

CALRA FREE PRESS

Cadbury at Lewes Residents' Association

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MAY 2014

Impressions and Lessons from Lewes - Part 2 -

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In the February newsletter I shared some stories about my family, and especially time spent with grandmother and great aunt at their home on Market Street. Actually I lived at Five Points with my parents, Laurence and Rebecca (Kearney) Knapp and two older brothers. Our parents were married Thursday, June 21st 1928, in the Lewes Presbyterian Church at 7:30 in the morning! Immediately after the wedding they boarded a train at Railroad Avenue bound for a honeymoon in New York City. My dad was from Port Byron, NY and a 1922 graduate of Cornell University. At the urging of his brother, Leslie, he came to Lewes in 1925 to share the work in establishing The Nassau Orchards. My parents met in Lewes and began dating in 1926 while my mother was a student at The Philadelphia School of Art for Women in Philadelphia. After marriage, my parents lived in the second floor apartment of the Macintire house on Second Street. Later they moved to Five Points, outside Lewes near the intersection of the Du Pont Highway (now Coastal Highway) and Route 9.

Some vivid early memories center around the local war effort in the early forties – feeling the pride of owning a ration book; the fun of removing tin can lids and bottoms, stomping the cans flat, and combining the white oleomargarine with the powdered yellow dye in a glassine envelope to make a butter substitute. I remember, too, the eeriness of blackouts. From the darkened second floor bathroom of our house at Five Points facing east toward Lewes, the whole world seemed black for as far as I could see. My father, a very involved dad, was always my hero. He read to me, fixed many things, prepared an excellent breakfast and was a great coach for school events.

With two older brothers, I was a comfortable tomboy and in summer we spent as much time as possible outdoors. Someone built platform tree houses and there we enjoyed chewing sassafras twigs cut from trees in the brush behind the house. A few years ago I learned the USDA had declared sassafras oil as unsafe because of discoveries that the safrole in the oil is a potential carcinogen. My brothers encouraged me to jump from the roof of the henhouse of a flock of Bantam hens and roosters in the back yard. Escaping serious injury, illness and broken bones, I suffered just bruises and a cut lip. Although my mother for most of her life battled sieges of depression, she had a sterling character. She never made a disparaging remark about anyone - nor would she allow her children to do so.

School brought new opportunities, a host of town friends, and if I managed to miss the bus home my grandmother's house was available about a mile's walk from school. I took every advantage of missing the bus. Biking on the highway at Five Points was unsafe, so my bicycle stayed in town. I came to spend more and more time on Market Street and the summer days at Lewes beach. Four or five of us bicycled together the two miles to the beach in the morning and stayed all day, exposed skin carefully slathered in a mix of baby oil and iodine. We were totally oblivious to a common summer problem in Lewes - hot air permeated with the aroma of oily fish. And we swam the waters of Delaware Bay, simply brushing away the oily slick and surface matter that appeared when contents of fish boats were unloaded at the nearby Menhaden docks. After dinner, a group of about eight of us would gather at DeVries Circle to play kick-the-can until dusk - we were home and safe by night fall. In so many sweet ways mine was an idyllic childhood supported by an extended loving family.

Adele Hudson, President CALRA



Patricia Kraut Apt. 142
Donald & Suzanne Ziegler C 42



LIBRARY LINES

It has come to our attention that perhaps some residents are not aware that as new books (donations) come into the library a listing is made of these books. These listings come out periodically as needed and they are sent via e-mail to residents on the CALRA e-mail list. A paper copy of this listing is also posted on the east bulletin board in the library,

(near the Fiction "R" section). Most recent copies are on the bulletin board for about a month or two and then later housed in a notebook under the returned books table. Also, new books are displayed on top of the fireplace or on top of some bookcase. Hope this helps you find some reading material.

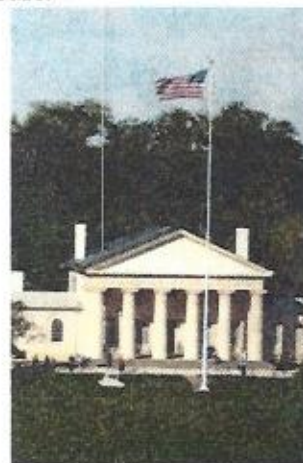
Mildred Wiedmann

TIPS: If you are a new resident or have changed your e-mail address you should give your email address to Dick Cleaveland so that you may receive communications sent out by CALRA or chairpersons of CALRA .

Keep in the loop to be informed, get your e-mail address to Dick Cleaveland whose e-mail address is cleave@rgcle.com, or webmaster@calra.org.

Arlington National Cemetery and its Columbarium

Ruth and I recently had the experience of witnessing a burial at Arlington National Cemetery and, while not of the formal military type, it was very impressive and spurred me to learn more about this national treasure.



The Custis--Lee Mansion

The National Cemetery has an interesting history, much of it centering around the fact that it is the site of the Custis-Lee mansion, "Arlington" built in 1802-1818. Its last residents were General Robert E. Lee and his wife Mary Anna, right up to the Civil War. Once General Lee joined the Confederacy and accepted the leadership of their armies, Arlington was confiscated by the U.S. government on the

initiative of General Montgomery Meigs, who declared it to be used as a military Cemetery.

The casualties of the Battle of Bull Run were the first to be interred there.

That was not the end of the story, however, as the eldest son of Robert and Anna Lee, Custis, sued the government for improper seizure of the property; the U.S. Supreme Court agreed, and turned the property back to Custis in 1883. Congress then purchased the land from him for \$150,000, and confirmed its use as a National Cemetery. It was then given its present name, Arlington National Cemetery.



Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery

Today Arlington includes sections devoted to the American dead from every war the U.S.A. has fought, starting with the Civil War through Viet Nam, and the Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. It also includes sections devoted to those killed in significant individual events, like Gettysburg during the Civil War, the Battle of the Bulge during WWII, and the loss of the Challenger Space Shuttle. Each area has its own monuments, generally quite impressive and appropriate for the event, like the mast of the battleship "Maine" in the Spanish American War section. Memorials to other noteworthy groups are also there, like military nurses, women in military service, and military chaplains.

Most impressive, of course, and the focus of most visitors to Arlington are the graves of President & Mrs. John F. Kennedy with its eternal flame and his brothers Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Ted Kennedy, as well as the Tomb of the Unknown

Soldier. Lesser known but equally interesting are the graves of other historic figures including

- Generals John J. Pershing, George C. Marshall and Omar Bradley,
- Explorers, Admirals Robert F. Byrd and Robert Peary,
- Twelve justices of the Supreme Court, including four Chief Justices, Taft, Warren, Burger, and Renquist,
- Many astronauts, including two, Colonels Grissom & Chaffee from the Challenger disaster,

And many other notable Americans

including:

- Baseball legend Abner Doubleday,
- Actor Audie Murphy,
- Writer & war correspondent Mary Roberts Rinehart,
- Industrialist George Westinghouse, and
- Fighter Joe E. Lewis.

And there is at least one Frenchman buried at Arlington, Pierre Charles L'Enfant, who designed the street layout of Washington, DC.



The Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery

The burial Ruth and I witnessed was that of a relative who was buried with her husband in Arlington's Columbarium because he was a civil servant, legal counsel to the architect of the Capitol. "Columbarium" was a new name for me; it consists of rows of crypts in outdoor mausoleums, and the burial consisted of opening the crypt, adding remains, closing it back up, and later adding the additional name. The burial was led by a staff

member of the Cemetery who guided us to the location, introduced the proceedings, and after family-led memories, led our departure. We and the many other family members present found the whole process very impressive and moving.

We highly recommend a visit to one of our national treasures, Arlington National Cemetery. For more information, you are referred to the official website of Arlington National Cemetery:

www.arlingtonnationalcemetery.org.

Gil Kaufman

Cadbury Chorus

It's that time of year again.....finally, SPRING TIME. If this was a nature column I would go on about the birds and the bees, the trees and the sea's, but I leave that to others much more knowledgeable. My subject involves sharps and flats, harmony and laughter. In other words, SATB. Now I hope you did not try to pronounce that. In reality it is not pronounceable but is a defining symbol in music. It is what we here at Cadbury are all about on Tuesday mornings. Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass.....people making music.

It is impossible to explain the bond shared between singers. You put yourself out there making, most of the time, harmonic sounds; however, every once in a while something occurs where you are still singing after everyone else has stopped or a note is so off key and laughter will automatically follow. This is one of the joys of chorus singing; learning music in fellowship with one another and sharing each others mistakes with a thankful sigh, "Sure glad that wasn't me".

Well, back now to our Spring Concert scheduled for Tuesday, June 17th. We will share some of Learner & Lowe's, "My Fair Lady" with you along with some patriotic selections including....."This Is My Country" by Woody Guthrie and "Battle Hymn of the Republic". And then, every once in a while something different comes along that will probably be the act that will be talked about for a long time. I am sworn to secrecy but I will say it is a "show stopper" and you just do not want to miss it. So see you on the 17th of June at 7:30 PM.

Carol Bishop, Chorus Manager

Short Wild Flower Walk around Cadbury

Now that winter is finally over, thoughts have shifted toward the warmer days of spring and summer. The longer hours of sunlight and the warm gentle rains are awakening herbaceous plants, seeds and bulbs that have hidden under the soils during the colder winter months.

Germinating spring wild flowers are sending their pale sprouts into the warming air to capture the ingredients they need to convert CO₂ and water into basic sugars that sustain all the aspects of life. You may have noticed in early April the shoots of colorful blue and white crocus peeking through the decomposed leaves and grasses and the brilliant yellow buds from daffodils and colts foos extending their stems toward the sunlight. Perhaps you've noticed dandelions and wild mustard growing along in the lawns of Cadbury and wild geraniums and lawn pinks huddled in sheltered outposts around the campus. In the dry, more extreme corners away from the hungry blades of the lawn mower, grape hyacinth, toad flax, skull cap and lobelia have appeared. If moisture resides within grassy corners, spring beauty and forget-me-not can be found. A stroll over to a Cadbury pond will reveal wild roses, henbit, and mist flower tucked along the bank. I wouldn't be surprised to if we found garlic mustard and beard tongue elbowing their place in the environment.

It seems silly for one to read about the splendor of the local wildflowers when Cadbury has so many of them around us. I'd like to propose that we take a wild flower walk some afternoon this spring. We could gather on the back patio near the doors to the swimming pool and walk along the cement path to the duck pond. We could follow the sidewalk around to the far end of the pond and turn onto the cement walk to the street that encircles Cadbury. Here we could follow the road east back to where it contacts the walk that extends from the dining room down to the street. Altogether we'd cover about a half-mile and see at least a dozen different wildflowers. The route would be walker

and wheelchair friendly and we could have the Cadbury bus at strategic locations around the trail to assist weary hikers.

If this sounds interesting to you, meet in the Patio at 2:30, Friday afternoon, May 23.

Tom Lord

Check One Off The BUCKET LIST

How often does one have the chance to walk around the tip of a cape -- think Cape Horn, Cape of Good Hope, Capes Ann, Cod, May, Henlopen, Charles, Henry, Fear, Hatteras, et al? Only one on this list stands out as a sensible possibility and it's been on my to-do list since moving to Cadbury in 2007, when the State Park became a favorite walking area.

The ideal time to circle the point, a walk of approximately 1-1/2 miles, might logically be summer, but from March 1 to October 1, the point is reserved for the piping plovers, terns and skimmers who nest there and raise their young over the summer. For us humans, that means our only choices to use the point are early October or one of the few warm days that occur rarely in the winter months. Fortunately for me, February 23, 2014, appeared to be do-day -- 65 degrees and sunny seemed perfect.

So at 11am, I and as many as 10-15 other Cape enthusiasts (singles, couples, a group of six--some barefoot, and two women fishing) could be found enjoying a beautiful day on the Cape. The only downside was a 15 mph SW wind that hit full force as my east/west route rounded the point and the tide decided to come in. The parking lot began to look five miles away... However, the end was in sight and the day was still perfect, AND--this elderly body came through like a trooper.

Hope others plan on this fun experience as soon as the plovers, skimmers, and terns make their exit. It's not too early to put it on the calendar for October !!

Ann Erdman

THE BEGGAR -

PAST AND PRESENT

When we think of beggar the image would likely be negative--someone who begs for gifts, money or something valuable. Someone who does not work to support himself would complete the image. In cultures active long ago the beggar perception was different. For example, Pre-Holocaust Jewish towns and villages in Russia, Ukraine, Poland, and The Baltic Republics generally had a tolerant view of the beggar, seeing him as unappealing socially yet a human deserving respect in the local society. The Jewish religion preached tolerance and charity, meaning money or other offerings such as food and drink given freely without revealing the charitable acts. The beggars were established in the society and named in Yiddish as Schnorers. The word has made its way into American English and identifies somebody who solicits valuables. The interpretation is usually critical and identifies the schnorer taking advantage of a situation. The older, European scenario generated many jokes by a society that no longer exists. The jokes, however, live on, stimulating chuckles and smiles whenever they are presented. One example follows:

A prominent businessman, as usual, was driving his coach to his business. He arrived at the intersection of two major roads. A schnorer from the local village stood at the intersection as was his habit most days. He knew the businessman who often gave him small change. The coach stopped. Both men acknowledged each other as they usually did. The businessman explained to the schnorer that business was bad and that he could not give any gifts today. The schnorer answered "Because you have troubles, why should I suffer?" The businessman, patient and compassionate, answered "I will see you next week...maybe things will be better". The schnorer stiffened and said "I'm against giving credit. It's against my nature".

SMILE!! LAUGH!!

Stan Goldstein

Tagging Horseshoe Crabs

If you have visited one of the coastal beaches around Lewes in recent weeks, you've no doubt spotted more than the normal number of horseshoe crabs littering the sands. What you're witnessing is the yearly march of the horseshoe crab onto the area's sandy shores to reproduce. Starting in late April and continuing over the following several weeks, male and female horseshoe crabs gather in a ritual that has taken place in the spring for centuries. Increasing in numbers at high tide every evening, the crabs reach their largest population on the evening of the full moon in May (after which their numbers quickly fade). (Ed. Note – not ALL of them fade away!)

Coastal researchers have been interested in this phenomenon for many decades. Each year local volunteers working with scientists from the US Fish and Game Commission, tag and count horseshoe crabs along the coastal bays and beaches around Delaware. Residents of Cadbury have helped with this project in recent years. Lead by Dean Hoover, Gary Showers and Tom Lord, the Cadbury team tagged several hundred horseshoe crabs during last year initiative. The tagging takes place over several evenings in the middle of May. If you think you might like to be a Cadbury horseshoe crab tagger, talk to Dean, Gary, or Tom to learn more about this project.

Tom Lord

Buy the Sea Gift Shop

We encourage all residents to stop in and look around the Gift Shop now and then. Look especially for our new eye-catching motif, the four-master Cutty Sark, donated by Bill Gehron and given cosmetic repairs by model ship-builder Woody Seamone, it adds quite impressive ambiance to the Gift Shop.

And when you stop, don't forget to pick up your favorite candy or ice cream treat; the latter are in more demand now that the weather has warmed. And now that a bit of dark chocolate every day is recommended by cardiologists, we have added that to our sweet stock.

Or perhaps you need a get well or thank you card, or any other kind, or run short of some toiletries, we may have something that matches your need.

Sales at the Buy the Sea Gift Shop have once again benefited from a very fine line of donations from residents, including many from our recently deceased residents Alyce Thomas and Jeanne & Jack Sparks. We also thank those residents whose contributions have come from scaling down their household belongings, and we remind others to keep the Gift Shop in mind when they run into objects they no longer find useful. Please note, however, that neither books nor items of clothing are accepted for sale in the Gift Shop. Books can be donated to the Cadbury at Lewes Library instead. Clothes should be donated to your favorite thrift shop.

Continue to keep an eye out for new collections of jewelry that will be going on sale over the next few months. And above all, if you think of things that you would like us to supply but are not presently on hand, do not hesitate to ask.

Ruth & Gil Kaufman

Cadbury Apiary

To bee or not to bee: That was the question. The residents of Cadbury at Lewes decided to bee.

First, we decided to build and maintain a productive observation honeybee hive to help turn around the dwindling supply of bees. In the past five years bee population numbers have been in a free fall. Second, we wished to insure an increase in the pollination of flowers, plants and produce in the greater Lewes area. For example, bees are crucial in pollinating more than 70 plants including a multiplicity of flowers and orchards from nuts to apples as well as such diverse items as watermelons or onions. Third, we desired to arrange programs around the hive to encourage residents and others – particularly school children – to learn about the life and culture of bees. Finally, we imagined that we could make use of the by-product honey in Cadbury's kitchen and perhaps someday sell it in Cadbury's in-house gift shop.

A hive recently was built in the Cadbury woodshop. It will be placed in the Library located

on the second floor in the central core of the Cadbury Community. The hive is a unique design built of wood with glass panels on two sides so observers can watch the bees at work. It stands about four feet tall with a small tube opening to the outside air, which allows the bees to leave the hive and return. Bees do not travel very fast – about 15 miles per hour tops – but they can cover an area of some 15 to 20 miles in radius. Thus, a colony such as Cadbury's can pollinate an extensive area. While the initial packet of bees numbers some 9,000, in a relatively short time that number can increase to 60,000 further enhancing their pollination area. A very active worker bee can reach about 2,000 flowers a day. This very busy life-style is important to the hive's well-being as the bees must produce some sixty pounds of honey from spring to fall to sustain the colony through the winter. That is about 100 eight ounce jars of honey on a grocery store shelf.

The hive needs some human attention to keep it in good working order. Cadbury's bees will be housed in-doors but when hive maintenance is required it will be moved out-doors before being opened for service. Thus, there will be no concern about loose bees inside Cadbury's walls.

It is fortuitous that among those living and working at Cadbury there are a few who have been involved in bee keeping operations. A major player in this respect is Dean Hoover who has taken a lead role in designing and constructing and now maintaining the hive. He believes "It will be an enjoyable experience for Cadbury residents and others year round". In addition, Cadbury's Executive Director, Carol Holzman and husband Neil, have prior beekeeping experience and are enthusiastic about the colony being a part of Cadbury and the greater Lewes Community.

There is much to report about the life of bees. Among other things are these impressive facts: Honeybees fly on every continent except Antarctica. Outside of the primate family the honeybee has the most complex symbolic language of any animal on earth. The queen honeybee, the largest bee, lays up to 2,000 eggs per day and may lay up to one million in her brief lifetime of some two years or so. The worker bees are female and the smallest bees.

They guard and maintain the hive and are the only honeybees that become field bees. They number in the thousands. They can sting but once they do so they die. The drones, the male bees, number some one hundred. They cannot sting and do no work except to fertilize the queen. Only five or six can do that and each explodes after the act. At summer's end the remaining drones are driven out of the hive so they cannot consume the honey supply over winter needed to keep the worker bees alive. They usually die when they leave the colony.

It is a fascinating story that Cadbury, through its adoption of a hive, hopes to keep alive in the days ahead. This will be one of six million beekeepers throughout the world who care for over fifty million bee colonies

William J. Gehron

BEE ALERT !

May 17, 2014.

Several thousand honey bees will descend on Cadbury at Lewes in the early afternoon, Saturday, May 17, to take up residence in the Apiary Observation Hive in the second floor Library.

We will gather at the main entrance hallway near the Bistro in early to midafternoon to welcome the new arrivals. This is an event you do not want to miss!

Bee sure to Bee there!

Tom Lord

CAL Wii Bowlers Hanging in There

Two teams from Cadbury at Lewes participated in the 2014 Wii National Senior League State and Regional Championships. The four players on the Wiizards team (Vi Cribb, Bill Gehron, Phyllis Mason, Jeane Wampler,; Bob Hein did not play) played in the "Elite 1 East" grouping and a second four (rotating Muffy Brown, Ann Erdman, Mike Mancuso, Grace Rork, Shirleen Thomas) on the Wiizards 2 team played in the "Elite 2 East" group. Each played one day a week for 7 weeks from February to April with play based on level of ability.

While neither team won in its conference both reached the playoffs for the 2014 Wii Bowl Regional Championships. Unfortunately, both failed to beat

their initial playoff opponents and so they have closed out their seasons. But they did hang in there by reaching the playoffs in a regional championship that saw 310 teams in competition.

A mention of hanging in there prompts the observation that our well of players is drying up. For this reason beginning in May, Wii bowling will not be set up on Thursdays or Saturdays until next September. However, anyone interested in playing for fun or in competition or both is always welcome. Your participation, if there is a Fall/Winter session, would be welcomed indeed.

That said, it has to be noted here that Wii bowling's future in general is an open question. While it is hoped it will continue as in the past from September through April, its creator and mentor, Bob Hein, has been on the sidelines during the 2014 winter/spring session. Whether he will resume his stewardship in the Fall is, at present, problematical. At the moment, if he does not do so, there is no heir apparent. Any interested takers? Stay tuned.

Bill Gebron

Who's Who at Cadbury

Adele Hudson Trout - Our CALRA President

CALRA president Adele Hudson Trout is a Lewes native - born at Beebe Hospital, the youngest of three children to Laurence and Rebecca Knapp. She graduated from Lewes High School, and married her high school love John W Hudson III just before beginning studies at the University Of Delaware where John was entering his sophomore year. Following John's graduation and extension studies at UD, he started a career at the U.S. Postal Service. In 1964, the Hudsons joined with several other families to form the MALCH Corp., where together they used sweat equity to renovate 22 properties in the Lewes area, including the former Lewes Theater and the Mary Carter Paint Store, the latter being where Adele and the children learned to tint paint, check inventory, and serve customers.

In 1969, Adele began a 34-year career with Delaware's Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, beginning as a docent at the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes. Over the years more responsibilities were added, and eventually Adele was selected to be Site Supervisor and Director of Operations for State operated Sussex County Museums and Historic Sites. Adele reports that a highlight of those responsibilities was visiting northeast USA maritime museums searching out ideas for Delaware's own Maritime Museum, a dream that may still come to reality.

During these years Adele also served other civic organizations, including being Co-Chair of Lewes' 350th Anniversary Celebration and serving on Lewes' Parks and Recreation Commission. For the past 11 years Adele has served on the Advisory Council of the Lewes After School Program (for at risk youth) and volunteers there two to three days a week.

While carrying out their careers, Adele and John raised four children, three of whom graduated from University of Delaware and the fourth from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. Eight grandchildren greatly enrich Adele's life these days.

Adele was nurtured by active Presbyterians, and she follows that lead, teaching Sunday School for 34 years at the Lewes Presbyterian Church. She was ordained as Elder in 1975 and remains active in the New Castle Presbytery (covering 53 Presbyterian churches in Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland). In 1991 she was elected Moderator of the Presbytery. Adele continues to work on several committees planning future Presbytery functions.

John Hudson passed away suddenly in 1988, and Adele charted a 24-yr course as a widow. In 2005 Adele acted on plans for a future at Cadbury at Lewes, and with great support from her extended family, joined other charter residents moving in in 2007, occupying Cottage 37.

And then something happened along the way to Adele's planned Cadbury future....she met and came to enjoy the company of another Cadbury resident, Douglas Trout.

In 2013, they married, and Adele moved from Cottage 37 to Apartment 224. Doug and Adele became an unbeatable team as president and vice president, respectively, of CALRA, and Adele took the leadership reins herself in 2012.



We are fortunate to have Adele as our CALRA president and she and Doug as fellow Cadbury at Lewes residents.

Gil Kaufman

Home-Making Life-Making in New Delhi:

A Journal, By Carolyn R. Christensen
October 7, 1993

Arrival: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, Oct 7, 1993

"Entry time: New Delhi !!! At last! After packing out and leaving Jakarta, a two month home leave with stops from Seattle to Washington, D.C., a three-day stop-over in London, and a seven and a half hour flight, we had arrived. Dirty and tired. Curt worried about what I would see, smell, and think in the airport and along the roads as I viewed India and its poverty for the first time. Wondering how we would find the way to our assigned residence we dragged ourselves through the airport.

A smiling face picked us out of the crowd. Neal Meriweather, USAIDEXO, responsible for housing, met us with a "facilitator," an Indian employed by USAID to help us through customs and immigration. We picked up our bags and stepping outside, breathed the air of our new country. It didn't smell of spice (particularly clove cigarettes) as Indonesia had, but it wasn't bad".....

"Friday, Oct 8, 1993: Today was orientation day. We were taught about safety, health, living in India, driving. But what we really need was an orientation on Indian electrical switches and security measures. We did figure out how to turn off nightlights and overhead lights and sidewall lights. What are all these switches for? In our bedroom I counted 19 switches, 1 dial, 10 plug-ins, and a curious switch."...
... (that was only one of their rooms)

Wednesday, October 13, 1993: "I don't know where the time has gone: I know I've unpacked, bought a couple of skirts to wear in this hot hot weather, shopped at the Commissary, gone to a small party at USAID met Curt's staff and seen his new office. I've walked around the neighborhood, marveled at the Brahmins and pigs on the street, looked at the Hindu temple next door, but mostly, I think, I have answered the telephones and the gate bell"....

"Thursday, October 14, 1993. I'm in the midst of reading Embassy USAID, and Community Liaison Office (CLO) orientation handbooks. I rest from these by reading fiction and nonfiction books on India like Gita Menta's book, *A River Sutra*. In it she weaves a story, set in the present, filled with myth, religion, poetry, gods, goddesses, and music. The richness of each page suggests how much I have to learn here, but it also reminds me of all the people I left in Jakarta. One of her characters, a Muslim mullah, says, 'such lives aet like water flowing through our lives. We learn something from the encounter, then they are gone. We never find them again.' Perhaps the same will be true of the people I meet here, and because of my Jakarta experience, perhaps I will be more aware of the fleeting and fragile nature of these encounters, prizing and appreciating them more. Why else travel? Why else read?" (Watch for more of these approx. 150 vignettes next newsletter?)

Cadbury is for the Birds

In our last newsletter, Don Wiedmann reported seeing snow geese gleaning food in the corn field with black geese. We were unable to identify these black birds. Since then found that the mystery birds were brants. They are smaller than the snow goose and fewer in numbers. They migrate from as far north as Greenland. They travel in smaller flocks than the snow geese. Brants winter in the mid-Atlantic coastline and prefer eating aquatic grasses, insects, crustaceans, in the marshes at low tide. They have learned that gleaning grasses from cornfields is good too.

Sharon Hover enjoys watching the house finch with its' bright red head and back. Barbara and Dick Cleaveland reported seeing the bright red male cardinal and the grayish buff female with a red the crest, wings and tail. Lois Nickerson and Jan Bendrick also have seen the pair. They are regular visitors at our feeders gleaning sunflower seeds from the ground since they do not use feeders. Lets' hope they will become permanent residents. Jim Sylvanus saw a hawk in his backyard looking for food. We believe it was a Cooper's hawk that feed on small mammals and birds. A couple weeks later we had a Cooper's hawk land on top of one of our birdhouses turning its' head from side to side looking for a bird. It finally took off without prey. Most birds seem to have a sense of when hawks are around and seek shelter. Lois Nickerson was visiting in our sunroom when a hawk landed on top of one of our bird - houses. Its' stay was short since no prey was visible. Near the end of April Lois saw a hawk circling high over the West Wing pond. The bird quickly dived down splashing into the pond and coming up with a frog or small fish in its talons. We guessed that it was an osprey by its behavior. Hawks usually prefer live prey such as frogs, fish, toads, rodents, reptiles, small mammals and birds.

The brown-headed cowbirds have returned. An article in the *Chesapeake Bay Journal*, notes that as a rule birders love birds. But, "the brown headed cowbird's behavior makes it a bird that is hard to love." They are 6 to 8 inches long. The male has a glossy black coat with a brown head.

The female is clad in grey and seems more innocuous. The brown-headed cowbirds are brood parasites. They build no nests and do not care for their young. The female is promiscuous taking multiple partners during mating season and can lay up to 36 eggs in a season. The female will seek out active nests where they can lay an egg. She may remove an egg from the nest to make room for her egg. Ornithologists found that cowbirds have laid eggs in nests of at least 200 different species. They estimate that their population has now reached 56 million. How do you feel about the brown-headed cowbirds now?

Breeding season is here. The male robins and mocking birds are singing away to attract a mate. The male goldfinch now has his bright yellow coat and black wing feathers to attract a mate. Some house sparrows have already built their nest. A pair of mallards has joined up and seems to be looking for a secure site for the lady to build a nest.

Last minute news comes from Elaine Connell who saw a green Heron in the west pond. And on the next day we saw a pair of bluebirds checking our vacant birdhouse. It would be great to have them stay.

Frances and Jim Bazzoli

IN MEMORIAM

John Ellis

Dorothy Isaacs

Josephine O'Hollaren

Estelle Smith

Jack Sparks

Pat Murphy - Receptionist

