



THE LEGACY

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2017, Volume 54, Number 2

DAVID'S NATURAL MARKET - CELEBRATING OVER 40 YEARS OF NATURAL FOODS IN WILDE LAKE AS COLUMBIA TURNS 50

BY JOAN M. KASURA

The year 1971 marked the opening of two, yet distinct, retail ventures – the Mall in Columbia, which Jim Rouse had envisioned as the Main Street for the new town he was building on 14,000 acres of farmland in Howard County, and Nature's Cupboard of Love, a natural food store that originated in Glen Burnie, Maryland. The latter represented Dennis London's own vision of how to improve the depressing food choices he dealt with daily working for his father as a wholesale food broker for the major grocery chains in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Described as "true hippies" by their son David, Dennis and Nancy London marketed foods without all the additives and added sugar common to the grocery offerings of that era. The success of their initial store encouraged them to begin looking for other locations to open additional stores. They found it in 1974, when London, impressed with the way Columbia was laid out, moved his family to Wilde Lake, and opened a second store in the Long Reach Village Center. Just over a year later, Dennis London realized that "the town center area [around



the Mall] was the up and coming place to be in Columbia," said his son, David; and, in 1976, London moved his store to the Wilde Lake Village Center.

At only 1,000 square feet, the Columbia location of Nature's Cupboard of Love didn't have enough room to be a full service grocery store. Yet, they still offered an extensive selection of bulk items in crocks, and served soup and sandwiches from a juice bar.

David London, then at Wilde Lake High School, worked in his parents' store most springs and summers as often as he could. The differences in attitudes about food between then and now, David recalled, were pretty stark. "We were ridiculed in high school for what we ate.

For example, I stopped eating refined sugar at 16 and now it's mainstream."

After graduating from the University of Maryland in the early 1980s, David took over the management of his parents' third store in Baltimore's Village of Cross Keys, while continuing to help his parents in the other two stores. But, in 1986, as the lingering recession of the Reagan years continued to sap the vitality out of the natural foods industry, David's parents decided it was time to leave their business of 15 years.

David, now fully immersed in the natural foods industry, wanted to keep at least one of his parents' stores going. Originally set on taking over the Village

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HCHS MUSEUM

8328 Court Ave., Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
(Formerly First Presbyterian Church)
(410) 480-3250

Hours: Friday, Saturday and Sunday:
1:00 – 5:00 P.M.

www.hchsm.org

HCHS LIBRARY

New location: The Charles Miller Branch Library and Historical Center
9421 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
(410) 480-3250 (voice)

Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 1:00-8:00 P.M.
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1:00- 5:00 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
STEVE CASTRO



On June 3, 2017, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., the Howard County Historical Society (HCHS) is presenting the Strangers in the Night, 1950s Cocktail Party. This event is the major summer fund raiser for HCHS and is supported by many generous companies, individuals and organizations in Howard County.

We have many returning sponsors from last year; however, we are always looking for new sponsors who can help in many ways.

Individuals or companies can sponsor some of our entertaining programs from Big Daddy (\$7500), Classic Crooner Lounge (\$5000), Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (\$2000) or Daddy-O Patio (\$1000).

We encourage sponsorship at any level and in-kind services. There are many benefits to supporting our event including: tax deductible donation, onsite sponsor boards, intense marketing and advertising through electronic and social media and our Legacy newsletter, free membership to HCHS and free tickets to the event depending on the sponsor level.

If you are willing to sponsor or donate to these programs, please contact Shawn Gladden, Executive Director, at 410-480-3250. If you cannot sponsor a program, then please buy tickets and join us for the exciting evening we have planned.

Tickets are available online at our website www.hchsmd.org or visit our offices at the Miller Branch Library, second floor, 9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, Md. 21042 to purchase tickets. Credit cards and checks will be accepted. If you have questions, please call 410-480-3250 or email info@hchsmd.org.

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SEND US YOUR ARTICLES

Anyone interested in contributing articles or photographs or anything of interest to the Society, please call the Library at 410-480-3250 or email [Janet Kusterer at janetkusterer@verizon.net](mailto:janetkusterer@verizon.net)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

SHAWN GLADDEN

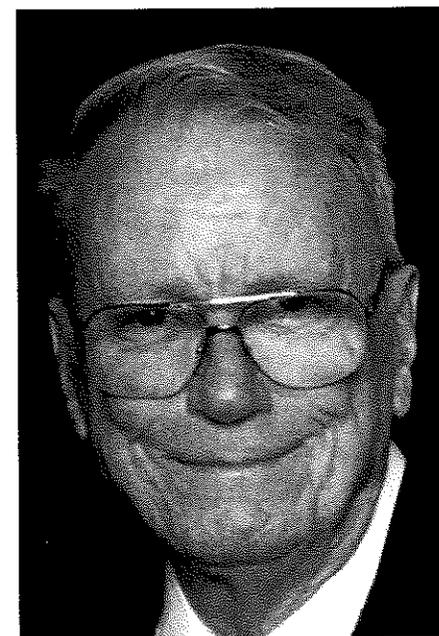


Usually, my quarterly Executive Director's report focuses on what exciting programs we have going on or events at the museum. This issue, I will be focusing on two members of the HCHS family that we recently lost: longtime volunteer Ralph Adams and Museum Manager Dustin Linz.

Ralph Adams was one of the original volunteers when the archives were moved to the Miller Branch Library from historic Ellicott City in 2011. He would graciously volunteer his time once a week, in addition to his volunteer work for the Miller Branch Library, working on organizing our vertical files. He was always a pleasure to see and work with. Ralph was born on March 29, 1929 in Philadelphia, PA and passed away on March 19th at the age of 87, at St. Agnes Hospital.

Dustin Linz (1993-2017) was a valued and admired member of the Howard County Historical Society. He came to us as an intern in 2013 and through his hard work and dedication he was promoted to the manager role at the Museum. His enthusiasm and interest in history allowed him to blossom and grow at HCHS. He was instrumental in developing our Jewish Howard County Exhibit, a project that he embraced while working on Jewish history projects through his Museum Studies program at UMBC. The Jewish Howard County Exhibit which also featured the Patapsco River settlement known as Yazoor, brought Dustin some local notoriety as he was featured in an article in the Howard County Times. Dustin also was responsible for the 1800's baseball game that we held at Mt. Ida for our Hometown Teams promotion in 2015. Prior to his passing, he was working on the upgrade to our Civil War exhibit, which we will finish in his honor. He became an integral part of our family and has left his fingerprint on so many projects, exhibits, special programs and especially our hearts.

Dustin was a joy to know. His laughter and jovial manner was such a positive influence on us all. He was a friend to everyone, a focused educator to our visitors, a sensitive soul and was always there to help like "a boy next door". His memory will remain forever engrained in our Museum, in our work and in our hearts. There is so much more that I can say about this very special young man who was more than just my pupil, he was my good friend. As I wipe the tears from my eyes as I write this, I remember all the goofy pranks and fun we had at the Museum, like the time I made him participate in the mascot race outside of the museum, or how much he hated cleaning the bathroom at the Museum, or the pizza boxes that he would leave in the basement of the Museum. There will never be another Dustin Linz, but we at HCHS and the Museum of Howard County History will push on and keep giving the best Museum experience that we can in his honor...that's what Dustin would have wanted us to do. RIP my friend. ♣



DUSTIN LINZ (TOP AND MIDDLE) AND RALPH ADAMS (BOTTOM.)

EDITOR'S NOTE

JANET KUSTERER

"It's all in Columbia..." Do you remember that catchy jingle from way back when the Columbia Mall opened? I sure do. I remember visiting the Mall, going to Woodie's, and the fabulous toy store, and the Chinese restaurant (before

there was a food court!) I even remember a needlepoint store. And of course the trip to the Mall took you through the developing neighborhoods of the fledgling Columbia community. It's hard to believe that all started 50 years ago, but it is certainly an excellent thing to celebrate. The Historical Society will be observing the birthday along with everyone else,

marking the occasion with articles in *The Legacy* (enjoy the one on David's Natural Market in these pages) and with a special exhibit on Columbia at the Howard County Fair this year. It's not often you get the opportunity to watch a wonderful town sprout and grow before your eyes. Let's salute all of Columbia's stellar contributions to our county. ♣

BESSIE LEE GAMBRILL

THE FIRST FEMALE PROFESSOR AT YALE UNIVERSITY

STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

BY PAULETTE LUTZ



“She frequently descends from her heights to direct the affairs of mortals, and is never so happy as when managing her less gifted classmates.” – Aloha, so noted the 1902 Western Maryland College (WMC) Aloha year book of Bessie Lee Gambrill. “Gifted, intelligent and passionate Bessie left a lasting impression wherever she went.”

Her first impression in college was indeed, a lasting one according to the Aloha, “Bessie arrived late when she entered college in her Freshman year – and she has been late at everything ever since. She always sleeps during study hour, never studies during the term, crams nights before exams and generally makes tens (A). Bess is a whole-hearted, noble girl, and has many friends.”

Only 15 years old when she started at WMC on a scholarship; she intended to be a doctor like her father. Daughter of well-known Dr. William B. Gambrill and Mary Elizabeth Nichols Gambrill, the Gambrill family dates to the 17th century in Howard County.

Born January 30, 1883 in Alberton (now Daniels) Howard County, she left the country life for college to pursue a medical career; however, the only careers open to women at the turn of the century were teaching and missionary work. Her years at college were productive and exciting. The Aloha had many entertaining comments – “Bess is one of our small girls, but never allows herself to be overlooked on account of her size. English is her strong point...Bess has a mania for writing, and the pages of the Monthly overflows with her effusions poetic, dramatic and otherwise. Her hair, and her room in particular, as a rule present an appearance of poetic disorder.” Despite her small size, she also covered



THE RELAY SCHOOL

the basketball court as a right guard.

Graduating Summa Cum Laude at 19 from WMC in 1902, Bessie returned home and lived on Forrest Street in Ellicott City with her parents while teaching in a one-room school house in Relay. She was a dedicated teacher with the education of, and her relationships with her students as her major focus. She directed Vaudeville and minstrel shows at Relay for the students; the proceeds of which were used for special musical programs. The Relay school built in 1864, closed in 1920.

While living in Howard County, Bessie conducted a seminar on October 18, 1906 with the Howard County Teachers' Institute discussing many of the issues that concern the teaching community today - Interest of students, fractions, Lawlessness and Law in Pupils, Attention and Schoolroom Atmosphere and Personality of Teachers. The session was pronounced in the Ellicott City Times "the best ever held in the county."

In 1911, she made her mark as the first female professor teaching Philosophy at Alfred University, and Psychology at New Jersey State Teachers College in Trenton. A pioneering professor in the theories of child development, she was noted for her research on intelligence tests for children and for promoting mental hygiene programs in schools. Furthering her education, at Columbia University in 1916, she received a master of arts in education, followed by a doctorate in education and psychology in 1922. She wrote and published "College Achievement and Vocational Efficiency" while at Columbia.

In 1923, Dr. Gambrill was scouted by Yale University while teaching in Trenton and that led to Ivy League history. She became the first female tenured professor at Yale University in Science and Mathematics. It was years before a second woman was added to the faculty at Yale. She also had the distinction of being the first woman to advise male and female doctoral candidates. Breaking the glass ceiling did not prove difficult for Dr. Gambrill as she stated, "I didn't think about it. I was doing a job that I was equipped for far better than anyone else."

Before she retired in 1952, she made another historic mark on educational history in post-war Occupied Japan in 1949. She was selected with other professors in an American government delegation to visit Japan for four months. Their mission was to help Japanese leaders understand and re-adjust the Japanese elementary schools to promote democracy. She returned to Yale after her leave of absence

and continued her research in child development.

On her 100th birthday, Dr. Gambrill was honored by the American Association of University Women as a "pioneer in the concept of child development, the philosophy that changed education in our country."

Before her death on March 31, 1988, she lived in Connecticut just minutes away from Yale. She was 105 years old and looking back over her century long association with education, she observed, "The most rewarding thing to me, was my relationship with people, regardless of if I was the teacher or the student. The failure to understand the relationships between people is one of the most serious mistakes that can be made in any field of work - be it teaching or any other field."

Bessie Lee Gambrill is buried with her family in the Good Shepherd Cemetery in Howard County. †

STEP BACK IN TIME **3 GREAT WAYS TO TOUR HISTORIC ELlicOTT CITY!**

YE HAUNTED HISTORY OF OLDE ELlicOTT CITY
PART 1 FRIDAY NIGHTS
PART 2 SATURDAY NIGHTS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY AT 8:30PM (APRIL - NOVEMBER)

We double dare you to walk the streets and learn more about the past inhabitants of this historic milltown—one of the oldest and most haunted locales in America!

WALK THIS WAY
EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
11:00 AM TO 1:30 PM (APRIL - OCTOBER) OR BY APPOINTMENT

Put on your most comfortable walking shoes and step back in time with the Howard County Historical Society to discover the intriguing stories behind the iconic landmarks of this nearly 250-year-old mill town.

"THE SPIRITS" PUB TOUR
3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 8:00PM

Enjoy a specialty drink* designed to suit the mood as we take you inside for a taste of the favorite haunts of Ellicott City's ghosts on this extended tour into the buildings.

For those 21 and older *separate purchase

RESERVE YOUR HISTORIC ELlicOTT CITY TOURS TICKETS TODAY

Purchase advance tickets at www.hchsmd.org/events, at The Museum of Howard County History located at 8328 Court Ave., contact us at 410-480-3250 or email info@hchsmd.org.

2017 UPCOMING EVENTS



SWIMMIN' WITH SHARKS

MAY

5/5
Lunch Date with History
"Slave Quarters in Howard County"
By Bessie Bordenave

5/20
Museum Concert Series
Starvation Army Band

JUNE

6/2
Lunch Date with History
"Columbia"
By Barbara Kellner



AIN'T MISBEHAVIN

6/3
Strangers in the Night
1950s Cocktail Party
Oakdale, 7-11pm

6/10
Museum Concert Series
Swimmin' With Sharks

6/24
Museum Concert Series
Durham Station Bluegrass

JULY

7/7
Lunch Date with History
"Life On a Howard County Farm
Before Electricity"
By Art Boone

7/22
Museum Concert Series
Ain't Misbehavin'

AUGUST

8/4
Lunch Date with History
"The Colonial Iron Industry"
By Lee Preston

8/19
Museum Concert Series
Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes

SEPTEMBER

9/1
Lunch Date with History
"Savage Mill"
By Marty Schoppert

9/23
Museum Concert Series
The Classic Hitmen

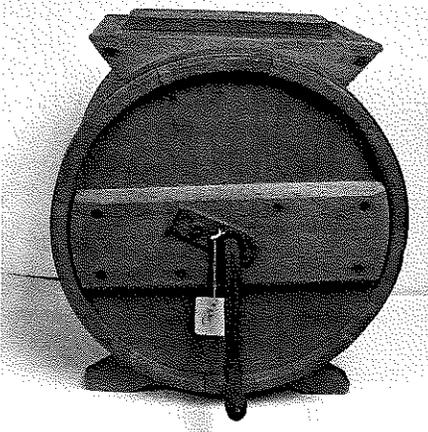


HCHS BOARD VICE PRESIDENT PAULETTE LUTZ, COUNTY EXECUTIVE ALLAN KITTLEMAN, AND PASTOR SERAFUSA ATTENDED MT. GREGORY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S BLESSING OF ITS NEW WING ON MARCH 26TH. THE HOWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WAS RECOGNIZED FOR ASSISTING THE COMPLETION.

HCHS Is ON facebook
BECOME A FAN TODAY!

For up-to-the minute news on happenings at the Society, become a fan on FaceBook. In addition to finding out what we are up to, you can also post comments, questions and photos of Society events and Howard County history. If you aren't on FaceBook yet, sign up today at www.facebook.com. ☛

MUSEUM ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT DORSEY FAMILY DONATIONS



The Howard County Historical Society has recently received another very generous donation from Mrs. Anna Dorsey Cooke Allison. This includes many items used in the preparation of food; such as a tub style butter churn, a butter/dough bowl and various butter and pudding molds, butter presses and paddles. These originally came from Oak Hall Farm and Elkhorn Farm and were used by Mrs. Elise Sieling Dorsey (1869-1956).

Along with the household goodies are also documents and pictures pertaining to Miss Anna Dorsey's time working at the Mayo Clinic as a nurse. Miss Dorsey worked alongside of the famous Mayo brothers during the early 20th century. Portraits of Mr. Hammond Dorsey III (1870-1927) and Mr. Hammond Dorsey IV (1898-1963) have also been included as have many personal articles from the Dorsey family. Yet to be cataloged are various letters, diaries, papers and deeds as well as jewelry, ladies accessories and vintage linens which round out our newest additions.

Mrs. Allison has previously donated many items of clothing and personal items as well as wonderful household items that are also being processed and readied for future exhibits. She has always been a very generous patroness of our Society and we look forward to her future gifts. †

DAVID'S NATURAL MARKET - CELEBRATING OVER 40 YEARS OF NATURAL FOODS IN WILDE LAKE AS COLUMBIA TURNS 50

Continued from Page 1

of Cross Keys store, David changed plans when his father pointed out that the lower overall business costs for the Wilde Lake store would be a better decision, and David's Natural Market was born. Three years later, London completed the first of eight expansions and began growing his business with not only the emerging natural foods industry, but also the surrounding Columbia community. And, last September, David of David's Natural Market tripled his father's original decade when he celebrated his 30th year in Wilde Lake. †



Save the Date

Strangers in the Night



**1950s
COCKTAIL
PARTY
JUNE 3
7-11 PM
AT OAKDALE**

- Whiskey Sour Welcome
- Sinatra Sing-Along
- Fabulous Food & Drink
- Tikki Bar
- Cigar Tasting
- Whiskey Tasting
- Black Jack Tables
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- Dance Lessons
- Celebrity Guests
- Fun Photo Booth
- Costume Contest
- and Lots More!

Tickets & Info on this fundraising event at
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grub





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