



The

Lodger

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Issue 47

NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

Memorial Day

A Memorial Day speech by editor Jim Clark in Berryville, Virginia 25 years ago is as timely now as it was then. Here are excerpts from his address.

Memorial Day 1996. It is a somber and mournful day, but it is also a day when we can feel very proud and very respectful and very thankful for the courage, the bravery, and the immense dedication of those members of our armed forces who did not return to live the benefits of the society that we enjoy and that they were defending.

Paying our respects and expressing our thankfulness here and elsewhere throughout the United States today are, of course, paltry in comparison to giving one's life for one's country, but it is fitting and proper and necessary that we do so and it has become and will remain a part of our heritage.

Let's not be mistaken. We are terribly wrong if we do not recognize that the men and women we honor were in the service of their nation. Yes, but what is a nation but a form of government. Indeed, sustaining our government was their cause, a government of freedom and liberty that is unsurpassed anywhere else in the world and often envied by the peoples around the world who are less fortunate than American citizens.

Our federal government has financed, equipped, maintained, and mobilized our armed forces to uphold our constitution and defend our federal system. We cannot truly appreciate that what has been done for us by those we honor unless we know their cause. And then we must ask ourselves, are we doing our part as citizens to continue the cause.

We need to increase voter registration, increase voter involvement in the electoral process at the local level as well as the national level, increase our education on the issues, and discourage disdainful attitude toward all politicians because some are unqualified and others may be corrupt.

A strong defense of democratic government in times of conflict depends on an adequate military force, but a strong democratic government depends on participation by a committed people at all times at all levels. The dead we honor have done their job. Now we should ask again, are we doing ours?

From the Editor

This edition of The Lodger will be the last one that I will produce. Having served in this capacity for the past eight years, the time has come for change. I hope that you found The Lodger to be relevant, interesting, and educational as well as an entertaining bonus of life at The Lodge, because that is what it was intended to be.

I thank residents and their families for agreeing to grace the pages devoted to the resident focus column; without this feature, The Lodger would have lost much of its appeal. I honor them below arranged in the order they appeared in the column. Some are still with us; others are not.

I also greatly appreciate the suggestions and edits provided by Sue Clark and Jean Sellers and their preventing me from getting by with grammatical or punctuation boo-boos.

Last, but not least, my thanks to The Lodge for making The Lodger possible by generously contributing the needed copying and distribution services.

Farewell and best wishes.

JC



Margaret Fowler



Charlie Johnson and Benji



Dr. Russell Herring



Capt. Al Tatman



Naida Tatman



John and Sue Trimble



Ron Herd



Fred and Gae Lach



Russell and Virginia Isner

Cont'd
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From the Editor (cont'd)



Norma Lee Holland



Ben Cullen



Hannah Cullen



Rev. Robert Wilson



*Ruth and
Gen. Paul Gorman*



Don Goldstein



Polly Sheets



Dr. David Lindsay



Dick Carpenter



Joyce Long



Agnes Anderson



Frank and Nancy Summers



Richard Buchannon



Ben Hurt



Joyce Rash



Theodore Korol



Ed and Janice Bishop



Don Gaines



Bill Parsons



Mona Berry



Esther Maxey



Annie Ritschel



Jack Shea and Ann Bowler



Bill and Betty Ekerson



Cyrus Clark



Terry McLane



Fred and Louise Whipple



Doris Buck



Judy LeHardy



Mary Trogdon



Frances McDaniel



Addie Lou Warner



Frank and Judy Mueller



Jim and Dot Grove



Julie McCall



Marjorie Hanawalt



*Francoise and
Col. Luis Garcia*



Lt. Col. Bill Repass

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Rescue Squad Gears Up for New Space

Adequate space at their hand-me-down quarters, says Rescue Chief Kosta Alibertus, is the Western Albermarle Rescue Squad's biggest need. The squad is looking forward to a move from their current headquarters, a building formerly used as the original firehouse by the Crozet Fire Department ever since their founding in the 1980s. The only thing standing in their way is the need for money.

Having purchased an acre of ground on Carter Street in downtown Crozet near the U.S. Post Office, the squad can begin design and construction of a new \$6 million headquarters just as soon they qualify for a mortgage to finance the project, says Chief Alibertus. The squad will have access to both Carter Street and Crozet Avenue. Crozet Avenue access will be provided by a right-of-way easement through neighboring property.



Chief Kosta Alibertus

A larger building, says Alibertus, will house all emergency vehicles including the ambulance that must sit outside their current headquarters building. Moreover, says Alibertus, the new building will provide more accommodating bunk-space for their in-house crews and additional space needed for mandatory training purposes.

Another significant benefit of the new building will be improved accessibility to the bulk of Crozet's population that a southern location provides. Hence, delayed travel through the constricted railroad underpass will be eliminated for the majority of emergency calls. Two-thirds of all calls from the current headquarters north of the railroad, says Alibertus, use the underpass in responding to medical emergencies.

Historian Phil James tells us that the underpass was reluctantly built by the railroad by order of the Commonwealth in 1917 to replace the former "exceptionally dangerous" at-grade crossing slightly to the east.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to the non-profit Western Albermarle Rescue Squad at P.O. Box 188, Crozet, VA 22932.

Tunnel Tales

Public access to the 150-year-old Blue Ridge Tunnel is a significant new historical resource that brings to memory two of its darker days. To illustrate the two, we use portions of Virginia author Dale Brumfield's account of a tunnel tragedy and a newspaper report of the use of the tunnel for disposal.



Italian immigrant Francesco Roncoli, his wife, and their four adult children elected to move from Norfolk, Virginia to Cleveland, Ohio. They boarded a rail car in August, 1910, filled with fellow Italian immigrants near the front of C & O train no. 3 in Norfolk, and rode through Richmond and Charlottesville. Sometime after midnight, while the passengers slept, the west-bound passenger train entered the Blue Ridge Tunnel.

**JUMPED FROM TRAIN
INSTANTLY KILLED**

The tunnel was not well-ventilated, requiring train passengers to keep the transom windows tightly closed to prevent smoke from entering the cars. Apparently, the Italians did not understand the conductor's instructions to close their windows, so smoke began entering, awakening the passengers. Having no idea in the blackness they were inside a tunnel, and thinking the train was on fire, they threw the windows wide open, filling the car with more smoke.

According to the Staunton Spectator newspaper, "A general stampede followed among the wildly excited foreigners, some of whom attempted to make their exit, and finding the front door fastened, began breaking windows. This admitted more smoke, and added to the disorder."

Details are scarce and conflicting, but supposedly there was a rush to the back door of the car, and their 18-year-old daughter Virginia was the only passenger to get the door open. She leaped from the car, and "dropped down between the vestibule and the express car" of the moving train and was instantly killed under the wheels. "In the blackness of the tunnel, all was confusion and no coherent account of just what occurred could be obtained," the Spectator reported.

When train no. 3 stopped in Basic City, Francesco, his wife, and oldest son disembarked and traveled (in an unknown manner) back to the tunnel to retrieve the "frightfully mangled remains" of their beloved daughter, bringing her back on train no. 13. A C&O claims agent named M.I. Dunn arrived and assisted with the removal and burial of the girl's body somewhere in Basic City.

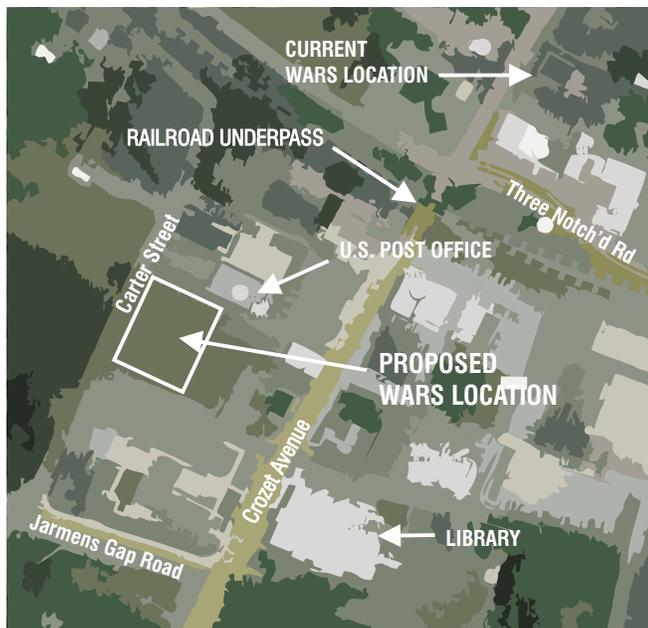
"The father and mother of the girl are prostrated over the death of their daughter," the story concluded, adding that after burying the girl the family continued to Ohio that night. (A search in July 2015 failed to locate Virginia's grave.)

And this from the Richmond Times-Dispatch:

AFTON, VA, September 9, 1904
The body of a white male infant was found by the watchman,

**BABY THROWN
FROM TRAIN**

T.W. Layne, in the Blue Ridge Tunnel last night. It is believed to have been thrown from the 7 o'clock west-bound train by some passenger. It is a well formed, fine baby, wrapped in a paste-board box. (The body was buried in a grave alongside the track in Afton.)



Briefs

UNANIMITY SEEMS A RARITY THESE DAYS. Daylight Saving Time is a prime example. Disagreements over the usefulness of DST have existed for years, and now it is a renewed topic for debate in the U.S. Senate. The spring ahead, fall back routine is a plain nuisance to some, and farmers, who work by the sun and not the clock, despise it. Businesses like it because more summer sunshine purportedly increases consumer spending, and although contradicted by studies, DST is boosted as an energy saver.



The Sunshine Protection Act, proposed by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), along with four Republican and three Democratic senators, would ditch standard time. Not needed they say, since it is only used four months of the year, from November to March, claiming that making DST permanent would provide more sunlight. In actuality, DST cannot lengthen sunlight hours; it merely shifts daylight one hour later each day.

Many parents and educators oppose a permanent shift to darker winter mornings. Year-round DST was used in the 1970s when Americans became alarmed by sending kids to school in the dark. Other critics argue that the clock change twice a year disrupts sleep schedules and increases car accidents, seasonal depression, and other health issues.

Northern states like North Dakota or Michigan have always lived with morning sun rises post 8 a.m., even during standard time. Fairbanks, Alaska sees the sun rise as late as 11 a.m. in December. Arizona and Hawaii don't even bother switching to DST. So why the fuss?

One observer suggests splitting the difference, moving clocks 30 minutes forward to make that permanent time.

Don't hold your breath waiting for a final resolution to this controversy.

WOMAN, 90, IS BELIEVED TO BE OLDEST PROFESSIONAL SHARPSHOOTER IN THE WORLD.

Chandro Tomar did not pick up a gun until she was 65. Since then, Tomar has won over 25 state and higher contests, usually in competition with men who had been shooting professionally for years.



A resident of a small village in northern India, she had to hide her shooting ability from relatives and townspeople because only members of royal families and the military were involved in sport shooting at the time. Pretending to chaperone her 12-year-old granddaughter, they both perfected their shooting techniques using air pistols shooting pellets at a newly opened shooting range where they were the sole females.

That was in 1999. Their secret activity was exposed when a newspaper announced the pair winning their first silver and gold medals. Despite the family's anger, Tomar pressed on.

Her granddaughter now competes internationally. Tomar went door-to-door, encouraging parents to let their daughters learn the sport. Tomar has become a celebrity, traveling across the country for championships and speaking engagements, where she discusses female empowerment. The family is now building a shooting range for underprivileged children.

Nearly 90, she doesn't wear glasses and can touch her toes to show her flexibility. The New York Times asked her what the secret is to her strength and agility. "All the household chores I used to do from a young age, like grinding the wheat by hand, milking the cows, cutting the grass," she said.. "It's important to stay active. Your body might grow old, but keep your mind sharp."

TRUTH MATTERS. More than five million people in 200 counties do not have a local newspaper. People in Beaver County, Pennsylvania lost all local news coverage when the struggling Beaver County Times was sold and trimmed to the bone by the for-profit publisher Gannet.



The aftermath could be a microcosm of a new trend. One quarter of Beaver county residents get their local news from a Facebook group called News Alert of Beaver County, fine for reporting lost dogs and found wallets, but subject to misinformation and rumor of the hard news reported by group members. In one instance, someone fleeing a traffic violation was falsely reported as an escaped murderer with a gun, scaring parents into ordering children indoors. There is no fact checking or verification, whereas healthy newspapers will spend time and money verifying story accuracy and fact checking before publication.

At the other end of the spectrum, several billionaires are making newspapers healthy again. Billionaire Jeff Bezos resuscitated The Washington Post, Red Sox owner John Henry bought the Boston Globe, physician and billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong bought The Los Angeles Times, and Minnesota billionaire Glen Taylor's Minneapolis Star Tribune just won a prestigious award for its coverage of the George Floyd killing.

Hansjörg Wyss, a little-known Swiss billionaire, and Stewart W. Bainum Jr., a Maryland hotel magnate, were vying with a hedge fund, known to slash newspaper staffs, to buy Tribune Publishing and run The Chicago Tribune and its other newspapers on a non-profit basis.

"I think philosophically, we've long accepted that we would have no museums or opera houses without philanthropic support," said Ann Marie Lipinski, the former editor of The Chicago Tribune. "I think journalism deserves the same consideration."