



The

Lodger

October/
November
2016
Issue 19

NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL



Old Trail Commercial Area Slated for Expansion

If all goes as planned, beginning next year additional dining and shopping opportunities will exist just a block away from The Lodge.

Ground breaking for a new four-story mixed-use building is expected later this year. It will be located in the current vacant area along Old Trail Drive between Heathercroft Lane and Brookley Drive. Brookley Drive leads into the parking garage at The Lodge.

According to press reports, the ground floor will be confined to retail space that will include at least one new restaurant. Other possible tenants could include an outdoors shop, a bike shop, a small grocery, and a boutique.

Cont'd inside



RESIDENT FOCUS

Frank and Nancy Summers have clearly always enjoyed what they do. No wonder Nancy was able to spend over 20 years developing methods for teaching young children and Frank advised his many clients for nearly 50 years as a practicing attorney. Their apartment at The Lodge reflects some of the other interests they have garnered over the 58 years of their married life including a miniature farm garden on their patio deck, fully working antique clocks, and memorabilia of Frank's impressive performance as amateur golfer. Nancy maintains a remarkable history of family exploits in a series of carefully annotated scrap books. If only we were all as organized as the Summers in recording our pasts.

They moved to The Lodge in 2013 from their long time home in Staunton, Virginia. They also enjoyed part-time living at the farm they inherited in Rockbridge County where they grew their own vegetables and raised beef cattle overseen by a farm manager.

Frank was born in Staunton, Virginia and made several moves to different towns in Virginia in his younger days where his father served in college athletic

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Frank and Nancy at Eagles Nest Airport in Waynesboro, Virginia, 2013.

Miller School Captures

Very little was known about Samuel Miller during his lifetime. The gentleman, an introvert, born in the nearby village of Batesville in 1792, had few friends and lived in seclusion for the last 40 years of his life. Not until his death were details of both his success as a businessman and his commitment to education made public. One of the wealthiest persons during the south's antebellum years, Miller's good fortune and generosity has left a lasting impact on social causes in Virginia.



Old Main, Miller School's original building and activity focal point.

Foremost in his legacy is the founding of the School that he envisioned outside Crozet. His bequest of one million dollars and the donation of his 1,600 acre farm was to fund a boarding school combining hands-on labor with liberal arts education for underprivileged children. It opened in 1878 as Miller Manual School for orphaned children. Almost 150 years later, the school has evolved into a coeducational college preparatory school for grades eight through twelve as Miller School of Albemarle County. From being co-ed when it opened to becoming all male with a military program, the school is back to being co-ed with an enrollment of 185 girls and boys from both Virginia and around the world, with over half of the student body as live-in residents.

A very private man, Miller was reclusive, it is surmised, because of his fatherlessness and impoverished youth, as well as the early onset of debilitating health.

Miller's philanthropy was a well kept secret. While living, he unceremoniously made a gift of \$100,000 to the University of Virginia which today remains in trust and supports the Miller Professor of Biology. He completely absolved a good friend of a substantial loan

when his friend ended up having only worthless Confederate money. After his death, the city of Lynchburg became the benefactor of Miller Park, a reservoir, and large tracts of land used for building a high school and the city's first shopping center. In his will, Miller described specific conditions for the funding and establishment of both Miller School and the Lynchburg Female Orphan Asylum, now operating as a smaller facility for "at risk" girls known as the Miller Home for Girls where 1,000 girls have been cared for since the home opened in 1875.

With only rudimentary schooling, Miller nevertheless prospered as a leading exporter of tobacco to England, plowing his profits into railroad stocks and municipal bonds. Recognized as a financial genius, Miller amassed enormous wealth and real estate holdings, despite suffering staggering losses to invading Union troops during the Civil War.

Miller never married, but his long-term mistress bore him five sons. He spent nearly half his life on the second floor of the home he built in Lynchburg, suffering from an unidentified illness, where he died in 1869 at the age of 76. Both his home and Miller School are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lodger

Issued every other month
for residents and friends
of The Lodge at Old Trail.

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Commercial Area Expansion (cont'd)

The second story will be for office space.

Prospective tenants are currently being sought in the pre-leasing stage of the development.

The third and fourth floors will contain 22 one to three bedroom apartments with elevator service.

The Building Management Corporation, a locally owned firm with offices in Charlottesville, will manage both the new and existing commercial buildings.

Old Trail Village remains one of the last growth areas in Albemarle County. Approximately 250 homes have been established in the village. It will quadruple in size at the time a full buildout of a probable 1,200 more homes is completed, although neither an exact number of residential units nor a time-line of development is known at this time.

the Dreams of Its Founder

Miller School opened in 1878 with the completion of the first of several sections of "Old Main," an impressive High Victorian Gothic style brick building which still serves as the educational focal point. A road was constructed to Crozet for hauling the heavy construction materials from the railroad to the school construction site. The route eventually became current-day Crozet Avenue and Miller School Road.

A pioneer in the use of electricity, the school was one of the first to install an Edison direct current electrical system demonstrating it "to be as cheap as kerosene, while it has banished lamplighters, explosions, foul air, and sore eyes." The school's generator is now on display at the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. The school's current engineering students are working to get the system up and running again.

Miller School also pioneered in industrial education. Only the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and one other New England school offered similar manual instruction at the time of Miller's inception. Miller graduates were in demand throughout the nation due to the rigorous training they received in iron, metal, woodworking, and mechanics.

While still holding today to the principle that manual labor is honorable and rewarding, Miller



K. Kelly-Wagner, Miller School

In the absence of any photos, artist Flavius J. Fisher painted a portrait of Samuel Miller shortly after his death by taking facial measurements of the deceased. The above portrait at Miller School, painted years later by the same artist, was modeled after the original that hangs at the Miller School for Girls in Lynchburg.

School prepares its graduating students for college entrance. One of those students is Miller School 2013 graduate Jared Barrett who is a junior at Lynchburg College after transferring from Piedmont Virginia Community College. Many Lodge residents got to know Jared while he was employed in the Lodge dining room during this past summer. A resident of Crozet and pursuing a degree in nursing, Jared is thinking of a career in anesthetic medicine.

Headmaster Rick France says lots of students go on to graduate school and have become very successful professionals. He says one graduate from the 1980s recently sold his business to a leading technology company for a hefty \$23 million dollars.

Athletic achievements by student-athletes are many. The school is known to have the number one cycling program in the U.S. The girls basketball team won the state championship in five of the last six years and the boys are past state champs. Baseball is coached by the former major league baseball pitcher Billy Wagner, who has "a remarkable ability to motivate a team," says Miller graduate Barrett.

"While I am sure that Mr. Miller would not recognize the school we are today," says Headmaster France, "we are hopeful that he would be proud of what we have accomplished and our adherence to his vision for young people of promise."



Photo by Marjorie Hanawalt

Miller School graduate Jared Barrett serving wine in The Lodge dining room to resident Bettie Makel on her 93rd birthday.

About ten or twelve years ago, a little girl was living with her mother in their car in California. The child went to school daily and did well. While her mother was always seeking work and did find different jobs for the short term, the child would go to the public library every day after school. One day, she returned to the car and told her mother that she would like to go to boarding school. It's hard to imagine what her mother said. In the end the child explained to her mother that she had found Miller School of Albemarle on the world wide web, and that MSA stated that they like kids like her. This child attended MSA, was a top student, received the Emily Couric Awards her senior year, and earned a full scholarship to Yale University from which she graduated several years ago. She now works for a nonprofit in California. This is what can happen at MSA, and we think Samuel Miller would celebrate.

—Headmaster Rick France

Resident Focus (cont'd)

departments. His father, Frank Summers, Sr., is a legendary graduate of Virginia Military Institute having excelled in both academics and sports and becoming athletic director there and at Hampden-Sydney College and the now defunct Staunton Military Academy. He is a member of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

A proud graduate of Woodberry Forest school outside Orange, Virginia, Frank earned his degree in law from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. He spent two years on active duty with the U.S. Navy before becoming a partner in the Thomas Nelson law firm in Staunton. Frank officially retired last year but he admits to keeping up with the business with periodic visits to his old office. The firm continues to be a mainstay of the Shenandoah Valley known as the law firm of Nelson, McPherson, Summers, and Santos.

He was elected to one term as councilor on the Staunton City Council in 1962. His fellow councilors chose him to be vice mayor of the city, but the press of his law practice convinced him to not run for reelection on the council. Frank was involved in general law practice that included real estate and estate planning. Nancy remembers the time he was awakened at 2:30 a.m. by an upset telephone caller wanting to sue for divorce. "See me at 10:30 in the morning," responded Frank, while Nancy thought that should have been enough to be his last divorce case.

Nancy hails from a city called Delaware in the state of Ohio, the birthplace of President Rutherford B. Hayes. She graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in elementary education and continued with graduate work at James Madison University, UVA, and the Gesell Institute of Child Development. It was at Gesell where her interest in child development patterns launched her into a career of early childhood teaching.

A second grade elementary school teacher for several years, Nancy took a break from employment to raise the Summers' daughter and two sons, after which she became director of Covenant Developmental Nursery School in Staunton for 21 years. She spearheaded getting national accreditation for Covenant, one of the first in the state, and won for herself the Woman of the Year Award during a



Frank at the State Open, 1960



The newly weds, 1958

National Business Women's Week event. She says that the guiding principle throughout her career has been the knowledge that a child's developmental age can be different from his or her chronological age.

Frank and Nancy met on a blind date arranged by Nancy's cousin. They married a year later in 1958 in Delaware, Ohio. They consider Crozet a perfect location since it is midway between their children who live in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.

The Summers are both ardent anglers, fishing from boats and wading streams. They have pictures of sailfish they have landed that are almost as long as they are tall.

Frank is the golfer in the family with Nancy an enthusiastic fan. On a trip to Scotland, they visited the "home of golf," the Old Course at St. Andrews, where Frank played 18 holes that Nancy had somehow finagled without having a reservation. Frank qualified for the U.S. Senior Open and twice came in second in the Virginia State Amateur Championship. His golfing began when at eight years of age he was given some wooden shafted golf clubs by his uncle that he used on a six-hole course where his father was camp director.

Their story would not be complete without mention of Baxter, the cute little Yorkie, Shih Tzu mix who keeps them company at The Lodge. Baxter, now three years old, became their companion after they agonized over the size dog they wanted. Their choice of Baxter made them a very happy threesome.



Painting by Sue Clark

Baxter