their card playing. Together, we met in her grand living room with a glass of ice tea and where I quickly placed my rough sketch of a floor plan and a small model of the apartment on her coffee table. She was soon impressed with my enthusiasm for the project, enough to ask me how much I thought it would cost. I replied it would cost roughly \$12,000 but I would be grateful for any funds so I could get started. She told me she would be happy to lend me all of the money. I then asked her what would be the percent of interest on the loan. (The going rate at the time from banks was about 16%). She replied by saying she wasn't expecting me to pay her an interest on the loan. When I insisted that I pay something, she asked me what I thought would be a fair percent. I replied 12%. She countered by offering me 3%. I replied that 3% was entirely too low and lowered my offer to 10%. This strange bartering continued until we finally settled on a 6% interest rate. The entire loan plus interest was repaid within two years. I learned later from other people's stories that I wasn't the only person living in the village she had helped financially.

Save the Date

Claiborne Writers Featured at St. Michaels Library

September 30, 2014

*On September 30, 2014 at 1 pm the St. Michaels Library is holding a gathering of local writers who will read from their works. Among the authors will be Adine Kelly & Patti Cruickshank-Schott sharing excerpts from their **Clarion** interview series, A Life Worth Remembering... Mary-Eileen Russell will be reading from her new book, The Paradise Tree, a novel about her Irish ancestors. There will also be a question and answer period. The event is free and all are invited to attend.*



Any time is a good time to remember Mrs. Burling; summer especially!
Photo by Martha Hamlyn:

As years followed and our two daughters got older, they would join other Claiborne children at Mrs. Burling's swimming pool every Wednesday afternoon during the summer. We learned that this tradition had started many years before we had moved to the village. Martha soon became the adult in charge at the pool while I stayed back in the store. As an added treat, Mrs. Burling would often join the children at poolside with a plate full of cookies. Many children besides our own must have learned to swim in her pool.

Mrs. Burling was one of the kindest and most gracious people I have met and she will always remain in my heart as the Grand Dame of Claiborne.

Ella Poe Burling: Obituary

The Washington Post, April 30, 2002, Page: B.05, METRO Section

Ella Poe Burling, 94, a Washington hostess and philanthropist over the last 50 years, died April 27 at Georgetown University Hospital after a heart attack. She was stricken at Friendship, her home in Washington.

She was a friend of such Washington political and cultural figures as president George H.W. Bush, first ladies Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Lady Bird Johnson, U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren, philanthropist and art collector Paul Mellon and Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the daughter of president Theodore Roosevelt.

Mrs. Burling was a frequent contributor to charitable and cultural organizations. She had a particular interest in the Hearing and Speech Center at Children's Hospital. She was a patron and supporter of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Phillips Collection, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Folger Shakespeare Library, where a garden is named in her honor.

On Maryland's Eastern Shore, Mrs. Burling was active in the establishment of the Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and local historic and environmental organizations. Rich Neck Manor, her home near St. Michaels, was

the ancestral residence of the Tilghman family, and parts of it date from the 17th century. It was briefly the capital of Maryland in the 1720s. Mrs. Burling bought the property in 1940 and maintained its approximately 1,000 acres as farmland. She arranged to preserve it as open space after her death.

Mrs. Burling had a continuing interest in the plight of international refugees. In the 1930s, she accompanied and assisted her first husband, Joseph Cotton, on a committee sent to Berlin by the U.S. government on behalf of Jewish emigration. In later years, she supported many organizations created to deal with population displacement.

For 45 years she opened her Maryland residence to members of Washington's International Student House for Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Burling was born in Canada and raised in Iowa. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1928 and moved to Washington in the early 1930s.

Old Items from Claiborne Long Ago Suzanne and Rob Todd



As all in Claiborne know, our house is being remodeled. Before the project began, we laid claim to any and all treasures found during the demolition. Will and his crew, Gary and Luke, have faithfully placed all artifacts on our mantel. Fortunately, no dead bodies were found. Sadly, no gold was found either. However, some other interesting items have been recovered, as you can see in the picture. Among the treasures are a large bottle, a small bottle, a glass spice jar with a screw lid, a small square glass container that John has identified as an ink well, a small cardboard cylinder containing an unidentified white powder, and checkbook stubs from 1955 for checks written to a variety of establishments: Howard Furniture, Food Fair, Delaware Power and Lite (\$7.77), GMAC car payment (\$17.71), and Claiborne Supply Co.

A most interesting booklet published by the American Fertilizing Co. was also found, unfortunately with no copyright date. The last page has some helpful tips in case of

accidents (those of you in the medical profession may want to get paper and pen for these). Here are some of the tips:

“Drowning – Loosen clothing, if any. Jerk the body a few times. Pull tongue forward, using handkerchief or pin with string, if necessary.” (Directions are then included for compressing and expanding lower ribs.) “DON’T GIVE UP! People have been saved after **hours** of patient, vigorous effort.”

“Mad dog or Snake Bite – Tie cord tight above wound. Suck the wound and cauterize with caustic or white hot iron at once, or cut out adjoining parts with a sharp knife.”

“Tests of Death – Hold mirror to mouth. If living, moisture will gather. Push pin into flesh. If dead, the hole will remain; if alive, it will close up.”

Aren’t you all glad we live in the new Claiborne?

Remembering Walter and Happy Jarzynski

By David Crenshaw (pictured, with wife Liz, below)



Photo by John Scott

In my mind’s eye it’s Walter Jarzynski sitting atop that yellow 1961 International Harvester low-boy, though his wife (of later years) Happy Jarzynski would never have thought to climb up behind. That would be too ungraceful.

I see him sitting, posture correct. He was not a tall man, but seemed a bit bigger than life on that tractor. In his flannel shirt, buttoned right up, he’d pull on his railroader’s gauntlet gloves and climb aboard. He would set the throttle, give the choke a pull, hit the switch and that tractor would start with a hum and he’d be off - off to mow not only his yard but that of Mrs. Foy (where Liz & I live now) on the one side and Mrs. Mitchell (where John and Susanne live now) on the other - the bayside widows who enjoyed the watchful care of their good neighbor.

That tractor had the twin-blade-rotating-mower bed under its belly then, and could cut a 60-inch swath at a pass. I can see him still, riding back & forth on a clear day,

mindful of the wet swale and Happy's plantings, and wonder what he was thinking, what recollections of his life and career in Baltimore and his many years in Claiborne turned in his mind as he turned back & forth. Maybe to him it was a dance. He and Happy were, after all, passionate ballroom dancers.

That mower bed is gone now, rusted beyond redemption from years in Walter's open-doored shed long after he'd hung up his gloves. But I am glad that Mrs. Jarzynski, Happy, saw fit to pass on that tractor to me, selling it for a song. Maybe she recalled Walter, whizzing by the window, sitting tall, dancing with the sun dropping over the bay, and felt that tractor should stay right here.

(Editor's note: For those of you who remember Walter, you might appreciate this story. This editor had recently moved in to the house next door to Walter and Happy. There had been no contact as of yet, but one afternoon, as he was poking around the front yard, Walter pulled up at the property line atop his yellow tractor, pictured above. He put it in neutral and leaned over the steering wheel...kind of like Walter Brennan would have done, but perhaps a little more menacing. "Good Morning! What a quiet and beautiful day", greeted the editor. Walter's response: "Yes its quiet here, and that's the way we like it." No dummy, the editor said, yes sir, appropriately intimidated, only later on to find out that with a glass of bourbon in hands, Walter was like a pussy cat, and a wonderful neighbor...As David mentioned in his remembrance above, he and Liz got the tractor when Walter died. This editor, on the other hand, got the crab skiff that he had coveted and Walter had kept so long in his front yard under a tarp. By the time the tarp was removed, there was nothing left but a soggy mess of timber. David got the better deal.)

A Secret Dream Realized

In a *Know Your Board* interview for the Clarion in April, conducted by Patti Cruickshank-Schott, Jess Murphy listed becoming a landscape architecture professor is his *secret ambition*. Chesapeake College must have been reading the Clarion and wasted no time in calling Jess.

On Friday, August 15th, the *Star Democrat* reported, "Two innovative new degree programs in landscape design begin this fall at Chesapeake College, making the regional community college Maryland's first to offer a landscape architecture degree."

Jess, who is a graduate of the University of Georgia's master's degree program in Landscape Architecture, will teach the introductory course this fall.

For the entire story on Jess and the new program at Chesapeake College check out: http://www.stardem.com/real_estate/article_bb627cd4-0a65-51e5-845a-8c697317d9c3.html

Claiborne Village Association

The General Meeting of the Claiborne Village Association was held on Saturday, August 23rd at 5:30pm. Minutes from the last General Meeting (May, 2014) were approved as was the 2014/2015 budget. Nominations for board members were presented and approved by the membership. Continuing as board members: Mary Gregorio, Kirke Harper, Molly Bond, Terry Babb, Jake Flory and Judy Harrauld. Mary Gregorio noted plans to continue work on refurbishing the Village Hall including installation of heat and air conditioning systems. The Fall fundraising effort will focus on raising funds to build a re-heating kitchen and cleanup area.



Village Hall work days – Tuesdays through November (organized by Jake Flory)

**Board Meeting:
Tuesday, 9/9/14 at
7:00 pm
All are welcome!**