



The

# Lodger

April/  
May  
2018  
Issue 28

NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

## My Wife's Amazing Adventure

**By Jim Watson**—Over the years my wife Judy has managed to be the most wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, and friend any person could ever be. She has cared for family and friends at every turn; she has always been the “go to” person for all our family needs, and is loved greatly by all who know her. In addition to caring for our family, Judy routinely participates in golfing and helps at children’s church camp while staying the positive, fun-loving person she is.

The year 2002 was proceeding in the Watson home much as usual until the day in January when Judy was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. In the process of related exams, we learned that she also had kidney cancer. This is how Judy’s unexpected adventure began.

Now she faced major surgery not once but twice; three months of chemo and five months of radiation therapy. What makes 2002 so amazing is that with faith and determination, Judy resolved to continue her usual activities in spite of these challenges.

That summer was very hot and humid in the Fredericksburg, VA area. The golf tournament ran for 36 holes over two days, and Judy was right there. Although she barely finished, she actually won the Women’s Club Championship! The women who competed with her could hardly believe Judy’s “true grit.”

The church camp, which ran for eight weeks, involved teaching 180 to 200 new kids who came from all over the country. During the course of chemotherapy, Judy had lost most of her hair and wore a very hot wig in order, she joked, “not to scare the kids.” Those kids will never forget their custom face paintings by Judy. It was amazing to watch them stand in line waiting patiently for pictures to be taken of their facial masterpieces.

A major part of Judy’s support for our church camp was the weekly steak dinners at our home, served for rotating camp director couples who ran the events. They had been sleeping in tents and  
**cont’d next page**



*Judy playing with her grandson at a family party..*

## RESIDENT FOCUS

“I stay busy knitting sweaters, hats, and muffs, and reading and playing bridge,” says 90 year-old Esther Maxey. She is known for taking fellow residents on her shopping trips to Crozet. Her firmness in voice and seemingly boundless energy would be the envy of women half her age. Her dialect is a reflection of her upbringing on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, and her industriousness could be a result of her training as a teacher of home economics. She migrated to The Lodge in 2017 from Hopewell, Virginia where she and her husband, Leonard, settled after they got married. Leonard died in 2005.

She donates most of the sweaters and caps she makes to charitable organizations. Her latest venture is with the Twiddle Muff Project, a program that encourages knitters to produce muffs for dementia sufferers. Esther explains that a twiddle muff is a hand warmer with firmly attached buttons. She says they have been shown to have a calming effect as they are worked and manipulated by dementia sufferers. The buttons are an added item to fidget with.

Being the knitter she is, she did not enjoy sewing on buttons and was relieved to learn that they would be added later by other contributors to the project.

Esther and her five siblings grew up on their parent’s farm near Cape Charles on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, a 70 mile-long extension of the Delmarva Peninsula that is separated from  
**cont’d next page**



**Resident Focus (cont'd)** the rest of Virginia by the Chesapeake Bay. Until the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel was opened in 1964, a 26-mile trip by ferry across the Bay was the way Esther and everyone else would get to the mainland. She muses that family friends would visit just to ride the ferry.

Like every Bay area resident, Esther learned to fish and to harvest crabs, oysters, and clams. She helped plant tomatoes and pick strawberries at one and one-half cents a quart. She remembers the huge tractor trailer trucks that went from farm to farm picking up produce that was trucked north to be delivered fresh the same day to places like Philadelphia. "That's why the type of farming done by my Dad became known as truck farming," Esther explains.

After graduating from the county high school, Esther attended the State Teachers College in Farmville (now Longwood University) where she earned her degree in home economics and met her husband to be. Leonard, one of the first male day students to attend the college, dropped out of school before graduating to take a job with the Norfolk and Western Railway. The couple married in 1949 to begin a union that lasted 53 years.

The Maxeys moved to Hopewell city to be close to the Norfolk and Western rail yard in Petersburg where Leonard advanced from being a brakeman to a yard foreman. Esther began her teaching career in Hopewell as a home economics teacher.

Hopewell is part of the Richmond metropolitan area and was a bustling community with many job opportunities in the city's industries when the Maxeys moved there. "It was a wonderful town with lots of people," says Esther, but because of plant closings and store relocations, she says it has become economically depressed. Even the 97 year-old Hopewell newspaper that featured Esther in a front page article in 2003 went out of business this year.

After five years in the classrooms of Hopewell High School, Esther took a breather to raise her daughter and son, Marjorie and Bill. She returned to teaching ten years later at a Hopewell elementary school and retired after 27 years in the classroom.

The Maxeys were privy to free trips on passenger trains because of her husband's railroad employment. "Leonard would sleep like a log," says

Esther, "but I could not stand the clickety clacking all night long." Nevertheless, they traveled the entire east coast by rail. They chose to travel to the western states by car "so we could see lots of things. You see nothing when you fly." Their international travel included trips to Canada and Switzerland.

Daughter Marjorie hardly misses a day to visit her mother. A retired Western Albermarle High School teacher, Marjorie lives in Crozet. She continues to serve as a substitute teacher and she sews and knits "because I had a patient teacher: my mother," says Marjorie. Esther's son Bill and his wife live in Chester. Her one grandson is a physician's assistant at a hospital outside of Richmond.

"The Lodge is a most pleasant place to live," says Esther. After speaking with friends in larger corporate-owned facilities, she believes that smaller, single-owner status is preferable. "Employees are all happy and fantastic efforts are made to include everybody in all of our activities."



*A 2003 newspaper front page picture of Esther and the azaleas she transplanted to Hopewell from her father's farm (left), the Maxey's wedding day in 1949 (below), and an undated picture of teacher Esther at elementary school.*



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

**Jim Clark, editor**

**Advisory Committee**  
**Sue Clark**  
**Jean Sellers**

See color edition at  
[lodgeatoldtrail.com](http://lodgeatoldtrail.com) →  
 about →  
 news & press

**Adventure (cont'd)**

managing a couple of hundred kids who loved playing "camp jokes" on them during the night, so the dinners were a welcome break for them during camp week. Judy was the consummate hostess during this once-a-week event, preparing wonderful steak dinners, complete with homemade strawberry shortcake. It looked so easy, but the dinners took days to prepare during some very tough times.

Our church at the time included over 200,000

members and families worldwide. The communications were such that most members knew about Judy's amazing "adventure" and prayed continually for her recovery. Our local minister summed up Judy's joy, her perseverance, and her faith in God this way: "Judy got the news about her health conditions, looked death in the face and said 'Bring it!'"

God showed what true "amazing grace" looks like to all those who saw her that year as she recovered after going through the toughest of times. To God be the glory!

# Local Photography Museum Is a One of Its Kind

Camera phones have enticed nearly everyone to record almost everything they do or see with pictures that are taken by simply pointing and shooting. Camera phones have become super miniaturized photo albums with access to pictures by a mere flick of the finger. Wireless connection to a printer can produce color photographs within seconds after the picture was taken. Digital imaging has made this all possible, but it is a newcomer and has revolutionized photography, an art form having roots dating back more than 150 years. That history is documented by the Camera Heritage Museum in Staunton, the only museum of its kind in the United States open to the public.

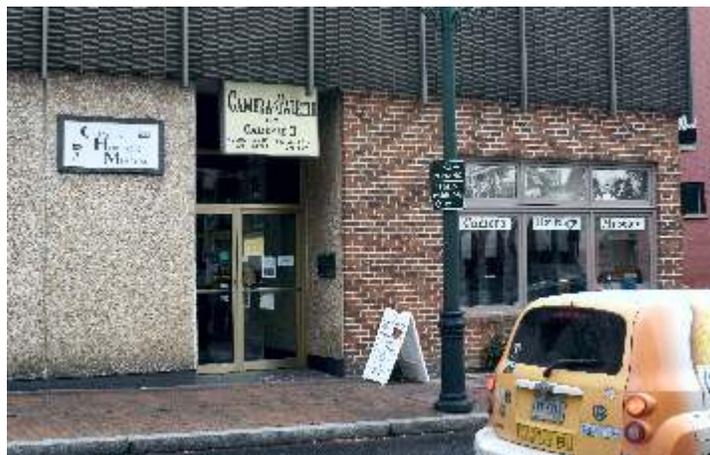


*David Schwartz, founder and curator of the Camera Heritage Museum, conducts museum tours and has uncanny knowledge of photographic history.*

The museum owes its existence to David Schwartz, who began collecting cameras in 1968. His collection became so huge and valuable that the museum was established to assure its future. It takes up most of the space in a 70 year-old camera and photo shop in downtown Staunton. Now it is hoping for a major expansion to house its burgeoning collection of photographic artifacts.

Schwartz, a former news photographer, serves as museum curator. He has an unbelievable knowledge of cameras and famous photographers. He says he is on the way to amass as many as possible of the 40,000 cameras that have come and gone over the years. The museum's collection now numbers 9,000, but one-third of those are in storage and not displayed due to lack of space.

Included are the Eastman Kodak complete line, including the infamous box and Brownie cameras, an extensive collection of German Leica and Zeiss cameras, and rare cameras and accessories donated by private collectors from around the country. One of the miniature "spy" cameras from the Museum collection



*Behind this store front on West Beverly Street in Staunton is the nation's only public display of 6,000 cameras and accessories representing 150 years of photographic history.*

was used by the makers of the James Bond mystery series. Of the unusual cameras, a disc camera was made by the American Safety Razor Company. and another 19th century invention was called the "Street Camera" because on-board developing equipment allowed the photographer to instantly develop photos on the street.

The museum traces the evolution of photography from the use of glass plates to roll film. Local photographers are showcased including two who served as Presidential photographers. Thousands of antique photos of Staunton and Augusta County reveal a unique record of the area's history and a rare photo on display of Pearl Harbor taken by a Japanese pilot on December 7, 1941, together with the camera he used, were gifted to the museum by the pilot's granddaughter, a former student at Mary Baldwin College.

It can be hard for many to appreciate the profound differences in yesterday's wet process photography and today's digital process. Exposure times started out being as long as a full day, shortening to just hours, and finally to fractions of a second. Invisible images were recorded on light sensitive material and later chemically developed into a visible image. Now images are electronically processed and stored in a digital image for later display, completely eliminating the former two-step process. Without a museum, few of these devices could be preserved for future generations to see.

While the Camera Heritage Museum is always looking for camera donations, it is now also eager to raise monetary donations for a new home. It has its eye on the museum building in Waynesboro vacated and donated to Virginia Tech by artist **Cont'd next page**



*One corner of the museum shows how it has outgrown its current space, and the reason for its fund drive to purchase a larger building in Waynesboro.*

## Museum (cont'd)

P. Buckley Moss. The University has put the building up for sale for 6.4 million dollars. Because it was designed as a museum, the building would not require any renovation. Over two million dollars is needed as seed money, however, before the museum is eligible for grant funding. Forms for making a tax-free donation are available at the museum's website [cameraheritagemuseum.com](http://cameraheritagemuseum.com).

Self-guided audio tours of the museum are available for \$7.50 per person but curator group tours are a special treat. Schwartz and his associates are not only expert historians but are entertaining and friendly. Group tours cost \$20.

You don't need to be a photographic enthusiast to be marveled by this unique collection of photographic artifacts. If you are an enthusiast, the museum needs to be on your must see list.



### HOURS

Monday-Friday  
9 am to 5pm  
Saturday  
9 am to 2 pm

### TELEPHONE

540-886-8535

### ADDRESS

1 West Beverley St.

## Marjory Stoneman Douglas

We are all familiar with the horrible tragedy that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, but how many of us remember the woman for whom the school is named. She was a journalist, author, and conservationist best known for her efforts to save the Florida Everglades from destruction.

Based on her research she changed the popular misconception of the Everglades as a worthless swamp to an understanding it is a unique ecosystem and an essential water source for life in south Florida. Her 1947 book, *The Everglades, River of Grass*, intensified preservation efforts and helped quash plans by developers who wanted to drain the area.

The Parkland high school was named after her in 1990 when it opened. She is the recipient of many awards including the nation's highest civilian honor, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded to her in 1993. Marjory Stoneman Douglas died in 1998 at the age of 108.



*Douglas, 1986.*

Jimm Roberts

Douglas was a writer of over one hundred fiction and non-fiction articles and stories and both assistant editor and book review editor of *The Miami Herald*. When approached in the early 1940s to write a book on the Miami River, she convinced the publisher to let her write instead about the Everglades. After five years of intensive research and consultation with a geologist who discovered the Everglades to be the sole freshwater source for south Florida, she published her Everglades book which sold out in one month and rivaled the book *Silent Spring* for its impact on conservation.

Born in Minneapolis, Douglas graduated with a degree in English as a straight-A student from Wellesley College. Her only marriage quickly failed when she found her husband to be a con artist after which she moved to Florida to be with her divorced father, a newspaper publisher and early opponent of efforts to drain The Everglades.

The house that Douglas built in Miami in 1924 was her life-long residence and "workshop." The house had no air conditioning, electric stove, or dishwasher and she never learned to drive nor did she ever own an automobile. The house is now owned by the state and is designated a National Historic Landmark.

Standing slightly over five feet tall and weighing just 100 pounds, Douglas was always immaculately dressed and known for her precise and forceful language. She had a tongue like a switchblade, said one of her interviewers, and death was the only thing that could shut her up, said another, who added that the silence is terrible.

"People can't be rude to me, this poor little old woman" Douglas once said. "But I can be rude to them, poor darlings, and nobody can stop me." And in so doing, she became one of America's most remarkable environmentalists.

## UPDATES

**The NIH funded research** to ward off disease by rejuvenating the immune system in older persons reported in the December/January 2017-18 issue of *The Lodger* was initially delayed because of federal budget uncertainties. Initial results are not expected until next year at the earliest due to the long-term nature of the experiments involved.

**Preliminary plans for the county park** adjacent to the rear of The Lodge are expected to be announced during the month of April. County officials will present the plans at a meeting of the Crozet Community Advisory Council scheduled on April 18.

## Editor's Note

*I am no fan of either Facebooking or Twittering. I admit, however, that I follow only the daily Facebook entries of a former neighbor. A rather demure lady in her late 80s, she both surprised and amused me with the following.*

Two young boys walked into a pharmacy one day, picked out a box of tampons, and proceeded to the checkout counter.

The pharmacist at the counter asked the older boy, "Son, how old are you?"

"Eight," the boy replied.

The man continued, "Do you know what these are used for?"

The boy replied, "Not exactly, but they aren't for me. They're for him. He's my brother. He's four."

"Oh, really?" the pharmacist replied with a grin.

"Yes," the boy said. "We saw on TV that if you use these, you would be able to swim, play tennis, and ride a bike. Right now, he can't do none of those."