



The

# Lodger

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NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL



## Furry Tales



Only two months passed before Evelyn and Harold Stewart realized the loss of their 13-year old Lhaso Apso created a void that had to be filled. Piper answered the call. Available through a humane society in Ocala, Florida, Piper, a two-year old mostly Cocker Spaniel female, won the Stewart's affection. Now a nine-year old, Piper moved with the Stewarts from Florida to The Lodge in 2012.

Long-time devotees of canines, the Stewarts bred, raised, and showed champion English Setters when living in Cleveland where they also founded the local club for the breed.

Despite her experience with dogs, Evelyn learned the hard way that Cockers can be easily overfed. Piper's constant appetite led to a hefty weight gain, causing her vet to warn that it was not hunger but rather a hunting instinct that makes her eat. With a controlled diet ever since, Piper continues to sport a trim 24 pound physique and a beautiful glossy, black coat with white marking.

The Stewarts can be justly proud of Piper's obedience, although it is Harold who was awarded a certificate for completing a series of dog obedience classes with her while in Ocala.

In spite of Piper's always responding to the command "come" and rarely letting her mistress out of her sight, Evelyn takes no chances, insisting to keep her on a leash when walking the trail from The Lodge to the golf course and back. "I'm afraid Piper will see a rabbit and pursue it out of my sight," says Evelyn.

And how about a dog who asks permission? Evelyn recalls Piper barking anxiously back in their apartment when they were at dinner in The Lodge dining room. Come to find out, the door to the cupboard where dog treats are stored was ajar. Instead of consuming the treats, Piper chose to summon her mistress. Evelyn was flabbergasted—and Piper was rewarded.



Piper shortly after her adoption by the Stewarts. "She's been very good," says Evelyn, "and never out of line."

### Daisy 1996-2014

Mary Trogdon's beloved Pomeranian Daisy passed away on December 2 while in California with Mary (Lodger No. 8). She was 18. Her veterinarian had never seen this breed live so many years. Mary is helping to relieve her loss by adopting another Pomeranian who will shortly return with her to The Lodge. Her name? Maisy.

## RESIDENT FOCUS

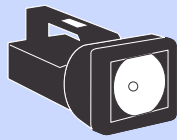
Ben and Hannah Cullen set up residence at The Lodge in 2012, lured by the Blue Ridge Mountain scene they see and enjoy from their apartment. His professional friends know him as a leader at one of America's leading academic medical centers. Others know him as the creator of the fictional radio station WBTC and his one-man shows about old time radio. Residents at The Lodge know Ben for his quick-witted humor and marvelous singing voice and Hannah for her take-charge and organizational capabilities.

Ben and Hannah are Virginians who met as teachers in the same high school in what later became Virginia Beach. "I wouldn't marry him if he was the last person in the world," Ben understood Hannah was to have said to her friends. But Ben was determined and she was acting hard to get. "There was nobody else around," she jokingly told her brother when she dated Ben while caring for her sick mother at her homeplace in Free Union, a tiny community not far from Crozet. The romance, of course, blossomed and they were married in Ben's home town of Portsmouth 65 years ago, and began an adventurous life together.

Forensic chemistry had been Ben's chosen career until he was drawn to teaching, "a challenge and one with which he was satisfied with results," says Ben. His degree in chemistry from Virginia Tech was enough to prove to him that he would make a lousy chemist. Pursuit of his career was put on hold, however, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps and served in the African and European theaters as a cryptographer.

Continued on back page





# STAFFER SPOTLIGHT

Reflecting the new mobility of the younger generation of today, Allison Caitlin Critzer left her job as concierge in January to live in Hawaii shortly after her interview with *The Lodger*. She worked both the day and night shifts since joining The Lodge staff in 2013, answering questions, providing directions, or finding the right contact for residents, guests, and service personnel alike. She said some of the inquiries she got were unbelievable, but Caitlin did her best to take every question seriously. She pointed out that the job entails a number of ancillary duties as well.

The front-desk operations center includes video monitors at the garage and side doors, enabling front-desk workers to identify persons wanting access. Unidentified persons are asked to come to the front entrance for further identification. Concierge workers have the ability to monitor all pullcords, pendants, alarms, and off-hook phones, confirming that workers respond to assisted living residents and providing direct assistance to independent residents.

Other duties include maintaining logs of incoming non-

residents and event RSVPs, filing papers in resident master files, making flyers and signs, and stuffing resident “cubbies” in the mail room with announcements and other information. Night shift workers make a prescribed round of the building to check for doors and windows left unlocked. Concierge workers on the third “overnight” shift are also assigned several cleaning tasks.

Caitlin lived a highly active life on her own time while living in Crozet: four wheeling, target shooting, snowmobiling, and riding her Quarter Horse, “Outlaw.” She was born in Charlottesville, graduated from high school in Wyoming, and attended Piedmont Virginia Community College.

Her long-range ambition is to become a registered nurse. That accounts for her becoming a certified PCA (personal care assistant) and assisting residents with daily living activities several times a week while at The Lodge.

We appreciate the services that Caitlin provided and wish her the very best in the Aloha State.



## This and That

**A BRAND NEW LOOK** for The Lodge at Old Trail website is about to be unveiled. The marketing team has been working to update the content, design and photographs. Some familiar faces will be featured among the web pages when they go live. You may not regularly visit the website, so be sure to check it out in a few weeks at [www.lodgeatoldtrail.com](http://www.lodgeatoldtrail.com) where you can also find all issues of *The Lodger* as well as special event announcements.

because seating will be limited.

If you have dinner at The Lodge on Saturday February 14, you will be enticed to save room for the Dessert Lovers Buffet featuring an assortment of freshly prepared sweets courtesy of Pastry Chef Alison Loux.

Special theme dinners and happy hours are being planned for the coming months. More details will be announced, but the food team is looking for ideas or requests for special dining events and happy hour celebrations. Share your ideas with either dining room manager Amber or activity coordinator Debora. An Evening in Rome for Italian food lovers, or Under the Sea for a seafood feast?

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT** for what could be entertaining or informative for fellow readers of *The Lodger*. We are all potential reporters and the editor is always looking for stories of interest that only you may be aware of. No need to write it up unless you feel so inclined. Report your idea by calling the editor at 540-723-0606 or writing to [refrep402@gmail.com](mailto:refrep402@gmail.com).

**SPECIAL CULINARY EVENTS ARE BEING PLANNED** for February and beyond.

Chef Jesse Kaylor and wine specialist Matthew Brown are partnering for a wine pairing feast with an Australian flair on Tuesday, February 3. The menu and pricing will be posted in the mail room. Remember to RSVP at the front desk

The Lodger  
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 of The Lodge at Old Trail.

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# County's Only Superfund Site Years from Being Pollution Free

"It's a dubious distinction," is how one person described Albemarle County's only Superfund site. The better news is that a massive surface cleanup of the site has been completed. It took 17 years. Now it is a matter of preventing contaminated ground water from spreading, a process that will continue for an indeterminate length of time.

The problem had its beginnings some 67 years ago when a chemical factory was established in 1947 on an 18-acre tract in the unincorporated village of New Town. The Greenwood community lies a short distance to the east. Cockerille Chemicals was founded by a DuPont chemist to produce chemicals for industrial, agricultural, pharmaceutical, and photographic manufacturers. It was renamed Greenwood Chemical when its ownership changed.

Nearby residents would report the sound of explosions at the plant, discolored discharges in the nearby creek, and the smell of chemicals in the air. In 1971 overflowing waste water lagoons caused a fish kill that was dismissed by inspectors as non-hazardous. State inspection officials kept citing no measurable harm to residents and took no actions against the company until a fatal day in 1985 when four plant workers were killed in a violent explosion.

About 35 firefighters responded. They reported eye irritation. Neighbors reported sore eyes and throats and fever blisters after the explosion. Asked by evacuees how far they were to go, firefighters said that people in Crozet, four miles away, are probably not safe.

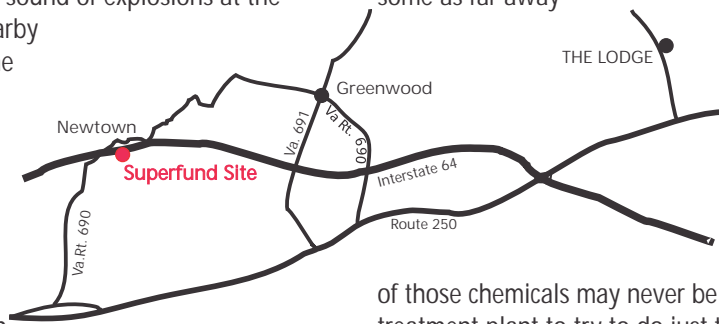
This was serious enough for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to initiate long-term cleanup operations beginning with immediate emergency actions. What followed was staggering.

More than 600 drums of leaking toxic chemicals, some buried and others on the surface, were removed from the site. Investigators found a variety of dangerous substances including cyanide, toluene,

(Top) Fenced entrance to Superfund site.  
(Bottom) Abandoned Greenwood School building.



and arsenic. Contaminated waste lagoons were drained of their liquids. That was followed by dismantling of the chemical plant buildings and removal of over 15,000 tons of contaminated soil, including the sludge from the unlined lagoons. The removed materials were transported to off-site treatment facilities, some as far away



as Utah. The excavated soils were replaced with clean soil which was seeded to revegetate the site.

What was happening underground remained a great concern. Contaminants that find their way into groundwater were a threat to the many private wells in the area. Ridding the groundwater

of those chemicals may never be complete. But EPA installed a water treatment plant to try to do just that. Exactly where the contaminants will migrate in the complex geology below cannot be known.

To try to stay ahead of further spreading, water is continually pumped from a number of wells, both on and off the property, to an onsite treatment plant where it is cleansed before flowing into a nearby creek. An employee of the Denver-based company that operates the plant remarked to a local reporter that the pumping could go on for 35 years. It has been 12 so far. Well testing is showing positive results for now.

Ironically, the cost to operate Greenwood Chemical more safely would have been a fraction of the \$30 million cleanup. Although mandated by law, spark-proof electrical equipment was not installed. It is believed that a spark is what caused a toluene mixture to explode and kill the four workers. Lining the waste pools and periodically replacing damaged storage containers could have helped, too, but so could have more rigid rules of inspection and compliance.

If you have not heard of New Town, you are not alone. For many, New Town, now spelled Newtown, was an unknown until the Greenwood Chemical Superfund site was announced. Never more than a community of 35 homes, one church, and a school, Newtown was settled after the Civil War by freed slaves

The former Greenwood School in Newtown is one of 5,000 "Rosenwald" schools constructed for black students in the South with the financial aid of Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company. The school built in 1925 stands abandoned across the road from the fenced Superfund site.



## Resident Focus (from front page)

You might say his first teaching job landed him both his wife and his new-found career. Hannah earned her degree in education from Madison College in Harrisonburg, forerunner of James Madison University.

After marrying, the Cullens relocated to Luray where Ben was an elementary and high school principal and Hannah took on a classroom of 42 elementary school eighth graders. "A great experience and a great place to live," say the Cullens, but a calling to higher achievement attracted the couple to Charlottesville for more learning. It was there that Ben earned his doctorate, an Ed.D in educational administration at the University of Virginia, and Hannah focused her take-charge attention on housekeeping and raising children.

Hannah remembers student housing as a sacrificial experience. "The three rooms we shared with our two children were like living in a barracks. Every time the wind blew, the carpet would go up and down," says Hannah.

Their sacrifices paid off. Ben became Director of Personnel, and, later, dean, professor, and consultant at the Medical College of Virginia, a prestigious institution formed in 1854 and now a part of Virginia Commonwealth University. They moved to much more comfortable living accommodations in Richmond where they lived for 45 years.

After retiring in the 1980s, the Cullens purchased a motor home and traveled the U.S. for 12 years. Taking advantage of overnight "camping" privileges in hospital parking lots, Ben provided consulting services on hospital administration to hospitals throughout the nation, visiting every state but Hawaii and spending 45 days in Alaska.



Ben's book.

In his penchant to stay ever productive, Ben hit upon another activity in coming across a book on old time radio. Why not entertain his friends with radio memories, he thought. The idea blossomed into a carefully researched program, complete with recorded excerpts, that he presented as host of the fictional radio station WBTC (W followed by his initials) to over 10,000 people in Richmond and beyond. A sequel to that were two printings of the publication *Old Time Radio Days, An Album of Memories*, the book he edited that contains over 60 contributions from audience members recollecting memories of radio in the early 1900s.

Both Ben and Hannah have been active in church and community affairs, teaching and serving on committees. Ben directed church choirs, sang at more funerals than he wishes to remember, and was a long-time member of a quartet that featured a singer who Ben says cracked a chandelier with her voice. "Ben has a beautiful voice," says Hannah, but tenor Ben says because of age, those high notes have become elusive.

The Cullens were also prolific bridge players until Ben's sight became affected by macular degeneration. Ben, nevertheless, plays a regularly scheduled game of cribbage each week and is enjoying audio books on a new player that Hannah found in a search for best-seller books on CD. Hannah continues her book reading through the book club at The Lodge and finds her organizational skills most helpful in sharing more head-of-household responsibilities with Ben.

Their daughter and son-in-law retired from St. Anne's-Belfield School and live in Washington, D.C. Their elder son is a builder and stone mason living in West Virginia. Director of sales for the Xerox Corporation, their second son resides in Virginia Beach.

The Cullen family has grown to include six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Hannah created this multi-generational collage of family photographs.

## Superfund Site (from p. 3)

If Newtown had any future, it was doomed by the 20th century double whammy. First, the town was split in half by construction of I-64 in the 1960s, when some of the townspeople were relocated by highway construction. Then, the explosion and fire aftermath made Newtown a next door neighbor of the Superfund site 20 years later.

The Superfund is a federal law enacted in 1980 that authorizes hazardous waste cleanup. Nationwide, EPA has declared 1,319 hazardous waste sites for Superfund action with 375 of them now judged to be free of pollutants. Virginia has 31 Superfund sites. Four Virginia Superfund sites have been completely cleaned up.

EPA assesses the responsible parties for the costs of cleanup whenever they can be found and are financially able to pay. From the initial investigation until 10 years after long term remedial action is in operation, like the ongoing ground water treatment at Greenwood Chemical, 10 percent of the public cost is borne by the state, the rest by the feds. The entire cost of operation and maintenance is transferred to the state after the 10-year period has elapsed.

Auditors determined Greenwood Chemical owners could not afford more than a negligible assessment of the costs of cleanup.

## On Getting, uh, Mature According to Don Goldstein

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball but you are just too tired to bounce it.

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age and call it "Pumping Rust."

I've gotten that dreaded furniture disease. That's when your chest is falling into your drawers.

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me. They were cramming for their finals.

As for me, I just hope God grades on a curve.

Aging. Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me. I want people to know *why* I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.