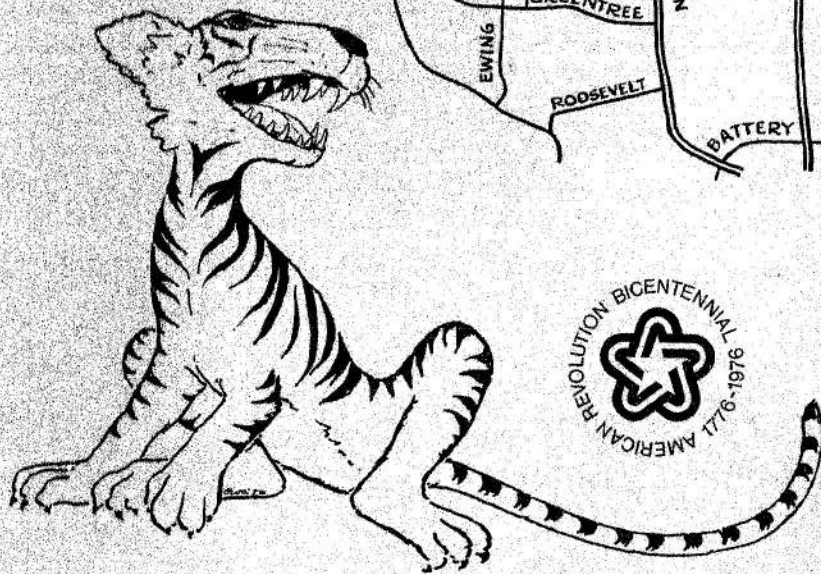
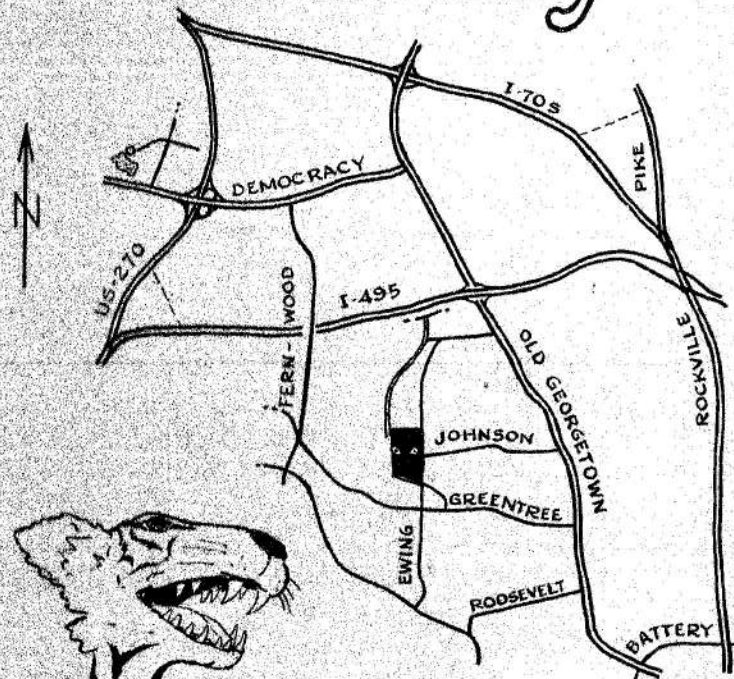


The Tiger's Territory



The Tiger's Territory

Parent Teacher Student Association
North Bethesda Junior High School
Bethesda, Maryland

Acknowledgments

Our special thanks to Mrs. Jane Sween, who so patiently found materials for us at the Montgomery County Historical Society.

Another special thanks to Mr. Forrest Andrews, a member of the community, who conceived the title and prepared the art work for the cover.

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Parent Teacher Student Association
North Bethesda Junior High School
Bethesda, Maryland
November 1976

This book is dedicated
to
those people who live within the North Bethesda
Junior High School boundaries, so that they may
better know about their community
and especially to
Lucille Bouvet
Social Studies Teacher Aide at North Bethesda,
who took a personal interest in the project,
and participated in many phases of it.

FOREWORD

The idea for this publication was conceived in 1975 as an activity for a North Bethesda Junior High-PTSA Bicentennial Project. The purpose was to document the history of selected landmarks within the North Bethesda Junior High School boundaries. The idea was received with enthusiasm by the PTSA and by our Principal, Dr. Lee Etta Powell, who suggested it to the faculty as a potential project for class participation.

Early in 1976, Mr. John Timberlake and one of his 9th grade history classes assumed the project as a semester culminating activity. Guidelines for the project were drawn up by the PTSA Bicentennial Chairman, who relied heavily upon the book by Doree Germaine Holman and Gertrude D. Bradley entitled Old Bethesda - Bethesda Not So Old for leads. Parents--Doris Bruffey, Jane Parkhurst, Pat Reed and Social Studies Teacher Aide, Lucille Bouvet, arranged for interviews for the students with appropriate persons in the community, and transported and accompanied the students for the appointments. A great deal of the research was accomplished through oral interviews.

Whatever written material was available about the sites was collected from the libraries, the Montgomery County Historical Society, and from the latest histories of Montgomery County for the students to incorporate in their written compositions. The students enjoyed the interviews, usually with older people in the community, and produced commendable compositions at the end of the year, having used new skills of research and writing.

During the summer and into the fall, Editor Pat Reed, assisted by parents, Sonya Ngo, Elizabeth Morris, and Doris Bruffey verified, wrote and edited the work. The final product was made ready for the printer by Lucille Bouvet. Another parent, Henryetta Livelsberger, arranged for the printing to be done by the Toby Tyler Printing Company.

Pat Reed
Bicentennial Chairman, PTSA
North Bethesda Junior High School
1975-1976

SCHOOLS

As far as is known the first school in the area included in the present North Bethesda Junior High School District was a secondary school, the Tusculum Academy, opened in 1783 by the Reverend James Hunt at his farm "Tusculum", located about where the WMAL radio towers now stand on Greentree Road. Students studied the arts and sciences, Latin and Greek, arithmetic, logic, rhetoric, geography, geometry, surveying, navigation, mathematics, and walked to Rockville to observe the Circuit Court in action. The academy closed when the Reverend Hunt died in 1793.

In 1858 the Magruder School, a one-room schoolhouse, was in operation at Beane, near Old Georgetown and Bell's Mill Roads. Perhaps it was there as early as Saturday, February 23, 1828 when the School Commissioners met at Concord or Magruder's Meeting House, possibly the same building. It was still there in 1865 when it appeared on a survey map of Bethesda. This map also shows an unidentified schoolhouse just north of the Bethesda Meeting House (Temple Hill Baptist Church) on Rockville Pike. In 1869 George R. Braddock was the teacher at a Mount Zion School, located in the vicinity of the present Wildwood Shopping Center. In 1870 the state authorized \$175 to repair and enlarge this school and in 1895 new buildings were constructed on old sites at Concord and Mount Zion.

The School Board in 1865 authorized the building of a school to be located near the residence of Samuel W. Magruder and taught by Miss America Magruder "should she prove competent upon examination." Apparently she passed the examination satisfactorily as she was paid \$95.06 for the quarter.

All of these schools are gone now, but next to the Beth El Synagogue on Old Georgetown Road at Huntington Parkway, on a small hill, half hidden by trees, there is a small, pinkish white house that was once a one-room schoolhouse. Built in 1894, this was the original Bethesda School, the only one in the area at that time until 1905 when a new four-room yellow frame schoolhouse was built on Wilson Lane on the present Bethesda Elementary School site. No longer needed, the one-room school on Old Georgetown Road was sold at auction to Mr. and Mrs. J. Henderson Peter who converted it to a residence, and thus it remains today.

North Bethesda Junior High opened in 1955 and, in recent years, it has been served by eight elementary "feeder" schools. The opening dates of these schools are as follows:

1905	Bethesda*	1955	Grosvenor
1935	Alta Vista	1957	Ashburton
1942	Bradley	1961	Ayrlawn
1952	Wyngate	1961	Fernwood

In this Bicentennial year of 1976, Bethesda Elementary has been in a new brick building since 1962 and a large new gym is under construction, to be completed by March 1977. Alta Vista was closed in June 1976 due to declining enrollment and five others - Ashburton, Ayrlawn, Bradley, Fernwood and Grosvenor - are under consideration for possible closing or "consolidation."

Whatever the outcome of these considerations, schools will always be important landmarks in the Tiger's Territory.

* Although the original one-room Bethesda School is within the North Bethesda district, the site of the present Bethesda Elementary is not. Since the two districts overlap, however, some Bethesda Elementary students attend North Bethesda. Furthermore, before Thomas W. Pyle Junior High opened in 1962, North Bethesda's boundaries extended to include a much larger portion of the Bethesda Elementary area.

Sources: Old Bethesda, by Doree Germaine Holman, Bethesda Not So Old, by Gertrude D. Bradley, pub. by Board of Trustees, Bethesda Public Library Association, 1956, pp. 49-50, 67, 79, 87
From One Room to Open Space, by E. Guy Jewell, 1976 pp. 3, 16, 38-39, 55, 56, 139, 290, 347, 350, 345
A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, by Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, pub. by Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976, p. 70

BETHESDA MEETING HOUSE
(Bethesda Presbyterian Church)
(Temple Hill Baptist Church)

The Bethesda Meeting House, named after the "Pool of Bethesda" in the Bible (John 5:2) and later giving its name to the community of Bethesda, is historically the oldest church building in the area, dating back to 1820. It is located on Rockville Pike between Cedar Lane and Grosvenor Lane. The original church housed the Presbyterian congregation, which had been meeting without a church since 1780. The one acre, purchased for the token sum of one dollar, had been part of a tract of land known as Leake Forest, which was the earliest land grant in the area, surveyed in 1688 for Colonel Henry Dulany.

The 1820 stone church building was destroyed by fire when an arbor of branches that had been placed in front of the church for the Thanksgiving season in 1849 caught fire and spread. A new timber structure based upon Greek revival architecture with its columns facing the morning sun was constructed, using the stones from the 1820 foundation, including the original dated cornerstone with its inscription BMH-1820 that had been salvaged from the fire. The windows, however, are in Gothic form. The old and rare stained glass was made from sand from the beach of Sandwich, Massachusetts. Each rectangular pane is worth about \$200. Some have been broken, so the colors in the replacements are slightly different. The pews in the church today are not the uncomfortable backless originals which had doors to keep out the draft. Those were somehow sent south and lost. The present seats came from the First Baptist Church in the District of Columbia.

The Bethesda Presbyterian congregation with 98 members in 1925 had outgrown the little frame church on the hill, and relocated on Wilson Lane and Clarendon Road, where the first service was held on July 18, 1926.

The church property, excluding the cemetery which still belongs to the Bethesda Presbyterian Church, was sold in 1925 to Mrs. William Fitch Kelley, an artist who lived in the large house and exhibited her paintings there. She sold the property to the White Fathers of Africa for a missionary home. The church again changed hands and in 1952 under the leadership of Dr. William B. Adams, Pastor of the Baptist Church at Rockville, a new congregation was assembled, and the Bethesda Meeting House became known as the Temple Hill Baptist Church. After 25 years, another restoration is planned based closely on historical accuracy.

Services are still held in the church, though few probably last the four hours many of the earliest services did. Used as a meeting house, the church of the past served a multitude of purposes. Isolated farmers and their families found it a much needed source of comfort, information, and contact. In the winter, people brought baked potatoes which they put in their pockets to keep their fingers warm en route to church. In the the children ate them. Sermons were preached about the Revolutionary War and the liberty of the people. The Bible was taught and the question of who was or wasn't saved was a constant concern.

The congregation was made up of farmers and slaves, the latter being relegated to the balcony. Because the Sabbath was rigidly enforced, people travelled to services from as far away as Silver Spring, a two-hour journey in those days. It is said that Abraham Lincoln came to this church.

The 300 year old bell in the steeple once belonged to Paul Revere. In April 1975, on Paul Revere Day, three flag poles were installed on the side of the church. Today, the Bicentennial Flag (1976) is one of the flags displayed, together with the American flag and the Maryland flag. The American flags with 48, 49 and 50 stars are flown either inside or outside this church. The cemetery adjoining the church particularly reflects the building's history. It is so old that many of the markers cannot be found. Slaves were buried with a rock at their head and feet. Reverend Parke Poindexter Flournoy, who served in the ministry for approximately 70 years, is buried there.

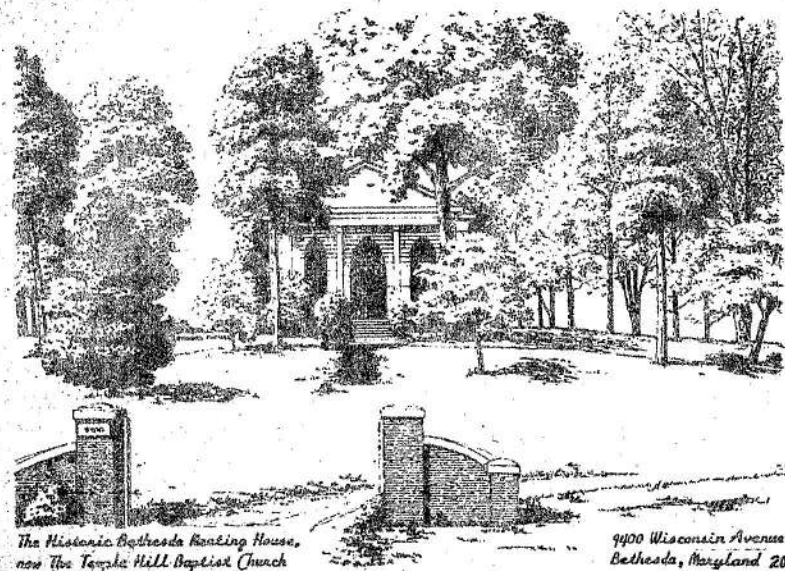
Since Rockville Pike was the main road in and out of Washington in earlier days, the small church regularly saw McClellan's Army of the Potomac marching by. In fact, in September 1862 some 50,000 Union Soldiers passed up the Pike on their way to Frederick. The Confederate General, J.E.B. Stuart, made a daring raid deep into northern territory in 1863, stopping at the Bethesda Church before turning back, imprisoning and later releasing a church trustee.

In July 1864, Jubal Early's confederate troops also came down the Pike, taking horses and other war supplies along the way, setting up camps briefly in the Bethesda church area. This war was not only divisive of the country, but of Maryland and county residents, including the Bethesda congregation, whose sympathies were largely southern.

It is not known who first suggested the name Bethesda for the area, but Darcey's (after the store) and/or Tenallytown (after the postal zone) finally gave way to the early church founders' suggestion for the name of Bethesda after their church. Many streets in the Bethesda area are named after former congregation members Viers, Wilson, Bradley, Belt, Perry, Stone and Magruder.

Sources: Interview with Reverend William B. Adams,
Pastor, Temple Hill Baptist Church
"A 250-Year Heritage" - Bethesda Presbyterian Church

An Historical Sketch



From The Bethesda Meeting House and
Temple Hill Baptist Church Bulletin

MOUNT ZION AT BEAN
(Wildwood Baptist Church)

Mount Zion at Bean is still the legal description on the State records even though the sign at 10200 Old Georgetown Road reads Wildwood Baptist Church. The congregation of 13 dates back to 1831, meeting for a time on the farm of O. S. Wilson and later meeting at the Magruder School House at Bean. (The community around Wildwood was known as Bean and the school-house was located on Bells Mill Road just in from Old Georgetown Road).

In 1862 the cornerstone was laid for this meeting house on Spider Hill. During the Civil War Jubal Early's Confederate troops were quartered there. (Jubal Early, a Confederate General led an advance against Washington, D.C. in 1864, but was turned back by forts located near present day Walter Reed Hospital. General Early was later defeated by U.S. troops under General Sheridan at Cedar Creek near Winchester, Virginia).

The original sanctuary was very small -- additions were made in 1910, 1932, 1950's, and 1962. In 1932 a parsonage was built for the minister. In the 1950's a dining room and additional classrooms were added onto the existing sanctuary, and in 1962 the Educational Building was added, named after the Reverend Claude A. Brubaker.

Reverend Brubaker was the pastor at this church from 1932 to 1969. He was buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church in September 1976. Some familiar names of long-time residents of Bethesda appear in this cemetery; such as, Bean, Magruder, Morrison, Keiser, Austin, Greenfield, Pyle, Stallsmith, Whalen, and Wilson.

The cemetery property is legally separated from the church property. Mr. Harold Mansfield, longest active church member, is the Secretary-Treasurer in charge of the cemetery. He remembers when the horse and buggies were tied up at the lower part of the cemetery. He describes the Wildwood Baptist Church as a little friendly community church of southern Baptists that is basically the same as it was in the beginning because the sermon comes straight from the Bible.

Sources: Interview with Mrs. A. M. Standish, Secretary, Wildwood Baptist Church, and Mr. Harold Mansfield, Secretary-Treasurer, Wildwood Baptist Church Cemetery
Wildwood Baptist Church Bulletin, September 30, 1962



The Church in the Wildwood
Wildwood Baptist Church
10200 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

TROLLEY GOES TO BETHESDA PARK

In the 1890's a trolley began running from Georgetown to Alta Vista, (at that time the corner of Old Georgetown and Sonoma Roads). Streetcars had been in use for 40 years. Even though the first streetcars were pulled by horses, by the 1880's, electric cars were used, and these cars received power through overhead lines.

People depended on streetcars as a way in which to get around -- to school, to church, to work, to shops, everywhere -- as they were convenient and inexpensive. Eight cents was a typical fare, but the ride from Georgetown to Alta Vista was ten cents.

About fifty people could fit in each car. Feather cords to hold on to hung from the ceiling for those who could not find a seat. The first streetcars were open-air, slow, noisy, and they swayed back and forth, but these structures were developed into faster, bigger, smooth running models.

In 1890 the Tenallytown and Rockville Railway Company extended the Georgetown to District trolley line to go out Old Georgetown Road to Alta Vista, probably because the first president of the trolley company wanted transportation closer to his farm "Langdrum" where he lived (now the area of Chevy Chase Gardens).

As a result of the trolley line to Alta Vista, the railway company purchased 50 acres of land at the end of the line and developed an amusement park, Bethesda Park, which became very popular and gave the people in Washington a reason to patronize that particular trolley line.

The park entrance at the corner of Old Georgetown and Sonoma Roads was marked by two stone pillars on either side of Sonoma Road, which stood there until the six lane highway was built in the 1960's. A hotel was located near Sonoma Road. A block away was an open space used to build the fires that generated the gas to inflate big balloons used for the thrilling balloon rides in the 1890's.

Other attractions included a small zoo, a botanical garden, and rides, such as the roller coaster and ferris wheel. Games, including bowling (nine pins) and a shooting gallery had their attraction. Dances were held every Tuesday and Thursday in the dance hall. A recent invention, the "new talking machine" could be listened to through earplugs. For a nickle you could hear, "Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage," "A Bicycle Built for Two," or "The Band Played On."

The park was so popular for the few years it existed that it was necessary to run additional trolley cars to accommodate the fun seekers. Reports differ about how the park was destroyed. One account says it was destroyed in a hurricane on September 29, 1896, but there is more evidence that it was destroyed by fire after just a few years of operation.

After the park was destroyed, the trolley needed somewhere to go, so the tracks were extended to Rockville via the woods behind the YMCA, past the Transformer Station on Fleming Road, to Rockville Pike at Georgetown Preparatory School. The Transformer Station is still standing today in the woods near Fleming Road and Grosvenor Lane, and can be explored by those nostalgic seekers within the "Tiger's Territory."

Sources: Old Bethesda, by Doree Germaine Holman, Bethesda Not So Old, by Gertrude D. Bradley, pub. by Board of Trustees, Bethesda Public Library Association, 1956, pp. 51-52
A Seed from The Blackeyed Susan, "Streetcars", pp. 90-91 - by Woodward High School, 1976

TOWN OF OAKMONT

Some of the residents think the little town of Oakmont is the "greatest place to live." This town has 18 acres of land and its boundaries are: Oak Place, the south side of Oakmont Avenue, and one block of Hempstead Avenue.

Mr. Frank Laughead brought his family to Oak Place in 1933. He worked on Ayrlawn Farms and helped raise calves. He commented that "there are virtually no disadvantages to living in the small town of 168 residents in the midst of vastly populated Bethesda, but there are many advantages, the most important being the economic one."

At the turn of the century, Montgomery County was basically farmland, so the County provided no municipal services. A few settlements -- Chevy Chase, Somerset, Friendship Heights, and Oakmont, felt the need for such services, so towns were organized under Maryland State Law.

Oakmont was chartered in 1918 as the Special Taxing District of Oakmont. Their government consisted of three citizens (Oliver Kuhn, Charles Read, and James Adkins) elected to three year terms, so staggered as to choose a new member each year. The annual town election is held the second Tuesday in April. Each committee member must be sworn in by the Clerk of the Court. One of the three committee members is chosen Town Chairman. Mr. Del Lamiman, a young politician, and current Town Chairman, describes today's functioning as "not so much a provision of services, but a breaking up of homogeneity. It gives one a chance to do something different."

The town committee levies its own municipal property tax, but the county collects the tax. Their treasury also receives, for instance, a percentage of the state income tax and even part of the race track receipts. Out of this revenue, the town provides for its own roads, sidewalks, and lights, as well as any beautification of its property, trees, etc.

In recent years, the town has contracted with the county for snow and leaf removal, but may soon be seeking a better rate. The town makes its own traffic laws, which must be enforced by county officials. But maybe the most important

function now, according to Mr. Lamiman, has to do with the zoning. A substantial reserve fund in the treasury assures them a good zoning attorney. The fact that the town actually owns property gives them a standing to protect their interests.

In 1964 the decision was made permitting the first non-residential property owner, the American Speech and Hearing Organization, to build on the Old Georgetown Road block, between Oak Place and Oakmont Avenue. At first it was one of the principal tax payers, but became a tax exempt organization after the second year. However, most years, in lieu of paying the tax, they make a payment to the town for services. This organization is now interested in expanding their facilities and hopes to acquire additional land between Oak Place and Sonoma Road.

The town actually owns the streets including Daley Lane, a dedicated public road set aside in the initial layout of the town, which was never paved. It runs from Oak Place to Oakmont Avenue dividing the 3-4 block section in half. There has always been a walk-through, but in recent years, a bicycle--baby--carriage ramp has been added and trees have been planted.

It would seem that this small bit of independence has had its influence on the neighborhood. Even the age old dispute over the change to brighter street lighting has its humorous side. Prior to 1940, Mr. Laughead was one of the few who climbed the poles to change the 150 watt bulbs. When they wanted to change the poles for the new mercury vapor lights, some mothers placed their baby carriages over locations for the new light poles, but protesting did not stop the change. Oak Place is no longer a dark street, a favorite lover's lane of the 1960's, but from time to time, there are still those who favor doing away with those bright lights.

There is probably a closeness in this neighborhood that is unlike new communities. One night, years ago, Dr. Jones, who lived on the street, rang doorbells at 2 a.m. calling everyone to his backyard where, through an opening in the big oak trees, a magnificent display of the Northern Lights could be seen. It has been tradition that every Fall the town orders the street closed for one evening to hold a Block Party. They put up volleyball nets right across their street and each one brings some food. Mr. Lamiman says "this is something that can't be done in every neighborhood." And that is what seems to make this little town unique.

Sources: Interviews with Mr. Frank Laughead,
Mr. Del Lamiman, and Mrs. Lenora Sabine

MONASTERY OF THE VISITATION

The Monastery of the Visitation is located at 9001 Old Georgetown Road adjacent to the National Institutes of Health. Sixty four acres were purchased in the 1920's for this particular community of the Visitation Order, which had been located on Connecticut Avenue. While the monastery was being built, the nuns divided up and lived at other monasteries, but were reunited at the Old Georgetown Road location in 1923, where they found themselves surrounded by countryside and trees. A barn housed a few sheep, horses, and cows which supplied them with milk until 1949 when they sold fifty of the acres to the government, now a part of the NIH grounds. The nuns still plant a garden every spring, which supplies them with vegetables through the summer and some fruit in the winter.

The Visitation Order was established in 1610 by Saint Francis de Sales and Saint Jane Frances de Chantal at Annecy, France. From there it spread throughout the world. This particular community of the Visitation Order dates back to 1850.

The twenty-one nuns living at the Monastery are contemplative religious women whose service to the church and the world is primarily a service of prayer. The nuns may have visitors, but there must be some physical barrier between the nun and the visitor. Telephone calls are received from the Bethesda community asking the nuns to pray for someone in trouble, someone who is ill, or depressed. The nuns are not allowed outside the cloistered walls except for medical and dental care. Two of the nuns have lived here for the full fifty-two years of its existence.

A day at the Monastery begins at 5:30 a.m. with prayer in the Chapel from 6 to 7 a.m. Prayers continue throughout the day at various intervals, marked by the ringing of the tower bells, which ring only at prayer time. A public Mass is held at 7:15 a.m. daily. A Priest comes from the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales in Hyattsville to celebrate the Mass.

The Chapel was renovated in 1975-76 to update it in accordance with the new liturgy of the church.

The nuns also have their chores to do throughout the day, such as cooking, washing, sewing, ironing, and cleaning. Some of them do very fine embroidery and knitting, which they give to benefactors. Their recreation consists of activities such as frisbee, basketball, checkers, and jigsaw puzzles. News broadcasts are tuned in for one-half hour each evening with an occasional viewing of a special appropriate feature on the television. The nuns have a Night Prayer at 8:30 p.m. before retiring.

In 1950 the nuns made their Chapel available for the establishment of a new parish, which was named Saint Jane de Chantal after one of their founders. It was needed to relieve the situation at Our Lady of Lourdes, and was located as of May 1954 at 9525 Old Georgetown Road. However, for the first three and a half years the new parish met in the chapel of the Sisters of Visitation. It required six or seven Masses on Sundays with each of them overflowing with people.

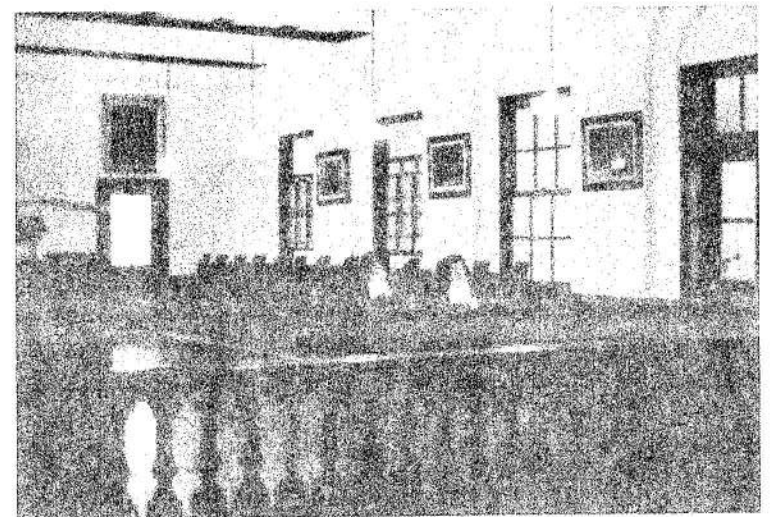
A girl who wants to become a nun must have at least completed high school before applying. However, she may spend a weekend or a week of vacation with the sisters on a vocational retreat if she is in high school. It takes five and a half years to become a sister and the time may be extended if a girl is judged to be unready or immature.

The Monastery is self supporting mainly through its endowments. Friends in the area are very generous as are friends and relatives of the sisters.

Sources: Interviews with Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart Klauer (Superior) and Sister Mary Gabriel Campbell



Monastery of the Visitation
Photographs by Marilyn Zener



BETHESDA COMMUNITY STORE

Kids in the neighborhood often times go to "Browns" for candy and cokes. Friends of the management head up to "Ernie's" maybe just to cash a check and pick up a pack of cigarettes. The sign over the door reads "Bethesda Community Store," but it is all one and the same place.

Located at the corner of Old Georgetown and Greentree Roads, this one room general store was built about 1924 by Mr. John Moyer and his son. It has had a number of owners throughout the years, although the land has belonged to the Bogleys (Real-tors) since the 1930's. They have rented this property to different "tenants" of the grocery business.

Mr. Ernest "Ernie" Caudill and his wife, Margaret, have owned this business now for approximately 30 years, and thus the store is called "Ernie's" by some residents. Prior to this it was known as "Browns" and "Fergusons" -- names of past owners, but somehow the name of "Browns" has carried over.

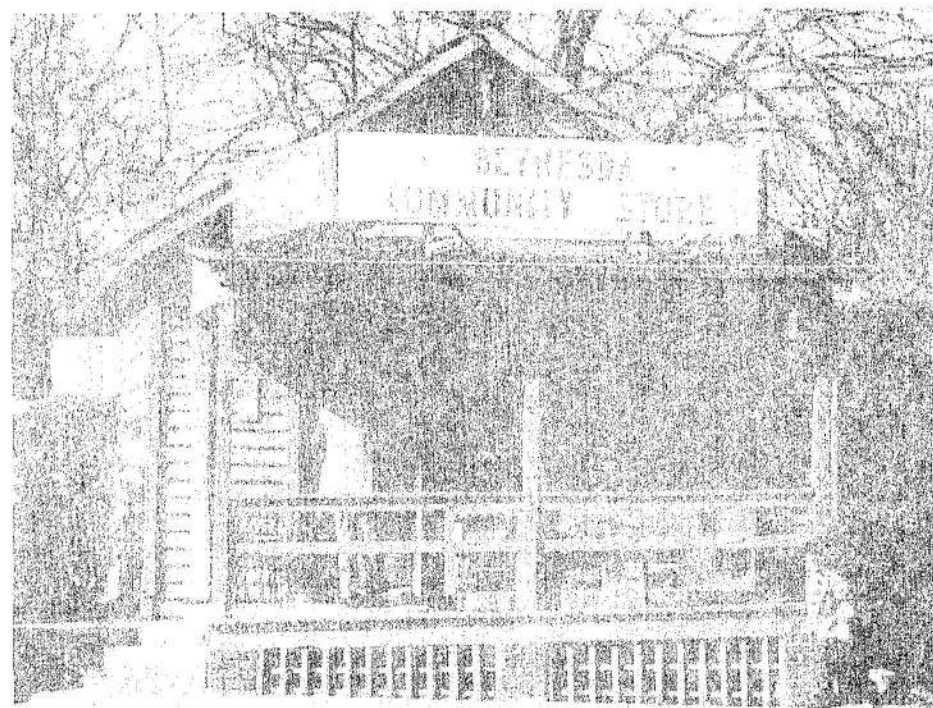
The store services three differing segments of the population. Housewives close-by can count on Ernie to have a little of everything just in case they're caught short at dinnertime. Ernie added a "short-order-lunch" to his store during construction times in the area, and has gained a reputation by those on the road as "the place to stop" at noon for sandwiches, coffee, pie or donuts.

The hard working Caudills may be preparing those lunches at 3:30 a.m., while preparing again at 3:30 p.m. for a younger group -- the after school rush of kids. It is one of the few places left where the kids can buy candy by the piece. Candy necklaces, wax lips, gold rush, and the most popular of all, atomic fireballs, are readily available.

When the store was built in 1924, the lumber came from a country store in Cedar Grove. The interior has a typical country store atmosphere -- glass covered candy showcase, a cash drawer under the counter, and produce in bins or baskets in bulk for self-service.

Today, the store remains about the same, both inside and out. No enlargement or improvements can be made because of the zoning restrictions. At one time (following World War II), application was made for the property to be zoned for a shopping center similar to the Wildwood Shopping Center, but the request was denied. Neighbors had carried petitions protesting a rezoning, so now the community store remains a part of the past here in our present day.

Sources: Interviews with Ernest M. Caudill
and John Moyer



THE BETHESDA COMMUNITY Store

From Montgomery County Journal

BETHESDA WOMAN'S CLUB

The Bethesda Woman's Club with the motto, "An Earnest Club for Earnest Women", was organized May 27, 1911. Mrs. Franklin Getzendanner was the first president serving from 1911 to 1914. The club was organized by seven ladies from the Newcomb Club, which was the first woman's club in Bethesda. At that time, the Newcomb Club was a literary club, but these seven ladies were interested more in civic projects. The Bethesda club was admitted to the Montgomery County Federation of Women's Clubs in 1912, to the Maryland State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1914, and to the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1915.

When the Bethesda Woman's Club first was organized, the members met in homes and the membership was limited to fifty. Starting with \$100 in a savings account, a first mortgage from the Bank of Bethesda, and a second mortgage consisting of \$50 notes from its members, enough money was raised to build the clubhouse at the corner of Old Georgetown and Sonoma Roads. By the time the clubhouse was completed in 1927 there were close to 100 members. Today, there are approximately 250 members.

In an interview with Mrs. George Pariseau, club member since 1923, and Mrs. Richard Powers, historian, it was emphasized that all ages in the club work together. There is no junior club. A new member is asked to get involved by serving on a committee at the time she joins the club.

The Bethesda Woman's Club, as a philanthropic and civic organization, has initiated projects of lasting value to the community. Encouraged by Mrs. Enoch G. Johnson, the club began the movement for the first public kindergarten. They established and still maintain the patient's library at Suburban Hospital. In keeping abreast of current community needs, they provided prizes for the patients at the Clinical Center at NIH. In addition to their own projects, the club supports other county and state projects.

According to the president, Mrs. James Watkins, the club participates in several loan and scholarship funds for college students. Half of each initiation fee goes into a loan fund established by the local club for a Montgomery County student who shows the need for help. The Board of Directors makes the final decision about the loans, but the fund has gone unused for the past few years.

The club contributes to the statewide "Youth Art", formerly called "Pennies for Art". It provides scholarships based on an annual art competition open to Junior and Senior High School students in the state. The local contest is usually held in the early part of March. Every art department in each school should have the details for interested students. Money is also donated to other scholarship funds in the county and state.

In the past, about thirty years ago, the club sponsored a "Junior Dance", ballroom dance instruction once a week for the teenage community. Initiated by club member, Mrs. Arthur J. Hilland, it was patterned after the exclusive Georgetown dance classes, and cleverly attracted boys as an exercise for expert football players. It was held during the time when girls wore dresses and boys wore suits. Two cotillions a year at the end of each season, brought out the long party dresses and white gloves, putting into use for an evening the dances and social graces that had been learned. The project was discontinued about five years ago.

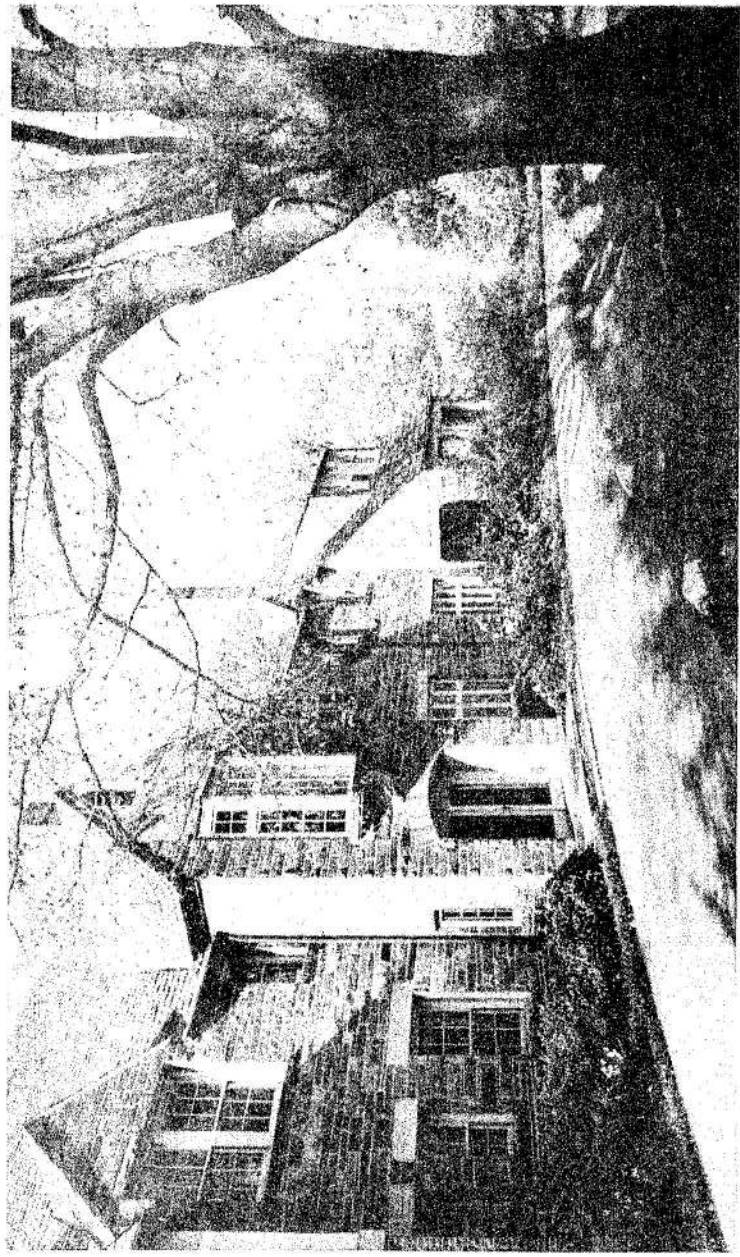
The 28th Annual Antique Show and Pantry Shelf (sandwiches and coffee) will be held the third week in January, Tuesday through Friday, as is scheduled each year. Twelve dealers with unusually fine antiques from jewelry to furniture will participate. This project is the club's biggest money maker each year.

The building is rented to a few outside groups (The Young Republican Club, Bethesda Garden Club, and Club 62) on a regular basis, and is also rented for individual weddings, receptions, and Bar Mitzvas.

Sources: Interviews with Mrs. George Pariseau, Mrs. Richard Powers, Mrs. James E. Watkins, and Mrs. Arthur J. Hilland
Old Bethesda, by Doree Germaine Holman, Bethesda Not So Old, by Gertrude D. Bradley, pub. by Board of Trustees, Bethesda Public Library Association, 1956, pp. 93-94



Woman's Club of Bethesda



Wild Acres
Photograph by National Geographic

WILD ACRES

(The Grosvenor Place)

(Now the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation)

In 1912 Mr. Gilbert and Mrs. Elsie Bell Grosvenor purchased the 105 acre tract of land they named Wild Acres bounded by Rockville Pike, Grosvenor Lane, and what is now I270, the Beltway, and Fleming Street. They spent the spring, summer, and fall seasons in the country farmhouse in order to escape the city fumes of the horseless carriages. Their three story stone English Tudor style mansion was not built until 1928-1929. Mrs. Grosvenor, herself, selected the type of stone to be used for the exterior of the house. It was chosen for its warm rose and yellow color tones from the quarry on River Road. The slate for the roof was imported from England.

Originally, the residence at 5400 Grosvenor Lane, designed by Arthur B. Heaton, had 14 bedrooms, 8 baths, a large living room, library, and dining room. It's twenty-nine impressive doors of solid Central American mahogany had been drafted by a Boston cabinet maker around 1820 and brought from Mr. Grosvenor's family home in Millbury, Massachusetts. A frieze of birds adorned the top of the walls around the living room, an appropriate symbol for a place that set an Audubon record. (Fifty nine pairs of birds were found nesting on a single acre of land adjoining the house).

The library was unique for its intricately carved teakwood panels and bookcases, which had been moved from the home of Alexander Graham Bell, Mrs. Grosvenor's father. (The inventor of the telephone had his home at 1331 Connecticut Avenue, back to back with the Grosvenor's city home. The Bell house was torn down in 1927).

The Latin inscription of the Grosvenor family crest is inscribed in stone over the front door of their house and reads, "Deeds Not Words Characterize the Noble." Inside were four wall paintings taken from the New England Grosvenor family home, which portray events in the First Crusade.

Mrs. Grosvenor did a great deal of entertaining. In June, 1929, a birthday party was held for Mrs. William Howard Taft at Wild Acres. The picture taken by the side of the house shows

about 50 guests. At that time Grosvenor Lane was no more than a narrow cinder lane with honeysuckle vines along the sides, a romantic setting for a Washington Society country party. Mrs. Grosvenor belonged to many clubs, including the Bethesda Woman's Club, all of whom were invited to her home at one time or another. The Grosvenor's fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1950 was celebrated at home with a large party of 400, requiring a policeman on Rockville Pike to direct the traffic.

Mr. Gilbert Grosvenor had been hired as editor of a new little magazine in 1899 just a year before he was married. He came back from his honeymoon to rise to fame as editor and president of that magazine, the world famous National Geographic. He died at age 90 in 1966, but had retired in 1954, and shortly afterwards his only son (he also had four daughters), Dr. Melville Bell Grosvenor, became chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Geographic. His home just to the west was built on the grounds in 1951 and later expanded.

The old house was rented from 1967-1970 to the newly conceived National Graduate University (also called the National College of Arts and Sciences) for the residence and offices of its President, Dr. Walter E. Boek. The university, however, never got off the ground. In 1970 the Grosvenor family offered to give their Bethesda home to Montgomery County for use as a cultural arts or community center, but the agreement was never concluded.

Instead, forty seven acres of the estate, including the old house was sold to the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF), a combination of 11 earth science professional organizations. Their purpose would be the interdisciplinary pursuit of solutions to worldwide earth problems. They sold twelve acres to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission for a park, now the newly developed Fleming Park. The main house, however, was rented on a 97 year lease to the Society of American Foresters, who have named it the Gifford Pinchott Forestry Building after the first president of the society.

The Foundation engaged the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill to draft plans for remodelling the house and for the construction of three low level office buildings over the next 20 years. The county granted a special exception zoning with the agreement that, at the most, 15 percent of the 35 acres would be used for buildings, the remainder to be kept as "open space." Remodelling of the house was completed in 1975, and the Foresters moved in, dedicating the completion in November.

A motion picture is being made by the organization showing the changes that have been made to the house. It will begin by showing the original 1928-1929 construction from the foundation up. (Pictures from the files of the National Geographic will be used). It will continue by showing jackhammers going through the ceiling and the general tearing down process. (The mahogany doors, carved teakwood, chandeliers, and paintings were disposed of). Then the reconstruction began. Carpenters are shown putting up wood panelling. Each room, including halls, bedrooms and stairway is panelled with wood. Different kinds of woods have been donated from all over the country from the black walnut panelling to the white pine and red oak. The living room has been divided with a wood panelled wall to form the reception room. The all cyprus library has not a book showing because all are concealed behind cyprus doors. A wood ceiling holds modern recessed lighting throughout, and two skylights replace part of the slate roof.

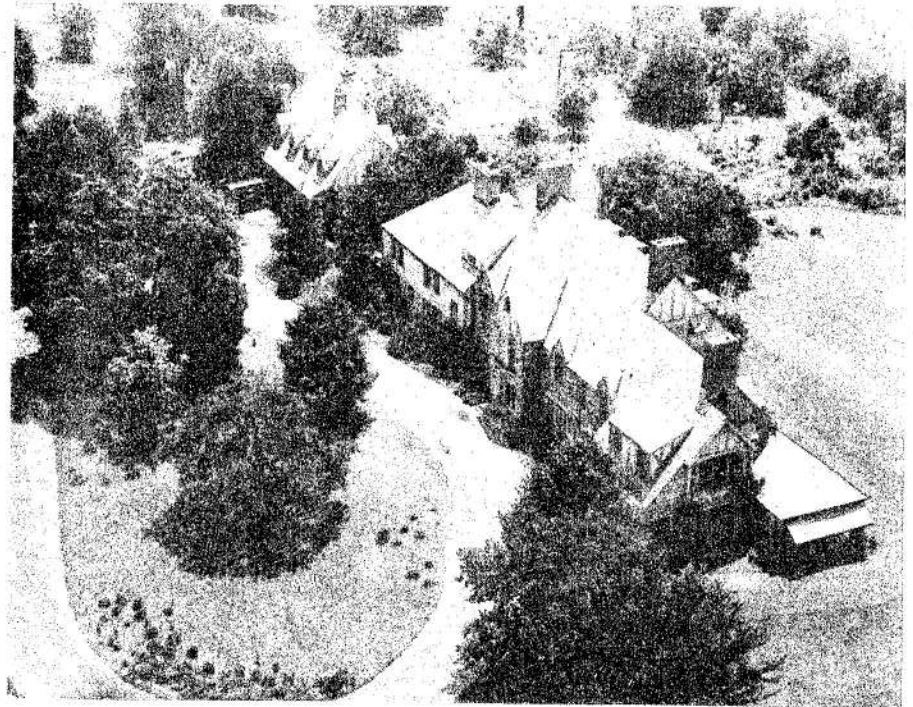
The only decorative wall hanging is on the upstairs hall wall -- a crosscut of a two thousand year old California redwood tree, a gift of the University of California.

Other buildings that have been remodelled include the garage, which now houses the American Fisheries Society, and an old delapidated barn, which has been put back together for a warehouse. The caretakers house still remains as the new caretakers home.

The M. Grosvenors still live in their place to the west, just a short distance through the trees. There they have a few of the remnants of the past, a painting of Alexander Graham Bell and one each of his mother and father, all of which are hanging in the living room.

A few pieces of the carved teakwood and a couple mahogany doors were retrieved from the old house and stand against a wall in the basement just waiting for an appropriate use. A collection of fine photographs are reminders of the way it used to be, not only at Wild Acres, but in Washington below Dupont Circle where Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in the 19th century setting.

Sources: Interviews with Mrs. Melville Bell Grosvenor and Mr. Albert J. McClure, Director, Public Affairs for Society of American Foresters
Washington Star Newspaper - January 27, 1970
Montgomery County Sentinel Newspaper - November 29, 1973



Wild Acres
Photograph by National Geographic

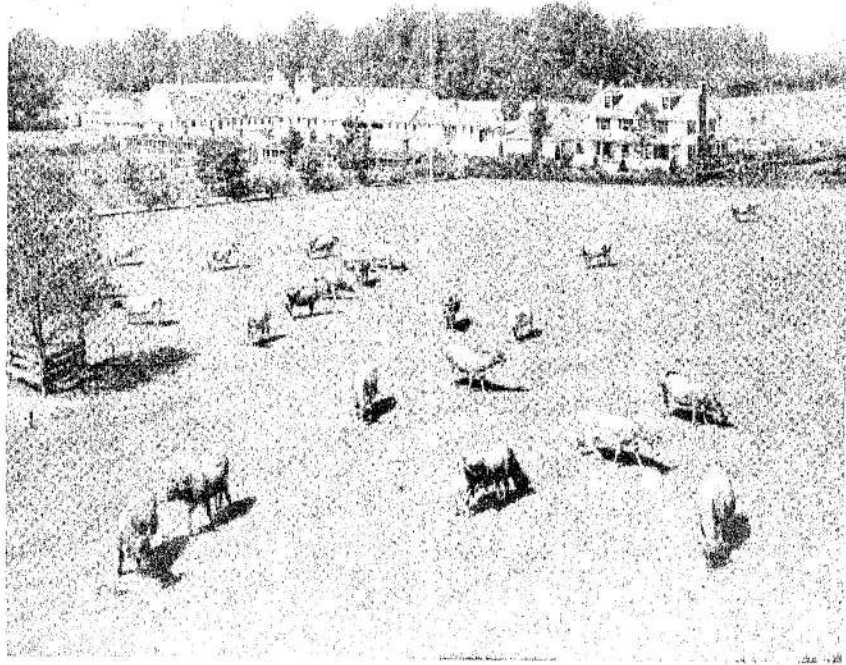
AYRLAWN FARMS
(Ayrlawn Park School)

The North Bethesda School district was formerly farmland, but one of those farms was very special, Ayrlawn Farms. In the 1930's, Millionaire John C. Letts purchased the Austin farm and later purchased the adjoining Bohrer farm, making a total of about 140 acres. Mr. Letts took pride in raising prize Jersey cattle, although he had other livestock and a dairy. This show-place farm produced the grand champion bull (Dashing Dandy) at the San Francisco World's Fair in 1939.

The only entrance into the farm was down Oak Place and through the large gates. The farm was fenced in with high chain link (some of which is still standing) covered with honeysuckle all the way from the north side of Johnson Avenue to a line just beyond Hempstead, then south through the now existing Sonoma Lane down to Greentree Road (then called Cedar Lane) and west over to the Baptist Home for Children. Memories of the sweet honeysuckle fragrance are still aroused as Kay Keating, long time resident, recalls a summer night's ride along the fenced in area at Greentree Road.

Mr. Frank Laughead, who currently lives at 5512 Oak Place, tells about working on Ayrlawn Farms in 1933. He raised calves for Mr. Letts for two and a half years. Mr. Thompson, the farm manager, lived in the main farmhouse, which had been moved in 1927 from the hill where Woodlawn School stands to what is now 9104 Hempstead Avenue. In 1945 or 1946 a fire destroyed the largest barn. It was believed that the fire was caused by a workman leaving a blow torch on while removing the gates from between the two silos.

Mr. Letts, who bought the farm as a hobby, lived on Ellicott Street in the District of Columbia. His home (also named Ayrlawn) is now the residence of the Nicaraguan Ambassador. Mr. Letts died in the late 1930's and the farm was owned and operated by Mr. F. Henry Jones, his son-in-law. The twenty years of farming ended in 1947. The land was sold to Mr. Morris Marks of Stear-mark Corporation, a Realty Company.



We take this opportunity of introducing to you

AYRLAWN FARMS

BETHESDA » MARYLAND

Several of the farm buildings were converted into houses and are still occupied today. Mr. Marks lived in the main farmhouse while he was remodeling the farmhand's house just behind. Today the James Keatings live in the farmhouse. The farmhand's house (5622 Johnson Avenue) belongs to the James Jameisons as does the remodeled hatchery right beside it. Mr. Marks built a new house on the hill in 1948, which is currently the office of Woodlawn School.

Two historic buildings are located toward the west end of Johnson Avenue. The "Bull Barn" for the prize Jerseys was moved south to 6005 Johnson Avenue to make room for the construction of the street in 1950. Prior to that time, the only road into this area was by way of a dirt road through the farm, and later by way of Lindale and Greentree Roads. The "Bull Barn" was renovated and made into a four dormer house, which changed hands twice at a loss and was finally sold the third time at a profit. The house is now occupied by the John A. Ruhlings and some of the original chain link fence can be seen out their back window. The pre-1878 Bohrer farmhouse with its oak beams and floors, is located at 5923 Johnson Avenue, the home of the Oscar Sutermeisters. Most of the farmland was developed into family dwellings by Carl Freeman, and are known as the "Ayrlawn houses," except for 20 acres that the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission acquired for park land.

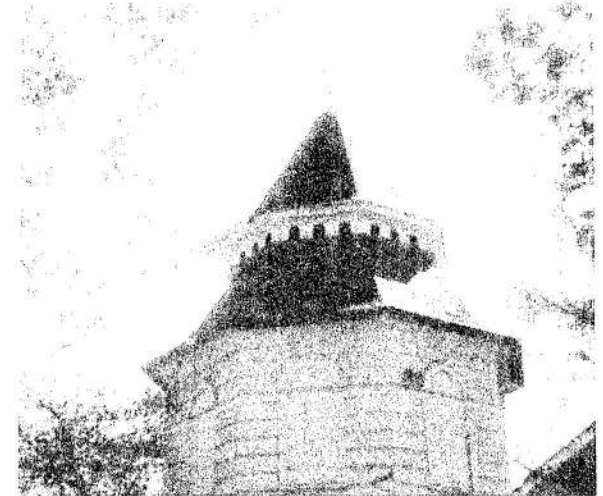
The county remodeled the barn, keeping the old country charm. It was occupied by a cooperative nursery school for a while. A playground, baseball diamonds, and tennis courts were built in the open area, still retaining a small "woods." In the 1960's a public school was proposed to be built in the park to take the overflow from two neighboring elementary schools, Bradley and Wyngate. In spite of strong opposition from residents who objected to the thought of losing their park, the school board purchased 3.1 of the acres and Ayrlawn Elementary school was built in 1962. Ironically, in 1976, the school board has proposed the closing of the school for reasons of declining enrollment.

The remaining farm buildings at Ayrlawn School include an old silo, now being used as an incinerator. Atop of it stands a weathervane symbolizing the Jersey cow. Another silo at the east end carried a prancing horse for its weathervane. The smoke house, the egg house, sloping doors that led to a root cellar, a horse trough, and the dove cote (which held the printing presses for making the milk bottle caps) can still be seen. The

old pasteurizing building belongs to the park, but is used both by the school as an art center and by the recreation department.

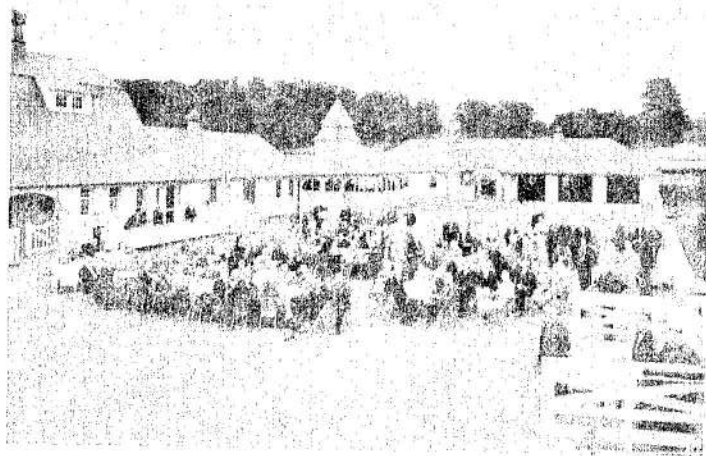
Some of the atmosphere of the old Ayrlawn Farms has been preserved and residents are proud of their school, their park, and their past.

Sources: Interviews with Mrs. James Keating and Mrs. Oscar Sutermeister
Washington Post article "Owner-Operator of Ayrlawn Farms" - September 23, 1975
Washington Star article "Still Called Ayrlawn" - December 4, 1966
Hopkins Atlas, 1878
Montgomery County Historical Society
Ayrlawn Elementary School Files



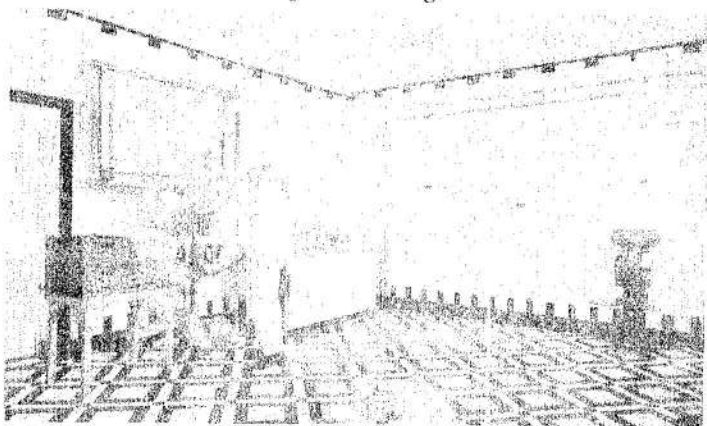
The Dove Cote is still
standing on Ayrlawn Farms

Photograph by John Kim



Washington Rotary Club entertained at
Luncheon in Cow Paddock, June, 1930

This picture shows only a small section of our farm unit. It does not show the large white dairy barns, or the white milk house upon both of which, for our CLEANLINESS, we have been continuously rated 100% by the Health Department of the District of Columbia. Every requirement for extreme cleanliness is constantly emphasized in an effort to maintain this perfect rating.



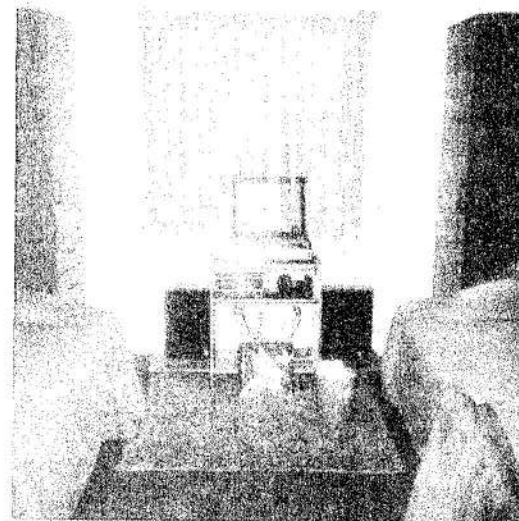
One Corner of the White Tiled Milk Room

From an original advertising brochure--Arylawn Farms

Baptist Home for Children



From brochure published by the Baptist Home
for Children



An inside view of a
room at The Baptist
Home for Children

Photograph by John Kim

BAPTIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

The Baptist Home for Children, located at 6301 Greentree Road in Bethesda, Maryland is funded by the D.C. Baptist Convention (all the Baptist churches in Washington D.C.). The Convention purchased 160 acres of land from Mr. James Morrison in 1925. All but 12 acres have been sold and the money invested. The home is supported by the investments, pay orders from the State, individual contributions, and parent support.

The Home has been ministering to school age children from the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland since 1914. It was located in the District of Columbia (Brookline--Hamilton Street) until 1931. The present home was dedicated by Mrs. Herbert Hoover on November 20, 1931. At that time, Montgomery County provided access to the Home by a mile long road from Old Georgetown Road to 6301 Greentree Road, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission had provided water, both free of charge.

In 1914, there were probably 15 children in the Home; today there are approximately 40, even though the main building accommodates up to 50 children, and the cottages will house 10-15, in addition to a staff of 20-25 people.

Anyone can refer a child for admission into the Home, but each one is interviewed and carefully screened by the professional staff, taking into consideration psychological, medical and school reports. The child is given a tour of the campus, and an overnight stay is arranged. The admission is finalized only after the child has lived in the Home for 30 days followed by an evaluation meeting held with the placing agency or person, so that the staff can determine future needs.

There are eight social workers, a consulting psychiatrist who consults with the children, discusses their medications, and supervises group therapy, and volunteer tutors who help the children, most of whom are at least one year behind. The children stay in the Home until they have been helped with their problems, which means anywhere from a few months to a few years. On occasion, the Home has helped a child go to college.

The children in the Home are a part of the community. They attend the public schools (presently children go to eleven different public schools) and take part in the activities at the YMCA, as well as go to movies and shopping centers just like their friends. Some children work, with jobs at Suburban Hospital, NIH, Chesapeake Seafood House, etc. They bank half the money earned. Those who do not work get an allowance. The children attend church on Sundays, and are encouraged to visit their own homes as often as possible.

At the Home, the children are expected to clean their rooms, do their washing and ironing, and help in the dining room. (Boys do dishes too). They select their own clothing and are permitted to be involved in any acceptable activity. However, bedtime is 9:00 p.m. for elementary age children and 9:30-10:00 p.m. for the teenagers because they all get up at 6:00 a.m. Discipline is handled through restrictions rather than any physical punishment.

Once a year, on the fourth Saturday in October, an Open House is held. At this time anyone wishing to give a donation to the Home may do so.

Sources: Interview with Reverend M. W. Freeman
Brochure "Baptist Home for Children"
Montgomery County Sentinel article, November 30, 1931

SUBURBAN HOSPITAL

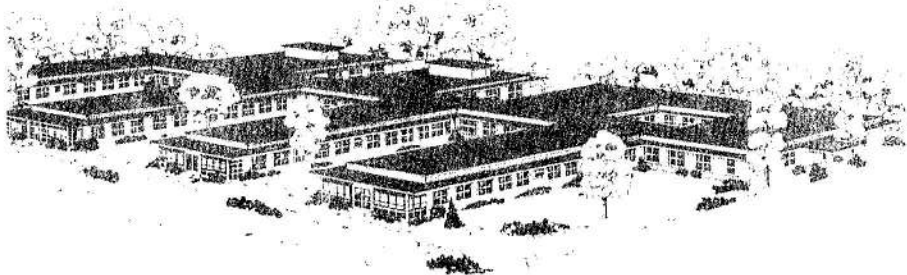
Suburban Hospital, a prominent landmark in the Bethesda suburb of Montgomery County, can boast of 33 years of dedicated service to the community.

The groundwork was laid for the establishment of the hospital with the formation of the Suburban Hospital Association, Inc. - a group of citizens dedicated to filling the need for a community hospital in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area - and Congressional approval of the Lanham Act which authorized funds for hospital construction in populous defense areas.

On April 6, 1943 ground was broken for the building of a 100-bed hospital on the present site which was then vacant land purchased by the government, and by December 13, 1943 the first patient was admitted to the new facility henceforth called Suburban Hospital under the management of the Suburban Hospital Association.

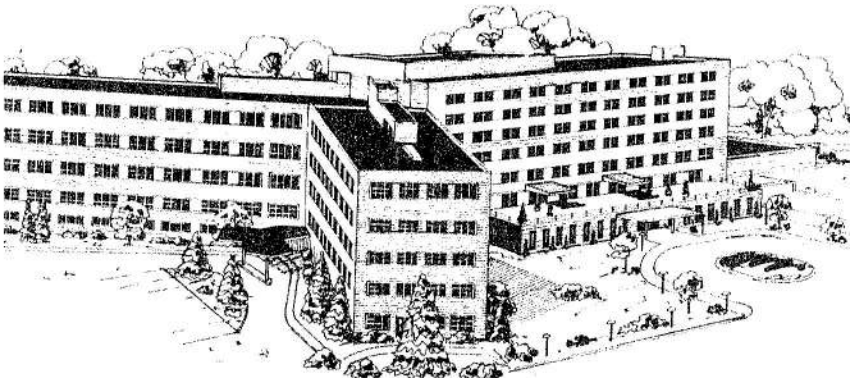
With the phasing out of the Federal Defense Hospital program in 1950, Suburban Hospital was put up for sale and subsequently purchased by its Association for \$125,000, the money being raised through community effort. Due to the continual pressure for more beds the hospital was increased in size through a three-stage plan completed in December 1966 at a cost of over 8 million dollars. The original 100-bed structure was torn down and a 350-bed complex was erected. That complex is today's Suburban Hospital demarcated by Old Georgetown Road and Lincoln, McKinley and Grant Streets.

Plans are in effect, now that the courts have ruled an exception to zoning regulations, to add a three level parking garage of 280-car capacity at Lincoln Street and Old Georgetown Road on a two lot corner bought from a private owner. The garage will be adjacent to the old Eye Research Foundation building which Suburban contracted to buy from the Board of the Foundation for less than 1 million dollars and which has now undergone revamping to become a new lab and blood bank annex. In one section of the parking area behind Suburban a new 115-bed wing will also be constructed to relieve the necessity for further expansion. Patient census ranks 85 percent, but occupancy of medical-surgical units has reached an explosive 95 percent. Due to this



1943

Suburban Hospital 1943--1973 From 30 Years of Service, published by Suburban Hospital



1973

situation and because it was not used to capacity, the maternity unit of the hospital was closed as of January 1, 1976 to provide room for in-and-out surgery and the needs of other departments. Moreover, to lessen the shortage of space in the hospital proper, McKinley Hall at the corner of McKinley Street and Old Georgetown Road, which was once a nursing and staff residency, now houses administrative offices on the first floor and the Suburban School of Practical Nursing on the second floor with library, class and study rooms.

Since 1943 Suburban Hospital has been run by its Association, a non-profit corporation, or more specifically, by a Board of Trustees, the members of which live in and represent the entire community, serving without pay and contributing considerable time in planning and directing the hospital finances, operations and building requirements. The Board is composed of 30 elected, 4 ex officio, and 12 honorary members. Terms of office are three years; no one can be re-elected for more than two more terms. The approximately 400 members of the Suburban Hospital Association comprise the electorate.

The Board of Trustees is only one segment of the "Hospital Family." An Administrator and his assistants, employed by the Trustees, act as the day-to-day supervisors of hospital operations; hospital staff employees include 12 officers serving as resident physicians; the 800 doctors who treat their patients at the hospital comprise the Medical Staff which is elected by the Board. Equally important are the hundreds of Montgomery County residents who give of their time and energy in supporting the volunteer branch of the "Hospital Family" . . . These include Hospital and Red Cross volunteers as well as the junior Candy Strippers. All have helped to make Suburban Hospital a going concern.

In addition to the care and treatment of patients (totaling some 1 million since 1943), Suburban Hospital recently organized a liaison group representing Health Department officials and physicians, hospitals and nursing homes to develop educational programs and in-service training techniques. Affiliations with the University of Maryland, Georgetown University and Montgomery College have provided clinical education for nursing and radiology students, residency training in family medicine; clinical experience is also afforded students in pharmacy through an externship program with Howard University College of Pharmacy.

The Hospital's Environmental Services Department has also made possible on-the-job training for members of the Hannah Harrison Career School of the District of Columbia YWCA.

Six scholarships and six grants-in-aid in the amount of \$6,100, some of which have been awarded this year by the Hospital Auxiliary go to Montgomery County residents engaged in nursing and paramedic training programs. Three others from the area received scholarship funds of \$2,000 in memory of two past presidents of the hospital to aid them in furthering their nursing education. Other awards are given, one of the most recent being the first Amelia C. Carter Scholarship honoring its namesake who lately retired after 25 years of administrative service to Suburban. The recipient is a Silver Spring resident who will attend Suburban's School of Practical Nursing. The Hospital Auxiliary also sponsored a Health Career Seminar which was attended by over 100 Montgomery County high school students and counselors, and an Explorer Scout Post has been organized which offers a program for high school level students interested in medical careers.

With the health education of the community in mind, Suburban Hospital has initiated a series of seminars in the fall of 1976 which are open to the public and feature lectures by physicians covering subjects such as heart disease, hypertension and breast cancer... Suburban Hospital is not only a major health center in Montgomery County, but it has become as well a major Poison Control Center for the National Capital Area with the installation of a new poison control system. New services and new equipment are continually being added to the hospital's facilities as the necessity arises and the funds are provided. Financing is always a problem when faced with the many and specialized needs of a large community, but as Robert H. Myers, President of Suburban Hospital Association, Inc., has affirmed: "We are determined to continue to move ahead." The success of community efforts in the past supports this optimism.

Sources: 30 Years of Service, 1974 Annual Report, Suburban Hospital
1975 Annual Report, Suburban Hospital
"Who Owns Suburban Hospital"
The Suburbanite, Suburban Hospital, August 1976,
Vol. 3, No. 7
Office of Public Relations

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Inscribed on a handsome bronze plaque near the main entrance of the National Institutes of Health administrative building in Bethesda, Maryland, is a brief, but dramatic description of the historical development of the Institutes.

The story of NIH is, in large measure, one of the increasing Federal involvement in the field of public health. This concern received initial impetus in 1798 when President John Adams signed into being the Marine Hospital Service which, at the outset, aided sick and disabled seamen, but quickly expanded into other areas. The following century saw the growth of libraries of medicine, Federally financed research efforts in the field of communicable, epidemic diseases, the formation of a public health service and Federal quarantine measures among other national programs. By the 20th Century, Federal efforts had intensified, the importance of medical research into all aspects of the prevention, treatment and cure of disease more fully recognized and health cooperation on an international scale had begun. The two World Wars served to augment medical research. It is within this context that NIH assumes such a dynamic role.

Now a world renowned biomedical research center under the aegis of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, NIH can trace its beginnings to the establishment in 1887 of a bacteriological laboratory at the Marine Hospital, Staten Island, New York. This facility was later relocated in 1891 as the Hygienic Laboratory in Washington, D.C. and quartered with administrative offices at New Jersey Avenue and B Street, S.E. With the appropriation by Congress in 1901 of \$35,000 and made possible by the transfer of a 5-acre tract of land from the Navy Department, the Hygienic Lab, in 3 years, acquired its own building at 25th and E Streets, N.W. By 1930 it had been enlarged three-fold with additional Federal funds and had been redesignated by an act of Congress as the National Institute of Health.

It was at this juncture that the future location of NIH was determined. A Maryland resident, the late Mr. Luke I. Wilson, wrote a letter to President Franklin Roosevelt in the mid 1930's asking if he knew of a worthy institution which might benefit by a donation of land. Events were set in motion which, after Wilson's death, led to the dedication by his widow in 1935 of 45 acres of their Bethesda estate, "Tree Tops", to the U.S. Public Health Service for purposes of NIH expansion. This was followed in 1938 by two further gifts of land amounting to some 25 acres. In this year Congress authorized construction of improved and expanded laboratory facilities in Bethesda and the cornerstone for the first building of the new NIH was laid.

Subsequent donations of "Tree Tops" land by Helen Woodward Wilson in 1940 and 1942 brought the total to 92 acres which formed the nucleus of what is now the 306-acre reservation of NIH. The additional land was acquired in 1948-49 through outright purchases from the Sisters of Visitation, the Town and Country Golf Club and from Freeland and Lulie Whitlock Peter.

Today NIH is bordered by Old Georgetown Road and is adjacent to the Sisters of Visitation on one side. Cedar Lane forms another line, intersecting Old Georgetown Road and landmarked by the Bethesda Fire House at one end, and meeting Rockville Pike - an extension of Wisconsin Avenue - at the other. Wisconsin Avenue-Rockville Pike completes the boundary of the reservation.

The establishment of NIH has undoubtedly been the most significant factor in the transformation of Bethesda from a quiet village to a burgeoning residential area of over 90,000 people. From the first laboratory facility erected on the newly acquired land in the mid-1900's, NIH - officially pluralized to National Institutes of Health by an act of Congress in 1948 - has evolved into eleven research Institutes and four Divisions and includes as well a 516-bed hospital - the Clinical Center, a 1,500,000 volume National Library of Medicine famed as being the largest medical reference center in the world, and the Fogarty International Center; 54 buildings house or service these various components. Buildings 15A and 15K were once private residences of the Wilsons and acquired along with their estate.

The research Institutes deal with a broad spectrum of disease and health problems. One of the earliest of the Institutes is the National Cancer Institute authorized by Congress in 1937 with the approval of all 96 Senators. It supports major

cancer research, and cancer diagnosis, treatment and prevention programs now defined by the National Cancer Act of 1971. The other Institutes may not perhaps be so publicly known, but are equally important. Their various focal areas are diverse, encompassing allergy and infectious diseases, dental research, child health and human development, neurological diseases and stroke, arthritis, metabolism and digestive diseases, studies of the eye, heart and lungs and general medical sciences as well. The Institute on environmental health is located at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The most recent addition to NIH is the National Institute on Aging signed into law in 1974.

The research Divisions are concerned with computer research and technology, research services, resources and grants - all back-up support for what must be an ongoing effort in the field of biomedical research to sustain the mission of NIH which is "to improve the health of all Americans." More than 1,400 research projects are current at all times as most of the Institutes maintain laboratory and clinical research programs.

Central to this mission is the research hospital. The Clinical Center, as it is called within the organization of NIH, was authorized by the Public Health Service Act of 1944. Construction began in 1948, the cornerstone laid in June of 1950 by President Harry S. Truman and the dedication held in July of 1953 with Department of Health, Education and Welfare Secretary, Oveta Culp Hobby, officiating. In that month the first patient was admitted. By the year 1973 the number of patients had totalled 70,000.

The Clinical Center does not function as a regular hospital, that is, it provides patient care only in conjunction with the clinical investigations being conducted by the various Institutes and does not offer general diagnostic and treatment services. Patient selection is, therefore, based solely on the particular type of illness or disease which is under study with some 4,000 such patients per year being admitted upon referral by doctors throughout the United States and abroad. In addition some 250 healthy volunteers are admitted to the Clinical Center for purposes of comparison of normal body functions as against abnormal. For the most part these volunteers are recruited through special arrangements with certain colleges, religious organizations and civic groups.

The extent to which the Federal Government is involved in medical research can be measured by the fact that nearly 90 percent of the \$2 billion annual budget of NIH is appropriated for the research conducted by individuals at various universities, medical centers, hospitals and non-profit research institutions numbering some 2,500 in the U.S. and in several foreign countries.

However, in the broad perspective of biomedical research, the Government and the private sector, in particular the academic community, are engaged in a vast partnership which has led to major breakthroughs such as the discovery of German Measles vaccine, and development of spare parts for the human body. Fifty-five Nobel Prize scientists have been recipients of NIH support as well as countless other scholars.

The Fogarty International Center is an extension of the concept of partnership. Named in memory of its promulgator, Representative John E. Fogarty, the Center is dedicated "to international cooperation and collaboration in the interest of the health of mankind" with prime emphasis placed on advanced study. This involves the bringing together of outstanding scholars, scientists and individuals of intellectual distinction to consider the broader implications of scientific development in the biomedical field.

To implement this goal, the Fogarty Scholars-in-Residence program has been established and, moreover, postdoctoral fellowships are awarded each year to bring young, promising foreign scientists to the States. The Center serves as the focus for discussion, study and exchange between the scholars and the American biomedical community. In addition, an International Visitors Center within the Fogarty Center is the meeting place for the hundreds of distinguished visitors who come to NIH each year.

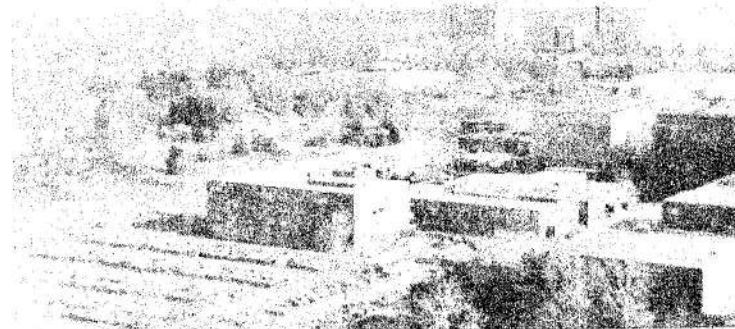
During their tenure at NIH, Fogarty Scholars are housed in a native bluestone, 25-room mansion in modified Georgian style called the Stone House (NIH Building 16) which was acquired in the purchase of the G. Freeland and Lulie Whitlock Peter estate in 1949 and completely renovated in 1970. The Stone House also provides conference space. The International Visitors Center is located in Building 16A and is the former resident of the caretaker for the Peter Estate and part of that estate purchase.

In addition to the main NIH reservation, various field stations are maintained such as the NIH Animal Center in Poolesville, Maryland, the Gerontology Research Center in Baltimore, the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton, Montana.

As the principal medical research agency of the Federal Government, NIH has a large staff composed of approximately 13,000 members of whom some 2,200 hold doctoral degrees; 1,000 of these are physicians, veterinarians and dentists. Also included on the staff are skilled technologists, administrative and support personnel. Overall leadership to NIH activities is the responsibility of the Director of NIH who also maintains a close liaison with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs. He operates through the Office of the Director and is assisted by a professional executive and administrative staff including Deputy and Associate Directors.

The first head of NIH was Joseph J. Kinyoun who was, in fact, founder and director of the Hygienic Laboratory at the Marine Hospital, New York from its establishment in 1887 to 1899. Through his interest in bacteriology the groundwork for the present health research program of NIH was laid. Many outstanding men have held the directorship of NIH since Dr. Kinyoun's era including the present Director, Dr. Donald S. Frederickson and many major and dramatic advances in the field of biomedical research have been made during the course of the historical evolution of the National Institutes of Health which is truly worthy of being named one of the world's "foremost and prestigious biomedical research centers."

Sources: NIH Almanac 1975, DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 75-1
John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced
Study in the Health Sciences, DHEW Publication
No. (NIH) 76-947
The NIH Record, U.S. Department of Health, Education
and Welfare, National Institutes of Health, July 3,
1973
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View of NIH grounds
Photograph by Marilyn Zener

The Clinical Center, NIH
Photograph by Marilyn Zener



NORTH BETHESDA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The beginnings of North Bethesda Junior High School date back to a deed recorded in August of 1951 whereby thirty acres of land at \$2,500 an acre for a total of \$75,000 was purchased by the Board of Education from the Baptist Home for Children. A further exchange of land took place in April of 1952 whereby over twelve acres of the thirty were traded to Mr. J. Connor in exchange for ten of his acres. Those ten acres were used to build the Wyngate Elementary School. North Bethesda was left with a little over nineteen acres, which is its size today.

North Bethesda Junior High School opened its doors in September 1955 (its dedication was in November) with an enrollment of 630 students. At that time the building included a 390 seat cafeteria, a library with some 500 volumes, thirty-six classrooms, including two art laboratories, four science laboratories, a home arts suite, an audio-visual room, soundproof band and choral rooms, a health room and shop facilities. There were thirty-two teachers on the faculty at that time. During the years, the enrollment increased to 1600-1800 students. The increase was due to the transferring of students from the Kensington, Leland, and Western Junior High School boundaries. To relieve our school of overcrowdedness, Julius West, Pyle, and Tilden Junior High Schools were built, and a new wing was added to North Bethesda in the 1960's. In recent years the rapid growth is up county, so the enrollment has decreased in this area. North Bethesda's enrollment is 1029 today (June 1976) with a faculty of fifty-four.

The first principal of North Bethesda, Mr. Emerson P. Slacum (1955-1965) was interviewed during his visit to the school. Some of his former colleagues were still there to greet him. Teachers, Mr. Timberlake and Dr. McCrorie helped open the school, but other familiar faces included Mr. Pignone, Mr. Rubis, Mr. Swick, Ms. Jones, Ms. Stephanos, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Daugherty, and Mrs. Harper. Mr. Slacum recalled that North Bethesda could not open on the first day in September 1955 because the van bringing the furniture hit a cow in North Carolina, turned over and rolled down a hill, damaging some of the furniture. The students came to school but Mr. Slacum explained what

had happened and told the students to go home. They were told that as soon as the furniture arrived and was put together, the flag would be flown to indicate the first day of school.

Mr. Slacum couldn't help but notice how times had changed. The teachers were dressing more like the kids. In his time the dress code for North Bethesda read:

DRESS REGULATIONS:

- BOYS:**
1. Regular shirt tails must be worn under trousers
 2. Shirts must be buttoned except for the top button at the neck
 3. Boys may not wear levis, levi-type trousers, or blue jeans
 4. "T" shirts may not be worn in place of regular, sport, or polo shirts, an undershirt is not a shirt. Socks must be worn at all times.
 5. SPORT SHIRTS AND SLACKS ARE ACCEPTABLE AND RECOMMENDED DURING HOT WEATHER.
- GIRLS:**
1. Strapless or backless dresses without jackets are not to be worn
 2. Head scarves or pinned-up hair may not be worn to class
 3. Beach clothing, beach-type sandals, or thong-type sandals may not be worn
 4. Culottes, pedal pushers or shorts may not be worn.

In the first years of North Bethesda, there was an Honor Society determined by nomination and vote of the faculty after a student had qualified scholastically. Graduations were held for the 9th graders.

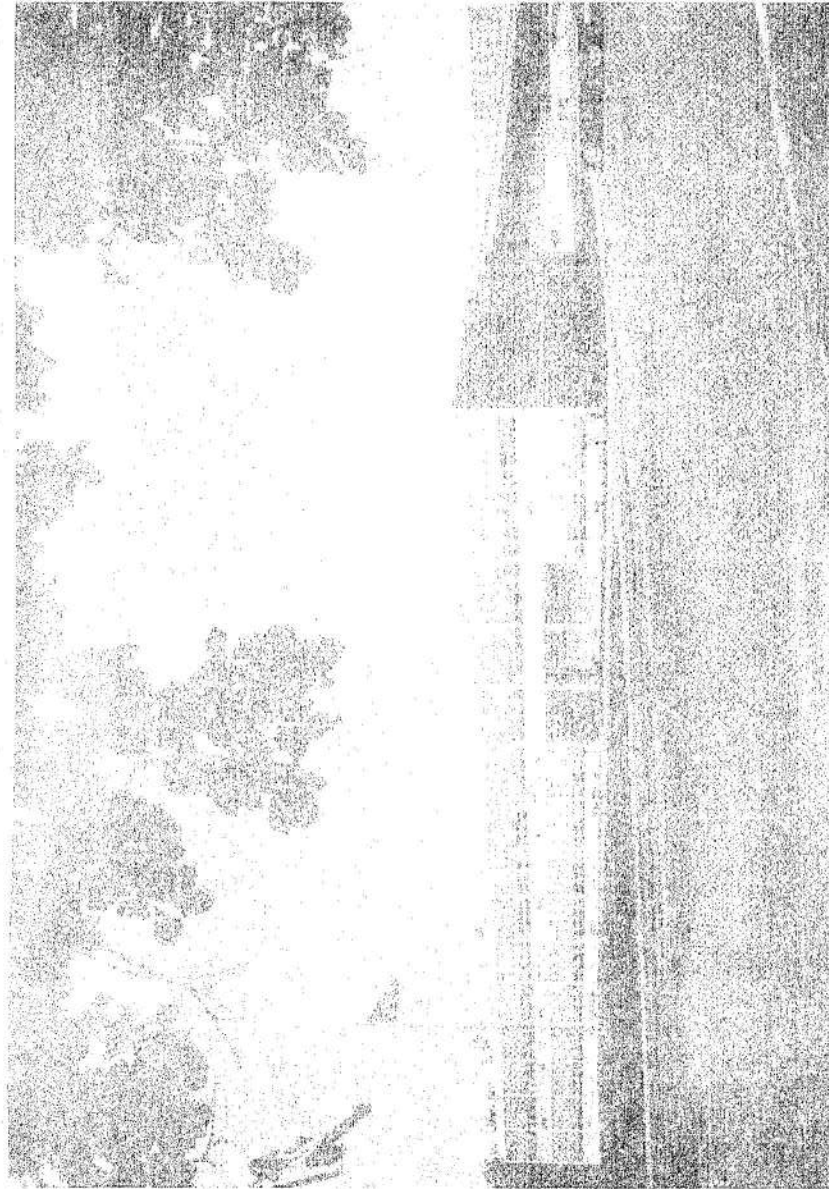
The building had also changed. Two wings had been added. Mr. Slacum commented that "we always took pride in our grounds and felt that they had been well maintained. Of course, the four tennis courts are a fine new addition."

While visiting the gymnasium, Mr. Slacum remembered one time when the Grosvenor boy was a student in school. Through him, one of the Mount Everest climbers, Barry Bishop, agreed to give the school his illustrated lecture (ordinarily costing about \$1500). Because the facilities were not large enough to seat the whole student body, he gave it twice.

North Bethesda was noted for its projects of adopting a Korean orphan, working with Save the Children's Federation and the Peace Corps. At one time, the school helped in the Civil Defense effort. Civil Defense materials, such as cots, blankets, and first aid equipment were stored in the school.

Other principals who have served North Bethesda through the years include Messrs. Ray Zimmerman, Fred Ciali, Ellis Glime, and our current principal serving in her fifth year, Dr. Lee Etta Powell.

Sources: Interview with Mr. Emerson P. Slacum
"Dress Requirements" - PTSA Records



From 1957 Yearbook, North Star
North Bethesda Junior High School