

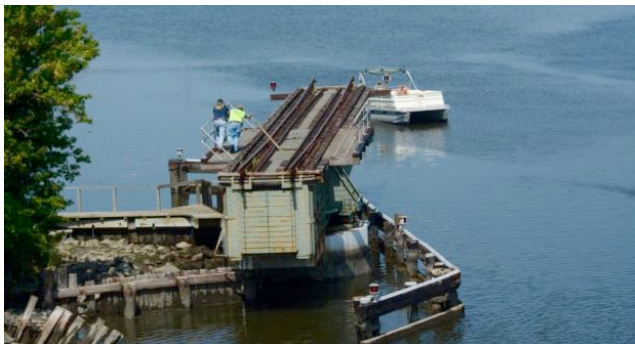
## The Demise of a Landmark

by Bill Gehron

For Delaware and more pointedly Lewes, a recent event issued a one two punch to the Lewes swing bridge and the railroad that uses it. The culprit in this two part drama is the swing bridge.

Until recently it was a special attraction that probably no other place in the U.S. or, for that matter, North America had — a working hand-cranked railroad bridge. Few were ever built and those that were, are no longer in active service. The Lewes bridge which spans the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal at the railroad's Gills Neck Road crossing has been in active service for a century. The swing bridge is now closed because the structure has settled some seven or eight inches and to repair that damage would be costly. Delaware's Department of Transportation (DelDOT), which oversees the span, estimates that some four plus million dollars would be needed to put it back in operation and given its very limited use these days that expense is simply not warranted.

It was used by Delaware Coast Line Railroad (DCLR) to reach the



The Lewes Swing Bridge in Action

only client on the line – SPI Pharma which is located near the entrance to the Cape Henlopen State Park. That company extracts minerals, which are used for medicinal purposes, from

Delaware Bay water. The preferred way of transporting it's products is by rail tank cars. Usually, the railroad averages three transports to the company per month using three tank cars on each trip. With the bridge now closed trucks are being used on a daily basis and the company's use of rail cars has come to an abrupt end. The failure of the structure has left three tank cars stranded at SPI Pharma.

To resolve the problem, DelDOT had planned to swing the bridge into its working posture one last time to permit the cars to be pushed back over the unstable span. However, that idea was dropped because the bridge footings are not able to support any further movement. Now, DelDOT plans to remove the cars by loading them by crane on to trailers and trucking them to a spot where they can be placed on rails on the other side of the canal. The bridge will then be

## President's Message

*from Gil Kaufman*



Well, it finally happened! At 12:01 AM on October 1, the affiliation agreement was officially implemented and Cadbury has entered the sphere of Springpoint Senior Living (SSL). At this writing it is very early in the affiliation, but as David Woodward (Senior VP of SSL) reported to us on November 7, a great deal of positive activity is already underway.

Much of that activity is behind the scenes and so largely invisible to us, but it is extremely important and, in my book, all in the plus column. A number of Springpoint personnel from different disciplines have been on site working on such diverse things as: upgrading digital health records, purchasing and accounting practices; strengthening employee programs to enable us to keep the best people; and sharpening our marketing tools, including adding new hooks in our website and social media site to attract new residents.

So, yes, we all still have a lot of questions about just how we, as individual residents, will be affected as the affiliation moves forward. Based upon what we have learned so far from David Woodward and the several

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**BOARD MEETS** 2nd Monday  
**GENERAL MEETINGS**  
3rd Monday

## President's Message *continued from page 1*

opportunities I have had to discuss the affiliation with him, I have pretty high confidence that Cadbury's affiliation with Springpoint will be a benefit to our residents in the long run. And from everything I see and hear, I believe both Carol Holzman, our Executive Director, and David as her Springpoint managing director are committed to the enhancement of our life experience here at Cadbury. It will be very interesting to watch and, perhaps, challenging at times to see how it unfolds.

Two issues seem to be uppermost on resident's minds early on and rest assured your president and Board of Directors are doing everything we can to positively impact these.

The first is our name. You may be interested to know if you did not see the Springpoint news release on the Linked-in website that their affiliation was described as with "Cadbury Senior Lifestyles, Lewes," which has been our formal title under Cadbury Senior Services. So Springpoint does not appear to be rushing to change our name. But do not be surprised if it winds up being something like "Springpoint's Cadbury Senior Lifestyles at Lewes." Someday it may even have to become something like "Springpoint's Senior Living at Lewes," but only because of Springpoint's

desire to avoid being linked with the old Cadbury Cherry Hill facility in their New Jersey territory (which unfortunately still carries the Cadbury name too).

The other issue of visible concern — how the transition of the fiscal year from Cadbury-Lewes' April 1 - March 31 to Springpoint's calendar year, January 1 - December 31 will affect us. First, there will be a monthly fee increase on January 1, 2018 rather than the old date of April 1, 2018. But this 3-month bit of overlap is a necessary part of getting us on the Springpoint fiscal year, and will only happen once this year, never again. There will not be any further increase on April 1, 2018. Fee changes will always be on January 1 for the foreseeable future.

At this writing the final figures on the increase are not available, but David Woodward has assured us that Springpoint is aware of the sensitivity of this transition and will do their best to accommodate our residents in how it is administered. Stay tuned.

So Springpoint will bring some changes, but we should try to remain focused on the long-run future here at our outstanding CCRC facility known today as Cadbury Senior Lifestyle at Lewes.

*Enjoy this fall weather and the coming of the holiday season.*



## Lip Bites

### ❖ NEW CALRA BOARD MEMBER

Tom Reed has replaced Frank Dynan as Assistant Treasurer.

### ❖ DEAN HOOVER, WOOD WORKER

Dean Hoover showed off his wood crafts in the Quiet Room in September as part of the annual Lewes Artists Studio Tour. About 60 visitors came to see his work, meet and talk to him and purchase items.

### ❖ A CADBURY COTTAGE

The Cadbury cottage of Jane Hood and Joe Boyle was featured in the October issue of *Beach Life*. The illustrations showcased many of their antiques and collectibles against a background of brightly painted walls and woodwork.

### ❖ JIGSAW PUZZLES

Those large jigsaw puzzles that wind up unused in the craft room, are finding a welcome home at the Seamen's Center of Wilmington. They are given to crews of visiting merchant vessels at the Port of Wilmington for the sailors use while at sea.

### ❖ CELL PHONE TIP

Do you ALWAYS get a busy signal when calling certain cell phones? Jim McMullen has gotten that complaint occasionally since moving from Wilmington. He checked his settings and all the other things that were recommended, but still no luck.

Jim reports, "I think I have finally found the answer. You must key in the Area Code. Why? The complaints usually come from folks using landline phones. My cell phone number was assigned in Wilmington, therefore it is not recognized as a local number on the landline system in Sussex County. Making the Area Code part of the number you dial seems to solve the issue!

### ❖ PULL THAT CORD

The Wellness Committee reminds residents that if you have an emergency and pull the emergency cord, you must pull it **STRAIGHT** down for it to work properly.

### ❖ RESTAURANT TRIPS

The Activities Committee Asks for Your Help!

The on-going practice of removing your name from a list, late on the same day of the event, when it will leave one person to go to restaurant alone has become too common. Please "Let your conscience be your guide". Look over the sheet and see if you really need to or should cross off. You would not want to be the one left to go eat alone, would you?

### ❖ CADBURY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We've been practicing for our Christmas program since September. It's hard to catch the spirit when it is 75 degrees outside but we do manage to learn and enjoy the new selections. This year we have added "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" or better known as "Hippo the Hero." Jerry Birl, our director,

said that only a young children's choir or a senior citizens chorus could get away with that one! It is delightful and fun and probably the most difficult we have yet undertaken.

We also have added another lively Hanukkah selection, "Hanukkah, Season of Joy." And "Little Jack Frost" just won't get lost but if he did we would be looking for something else to sing about, so we're going to keep it in the program.

Please join us as we go "Over the River and Through the Woods" to Grandmother's house for a Christmas party! Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium with refreshments to follow.

### ❖ CADBURY CREATES/ CADBURY CELEBRATES

Every year residents, staff and Cadbury-at-Homers showcase their artistic creations. This year the opening day is Friday, November 17 from 3 to 5 pm with the show continuing through Friday, December 29 from 10 am - 5 pm. Some items will be for sale while others will be for display only. Featured in the "Lend-A-Hand" display are gifts made for charitable groups in this country and abroad.

### ❖ CALRA'S COMPUTER

CALRA maintains a computer in the craft room for the use of all residents. Recently it has undergone major upgrading by Communications Committee. Instructions are being fine tuned to help make it more user friendly. Everyone is welcome to try it out. Come and check out the dinner menu on the CALRA web site.

## Nature at Cadbury

by Jean Woolley



### BUTTERFLIES

This year seemed to be a difficult one for the monarch butterflies. A few were spotted in the butterfly garden soon after the release but there was no consistency in the following weeks as to when they might visit. Neighbors close to the west pond had visitors to gardens with nectar and host plants such as asclepias, liatris, aster and joe pye weed. Larvae were spotted on milkweed and a few pupae (chrysalides) formed on siding in protected areas. Unfortunately, some of the emerging monarchs had problems. Unable to inflate and dry their wings, they did not survive.

Parsley flowers in a pot provided a welcoming place for spicebush butterflies to lay eggs. A dozen or more larvae grew big and fat while consuming the leaves and stems of the parsley. The chrysalis of this butterfly is very different from the chrysalis of the monarch. The monarch chrysalis looks like a hanging jade jewel with adornment of golden droplets. The spicebush butterfly forms a chrysalis that resembles a curled up dead leaf. We saw the last of these larvae at the beginning of October. We did not see any spicebush butterflies after the original eggs were laid on the parsley.

A request was put forth at our September afternoon exchange for more milkweed to be planted in the butterfly garden. This plant is essential to the survival of monarch butterflies because it is the host plant for the larvae. The chemicals in milkweed are what make the monarch butterflies undesirable to birds.

Marianne Jarvis and Jeter noticed many butterflies flitting around the butterfly garden in early October. These were painted lady butterflies. They resemble monarchs but are smaller and are not toxic to birds. Nature helps them out by giving them coloring like that of monarchs, perhaps in hopes of discouraging birds from enjoying them as a snack.

### BIRDS

Jim and Frances Bazzoli had a visit in late September from a sharp-shinned hawk. He showed up four times around 5 pm to sit in their birdbath and observe the surroundings. This small hawk is a woodland raptor and is very good at capturing small birds in flight.

Enjoy the different kinds of wildlife and plants as the seasons change. Please let me know if you observe something that you would like to share with our Cadbury community.

## Upcoming Programs

by Ron Gerber

*Programs are held in the Kalmar Nyckel Auditorium at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted*

### **An Evening with Kevin Fleming** **Tuesday, November 21**

Delaware native Kevin began his career as a newspaper photographer after attending Wesley College. He spent a decade as a National Geographic photographer taking him to 28 countries and all 50 states.

He is probably most familiar to us for his stunning photographs of historic Delaware and the beauty and diversity of Delaware. His visit will give us a preview of his latest book, *The Beach*, which captures the wildlife, nature and beauty of coastal Delaware.

### **Cadbury Chorus** **Sunday, December 17**

Organized in 2011, The chorus currently has 22 singers under the creative direction of Jerry Birl, Music Director of Sussex Academy and organist at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Rehoboth Beach.

See Carol Bishop's preview of the program on the Lil' Bites page.

### **Voices of Praise Gospel Choir** **Tuesday, December 19**

We welcome back this group of Cape Henlopen High School students. Under the guidance of teacher and advisor William Waters, these energetic young adults will offer an evening of stirring and inspiring gospel music.

### **Inside the Kremlin and Royal Palaces of Russia** **Tuesday, January 16**

Presented by Gil Kaufman, who from 1988-1993 was the United States representative to the International Committee on Scientific and Technical Information. This took him to Russia several times and thanks to the Russian representative on the Committee, he was able to visit many of the buildings inside the Kremlin, not usually open to the public and also some of the royal palaces in St. Petersburg.



# The Kimer Oak Tree

by Richard Thomas

A piece of wood from The Kilmer Oak will be on display in the showcase in the Lobby during the month of November.

The wood is from the 200 year old White Oak Tree which was the inspiration for the poem *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer. It had a 120 foot limb spread and was located on the Rutgers University Labor Education Center south of Douglass College in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The tree died of old age and was removed by 5 tree surgeons approximately 30 years ago.

My family had a friend who worked in the Maintenance Department at Rutgers and when the tree was removed he was allowed to take a limited amount of the wood

and gave me one piece. It was stored in my garage in New Jersey for about ten years and then to my garage at a new home in Edgewater Estates, Lewes, DE where it rested for another 20 years before we moved to Cadbury.

Joyce Kilmer wrote *Trees* while a student at Rutgers University from 1904 through 1906. Joyce Kilmer was an American writer and poet, born in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1886.

Many of us are familiar with this poem, published in 1913.

## TREES

By Joyce Kilmer

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is  
pressed  
Against the sweet earth's flowing  
breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.*



## Rathskeller Ramblings

by Jim McMullen

At last writing I was bemoaning the fact that there was no home brew in stock, but that help was on the way in the form of a hearty Scottish ale. Good news, it has been bottled and is aging very nicely. The sharpness of newly bottled ale has mellowed down nicely, but it is a little weak in carbonation. I've been visiting family and a goodly part went with me. But there is still enough for us to enjoy at upcoming Happy Hours. I'm always interested in your opinions.

My latest effort, an India Black Ale, went into fermentation in late October. It should be ready for Christmas. The flavor comes largely from a dark-roasted malted grain and a dark malt extract that tastes much like the black molasses used in cookies and shoo-fly pie. Additionally there are three varieties of hops to counter the sweetness. The taste and flavor early-on is very well-balanced and the hops are not overpowering as in most India ales. The taste could change during fermentation and bottle aging. It will be interesting to watch this batch evolve. We'll enjoy it in January.



An autumn creature greets visitors at Cottage 41, home of Floyd and Sarah Flood.

# Inside the Cadbury Kitchen

by Marianne Jarvis



From the Cadbury Scrapbook: A 2009 picture of Ingrid dishing up delectables in Cadburys kitchen

Recently several members of the Dining Committee enjoyed a tour of the Cadbury commercial kitchen where Jeff Smith, Director of Dining Services, and his staff prepares and serves all meals and food services for the following Cadbury resident communities (estimated meal counts may vary per occupancy and Independent Living residents dine-in preferences): Independent Living -116; Assisted Living/Memory Care -34; Skilled Care -38; Catering / Special Events - per bookings

We were met in the Bistro and led us through the rear door of the Bistro (behind the register) that connects directly into the kitchen. On our right were 2 large stainless walk-in refrigerators filled with produce, eggs and various stored fresh food. Just past the refrigerators was the stainless walk-in freezer. As we stepped into each of the three cooling units for a closer look inside, I noted the efficient storage and organization of all food items and the cleanliness of all the wall and floor surface areas. In the center of the kitchen, the hub of daily activity was already underway by noon at the prep sinks, tables, commercial ranges and ovens.

On the day we visited, several cooks were busy prepping and partially roasting 3 large pork loins to the degree necessary to allow the dinner cook to finish cooking them when it was ordered that evening.

There were no food or supplier truck deliveries during our tour. Our guide explained how time-sensitive the actions of all the kitchen team must be to transfer perishables from truck to storage quickly. No small task since the overall kitchen area is not large and very tight for any major maneuvers of people or shipments. Overall I experienced positive energy and attitude with each member of the kitchen or dining staff we met that day. Our guide was very pleasant experienced and professional. If similar small group tours are offered again, I recommend it.

I confess it was not my first time in a commercial production kitchen. Once upon a time, I worked for 2 national food service companies. It is a creative fun industry but not easy with constant challenges from trying to recruit and retain stable kitchen and wait-staff teams, planning menus, ordering, budgeting, and at Cadbury, complying with the unique regulatory institutional requirements for healthcare food service providers.

*Bon Appetit!*

## BUY-THE-SEA GIFT SHOP

*Clear recycling trash bags*  
*for cottages and apartments*  
*Gifts, jewelry, watches*  
*Greeting cards*  
*Hearing aid batteries*  
*Cadbury logo items*  
*Toiletries, sundries*  
*Candy, ice cream*  
*Snapple, Coke*  
*Stamps*

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## Library Lines

### A New Collection

by Judy Burgess

Our Cadbury Library has been given about 80 bird books by the Sussex Bird Club and a book shelf on which to hold these. More information about this group can be found at [www.sussexbirdclub.com](http://www.sussexbirdclub.com).

One of the more interesting volumes is *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. This field book has many accurate drawings of all varieties to help identify your sightings. Some of the illustrations show the underside of the birds, to assist you when you see

them in flight. Published by the National Audubon Society, the descriptions provide maps to show the locations common to these birds.

From these books you can learn that our Snow Geese breed on Arctic lands in northern Canada and visit us during the winter months. One hundred years ago their population declined dangerously and efforts were made to protect the species. Hunting was forbidden. Recently their numbers have skyrocketed and are now one of the most abundant waterfowl in North America. The darker colored geese that you see amongst our flocks are often juveniles, that will lighten as they mature.

A special thanks to the people of the Sussex Bird Club. If you see any of their members in our Library, please welcome them; and do feel free to make use of any of the books they have provided for us.

## A Library Lines

### Book Review

by Elsie Gould



### *The Nightingale*

by Kristin Hannah

As the shorter, chilly gray days of late autumn set in you may want to seek escape by venturing to the Cadbury Library in search of diversion and entertainment. Look for a new addition to our shelves which spent many months on the Bestseller lists, *The Nightingale*, written by Kristin Hannah who really knows how to drive action and interest in a dramatic way.

The book's setting is France at the onset of the Second World War continuing into the Nazi occupation of Paris and the small villages of the countryside, most particularly the Loire Valley village where Vianne, one of two sisters, lived a quiet life of contentment and fulfillment with her family until the upheaval occasioned by the arrival of German troops.

The second sister is Isabelle, a rebellious and passionate 18-year-old who is swept up in the dramatic and dangerous activities of the Resistance movement, serving in many capacities as courier and escort of Allied pilots through the occupied zone

into the rugged terrain of the Pyrenees to the neutrality of Spain.

The interest of the novel is enhanced not only by the adventures of the principal characters but also by well-drawn descriptions of the multiple secondary characters who enrich the tale and help to recreate the atmosphere and privations of wartime France. The choices forced upon a subjugated populace are poignant and terrible, causing us to evaluate what our actions might be in similar circumstances.

*The Nightingale* was a selection of our book club that received quite a ringing endorsement from our readers. I hope that you, too, will find pleasure in its pages.



### *In Memoriam*

Mary Ann Iverson (08/28/2017)

Renee Boving (09/10/2017)

Henry (Harry) Shearman (10/05/2017)

Jack Carroll (10/16/2017)



## Have Fun, Do Good — Volunteer

If you have not yet had the pleasure of getting to meet new friends through taking advantage of volunteering for one of our CALRA Committees you might consider it.

**BY-THE-SEA GIFT SHOP** At the moment, the Buy-the-Sea Gift Shop is in need of new volunteers. The Library and Dining Services Committees are also looking for new recruits, including those with opinions and ideas to contribute.

Buy-the-Sea Gift Shop supports the CALRA community by supplying easily accessible useful items for personal needs as well as providing a means for residents to re-channel treasures they no longer use, need or have space for. Profits from the shop are contributed to the CALRA treasury to subsidize resident activities.

Recently our roster of shop volunteers has decreased and we currently are in real need of new volunteers to serve in the shop. The responsibilities are not onerous — a two-hour weekly stint in the shop where pleasant interactions with customers and drop-in-for-a-chat friends passing are usual.

If you can provide reinforcements to our roster of helpers, please contact: Judy Seamone (5C), Gil Kaufman (9C) or Llywella Stuchlik (210E). Training can be arranged at your convenience.

You may start off as a substitute to fill in for a "regular" who has a conflict with the usual schedule or you may be needed to shop for items needed on our shelves. Perhaps you can fill one of the available slots immediately or help in one capacity or another as needed.

Do remember, too, to check the nether regions of your closets and storage areas for treasures you are no longer willing to shuffle around. We are quite successful in finding new homes for your generous donations and we are appreciative of your help.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE** The Library Committee is looking for book lovers willing to help shelve returned books, take our Assisted Living book cart around to the health center and exchange books on coffee tables in the Community Building. Contact

## Cadbury Bees And The Eclipse

By Dean Hoover

I received an email suggesting we monitor the bees response to the eclipse. I thought the best way to do that was to monitor the activity in the entrance tube for the observation hive in the library. I am practiced at counting bees returning over a timed interval so that is what I did. There are two entrances but I counted returns in the most active entrance. 1 PM to 4 PM bounds the time of the eclipse in Lewes. The counts dropped off during the eclipse but rebounded afterward. The counts are bees returning per minute.

Time.	Bees /min
1:20.	120
2:00.	82
2:15.	83
2:45.	81
3:05.	56
3:35.	85
4:05.	200+

At 4:00 the activity was so great the entrance so filled with bees returning that there was no possibility of counting. That number is just a guess. The bees were heavily loaded with pollen.

So it appears to me that the bees did have a response to the eclipse. Since I counted bees returning I anticipated a more delayed reaction. Could the huge number after the eclipse be caused by bees hunkered down just waiting for the sun to come out to return home? Who knows?

Judy Burgess (18C) or Mildred Wiedmann (27C) if you are interested in learning more.

**DINING COMMITTEE** The Dining Services Committee is also looking for new members of their committee. The Committee discusses issues about the food services with the Dining Services director and recommends changes. They also aid in planning special dining events such as those for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Contact Corinne Lehman (116W) if you are interested.

## The Demise...

*continued from page 1*

permanently closed ending a 144 year history of railroads in Lewes.

The bridge will be removed and DelDOT has indicated it will explore options for preserving it in an offsite location. DelDOT will decide on dates for decommissioning of the bridge and rail line. Thus, the one two punch, which both the rail operators and SPI Pharma have accepted, will have the bridge gone and that section of the rail line that runs from Cool Spring near Georgetown to Lewes

decommissioned. Current plans have the line transformed into a Lewes to Georgetown bike path. In any case, given this unique occasion, it might be timely to review a history of both the railroad and bridge.

First, a bit of Delaware railroad history. Delaware's rail lines were one of the nation's first. Even today, while it has the fewest rail miles of any state, its rail traffic remains vital to the Northeast Corridor. The 18 mile Georgetown-Lewes rail line is a part of that picture. Established in 1869, the DCLR appeared just after the Civil War so at an age of almost 150 years it is as much a historical entity as the bridge. It was initially known as the Junction and Breakwater Railroad (J&B). Over the years following changes in name and ownership the result is the short line DCLR. As the name implies a short line railroad operates over a short distance. It is one of some 560 short lines in the country. They exist for several reasons – to link two industries like a coal mine and a power plant, to operate as a tourist

### *Cadbury resident Elsie Gould recalls watching the BIG GUN cross the swing bridge —*

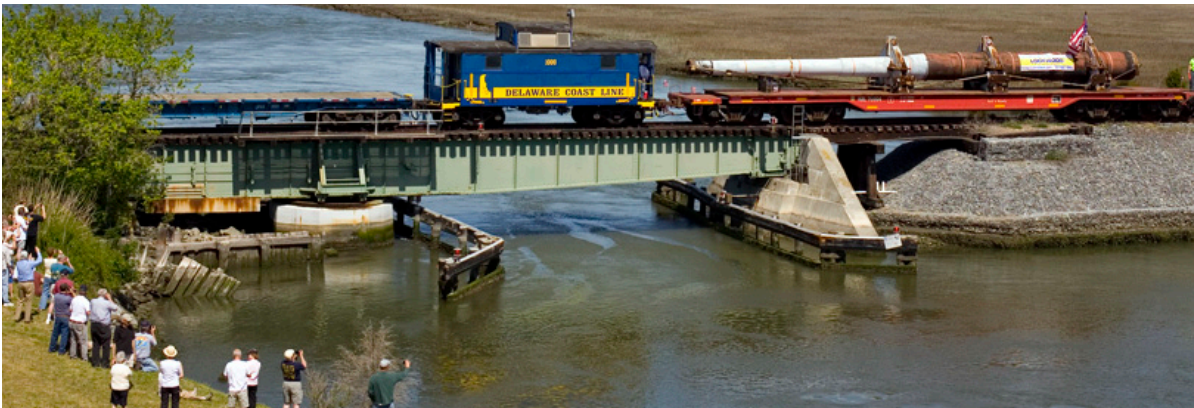
A timetable had been posted, so I was determined to go down and eyewitness history and view the transit. Actually I was more interested in seeing the swing bridge in action. Greatly encouraged by a beautiful sunny spring day and incredibly blue skies, I faced the dilemma of where to find a parking space down by the bridge. Fortune smiled upon me and I found a place to get the car off the road surface that wasn't too illegal, so I was able to go join the small crowd that had convened for this momentous occasion.

Cheers went up as the train, flying the stars & stripes atop the big gun, approached. It came to a halt and a couple of trainmen jumped down and proceeded to manually crank the swing bridge into place so that the gun's progress to its final destination could resume. I was impressed to note that several families had brought their children to witness a local milestone. I was satisfied to have had a novel experience — seeing a manually-operated swing bridge!

system or to interchange traffic with a larger rail system. Essentially, the DCLR operates in the latter category.

There were exceptions to the normal activity of the DCLR having hauled tank cars to and from the SPI Pharma. A memorable one, some five years ago, involved moving a 66'6" gun barrel from the USS Missouri. It arrived via a larger rail line in Georgetown from Cape Charles, Va. From there the DCLR carried it to Cape Henlopen State Park across the swing bridge to just outside its eventual resting place at Fort Miles. The 120 ton gun barrel was one of nine on the ship.

The ship is now a museum based at Pearl Harbor near the USS Arizona Memorial. The ship, roughly three football fields long and weighing some 45,000 tons, served to accommodate the surrender ceremony of Japan ending the war in the Pacific. It saw action in World War II, the Korean War and conflicts in the Middle East.



The big gun from the USS Missouri on its way to Fort Miles. It crossed the swing bridge on April 19, 2012

Fort Miles batteries used the same 16 inch guns to protect Delaware Bay during World War II. They can fire a 2,700 pound armor piercing shell 20 miles. The

*Continued on page 10*

## The Demise... *continued from page 9*

addition of the gun represented a missing piece of the Fort Miles arsenal. To those concerned, the rail movement of the gun had no effect on the bridge's failure. Rapid currents and recent storms were ultimately the cause.

But back to why it put in place in Lewes and why a hand-cranked swing bridge.

The operation of the railroad was initially spurred by the transportation of seafood and agricultural products both on the East and West banks of the Lewes canal. Later, it moved fish oil all of which was processed on the east side of the canal around Cape Henlopen. Lewes was a choice spot for the bridge's construction since it was located just outside the Cape where all this action took place.

The Lewes swing bridge was erected in 1916 as



**Closing the swing bridge**

part of the construction of the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal which began in 1912 by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The 12 mile long canal was built as part of the inland water way and it followed the

natural course of Lewes Creek. In 1915, when the canal reached the existing railroad bridge, the rail owners submitted a proposal to the Corps to construct the swing bridge. It came into being following its fabrication by the American Bridge Company in its Pennsylvania shops. The bridge has been historically significant as a surviving example of a working swing span railroad bridge.

Why the swing span bridge? They were commonly used for narrow waterways where the off-center pivot pier caused less of a channel obstruction. Why a hand-cranked system? However, in 1916 the use of manpower as opposed to a machine where possible was rather common. Certainly, it was cheaper to build and that would appeal to a railroad that was operating on a tight

budget. The fact of its limited use was also a likely consideration. In hand-cranking the bridge to either an open or closed position the job could be done with no time restraints by the railroad hands. Also, such an arrangement would cut down on maintenance requirements.

Thus, two men walked in circles at the top center of the bridge manually pushing a capstan located on the deck. It probably took about five or so minutes and some 20 turns to move the bridge 90 degrees to either an open or closed position. The bridge normally was left open resting on the west bank where rail crews mounted or dismount the bridge from the bank. In this position, it leaves a wider channel for boats only to be closed with the approach of rather infrequent railroad traffic. The bridge had an overall length of 91 feet and a deck width of about 17 feet.

The span is formally described as a center bearing bobtail swing span. Of recent days, only Lewes could claim to have an operating one. Although it is only a small metal structure spanning a narrow canal in a small town in the first state, it was a state treasure. Now, with its operation closed down, it will be but a brief story in history books.

There is one positive aspect to all this: Although the Lewes to Georgetown rail line will no longer be in commission, DCLR maintains that its remaining 14 or so miles of Line will continue operating to serve present and future clients.

This is an on-going story. Stay tuned.



Carl & Diane Bair  
moved into Apartment  
240 on September 29

Naomi Lowe moved into  
Cottage 2 on October 13.

Jeannette Lee moved into  
Apartment 108 on  
September 29

Ruth Morton moved into  
Apartment 227 on  
October 30