

My Journey



Don Linton

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FORWARD

I should explain why I am taking the time and effort to tell my story.

Several years ago, my daughter Rebecca told me that she never had the opportunity to visit and talk to my father, as he had died of a heart attack before she was born. She encouraged me to write something she could share with her family. She now has a three-year-old daughter, so it is time to do what she requested.

Additionally, friends urged me to capture my recollections after hearing the stories of how citizens worked to rebuild Frederick before and after the flood of 1976. "You need to write that down," was the frequent comment, preserving the first-person history that can get lost over time. Newcomers were often surprised to learn that downtown Frederick didn't always have trees shading its main streets. That in itself was a story I needed to tell.

After I started this project, I found that every time I pulled out a file, I found more information and photographs I wanted to include. I also found it very important to include how much Frederick has changed. When I was in high school in the 1950s, Frederick was a small but vibrant community with major retail stores like Sears, JCPenney and Peoples Drug, as well as local retailers and numerous fine restaurants downtown. Around the time we opened our office at 6 West Second Street, the shopping centers opened west of Frederick on Route 40, and the central downtown business area began to decline. The downtown became very quiet and then rapidly decayed after the Francis Scott Key Hotel on West Patrick Street closed. It was hard to find a place for lunch in downtown Frederick, let alone dinner. Neither our elected officials nor the business community did anything to avert this for a long time. It took a lot of effort by a lot of fine people to turn Frederick around to become the great vibrant community we know today -- the envy of every city and town in Maryland. That's why I expanded my story to include how I saw Frederick change over my lifetime. My children grew up here, but they no longer live in the area, and are now spread out from Baltimore and Hagerstown to Sterling, Virginia. My story may be another method of communicating and sharing my experiences with them and my grandchildren.

I have had a very interesting life, and my story proves that if you have a dream, work smart and work hard, you can accomplish small miracles. Many wonderful individuals gave me the support and encouragement to help make my journey possible; my sincere thanks to one and all.

Donald C. Linton
April 2018

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my children and grandchildren and to the civic and public leaders who have made Frederick city and Frederick County wonderful places to live.

Table of Contents

Forward	
Dedication	
The Linton's of Yellow Springs -----	1
Our Middletown Connections -----	2
A New Linton Family -----	2
Photo Page: The Linton Family: 1940s &1950s -----	3
World War II -----	5
The Move to Adam Road -----	6
1950s: A Decade of Change -----	7
Photo Page: High School Years -----	8
Army Life -----	9
Photo Page: Military Service -----	10
College, Marriage and Starting a Career -----	12
Marriage and University -----	13
Frederick: Early Career and Family Life -----	15
Photo Page: The Linton Family -----	16
A Move to County Government -----	17
A Trail of Questions -----	17
Doing What's Right -----	19
Difficulties and Opportunities Come Hand in Hand -----	19
Community Service -----	20
Taking the Leap into Private Practice -----	21
A Growing Business -----	22
The Creation of CPA Management Services (CPAMS) -----	23
The Rebirth of Downtown Frederick -----	24
Planting the Seed (or Tree) of Change -----	24
The Frederick Improvement Foundation -----	25
Vest Pocket Parks -----	26

Making Headway -----	26
A Proactive Chamber of Commerce -----	27
Operation Town Action Begins to Turn the Tide -----	28
An All-American City -----	29
Celebrations and Setbacks -----	29
The Flood of '76 -----	30
A Promise Fulfilled -----	30
Citizens Nursing Home -----	31
Living on Luck -- and Borrowed Time -----	31
The Jeanne Bussard Workshop -----	32
A New Building -----	33
A Gift That Lasts Forever: Creating the Community Foundation of Frederick County -----	34
Photo Page: Creating The Community Foundation of Frederick County -----	36
Photo Page: The Community Foundation of Frederick County -----	38
A Second Start -----	39
More Good Luck -----	40
Moving Forward Professionally -----	41
Photo Page: Joining Friends & Colleagues in Community Service -----	42
Good Plans Become Legacies -----	43
A Growing Firm -----	43
From One Generation to the Next -----	43
Photo Page: Through the Generations -----	44
More Luck on My Side -----	45
Photo Page: A Proud Father -----	46
2000: A New Century in a Changing Community -----	47
Maryland Higher Education Investment Board -----	48
Hood College -----	48
Frederick Community College -----	49
A Professional Merger -----	50
Photo Page: A Fire Guts Former Linton, Shafer Building/ Celebrating 40 Years of Business Success & An Exciting Merger -----	51

Family Heritage Trust Company -----	52
The Fight for Citizens and Montevue -----	52
Meeting New Needs -----	53
Photo Page: Breaking Ground: The New Citizens & Montevue -----	54
Shock Waves -----	55
The Legal Fight -----	56
Photo Page: Headlines -----	57
The Second Legal Phase -----	60
A Lesson Learned -----	61
Master Entrepreneur Award -----	61
Celebrating Fifty Years In Business -----	61
Photo Page: Through the Years with LSWG -----	62
Photo Page: Celebrating 50 Years at LSWG -----	64
Life in (Semi) Retirement -----	65
Photo Page: A Toast to Family -----	66
The Lessons We Learn: Wear a Hat -----	67
A Bold and Exciting Future -----	67
Photo Album -----	69
Travis and Regina -----	70
Enjoying Golf -----	71
Retirement Travels -----	72
Florida, Travel & Friends -----	73
Celebrating with Friends -----	74
Celebrating the Community Foundation's Legacy -----	75
Becky's Family Photos -----	76
A Myers' Family Legacy -----	77
Four Generations of Becky's Family -----	78
Becky with Family and Friends -----	79
History of the Frederick Coffee Club -----	80
Do You Remember Who Gave You Your First Break? -----	82
Photo Collage Foldout	
Acknowledgments	

I was born on July 19, 1935, midway through the Great Depression, in the city of Frederick, Maryland. Frederick was a small farming community at that time, with a population of just over 14,000 people, surrounded by the hills, farmland and villages that defined Frederick County's mostly rural way of life. Today, in 2018, more than 70,000 people live in Frederick, making it the state's second largest city and one that has changed a lot over my lifetime. I've raised a family and built a business here, and participated in some of the opportunities that have transformed the city I know so well. This is my story, which is also a story of a dynamic and growing Frederick.



The Linton's of Yellow Springs

The Linton family name is Scottish, and we can trace our roots in Maryland to Samuel Linton, born in 1715, whose colonial landholdings were in what is now Prince George's County. There was a Samuel in each of several succeeding generations, with the fourth Samuel (1832-1900), my great-great-



Four generations of Linton's in 1932 (from left to right) Carrie Kintz Linton, William Umford Linton, James William Linton, Clara Nusz Linton holding Roy Laurence Linton, Roy William Linton and Helen Stine Linton.

grandfather, born at Yellow Springs, just outside Frederick city. He married Betty Elizabeth Snyder (1838-1931) and raised twelve children in the same area. Their son James William (1856-1936) married Clara Nusz (1854-1936) in 1880 at Brook Hill Methodist Church in Yellow Springs, and



Railroad Laborers. William U. Linton, front row, fifth from left, with pick in hand.

it was there that they raised six children, including my grandfather, William Umford Linton, who was born in 1885. His bride, Carrie Rettie Kintz of Shookstown, born in 1887 to David and Ida Whipp Kintz, was twenty years old when they wed on April 24, 1907, in Frederick. She was twenty-one and he was twenty-three when my father, Roy William, was born on September 24, 1908.



Dad and Uncle Harold at Yellow Springs home in 1931; circa 1929 Model A Ford. Uncle Harold loved dogs and it's no surprise to see him holding one here.

In the 1930 census, my grandparents were farming two or three acres in Yellow Springs, with my father, age twenty-one, still at home, along with his two younger brothers: Harold, born in 1913, and James, born in 1915. The census listed my grandfather as a laborer, and my father as doing "odd job" labor. Grandpap, as I called him, farmed his land with a blind horse named Duvy. I was always impressed with how well they could plow a field together since Duvy couldn't see where he was going! Grandpap was a very hardworking man who couldn't read or write, but was street smart. He worked as a laborer for the Potomac Edison Company and then for the Frederick Gas Company, where he was employed through the late 1950s. My grandparents' house did not have electricity or plumbing. They used kerosene lamps for lighting and water was carried uphill from the spring, a job that later went to my brother and me when we visited. It was a little primitive by today's standards, with no telephone,

television or automobile, but they were happy there and lived a full life. Grandpap was gruff, always threatening to beat my bottom with a stick, but he never did.

Grandmother Carrie was little but mighty, weighing about ninety pounds soaking wet. She was born on a farm in Shookstown along with four sisters and two brothers. Her father, David, was killed at the age of seventy-six in a farm accident in 1932. She talked a mile a minute on almost any topic, and I think she knew everyone in Yellow Springs. She came to Frederick city every Friday with a neighbor to do her shopping and visit her doctor where she got her sugar pills. I remember one time when she had a chest x-ray and it came back negative. After that she always had a “negative lung” to talk about! She moved to Frederick after grandfather’s death on June 12, 1961, and would visit me at my office on Second Street after I opened the firm. She moved into the Frederick Nursing Center in the early 1970s and passed away on January 19, 1976, at the age of eighty-nine. She always had high spirits and was known for carrying an umbrella and wearing a hat wherever she went.



Mother circa late 1920s

Our Middletown Connections

My mother was Helen Stine Linton, and her great-grandfather, Henry Stine (1821-1900) is buried in Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Middletown. He and his wife Elizabeth (1831-1872),

were the parents of four children, among them Thomas Franklin Stine (1849-1926), my mother’s grandfather. Thomas outlived both his wife, Mary L. Cartee Stine (1854-1911), and his son and my grandfather, William Carty Stine (1880-1925), who died when my mother was just twelve years old.



Roy and Helen at the time of their marriage, September 3, 1930.

William Stine’s death at the age of forty-five left his wife, Adah J.E. Young Stine (1883-1961), with eight children to raise, as well as being pregnant with their ninth, born three months later. As was often the case in those years when one parent was left alone, some of

the children went to live with other families, often to help with house or farm chores which paid for their room and board. Mother, who was born on February 10, 1913, was sent to a family that lived on Schley Avenue in Braddock Heights. She went to school in Frederick and graduated from the Elm Street School that had opened in 1922. The 1930 census lists her as living in Middletown, a seventeen-year-old house servant for Susan R. Bussard

Gaver, the widow of George W. Gaver, the founding president of the Middletown Savings Bank. Mother’s short childhood and early working life clearly made her into the strong woman I knew. She was the stabilizing influence that held our family together.

A New Linton Family

I do not know how or where my parents met, but they married on September 3, 1930, and a December 12, 1931, newspaper account lists them as attending a butchering at my Linton grandparents’ farm. They set up housekeeping at Yellow Springs, and my older brother Roy was born at home on July 11, 1932.

My mother was a twenty-two-year-old homemaker, and my father was twenty-six and working as a laborer when I was born three years later, in July 1935, at the new Frederick Emergency Hospital on the Montevue property. The hospital had opened in 1934, and it provided crucial access to health care for low-income families during the years of the Depression and World War II. I was just one of the 5,540 babies born there during its twenty years of operation.

In 1935, Frederick County was an entirely different place than it is today. Only people who lived in the city of Frederick, and not even all of them, had running water and sanitary sewer facilities; many water and sewer projects were completed as WPA (Works Progress Administration) projects during the Great Depression. Windmills, used for pumping water, were a familiar fixture outside the city, as well as



Roy and Helen, Wedding Day, 1930



The
Linton Family
1940s & 1950s



On a visit to Yellow Springs. (l to r) Grandma Carrie, Richard, Shirley and Grandpap.

Shirley and Richard visiting Grandpap and Grandma Carrie Linton at their home in Yellow Springs.



Don



Adam Road in the late 1940s before the streets were paved.



Don



(l to r): Grandpap, Alverta and Roy Kintz (Grandmother's brother and wife) and Grandmother Carrie.

Uncle James and family. (l to r) Jim, Uncles James, Leola, Gary, Grandpap Linton and Peter.



Four generations in the late 1950s. Back: Avis and Roy Linton, Dad. Middle: Grandmother Adah Stine, Grandpap and Grandma Carrie Linton holding Jerry, Avis and Roy's son. Front: Shirley and Richard.



Dad and Mother



Don's uncle, Harold Linton

outside hand pumps for drawing water and outhouses. Many homes, like that of my grandparents, had only kerosene lanterns for lighting and no electricity.

There were no interstate highways in those days, and many roads were unpaved. The streets of Frederick were two-way, and it could take up to an hour to go through Frederick on a Sunday afternoon if you were coming from Hagerstown and going to Baltimore on US40 or to Washington on what is now MD355. Two decades later, when I was a teenager working at a gas station on the corner of South and Market Streets, I would watch the traffic crawl through town with a police officer always there to keep the traffic moving. Interstate 70 from Frederick to Urbana was built in 1953. We took a ride to New Market on it one night at ten o'clock and only passed one other vehicle.

During the early years of the Depression, my father worked on WPA projects around the city. Somewhere around 1937 he was hired by the Potomac Edison Company. In the 1940 census his occupation was listed as a lineman for the company, and it noted that he worked fifty-two



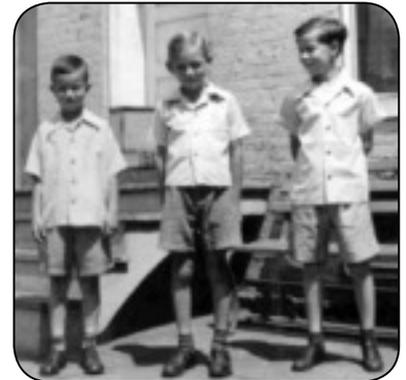
Don's uncle, James Linton, received special mention in The Frederick News in the 1940s: "Jim Linton, star hurler, gets ready to toss one that they couldn't see. Linton allowed only four runs on seven hits in the play-off contest."

weeks a year in 1939 with an annual income of \$1,100.00. I do not know how much formal education my father actually had, but like his own father he never learned to read or write, so it wasn't much. My mother prepared his time reports for work. Having grown up poor and coming of age at the start of the Depression, Dad was a man of

his generation: hard working but not home much and expecting his wife to care for the home and children. He smoked and drank too much, which was not unusual for men of the time whose futures seemed limited by economic events beyond their control. He was not an active participant in our lives; he never played softball or games with us

kids, nor did he attend church even though my mother was a faithful congregant throughout her life. By the time the peacetime draft began in 1940, Dad was a married father of two with a job that would prove important to homeland defense.

Aside from marrying my mother, perhaps the best thing that happened to my father was his chance for long-time, stable employment at Potomac Edison. We ended up having a long family connection to the company over the years. My father's brothers, James and Harold, also went to work as linemen in the 1930s. James' twin sons, James and Gary, worked at the power substation construction department on East Street, and I worked with them for two summers while I was in college. My sister Shirley was employed as a secretary in the main office on East Patrick Street for many years as well.



Early school years at North Market Street Elementary: (l to r) Martin Hargett, Don, Frances Kline.

During the years before World War II, my parents rented a house at Rocky Springs with no indoor plumbing, a bit closer to Frederick city but still in the country. We had an acre or so of land, so we raised chickens and pigs and a garden with corn, potatoes and strawberries. There was a wood stove in the kitchen for heat and we brought water in from the hand pump in the backyard. We had fun riding on a red wagon down the hill



Dad, Roy, Shirley and Don on a family visit to Baker Park during the World War II years.

and setting off firecrackers. I remember losing my two front teeth one morning taking a tumble after a piggyback ride down the steps on my brother Roy's back. I was about five, and my teeth did not come back in until I was about seven, so I didn't smile a lot.

Family and friends came to visit often and we played with the kids in the neighboring Clem family. I remember my Uncle Harold visiting us

one time when we were making homemade ice cream for a birthday party, and he called me Donald Duck several times. I thought that was my real name until I enrolled in the first grade and my teacher corrected me. I was sure my name was “Donald Duck Charles Linton” until that time. In fact, the nickname “Duck” stayed with me even in high school. My senior class yearbook lists me as being known as “Duck” Linton and when I go to class reunions, my old friends simply call me “Duck.”

During those years on the farm, my father would often drive us into Frederick on Saturday nights. Like many others, we would park on Market Street, (the first block was our favorite) open our car doors and visit with old friends passing by. I remember the Salvation Army Brass Band always played at the corner of Market and Church Streets. While Hagerstown was much bigger than Frederick, with more manufacturing, business and

health care services, we only went there at Christmas to see the huge tree in the city square.

WORLD WAR II

As American involvement in World War II became more and more likely in 1941, Potomac Edison asked their employees to move into Frederick city so they would

be available in an emergency. Mom and Dad rented a row house along the 300 block of Bentz Street for a short time before moving to 116 East Fourth Street. The rent was twenty-five dollars a month at a time when my father made just that much in a week. The move was in time for me to enroll in the first grade at North Market Street Elementary School, located a few blocks away. We were living on East Fourth when my sister Shirley was born in February 1943 and my youngest

brother Richard in March 1945.

The war years brought air raid drills at school, where we would hide under our desks, and the night drills when we would turn off all the lights and close the heavy blackout

curtains over the windows. Like most families, we had a victory garden in the backyard, growing all our vegetables, and rationing was a way of life. Every family received ration books with stamps that were used to purchase specific items like sugar, canned goods and cooking oil. Even with ration stamps, you couldn't find fresh meat in the stores. Country families like ours were more fortunate; we had a butchering every Thanksgiving Day at my grandfather's where everyone worked and shared the meat. Some of it would be salted and then used over the winter months. We ate a lot of Spam (a canned meat) and canned vegetables. Sugar for soft drinks was limited, so they tasted terrible. We didn't see a banana for years as they were imported from South America and space on ships was too valuable for fruit.

Fuel oil was rationed, as were gasoline, tires and shoes --all items that required components being used in war production for the military. I believe ordinary citizens received a ration of two gallons of gas per week. If you needed your car for work, then you could receive more, and farmers received additional allotments for their farm equipment. My father walked to work every day from Fourth Street to the Potomac Edison Company building on East Patrick Street near the fairgrounds. New tires were rationed and hard to find, so tires were usually “recapped” to extend their useful life, and you didn't drive any more than necessary. As a result, traffic was usually light and we could play ball in the street most days.

I wore my brother Roy's hand-me-down clothes, and that wasn't unusual for most families. Some of the girls I went to school with wore dresses made from flour and feed sacks, which wasn't unusual as the cotton sacks were printed with designs for that use. The motto of the times was “If you don't need it, don't buy it.” No one wasted anything.

My parents had very little money in those days, but Roy and I each received twenty-five cents



Don serving on school safety patrol.



Don on Fourth Street during the war years.



Shirley, Mother and Richard at home on Adam Road.



Our family in 1945: from left: Don, Mother holding Richard, Dad with Shirley and Roy.



Mr. Jack Kussmaul and Don's eighth grade class at Elm Street School in 1948-49. Don at left, front row.

in allowance every two weeks when Dad was paid. This was our money for extras like candy or soda. Everyone I knew worked, both adults and kids, and early on I developed a strong interest in earning money wherever I could and was proud of having change in my pocket. Roy and I would ride our bicycles to Michael's Ice Plant on East Street and pick up blocks of ice for neighbors to put in their iceboxes, as very few homes had electric refrigerators, and they were hard to buy anyway during the war years. We would be pleased to get a nickel or dime for our efforts. We would always be looking for scrap metal, papers, bottles or anything we could take to Gastley's Junk Yard located on Chapel Alley between Third and Fourth Streets and sell for change.

Roy had a job delivering newspapers for the Blue Ridge News Agency, but when I tried to get a route, they turned me down, saying I was too young and too small. I really wanted that job, so a couple of months later Roy and I went together to see Ralph Merchant, the owner of the News Agency. We made our pitch, proposing that if he would give me a route to carry, Roy would deliver the papers if I did not. I got my route, and this was great because we were paid five cents per week per paper and that was good money. I don't think I ever made a dollar a week, but it gave me good spending money.

Most working people rented homes in those days before and during the war. Gasoline might have only been ten cents a gallon, but new vehicles, which cost \$500 to \$600, were still out of range for most people as \$1,000 a year was considered to be a good salary in Frederick,



303 Adam Road

and many people worked for fifty cents an hour or less. After the war, the creation of special GI home loans and education credits for returning veterans fueled the growth of single family homes and new car sales.

Frederick was really a farm community up to this time, while Hagerstown was a manufacturing center with better-paying jobs, especially during the war. This began to change in 1943 with the establishment of Camp Detrick and the US Biological Warfare Laboratories on the site of the former Detrick Field airstrip and war-time cadet pilot training center. In later years, the name of the Army post was changed to Fort Detrick. The permanent facility became a center of medical research and innovation with the development of the Cancer Research Center there in 1972 and establishment of the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command in 1994. This helped to focus local attention on bringing technology and manufacturing businesses to Frederick. That growth, along with the construction of the interstate highway system, has helped to spur Frederick County's economic development.

THE MOVE TO ADAM ROAD

The end of the war and homecoming veterans brought many fast changes, including our family's move to 303 Adam Road in Frederick in 1946. Our house on East Fourth Street had been sold to a returning veteran, so my parents purchased a small unfinished house with no indoor plumbing on Adam Road, a new area of homes off of Catoctin Avenue just inside the newly expanded city limits of Frederick. I remember Grandpap Linton coming in to help dig the trench needed to install water and sewer lines to the house after the city extended services to the area in 1948-49. Before that, we hauled buckets of water from a neighbor's house for drinking and for everyday use.

I attended the Elm Street School for the sixth, seventh and eighth grades, the same building where my mother had gone to school. There were no buses to carry students the two miles from Adam Road to school, so I either walked or rode a bike. I had a buddy who had a motor scooter; I got to school early on days he would give me a ride. I was active in school, playing the tuba in band, singing with the Glee Club and playing soccer.

When I was in the eighth grade, my teacher was Mr. Jack Kussmaul. It was his first year teaching after his Army service, and the kids in my class were a real handful. We must have done a good

job of breaking him in but not scaring him off, because after teaching in Frederick for a few years he left to complete his graduate work and make a career in education. He returned to work in Frederick County in the 1960s and became a tax client of our firm. He would bring my eighth grade class photo with him when he came into the office, and ask about members of the class - what was everyone doing? Dr. Kusmaul would go on to become president of Frederick Community College and I would work with him in support of its development many years later.

Living on Adam Road, we were close to McCurdy Ball Park and another opportunity to make some spending money. Several of us would carry buckets of sodas and peanuts through the stands, working for tips and getting free admission to the games in the bargain. The Ramsburg Welding and Radiator Shop was also close to our house, and I liked to go there and watch them repairing auto radiators and welding. Sometimes they needed someone to hold equipment while it was being

welded, and I would help out. That was worth a quarter now and then which was spent very quickly on candy or soda pop.

Sunday afternoon visits with our Linton grandparents in Yellow Springs were a family tradition for many years. My father, who always kept his car in spotless condition, would complain about the gravel road getting out

there, but it was something he felt was important, so we did it. My brother Roy and I both objected

as we got older, and I think it stopped when Roy purchased his first auto and found other places to visit.

1950s: A Decade of Change

I got my first real job when I was fourteen and went to work for Harry T. Krantz at Boot's Esso Station, which was located at Jefferson and South Streets in Frederick. I think I made forty cents an hour and I learned how to lubricate cars and became very good at it. We also washed and waxed cars for customers and would receive tips, sometimes a quarter each, if we did a good job. I worked every week day during the summer and most Saturdays. That's how I was able to save my money and purchase my own car when I turned sixteen, as well as buy my own clothes.

I made the move to Zimmerman's Esso, located at the corner of South and South Market Streets, for ten cents more an hour when Roy left his job there to go into the Air Force. I was very happy pumping gas and working on cars. In fact, I became a fairly good mechanic and had no desire to attend college. I thought that was for the academic kids that had family money or were able to get scholarships. I purchased a car from Sam Warfield's Used Car Lot on West Patrick Street, and kept it in perfect condition just as my father and brother always did. I was one of just twenty-one high school students chosen to participate in Frederick County's 1953 "Teenage Road-e-o" driving exam and competition, showing off good driving skills and knowledge.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, just after Roy had graduated from Frederick High School, so he enlisted in the Air Force. High school life changed abruptly as buddies we hung around with were drafted and did not return. Some of them didn't last long after being deployed, so a group of us decided we were going to enjoy life during our junior and senior years at Frederick



Boot's Esso Station, 1952



(l to r) Herman Tibbs, Frederick cab driver, William Goode (rear), Gene Hemp and Harry "Babe" Krantz.

Harry T. Krantz

Harry Krantz was known by his nickname "Babe" and owned Boot's Esso Station at the corner of Jefferson and South Streets. I worked part-time for him while I was in high school and again while I was in college. He treated me like a son and was very generous with his time and advice.

Years later, when I read the United Technologies ad in the Wall Street Journal that asked "Do You Remember Who Gave You Your First Break?" I knew that Harry was one of the people I needed to thank for his guidance. He was one of the three people to whom I wrote notes of thanks.



Roy on leave before leaving for England, 1952. Dad, Don with Shirley in front, Mom with Richard and Roy kneeling.

High School Years



Don bought this car in the late spring of 1953 just after graduating from Frederick High. By October he was leaving for the Army, so he sold it.



Don and Larry Bussard, a high school classmate, on FHS graduation day in 1953.

(l to r): Grandmother Adah Stine, Roy and Helen, Shirley (front), Don (rear), Roy, in uniform with high school girlfriend Jenny DeGrange, Grandpap Linton, Richard (front) and Grandma Carrie Linton during Roy's visit home before leaving for England. In front of 303 Adam Road.



Uncle Harold at Zimmerman's Esso



Don (left) servicing Dad's car at Zimmerman's, summer of 1952.



Don, sitting on sign, with classmate Paul Mercer on senior trip to Florida, 1953.

High. We skipped class every chance we could get, meeting in the school parking lot in the morning and then deciding if we would go to class or find something else to do that day. We even

made trips as far as Florida! One of our teachers told us that if we missed any more days of school, we would have to repeat our senior year. The end result was that we stayed in class from then on and did not do anything that would keep us from graduating.



Don after enlistment in US Army Reserves, 1952.

I followed Roy's example and joined the US Army Reserve unit in Frederick in 1952 while I was a junior in high school. James Fraser was our physical education instructor at Frederick High and was also a captain in the local unit. They were looking for new members, so several of us signed up; it turned out to be one of the

smartest things I did. I also volunteered with the high school library club that had been started



Don at high school graduation, 1953.

by Julia Etchison Hanna, an English teacher and FHS librarian. She pushed me to stay out of trouble; a challenge for me since I had strong opinions on what was wrong with

the way the school operated, how overcrowded it was and how boring it had become. Mrs. Hanna would come to play more than one important role in my life in the years ahead.

Joining the Reserves meant spending two weeks in hard basic training with the unit during the hot summer at Camp Pickett, Virginia. After graduating from high school in June 1953 and spending time at camp, I was back in Frederick, working at the gas station. I met Alice Holter of Middletown, the girl I would marry, at the Braddock Heights Roller Rink that summer, but by September



Sam Lenhart

Alice was back in school and my friends had moved on to other things. I was feeling a little left out and bored. As a result, my friend Sam Lenhart and I talked with the staff at the Reserve unit about enlisting for active duty. We had both just been promoted to the rank of private first class, and we would earn about seventy-five dollars a month. That was more than a recruit was paid and not bad compared to the sixty cents an hour I was making at the gas station. We decided to sign up under the "Buddy Program" which meant that you and your buddy trained together, and maybe you would be assigned to the same unit afterwards. Ha Ha Ha.

ARMY LIFE

We went back to Camp Pickett for basic training, and in February 1954, the Army shipped Sam to Fort Benning, Georgia, for infantry training and sent me to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to be a combat medic. We wouldn't see each other again until we were discharged two years later. Never believe what the Army promises you!

During basic training I was still gung-ho for the Army, passing the exam for Officers Candidate School and excited about enrolling there. But when it came down to the deadline to actually sign up, I found out that I would have to enlist for another two years after OCS, so I changed my mind again, saying I would have to think about it. That turned out to be another good decision.

Medics were targeted in the Korean War, resulting in great casualties and the need to train more all the time. That's how I ended up graduating from Medical Aid Man School in Texas in April 1954. I received orders for French Indochina, which covered what we know today as Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. My next stop was Camp Stoneman in California. At Stoneman, we were examined



Don aboard the USS General Mann, May 12, 1954.

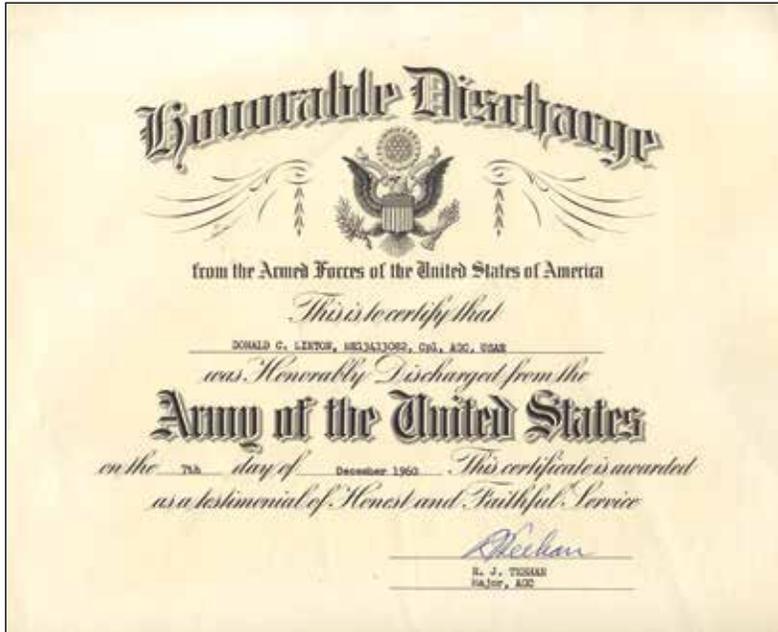


Preparing to sail, 1954.



Don in Japan, assigned to First Cavalry Division.

Military Service



Army Discharge Certificate



Hokkaido, 1954



Rice paddies at Sendai, Japan, 1954.



Sendai, Japan, 1954



A "honey bucket" cart on Sendai, 1954.

First Cavalry Division Patch



Pumping water by hand in Sapporo, capital city of Hokkaido, 1954.



Children on Hokkaido, Japan

from head to foot, given any shots we needed, and updated our wills and allotments. We also had training sessions and KP (kitchen police) duty while we waited to go.

We sailed on a ship out of San Francisco and got caught in the middle of the first typhoon of the 1954 season. We had rough seas as soon as we left, and two days out of Japan we hit "Elsie," a category four storm with its winds of 130 to 156 miles per hour. When I got to Japan, I wrote my mother a letter and said this:

...Two days before we arrived in Japan, we hit the typhoon. Wow that ship went crazy, it was a big ship and that's all that saved us too. I read in the paper that over 240 smaller boats are missing after that storm...

Spending half of the ten-day trip across the Pacific in very rough seas in the typhoon was an experience you never want to have twice. As I told my mother in the same letter:

...one time the boat left the water so far and came back down so hard it just drove us onto the floor. The guys in their bunks woke up or fell out of bed and thought we had hit another ship the way it felt and grabbed their life jackets...



Don in Japan

We were afraid the ship would break apart, and we ate only saltine crackers since nothing else would stay down. I took along four boxes of seasick pills and I made the trip without getting sick (a good medic knows what to take.) Even many years later, it took me a long time to get on a ship for a vacation cruise.

While we were on the ship, the French, who had been fighting the insurgent communists in Vietnam since World War II with American support, were finally overrun and forced to withdraw. Our orders were changed to Hokkaido, Japan, where my assigned unit, the Army's First Cavalry Division, was based after very difficult service in the Korean War. The war had ended with a ceasefire in July 1953 and a peace accord in January 1955. The North Koreans were difficult to deal with then, a situation the US is still coping with today, and it's not getting better.

Hokkaido is the northernmost island of Japan, 775 miles from Tokyo, with the northern point of the island just three hundred miles from Siberia.

The winters are cold. The Japanese established a naval airfield at Chitose on Hokkaido in 1937 that served as a base for planes attacking US ships in the Pacific throughout World War II. The US Army took over the base in September 1945, and by the time I arrived in 1954, USAF Saber jets were on a constant flying rotation in and out of the base. It was neat to watch them fly over and land.



Don (right) on Hokkaido, Japan, 1954.

After about nine months at Hokkaido, our unit was relocated to Sendai, Japan, which is about half way to Tokyo and has much better weather. I was nineteen when I arrived in Japan, and a letter I wrote to my mother shows how fascinated I was with the culture and age of the country. I was impressed with how people worked very hard, especially the women, as well as the fact that they used human excrement for fertilizer -- not something done on the farm in Yellow Springs! The fertilizer was delivered by wagons called "honey buckets." I wrote about carrots that grew three to four feet long and huge turnips that were eight to ten inches around, as well as the beautiful art of Japan. I enjoyed taking interesting photos of the people and the landscape while I was stationed there.



First Cavalry helicopter that was heavily damaged after hitting a power line, Sendai, Japan, 1954.

My first assignment was to a medical battalion (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital or MASH unit), but with the First Cavalry's redeployment from Korea they had plenty of medics. Thanks to my typing skills, I was assigned to the Headquarters Section and did not use my medical training. We had several helicopters assigned to our unit, and I had the opportunity to sign up for pilot training, which sounded exciting until one of the aircraft hit a power line and several officers were killed. That changed my mind about signing up - a great decision.

The military gave us thirty days leave each year, so while in Japan a couple of us used our time off to travel the hundreds of miles south to Tokyo. A



A convoy while on "alert" on Hokkaido, 1954. We packed up everything in case we did not return.

modern city with better weather, Tokyo also offered special R&R, or rest and relaxation, centers for GIs stationed in Korea.

They were very good and inexpensive, offering excellent food like fresh eggs for breakfast every morning and steak every night -- real treats for us as fresh food was scarce on Hokkaido. It was a long train ride to Tokyo, but worth the effort, and we stayed there whenever we could.

Most of the guys I served with were college graduates who had been deferred from the draft until they completed their degrees and were now serving as privates in the Army. I admired them as they were a lot smarter than the sergeants and officers in command. I always said that if we went into combat those guys - our leaders - would get us all killed as we felt they had limited leadership ability.

That experience led me to the decision that I, too, should consider going to college on the GI Bill when I was discharged and not make a career of the military. Of course, having been a disinterested student, my high school grades were not outstanding, so I needed some help and advice.

Mrs. Hanna, the Frederick High School English teacher and librarian I mentioned earlier, kept in touch with me while I was overseas, and I wrote to her about my thoughts of going to college. She was surprised, but gave me a good recommendation to the University of Maryland. When I returned home in September 1955, I took the entrance examination and was accepted. Mrs. Hanna's belief in me was a turning point in my life. A number of years later, after I had gone into business, I sent her a letter thanking her for her support. She was very pleased to receive it and we continued to work together on civic projects for many years after that.

College, Marriage and Starting a Career

I had saved half of my salary while I was in the service, so I was able to buy a car when I was discharged. I went back to work at Boot's Esso station as soon as I came home and while I was waiting to start college that winter. I started at College Park in February 1956, showing up on a Friday morning to register for classes that would begin the following Monday morning. The process took about two hours and ended up at the cashier's desk. I told them I was on the GI Bill, and they said that was nice, but I still needed to give them a check for my classes and room and board or I couldn't start on Monday. I gave them a check, but I only had a few dollars in my account, so I headed back to Frederick and the bank.



Julia Etchison Hanna

I assisted Mrs. Hanna as a student volunteer in the Frederick High Library Club in 1952 and 1953. The post-World War II years were difficult at FHS as the school was overcrowded and there weren't enough teachers; some were even brought out of retirement to fill the need. Mrs. Hanna gave me good advice on staying out of trouble

when I had strong opinions on these and other issues related to school operations. She was the first person I wrote to when I was overseas in the Army and considering applying for college admission. I believe that her support and recommendation helped me get into college and determine my future direction.

Years later, when I opened my downtown office, I found myself working just down the street from her home. She and her husband Jack attended Calvary United Methodist Church, and they were well-known and revered members of the Frederick community. Mrs. Hanna organized downtown's Festival of Lights in 1977, wrote a column for the Frederick News-Post for many years, and served on the boards of many local non-profit organizations. She honored me by serving as a founding trustee of the Community Foundation of Frederick County in 1986, and I am very glad I had the opportunity to thank her for the interest she showed in my life.

Mrs. Hanna was born in 1897, grew up in Jefferson and graduated from Hood College in 1919 with a degree in home economics. She went on to work in several Maryland counties before returning to Frederick High where she taught English for thirty-two years and founded the Library Club. When she passed away on October 27, 1994, Frederick lost one of its leading lights.

I was first in line when the Fredericktown Bank opened on that Friday evening. I spoke with one of the bank officers and told him what I had done. He laughed and said he would give me a note to take home to have my mother and father sign, and to



Family dinner, 1950s

have them bring it in to him on Monday morning and he would cover my check. They did as asked and my check cleared. In those days before computers, the Veterans Benefits Administration payment process took a long time. After you were in class for a month, you went to the university office and signed a form that said you had attended classes that month, and then you mailed it to the VA. In turn, they mailed you a check, and that could take a couple of weeks. I assume there is a better system now, but it was a little shaky that Friday.

My other college experience with the Veterans Administration came about because of my tonsils.

I really did not see many doctors until I was in college. My tonsils were causing me lots of problems, but I didn't have any money or medical insurance, so I contacted the VA office in Frederick to see if I could have my tonsils removed in the veteran's hospital in Martinsburg, West Virginia. The answer was yes, so I made an appointment to have them removed during summer break. It should have been a simple procedure; lots of people had their tonsils removed when they were kids.

I checked into the VA hospital on a Sunday with surgery scheduled for Tuesday morning. I was in a ward with about ten other guys, and the one in the bed right across from me was asleep when I arrived. He didn't wake up until sometime on Monday morning, so I thought he must have something seriously wrong with him. When we spoke, he said that he'd had his tonsils removed on Friday. I didn't think too much about it, but assumed he must have been a little chicken to have slept so much, and not have gotten up and moved around.

They did some tests on me on Monday, and then wheeled me into a room on Tuesday morning where I was seated in what looked like a dental

chair. Then the fun began. The surgeon asked me to open my mouth and then gave me a shot of Novocain, just like a dentist would do. Then he proceeded to cut out my tonsils while I sat in the chair. The procedure lasted over a half hour, and I thought I would pass out from the pain and stress. When he was finished, they wheeled me back to my bed and I slept the rest of the day.

I was not discharged until Friday, and I was happy to get back to Frederick. The first thing I did



Alice, Don and Dad

was ask my mother to find me hospital insurance as I would NEVER go to a VA hospital again for any reason. I've only known one other person who had the same experience I did, and it was the late Don Campbell of Frederick. He was in the Navy and they did it to him when his ship stopped in Hawaii. Our veterans should look around and pick the right VA hospital when they need care. I'm sure some of the hospitals are very good, but vets need to be careful where they seek their medical treatments.

MARRIAGE AND UNIVERSITY

Alice Holter and I had written letters back and forth while I was in Japan, and when I came home we started dating. She was a high school junior that fall when I started at the University of Maryland. She chose to attend Maryland as well in the fall of 1957, and we married a year later on September 6, 1958, at Christ Reformed United Church of Christ in Middletown. I was a second semester junior and Alice was beginning her sophomore year. We moved into an apartment in College Park, and were surrounded by other couples like us: veterans with families who were working and attending the university at the same time.



Alice and Don Linton on their wedding day, September 6, 1958.

In addition to working at the gas station in Frederick on weekends during my first two years of college, I also delivered mail during two Christmas seasons - lots of Christmas cards and packages.



Allen Routzahn

Allen Routzahn is a native of Frederick who grew up on Third Street. He opened Routzahn's Furniture and Appliance Store on South Market Street in 1954, and later moved the business to East Patrick Street. Allen was an extremely hard worker and a great example of a business entrepreneur.

I went to work for Allen on February 1, 1961, as comptroller of his growing business. Working beside him, I learned about the world of retail business and what it takes to be an entrepreneur. He worked seven days a week, and during my time there he acquired Kemp's Department Store on the Square Corner in Frederick and a second retail furniture store in Halfway, outside of Hagerstown.

Allen was a very active Frederick County business leader for more than four decades and a strong supporter of downtown Frederick. His thoughts on the importance of local businesses were a great influence on my own ideas.

Allen was also a great advocate of Frederick Community College. He established the Routzahn Family Business Scholarship Fund at the college that makes an annual award to one incoming freshman from each Frederick County high school who will be majoring in business or accounting.

In the summer I worked on construction projects for Potomac Edison Company, and during the last two years of college I also had an accounting internship at Sealtest Dairies in Washington. Alice worked part-time, and we were very careful with our limited income, making it stretch to meet our expenses and mindful of our future plans. I remember that when I went to college I essentially traded my army uniform for one of khaki pants and blue shirts - once again, I was wearing hand-me-downs from my brother Roy. The Air Force had changed their uniform shirts from blue to white, and I got his old blue shirts. One of my early college roommates, who came from money, once made a comment on my limited wardrobe, but I didn't care. I had enough experience by then to know why I was there, and it wasn't about clothes.

After Alice and I married, I got a job at a Kinney Shoe Store near our apartment. It was a hard job fitting shoes on people who had a difficult time making up their minds, and I soon looked for something better. I spoke with Dr. Howard Wright, one of my accounting professors, and he recommended me to Mr. Eugene (Red) Borders, who worked in Washington during the day and operated an accounting and tax service out of his home during the evenings and on weekends. I worked with him on Saturdays and brought book work home to our apartment to work on during the week. I learned a lot and it was good practical experience. The only problem was that he smoked cigars constantly in his small home office, and after being with him in the same space for several hours the smoke really attached to me and to my clothes. You could smell the cigars on me several feet away!

My schedule at Maryland had me take my income tax class the last semester of my senior year instead of the first semester of my junior year. As a result of having prepared many tax returns with Mr. Borders, I could help teach the class. The other students complained to the professor that my test scores should not be counted as he also used them when grading on the curve and no one else could match my grades. The professor agreed, and did not include my scores in grading the class.

I graduated from Maryland in February 1960 with a degree in accounting and in the upper level of my class. My mother once noted that my brother Roy was the first Linton to graduate from high school, and I was the first to graduate from college-- a big change in just one generation. Along the way to that accomplishment, I was fortunate to have had Dr. Wright as a professor and mentor. His door was always open for discussion and advice, even if the advice wasn't what I wanted to hear at that moment! I once thought I would go directly from college to graduate school and then teach, but with his counsel I found a new direction.

Right after graduation I took a job as an auditor with the US General Accounting Office (GAO) in downtown Washington, DC, and passed the CPA exam in May 1960. The GAO job was a good experience, but working for the federal government was as bad as being in the Army: you were paid not to think and you didn't challenge the system. I like to think for myself and that's why I ended up in public accounting, which turned out to be a great decision for me.

While I was at GAO I continued to work part-time at Mr. Borders' office, and one Saturday in January 1961

I received a phone call from Allen Routzahn, owner of Routzahn's Furniture and Appliance Store in downtown Frederick. He had heard about me from Gwynn Kinsey, a CPA in Frederick who knew both of us. Allen was interested in expanding his business and was hiring a comptroller. Was I interested in talking to him?



Alice's graduation from the University of Maryland. (l to r) Dad, Alice, Shirley, Mom and Richard.

Of course I said yes, and Alice and I drove to Frederick that evening to meet with him. We came to terms at that interview and I accepted employment as of February 1, 1961, exactly one year after joining the GAO. We were going back to Frederick. Thanks to Allen, I was taking the first step that would begin my journey.

Frederick: Early Career and Family Life

Alice and I continued to live in College Park while she finished her senior year at the University, and I commuted to my new job at Routzahn's. After her graduation in June, we returned to Frederick, moving into a small apartment on Military Road across from Fort Detrick where we woke up every

morning to reveille, the Army's early morning bugle call. Our first son David was born on November 27, 1961, at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

I knew what I wanted for our future, so in addition to working for Allen Routzahn, I was attending the University of Baltimore Law School two nights a week. I had always liked law, and my dream was

to practice public accounting and to also hold a law degree like many accountants at GAO. I had

also joined the Kiwanis Club and was serving on the board of Calvary United Methodist Church in Frederick.

Less than a year after David's birth, my father died of a heart attack on September 11, 1962, at the age of fifty-three. He had survived an attack six years earlier when I was in Japan, but it had severely weakened his heart. Dad is buried in the Rocky Springs Cemetery, just off Rosemont Avenue near Fort Detrick, where both of his parents are also buried.

At the time of our father's passing, my brother Roy was living in Tennessee. He had made his career in the Air Force, trained in the maintenance of aircraft ground equipment. Roy married Avis, a girl he met while stationed in England, and they had a son, Jerry. They later retired to Frederick after twenty years of service.

The three years difference in our ages meant that as children Roy was always ordering me around. I was too little to be part of his group, and he was always in charge. I tried to follow his example, but the age difference made it difficult and I did not fit in. He was the first to get a job and to buy a car. He got the new clothes and I wore his hand-me-downs. He enlisted in the Air Force and I enlisted in the Army Reserves. I guess being second made me more aggressive, trying to keep up with him and doing something bigger and better.

Roy has lived in Ocala, Florida, for the past fifteen years and is now experiencing some difficulty with dementia. As I write this, my brother Richard and I are working to ensure he is receiving the best possible care and bringing him home to Frederick.

My sister Shirley and brother Richard were still living at home with our mother on Adam Road when our father passed away. Shirley graduated from high school in 1961, worked as a secretary at Potomac Edison and married John Evans, a soldier who was stationed at Fort Detrick.



Brother Roy Linton during his Air Force career.



Don with baby David, 1961.



Shirley Linton Evans

***The
Linton Family***

Brothers Don, Richard and Roy cutting the cake at a family event.



Don with siblings Shirley, Richard and Roy.



Brothers Richard and Roy Linton visiting in Florida.

Becky, Roy and Don in Florida.



They had three children and traveled extensively during his military career before divorcing. Shirley returned to Frederick and lived with our mother for a number of years. In the last years of her life, medical issues required Shirley to have assisted care, and she passed away on February 21, 2013.

The youngest of my siblings, my brother Richard, is a very caring person who is always there when you need help. When our mother had a stroke, Richard was always the first to visit and lend a hand. During our sister Shirley's time in assisted living, Richard visited with her just about every day. Richard graduated from Frederick High School in 1963 and had a brief first marriage. He and his second wife, Diane, had two children, Shaun and Mindy, before divorcing. Richard now has seven grandchildren. Diane passed away on October 13, 2017.

Now living in New Market with his long-time friend Karla Ficken, who owns the Frederick School of Cosmetology, Richard works at Frederick Community College and pursues a serious interest in genealogy. He is also looking out for our older brother, Roy, in Florida. He is a great brother to have.

A Move to County Government

The county has been without a full-time accountant since early December when the new Board of Commissioners gave Donald A. Linton his walking papers. Since that time Lloyd M. Fogle, local accountant and tax analyst, has been employed on a temporary basis to help prepare the budget and do other accounting business.

Linton, 37, worked in the U. S. General Accounting Office in Washington for one year and in 1958 was employed as an accountant by Allen H. Routzahn. He resigned as accountant and secretary-treasurer of Routzahn and Sons, Inc. and Kroy's Inc. to accept the county position.

In addition to serving as county accountant, Mr. Linton will also be accountant for Stouffer Nottingham, new county roads engineer and county maintenance supervisor.

Certified P.A.

He passed the certified public accountant's examination in June 1960. He served two years in the army from October 1952 to October 1954, of which 18 months were served in Japan where he was an administrator.

A native of Frederick County, he graduated from Frederick High School in 1952 and received a degree from the University of Maryland in 1956. He is a member of the university's accounting club and Beta Alpha Psi, honor accounting fraternity.

He is a son of Mrs. Helen V. Linton, Adams road, and the late Roy W. Linton. He holds membership on the official board of the Calvary Methodist Church and belongs to the Kiwanis Club of Frederick.

He was married in September 1958 to the former Alice Baker of Middletown. They have a 16-month-old son, David Edward.

The County Commissioners announced today the appointment of Donald C. Linton, Frederick Heights, as the new county accountant.

I had worked with Allen Routzahn for two years when I received a call from Lloyd Fogle, a local accountant who informed me that the county needed a chief financial officer, or county accountant, as it was called, right away.

There had been an election in November 1962 that resulted in a political shake-up, and the previous county accountant and

other personnel had been fired. Lloyd was pinching with the board of county commissioners to help get the county budget out by January 1,

1963, but they needed to fill positions quickly. I interviewed with the BoCC and accepted the position effective February 1, 1963, two years after joining Routzahn's.

When I accepted this job, I had been out of college three years. My work experience included one year as an auditor with the GAO and two years as comptroller at Routzahn's. I had a wife and a one-year-old son and a mortgage on a new house. I was anxious to start my new position, but I had no idea what I was getting into. The first week was a little stressful.

The county had installed a new Burroughs bookkeeping machine that wrote the check, posted to a ledger card and created a check summary at the same time. It was working very well, and Mary Whitmore, who had transferred from the commissioners' office as of January 1 that year was the operator and very proficient at her new job. During the previous year, 1962, when checks were written, a check register was printed, but no ledger card was posted. Without that ledger card, there was no way for the county to track finances through the year.

Early in 1962, one of the three county commissioners had been appointed to the University of Maryland Board of Regents, and left his part-time commissioners post. With an election coming up in November, the board opted to appoint the county clerk to fill the seat temporarily. The county accountant then filled that position and his own for the rest of the year. As a result, the bookkeeping was far behind. Kathryn Early, who had experience operating a bookkeeping machine at a college in Virginia, was hired to post the 1962 records while Mary wrote the checks and posted the transactions for 1963.

I was a little overwhelmed the first week on the job, trying to figure out how and why the county was using two different bookkeeping systems. Everyone in the accounting office was also new, so there were no answers there. I ended up calling the county auditor for assistance, and found out why we were operating both the old and the new systems at the same time. The reason made sense, so we went to work.

A TRAIL OF QUESTIONS

After a few weeks, it appeared that something was not up to par. The checks that were issued during 1962 were in three parts: one was sent to



Dr. Howard W. Wright

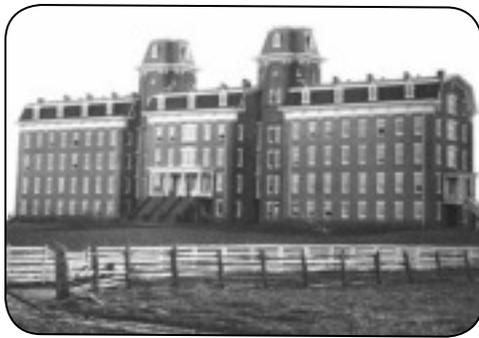
Dr. Howard Wright had an important impact on both my college career and the path I followed as a public accountant. He influenced both my professional thinking and my beliefs about ethical conduct.

I really thought I would pursue graduate school and teach in the accounting field, but Dr. Wright's wise counsel and advice encouraged me to look at other professional opportunities. Thanks to him, I found part-time work in a small accounting firm while I was still in school, and pursued internships that gave me more experience in different areas. His door was always open, and even though I had graduated and been working for a couple of years, he was the person I went to for advice when I suspected fraud in the county's accounting operations.

In the fall of 1984, I wrote to Dr. Wright to thank him. He had retired from U of M in 1976, but he wrote back, saying, "If you feel, as you must, that I have done a little something to encourage you, please pass it along to someone else." I have tried to live up to Dr. Wright's example.

Dr. Wright taught at the University for thirty years, joining the faculty after his military service in Europe during World War II. Before the war, he worked at Arthur Anderson & Company in New York, and in retirement he consulted in government defense contracting for major companies, including General Motors, Boeing and Lockheed. After he retired, he founded the Cost Accounting Principles Institute, a lobbying organization. Dr. Wright passed away on January 18, 1992.

the vendor, one was filed alphabetically, and one was filed with an invoice attached. A lot of checks



Montevue Hospital, seen here in the late 1800s, was later known as the Montevue Home.

for 1962 did not have an invoice attached that would show what product or service had been purchased. The account being charged for

these unknown purchases was for the Montevue Home, the county's "old age home" at the time. The old Montevue building had undergone substantial improvements in 1962, so there were a lot of checks. We requested copies of invoices from the vendors, and many were for electric, plumbing, furnishings, repairs, construction costs and other miscellaneous items.

Normally these invoices would be accepted, but it was always the same vendors and things just weren't adding up correctly -- it did not pass the smell test. I discussed it with the new county administrator, Randy Rosencrantz, who had been a classmate of mine at Frederick High School.

We also discussed it with Lawrence Dorsey, a commissioner who had been elected in the previous November election. We didn't know what we had, but the smell was getting stronger.

I visited with the county auditor, but he didn't want to participate in an investigation. Randy and I also made an appointment with the Frederick County State's Attorney, and we received the same answer. No one wanted to help us dig up the facts on how this money had been spent. Were they covering for friends?



Don and Becky with FHS classmate and Frederick County administrator Randy Rosencrantz in later years.

Being a new, young CPA in a new job, I was very uncomfortable with the situation. It appeared that we were in the middle of a fraud committed by the previous administration. What was my responsibility?

I placed a call to Dr. Howard Wright, my accounting professor at Maryland, and asked to meet with him. He said yes, of course, he would welcome my visit.

I shared the information we had gathered with Dr. Wright and asked his advice. He excused himself and went into another office to make a phone call. He came back, said the person he wanted to speak with wasn't in, and asked if I could return for another visit. I didn't have long to wait. A couple of days later, he called and asked me to return to the college campus.

When I arrived for my next visit, two gentlemen I didn't know were present, and Dr. Wright left the room. They presented their business cards and identified themselves as special agents of the Internal Revenue Service who investigated



Don with Michael and David

taxpayer fraud. After speaking with them, and showing copies of my findings, they said they would be in touch with me. Several weeks later, I received a call telling me that they planned to investigate the county's finances and the vendors that appeared to have participated in the fraud.

The IRS investigation took over a year. It resulted in charges of

tax fraud against the former county accountant, the former purchasing agent, and the previous president of the board of county commissioners. They were alleged to have obtained funds from vendors who accepted checks for personal expenses charged to the county, and/or to have received cash to use for campaign expenses.

Both the previous BoCC president and the county accountant were found guilty of income tax evasion and spent a year in federal prison



Michael and David

for their crimes. The purchasing agent was not found guilty due to a mistrial and did not serve any time. I can only say that it was an interesting but terrifying time to be the county accountant. It helped to have the support of elected officials truly dedicated to serving the public. In a *Frederick News* article

on Saturday, December 14, 1963, Commissioner Lawrence Dorsey issued a public statement commending both Randy Rosencrantz and me on the changes we'd brought to the county in less than a year and the work done in bringing the accounting system up-to-date.

DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

Sometimes you are placed in a position where you must make a difficult decision: either you

resign and walk away, or take a stand and report what you've found to clear the air. I am pleased I took the position I did, but it did make me very uncomfortable for an extended time. I had to keep the secret as I had no idea what would have happened if the parties involved had discovered my role in the investigation. I had a family to support, a reputation to maintain, and I certainly did not want to be reported as missing or having succumbed under mysterious circumstances. The end result is that everything worked out for the best, and I am indebted to Dr. Wright who supported me, and to my family and the close friends in whom I confided.



Michael and Don

I have carried this experience, and the ethical values it involved, with me throughout my career. After Ron Shafer and I started our CPA firm, we also took the high road when we uncovered any irregular activities, insisting on having the matter corrected. I am proud our firm has always taken that position.

Difficulties and Opportunities Come Hand in Hand

1963 was a busy and stressful year at work, and it was also busy at home. Alice, son David and I moved into a new home we built on Round Hill Road in Braddock Heights, and our second son, Michael, was born on November 1 of that year.

Michael's brain was damaged at birth, and he suffered grand mal seizures at an early age. It was necessary to inject him with valium on a daily basis to stabilize him, which required me or David to hold him down while his mother gave him the injection. It was a very difficult time for Michael and for our family. At about age five he was admitted to a residential group home in Hagerstown. He still comes home for occasional overnight visits and he participates in a sheltered workshop program for intellectually challenged adults in Hagerstown.

Knowing that we wanted to return to Frederick after college, Alice and I had purchased a one-and-half acre building lot on Round Hill Road in Braddock from Alden Fisher before I had the job at Routzahn's. After our return to the area, we contracted with Jack Smith, a local builder and Alice's sister's husband, to build our new house.

Round Hill Road was a great place to live and over the years we had many wonderful neighbors. Several local educators built homes there, beginning with Dr. James Sensenbaugh, who was superintendent of county schools and later



Linton home on Round Hill Road

superintendent of the state school system. His family was followed by Dr. John Carnochan's and Dr. Al Thackston's. We were becoming an educator's hill and had plenty of discussions at county budget time.

There are good reasons why Braddock has a long history as a summer resort area. It was usually about five to eight degrees cooler than Frederick with a nice breeze blowing and you seldom needed air conditioning. In the winter, it was a different story. I remember our first winter there. We had a lot of snow that year, and the snow blade I had purchased for the front of my riding lawn mower did not work, so I traded it in on a snow blower. That worked, but when I blew the snow it was like standing in a blizzard, so I had to acquire a snow cab to protect me from the snow. It was a blessing if we made it through a winter with only a light snow. One year we had a very heavy late snow in March, and the county was late in plowing. All the neighbors got together with their plows and snow blowers and cleared all the driveways. Then we waited for the county so

we would be ready to travel when the roads were cleared.

Over the years, the families on our street came up with plenty of recreational facilities to keep all the kids busy. Our next door neighbors, the Carnochans, had a back lot where the neighborhood boys built a softball field. Our family had gotten into tennis in a serious way, so we used our back lot for a tennis court. There was always a lot going on.



Don has been a member of Calvary United Methodist Church in Frederick since the early 1960s and has served on the board and as an usher.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

While I was on the county staff, I became active and took part in civic and charitable activities that benefited the community at large. I chaired the public employee division of the 1965 United Appeal campaign, was active in the Kiwanis Club, and served on the boards of the Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop for adults with disabilities, the Scott Key Center, the Braddock Heights Community Association and the Western Maryland Association of CPAs.

The Scott Key Center is one of Frederick County's lesser known programs, but it provides very important services to developmentally disabled adults and has a unique history.



Joyce & Aubrey Dixon

Joyce and Aubrey moved to Frederick in 1954, and we met in the early 1960s when we were fellow members of Calvary Methodist Church and attended the same Sunday School class. Aubrey was a physicist at Fort Detrick.

One year, Joyce gave Aubrey a tennis racket for his birthday and that got him into tennis. In 1972, when the chemical warfare program at Fort Detrick was closed and Aubrey's job was eliminated, he chose a new direction, giving tennis lessons and providing Frederick's first year-round tennis under a two-court bubble in his backyard. In 1975, Aubrey and Joyce acquired land on Renn Road off Route 180 and built a metal building, opening the Tuscarora Tennis Barn.

I started taking tennis lessons from Aubrey and played tennis for over thirty years. We became good friends and our families went to dinner and Ocean City for vacations. When I had medical issues, Aubrey came by the house every day to check up on me. Today we try to have lunch together often and keep up on local issues. Aubrey still gives me advice on many topics, but he gave up trying to make a serious tennis player out of me long ago.

In the early and mid-1960s, developmentally disabled individuals were served at one of two places: some children, judged “trainable,” went through the public school system at Harmony Grove School for Retarded Children and adults through the Jeanne Bussard Sheltered Workshop on South Street. In July 1965, the Frederick County Association for Retarded Children gathered to hear Doris Remsberg, principal of the Harmony Grove School, explain the need for “a day care program for severely retarded children.”

In March 1966, the Scott Key Center for Exceptional Children was opened for five hours each day in the Staley Field House in Frederick, with three participants and one instructor. By November, eleven individuals ranging in age from four to twenty-six were enrolled. The location was only temporary, and several of us on the board of directors discussed the situation with County Commissioner Lawrence Dorsey. He then joined us on a visit to a program in Cumberland that provided similar services, and he was very impressed with what they were doing there.

As a result, Commissioner Dorsey found room for the Scott Key Center in the old emergency hospital building (where I was born) behind the Montevue Home. Six years later, the Center moved to the B Wing of the Rock Creek School, the successor to the Harmony Grove School. In 1979, the Scott Key Center Board of Directors entered into an agreement with the county to make the Center a county agency under the Frederick County Health Department. In May 1981, the Center was moved to its current home on Rocky Springs Road behind Citizens Care & Rehabilitation Center on the Montevue property.

Today the Scott Key Center serves about 120 adults in supportive employment and training, including a wonderful horticulture program. It is part of the county’s continuum of services for our developmentally-disabled citizens, and I am proud to have played a role in its creation.

TAKING THE LEAP INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE

As the IRS investigation of the county wore on through 1964 and 1965, we continued to do the day-to-day work and improve the county’s business operations. I had been at the county for less than two years when I received another phone call from Lloyd Fogle. He had filed too many late tax returns, had lost his license to practice before the IRS, and wanted to sell his accounting practice.

Here was the opportunity to begin the public accounting career I had always wanted, but the timing was difficult.

I sought advice from my father-in-law, Amos A. Holter, a man I greatly admired. He had served the public as a lawyer in Frederick for over fifty years and had an outstanding reputation. He helped me many, many times, and gave me good advice on the path of my future endeavors. With his assistance, I used the county law library on Saturdays when I was working on a college law project, and he encouraged my ambitions. He helped me obtain a bank loan, and I acquired Fogle’s accounting practice at 6 West Second Street as of November 1, 1965.



The Linton family in the mid-1960s: Don, David, Alice and Michael.



Ron Shafer and Don Linton at the front door of their downtown Frederick office, 6 West Second Street.

I was in the midst of the fraud investigation at the county, and could not leave in the middle of the audit, so I needed someone to run the business. I had met Oscar Shafer, who was a salesman for the Exxon Oil Company, and he told me about his son Ron, who was a CPA working in Washington, DC. I interviewed Ron and a couple of other accountants, and selected Ron to join me in the practice. He managed the daily operations and I helped with tax returns and whatever else needed to be done at night and on Saturdays.

Ron was also serving in the local Army Reserve Unit and he was called up for active duty in

October 1966. That triggered my resignation from the county so I could work fulltime at the accounting office. I was also elected the third president of the Jeanne Bussard Workshop that same year.



Alice, David, Don and Rebecca

When Ron's military obligation was completed, he returned to the office. We worked together and formed the partnership of Linton Shafer & Company, CPAs, on January 1, 1967, a relationship that has lasted more than fifty years. Ron and I were completely different individuals with diverse interests and skills, and I believe that's what led to our success. We made a good team.

Life at home became even busier as our third child, daughter Rebecca, was born on March 2, 1972. We didn't know it at that moment, but our lives were about to be filled with song. For years to come, whenever we wanted to know where Rebecca was, we just stopped and listened. I remember sitting down to lunch one rainy day and all of us looking around for her. There she was, outside sloshing around in the rain and the puddles, singing as she went along.



The Linton's of Round Hill Road: (front) Michael, Rebecca and Don. (rear) Alice and David.

Rebecca was also a good saleswoman from an early age. We were on vacation in Ocean City one year when she was five or six and heard her singing "seashells for sale, seashells for sale." Looking outside to see what she was doing, we found she had collected broken shells, lined them up on the porch railing of our rented house, and was trying to sell them to passersby. It was no surprise years later when she led her fellow Girl Scouts in cookies sales.

Florence and Giles Gainer built a home two lots away away from us and they became good friends with Rebecca; she spent a lot of her time at their

house. In fact, she was close to all our neighbors since they did not lock their doors and she made herself right at home. She has always enjoyed getting to know people and making the sale, be it seashells or cookies, and that's certainly been part of her career success.

A Growing Business

Linton, Shafer & Company began with a staff of three full-time and three part-time employees at 6 West Second Street in the



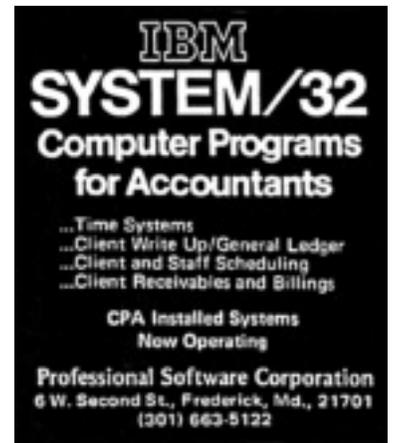
Don (seated) with Fred Christman and the IBM32.

heart of downtown Frederick: Jenny Hedges, Kay Rice and Ron Shafer were full-time, and Jean Whipp, Pete Hedges and I worked part-time in those initial years. Serving both individuals and businesses, we continued to build the firm while watching for new ways to improve our services. In 1968, we purchased the building we were in, and in 1972 and 1974, we expanded to include 4 West Second Street as well. We also opened an office on New Hampshire Avenue in Silver Spring in 1974, and in July 1975 we entered the technology age with the addition of an IBM System 32 computer.

The IBM 32 was the first new non-punch card system of its kind for accountants.

It was the first small computer using floppy disks. Its initial purpose was to assist our staff in preparing client financial statements and firm time reports, greatly reducing the turn-around time we experienced using outside computer services, but there was no IBM software for accounting statements.

So, we hired Fred Christman, who had retired from IBM, and we developed the software we needed. We began testing the processing of a few selected clients in 1976, and then began selling our accounting software to other CPA firms, making our first sale to Chad Dunham, a CPA in



Oklahoma, several months later. IBM still didn't have anything like our product at that time, so they told their computer hardware prospects



Don (center) meeting with (l to r): Frederick attorneys Dick Burgee and Joe Welty and Linton, Shafer CPA Dunbar Ashbury. Creating the best possible long-term financial plans for clients has always been a priority for Don. If your assets are working for you, "You should be making money while you sleep," he says.

and customers to come to us, and we became a value-added marketer (VAR) for IBM. We added two computer programmers to our staff, and sold seventy-five accounting software packages to clients from all over the country.

We acquired a small accounting firm on East Palmetto Park Road in Boca Raton, Florida, that same year and opened a branch office there. One of our CPAs traveled to Florida to manage that office with support of the Frederick partners. (Our dream of early retirement to Florida!)

By 1978, we had upgraded to a System 34 computer and had created our Small Business Department for processing both financial statements and payroll tax returns. The development of new software and ways in which computers improved our customer service came under my management, and I enjoyed the excitement of bringing a completely new tool to our practice. Our December 1980 newsletter included an article titled, "Don't Install A Computer..." that went on to mention numerous MAS, "management advisory services," that our firm could provide clients. The article detailed data and word processing services that could replace "conventional" methods. These were new terms for many of our clients. In 1983, we created Linton Shafer Computer Services, Inc., which provided marketing and support services to clients who purchased computers and software from us. Later, as personal computers for home and business gained in popularity, we spun off our business to other ownership and focused on our accounting firm.

THE CREATION OF CPAMS

As the business grew, I would attend national conferences and meetings for CPAs, but there was a lack of specific information and services for managing partners. Then, in 1975, David Bork, a Frederick-based business consultant with whom I had worked on our downtown revitalization, and I were both attending a class in Miami, and Don Scholl, a management consultant from West Chester, Pennsylvania, was there as well. Don had created a class called "Management for Results," which was focused on the management end of the CPA business.

The three of us had dinner together, and we discussed the idea that an organization was needed where CPA firm managers could meet and share ideas without being in competition with each other. We put the idea into action, incorporating CPA Management Services (CPAMS) with Don Scholl, David Bork and Linton, Shafer & Company as owners. We owned it for seven years before it became a separate entity owned and operated by its members.



The new System34 computer took up much more space.



Don (standing left) at a Monday morning staff meeting.

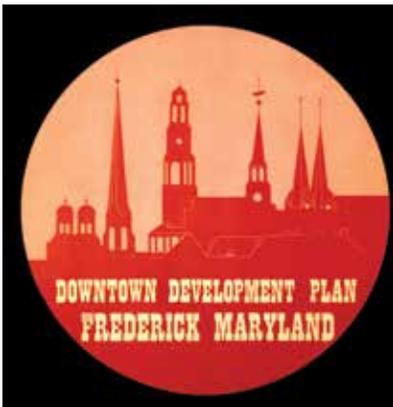
CPAMS began operating out of our Linton, Shafer office in Frederick, with Mara Ambrose, our front desk administrator, handling operations for us. The first meeting was held in 1975 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the hometown of David Bork, with twelve firms in attendance. It has grown over the past forty-two years to be an internationally-affiliated organization doing business as IMPACT

with 145 members in sixty-five countries, including those in the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America and the Asia Pacific. IMPACT holds meetings several times a year and has become an important and valued organization for its members. Linton, Shafer principal Kevin Hessler, CPA, recently served as president of IMPACT Americas and chairman of the organization's global board. The office is still maintained in Frederick. It is a great organization that was created over a dinner.

The Rebirth of Downtown Frederick

Working in downtown Frederick throughout the 1960s, I watched the city decaying. There were many reasons for the changes, and certainly Frederick wasn't the only place it happened, but it was a terrible and frustrating process to watch. The late years of the decade saw a strong effort to revitalize the downtown with the creation of a Downtown Action Committee, led by Richard Kline. At the same time, business owners, property owners and residents formed the Downtown Frederick Association, which I joined. The Frederick Landmarks Association, which was founded in 1972, was also involved.

PLANTING THE SEED (OR TREE) OF CHANGE



The Downtown Action Committee led the revitalization effort in 1970-71, with the creation of a Downtown Development Plan by Marcou, O'Leary and Associates, but city officials refused to take any action. Nothing was moving,

and it was very frustrating. As I have said, I like to think for myself, so I decided to take my own first step in making a visible change in the downtown streetscape. I planted trees.

Trees weren't permitted in downtown because the city had a bad experience many years before with tree roots growing into the water and sewer pipes. As part of our studies into how to change the downtown, we had learned that Columbia, a new planned community in Maryland, had researched the issue and found several trees that

could be planted without causing the same problems. We selected several trees for Frederick and asked Glenmore

Rice, a city alderman and participant in our efforts, to assist us in having the trees approved for planting. He did so, and now it was legal to plant these trees. But several months went by, and no one planted any trees.

One day in December 1970, I was sitting at my desk in the office and looking out the window at all the concrete on the corner of Second and Market Streets. It really looked bare and needed some shade trees planted. I had a tax client in the landscaping business,

so I called him and asked if he could plant trees for me. I wanted three on my side of the street and three on the other side. He said yes, he would be glad to take on the job. He had to break up the concrete, dig the holes and plant the six trees I had requested. They were Bradford Pears, about six feet tall and looked great. A small victory, but it was short lived.

A week later I received a letter from the city engineer, who also served as public works director and assistant to the mayor. The letter chewed me out very professionally but said very clearly that



One of Don's Bradford Pear trees planted on West Second Street, 1970.



Downtown Frederick's Christmas tree lights began on the corner of West Second & North Market Streets when (l to r) Sanford Blum of Allen's, Connie Moss of Connie's and Don joined forces to purchase lights and wiring for the lights in 1990. The city hung the lights and electricity costs were covered through gifts to the Community Foundation. The project took off from there, expanding throughout downtown and becoming a seasonal tradition.

I had violated all kinds of city laws by not getting a building permit, and that all trees MUST be trimmed nine feet off the ground so that people could walk under them. It was a stupid letter, but I knew the city engineer, and I told him that I understood he was acting on instructions from the mayor.

I later sent a letter to the mayor telling him that I had planted the trees with “the fullest assurance on my part that every city ordinance was being complied with,” but that I had failed to observe “Chapter 22, Section 22-10(b) which in part states that the trees shall be planted under the supervision and direction of the city engineer and superintendent of parks.” I apologized for that oversight. I went on to remind him that these Bradford Pear trees were the ones approved for planting earlier in the year, and that the issue of height was inconsistent with the new ordinance. I finished by asking him to let me know if, in fact, I was in violation of any part of the city code, because I might want to plant another tree the following year.

I did not receive a fine for planting the trees, but I did receive a lot of compliments, and it was the beginning of great things to come.

The next spring my trees had beautiful white blossoms on them. A Frederick News-Post reporter came by the office one day and asked to speak to me as she wanted to do a story on the new trees. She then asked if I would come outside for a photo beside the blooming trees. The devil came out in me, and I said no, but that I would give her fifty dollars if she would go over and get the mayor to pose for the photograph. She said, “Wow!” and took off. She came back about ten minutes later and read me the riot act. She said I had set her up, and she did not like what the mayor had to say as

he gave a very strong NO to her request. Sad but true, and no photo of the trees was taken.

THE FREDERICK IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION

In the fall of 1971, the Downtown Development Plan was released, and it detailed a number of problems and opportunities existing in Frederick.



George Delaplaine of the Frederick News-Post and Frederick County Commissioner Sterling Bollinger. Both were supporters of Downtown Frederick revitalization.

The recommendations for improvements included building a parking deck, streetscape improvements (including the planting of trees!), locating wires underground and the construction of a new library and courthouse, which had been under discussion for some time. The mayor did not support the plan, nor did the Chamber of Commerce. Nothing happened. Members of the various civic organizations continued to push for change. At an August 1972 meeting of the Downtown Frederick Association, we gave Alderman Glenmore Rice a “pat on the back and a kick in the tail” for his efforts to expand parking downtown. I was quoted in the newspaper the next day as saying “Glenmore Rice is the only member of the Board of Aldermen who has spent any time on the downtown area,” and that we were not going to stop pushing and criticizing the aldermen until they agreed to build a tiered parking lot in the downtown area.

A new group called the Frederick Improvement Foundation, Inc. (FIFI) was formed in March 1973 and began efforts to change the situation. Members of the group included Carlton Molesworth, Dick Kessler, Pat Sanner, Terry Kreitzler, banker Glenn Biehl, Alderman Glenmore Rice, George Delaplaine, publisher of *The Frederick News*; attorney Jerome Offutt, Peggy Pilgrim, Anne Leberherz of the Frederick Landmarks Association; Kurt Bowen, co-owner of Bowen-Whitsell Pharmacy; Archie Rogers, owner of Rogers Office Supply; Dick Kline, David Bork, Rita Gordon, Ron Shafer, myself and many others. At our first session, held in the Francis Scott Key Hotel, I led off, telling the group that in my opinion it was “time to cut the red tape and get moving.”

A survey of members created a list of priority concerns, with parking and traffic topping the list. Next was the location of a new county-state office building complex, and then building improvements, the proposed linear park, additional low-income housing and rehabilitation and use of the B&O Railroad Station located at the intersection of Market and All Saints Streets.

One success of 1973 was the addition of the downtown historic district to the National Register of Historic Places, taking that agenda item off our wish list. The Downtown Development Plan paid a lot of attention to the important architectural variety of the buildings downtown, noting that:

“...The historic buildings of Downtown Frederick, although they represent the varying styles of a century and a half, contribute to an



The Elks Building on West Second Street after the fire. Maas Opticians is in the building to the right.

overall architectural character of great distinction which pervades the district. The value of this area-wide character, in fact, exceeds the individual value of all but the most distinctive single buildings, and future construction in the area must recognize this.”

So, we were appalled when a business on Market Street remodeled their building by adding a cheap plastic front that looked horrible! That experience led us to advocate for the creation of a Historic District Commission in 1977.

VEST POCKET PARKS



The Bonita Maas Park on West Second Street at the location of the former Elks Building. Maas Opticians is to the right.

Another early success was a perfect example of how property owners and local government could work together for important change. At 3:45 a.m.

on January 22, 1970, a malfunctioning furnace in the Elks Club building across the street from our offices caught fire. More than 150 firefighters from ten companies fought the blaze in sub-zero temperatures, containing the fire that was fueled from bursting propane tanks and a broken gas line and saving the entire block from destruction. We were left staring at an empty shell of a building without a roof, and the neighbors on either side, including Maas Opticians, were particularly disgruntled.

I planted my trees in December of that year, and after that we also planted shrubs in the concrete space next door to our building, so it was looking pretty good on our side of the street. Mrs. Bonita Maas, owner of the optician’s shop and a client of ours, complained about the ugly mess next door to her. I said, “Mrs. Maas, the Elks Club is moving

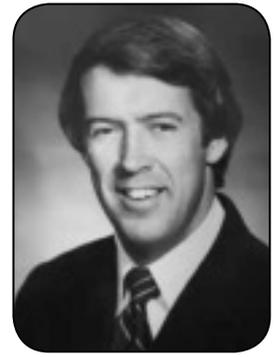
out to Shookstown Road where they purchased a building. They want to sell the Second Street property. Why don’t you buy it and donate it to the city for a mini-park if they will tear down the building?”

Mrs. Maas purchased the property from the Elks in June 1971, and by mid-1972, HUD had allocated funds for the development of a “vest pocket park” on the site. The building was torn down in early 1973. In December 1974, the Board of Aldermen voted to name the park Bonita Maas Park in honor of the donor. More than forty years later, in April 2015, the city joined the county’s Child Advocacy Center in creating a Healing Garden among the park’s shrubbery and sculptures. The pavers in the garden are placed in memory of area children who have died as a result of child abuse.

MAKING HEADWAY

With the creation of FIFI, Dick Kline suggested that the Downtown Action Committee of the city, which he chaired, be dissolved and turn its activities over to the new group. The mayor and Board of Alderman were happy to do that, of course, so we took on the job of moving forward with the proposed parking deck. We had made a bus trip to see the new parking deck in Annapolis, and liking what we saw there, met one afternoon at the Weinberg Center and decided to raise funds to hire Paul D. Spreiregen, the Annapolis architect, to determine if there was sufficient space behind the then City Hall on Market Street for a new deck. The study said yes, but when we petitioned city leaders to accept our recommendation, it was, of course, turned down.

Our group now realized that the only way we could ever improve downtown Frederick was to become politically active and elect a new mayor and Board of Aldermen - and so we did just that. Ron Young, who had been an alderman, was just thirty-three years old when he was elected mayor in November 1973, along with five new members of the board. At his inauguration two months later, he said it was “imperative that we move forward with stronger efforts to revitalize the downtown areas of our city.”



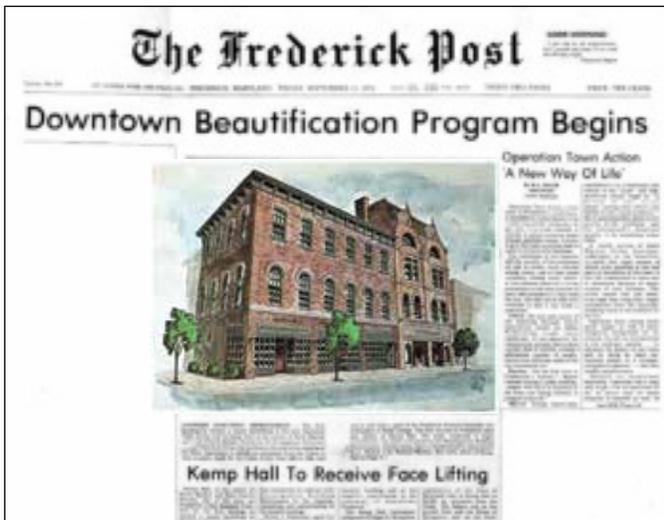
David Bork, a Frederick-based management consultant, provided essential leadership in redeveloping downtown Frederick.

A PROACTIVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

As the Frederick Improvement Foundation was working on multiple issues at once, and a new mayor was taking office in January 1974, I had risen through the committees of the Chamber of Commerce and was elected president of the organization that same month. One of my goals was to turn the Chamber into a strong advocate for the proposed changes to downtown. That faced some resistance, and the Chamber executive director submitted his resignation to me the evening I was sworn into office. But by April we had hired a new executive for the Chamber and created a new tourism office for Frederick County. Just five months later, in September 1974, we were part of kicking off Operation Town Action, a citizen-driven effort to improve the city's appearance and recreate the central business district. This was the catalyst that really spurred change.

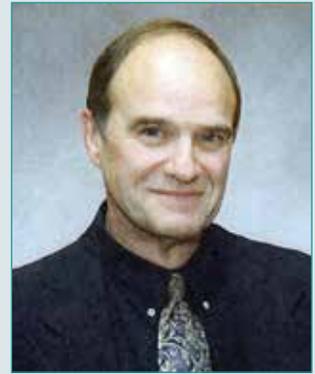
Operation Town Action came about after Curt Bowen and I read an article about the turn-around of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, in the July/August 1973 issue of the Kiwanis Club Magazine. Volunteers there had gotten together, resurrected their city and brought new life into their downtown, so a group of us traveled to Doylestown to see how they did it. The Kiwanis Club of Frederick and FIFI liked what we saw, and invited folks from the Doylestown group to Frederick in January 1974 to get their advice and help.

Our Doylestown visitors were very impressed with Frederick's potential, particularly the architectural design of our buildings and our important history. They told us to skip the first floor and look up at the second and third stories



Richard Markey

I met Dick Markey when I returned to Frederick in 1961 and went to work at Routzahn's. We were both Frederick natives and graduates of Frederick High School, but Dick was younger and our paths had never crossed before.



Dick had attended the Maryland Institute College of Art and was an excellent graphic artist. Whenever I needed graphic work, I would always call him. By the time we were rebuilding downtown Frederick, Dick had his own business and joined us in the redevelopment effort. He led the committee that created designs showing how buildings would look after they were painted and cleaned up.

When we established the Community Foundation, Dick volunteered his skills and created the logo that is used to this day. He also designed publications, awards and signage. No matter what needed to be done, Dick volunteered to help; you did not need to ask. He was honored as a Wertheimer Fellow for Excellence in Volunteerism by the Community Foundation in 2004.

Over the years we became very good friends and worked well together. He was a very humble man, never seeking any recognition for his efforts. I was proud to nominate him for Frederick Memorial Hospital's Good Samaritan Award in 2008, an award he received just before he passed away in July of that year. He was taken from us much too early and is missed.

of our downtown buildings - they are beautiful. "Whatever you do, retain what you have," they told us. "Do not destroy your city like Rockville did when they tore down great buildings and poured a lot of concrete."

At the end of May 1974, two business leaders from Doylestown agreed to assist us as we moved ahead. Nevin Baker of Farmers & Mechanics National Bank chaired the fundraising campaign for necessary capital. Craig Henry took photographs of the downtown buildings, and Richard Markey chaired a committee of artists who produced sketches of what each building could look like if simple changes were made. Architect Landon Proffitt worked with

Susan Markey and Terri Kreitzer, who was with the Historic Preservation Society, in researching the history of downtown buildings. Rita Gordon, Phyllis Serepca and Frances Ahmadian produced a bi-monthly newsletter called *The Town Crier* to keep citizens informed on the project.

One year after inaugurating Operation Town Action, we presented the project idea to 150 city residents and guests at a special meeting in City



The Church Street Parking Garage in 2018.

Hall on Wednesday, September 11, 1974. Our Doylestown advisors were with us as Curt Bowen and Peggy Pilgrim, co-chairs of the initiative, presented the details of the project and announced that many civic groups, including garden clubs and churches, were already on board to help with beautification and tree planting. Mayor Young made some surprise announcements, including progress in keeping the main post office downtown and upcoming action on the long-awaited parking deck. Property owners were impressed, and forty-one signed pledge cards that night to improve their properties. We were finally moving ahead and, as the mayor prophesized that evening, Frederick could receive national attention from what was coming.

One of the lessons to be learned from the story of Frederick's turn-around is the importance of personal relationships to building trust and making change. Amazingly enough, that type of relationship proved to be essential to building the city's first parking garage.

The design for the garage required an entrance onto East Church Street, and Mr. Ranson Lewis of Walkersville owned the property needed by the city for that entrance. Mr. Lewis did not want to sell the property and pay income taxes on the proceeds.

Bob Rothenhoefer, an attorney in town, and I were both Kiwanians, and we knew we needed to find a way past this last obstacle to the parking deck. Bob knew Mr. Lewis, so we went to see him with a plan: Mr. Lewis could sell the property to the city for a mortgage note, and the interest would be tax-free because it was being paid by

a municipality. At his death, Mr. Lewis provided an additional service to the city through his will, directing that the note be canceled since he didn't have any heirs who could benefit. That property included the adjoining townhouse, which was a former church parsonage, where the offices of the Downtown Frederick Partnership are located today.

That was just one example of how service clubs and other organizations can help build working relationships that prove to be useful in many ways.

OPERATION TOWN ACTION BEGINS TO TURN THE TIDE

By the end of 1974, sixty-six property owners had signed pledges to improve the exterior of their downtown properties. Committees were actively seeking new businesses to locate downtown, filling empty storefront windows with displays, and more and more trees were being planted to join those I started four years before.



The Schifferstadt Architectural Museum in 2018.

The relatively new Frederick Landmarks Foundation had purchased Schifferstadt, one of Frederick's oldest and most historic buildings, and begun a restoration study. This volunteer-driven effort set the stage for Frederick residents to begin viewing history as an important part of economic development.

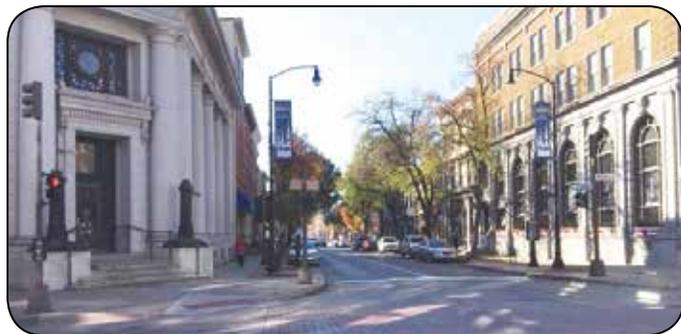
When I passed the Chamber presidency on to my successor in December 1974, I said that it had been a year of "major surgery that sometimes may have cut too deep and other times not deep enough," but we had made the Chamber "the place to go in Frederick County for action." Terms like downtown redevelopment, tourism, economic and community development were now part of the Chamber's vocabulary.

Mayor Young was leading the way and tackling the big projects that would stabilize downtown. The long-awaited Church Street Parking Deck opened in early December 1975, and the US Postal Service finally agreed to keep the main post office downtown, constructing a new building that would open in 1977. Within the

year, the city would begin flood control studies needed to extend sewer lines from the west side of town. The prospect of moving electric wires underground on Market Street was still being debated, but we had made great changes in a short period of time. As a result, in the fall of 1975, Operation Town Action applied to the All-American Cities award program sponsored by the National Municipal League (NML). This competition recognized “citizen activism,” and sought to identify “factors of success in community problem solving.” The program

rewarded “citizens who are seeing solutions to their own community problems.”

We celebrated a year of successes with an “Operation Town Action” awards banquet in September at the Peter Pan Inn, which was located in Urbana, Maryland. Two hundred and fifty people came out to cheer on the continuing work and thank our many volunteers and donors. I was honored to receive one of twelve special awards recognizing the best property renovations of the preceding year.



South Market Street in 2017

AN ALL-AMERICAN CITY

We were excited to learn in mid-October that Frederick had been chosen as one of twenty finalists in the 1975 All-American City competition. Volunteers assembled a ten minute script and slide presentation using three projectors, choosing 150 slides from more than a thousand

loaned to the effort by citizens when the call went out for help. Mayor Ron Young and David Bork of FIFI made the presentation to the award jury, chaired by Dr. George Gallup, at the NML national conference held in Chicago that November.

In December 1975 a headline in the Hagerstown Morning Herald declared “attitude change” to be “Frederick’s Top Story in ’75,” quoting Mayor Young as he cited Operation Town Action and the citizen activists behind it as having a significant impact on the city’s revival. He went on to talk about plans for 1976, including the South Market Street Beautification Project, planning for the new courthouse complex, and a new sewer line along Carroll Creek which would allow for development of a proposed linear park along the same route. Little did any of us know then that one year later that same creek would be the catalyst for more new developments in downtown revitalization.

CELEBRATIONS AND SETBACKS

April 1976 brought the exciting news that Frederick had been named an “All American City” by the National Municipal League. Coming during the celebration of the nation’s bicentennial, it was a great opportunity to showcase our history and build pride in our accomplishments. In May, county residents came out to Baker Park for a “Bicentennial Family Fun Day,” and again on July 4th for annual holiday celebration events.

In early September, newspaper coverage noted that “85 to 90 downtown businesses have

fixed up or renovated their storefronts,” and that new restaurants and specialty shops were opening. Then, just a month later



on Saturday, October 9, 1976, Carroll Creek overflowed its banks in Frederick’s worst flood in one hundred years.



Looking down South Market Street at flood devastation, 1976.

THE FLOOD OF '76

A wet summer and fall preceded the weekend rain that started on Friday and continued through the day on Saturday. More than seven inches of precipitation fell in just sixteen hours, swelling the creek from its usual depth of less than two feet to more than twenty. Many buildings were weakened by the flooding, and damages to personal and business property were in the millions of dollars. The Weinberg Center pipe organ was found floating in the standing water.

It's interesting that two flood control studies received by the city the previous August were

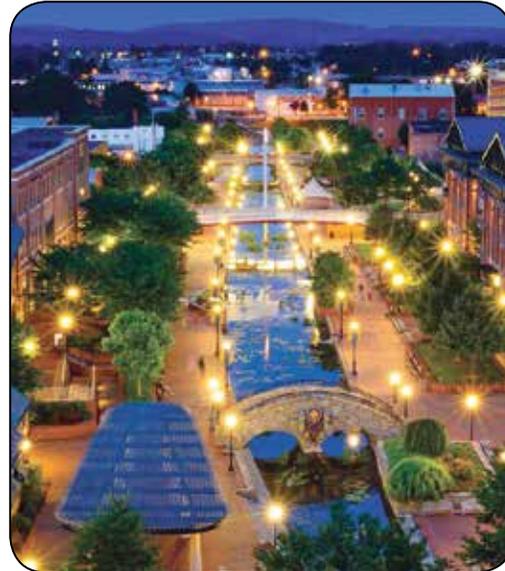


Boats at the Square Corner during the flood.

rejected because they detailed a flood situation that officials thought would never happen. According to news articles, one report described a flood where "a policeman standing at the Square Corner and directing traffic has to have a motor boat." Two months later, there were indeed boats at the intersection of Market and Patrick Streets.

Hundreds of volunteers came out to help clean up, and within days the push was on for flood control measures. A month later, in November 1976, Frederick was honored by the Downtown Research and Development Center in New York City, "as an example of how... rehabilitated and

Carroll Creek running through downtown Frederick before the flood control project.



Carroll Creek Linear Park looking east from Market Street toward East Street.

Photo courtesy of C. Kurt Holter

restored buildings in a declared historic district can stimulate downtown."

A PROMISE FULFILLED

Forty-two years later the Carroll Creek Project is ninety percent completed and is beautiful and dynamic. Its construction included more than \$50 million in flood control improvements that increased usable land in the city, the needed increase in sewer lines, and the construction of a linear park that has a national reputation. It would not have been accomplished without the vision and support of forward-looking city, county and state elected officials, and the many volunteers who helped make it happen. David Bork, a volunteer and president of FIFI in those early years, was a great leader, and he played a major role in assisting Mayor Young and the volunteers in focusing on the big picture and moving ahead.



Kara Norman, Executive Director, Downtown Frederick Partnership

In 1990 I joined others in forming the non-profit Greater Frederick Development Corporation

(GFDC), a partnership of the Chamber, the business community and the city and county governments designed to continue economic development for the entire city. After this function was moved to city government more than a decade later, GFDC became the Downtown Frederick Partnership, focusing specifically on the downtown and managing the city's Main Street Program. I have watched and supported this process since the beginning, and I am very pleased to see its current success. Under the leadership of executive director Kara Norman and local board members, the Partnership has become organized, creative and professional, promoting business growth, supporting innovative use of our downtown buildings for residential and office use while maintaining our architectural history, and building a year-long special events program that brings an extraordinary number of visitors downtown every season of the year.

When I think back to the days when my family came downtown on Saturday nights, and then to the years when the center of the city was desolate, I am amazed and gratified to know that Frederick truly deserves its 2013 designation by CNN as a "comeback city." To quote the Downtown Frederick Partnership motto, it's a great place to live, work and play, and I'm honored to have been part of achieving that goal.

Citizens Nursing Home

The late 1970s were busy as downtown Frederick initiatives continued to move forward step by step, our business continued to expand, and other community needs presented an opportunity to serve.

I had the pleasure of working with Lawrence A. Dorsey, president of the Frederick County Board of



County Commissioners, on the first board of trustees of Citizens Nursing Home when it was formed in 1978. Mr. Dorsey was a "people person" who paid great attention to the needs of individuals. When he was informed that indigent Frederick County residents were forced to go out of the county, and even out of state, to find affordable nursing home care, he found that to be unacceptable. He then led the effort to build Citizens, a county-owned and operated nursing facility that opened in 1976 and supplemented the services of what was then called the Montevue Home for the Aged. Frederick

Countians had a long tradition of serving poor seniors, and Mr. Dorsey's vision and dedication took us to the next step in long term care. When my original term on the board expired, I continued to serve as an ex-officio board member and consultant.

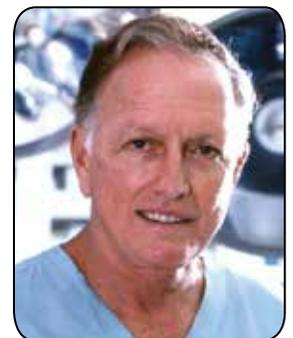
I also joined the board of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce in 1979, giving me the opportunity to advocate for local Chambers on the state level. The state organization supported business projects across the state, and by serving on the board I had the opportunity to meet some very good leaders from major businesses.

Living on Luck -- and Borrowed Time

In the summer of 1983 I was forty-eight years old and had a physical with my family doctor that included a heart stress test. The result was marginal; he prescribed Nitrostat tablets and told me to take one if I had any chest discomfort. I was very lucky that my case was mentioned to Dr. Austin Pearre, who practiced in the same office. Dr. Pearre suggested that I consider heart catheterization



Lawrence A. Dorsey



Renowned heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley had a Frederick connection. He performed Don's first heart surgery in 1983.

just to be cautious, since my father died from heart disease at the age of fifty-three, and I agreed.

The procedure was done in September at Johns Hopkins, and it showed blockages of my left main artery --what's known as a "widow-maker" for its urgency. Surgery was recommended. I did not like the way the doctor gave me the news, so I told him to send the report back to Frederick. I felt fine and was still playing tennis without any problem.



Lloyd and Clara May Hoke of Thurmont in the mid-1960s during a visit with Don and Alice in Puerto Rico.

I truly believed the hospital had mixed up the test results leaving someone else with mine while he was in serious trouble. My physician did not have a strong recommendation on whether or not to have surgery, so I asked for a second opinion. I was referred to Dr. Kusy Baraket, a new cardiologist in Frederick who was originally from Iraq. I had a hard time understanding what he was saying, but he made it very clear that my time was short and I needed surgery soon. I had a very busy schedule, including a CPA conference in Phoenix coming up in November, so we scheduled surgery at the Texas Heart Institute in Houston, with Dr. Denton Cooley, a world-renowned heart surgeon, for after the conference. Dr. Cooley had a Frederick connection: he had met and married Dr. Robert J. Thomas's sister, Louise, when he was in medical training at Johns Hopkins and she was a nurse there. That's why he took any patients referred from Frederick, including Dr. Thomas, who had by-pass surgery in Houston several months before I had mine.

Alice was with me on the trip and she was going to stay in a Houston hotel during the surgery. While in Phoenix we visited with Katherine Early, my former co-worker who had moved there after retiring from the county accounting office. When we shared our plans for Houston, she told us that her daughter lived in the city and would be on vacation during our time there. She made arrangements for Alice to stay at her daughter's condo and to have use of her car for the week -- a wonderful gift and again, a stroke of luck.

The surgery went well, and I remember Alice coming into the recovery room and saying that the test results had not been mixed up; they were definitely mine and resulted in quadruple bypass surgery. I also remember Dr. Cooley making rounds on Thanksgiving Day, and it impressed me that he would take the time to visit his patients on a holiday. My sister Shirley's husband was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, at the time, and she made the long trip to Houston to visit with us. It was great to see her despite the circumstances.

Our original plans for the trip home included time to visit and recover in the sun with Lloyd and Clara May Hoke, clients from Thurmont who had a winter home in the Orlando area, but we cancelled when it was clear that I was much too weak to make the stop. My recovery went well, and when tax season rolled around two months later in January 1984, I was ready.

The Jeanne Bussard Workshop

It is amazing how easy it is to become caught up in serving on the board of directors for a non-profit organization. They are always looking for CPAs who can help with finances and lawyers to lend free legal advice or services. It can be hard to turn down a request to serve if you believe in the cause and recognize the group's service to the community.

In February 1965, during my tenure as county accountant, a sheltered workshop for developmentally disabled adults was created in Frederick County. It offered these area residents the opportunity to become employable, productive members of the community through a variety of small, in-house production line projects, such as packaging ribbons, making bows for retail sale, packing baskets and constructing animal transport cartons from cardboard flats. The county provided \$10,000 toward the start-up of the Workshop, and one of the county commissioners volunteered my help with the bookkeeping. I got to know the director, Helen Nussear (later Lochard), who came from the Towson area to run the operation, and by November 1965 I was serving on the board. In 1967 I became the third president of the Workshop board.

In 1965 C. Lease and Fran Thomas Bussard purchased the old South Street School building at South and Ice Streets in Frederick and deeded it to the Workshop in memory of their late daughter, Jeanne. The Bussard's owned a large dairy farm in the county and had connections to Lilypons



Frederick News-Post coverage of the kick-off dinner for the new Jeanne Bussard Center.

Water Gardens through Mrs. Bussard's family. The Bussard family was well-known for community participation, and Mr. Bussard brought a degree of national notoriety to Frederick County when he served as president of Optimists International in the 1950s. Their daughter Jeanne was born in 1936 and contracted meningitis when she was six months old, leaving her deaf. She then developed a number of other medical problems as a child. She died at the age of twenty-one in 1957.

The new home of the Workshop was a brick building built somewhere around 1873 as Primary School #7, one of the earliest public schools in the city. It was sold in 1919 and then used by a variety of businesses over the years. It was also known as the old Optimists' Boys' Club building.

After the building was renovated it opened with plans for fifty trainees, but interest grew very quickly. By 1970, federal funding supported



The Jeanne Bussard Building in 2017. It is now part of the ARC of Frederick County.

a 40x70 foot, two-room addition that expanded operating space, and an agreement was made to help launch a branch organization in Carroll County. By this time, Braille and speech therapy were also part of the Workshop's curriculum.

A NEW BUILDING

By the 1980s the Workshop had more than outgrown the building on South Street that was now over a century old. The board of trustees had a feasibility study conducted in 1984 that detailed the current site's defects and overcrowding as well as the potential for a fundraising campaign to support construction of a new building. The study presented the situation plainly: while the need was urgent, a campaign would be difficult as Frederick Memorial Hospital and the YMCA had both recently completed fundraising drives. Understanding

the work ahead, but believing Frederick County residents would rally for this cause, we decided to proceed. On January 16, 1985, just prior to the organization's twentieth anniversary, I joined my long-time friend and mentor, retired Frederick City Police Chief Charles V. Main, in co-chairing a major fundraising effort to build a new facility for the Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop.

The project had an estimated \$1.1 million price tag. The Loats Foundation donated a three-acre tract of land just over the hill from Mount Olivet Cemetery valued at \$250,000. Initially, the gift of the land annoyed city officials as they had their eye on it for extended recreation facilities, but they ultimately supported our efforts. The county made a grant of \$250,000 over five years to help meet the matching requirements of a \$200,000 state grant for the new building. Sale of the old building on South Street was estimated at \$300,000 and we set a campaign goal of an additional \$300,000.

In announcing the effort, I noted that "...This workshop is one of the finest examples anywhere of what a community can do to look after its own less fortunate residents," and that the workshop's success "typifies the county's reputation as a community that cares." It was a belief I have come to express many times over the intervening years.

We held a wonderful twentieth anniversary celebration the next month that also served as

a campaign kick-off. On June 20, 1988, we were breaking ground on the new 24,000 square foot building which was two-and-a-half times larger than the old facility. In addition to wonderful local support, we were excited to receive a \$100,000 gift from the UPS Foundation that helped us meet our goal.

Two of my special remembrances of that effort were letters I received - one before, and one after, the groundbreaking. On June 13 ninety-six-year-old Mrs. M.E. Molesworth, who described herself as "a farmer's wife" and had apparently read about our efforts in the newspaper, sent me a note and a check for the fund, one of the many small gifts that combined to make the new building a reality. Just after the event, Helen Nussear Lockard, the Workshop's first director, sent me a wonderful note thanking me for including her in the celebration and for our past work together. These were two more signs of how Frederick Countians supported their neighbors and community.

In 1998, an endowment fund for the Jeanne Bussard Workshop was created at the Community

Foundation of Frederick County and named the Charles Victor Main Fund in honor of my good friend's long years of service to the center and the people of Frederick. The fund now supports the work of the ARC of Frederick County, which acquired the Workshop building in 2013 and offers employment opportunities and many other services to developmentally disabled adults and their families.

A Gift That Lasts Forever: Creating the Community Foundation of Frederick County



**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of FREDERICK COUNTY**

For Good. Forever. For Frederick County.

From the start of revitalization efforts in downtown Frederick to the completion of the Jeanne Bussard Workshop campaign in 1985, I had spent more than a decade involved in fundraising for a series of community projects and

Charles V. Main

No story of Frederick would be complete without Charlie Main, and he played an important role in my life as well.

Charlie grew up in Frederick, graduating from Frederick High in 1927, and then serving in the US Navy until his tour of duty ended in 1931. He joined the Maryland State Police in 1932 and in later years enjoyed showing off photos of his younger self as an early motorcycle officer. In 1952 he was named chief of the Frederick Police Department.

I was in high school and working at Boot's Esso Station when I met the new chief. Charlie was a hands-on chief who was always out and about in his town, and he took an interest in knowing the young people -- and what we were up to. When we returned to town in 1961 and joined Calvary United Methodist Church, I came to know Charlie very well. He was head usher at Calvary for more than fifty years, and when you ushered with him you learned to do it the right way -- which was Charlie's way. I learned that if you wanted anything changed at the church you had better have Charlie on your side. We had a few differences of opinion, but we got along very well and became good friends.

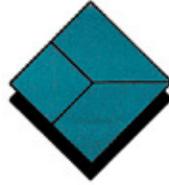


Charlie Main, Retired Frederick Police Chief appointed by Mayor Donald B. Rice, Sr.

Charlie was active in almost every non-profit organization in Frederick and was known as a wonderful fundraiser. When the Optimist Club asked me to head up the campaign to build a new Jeanne Bussard Training Workshop, I said I would only take the job if Charlie would co-chair the effort. Together we led a successful campaign that involved many donors and volunteers from throughout the county.

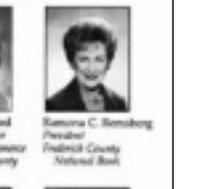
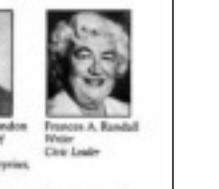
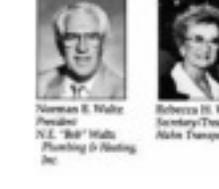
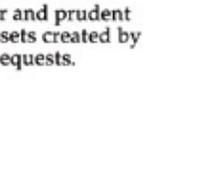
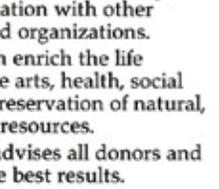
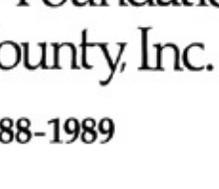
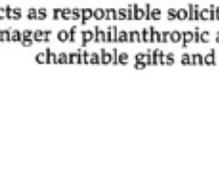
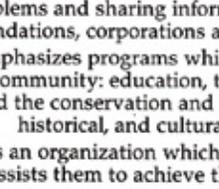
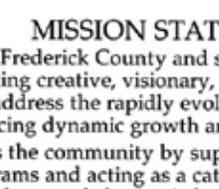
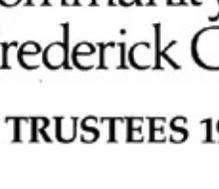
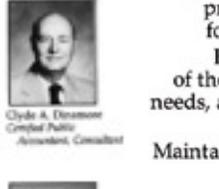
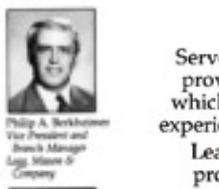
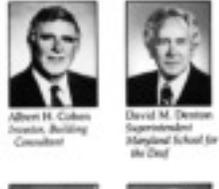
When I first considered the concept of a community foundation for Frederick, Charlie was the first person I consulted. I knew that he had the pulse of Frederick, and if he said no, we would have a hard time getting the project off the ground. He came on board right away, serving as a co-founder and as a board member for several terms. It was a great pleasure to participate in honoring him as the Foundation's 1994 Community Philanthropist of the Year.

Charlie received many, many awards throughout his life, and we held a very special birthday party for him when he turned ninety, giving Frederick a chance to thank him for his many years of service. I held his power of attorney in his last years and served as executor of his estate when he passed away at the age of 95 in 2005. He was a great role model and showed many of us how to truly be servant leaders.



The Community Foundation of Frederick County, Inc.

TRUSTEES 1988-1989



MISSION STATEMENT:
 Serves Frederick County and surrounding areas by providing creative, visionary, and sensitive grants which address the rapidly evolving needs of an area experiencing dynamic growth and rapid social change.
 Leads the community by supporting innovative programs and acting as a catalyst in identifying problems and sharing information with other foundations, corporations and organizations.
 Emphasizes programs which enrich the life of the community: education, the arts, health, social needs, and the conservation and preservation of natural, historical, and cultural resources.
 Maintains an organization which advises all donors and assists them to achieve the best results.
 Acts as responsible solicitor and prudent manager of philanthropic assets created by charitable gifts and bequests.

needs even though I knew little about fundraising. As we worked on the downtown, there were several instances when funds were needed to pay for professional services and architect fees, so we would call a special meeting of business and property owners and ask for donations. I especially remember the meeting held one afternoon at the Weinberg Center for the Arts to raise two thousand dollars for a feasibility study of a parking garage behind old City Hall. That money, like the seed money for other ideas, proved to be an excellent investment in the city's future, but we had to do it over and over again.

After surviving my serious heart surgery, I was more aware of how quickly situations can change. Flying home from a vacation afterward, I realized that my whole family was on the plane. If anything happened and we did not make it back, we had no plan for how our assets would be used. I thought it would be great if there was a fund established to benefit the Frederick community.

Not long after that I was having lunch with David Shives, a CFP and trust officer with The Bank of Charles Town, and I talked about setting up an

account at a local bank for contributions to fund projects needed for downtown Frederick. He asked if I had considered forming a community foundation. The term was a new one for me, so he explained how this type of foundation allows every member of a community, no matter their wealth or income level, to contribute to endowment funds that are invested in perpetuity. The income earned on the funds is used to benefit the community in many ways, including the types of money I was describing to him.

David was acquainted with the executive director of the Baltimore Community Foundation and offered to call him and arrange a visit. Retired Frederick Police Chief Charlie Main, long-time Frederick attorney Jerry Offutt and retired business executive Harold Wright joined me for the meeting which, while informative, ended with our visitor telling us Frederick was too small to support a foundation on its own. He suggested that we could establish a fund within the Baltimore Foundation. We told him that wasn't the direction we had in mind, and he returned to Baltimore without a new account.

Creating the Community Foundation of Frederick County

Smith Scholarship Fund Transferred to Foundation

A \$309,000 scholarship fund established by the estates of two highly respected Frederick County educators will now be administered by the Community Foundation of Frederick County.

The Ruth E. and Mary E.M. Smith Scholarship Fund has been managed by Fredericktown Bank and Trust Company for five years. During that time it has awarded 72 scholarships totaling \$152,000 to deserving students.

Ruth and Mary Smith were sisters who dedicated 42 and 44 years respectively to teaching and administration in Frederick County schools. Mary, who served as principal of Parkway Elementary from 1940 to 1966, held the distinction of being the first elementary teacher or principal in the County to receive a masters degree.

Following in her sister's footsteps, Ruth was the second elementary teacher to achieve this honor. Both were active members of many professional, church and civic organizations in the community where

they grew up and devoted their careers. In their wills, the Smith sisters remembered the community and the profession they loved with a scholarship fund for the "furtherance of an education for deserving young people, with preference being given to those who intend to devote their talents to a teaching career."

Transfer of the Smith Scholarship Fund to the Community Foundation will increase its philanthropic potential. As a private foundation, the Smith Scholarship Fund was subject to many substantial excise taxes, accounting requirements and administrative costs that do not apply to community foundations. The savings that result will increase the amount actually available for scholarships.

Charles F. Frank III, vice president and trust officer for the bank, stated, "It is Fredericktown Bank's hope that the transfer will inspire other organizations to establish or contribute to scholarship funds administered by the Community Foundation."

"The Community Foundation represents a capstone effort to put our shared resources toward our shared visions and greatest needs, including all levels of education. It demonstrates that Frederick County is a community which believes and invests in itself, making it most attractive to newcomers and to those who have already made a commitment to live and work here."

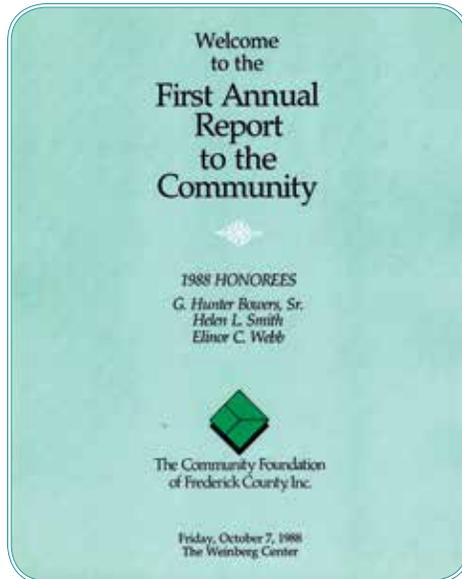
—Dr. Martha E. Church
President
Hood College



The estates of dedicated educators Ruth E. and Mary E.M. Smith created a scholarship fund for deserving students. Fredericktown Bank & Trust Company transferred the \$309,000 fund in November 1987 to the Community Foundation, where it will be subject to fewer restrictions and taxes.

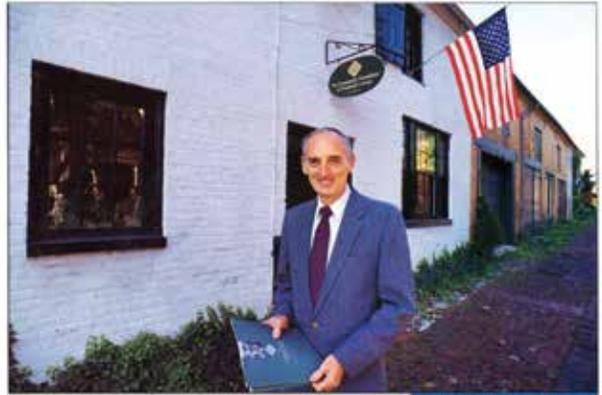
Unless we give part of ourselves away, unless we can live with other people and understand them and help them, we are missing the most essential part of our human lives.
—Harold Taylor

Don's 2014 Trustee Emeritus Medal from the Community Foundation.



LocalColor

A report on the county's business environment



The Community Foundation's Don Linton

Sweet Charity

The Community Foundation gets a taste of citizens' generosity

IT'S WORKED SUPERBLY IN SAN Francisco, in Cleveland, and in Kalamazoo: a community foundation that serves as a flexible vehicle for charitable giving. Why not in Frederick? wondered Donald Linton, a founding partner of Linton Shuler & Company, P.A., a firm of certified public accountants.

In 1986, after heart surgery, Linton and his family flew together on a trip. While he was ailing (and feeling vulnerable) he realized that his will made no provision for his estate should they all perish. Upon his return, Linton looked into setting up a private foundation that would channel his resources back into the community that had provided him with a good livelihood.

At first Linton encountered limitations and negative tax considerations, so he began thinking bigger and sought the involvement of community leaders. Soon the Council of Foundations in DC, and community foundation executives in several states were serving as advisers on the project. By 1987 a legal structure was in place, a volunteer board was active, and initial contributions were in the kitty for

the non-for-profit organization, called the Community Foundation of Frederick County. A gala dinner kicked things off and the foundation rapidly gained support.

"Our mission is to pick up where other funds leave off," says Linton, who is the foundation's board chairman. "For example, we'd like to become the local clearinghouse for scholarships to ensure that every student gets the opportunity for an education. We also plan to help fund specialized medical care for transplant operations or to repair birth defects and such."

Now—a year after the kickoff—the firm

The Foundation's Founders: Charles V. Main, Donald C. Linton and Jerome W. Offutt.



Jerry Offutt and I had some mutual estate planning clients, and in a conversation several months later I suggested to Jerry that some of these folks could benefit from making gifts to such a foundation, and it would benefit Frederick County as well. He agreed, and I then called Charlie Main, who had been at the meeting and who had raised funds for many Frederick charities, and asked his opinion. Charlie was on board, so we decided to move forward.

The three of us recruited twenty-one well-known civic and business leaders to join us on The Community Foundation of Frederick County's first board of trustees. We asked Jack Burdette, an attorney in Jerry's office who was a former IRS executive, to write the foundation's charter.



Ed Blumenauer

Charlie, Jerry and I signed the charter and I carried it, along with the tax-exempt application, down to the IRS office in Baltimore in December 1986, prepared to wait the four to six months for approval.

In the meantime, I had a year-end tax planning meeting with a client, Ed Blumenauer, and I mentioned what we were planning with the new foundation. He said, "Don, I really like that idea." Then he took out his checkbook and wrote me a check for \$10,000. I almost fell off my chair! That was a lot of money in 1976. I told Ed that we didn't even have a bank account yet. He made me feel especially good, validating that what we were doing was a great idea and not something foolish. The next day I took the check over to F&M Bank on the corner and opened an account, and on New Year's Eve, our new board of trustees held a special meeting to officially accept this landmark gift. Ed did not want any publicity, so he was always listed as anonymous on all donor lists until he passed away years later.

We started out with no operating funds, storing our files and records in a cardboard box under my desk. Kay Sheiss, who had assisted me during the Jeanne Bussard campaign, came on board to organize our early operations, plan events and publications. She was an essential part of our success for nearly ten years. In November 1987, we kicked-off our "Share In The Future" campaign with a dinner at the Sheraton Inn, featuring Dr. David Denton, Superintendent of the Maryland



Opening the new office of the Community Foundation of Frederick County. From left: Archie Rogers, Pete Plamondon, Charles Hoff, Bob Waltz, Fran Randall, Jerry Offutt, Ron Young, Royd Smith, Harold Wright, Anita Stup, Don Linton and Karl Manwiller.

School for the Deaf, as our keynote speaker, and the announcement that we had raised more than \$500,000 in initial contributions. Our success in explaining the mission of the Foundation, and what it could mean for Frederick County in the future, helped us obtain a county grant for initial start-up operating expenses. This allowed us to open a small office at 106 West Second Street in May 1988, located in what had once been stables for the Mathias property on Court Square. The late Frederick County Commissioners Sterling Bollinger and Mark Hoke deserve special recognition for supporting our request for operating funds at the time, providing the jump start we needed to open our doors. Karl Manwiller, the first principal of Governor Thomas Johnson High School, became executive director after he retired from the school system, and Peggy Smith joined us as receptionist and administrator. Both were wonderful people who knew the county well and were dedicated to our efforts. They were paid part-time but worked almost full-time.

In June 1988, The Ruth and Mary E.M. Smith Scholarship Fund was transferred from the Fredericktown Bank & Trust Company to the Foundation thanks to the support of Charlie Trunk, long-time trust officer at the bank. It was our largest gift at that point, and it created the base of the scholarship program we had set as a goal for the Foundation. In 2017 the Foundation awarded over \$1 million in more than four hundred scholarships to Frederick County residents, and I am very proud of that growth and investment.

Two hundred and fifty guests joined us at our First Annual Report to the Community event in



Charlie Main was named Community Philanthropist of the Year by the Community Foundation in 1994. (l to r) Donald B. Rice, Jr., Al Shockley, Dr. Herb Doggett, Ramona Remsberg, Frederick Police Chief Ray Raffensberger, Rev. Robert Manthey, Don Linton, Louise Main and Charlie Main.

The Community Foundation of Frederick County



Elizabeth Y. Day
President & CEO



Tonyia Miller
Executive Assistant



Gail Fitzgerald, CPA, CGMA
Chief Financial Officer



Chris Kiley
Accounting Associate II



Alysa Munday
Accounting Associate



Laura McCullough
*Director of Philanthropic
Services*



Becki DeLauter
*Philanthropic Services
Associate*



Kimberly Ortiz
*Community Impact
Associate*



Joyce Summers
*Director of Marketing
and Communications*



Lena Laug
Administrative Associate

Photos courtesy Community Foundation of Frederick County, Maryland.



Welcoming Dr. Benjamin Carson to Frederick in 1992. (l to r) Larry Silbernagel, Community Foundation Chairman, Dr. Carson, Don.

October 1988 at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, where we announced that contributions totaling \$1 million had been made to the Foundation. By the end of the year additional pledges and gifts had brought that total to \$1.3 million. The next year, thirty-three donors made Founding Donor commitments of \$25,000 each. That was a lot of money in those days, and many of our trustees really stepped up and set an example for others in the community.

We were succeeding in gaining the trust of county residents and explaining the concept of how the Foundation's invested endowment funds would grow and produce income for use each year. This was a new concept for many, and we had to overcome the idea that the Foundation would be in competition with other established organizations serving the community. As part of our campaign, we created marketing materials quoting Dr. Martha Church, the president of Hood College, James Kluttz, the president of Frederick Memorial Hospital, and the leaders of other local non-profits showing their support for the Foundation. I think this helped make a difference in educating prospective donors.

Several milestone events celebrating the Foundation's success and special community leaders stand out in my memory. Honoring my good friend and mentor Charlie Main as the Community Philanthropist of the Year awardee in 1994, and then celebrating his ninetieth birthday in 2000 were very special occasions, as was celebrating Miss Helen Smith's one hundredth birthday in 1994. It was also exciting to welcome the renowned Johns Hopkins surgeon and now HUD Secretary Dr. Benjamin Carson to Frederick in 1992 as we kicked off our Children's Endowment

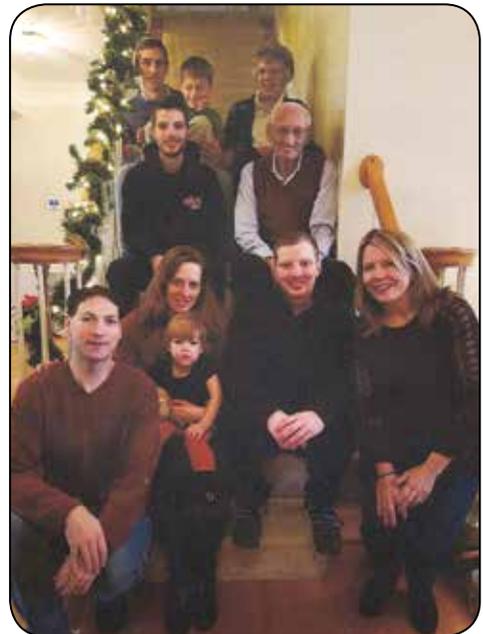
Fund, and I was honored to be named one of the Foundation's Community Philanthropists of the Year in 1995.

The Foundation celebrated its thirty-first anniversary in 2017. It has grown substantially over the past thirty years and now has more than \$100 million in invested funds. More than \$47 million has been returned to the community in grants and scholarships over the years. This tremendous success is the result of the efforts of president Betsy Day, her great staff, the hundreds of trustees and community members who have served as volunteers in one way or another, and those who have made charitable contributions - whether establishing an endowment fund or giving to one. The Community Foundation of Frederick County is a working example that every single member of our community can have an impact on the future if they choose to participate. Our original anonymous donor knew a good investment when he saw one, and I'm proud to know that his legacy will outlive us all.

A Second Start

After thirty years of marriage, Alice and I separated in 1988 and were divorced. No one can teach us how to be a good father or husband, but perhaps I did not have the best role model. I do not remember ever going on a family vacation where we stayed overnight when I was growing up, nor did my father play softball or other sports with us kids.

Or perhaps too much of my time was consumed trying to build a business and being active in community efforts. I assume full responsibility for the failure. Alice and I have continued to share in bringing our son Michael home for visits from



Christmas 2016. From top of stairs: David, Travis, Alice, Sam and Don Linton; Michael, Rebecca and Regina Hall; Ben and Stephanie Linton.

his group home in Hagerstown, we've seen our daughter Rebecca through high school and college, and now we both enjoy watching our grandchildren grow up.

I had known Becky Myers Garst since the late 1960s. She and her husband had owned Garst Paint Center on East Street in Frederick and were tax clients of the firm with Ron Shafer as their contact partner. She came to work with us as an accountant in 1979, and then helped clients change over to computerized payroll and accounting. She helped our client Phil Rauh, owner of Service Glass Industries, Inc., set up a new system in 1981, and then went to work for him later that year. She served as controller and treasurer of that business for the next twenty years.

When I ran into Becky at a downtown restaurant one day at lunchtime, she told me that she had recently separated from her husband, but I didn't have the nerve to tell her that I had also recently separated. We saw each other another time at lunch and I shared my news. Sometime later we went to dinner and began dating in 1989. We tried to keep our relationship quiet, and always went out of Frederick for dinner, but discovered that there are no secrets within miles of a small town. We almost always met someone from Frederick! Becky and I were married eight years later on January 24, 1997, in the Calvary Methodist Church Chapel in Frederick,

with Pastor Robert Manthey of Calvary Church and Pastor Joyce Stoltzfus of Glade Valley Church of the Brethren officiating. Former Frederick Mayor Jim

Grimes was my best man. We had a nice reception at the Patrick Center's City Club in downtown Frederick and lived in the house on Shookstown Road that I had purchased several years earlier.

MORE GOOD LUCK

In July 1989, I had some chest discomfort while walking, so Dr. Barakat performed a heart cauterization at FMH. He found that my heart by-pass had become blocked and required immediate surgery. I tried to talk him into not doing it so fast, but he made arrangements to have me transported to Shady Grove Hospital for triple by-pass surgery the next day.

David was in the process of moving on that Friday and daughter Rebecca was out of town. Becky came from Frederick to be at the hospital when they took me in for surgery at 6 a.m., even though I told her to wait until at least 10 a.m.

So, she was there when they came out to say that there had been a small disaster at the start of surgery. When using the saw to cut open my chest they caught the previous by-pass graft, tearing it out of the aorta, creating a hole and lots of blood loss. Becky told me later that she was scared and did not know how she would tell David and Rebecca if I did not make it.

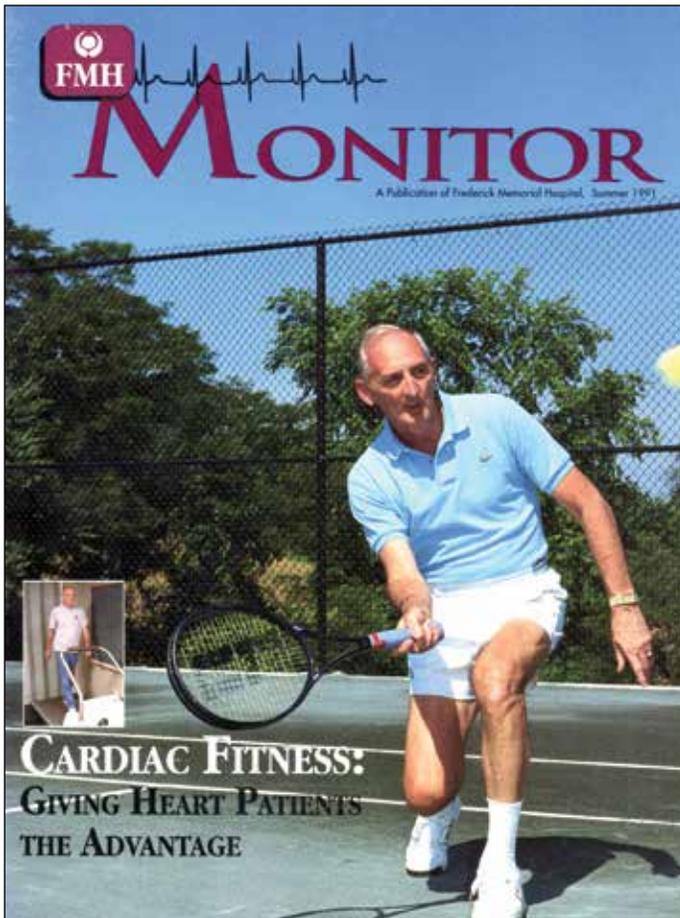
A couple of days later, the anesthesiologist came to visit me and told me what had happened. The tear resulted in the loss of most of my blood, requiring a quick transfusion of more than fifteen pints of blood in two IV lines during the surgery. The next time I saw Dr. Barakat he

told me that I had been lucky once again, and that situations like mine are the reason you go to a great medical facility: if there is a problem, the staff will know what to do and people



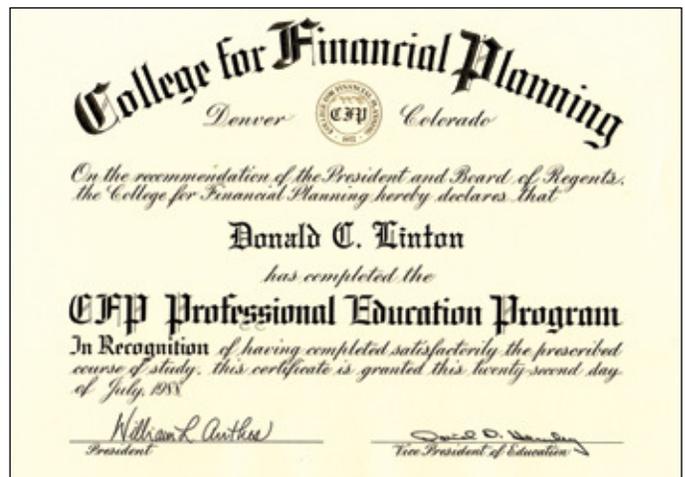
Don and Becky on their wedding day, January 24, 1997. (l to r): Mary Grimes, matron of honor, Pastor Joyce Stoltzfus, Becky, Don, Rev. Robert Manthey and Jim Grimes, best man.

won't read about you later in the newspaper. I sometimes think all of this did not really happen to me, but when I see the surgical scars, I realize that it really did.



The same doctor who told me what happened during surgery also told me that I needed to get my act together and make some lifestyle changes; my heart was damaged and a third operation would probably be impossible. I came back to Frederick, got serious about my diet and medications and joined the Cardiac Fitness Program at Frederick Memorial Hospital. In an interview for the summer 1991 issue of the FMH Monitor magazine, I noted how the program helped me recover much faster from my surgery and made me feel much more confident about exercising.

Several years later, in 2006, I went to Washington Hospital Center to have a stent inserted in an artery. As it turned out, there was an international cardiology conference being held in India, and they had asked the hospital if they could show the procedure to the conference on live video. They asked me if I would object, and I said no - go for it. So, it was interesting for me to also see what they were doing and hear the discussion. When they got into the procedure the question came up as to why the stent was inserted a particular way, and my surgeon explained the previous surgery crisis. I heard and saw the entire procedure.

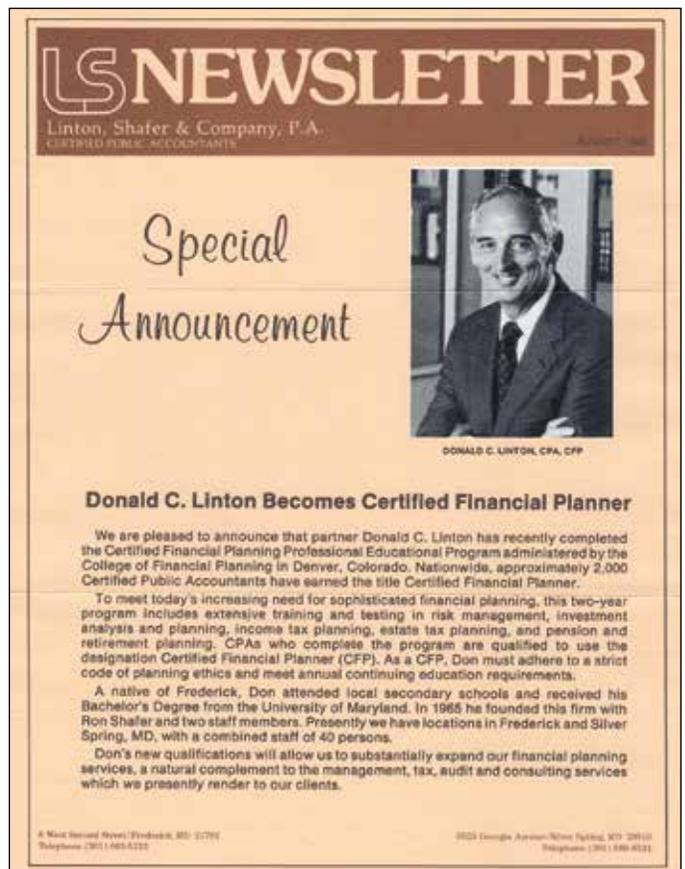


Certified Financial Planner Recognition

This is why I call myself Lucky Linton. I've been with the right people at the right time and beat a lot of the odds. A recent heart catheterization in the summer of 2017 showed minor blockage, and Dr. Barakat prescribed a nitroglycerin patch that appears to be working well.

Moving Forward Professionally

In July 1988, I achieved another personal milestone by becoming a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). This two year course of study covered a lot of training and testing in risk management, and planning in the areas of





Celebrating on the set of *It's Your Money!* (l to r) Brad Young, Tommy Grunwell, Seymour Stern and Don.



Becky and Don as the Lincoln's during the City of Frederick's 250th anniversary celebration, 1995.



Mayor Jim Grimes in period costume during the city's 250th anniversary celebrations.

Joining Friends & Colleagues in Community Service

Linton Receives Public Service Award



Donald C. Linton, CPA

Each year, MACPA participants in the AICPA Public Service Award program by selecting a Maryland CPA who does outstanding work in the community. This year, MACPA proudly presented the award to Donald C. Linton, CPA, a partner in Linton, Shafer & Company in Frederick, Md. Linton was selected from among several nominees who give countless hours of time to charitable and civic organizations.

Mr. Linton was advised as the winner based on the following criteria:

- Leadership:** Mr. Linton has made substantial accomplishments and taken the initiative to make a difference in his community.
- Impact:** Mr. Linton has made a tremendous impact on his community, and his efforts have touched a large number of people who have benefited from his activities.
- Involvement:** Mr. Linton has, and continues to devote many long hours to charitable and civic activities, and has been a leader in his community for some 20 years.
- Service:** Mr. Linton has worked hard to ensure that the human services available for residents of the Frederick community have kept pace with the development needs of this once rural setting. He has provided advice and counsel to many groups. He founded the Community Foundation of Frederick County in 1986, and through his leadership, the Foundation has reached the lives of many Frederick County residents. He was instrumental in attracting contributions that now make up 20 endowment funds, 10 scholarship funds and two special project funds.

In addition, Mr. Linton served as treasurer of the Greater Frederick Development Corporation for five years, first president of the Board of Directors and treasurer for the Scott Key Center, a developmental center for persons with mental disabilities, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce of Frederick County, president of the Kiwanis Club of Frederick and president and vice president of the Board of Directors for the Inshore Business Training Workshop.

The Public Service Award Committee, chaired by Fred Wiljens, managing partner of Wiljens, Smolian & Blumenthal, P.A., was especially impressed with this statement about the winner: "He is known for following through on his commitments and for being a dynamic spokesman of the cause so important to him. For five, charity does begin at home. He is the first to make a gift, the first to volunteer and the first to serve."

Mr. Linton is the founding partner of Linton, Shafer & Company and has more than 25 years experience in public accounting. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and began his career at the GAO in Washington DC. He also received the CFP designation from the College of Financial Planning and the PFS designation from the AICPA.

By the MACPA voters of the award, Mr. Linton will be recognized in October for the AICPA National Public Service Award. ☞

Nominate Someone You Know for the 1995 Public Service Award

Nominating someone for the Public Service Award can be your way of recognizing a colleague who gives back to the community in a meaningful way.

The nomination process can be as easy as a phone call. Just call MACPA with the name of the person you would like to nominate. We'll do the rest by obtaining all the information from the nominee or he or she can be considered for the award. Oh, we'll send you the nomination form for you to complete.

Call Janet Barlow at MACPA, 410-296-6200 or 1-800-752-2036 for nomination information. Your nominee must be a member of MACPA and the AICPA. Nominations are due by January 8, 1995.

LINTON, SHAFER & COMPANY CPAs SPECIAL ISSUE

US BLUEPRINT

A FINANCIAL AND ESTATE PLANNING GUIDE

IT'S YOUR MONEY!

NEW FINANCIAL PLANNING & LEGAL ADVICE SHOW TO PREMIERE ON CABLE 10

Please watch local cable Channel 10 (GS Communications) on **May 19, 1999 at 6 and 9 p.m.** for the premiere of "It's Your Money!", a new financial planning and advice show, featuring Donald C. Linton, CPA, principal of Linton, Shafer & Company.



TOMMY GRUNWELL



DON LINTON



SEYMOUR STERN



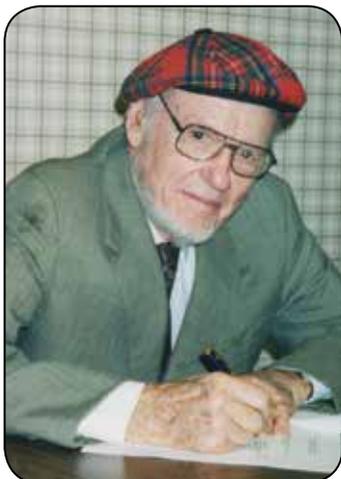
BRAD YOUNG

Combining their expertise gathered over decades of practice in the financial and legal fields, prominent local experts Donald C. Linton, CPA, attorney Seymour B. Stern and Brad W. Young, Vice President, Asset Management & Trust Division, FCNB Bank, will host Cable 10's newest show: "IT'S YOUR MONEY!" Tommy Grunwell, an icon in the broadcast industry in Frederick County for more than 30 years, will return to the media to act as moderator and host. The half-hour discussion and advice show will premiere on Cable 10 on Wednesday evening, May 19, at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. and have original broadcasts twice per month on Wednesday evenings. Additional airings will be on Fridays at 9 p.m., Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

investment analysis, income and estate tax, pensions and retirement.

Adding this qualification allowed the firm to launch Maryland Financial Planners, Inc., in November of the same year. We had been planning for this, anticipating deregulation that allowed us to offer a broader range of services to our CPA clients. We developed strategic partnerships with law firms, insurance and brokerage firms so that we could see our client's needs from a wider perspective and make sure communications between professionals was smooth and efficient. We were the first accounting firm in the area to offer these services and did so for several years before selling Maryland Financial Planners to Brad Young, a local CFP, whose offices are now located next to ours on Thomas Johnson Drive.

GOOD PLANS BECOME LEGACIES



Mr. William E. Cross signing the paperwork that created his foundation.

The William E. Cross Foundation is an excellent example of how planning makes all the difference in what you can achieve. Bill Cross became a client of ours in the 1970s. He owned the Cider Barrel, a well-known landmark on Route 355 in Germantown that was built in 1925, and the seventeen acres surrounding it where he operated a trailer park. He took over the

operation of the cider-making business from his mother in 1946 and kept it going each fall even while working full-time as a civilian engineer for the Department of the Navy. Bill retired from his full-time career in 1973, and he and his wife Eleanor would spend the winter in Florida. Eleanor died at the age of eighty-four in 2000. Bill sold the land for more than \$6 million in 2002 and created a private foundation with his attorney, Art Brisker, and I joining him as the original trustees. He ended the cider business a year later and moved to Florida where he died in April 2010 at the age of ninety-three. After his death, Becky Linton joined us as treasurer and Art's wife, Hazel Brisker, joined us as secretary of the board of trustees.

Today the Foundation has more than \$15 million in assets and supports a broad range of

non-profit organizations and services in Frederick and Montgomery counties. Bill and Eleanor Cross didn't have any children, but sound financial planning allowed them to create an outstanding legacy benefitting the community.

A GROWING FIRM

Linton, Shafer & Company had a combined staff of forty in 1988 with offices in Frederick and Silver Spring. In 1990 the firm of Hoye, Graves, Bailey & Associates merged with us.

In 1994 I was honored to receive the Public Service Award from the Maryland Association of CPAs.



Don receiving the Maryland Association of CPAs Public Service Award from Tom Hood, executive director.

At the end of the decade, I found myself on local cable

television. The show was called "It's Your Money!" and offered general financial planning and legal advice. I was joined by attorney Seymour Stern and Brad Young, who was then vice president of the asset management and trust division of Frederick County National Bank, along with host and moderator Tommy Grunwell, a local WFMD radio host. The show was broadcast for several years and was a great experience.

From One Generation to the Next

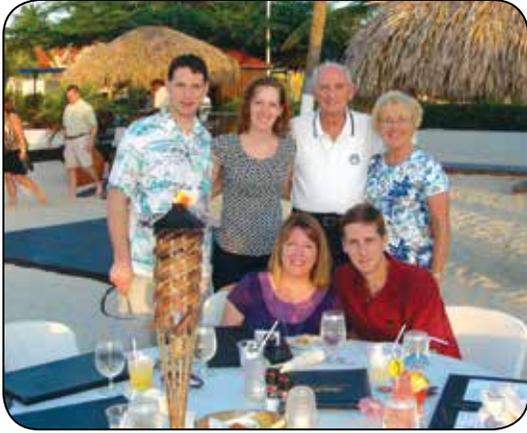
My mother passed away on July 11, 1992, at the age of seventy-nine. Fiercely independent, she wanted to learn to drive after my father died in 1962, so I taught her and she got her license and went to work, intent on supporting herself with minimal help from us. She lived in her home on Adam Road until near the end of her life, when she needed nursing care. A tireless worker who held our family together over the many years, she was devoted to her family and church, and lived to see five great-grandchildren come into the world.

Before Becky and I started dating, her mother had passed away, so she moved in with her father, Charles Myers, in Thurmont



Helen Linton at the wheel after she passed her driver's test in 1962.

Through the Generations



Dinner on the beach in Aruba: (standing) Michael and Rebecca, Don and Becky; (seated) Stephanie and David.



David and Stephanie's wedding day in 2002. (l to r) Rebecca, Don, Stephanie, David, Becky, Sam and Ben Linton.



Helen Stine Linton



Don with his mom, Helen.



Celebrating Don's birthday in 2009: Sylvia Butler and Roy Linton, Shirley Linton Evans, Karla Ficken and Richard Linton, Becky and Don.



Three Generations: David, Ben, Don and Sam Linton at Ben's high school graduation.

and lived with him until he passed away in late November 1995. Charlie was a great person, and we tried to have dinner with him once a week



Becky's parents, Helen and Charles Myers

at one of his favorite places, the Mountaingate Restaurant in Thurmont. He had been a dairy farmer all his life, and with his wife Helen raised Becky and her six brothers and sisters at Sunnyside Dairy Farm located off Route 15 behind the Shamrock Restaurant north of Thurmont. The Myers family was honored many times for their work on behalf of agricultural and civic organizations in the northern part of the county, and Charlie was a director of the Thurmont Bank, which is now Bank of America.

Alice's father, Amos Holter, passed away at the age of eighty-eight on March 1, 1998, eight



Mr. and Mrs. Holter

years after her mother, Frances, died, on December 28, 1990. As I have mentioned, Mr. Holter was an important figure in my life, serving as a mentor and advisor in the early years of my career. At his death, he was the oldest practicing attorney in Frederick and a man revered in the legal, banking and agricultural communities for his dedication, service, honesty and integrity. He leaves a wonderful legacy to his grandchildren.

As we were sharing the last years of our parents' lives, we were also enjoying watching our



Sam, David, Travis, Stephanie and Ben Linton

children and grandchildren start their own lives and careers. My son David graduated from Middletown High School



Rebecca and Michael Hall's wedding at the Inner Harbor (l to r) Alice, Michael, Rebecca, Becky and Don.

in 1979 and received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Maryland. He has two sons from his first marriage; Benjamin was born on December 13, 1991, followed by Samuel on January 31, 1994. David remarried in 2002 and he and his wife Stephanie Turner welcomed their son Travis on January 11, 2007. Both Ben and Sam graduated from James Madison University, Ben in 2014 and Sam in 2016, and are pursuing their own careers. David has had a very productive career in his field as a structural design engineer. He opened his own firm, Linton Engineering, located in Sterling, Virginia, in 2004 and now has seventeen staff members. He may have inherited my entrepreneurial genes!

Daughter Rebecca graduated from Governor Thomas Johnson High School in 1990 and Syracuse University in 1994 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in advertising design. Living in Baltimore, she has worked in the advertising and real estate industries since she graduated. I was honored to walk her down the aisle when she married Michael Hall on Friday, July 13, 2012, at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. They are now the parents of a very active three-year-old daughter, Regina Lily, who was born on November 13, 2014.



Granddaughter Regina Lily Hall

More Luck on My Side

Rebecca's move to Baltimore meant that Becky and I would have dinner with her as often as possible, and on one of those trips in March 2002 I again found luck to be on my side.

A few days after St. Patrick's Day we had dinner at a restaurant downtown. Leaving Rebecca's

A Proud Father . . .



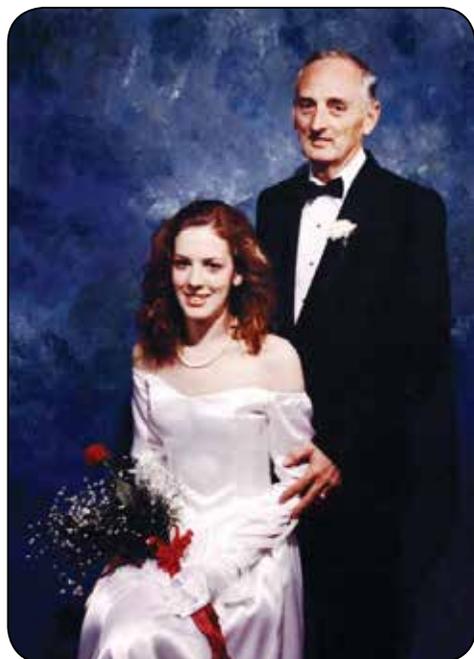
Don walks Rebecca down the aisle on her wedding day.



*Rebecca, Regina
and Michael Hall,
2016*



*Michael and Rebecca
on their wedding day,
July 13, 2012.*



Don and Rebecca at the Mardi Gras Ball, 1990.



*Don and Rebecca dance the first
dance at her wedding reception.*



*Rebecca Linton Hall,
July 13, 2012*

apartment about 9 p.m., we were driving west on Eastern Avenue and passing through an intersection in Little Italy. I had just said something to Becky about how nice an overhead string of lights across the street looked when there was a loud noise - and that's the last thing I remember. Then Becky was speaking very loudly to me but I didn't know what she was saying or why.

A vehicle traveling north had run the red light and rammed into the driver-side door of my car. I soon heard sirens and understood that we had been in an accident, and Becky was trying to get me to speak. My door was crushed in and I could not move. My feet were tangled in the brake and



Aftermath of the accident in Baltimore

gas pedals. When the firemen arrived, they cut open the door and helped me out of the car.

We were taken to the Emergency Department at Johns Hopkins Hospital for treatment of our injuries. Rebecca came to the hospital and stayed with us through the night, going back and forth between the rooms where Becky and I were being cared for, keeping us informed of each other's status. My worst injury was a broken shoulder clavicle that required surgery, but we opted to come back to Frederick for care. We were lucky that the driver hit us at the strongest part of my car; a foot or two further back would have resulted in much more personal injury since my car didn't have side airbags.

Becky was able to speak to a police officer who told her a drunk driver had run the red light and hit us, and there was an eyewitness to the accident. At the Hopkins emergency room, a nurse told me that the driver was intoxicated and was giving the staff a hard time. I witnessed his drunken rampage that night.

An accident report was filed by the Baltimore Police Department indicating that there was a

witness to the other driver running the red light. When I checked later, the driver had not been charged for going through the light or driving while intoxicated. I was confused, and asked a State Police detective how that could happen. He told me that the other guy must have a friend in the police department and would never be charged. I didn't believe him; I didn't think it was possible!

The driver's insurance company refused to pay our claim for damages since the driver said he was not intoxicated and did not drive through a red light. It took more than a year and a legal battle, but I obtained the medical records proving his alcohol level was twice the legal limit. I wrote letters to Baltimore's mayor and police chief, our state senator and state's attorney and anyone else I could think of and the results were all the same. They could not force the Baltimore Police Department to issue a citation for the driver going through the red light. The police officer did not witness the accident, so he only wrote the accident report and was not required to issue a traffic citation. My drunken driver friend caused a lot of pain and damage and did not receive any points or blemish on his driving record. I don't know who pulled strings for him, but this experience just proved the old cynical adage that it's always good to have a friend in City Hall.

2000: A New Century in a Changing Community

Frederick County was entering the new century with lots of momentum. New professional



Beginning Linton, Shafer & Company's 35th anniversary in 2000 with holiday greetings, 1999.

opportunities were coming our way as Linton, Shafer celebrated thirty-five years of business success, and Becky and I were looking ahead to a healthy and busy life together. There were also



Receiving the Good Samaritan Award at FMH. (l to r) Jim Kluttz, Becky, Don and Gail Guyton.

many ways to continue serving the community.

Most of us give to causes we believe in without thought of whether others will know what

we've done, but sometimes we can also help an organization by being recognized for our support. This can help encourage others to participate. In 2000, I was honored to receive the Good Samaritan Award from Frederick Memorial Hospital. This annual award recognizes both support of FMH and overall community service. Then, in 2004, I shared the stage with Charlie Nicodemus, another past chairman of the Community Foundation of Frederick County and fellow FMH Good Samaritan honoree, in receiving the Ninth Annual George Delaplaine Distinguished Citizen Award from the area Boy Scouts of America. Both of these organizations do tremendous work in our

community, and it was an honor to help promote their work.

I am also a great believer in the value of education, and the new millennium

found me involved with higher education at several levels. All three experiences taught me something, even if some of it I would rather not repeat.

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION INVESTMENT BOARD

In 2000 Governor Parris Glendening appointed me to a four-year term on the Maryland Higher Education Investment Board that oversees the College Saving Plans of Maryland. This program, which started in 1997, manages the funds that are invested for the future college educations of thousands of Maryland students.



Sharing the honors with Charlie Nicodemus (left) at the 2004 George Delaplaine Distinguished Citizen Award program.

After I had been on the board several months I raised questions about who was advising us on which funds we should be investing in, and why were they not providing us with periodic reports? We had a large amount invested in the S&P 500, and everything I was reading at the time said such a strategy could be bad if we had a market downturn.

A deputy to the state treasurer was at that meeting, and as it turned out, his boss had a lot of influence on how these funds, as well as the state employee retirement funds, were invested. At our next meeting, the state treasurer himself attended and made a twenty-minute, chart-filled presentation that was aimed at me. He had an inflated ego and thought he had all the answers. When he sat down, I said, "Good job, Mr. Treasurer," but I still did not agree with him. Several months later the stock market took a big hit and the state retirement system funds lost a lot of market value. Very soon after that the state treasurer retired for "medical reasons." The current (2018) treasurer, Nancy K. Kopp, is an outstanding person and we are fortunate to have her serving the state and the college trust funds. She also served many years as chair of the College Trust Plan. After her arrival, our board meetings included formal presentations from investment advisors.

HOOD COLLEGE

Hood has played an integral role in Frederick's history and economic development, and I believe that it's continuing prosperity is important for Frederick. During the 1990s, I joined the Hood College Board of Associates while Dr. Martha Church was college president. This group of alumni and community leaders supports fundraising efforts, particularly through the McCardell Professional Grants Program, and builds connections between local businesses and the college which are mutually beneficial. During her twenty-year tenure, Dr. Church recognized the importance of increasing the college's endowment, and she moved



Don, Hood President Martha Church and Becky



Ronald J. Volpe, left, president of Hood College, meets with Nancy H. Crum and Donald C. Linton.

Hood board elects leaders

The Hood College Board of Associates has new leaders.

Nancy H. Crum, past executive director of the United Way of Frederick County, has been elected chairman and Donald C. Linton, a partner in an accounting firm Linton, Shafer & Company, Pa., has been elected vice chairman.

Ms. Crum, a 1982 graduate of Hood, was elected to the board in 1997, and has been an active member, serving on its Presidential Leadership Scholarship Committee and the Career Center Advisory Council. She also has been active with the Hood College Alumnae Association. She succeeds D. Hunt Hendrickson, who served as chair-

man of the board from 1999-2001.

Mr. Linton joined the board in 1988. He has served as an advocate for the college with the local business community and has been an active member of the board, working with the Graduate School Advisory Council and the Presidential Leadership Scholarship Committee.

The board, organized in 1964, serves as advisor to the college and to the Hood College Board of Trustees. The board, which meets twice a year on campus, is composed of alumnae and alumni, parents and friends of Hood from throughout the region who support the college financially and share their time, talent and experience.

the institution through difficult years when enrollments at women's colleges were falling and costs were rising.

The six years after Dr. Church's retirement in 1995 were trying in different ways, but the college ultimately found its footing with a new president, Dr. Ron Volpe, in 2001 while I was chairman of the Board of Associates. In 2004, I was asked to join Hood's Board of Trustees.

The days when colleges got along with tuition and some endowment support were long gone by the time I joined the board, but the college was still building a really strong base in financial management - a process that takes some time. Dr. Volpe had an outstanding personality and got along well with everyone, but his background was not in finance. When I was assigned to the Hood Board's Audit and Finance Committee I quickly came to find that the president didn't have the team behind him that I felt he needed, beginning with his senior vice president for administration and finance (SVP).

Over the following months, as we pursued funding for a new dormitory and discussed a proposed budget, it became clear to me that changes were needed. I told the SVP that it was time to balance the budget or we would be running out of cash. When he presented the next budget to our committee, it was still not balanced. I informed him that our committee would not approve it, and that the board was prepared to take drastic measures if the budget was not balanced.

Along with other board members, I pursued some difficult conversations that brought issues to the forefront, which was my job as a trustee. Then, several of us opted to leave the board so that a rebuilding process could begin between the

board and the administration. Along the way, the SVP was replaced and one of the college's largest donors became involved, giving the college the boost it needed to solve these problems and move forward. I've been pleased to watch its upward trajectory ever since.

Dr. Volpe's accomplishments included the college becoming fully co-educational, a major increase in enrollment, growth in fundraising and the needed improvements in financial management. After Dr. Volpe's retirement, the Hood Board recruited Dr. Andrea Chapdelaine, former provost of Albright College, to lead the institution as its eleventh president. With a strong background in financial management in addition to her academic leadership experience, Dr. Chapdelaine impresses me as someone uniquely prepared to lead Hood into the future.



Dr. Andrea Chapdelaine, President of Hood College

For me, the lesson of this experience is that membership on volunteer boards, be they small groups or large institutions, is not for the prestige or the invitation to special events. The responsibilities are serious, and you often hold people's livelihoods in your hands. You must be prepared to ask tough questions, make difficult decisions and stand your ground on important principles.

FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

I have watched FCC grow from just a few evening classes held at Frederick High School to a busy, full-time campus on the Opossumtown Pike. Our

firm did the college's audit for many years, and when I was asked to serve on the FCC Foundation board in the late 1990s, I did so gladly. Promoting the importance of the college's programs and the need for student scholarships and services is an



Don and Becky accepting the FCC Foundation's Eagle Award in 2015.

easy case to make with potential donors: we're investing in Frederick County's future.

In April 2009, Governor Martin O'Malley

appointed me to the FCC Board of Trustees. It was very rewarding serving with President Carol Eaton, one of the best presidents ever recruited there. Dr. Eaton had the rare ability to be on top of everything. Her pleasing personality coupled with the ability to communicate her great vision for the college unified the staff and students at FCC.



FCC 2011 Annual Golf Tournament, 2nd Place Overall Winners (l to r) Becky Linton, Betty Bell, Nan Vantucci, Lisa Kaufman.

When Dr. Eaton announced her decision to accept the presidency of a unique, four-year community college in

Daytona Beach, Florida, after six years at FCC, we began the search for a new president in October 2011. Executive searches are neither easy nor foolproof, no matter how much care is taken in the process. The new president was slow to become part of the Frederick community, and his family did not join him here. A verbal battle with one of the trustees led to things being said that were inappropriate for both parties, and the decision was made to end his employment contract just six months after he began. I believe the decision was correct, but it was handled poorly. The president should have had the opportunity to resign and seek other employment, resulting in less stress for him, the college and the Frederick community.

That difficult episode resulted in an interim president for a period of time, followed by the appointment of Elizabeth Burmaster as FCC's tenth president in May 2014. President Burmaster,

a Frederick native and Thomas Johnson High School graduate, has brought a fresh perspective, excellent experience and leadership skills to her position at FCC.



Elizabeth Burmaster, President of Frederick Community College

In 2015, Becky and I were honored to be recipients of the FCC Foundation's Eagle Award for service to the college. Once again, while the award was certainly appreciated, what we really enjoyed was the opportunity to speak on behalf of FCC and its students. Becky was recognized as an alumna and for her leadership in creating the college's fiftieth anniversary golf tournament in 2007 at the request of then college president Eaton. Becky chaired the event for the next seven years along with FCC coach Dave Miller before handing the leadership over to Daryl Routzahn.

A PROFESSIONAL MERGER

We celebrated our fortieth year in business at Linton, Shafer & Company in 2005 in a big way, merging with Warfield Garrett & Associates and moving to a larger location at 201 Thomas Johnson Drive.

Doug Warfield and Ed Garrett left a larger firm in 1993 and opened their own office in Frederick.

A new location for a local firm...

...with a few new faces!

Big things are happening at the certified public accounting firm of **Linton Shafer Warfield & Garrett** ...big enough that we've outgrown our offices in downtown Frederick.

LSWG

Linton Shafer Warfield & Garrett, P.A.
 201 Thomas Johnson Drive, Frederick, MD 21704
 301.646.4400 • www.lswgpa.com

Principals: David Ziemer, CPA, CFP®; Ronald Shaver, CPA; Douglas Harwood, CPA, CFA; Ed Garrett, CPA; Doug Routzahn, CPA; Kevin Hoyle, CPA; Nathan Elmer-Brown, CPA; Howard Robinson, CPA; Paul Brown, CPA.

Ron and I had known them for for many years; we shared common values and work ethics, so joining forces to create an even stronger firm came about at the right time. By the time of our anniversary in November 2005 we were a firm of six principals and forty employees.

Moving out of downtown Frederick was a big change, but with the tremendous renaissance of the area, it didn't feel like we were making a run

A Fire Guts Former Linton, Shafer Building



Repairing 6 West Second Street after the fire.



Staff photo by Sam Yu

A firefighter stands at the base of a ladder reaching up toward the two-alarm fire that gutted the recent Linton, Shafer and Co. building at 6 W. Second St. in Frederick on Friday.



Celebrating 40 Years of Business Success & An Exciting Merger



LSWG Principals, November 2005: (seated) Ron Shafer and Ed Garrett. (standing) Joseph McCathran, Kevin Hessler, Doug Warfield and Don.

for it. In fact, now we often come back downtown for lunch and meetings - quite a switch from the days of boarded up buildings and no restaurants.

A year after our move, fire originating in a faulty florescent light fixture gutted our former offices at 6 West Second Street during the early morning hours. Thankfully, the building was empty, no one was injured and adjoining properties were not damaged. We repaired the building and sold it in 2008.

2005 was also my seventieth birthday, and Becky and I celebrated by joining my son David, his wife Stephanie, their sons Ben and Sam and my daughter Rebecca on a Royal Caribbean cruise out of Baltimore to Bermuda.



Cruising on Don's 70th birthday (clockwise from back) Don, Stephanie, Becky, Ben, Sam, Rebecca and David.

FAMILY HERITAGE TRUST COMPANY

Among the many changes I've seen over the years in financial management has been the disruption of community banking as we knew it for more than a hundred years in Frederick. The merger of our oldest locally-owned banks with big regional and national institutions has had many repercussions, and just one of those

was the loss of local trust departments.

While expensive to operate, trust departments play an extremely important role in planning,



Attending a tax conference in St. Croix (l to r) Mike and Betsy Day, Joan and Bernie Fried, Leigh and Ed Garrett, Becky and Don.



The trustees and staff of the Family Heritage Trust Company, 2016.

investing and managing resources for individuals and families with special needs, particularly those caring for someone with a disability who could never care for him or herself. Families seeking that type of consultation and assistance at the major banks today require assets of \$500,000 or more, a prospect that is way out of reach for many people who need help.

So, Michael Day, a local attorney working with such families, suggested the creation of a local trust company to fill this gap, and I was happy to join the venture. We recruited a group of interested professionals and the Family Heritage Trust Company was launched in 2007. I've had the honor of serving as chairman of the board since the beginning, and under Michael's leadership Heritage is a growing concern receiving more referrals than ever and serving an important role for families throughout the region.

The Fight for Citizens and Montevue

Nearly 250 years ago, Frederick opened its first almshouse providing food and shelter to the poor, the aged, orphans and widows. In 1828 a larger building was needed, and the county acquired just under ninety-four acres two miles west of town from the Brunner family. The deed had a special caveat: the property must be used **"for the Benefit of the Poor of said County and to and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever."**

A building was constructed, a burial ground was established, and farming operations were begun. A doctor from the area was elected to the position of "physician to the almshouse." During the Civil War the almshouse farm was the site of a Union convalescent camp.

In 1870 construction began on a large Victorian-style; five-story building that included everything from operating rooms to barred cells for the mentally ill. Named the Montevue Hospital, which is French for “mountain view,” the building opened in 1871 and was also known statewide as the Montevue Asylum. In the decades to come, its successes and failures would play a key role in determining the state’s oversight of such facilities.

Use of the Montevue property evolved with changing community needs. In 1910 a “Pest House” infirmary was constructed to quarantine sick patients during outbreaks of typhoid, TB and influenza. The opening of state hospitals for the mentally ill removed those individuals from local care. During the Great Depression an Emergency Hospital was opened on the property; I was born there. After World War II and the start of Social Security and other social programs, the role for Montevue changed again. By the late 1960s, it was providing subsidized care for the elderly who needed more assistance than they could have at home, or who could not live on their own any longer. The building, now nearly one hundred years old, had been renovated from time to time, but it was neither safe nor efficient to operate.

Despite calls from the medical community and individual citizens, several boards of county

commissioners did not want to take the step of addressing the growing needs of indigent seniors in Frederick County. It wasn’t until 1972, when BoCC President Lawrence A. Dorsey stated publicly that building a non-profit nursing home for poor seniors was his “top priority” that local government leaders took action. Citizens Nursing Home opened in 1976. In 1987, a new Montevue Assisted Living building was completed. Serving very low-income seniors who could no longer live alone, but did not need full-time nursing care, it was built adjacent to Citizens and the two facilities shared kitchen, laundry and maintenance services. Later that year the original Montevue building was demolished. The current Frederick County Health Department building now stands in that location with the Montevue cemetery behind it.

MEETING NEW NEEDS

The Citizens Nursing Home building served the community well for over thirty-five years, but the level of care needed by patients increased, the business end of health care became much more complex, and the facilities needed to be upgraded. After many years of study, including the report of a “Blue Ribbon Task Force” created in 1999, a plan was approved by the board of county commissioners in 2002. It included a new nursing and rehabilitation center with an adjoining wing for Montevue Assisted Living. I had the pleasure of serving on the Blue Ribbon Task Force and was delighted when the project finally got underway in 2008 with the approval of architectural designs. The proposed facility design included an outpatient rehabilitation center and a ventilator unit at Citizens, both of which would create new revenue streams that would help offset the costs of subsidized care at Montevue.

In 2007, Charlie Trunk, who had also served as a trustee and past chairman of the Citizens’ board, joined me in creating two endowment funds at the Community Foundation benefiting the new facility. The Citizens



Don, State Delegate Galen Clagett and State Senator David Brinkley look at plans for new Citizens/Montevue complex at groundbreaking ceremonies on October 8, 2009.

Breaking Ground: The New Citizens & Montevue

Jan Gardner, then a county commissioner, speaking at groundbreaking for the new Citizens/Montevue complex, October 8, 2009.



Former Frederick County State's Attorney Tommy Dorsey, the son of Lawrence Dorsey, who founded Citizens Nursing Home, made a naming gift in honor of his family to the new Citizens/Montevue complex. (l to r) Jim Talbot, PNC Bank, Gordon Cooley, PNC Bank, Tommy Dorsey, Don, Charlie Trunk and Betsy Day, president of the Community Foundation, at the groundbreaking for the Citizens/Montevue complex.

Groundbreaking for the new Citizens Care & Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living, October 8, 2009.



Care & Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living Fund is a permanent endowment, with the interest earned on the fund used to enhance the quality of resident life. The Friends of Citizens Care & Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living Fund is a pass-through fund to address needs beyond the capital budget. Our goal was to get the project moving, showing



Don and Charlie Trunk, co-founders of two endowment funds at the Community Foundation benefiting Citizens and Montevue.

the commissioners that citizens believed in the mission of Citizens and Montevue, particularly in the taxpayer-subsidized housing and services provided at Montevue. Five years after the establishment of the funds, more than fifty major gifts totaling more than \$1 million, including a matching grant from the State of Maryland, had been contributed to enhance future services at Citizens and Montevue. There was and is no comparable facility in the state of Maryland. Professionals and volunteers providing services to seniors across the state are envious of Frederick County's commitment to maintaining Montevue

for our poorest senior neighbors, and we should be proud of our history.

Groundbreaking for the new building took place on October 8, 2009, continuing the tradition of using the former Brunner land, "for the Benefit of the poor..." The new, state-of-the-art, 170-bed nursing and rehabilitation facility and the adjoining seventy-five bed assisted living center were dedicated on June 12, 2012.

The facility includes two special areas named in honor of Lawrence Dorsey, whose vision kept



Don speaking at the groundbreaking for the Citizens/Montevue complex.



Cutting the ribbon on the new Citizens/Montevue facility, June 12, 2012.

Frederick County true to its roots as a community that cares for those in need: a chapel located in the Citizens portion of the building, made possible through a gift from his son, Lawrence "Tommy" Dorsey, Jr., and a beautiful fountain located at the entrance to Montevue given through The Friends Fund by Samuel W. and Joan F. Barrick. More than two hundred people attended the event, with elected officials, members of the Citizen/Montevue Board of Trustees and Thomas Kleinhanzl, president of Frederick Regional Health System, speaking to the importance of the new facility to the people of Frederick County. We were on our way to improved efficiency and income with a new building and a more professional operating structure.

SHOCK WAVES

Three months after the grand opening and the move of patients and residents, Blaine Young, president of the board of county commissioners and a sitting member of the Citizens/Montevue Board of Trustees, announced at a meeting of the trustees that the commissioners were

One-of-a kind dental suite opens at Frederick nursing center

By the Wilson News-Free Staff
wilson@frederickreport.com

Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center of Frederick recently opened an on-site dental care suite for its residents, the only one of its kind known to be in a skilled nursing center in the nation.

The dental care suite, made possible through volunteer action and resources, is located in a room dedicated to that purpose with the appropriate equipment and in an ideal setting. Routine dental services are offered to Citizens' and Montevue Assisted Living residents by dental professionals who are sharing their time and expertise.

"The opening of our dental care suite is a tremendous benefit to our medical services," said Robert C. Arns, executive administrator at Citizens and Montevue. "When nursing care residents must go out of the facility to go to the dentist, we have possible service benefits to us them, dental issues can go unattended. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and donors, we are able to address dental health issues earlier and more effectively, ultimately reducing health care costs and improving overall resident health."

The Paul Cheslow has enhanced his services several times a month.



A resident receives dental care at the newly opened on-site dental care suite at Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center of Frederick. From left, are Steve Brinker, Wispig; Andrea Eskin, dental hygienist; and Dr. Paul Cheslow, dentist.

Through Fund at the Community Foundation during fundraising efforts at the new Citizens and Montevue complex was being held.

Opening day of the dental suite was a special occasion for Wispig. She had been concerned about the need for dental services at Citizens and Montevue for

considering selling the new facility. The trustees were shocked and taken completely by surprise, having been assured that they had eighteen months to implement new procedures at the



facility and improve the operating finances. The trustees reminded the BoCC that the deed to the Montevue property stated very clearly that the land was to be used exclusively for the use and care of the indigent citizens of Frederick County. The proposed sale of the facility included six acres of land that would require the county to subdivide the ninety-four acre property before a deed could be prepared and the property sold. Four of the five commissioners were dismissive of the deed, and they demonstrated no interest in or care for the Frederick residents at Montevue Assisted Living, for whom there was no other place to go.

This board of commissioners had made numerous attempts to privatize certain county departments and functions as cost-saving measures with the county's Internal Audit Department the first to be cut. They viewed Citizens/Montevue, with its new facility, as low-hanging fruit. One commissioner said that if "you could find a service in the Yellow Pages" then the county should not be providing that service and placed the nursing and rehabilitation center in that category. Another commissioner stated that "we will do what we want, and if someone does not like it, they can sue the BoCC."

THE LEGAL FIGHT

The Save Montevue Committee was formed within weeks of the commissioners' announcement as current and former trustees were joined by concerned citizens who understood that selling Citizens meant the end of subsidized assisted living for poor seniors at Montevue.

Members of the board of trustees sought legal counsel and were informed that the transfer of the land was complicated, and there was no guarantee that they would be successful if they filed suit against the county. Four individuals then joined together to retain the services of Frederick attorneys Leslie Powell and Paul Flynn of the law firm Powell Flynn, LLP, and took up the fight. Little did we know at the time just how difficult that fight would be, or the amount of time, energy and money it would consume. Volunteers created a Save Montevue website, produced a video for YouTube, and began gathering data on low-income and poor seniors in Frederick County and the services available to them. *Frederick News-Post* coverage of the efforts to stop the sale of the facility was essential to building public understanding and interest, and Save Montevue supporters began writing what would become a steady stream of letters and opinion pieces to the newspaper throughout 2013 and 2014.



Meanwhile, the board of county commissioners was moving ahead with a request for proposals for sale of the facility, even as the Citizens/Montevue Board of Trustees was working to find savings by lowering the number of subsidized beds at Montevue and other options that might sway the BoCC.

The initial legal battle began in early 2013 when the county filed their subdivision plan with the city of Frederick. The staff of the city planning department recommended approval of the request and it was submitted to the city's planning commission for final approval. Despite vocal opposition by residents, the planning commission voted to approve the subdivision in April 2013. The Save Montevue group filed an appeal of that decision to the zoning board of appeals in May, stopping the subdivision from moving forward until the appeal would be heard the following November.

SHOULD THE COUNTY KEEP ITS NURSING HOMES?

Untold health risks of privatizing Citizens & Montevue

We have played a variety of roles while caring for elderly patients: caregivers at the bedside, administrator, regulator and... We have carefully screened to ensure financial need. These elderly citizens do have Medicare and Medicaid, but neither program pays for assisted living. They contribute all but \$100 per month of...

Democrats object to care-home privatization

We strongly object to the Board of County Commissioners' rush to sell the Frederick County-owned Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living facilities. Here are the facts as we see them: In 1828, the Brunner family sold 94 acres to the county with the provision that it be used for the benefit...

A few facts on the Citizens-Montevue deal

We want to have all the facts prior to making any decision. These facts should form the basis for our decision. This was not the case with the Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Assisted Living. Frederick County purchased in 1828 where Citizens and Montevue Assisted Living...

Caring for an aging America

Reading a backlog of News-Post issues after returning last week, it is apparent... overwhelm caregivers. The treatment and housing of the groups now moving into their 80s and 90s... is the obligation of every community. Growing up in a blue-collar...

County gives Aurora high marks

Others still press for more oversight of company running Citizens, Montevue

Torn on the future of Citizens and Montevue

We have to admit that in considering the proposed privatization of Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living... News-Post is torn. We have had this decision first took action...



A group of protesters watch Sunday as projected messages appear on the front entrance to Winchester Hall. Protesters plan to rally Tuesday before a public hearing on the facilities' proposed sale.

Citizens/Montevue fate sealed before hearing

It is no one's surprise the Frederick County Commissioners wasted little time in selling Citizens Care and Montevue Assisted Living Facility following a public hearing Tuesday evening. It's now clear the public hearing was nothing more than a sham and validated claim through the motions' that the meeting was held because of a law...

Montevue, Citizens, and Aunt Bobbie's care

Just had an experience that was very important to me. My Aunt Bobbie died. Now that may sound sad, and you may say that sadness is not the same as the death of a parent, but my aunt was the care of the other indigent elderly there. Even now Montevue and Citizens have to turn down many needy, elderly Frederick County. Stories like an elderly...

County facilities' suitor has mixed record

Some subpar inspections for potential buyer of nursing, assisted care centers

By Tamara Rector

INSPECTION REPORTS DETAIL... will continue to be held in...

Also in May, a committee of county officials had narrowed the offers for purchase of the facility to two companies. Within weeks, the BoCC announced its decision to award the contract to Aurora Health Management, despite the fact that they had yet to hold the required public hearing on the proposed sale.

As information about the sale agreements became public, it was clear that Aurora had stepped into a very lucrative deal. The BoCC was selling the new building for millions of dollars less than the cost of construction, giving away seven and half acres of land, cutting a deal on taxes and maintenance of the facilities and giving away millions in uncollected revenue. Under the operating agreement, the county would pay Aurora an additional \$10 million over four years to provide subsidized care to the fifty-seven residents at Montevue, but we quickly realized that Aurora could opt to move some subsidized Montevue residents to Citizens, where they could bill Medicare and/or Medicaid for patient care while still receiving the county payment for Montevue - a double dip. Taxpayers quickly questioned why the BoCC would sign these deals. Proponents of the sale claimed it would save the county money, but a financial analysis showed that the new facility, when fully occupied, would create a profit from Citizens that would offset the cost of providing subsidized care for indigent seniors at Montevue.

Public outcry against the proposed sale was gaining steam, including a *Frederick News-Post* editorial encouraging a delay of the decision. Given public notice of plans for demonstrations and large numbers of anticipated attendees, the

commissioners were forced to move the June 25, 2013, public hearing from Winchester Hall to Frederick Community College's Kussmaul Auditorium. The 409-seat auditorium was packed, and despite five hours of public comment (at three minutes per person), and fewer than five citizens agreeing with the proposal, the commissioners voted four-to-one in favor of the sale to Aurora. They also voted to abolish the Citizens/Montevue Board of Trustees at the hearing and to sign a management contract with Aurora so the company could begin operating the facility prior to the sale closing date.

A month later, the Save Montevue team filed a petition for judicial review in the Circuit Court of Frederick County while also appealing to the Maryland State Board of Public Works (BPW) to delay their decision on whether or not to approve the sale contract.

The fact that the board of public works had a role to play in this drama was really a piece of luck. When we were working to build public support for building the new facility back in 2007-2008, we pushed our state delegation to support a bond bill that resulted in a \$200,000 grant toward the new facility. As it turns out, when the state makes that type of investment in a public-use project, they have a say in whether or not the facility can be sold and taken out of public ownership.

A group of us made the trip to Annapolis for the BPW meeting and several of us spoke on the issue, outlining the pending court cases and issues related to how the June 25 public hearing was conducted. Despite commissioner Blaine Young's appearance at the hearing and offer to repay the grant "that day," the BPW voted two-to-one to delay their decision until they received additional legal advice. This would help to further push back the proposed sale.

That same \$200,000 came back to haunt the BoCC in September as both the *Frederick News-Post* and our former board of trustees chairwoman, Dr. Sonja Sperlich, lodged Open Meetings complaints against them, alleging that the BoCC held a closed door meeting on September 5, where they voted, four-to-one, to send the state grant back to the state despite the BPW's refusal to approve the proposed sale in July. It was the second time that year the commissioners had faced Open Meetings complaints regarding the Citizens/Montevue issue, and it only added to their bad press.

Centers to be sold



Staff photos by Steve Yu
With some in the audience standing to applaud, Montevue resident Lawrence Watson, 95, is helped back to his seat by his daughter Nancy Hartman after being the first public speaker Tuesday night at the hearing on the sale of Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living at the Jack B. Kussmaul Theater at Frederick Community College.

In November 2013 the Frederick city Board of Zoning Appeals voted to reverse the city planning commission's decision to allow the county's request to subdivide the Montevue property, giving us a much-needed win. While we knew the decision simply sent the issue back to the Planning Commission, it meant a significant delay into the spring of 2014, which was an election year, and our great hope for stopping the sale.

The county also went to court in November, asking a judge to throw out our July lawsuit in a summary judgment. The following month, December 2013, both sides met in the courtroom on our initial filing to stop the proposed sale by recognition of a restrictive covenant in the deed.

The Save Montevue group continued to keep public attention on the issue in early 2014. The county appealed the zoning board of appeals November decision in circuit court, adding another layer of delay. When the city planning commission returned to the issue in March 2014, they heard more than an hour and a half of

the benefit of the poor of said county, and to and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever." Judge Adams found that there "is a genuine dispute of fact as to whether the sale of CCRC/MAL facilities are in derogation of the restrictive covenant established in the deed of 1828 from Elias Brunner to Frederick County." Judge Adams then set a court date for January 2015.

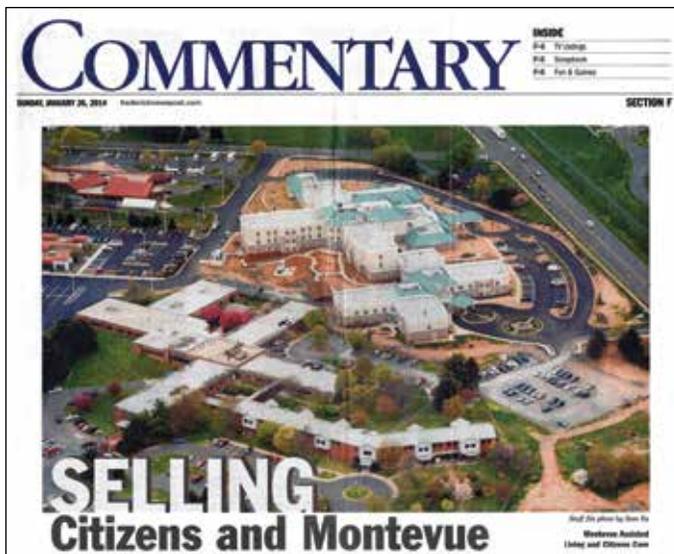
The county responded with ridiculous public statements suggesting that the ruling would require them to move all the citizen services located on the Montevue property, including the need to "boot out homeless dogs and cats," as the *Frederick News-Post* put it in a scoffing editorial. The county also filed a motion asking the court for a final judgment that would allow them to immediately appeal the case to the Maryland State Appeals Court. We knew this to be what it was: an attempt to price us out of continuing our legal fight.

On May 1, 2014, the county handed over operations of Citizens and Montevue to Aurora under a management agreement and an asset purchase agreement. Staff at both facilities became employees of Aurora. In turn, we updated our current lawsuit arguing that the operational transfer to Aurora violated a court order as well as the grant agreement with the state, since the board of public works was still waiting for legal issues to be settled before they would vote on whether or not to allow the sale.

In June, the state weighed in with a letter to the BoCC reminding them that the BPW had yet to vote and that the commissioners were still bound by the grant agreement.

The long and expensive legal battle we'd been waging had done its job, bringing us further and further into the election year. Jan Gardner was running as the Democratic candidate for our first county executive, and we were backing David Gray in the June Republican primary against Blaine Young. Unfortunately, David wasn't able to overcome Young's lead in their primary, so Jan had a very tough general election race ahead.

Jan Gardner served on the BoCC that approved the construction of the new Citizens/Montevue facility, and she supported our efforts to stop the sale and retain the facilities. Joining with activists from the Monrovia area of the county who were fighting the BoCC on land development issues and many other volunteers working on Jan's behalf, we put everything we had into the campaign.



testimony from citizens against the subdivision, including Frederick County Commissioner David Gray, who was our ally throughout the process, and Frederick City Alderman Carol Krimm, who also stood with us against the proposed sale. The commission opted to review the issues for another two months.

That same month, Judge Theresa Adams of the circuit court released her ruling allowing litigation to proceed in our case against the county that was argued in December 2013. She upheld the validity of the restrictive covenant in the 1828 deed transferring the Brunner farm property to the county that states the land is to be used "for

OPINION

Established 1883 | MDDC Newspaper of the Year 2012
 Myron W. Randall Jr., President, Randall Family LLC
 Geordie Wilson, Publisher
 Terry Headlee, Managing Editor
 Clifford G. Cumber, Editorial Page Editor

Legal wrangling

The ongoing saga between the par- are concerns that Aurora won't want to
 ties remain open whether Citizens will accept long enough to find out what

Members of our group bought ads, knocked on doors, held signs and wrote more letters to the editor, never letting the Citizens/Montevue issue die down through the summer and fall. Everyone's hard work paid off: Jan was elected county executive in November.

THE SECOND LEGAL PHASE

Once Jan Gardner took office, we entered another phase of the legal fight. The previous

BoCC had hired one of the largest and most influential law firms in Maryland to write the sales agreements with Aurora and to represent the county in the legal battle against us. Jan couldn't just cancel the sale and the agreements with Aurora; the company was operating the facilities and it's owners had their own smart lawyers, too. So, she hired a Baltimore law firm to represent the county in the dispute between the three parties.

Initial attempts at mediation were not successful, forcing Jan to consider filing a condemnation suit against Aurora, finally driving home the point that she wasn't going forward

with the sale. A return to mediation resulted in an agreement among the parties. The process was long, costly and nasty. On September 1, 2016, Aurora and

the county went to settlement, and the county regained control of Citizens Care & Rehabilitation Center and Montevue Assisted Living. The Save Montevue litigants subsequently ended our legal fight.

Jan Gardner deserves a lot of credit for saving these valuable services for current and future residents of Frederick County and for stopping a terrible financial deal from being completed. She



made a campaign commitment to both stopping the sale and making senior needs and services a priority in her administration and she has followed through on both.

Now County Executive Gardner is making sure that indigent seniors fill as many beds as is financially feasible at Montevue and providing qualified oversight of the business operations at Citizens. Throughout our efforts to build, and then save, Citizens and Montevue, we argued that when Citizens was run properly, maintaining a full census, billing properly and providing excellent care, profits would be created that would offset the cost of subsidizing poor county residents at Montevue. That argument has proven to be correct. Current financials indicate that no county tax funds are budgeted in FY2018 for subsidy care at Montevue.

I was proud to be part of the team of litigants who put forward the resources and perseverance

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County finalizes first part of sale

Citizens, Montevue transferred to Aurora Holdings

The Save Citizens/Montevue Committee

Where Will They Go?

Blaine Young has closed Montevue Assisted Living to our frailest and neediest neighbors and family members.



The Young BoCC has no plan in place to serve seniors in need and has failed to fill empty seats on the Commission on Aging.

Jan Gardner has a plan to help seniors.



The litigant team that stopped the sale of Citizens and the closure of Montevue with County Executive Jan Gardner. (l to r) Don, Dr. Sonja Sperlich, Jan Gardner, Dr. Joseph Berman and Charles Trunk.

needed to fight this battle, and I extend thanks to Charlie Trunk, Dr. Sonja Sperlich and Dr. Joseph Berman for staying the course and fighting for what was right.

A LESSON LEARNED

The fight for Citizens/Montevue reminded us that strong citizen oversight is essential to maintaining the type of government and services we want to have. We were taken by surprise at the possible loss of these services, and it was clear in 2012 that the members of that board of county commissioners thought they could just roll over everyone in their path.

While we were in the midst of the battle to save what we were in danger of losing, a group of Save Montevue folks created Advocates for the Aging of Frederick County, a non-profit corporation dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the county's poorest seniors. While it would be nice to think that all elected officials would be like Lawrence Dorsey and Jan Gardner, the fact is that they are not, so citizens need to be watchful, speak out and sometimes even go to court.

Master Entrepreneur Award

The Entrepreneur Council of Frederick County recognizes a group of individuals each year in a range of business categories, with the Master Entrepreneur Award going to someone who has years of experience and success under his or her belt. I'm proud to say that I received that honor in 2013, just one year before we



Don speaking after receiving the the 2013 Master Entrepreneur Award. Turner Photography, 2013.

began celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our firm.

The awards ceremony was a great event, bringing together business leaders, friends and family members to celebrate the results of not just hard work - lots of people work very hard all their lives - but the determination to follow a dream and reach a goal. It was an opportunity for me to recognize those who guided me along the way, and to encourage everyone there to play a role in making Frederick County a great place to live and work.

I am very pleased that the Entrepreneur Council became an official program of the Frederick



Stephanie and David Linton, Michael and Rebecca Hall, Don and Becky at the 2013 Entrepreneur Council Awards Program.

County Chamber of Commerce in 2015 under the leadership of Chamber president and CEO Elizabeth Cromwell.

Named to her position in 2014 after managing corporate partnerships for the county library system for twelve years, Elizabeth has exhibited great wisdom and personality in capturing the support of the business community. She was instrumental in bringing the Chamber offices back to downtown Frederick after what I believed to be a foolish move to the outskirts of town. I have always been a strong supporter of the Chamber, and now that it is back downtown, the Chamber can resume its role as a leader of the business community with new creative ideas for Frederick's future.



Elizabeth Cromwell, President and CEO, Frederick County Chamber of Commerce

Don speaking with Rick Weldon, who now serves as Vice President of Operations for the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce.



Celebrating Fifty Years in Business

Receiving the special honor of Master Entrepreneur was a great prelude to our fiftieth anniversary at Linton Shafer Warfield & Garrett (LSWG). Reaching the half century mark gave us a lot to reflect on and provided today's principals and managing partners with an opportunity to plan for the future.



LSWG and Maryland Financial Planners, Ltd., 2005

Through the Years with LSWG



Emily Heffner and Marcia Fortunato representing LSWG at the Salvation Army kettle.



Our longtime office manager, Kathaleen Lucey, volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.



Jeanne Hall, LSWG Marketing and Client Relations Manager

CPAs Wendy Jones and Angela Murphy of LSWG



Immediate past-chairman Tod Salisbury (l) handed off chairmanship of the Community Foundation of Frederick County to LSWG principal Kevin Hessler (r) in November of 2017. It's great to have Kevin maintaining LSWG's strong connection to the Foundation.

As I said in a 2014 interview with *The Frederick News-Post*, we were able to build and grow our business because we were adaptable and flexible when we needed to be, but we always held onto our core values. We hired the best people, respected their life/work balance long before that was a popular concept, and encouraged them to grow and develop their skills.

There have been a lot of changes in the accounting profession and how it is managed over the last fifty years. When we started, professionals could not advertise their services. We couldn't advertise and we couldn't solicit another CPA firm's client. Now, of course, all that has changed. All professionals can advertise their services and you will find advertisements by law firms, accountants and doctors in the news, on television and online.

The preparation of tax returns was completely different than it is now. Everything was done manually by hand and in pencil. When the return was complete it was photocopied and one copy given to the client and one to be mailed to the IRS. We did not have electronic calculators, just very slow calculators and adding machines. We only typed the front page of the return if it was a "special" client. About five years after we started, a few tax service bureaus were created. We could fill out legal-size documents and mail them to the service bureau and they would prepare the return and mail the completed return back to us. There were a lot of errors that were time consuming to correct but at least we were moving forward.

It was many years before IBM's announcement of the personal computer and the availability of laser printers that allowed us to process tax returns in-house - quite a difference! Today everything is done internally by our accountants at their desks.

Our clients' business and family goals were always our goals - not the other way around. I've enjoyed being able to take a complex problem and simplify it for a client, as well as help families create the legacies they envision. Over the last fifty plus years since Ron and I began our CPA firm we have met and worked with some very fine clients who also became great friends and associates. In many cases, we grew our businesses alongside each other and each of them could also write a book about their experiences. In fact, Phil and



(l to r) Ron Shafer, Becky Linton, Ron's daughter Leigh Fields, Erica and Phil Rauh, owners of Service Glass Industries, and Ron's daughter Leslie Gordon.

Erika Rauh of Service Glass Industries completed their memoirs over a year ago.

Three clients stand out in my mind for the friendships we developed over the years.

Dr. Edward Andochick opened his dental office in Frederick about the same time I moved back to town and I needed a dentist. I moved to Military Road, and he lived on Lee Place and our back doors were close. I became Dr. Ed's patient and he selected our firm when he was seeking a new accountant in 1967. We also became close friends playing tennis and golf together. Ed and Pat Andochick have a vacation home in Florida, and Becky and I try to visit when we are in residence. Ron and Ed are also good golf buddies and have played a lot of golf at the Holly Hills Country Club. Dr. Ed has now transferred his dental practice to his daughter, Dr. Lori, and our firm has continued to serve her practice.



Longtime client and friend Dr. Edward Andochick retired in 2014 after 52 years of service to the people of Frederick, and transferred his practice to his daughter, Dr. Lori Andochick. LSWG is proud and honored to have her business.

Celebrating 50 Years at LSWG



Don speaking at the firm's 50th anniversary party at Ayse Meze Lounge.



Preparing for our 50th anniversary event



Kathaleen Lucey and Barbara Roman with food bank donations.



Don listens as LSWG principal Barbara Roman addresses guests at the firm's 50th anniversary celebration.



LSWG Gifts of 50 presented 50 bath towels to the Religious Coalition for Human Needs, as part of the firm's 50th anniversary year celebration. (l to r): Eva Webb, CPA, Rev. Brian Scott, former executive director of the Coalition, Bob Brown, CPA and Lisa Frushour, CPA.



Al Shockley

Al Shockley was a student at Frederick High School and his sister and I were classmates. Al lived in Eastview near Ron, so when Al was starting his automobile dealership, which is now Shockley Honda, he selected our firm to represent him. This has also been a very long relationship

that has included dinners and golf. Al and Patti Shockley also had a vacation home in southern Florida and Becky and I would visit them there during the winters.

Phil Rauh came to Frederick to manage a glass company owned by a firm in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. My son David played a lot of ball in our front yard at Braddock resulting in several broken windows being replaced by Service Glass. When Phil acquired the business, he needed an accountant and selected our firm. Over the years, Phil also became a golfer, and he and Ron became good friends and frequent golf partners.

All three of these clients have been with us for fifty years and we have strong, personal relationships with all of them. It is great to do business with your friends; income tax time is like a class reunion and very enjoyable.

On June 29, 2015, we held a big anniversary party at Ayse Meze Lounge in Everedy Square with two hundred and fifty of our closest friends and clients. It was a great celebration, and I was surprised with a special cake to mark my eightieth birthday that was just two weeks away.

The following December, our staff and principals completed the anniversary year in great style by creating LSWG Gifts

of 50 for eight of our nonprofit clients. Each organization received fifty of some item (grocery store gift cards, baby blankets, USB drives, white



Grandson Travis Linton

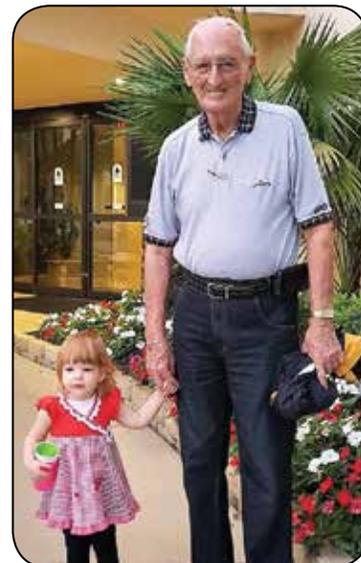
bath towels, etc.) that would serve their clients. We have always maintained a deep commitment to the community that was making us successful, so this was a very special way to end a very memorable year.

Life in (Semi) Retirement...

Becky and I sold the house on Shookstown Road in January 2013 and moved to Worman's Mill where we don't have to worry about maintaining a large yard. We acquired a condo in Florida in 2008 and now spend most of our winters there. While we have met some fine people there who, like us, are escaping the worst of winter, we still think Frederick is the best place to call home, especially after the first day of spring and before January 1 of each year. And, of course, between us we have ten wonderful grandchildren and three extra-special great-grandchildren (as of 2018) living up here who remind us how lucky we are to have wonderful families.

We have been very fortunate to be able to both travel and play golf, and sometimes do both at the same time and location. Becky is a good golfer and has tried to get me to be serious about the game; she even gave me a golf lesson with a pro for my birthday one year. I've played golf with her many times over the years, and I do not remember ever having a better score than hers. Once we bought the condo in Florida I thought my game would improve, but it didn't seem to make any difference.

My son David and I played in an annual two-day member/guest golf tournament at The Holly Hills Country Club for several years and won the event



Regina and Grandad in Florida, 2017. "Three-year-old Regina is singing just like her mother did at that age, and it is a joy to listen to her. A great inheritance!"

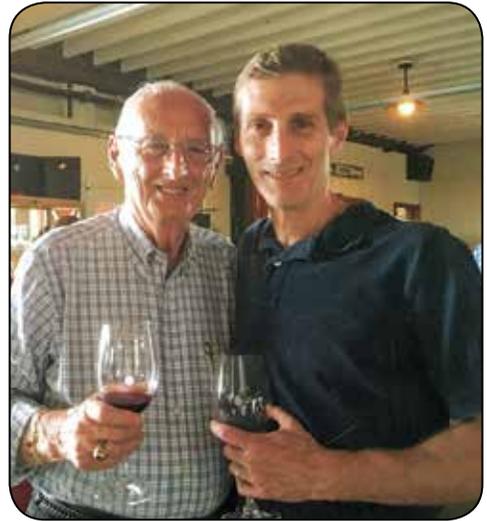


Becky and her new great-grandson, Sam Garst, 2017.

A Toast to Family



Stephanie teaching Travis how to drive a tractor at the Great Frederick Fair.



Don and David at a wine tasting event in Virginia.



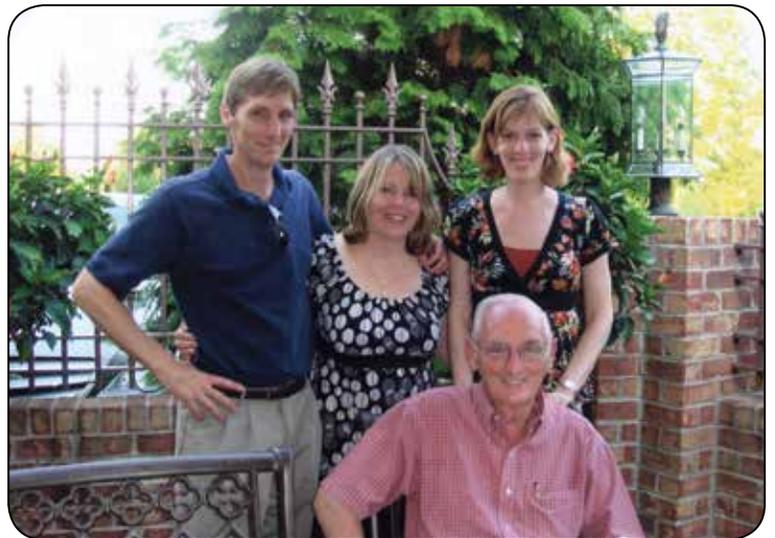
Michael Linton



Christmas 2008 with (l to r) Stephanie, Travis, David, Don and Rebecca.



Grandson Travis helps dig out after a big snow at home in Virginia.



David, Stephanie and Rebecca with Don at a birthday celebration lunch held in his honor.



2016 Baltic Sea Cruise

one time on the last hole. Needless to say, the competition really went after us in the following years and we were limited to that one win.

In 2002 Ken Rice formed an amateur Ryder's Cup group that was composed of golf couples from the US and Great Britain. We would play one year in the US and two years later in Europe over a ten-year period. It was a wonderful experience, and we met some great people from across the sea and became good friends. When they came here we always arranged social time with our group in Frederick. The Americans won the winner's cup in eight of the ten tournaments we played, but the British won the last and final outing in Ireland and they kept the cup. We joined fourteen other Frederick couples on those trips.

We've taken some great travel tours and cruises, including a recent memorable one in the summer of 2016 on the Baltic Sea where we visited ten cities, including Stockholm, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Berlin and St. Petersburg, and an old Russian nuclear missile site. That experience brought home the fact that we're lucky no one ever started a shooting war as there wouldn't have been a winner. We've also visited China, Australia, Italy, England, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Canada, the Caribbean and all across our beautiful America.

THE LESSONS WE LEARN: WEAR A HAT!

After all the health issues I've been through over the years, I never thought the top of my head could also be a challenge later in life.

I hated to wear a hat and never did, even when I started playing golf twenty-five years ago. The result of too much sun was growth of squamous cell carcinoma on my scalp and multiple surgeries since 2015 to remove it. Some of these surgeries have been pretty difficult. It reminds me of my tonsil surgery: you sit in what looks like a dental

chair, you get a shot of Novacaine and they start cutting. No one wants to go through this, so take a lesson from me and wear a cap with plenty of sun lotion and save your skin - and maybe your life.

A BOLD AND EXCITING FUTURE

Writing about the past puts it in perspective. My older grandsons, Ben and Sam, now in their twenties and well-educated, are just three



Sam, David and Ben Linton after winning their church softball tournament, 2016.

generations removed from a great-grandfather who couldn't read or write and whose strong back was his greatest asset to an employer. For these smart, talented young men the future is full of opportunity -- if they choose to make it theirs. It may not require a strong back, but it will require the same tenacity, grit and even stubbornness that defines entrepreneurship -- whether they build something new or work for someone else.

No one is giving away success or personal satisfaction for free. You earn it every day.

To all of my grandchildren, I say that there is nothing you cannot do if you put your mind to it and

really try hard. If I could do it, you can do it. Go for your dream and don't be afraid to fail. I had many failures that I didn't tell you about! The important point is to learn from your failures. Think of it as a baseball game: **you have to step up to the plate; sometimes you get a hit, and sometimes you strike out. But you must play to win.**



Don with Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner.

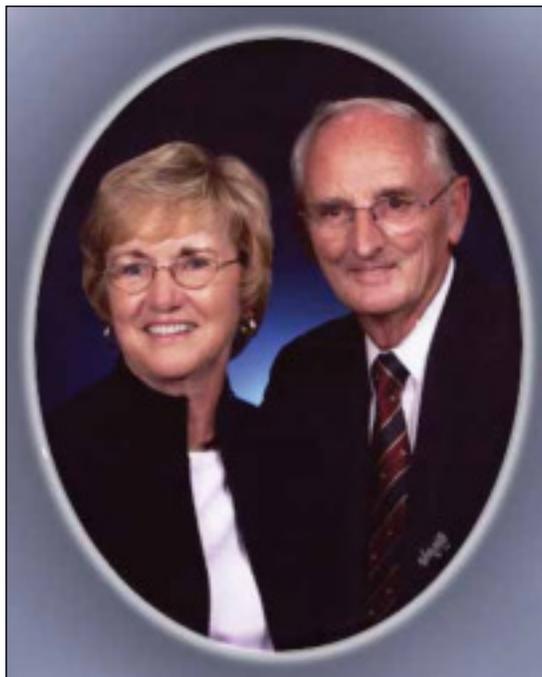
Over the years, I made a lot of bad decisions and a few really good ones. I wish I had been a better father and husband. No one can teach you how to live and you must learn from your mistakes. Overall, I tried to raise a family, build a great CPA firm, give back to the community and make my children proud of what I was able to accomplish. I believe that it is important to make the most of your life and enjoy it.

I'm proud of my service in the military. It introduced me to new places and people, and even though I did not remain in the army, my experiences away from home were what helped me to grow up,, think more clearly and become a much better person with a goal in mind. While I will fight when I feel strongly about an issue, and hate it when something is wrong and no one will do anything about it, I will always stand when I hear the national anthem. I get emotional when I see a disabled veteran struggle to stand while others kneel.

I am a Christian and a lifelong Democrat, but am very independent in my voting. I've had the opportunity to work with many elected and appointed officials at the city, county and state levels over the years. Some were outstanding, dedicated public citizens and some were in it only for the wrong reasons. I thank those great, honorable individuals who took office and put our citizens first during their time of service. I will continue to do anything I can to defeat those who only seek office for the power they can exert at the expense of the citizens.

Life has been very good to me, and I have been very fortunate to have lived near great medical facilities and to have had physicians who made the right decisions at the right time. I have had the opportunity to live a productive life and my children have positive memories of our times together.

I am proud of the legacy I am leaving for the Frederick community, and I hope this continues to be a wonderful place to live and raise a family. The future offers a lot of exciting opportunities -- who knows what effect driverless automobiles will have? I hope to be here to witness it; God is not finished with me yet!



Becky and Dan

Photo Album



*Frederick High School Class of 1953
59th Reunion
August 2017
Thurmont Community Park
Don shown with arrow.*



Safety First! 3-year-old granddaughter Regina peruses the emergency information while flying home to Baltimore after visiting with Don and Becky in Florida, January 2018.

Grandson Travis at the beach on a family vacation.



**Travis
and
Regina**



Regina at the strawberry patch



David and Travis

Don and Regina



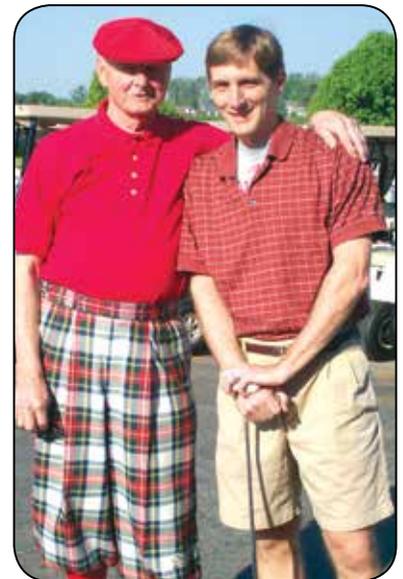
Travis is a bright light in our lives - always smiling! David, Travis and Don enjoying time together.





The 2010 FCC golf tournament with (l to r) a friend of Mike Davis, Mike, David and Don.

Enjoying Golf



Don's golfing buddy Tom Tarpley with David at Holly Hills Country Club.

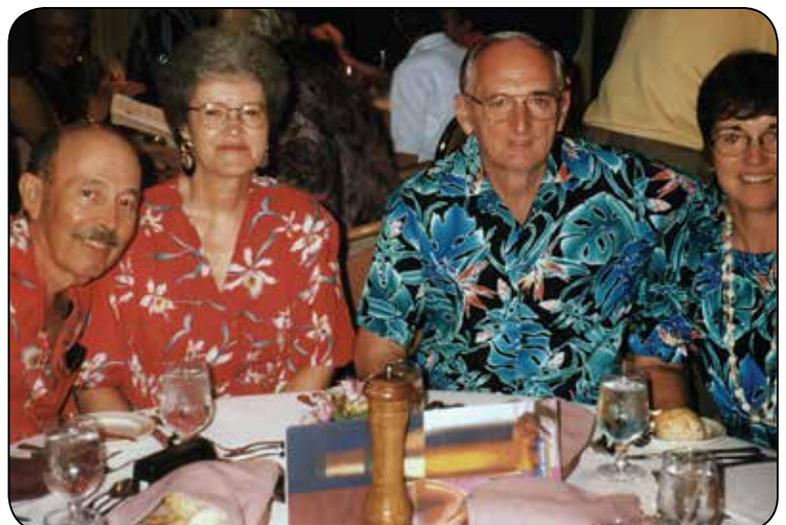


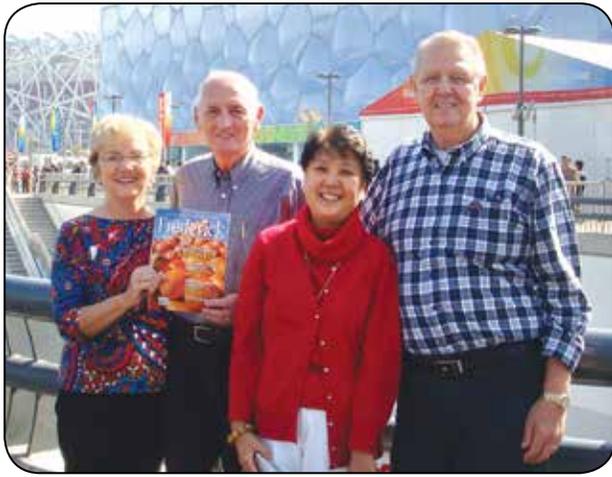
Becky on the golf course in Florida.

Don and Becky at dinner with golfing friends Bob and Mae Retha Rippeon.



On the golf course in Florida sending Christmas greetings to the LSWG staff in Frederick!



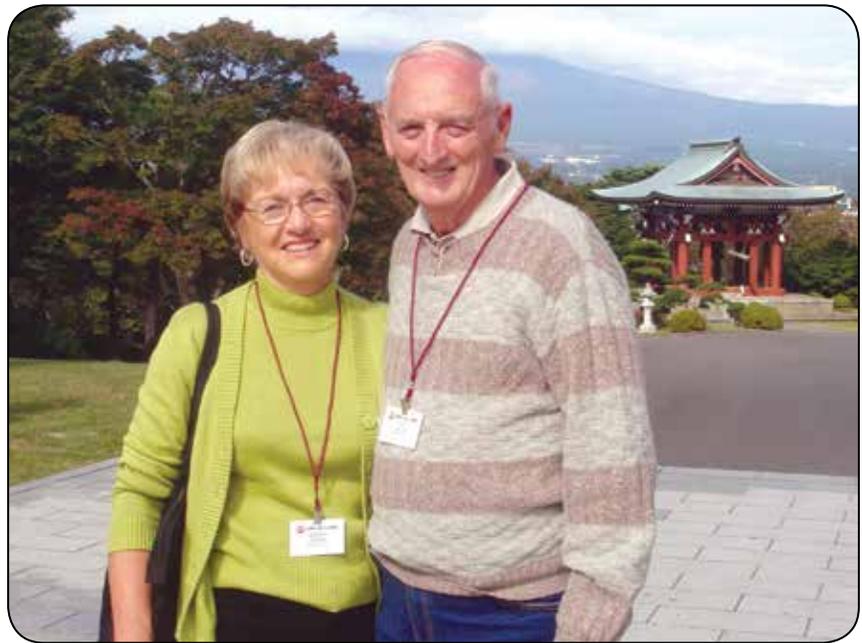


Don and Becky at the Olympic stadium, Beijing, China, 2008 with Bernie Clem, an FHS classmate who lived in China, and his wife Zhiyuan Xie. Bernie passed away in April 2017.



Yes, they have McDonald's in China!

Retirement Travels



Becky and Don in Japan with Mt. Fuji in the background.

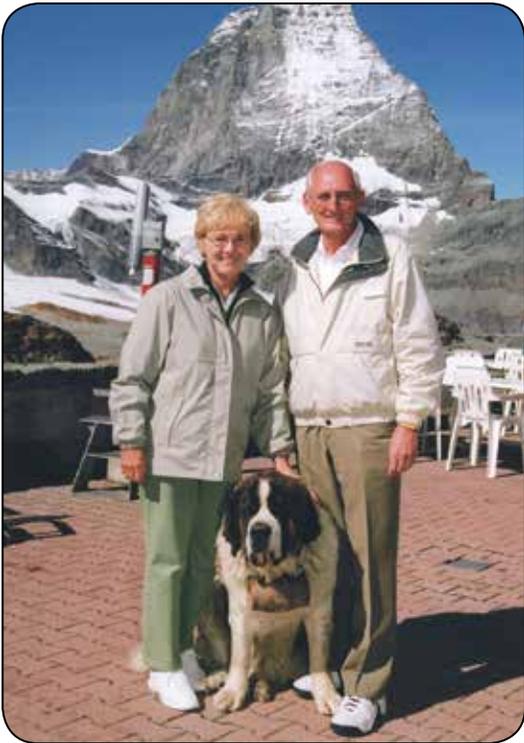


On a trip to Hawaii, 2007. Nancy and Mike Davis, Becky and Don.



China Trip, 2008

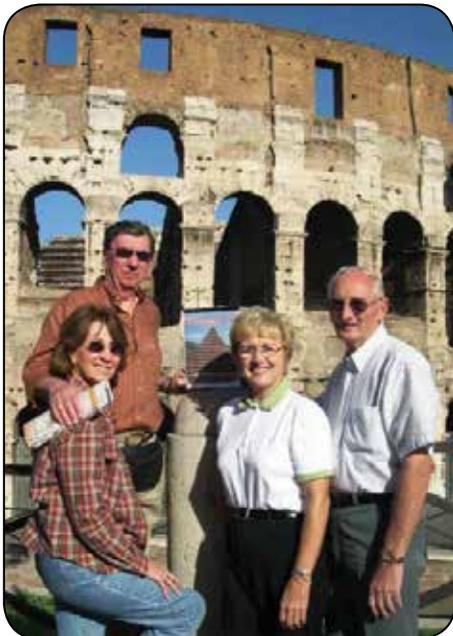
Florida, Travel & Friends



Becky and Don in Zurich, Switzerland with the Matterhorn in the background - September 2005.



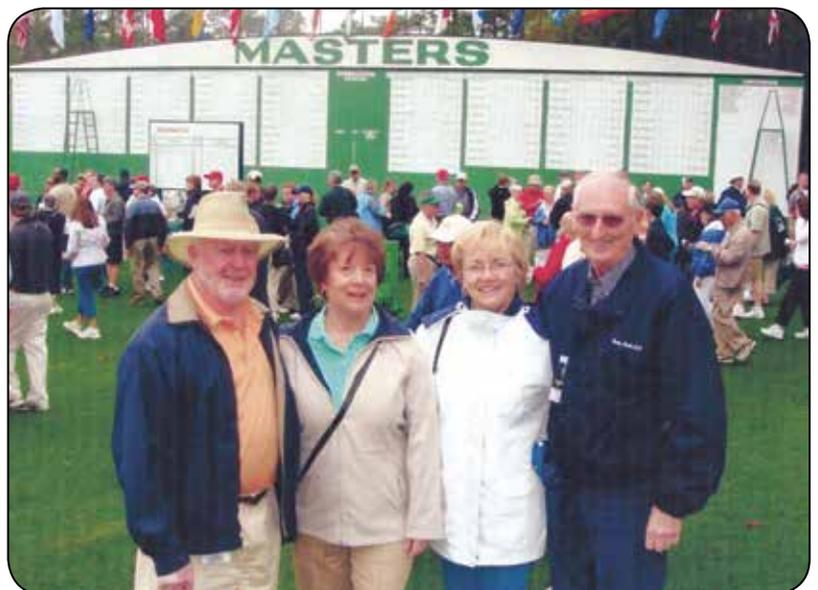
Celebrating at an anniversary dinner for Diane and Vernon Yingling (seated) when they visited us in Fort Lauderdale. Also joining us were Karen and Brian Bobes, neighbors in our Florida condo building.



Leigh and Ed Garrett with Becky and Don on vacation in Rome, Italy - October 2016.

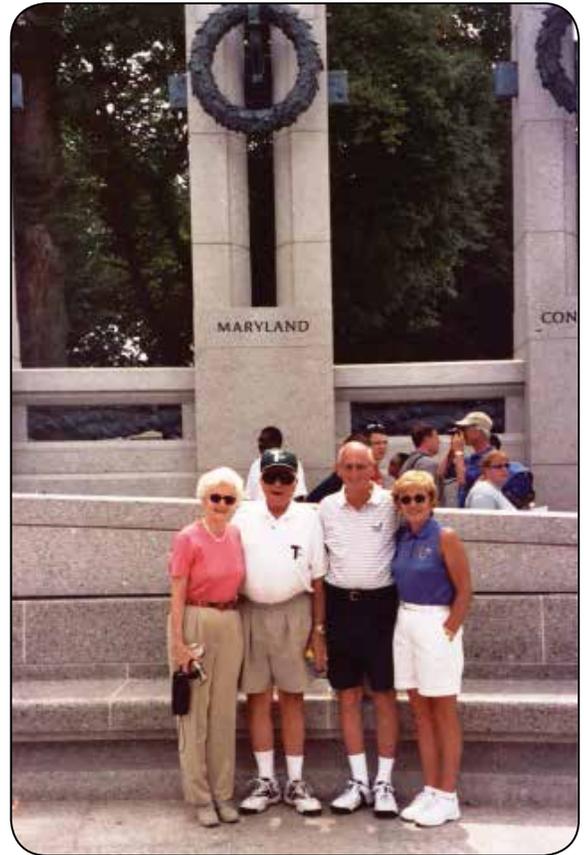


Don and Becky now have a condo in this building in Florida.



Visiting the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, GA. (l to r) Larry and Kathy McGee; Becky and Don.

*Visiting the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.
(l to r) Joyce and Aubrey
Dixon, Don and Becky.*



Celebrating with friends is a New Year's tradition. From front of table: Mike and Nancy Davis, Becky and Don, Jim and Elsie Grimes, Harold and Barbara Domer.



Celebrating with Friends

Colonel Mark Hoke

Colonel Mark Hoke, United States Army Retired, and Don were high school friends who caught up with one another again when Mark returned to Frederick in 1983 as commander of Fort Detrick. When he retired from active duty in 1986, Don encouraged him to run for public office, and Mark went on to serve two terms as a member of the Frederick County Board of Commissioners (1986-90 and 1994-98). He was an early supporter of the Community Foundation, and he and Don worked together on economic development issues as well. This photo was taken at Mark's home during a surprise birthday party held in his honor. Mark passed away on January 10, 2013.





Community Foundation founders (l to r): Charlie Main, Jerry Offutt and Don celebrating the beginning of their new community venture.

Celebrating the Community Foundation's Legacy



Spending time with Charlie Main was always a special event!



Celebrating the Community Foundation of Frederick County's 30th Anniversary in 2016. Foundation Staff (l to r): Joyce Summers, Director of Marketing & Communications; Gail Fitzgerald, Chief Financial Officer; Pilar Olivo, Director of Community Impact; Laura McCullough, Director of Philanthropic Services; Elizabeth Y. Day, President and CEO; Dezirae Farrell, Accounting Associate; Becki DeLauter, Philanthropic Services Associate; Elena Joos, Philanthropic Services Associate; Tonya Miller, Executive Assistant.



Becky with her father, Charles Myers, and her grandchildren, 1995.



The Myers' Sunnyside Dairy Farm in Thurmont, MD.

Becky's Family Photos



Becky and her sisters with Santa Claus.



Becky and her siblings: Gloria Angleberger, Rodman Myers, Juanita Bowers, Eugene Myers, Becky, Gladys Baker and Lyman Myers.

A Myers' Family Legacy



Rodman Myers and Becky Myers Linton



Becky is named FFA Chapter Sweetheart, 1956

In the fall of 1956, young Thurmont dairy farmer Rodman Myers presided over the first Thurmont Community Show, a showcase of northern Frederick County's agricultural bounty and community spirit. In that role, he presented the first Thurmont FFA Chapter Sweetheart during the event, who just happened to be his sister, Becky Myers.

Sixty years later, the Community Show was still going strong, and Rodman introduced Maybelin Cruz as the 2016 Catoclin FFA Chapter Ambassador. Having both Becky and Maybelin, the newest recipient of the honor, together on the stage was a highlight of the anniversary year celebration. And yes, Becky is wearing the same jacket that she wore in 1956!

Rodman Myers was named the 2016 Maryland Fair Person of the Year by the Maryland Association of Agricultural Fairs and Shows in November of 2016, recognizing his longtime leadership of the popular county event.



Becky Myers, 1956



Maybelin Cruz and Becky Myers Linton, 2016

Four Generations of Becky's Family



A gathering of Becky's children, grandchildren & great-granddaughter with spouses in front of Don and Becky's home: (Row 1, l to r): great-granddaughter Jasmine Halstead, Becky, granddaughter Molly Garst, daughter-in-law Alison Garst, granddaughter Aryn Townsley and daughter Laura Bewley. (Row 2, l to r:) son Randy Garst, granddaughter Rachel Hundertmark, grandson-in-law Kyle Townsley and grandson Daniel Bewley. (Row 3, l to r:) grandson Corey Garst, granddaughter-in-law Brittney Garst, grandson James Bewley, and Don.



Becky's great-granddaughters Adelyn Townsley and Jasmine Halstead



Is it spring yet? Great-grandson Sam Garst just waiting to get outside. Winter 2018.

Dinner at the Linton's with Becky's family: (l to r) son-in-law Jim Bewley, daughter Laura Bewley, son Randy Garst, Don, daughter-in-law Alison Garst and Becky.



Christmas at the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont: (Row 1, l to r:) grandson Corey Garst, granddaughter-in-law Brittney Garst, granddaughter Rachel Hundertmark, great-granddaughter Jasmine Halstead, son-in-law Jim Bewley as Santa, granddaughter Molly Garst, daughter-in-law Alison Garst. (Row 2, l to r:) grandson-in-law Kyle Townsley, granddaughter Aryn Townsley, grandson Daniel Bewley, daughter Laura Bewley, son Randy Garst, Don and Becky.

A family gathering on the Linton's back porch: grandsons Corey Garst and Jimmy Bewley, great-granddaughter Jasmine Halstead, granddaughter Rachel Hundertmark, grandson Daniel Bewley, grandson-in-law Kyle Townsley and granddaughter Aryn Townsley.





Becky and Grandchildren 2017: (top, 1 to r): step-granddaughters Rachel Hundermark and Aryn Townsley; Becky; (bottom, 1 to r): grandson Daniel Bewley, granddaughter Molly Garst.

Becky with Family and Friends



Becky, her sisters and a friend on a trip to New Orleans in 2005: from left, sisters Gladys Baker and Gloria Angleberger, Becky and friend Pat Scott.



A family team at the church mulch sale! Grandsons Daniel (left) and Jimmy Bewley with Becky.

You never know who you might meet on the golf course. Becky and friends were playing at the Carroll Valley Golf Course in 1999 when President Bill Clinton was out for a round and stopped to chat.



That's son-in-law Jim Bewley as Santa with (l to r) daughter Laura Bewley, Becky, Don and son Randy Garst.

Becky with her brothers and sisters at Christmas: (l to r): Lyman Myers, Gladys Baker, Becky, Eugene Myers, Juanita Bowers, Rodman Myers, Gloria Angleberger and cousin Dallas McNair.



History of the Frederick Coffee Club

Charles Victor Main, born in Middletown and raised in Frederick, thought it would be a boon to the community for local business leaders to gather each morning for a cup of coffee and lively discussion. So, when he became chief of the Frederick Police Department, he put his thought into action.

Sometime in 1953, he invited Carl Culler, a local contractor; James Grove, Frederick postmaster; John Insley, a retail merchant; Lem Keller, another local contractor; Ralph Merchant, owner of Blue Ridge News; and Don Rice, Frederick city mayor and owner of a tire dealership, to join him at a local restaurant. The original location has been lost to history.

Ever since then Frederick businessmen and women have gathered at the following location every morning - except Sundays - to discuss the issues of the day and share a friendship unlike any other gathering in town.

1. *The Koffee Kup Restaurant on East Patrick Street (1958)*
2. *Francis Scott Key Hotel at the corner of West Patrick and North Court Streets*
3. *The Village Restaurant on Market Street (1974)*
4. *The Village Restaurant on East Patrick Street*
5. *The Frederick Coffee Company at the corner of North East and Church Streets (2007)*

On occasion in recent years the group has met at Lohr's Family Restaurant on East Patrick Street beyond the Frederick Fairgrounds to celebrate the birthday of Betty Huffer, who had served as the waitress for the gathering from 1974 to 2006.

One hundred men and women have been identified as having been "members" since the Frederick Coffee Club was founded. Others have not been forgotten; it's just that current members can't recall things as well as they used to.

In January of 2011 a plaque was dedicated and placed on the wall of the Frederick

Coffee Company in honor of members who have passed away. Their names, birth dates and day of their passing is inscribed on brass plates attached to a cherry wood board designed and finished by member Thomas McFadden, who retired as superintendent of Catoctin Mountain Park, which includes Camp David, in Thurmont.

Each month a birthday party, with a red velvet cake, is held to celebrate the birthdays of those born in that month. A singing voice is not required but is appreciated anyway

Thomas McFadden
March 2011



Don (at far end) with fellow members of the Frederick Coffee Club on a Friday morning in March 2018.



2018 Membership of the Frederick Coffee Club

An Ode to the Coffee Club

George Smith, MD

Someone asked me about the Coffee club,
An anonymous someone who I shall call
Bub.

I told him it's a group that sits sipping joe,
And chews the fat when the news is slow.

Some discussions are deep and some
mighty shallow,
It's no matter because our minds are not
fallow.

And when the talk doesn't go hither and
yon, We can always count on a joke from
Ron.

Bub asked me "How does one get in;
What's the initiation and does one wear a
pin?"

Just show up one day at half-past nine,
If we like one another, everything will be
fine.

"Are there rituals and secret hand-shakes?"
Our ritual is flipping quarters for very low
stakes.

"Flipping quarters" Bub sputtered "you
must be joking."
As he spit out his coffee on which he was
choking.

"How goes the flipping" Bub asked with a
grin. "It's probably illegal and most likely
a sin."

Bud hollers "Let's flip cause I gotta go;
Maybe I'll win cause my sex life is slow."

"I'm looking for a head." cries our leader,
Jack. Jack, the head's to your left and behind
your back.

Well, the last one in is declared the
winner, Of all of the quarters and also a
sinner.

Bub asked about officers, an executive
committee.
So I told him it was started by the Police
Chief of the City.

"How does one get out?" Bub asked in his
cup. One way I told him was just stop
showing up.

The other way I said is not quite so easy,
And speaking 'bout it makes me a little bit
queasy.

So I told him quietly and under my breath.
One can be escorted out by the Angel of
Death.

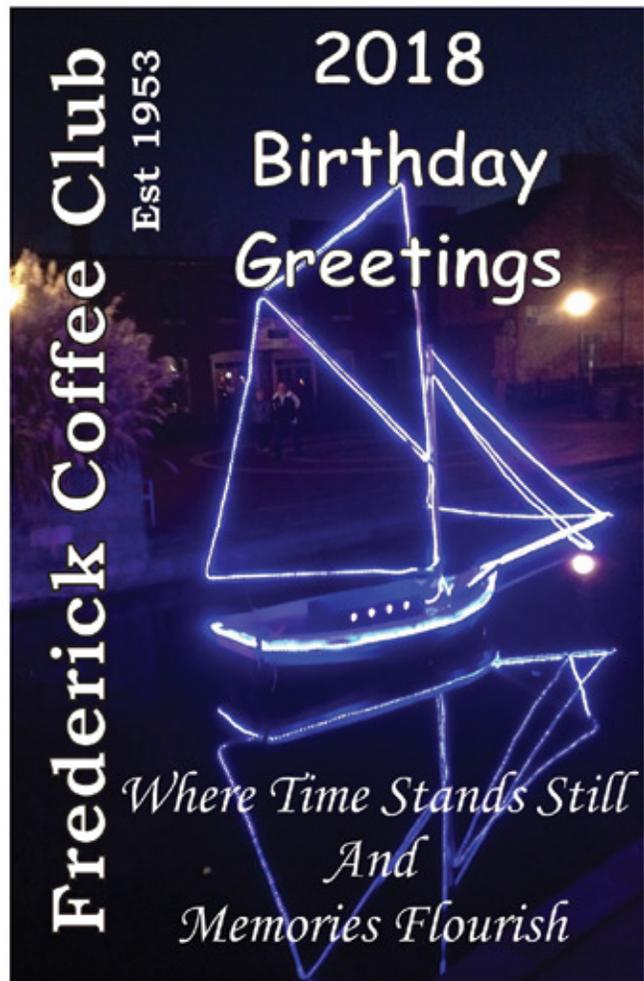
Is this Coffee Club one that Bub should
join? It's a great group for talking and
flipping a coin.

And there is something else that Bub might
remember,
I really am proud that I am a member.

Just guys and gals who sit sipping joe.
That's the end of my ode, there ain't no mo

Thanks to Mike Winder, owner of the
Frederick Coffee Co., for his generous
support of the Frederick Coffee Club

Our Club has established a memorial fund for local scholarships through the Community
Foundation of Frederick County (www.effredo.org) on behalf of deceased members.
If you wish to be a part of our program, please contact the Foundation.



Do You Remember Who Gave You Your First Break?

Someone saw something in you once. That's partly why you are where you are today. It could have been a thoughtful parent, a perceptive teacher, a demanding drill sergeant, an appreciative employer, or just a friend who dug down in his pocket and came up with a few bucks. Whoever it was, had the kindness and the foresight to bet on your future. Those are two beautiful qualities that separate the human being from the orangutan. In the next 24 hours, take 10 minutes to write a grateful note to the person who helped you. You'll keep a wonderful friendship alive. Matter of fact, take another 10 minutes to give somebody else a break. Who knows? Someday you might get a nice letter. It could be one of the most gratifying messages you ever read.

When I saw this ad from United Technologies in The Wall Street Journal years ago, it really spoke to me. I had benefited from the help and advice of many people over the years and knew it was time to say thanks. I wrote to three individuals: Harry "Babe" Krantz, Julia Etchison Hanna and Dr. Howard Wright. In this autobiography, I have written about them and a number of other friends and colleagues who have influenced my journey through life. I am indebted to all of them.

I encourage you to think about those who have helped you along the way, and send them a note of thanks. Then pay it forward to someone else. Small kindnesses make our community stronger.

Don