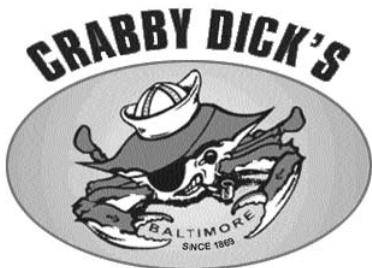


The Fell's Pointer Finds New Financial Backing

With the departure of Crabby Dick's of Broadway, which for four years has provided the principal funding for The Fell's Pointer, the newsletter has sought and found support among community businesses for a system to keep it solvent. The staff thanks the co-owners of Crabby's, John Buchheit and Dave Slotter, for underwriting the cost of printing—until recently at CopyCat, which also subsidized the newsletter, and which also now is departed. Since then, Crabby's paid \$50 monthly, and a logo ad was provided in recompense. The shortfall on the \$100 monthly bill has been filled from a \$500 gift last year. From the outset, occasional gifts from readers have met the phone, mailing and other costs.

Under the new system, The 'Pointer asks two merchants to share equally each issue's printing costs. These sponsors will be acknowledged—as found on page 2. Jacquie Greff, who oversees delivery of the newsletter and who devised the new sponsorship arrangement, maintains a roster of businesses that have agreed to participate for at least one month. The staff is small and altogether voluntary and the leadership of the parent Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol feels that opening the sheet to general advertising would be untenable.

The new arrangement is intended to maintain the 'Pointer's autonomy. A larger issue still looms: whither FPCOP? Michael Arida has continued beyond the amount of time he wished to volunteer in the presidency because no one has responded to repeated pleas for new leadership of the organization, which was begun by Nancy Conrad and others almost 10 years ago. The patrols that were its initial basis have not been manned for several years.

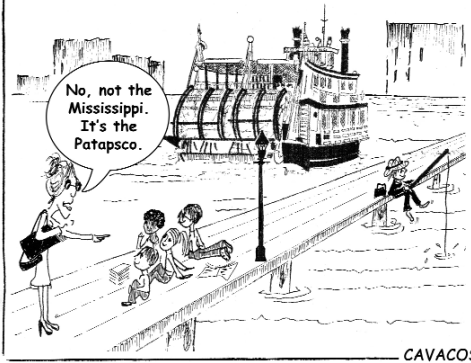


Crabby May Be Back, Also Crabs!

This was to have been the last issue to include the Crabby ad, since he was moving the crab house to Delaware City. In an interview with the Sun he made clear his discontent with doing business in Fell's Point. But a couple of days later, Buchheit bought at auction the ex-Great Bears building on Thames Street, saying he'll have a retail store there. He indicated interest in backing the 'Pointer anew under its new arrangement,

Closing of the sole crab house in Fell's Point put a pall over those who come, or live, here for crabs. While the whiff of Old Bay still lingered over ex-Crabby's, though, Patrick Russell of Kooper's on Thames Street declared that he will serve steamed crabs on his deck overlooking the foot of Broadway. The manager of Shuckers, beside the pier, said his staff is not trained in the risky business of serving crabs—but he might experiment with it.

BRICK BANTER



SAVE THE PATAPSCO, HON!

Report Pollution to Patapsco Riverkeeper 410.313.8826

Another organization out to save the Patapsco River that forms Baltimore Harbor has added a political-legal edge to the quest. Last month, Executive Director Lee Walker Oxenham of Patapsco Riverkeeper described the nearly three-year effort at a meeting in Canton of the similar-minded Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association. The BHWA has spent three years encouraging the City to install a pilot storm sewer trash interception system at the Canton outlet of the underground Harris Creek.

Oxenham explained that her group is part of the Waterkeeper Alliance, formed nationally two years ago, whose president is Robert F. Kennedy. As the Patapsco's Riverkeeper, she is devoted to pursuing violators of the Clean Water Act, which she said "guarantees swimmable, fishable waters. We're not there, but we can be." The group has taken legal action against two mills on the upper Patapsco accused of pollution and has sued Constellation Energy over power plant mercury emission levels. Riverkeeper recruits pro bono lawyers. It seeks general members through www.patapscoiverkeeper.org The headline above is a copy of the group's bumper sticker.

A Hopkins graduate and daughter of a sailor, Oxenham said she—like BHWA—sees education as a major component of the Patapsco cleanup, and she has talked with students throughout the watershed. She encounters massive ignorance, she said, often launching her talks with the question, What is the name of the river that forms the harbor? and as often as not eliciting the response: "The Mississippi?"

The BHWA expects work to start this month on the interceptor. At a public meeting of the association on Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Anchorage, 2515 Boston St., a representative of the Maryland Port Administration will discuss the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility.

'Point's Prime Characters-VI When the Hawk Tapped, Bar Floors Resonated

By Mark Walker
Marketing Analyst, Puppeteer, Conjuror

On just another Saturday night in the mid-1980s, two aging fiddlers played tunes at Miss Irene's Place on Thames at Ann. My brother Doug ordered two tin teaspoons with his drink and joined in. The crowd grew, soon drawing a black man, dapper in a 1970s white prom suit, white bow tie and brown shirt. And he wore a hat.

As the tempo picked up, this dancer—unknown to us but embraced by the regulars as the Hawk or Mr. Bojangles—tapped around the bar in riffs from



Continued on page 2

Happenings

Trautwein Reveals All In 'Secrets of a Seaport'

The Preservation Society is offering a free six-lecture series to provide the history of Fell's Point that residents are embarrassed not to know. Town Crier Jack Trautwein is giving the talks at the Visitor Center, S. Ann Street, on Monday evenings and Saturday mornings under the title of "Secrets of a Seaport—Fell's Point." Materials to supplement the talks cost \$10. Attendees of all six lectures can be certified as tour guides and the fee will be refunded.

The introductory lecture was Monday, Feb. 6 at 7:30PM and it will be repeated today, Saturday, Feb. 11, at 10AM. The next topic is the Revolutionary era 1776-1800, at the same times on Feb. 13 and 25. The next two are paired talks on the War of 1812—Feb. 20-March 4, and Feb. 27-March 11. Next is 1815-60, Between the Wars, Shipbuilding and Immigration, March 6 and 18. Finally, 1860-Present, Fall and Rise of Fell's Point, March 13 and 25.

Patterson Park : Aides, Director

The Ice Skating Rink in Patterson Park seeks volunteers to help with its "Learn to Skate" program on Saturdays through March. Call Bob Wall, 410.396.9392. Also, Friends of Patterson Park is looking for a full-time paid director: www.patterson-park.com/Friends/PositionsAvail.htm

Residential Parking Permits

In the electronic age, notes Emily Perschetz of the Development Corp. in an e-mail, residents can register for a parking permit online at www.baltimoreprefparking.com/index.cfm?checkedAccess=1 Decals may be picked up Feb. 27, 7-10PM at the Vagabond, 804 S. Broadway if paid by credit card—or by check or money order, if the Parking Authority receives it by Feb. 20. Decals can be picked up after Feb. 20 from the Parking Authority at 200 W. Lombard St., 8AM to 5PM. Parking validated. Needed: online receipt, ID and registration to pick up decals, or a phone/gas bill for visitor's permit. Perschetz PS's that "razor blades and Goo Gone are great for removing old decals."

City to Train Tree Stewards

More evidence that the City's coffers are greener: The Department of Recreation and Parks begins six free sessions to train tree stewards on Wednesday, March 1, with sessions on subsequent Wednesdays and Saturdays on pruning, identification, safety, planting, and care-community design, culminating in the planting of trees on March 25. All sessions are at Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Wednesdays are 6 to 8:30PM, Saturdays outdoors from 10AM to 12:30. Contact Jahmilla.Wilson@baltimorecity.gov or 410.396.0729.

Preservation Society Receives Historic Gift Gingerly

The Preservation Society of Federal Hill and Fell's Point is accepting the gift of two bedraggled buildings and their contents on Aliceanna Street that are prime venues of much that is historic about this neighborhood. Emergency measures are underway to prevent collapse of the older wooden structure at 1627. It was built in the 1790s as the Leeke Academy and more recently was known as The Fell's Point Museum. The Formstoned one-time Captains' Hotel, next door at 1629-31, is in less dire condition, with an ornate wooden bar and an overburden of dusty furniture from next door that belonged to first families long decimated.

Like many stories here, this one goes back to a ship's captain, Henry Dashiell, who married the daughter of Nickolas Leeke, the school founder. A 1980 prospectus for the Fell's Point Museum pointed out that four generations of Dashiells collected the material, much of it maritime, that constituted the museum. By then, sisters Mary and Eleanor Dashiell were the sole direct survivors of the family and major players in the battle to save the 'Point from road builders. Indeed, they helped put on the first Fun Festival in 1967. Part of their strategy was to acquire properties, including the hotel for ships' captains, threatened with demolition. According to Director Ellen von Karajan of the Preservation Society, that effort contributed to their bankruptcy and demise. Both sisters died years ago, their property passing to cousins who are making the gift through John Patton Mende. In recent years, the buildings have rarely opened, except to water leaks.

Hawk's Feet Talked

Continued from page 1

"The Shim Sham" to "Walk the Dog." People clapped in unison until he encored another 10 minutes. Next he flipped one of the cane table chairs on its back, lay on the floor and tapped against the seat. He then doffed the hat, and saw it fill with dollars, as he circled the bar once more and headed off to Leadbetters or the Full Moon Saloon for another performance.

I soon learned that the Hawk was Louis Hawkins, by then in his 60s but who began to dance at 12 while a shoeshine boy at Gold's Shoe Store on Howard Street. During the 1930s and 1940s he took his act to Pennsylvania Avenue, where he danced at the Royal Theater and the Strand—between top acts including Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. As the big band era wound down with the 1950s, the Hawk worked as doorman for Club Les Gals on Mt. Royal Avenue and did out-of-town dance gigs. After Les Gals closed in 1983, he became a Fell's Point fixture.

I was lucky enough to catch his act again, at John Steven's bar. The Hawk brought along David Colquitt, a young white apprentice whose nickname was Toes. He wore a black derby, black pants, a bright striped shirt and suspenders. Toes danced around the bar as the Hawk, then 70, caught his breath. They went out on a buck and a wing, laden with tips cheerfully rendered. A few years later, a Sun reporter asked the Hawk how long he hoped to tap. "I feel all right, but I have trouble sometimes," he said. "I'll dance as long as my legs hold out."

The heart, though, gave out, in 1994. He was 78. You could look it up—on a Sun clipping framed in a dusky corner of the Full Moon is the obituary by Rafael Alvarez: "The Hawk Has 'Walked the Dog' for the Last Time."



Photo by Lew Diuguid

Under wraps is the ex-Leeke Academy, with the dumpster blocking entrance to one-time hotel

In the 1980 booklet, the sisters noted one of the ironies along the way: "In our first publication we referred to the 'Dashiell-Marine Museum' . . . Dashiell, is our father's family name. That of Marine, is our mother's. Although there are marine artifacts, the main thrust" of the museum is a family one. The Marine who married in was an Eastern Shore farmer. Nevertheless, Dashiell's ships Venus, 1795, and AEthon, 1820, figure large in paintings and models that come with Captains' Hotel.

The Preservation Society led the way to restoration of the London Coffee House and a companion historic property at Bond and Thames Sts. It is currently dedicated to restoration of another major gift, at 1732 Thames St. And it faces the challenge of saving two 1700s wooden houses in the 600 block of South Wolfe St.

Rec Pier Developers Reshuffe, Target ' 07

Baltimore developer J.J. Clarke told the Fell's Point Task Force last month that initial probings raise a prospect of Recreation Pier being restored more rapidly than forecast, with a possible grand opening in December 2007. He also said that his initial assurance of Kimpton being the operator of the eventual boutique hotel on the pier no longer is a certainty, but talks continue. While Clarke's group won the contest to redevelop the damaged pier with a 145-room hotel, that number has risen to about 175 rooms.

Clarke said talks also continue with The Pride of Baltimore II to dock at the completed pier. He said an '07 completion looks possible because a faster method of repairing the 1914 underpinnings has been found that could begin in May and be finished in 6 to 8 months. He said that he and local partner Sylvan Cornblatt expect to obtain title with other partners in April.

Asked later about the anticipated role for the New Orleans-based HRI investors, Clarke said, "After Katrina, HRI told us we should not count on them as partners. We have subsequently found groups or individuals with whom we are negotiating sharing of our partnership. HRI was a development partner owning the majority of the partnership interest. . . . The partnership always contemplated an investor partner such as insurance firms, individuals, or perhaps the hotel operator as the source of equity. Sylvan and I will have \$11.8 million in cash in the deal. The equity partner will be asked for a like amount. The balance of the financing is debt."

The developer lauded restoration work on the upstairs ballroom done by the Disney makers of a film there in recent months and reiterated that the restored room will be open to the community.

Schedules

Trash

Place trash outside in cans or after 6AM on Mondays and Thursdays in plastic bags. No Pick-up Monday Feb. 13 & 20 (Holiday).

Recycling

Place outside by 7AM on collection day. Glass, metal and plastic in blue plastic bags. Mondays, Feb. 27, March 13.

Paper and cardboard in paper bags, cardboard boxes or tied with string, Fridays.

Neighborhood Meetings

Douglass Place: Third Wednesday of every other month at the Polish National Alliance, 1637 Eastern Avenue, 410.563.1297.

Fell's Point Antique Dealers' Association: Call 410.675.4776.

Fell's Point Community Organization: Second Mondays, 7PM, Fell's Point Visitor Center, 410.276.5471.

Fell's Point Development Corp. meets at 8AM on the first and third Tuesdays at True in the Admiral Fell Inn. Open to all. 410-675-8900.

Fell's Point Homeowners' Association: First Wednesdays, 7PM, Bertha's 2nd Floor.

Greenspace Action Partnership: Second Tuesdays, 6PM, Visitor Center, 410.675.6750 ext 10.

Society for the Preservation of Fell's Point and Federal Hill: Call 410.675.6750.

The Fell's Pointer is published monthly by volunteers of Fell's Point Citizens on Patrol, Inc. Questions, input and participation in patrols and this newsletter are welcome.

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Thanks!

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