



The

Lodger

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NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

Did You Know

VIRGINIA REQUIRED RESIDENTS to display license plates on their vehicles beginning in 1906. In 1951, the state began using both letters and numerals on plates. Now three letters precede four numbers on all plates except on the optional personalized designs of which there are 200.

Many different colors were used until 1993 when the familiar blue on white was initiated and continues in use. For 40 years beginning in 1933, Virginia alternated black on white and white on black except in 1944 when the color scheme was black on yellow and in 1953 when it was orange on blue (UVA influence?).



The first state to issue license plates was Massachusetts in 1903 and by 1918 every state in the union required vehicle license plates to be displayed.

France was the first nation to require plates in 1893 and Germany followed suit in 1896.

Would you believe Delaware plates are often sold or traded as investments. Delaware plate number 20 sold in 2018 for \$410,000. Emmert Auctions of Rehoboth sold Delaware plate number 6 for \$675,000. The auction house says that in Delaware it is more important to have a low number than to drive a Rolls Royce!

Registration authorities are careful to disallow license plate messages that can be offensive to others. New Jersey, for example, prohibited registering plates that displayed 8THEIST or AETH1ST, but allowed the wording BAPTIST. Both prohibitions were later lifted, however, on the grounds of freedom of speech.

THE 435 SEAT U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES had 65 members in 1789 and 187 in 1819. The U.S. Constitution gives the Congress the power to regulate the size of the House as population grew and it did so until the year 1911. Congress passed a law in 1911 that capped the House size at 435 with the seats divided among the states by population while assuring that every state got at least one seat.

In 1911, each member of Congress represented an average of 200,000 people. In 2018, the number grew to about 750,000, a nearly four fold increase.

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RESIDENT FOCUS

Cyrus Clark dreamed of being an architect since he was 14 years old, a dream that he came ever so close to fulfilling. After serving in the U.S. Navy during world War II, he enrolled at Farragut College and Technical Institute in northern Idaho en route to his chosen profession, only to find out the college did not offer the necessary pre-mathematical training for architectural certification. Undaunted, Cyrus waited to be admitted to Washington State College, 100 miles to the south, and graduated in 1954 with a degree in architecture.

But his new credentials mattered little for he discovered there were no architecture jobs available. "That is when I chose to take an engineering job instead with the company that paid a dollar more than the other job interviewers offered," says Cyrus. The company was Chicago Bridge and Iron (CBI) where he became a principal designer of liquid storage tanks and a leading company trouble shooter for the next 34 years. Cyrus has been a Lodge resident since 2014.

The joke is that Chicago Bridge and Iron is not in Chicago, doesn't build bridges, and doesn't use iron. Cyrus says they got out of bridge building after

constructing two bridges across the Mississippi River and entered the above-the-ground metal tank business for the storage of petroleum and other refined products when oil exploration blossomed.

One of his projects was to design an oil storage tank with a floating roof for Saudi Arabia that was 400 feet in diameter, one of the largest in the world. He supervised its fabrication prior to shipment to Saudi



Continued next page

Resident Focus (cont'd)

Arabia. He worked at company locations in Salt Lake City, Illinois, England, and Germany. He was manager of the company's London engineering office for five years and frequently traveled abroad, including to Australia and South America in his trouble-shooting capacity.

Cyrus was raised in Kilmarnock, Virginia on the peninsula known as the Northern Neck, which is bordered by the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. The town was named after Kilmarnock in Scotland. He and his future wife, Ruby, were in the same graduating class at Kilmarnock high school, but he knew her only casually until he returned to Kilmarnock from the Navy in 1946. Cyrus says that upon meeting her again, it did not take long for them to fall in love and get married in 1947. His 67 year marriage with "a great lady" ended in 2014 when Ruby died after suffering Alzheimer's disease for three years.

Cyrus and Ruby went on a one-day honeymoon and departed Kilmarnock pulling a travel trailer to Farragut College in northern Idaho. They planned to live in the trailer while Cyrus attended school. (Farragut College opened in 1946 on the site of the decommissioned Farragut Naval Training Station and closed for financial reasons three years later.) Discovering that Farragut did not offer pre-architectural courses, Cyrus went to work dismantling buildings at the former training station before he could be admitted to Washington State. Far-north living in the middle of the winter in the old training station housing proved to be primitive. "We used a wood cookstove, heated with a pot belly

stove, and refrigerated our food outside the window."

They started enjoying the comforts of their own home in Salt Lake City, where Cyrus began his career with CBI. A short time later, his employer told him to call his wife to sell their home, because he was being transferred to the office in Germany. And so it went with the company until 1988 when he retired.

Cyrus and Ruby returned to the Northern Neck where they built a house and toured the Chesapeake Bay in their 25-foot motor boat. "Ruby was the fisher," says Cyrus, "and I was strictly the motorman." They visited every one of the lower states by motorhome, and by group tour to Alaska where Ruby caught a 30-inch long char, a fish found in only arctic and subarctic coastal waters.

Ruby insisted on not visiting Hawaii, but she told Cyrus she would like to go to China instead. They traveled to China, Egypt, Australia, and New Zealand.

Health issues caused them to move in 2003 to a house they had built in Crozet where his daughter, Anne, a UVA nurse, is now living. Cyrus's son Jeffery runs a computer service business on the Northern Neck and his other son, Cyrus (Buz), is an architect-planner for the city of Amsterdam, Holland. His other daughter, Catherine, is a medical doctor in northern Virginia.

Cyrus is relegated to a motorized wheelchair due to the effects of spinal stenosis, a medical condition that causes numbness and weakness in the legs. He finds enormous pleasure, however, with the company of Rocky and Bucky, his adopted dog and cat rescue animals.



Clockwise from top left, teenager Cyrus Clark; Ruby and Cyrus at his graduation from Washington State in 1954; Ruby and Cyrus in a formal portrait in about 1990; Cyrus's cat Bucky; Cyrus's dog Rocky; and Ruby with her prize fish catch in Alaska.

Did You Know, (cont'd)

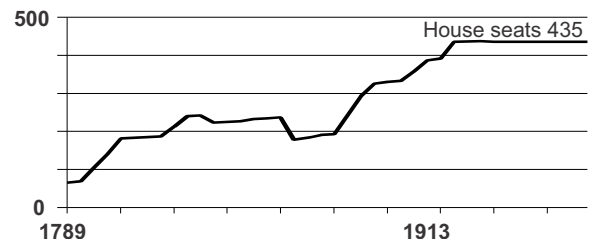
If the average district size had remained at the 1911 ratio, House membership would now be more than 1,600 members, a number clearly not palatable.

Some people argue that one representative cannot adequately represent three-quarters of a million diverse people. Others would resist any expansion of government.

Several proposals have been made to adjust the House size including the so called Wyoming Rule advocated by columnists George Will and Robert Novak which would have increased House membership by 110 seats based on the 2010 census. The New York Times has proposed using the population cube root rule which

tracks the size of the legislatures of most democratic countries. It would mean an increase of 158 members.

So what is the optimal size? There are no easy answers and little indication of a change. It is likely, however, to be a subject for future debate.



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'When we get an animal that needs help, we give it help'

Pre-existing conditions and deductible expenses are of no concern to Virginia wildlife needing medical attention. Thanks to the Wildlife Center of Virginia, all wild critters needing help to survive have access to one of the world's premier animal hospitals located right here in our neck of the woods. Providing care for 3,000 animal patients a year, the Virginia Wildlife Center since its founding in 1982 has treated more than 75,000 wild animals and more than 200 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The Center is known the world over for its state-of-the-art facilities and skilled technicians.

With a hospital and labyrinth of holding pens and flight cages on a 20-acre tract on the edge of Waynesboro, the Center is the outgrowth of a simple horse-stall clinic that was established in a barn in Weyers Cave in 1982 by founder and wildlife rehabilitator Ed Clark. Three years later, Clark and volunteers moved into a double-wide mobile home that was the first wild animal hospital ever constructed in the United States. Clark spearheaded a fund-raising campaign that made possible the construction of the building they moved into in 1995 and still occupy. DuPont, one of Waynesboro's leading employers at the time, contributed the land for the hospital that borders the George Washington National Forest.

Were it not for generous contributions and financial donations as well as the assistance of 50 volunteer workers, the Center could not operate. The Center receives no government funding and depends solely on private donations and grants. The volunteer team aids the staff of 20 professionals and provides a network of transporters ready to ferry injured and orphaned animals to the Center from points throughout the state.

The Center aims to introduce all of its patients back into the wild when they are ready to fend for themselves. Uninjured, orphaned species are often raised by surrogate parents at the Center before being released. Injured animals undergo treatment and are later released if judged capable of living in the wild. Handlers are always careful to avoid human imprinting so as to maintain an animal's wildness.

Some two dozen animals incapable of successful release have been retained as permanent residents and serve as education animals.

Buddy became a member of the Center's non-releaseable education animals due to his permanently malformed beak. Diagnosed with a viral disease, Buddy's beak was the result of a lesion caused by the disease. The bald eagle was hatched at the Norfolk Botanical Garden and admitted to the Center in 2008.



Photos courtesy The Wildlife Center

Wilife Center founder Ed Clark readying a bald eagle for release at Mint Springs county park

Wilson was found at Maymont Park in Richmond in 2009.



He was likely an unwanted or escaped pet. His entire upper shell had been painted purple. Center veterinary staff painstakingly removed the paint. Because the Woodland box-turtle had been kidnapped from an unknown location and had lived for some time as a pet, he could not be returned to the wild.

Ruby was hit by a car in Dayton, Virginia in 2010. When she arrived at the Center, the veterinary team found a fracture in her left wing as well as severe trauma to her right eye. After weeks of cage rest and bandaging, her wing healed, but her right eye had to be surgically removed. The red-tailed hawk cannot see well enough to be released back into the wild. The Wildlife Center asked for suggested names for the hawk from elementary school children. More than 170 names were submitted.



The "final five" were put to an online public vote. The winning name was Ruby.

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Wildlife Center (cont'd)



Posie was found as a baby opossum with multiple head wounds and was treated by a Center veterinarian. After months of treatment, the vet found that Posie had permanent neurologic issues, including a head tilt and problems with her balance. Posie joined the team of Wildlife Center education ambassadors who travel around the state teaching others

about wildlife and the environment. She became an official member of the team in the fall of 2017.

Because the facility operates as an emergency room and hospital, the Wildlife Center is generally not open to the public. Group tours for up to 30 adults are available, however, by completing an application form on the Center website, wildlifecenter.org. Tours are charged a fee of \$100. Open house tours for individuals are held in spring, summer, and fall at no charge, but reservations are required. Reservation forms and spring open house dates will soon be available on the website.

In the meantime, you can visit the Center as an online observer on three different Critter Cam channels. They are accessible on wildlifecenter.org and are accompanied by live comments and questions from viewers moderated by Center staff members. The chat rooms are located on the Critter Cam page of the website.

Ed Clark says that an original core belief of the Center will always remain in effect: "Every single animal deserves to be treated with respect. When we get an animal that needs help, we give it help."

Edward R. Clark, Jr., President and founder of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, is an internationally acclaimed conservationist. He has served as consultant to many conservation organizations, is in demand as a motivational speaker; is active in public service, and the recipient of dozens of awards and commendations. His exceptional devotion to teaching was honed while a teacher for five years with the Virginia School for the Deaf

He has served on the boards and advisory councils of over 20 national and international conservation organizations and was beckoned by three Virginia Governors to participate on various state boards and commissions. Among his many honors, he was named Virginia's Conservation Educator of the Year and one of the "500 Environmental Achievers" by the UN Environment Programme. He received the 2012 Rare Life Award as a person living a rare life dedicating himself to helping others and was honored with the Chuck Yeager Award from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation for his work in conservation.

A widely recognized TV personality, Clark hosted a series about The Wildlife Center on Animal Planet, has appeared in films and documentaries, and was a guest on network shows seen on CNN, NBC, Fox, and C-Span's Washington Journal.

Clark holds a Master Scuba Diving certification and is an avid nature photographer both below and above water.

He graduated from Bridgewater College with a degree in political science and did graduate work at UVA and JMU in education. He lives with his wife "in the woods" near Waynesboro with their dogs, cats, horses, and birds.



The latest patient release occurred in October after great horned owl 18-021 had spent seven months at The Wildlife Center. Center President Ed Clark performed the release ritual amidst a group of public spectators at Grand Caverns in Augusta County. The area was chosen because it is near where the owl was found and contains the type of owl habitat where he is likely to find a mate.

An Augusta County homeowner found the owlet that walked up to their front porch and brought it to The Center for examination. Attempts to find the owl's nest and parents were unsuccessful. Too young to fly, the orphaned owl was determined to have survived a fall from his nest without injury.

The owlet was turned over to Papa G'Ho for training. Papa has raised more than 30 owlets during his 17 years at The Center. Papa arrived at The Center after a probable collision with an automobile, sustaining injuries that make him unable to fly silently and capture prey.

Released from captivity, the owl flew to a nearby high tree branch. After taking in the surroundings for several minutes, the bird flew to another nearby tree and out of sight.

If he is ever found again, his identity will be known. All released birds carry a metal leg band with identifying numbers recorded with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.