



Medford Leas **LIFE**

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RAVES FOR EMPLOYEE SHOW

by Sumi Kobayashi

Another smash hit for the eagerly anticipated annual Employees Show. Broadway, look out!

This year's extravaganza was entitled "All That Jazz" and featured hoofing and singing by staff members who doffed their usual work-a-day duds and appeared in slinky outfits and colorful boas. The employees really seemed to enjoy hamming it up. Their appreciative audience was delighted to discover hidden talents among the people they see every day in a different context.

The show began on a unique note. On the screen were pictured the greats of jazz and popular music from Louie Armstrong to Frank Sinatra to Glenn Miller to Ray Charles. The photos of **Bill Murphy** and **Mark Wick** were greeted with laughs of recognition. It was fun trying to guess who they were before the names were flashed on the screen.

Heather Foor was the reminiscer who provided the connecting link between the various acts; she also sang a solo, "Don't Get Around Much Anymore." Mark Wick, as usual, did yeoman's work playing piano accompaniments for many of the acts, sharing that duty with Joe Pantano at the keyboard. George Stalle, from Moorestown Friends School, provided clarinet and trumpet accents. The program ran the gamut from ragtime to blues to swing to Broadway show tunes. Therapeutic Recreation, Health Center, Housekeeping, Rehab/Fitness, Landscaping, Administration, Maintenance, Dining Services, Assisted Living, Woolman and Estaugh and Resident Services all contributed to the fun.

Most of the group numbers were played for laughs, but interspersed among them were serious solo numbers by Mark Wick at the piano playing "Maple Leaf Rag"; "Empress **Gerry Stride** singing "The Birth of the Blues" in the manner of blues legend Bessie Smith; **Joe "Al Jolson" Doyle** doing a take-off on "Toot-Toot-Tootsie Goodbye"; **Rachel Smith** singing "Stormy

Weather" with new words referring to our 100-year flood of last summer; and **Esther Benson** in a throaty contralto singing "His Eye Is On The Sparrow." Mark Wick took the stage with a solo rendition of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" accompanied by blasts of smoke (steam?) from backstage. The show would not be complete without a nattily attired Bill Murphy singing "I Got Rhythm" in his inimitable fashion. Even the Estaugh Board got into the act: The Chairman of the Board told us we must balance the budget, "doo wat, doo wat," and signed off with "I'm **Miller Biddle** and I approve this message."

The audience joined the entire cast in the finale singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "What a Wonderful World." What a Wonderful World indeed. The cast exited to the strains of "When the Saints Go Marching In."

All good shows begin with good writing. For that we are indebted to **Mary Calabrese, Bea Chawla, Susan DeJacom, Beverly Kannengieszer, Lorraine LaPollo, Vicki Pierman, Gerry Stride** and Mark Wick. The professional quality props, including the skyline backdrop, silhouetted musicians at the sides of the auditorium, and costumes were provided by Gerry Stride, Mary Calabrese, **Davina Cornish, Kevin Crain, Pam Fake, Walt George, Craig Gower, Ron Kleer, Traci Lear, Dennis Mason, Russell Pepe** and **Linda Schultz**. Thanks also to those who remained with their departments so their colleagues could perform.

Thank you staffers all, for another memorable evening.

MLK DAY REMINDER

On January 15, Medford Leas will celebrate Martin Luther King Day with an address by Burlington County Superior Court Judge Marie Bell. This presentation in the Auditorium at 11 a.m. is jointly sponsored by the MLRA Forum and Diversity Committees.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the December 6 Morning Coffee in the Lounge, **Pat Wilus**, Director of Human Resources, announced that the Estaugh Board is completing final negotiations with the applicant who has been recommended for the position of Executive Director to the Estaugh Board by the Search Committee. If and when the appointment is final and the new Executive Director will be available for an interview, *Medford Leas Life* will publish an article with all information on his education, professional background, and his management philosophy.

MEET OUR NONAGENARIANS

by Ellen Stimler

Tina and **Paul Mecray**, at 93 and 96 years old, are in their new Court apartment after 21 years at Rushmore, looking out of their large picture window and talking about what's still possible with diminished energy and capacity brought on by their advanced age.

Tina, who graduated from Vassar and has a Master's Degree in social work, says she's always lived to help others. Although she had to cut down on a number of her activities, she still enjoys entertaining old friends from Rushmore and new ones from the Courts for meals in her apartment, putting together dishes she picks up in the Coffee Shop. She still plays bridge and participates in the Arboretum Committee and the Nature Coordinating Committee. She has been "trying to resign" from both of them, but right now she carries on. During past years, Tina was the headguide for the Arboretum Committee and shepherded large and small groups all over the campus, ran the annual flower show and the spring plant sale in the Estaugh Mall, and took prospective residents on apartment tours. During the recent "Open House" at Medford Leas as part

of the Medford Historical Society's tour, Tina showed her seasonally decorated apartment to a stream of visitors from the tour. On Sundays, she feeds the goldfish in the Activities Room. "After all these years, they know me and rise to the top when I come."

Before coming to Medford Leas she was the volunteer director of Planned Parenthood, running their office, raising funds, recruiting volunteers, transporting their woman doctor, and doing whatever else was needed.

Paul lost his sight for some time until an operation about three years ago restored it to the point that he can now read his favorite magazines and his mail with the help of a magnifying machine. He also enjoys walks on the campus.

Paul had a distinguished medical career. He held positions at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and the Mayo Clinic. He was Chief of Surgery at Cooper Hospital and also had a private practice with other Cooper surgeons. During this period the Mecrays were avid skiers during the winter and Paul spent recreational time at a fishing and hunting camp on Delaware Bay during the summer. Paul is also very proud of his WWII service at a hospital complex of the University of Pennsylvania in Assam, India, on the Burma border, where they treated casualties brought in from the India-Burma theater, and Paul was awarded a Silver Star for extraordinary special service.



photo by Margery Rubin

THE LIGHTING OF THE CRÈCHE

by Maggie Woodard

The modest crèche of past years became a dramatic display this year thanks to the creativity and hard work of **Todd Butler**, resident artist in charge of the Display Case.

The placement of the crèche, on a long table against a brick wall near the entrance to the Colonial Dining Room, presented a challenge to Todd. The tiny figures and shelter were lost against the vast wall, so he decided to create a background of blue sky, with a large aluminum foil Nativity Star and smaller stars, dotted with many small lights. He created a small decorated cloth panel behind the manger, with a light behind it, so that the figures were highlighted. The stones around the base were constructed of Styrofoam, which Todd painted and then carved with a butcher knife sharpened by the Maintenance staff. The palm trees and the base were made of cardboard covered with tissue and then painted with watercolors. When asked how long it took him to complete the scene, he replied he had fun doing it, then acknowledged that it probably took him four weeks!

The crèche was given to Medford Leas by residents **Leslie** and **Evangeline Brown**, deceased, about 1980. Resident **Margo Hinman** helped Leslie set it up for Christmas after Evangeline died, and in 1990 she inherited it and set it up every Christmas until this year.



photo by Margery Rubin

GOOD FINANCIAL NEWS

by Ellen Stimler

Residents who filled the Auditorium two days before Thanksgiving to hear **Heather Foor's** financial review for Medford Leas' second quarter operations had good reason for giving thanks to our chief financial officer and her staff. Heather was able to report that a prospective yearly deficit budgeted at \$960,000 had been reduced to \$115,000 by the end of the second quarter.

Going into some details for the good news during the quarter covering July through September 2004, Heather gave these reasons for the drop in the deficit and expenses:

- Medicare and pharmacy reimbursements were larger than budgeted.
- Medford Leas received a donation of \$170,000.
- Expenses in each month of the quarter were below budget due to savings in drug, landscaping, and food costs and a decrease in the health center payroll.

Despite an expected increase in some expenses, particularly food, in the third quarter, Heather expected total expenses for the year to come in under budget.

Heather also expressed great satisfaction with the high occupancy rate maintained during the first half of 2004. She said there was a "unit occupancy rate" of 98 percent. During October, there were 10 empty units and an occupancy rate of 97 percent, but four of these units have been contracted to new residents and four others will be used for internal moves.

Heather's next meeting will be on January 31 to explain the annual rate increase.



THE COURT MAPS

by Betsy Pennink

Ed. Note: The Nature Bulletin Board (near the bank) currently has a display illustrating Betsy Pennink's work with court mapping.

Several years ago **Tina Mecray** described to me the sad state of the maps that hang in each court identifying that court's planting. Many specimens had died and been removed. She had taken down the maps and indicated where the plants were missing, but, she said, the maps were in need of complete redrawing. How was my writing? Well, I'd learned manuscript writing at school. Apparently she could see that I was an enthusiastic, though recent, gardening convert. I did think learning about trees and shrubs sounded fun. So why not?



Betsy Pennink

photo by Jane Bourquin

John Siminski (former Director of Horticulture) was interested in an up-to-date catalog of the plantings in the courtyards so I joined him in making a tour of the courts to see what changes had been made since the maps were drawn. **Debbie Lux** had just begun working for Medford Leas and was already recognized as an expert in perennials, so she was there too.

Then I settled down to work. I wasn't really sure how to do the drawings but our architect daughter took me in hand, and took me to an art store. So now I had a drawing board and tracing paper. I had pens, pencils, erasers and stencils. I needed a quick lesson in lettering. (Manuscript writing isn't appropriate on a map!) Then I was on my

own. I worked out a system. The old map could be traced onto the tracing paper, in pencil, and changes made, in pencil. The tracing paper map could be photocopied in black and white. The photocopies could be colored and laminated. The existing frames could be opened and cleaned, the laminated copies inserted and waterproof backing put on.

The only thing I hadn't factored in was time. I finished the first few maps. Then winter came and went. In the spring there were already changes in the courts that were next on the list. John, Debbie and I decided to go back and review only two or three courts at a time. This has made for a slow but steady progress. Since John's departure I have been working with Debbie and **Herb Minkus** on courts in the north section 1 through 18 and with Debbie and **Joe Greipp** on courts in the south section 19 through 28, 40, 41, 65, 66. I've done at least one map for almost every court and an update for several. There are thirty-two courts. The plantings keep changing. Kitty Katzell assures me, with a smile, that I have tenure.

MEDFORD UNIVERSITY OFFERS WINTER COURSE

by Kay Cooley

Medford University is offering a winter course in January for the first time. For six weeks, from January 10 through February 14, 2005, Karen Chambers, Ph.D., will teach a course on "Sociobiology: How Genes and Evolution Affect Behavior." Dr. Chambers delivered the popular lecture series last summer on Biological Anthropology.

Course information and enrollment forms were distributed to residents in December. Anyone needing an enrollment form may pick one up at the Front Desk. Forms are due January 5 and may be put in Box 212 addressed to "Medford University." Tuition is \$10.00. For questions phone 3212.

OUTREACH, MARKETING OF MEDFORD LEAS

by Dene Mayer

As part of its continuing effort to reach out to prospective residents to let them know about Medford Leas and all that it has to offer, Medford Leas hosted two very successful events. The first was two retirement planning seminars held November 16 and 18. Approximately 60 people attended, which was the maximum that could be accommodated, and there was a waiting list as well.

These sessions began at 10:00 a.m. with registration and refreshments. At 10:30 two residents addressed the group. **Dene Mayer**, whose parents lived at Medford Leas for many years, spoke about how much the tender loving care they received had made her sure she would be living here as well. **Chuck Lassen**, a certified life underwriter, spoke about the critical aspects of financial planning for retirement. Following these presentations and the opportunity to ask questions, the attendees had a tour of residents' homes and a delicious buffet lunch. Each attendee has already received a letter with an offer of a follow-up visit to answer any remaining questions. Several attendees have sent in their waiting list deposits since the event. How soon someone on the list might expect to be called depends on how flexible they are in their choice of units and what type of unit becomes available.

The second event was held on December 5 and was part of the Medford Township Historical Society tour. Medford Leas was one of nine stops on the tour and the society really wanted Medford Leas' participation. Two apartments were open for the tour that day, the **Mecrays'** at 107 and the **Strattons'** at 104. Many Medford Leas residents volunteered to greet guests, direct them to the Lounge for refreshments and singing by the Medford Leas Singers, and serve as tour guides. Medford Leas staff was also on hand to meet and greet guests. **Jane Weston**, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, working with **Marianne Steely**, Marketing Manager, and **Marge Sagett**,

Residency Planning Associate, were the moving force behind Medford Leas' ongoing targeted marketing efforts. These efforts are focused on reaching out to prospective residents with the goal of educating them as to the benefits of living at Medford Leas. Ads have also been placed in the *Playbill* at Philadelphia theaters and the *Friends Journal*.

Jane pointed out that there used to be few continuing care retirement communities but now there are over 30 in New Jersey alone, although few have an on-site medical director and the total coordination of primary care that Medford Leas offers.

As part of Medford Leas' ongoing outreach, many local community groups meet here regularly. Medford Leas participates in Medford's Community Day, which is not specifically a marketing event but an opportunity for the public to get to know us. Medford Leas is also a member of the Medford Business Association, a group of about 100 members that Medford Leas will host in the spring. Despite all this outreach, Jane Weston believes that positive word-of-mouth from present residents to their friends and families remains Medford Leas' greatest sales force.

WHO'S NEW

Julia Kleinschmidt Lyman, Apt 284, graduated from Collingswood High School and earned an R.N. degree at West Jersey Hospital, where she was a pediatric nurse and where she met her physician husband, Frank. After their marriage in 1947 they moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, and then to Fort Madison, Iowa, where Frank had a practice. The Lymans spent the Korean War years in Beaufort, SC, because Frank was drafted as a Navy pediatrician although at that time the Lymans had six children: a girl, a boy, and two sets of boy twins. Earlier they had joined the Purchase Friends Meeting and were active Quakers. Julia had many busy years with a large family and many activities.

After the war, Frank was with Mead Johnson Drug Co. in Evansville, IN, in industrial medicine research. Then the family moved to White Plains, NY, where Frank did medical research with Ciba Geigy Pharmaceutical Co. for 15 years.

The Lymans' hobby was square dancing. Frank collected square dance calls, and together the couple taught at folk festivals. They also did English country dancing and Julia devoted much time to her garden.

After Frank's retirement in 1972, he and Julia moved to Long Beach Island; there they built a house with five bedrooms and a loft so that their children and grandchildren could visit. Frank died a few years ago, but three of Julia's sons live fairly near, and she has 12 grandchildren; so she will probably spend the summers at her shore home, where she has a nice garden.

by Margaret Melstrom

EVERY DAY IS WASHDAY AT MEDFORD LEAS

by Robert Minter

Residents who are used to dining at tables covered with sparkling clean tablecloths and receiving weekly piles of fresh linens and towels probably give little thought to the people and machines that make this possible. In fact, it takes a complex and highly organized laundering operation that goes on for nine hours every day of the week, including Sundays.

The laundry is a division of the Housekeeping Department, which is headed by **Doris Wallace**, who recently celebrated her 33rd anniversary of employment at Medford Leas. **Cheryl Smith** assists Doris, and together they supervise the laundry crew consisting of a porter, **Angel Montes**, and two folders, **Jeanne Everton** and **Alice LeMunyon**.

These three employees handle the whole laundry operation at Medford Leas, which includes (1) linen for the medical units, the Woolman and

Estaugh wings, and the Haddon Assisted Living floors; (2) sheets, towels, and washcloths from six or seven courts Monday through Friday; and (3) laundry for the Pool, the Beauty Shop, Physical Therapy, the Fitness Center, and the Health Center. Separate wash and drying cycles are run for table linen, regular linen (medical and residential), heavily soiled or badly stained items, personal laundry for medical floor residents, and pool towels. Each type of laundry must be separately collected, sorted, washed, dried, folded, stored, and distributed. A running check is made on linen in stock and what needs to be ordered.

The equipment that makes all this possible is impressive. There are two 125-lb. (per load) washers and one 50-lb. washer, four 35-lb. and one 75-lb. dryer. A washer load takes 45 minutes; the dryers take 40 minutes for towels and 20 minutes for sheets. Cycle timing and dispensing detergent, bleach, and special disinfecting chemicals is computer-controlled. The chemicals and the operating specifications (temperatures, pH, etc.) are supplied and checked monthly by the Eco-Lab Company.

Occasionally, the laundry serves in emergency cleanups. Following the July 2004 flood, the many towels and blankets used to sop up water, and a lot of shirts and blankets that got wet at Camp Dark Water, were washed and dried by our laundry crew.

The laundry's average yearly output, in pounds, is enormous: Medical, 400,000; pool towels, 28,000; resident courts, 124,000; table linens, 80,000; and Assisted Living, 180,000, for a total of 812,000 pounds, which equals 406 tons!

Residents who want to see for themselves can visit the laundry room beneath the kitchen and watch Jeanne and Alice folding the linens coming from the dryers, or Angel loading or unloading the machines and programming them for specific operations. That way they will fully appreciate the process behind the fresh towels they take from their racks or the spotless napkins they put on their laps.

A DREAM COME TRUE

by Maggie Woodard

A dream of **Jane Caldwell's** came true on November 22 when the Quilt Interest Group presented her with a quilt they had assembled from 42 squares embroidered 30-35 years ago by her Girl Scout Troop. Understandably excited, she voiced warm appreciation to the five resident quilters who had done the work: **Mary Barth, Tula Floridis, June Krainik, Jeannette Muir, and Miriam Swartz.**

As a troop leader in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, Jane had tried to provide the troop with projects that combined learning and fun for the 12 girls who attended meetings regularly. For this project, they studied birds and state flowers. One of Jane's friends discussed birds and flowers at one meeting. A member of the Swarthmore Meeting Quilters helped the girls learn how to embroider. Jane traced outlines of birds and flowers on cloth squares. The girls, 12 years and older, each took home a square, worked on it at home, and brought it back for the next meeting. Finally, 42 squares, all with fine and beautiful embroidery, were completed.

The Swarthmore Meeting Quilters disbanded before they could put the squares together as had been planned. Jane kept the squares all these years, hoping that somehow the project could be completed. She asked Jeannette Muir to look at them a few weeks ago, and Jeannette and the Quilt Interest Group decided to complete Jane's project. The finished quilt is very lovely and is to be a wedding gift for Jane's granddaughter in February. What a fitting way for the dream to end!



Jane Caldwell

photo by Jeannette Muir

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

by George Rubin

As the Medford Leas bus rolled out of Philadelphia the comments from the residents on the bus were "Wasn't that wonderful," "Thrilling," "Absolutely gorgeous music."

The arrival of fall means it's time for the Chamber Music Society programs in the Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center. The bus ride into Philly was full of chatter, everyone anticipating the concert, as the Guarneri Quartet was performing with a clarinet soloist.

As the house lights dimmed in the theater, everyone settled into their seats. The first piece, the appetizer, was an early Beethoven string quartet. Close your eyes and you are transported back to the 18th century listening to a musical giant who will carry forward the legacy of Haydn and Mozart.

The main course was something else. The Guarneri was joined by the gifted clarinetist Anthony McGill, playing the Brahms Clarinet Quintet. Mr. McGill is principal clarinetist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He studied at the Curtis Institute and appeared with the Baltimore and New Jersey Symphonies and on tour with Yo Yo Ma. His playing filled the hall with unforgettable music. There was a sense of extraordinary suppleness and freedom of rhythm. Listening, one knows we have come an immeasurable distance from Beethoven.

For dessert, the Guarneri played a Dvorak string quartet with its Slavic dances and an ending full of mystery and surprises.

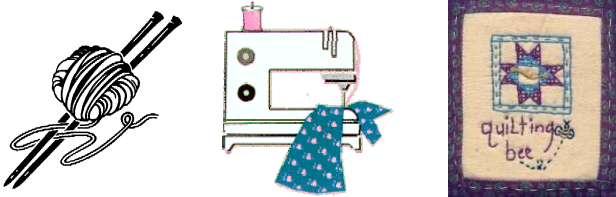
Everyone was surfeited by a musical meal that was more than satisfying. Night music that will be remembered for a long time.

There is still room on the bus to attend the remaining chamber music concerts. If you are interested please call Barbara Heizman at 3172.

BUSY HANDS GROUP

by Kitty Katzell

A bit of history is in order. When the knitters first started at Medford Leas, all of their handiwork was done for charity. Whatever they made was given either to the American Friends Service Committee or the Methodist Women for distribution to the needy. Many residents admired the work that was done and wanted to buy items the knitters had made, so it was decided that any income from the sale of knitted items should go where the items would have gone, to the two charities. Along the way, it was decided that the money raised by mending and sewing for residents should go to the Appreciation Fund. In recent years, annual sales of knitted and sewn items have been held.



For some years, Knitting & Sewing has met on Wednesday mornings. The present schedule calls for sewing repair jobs for residents to be accepted from 9:30 to 11 a.m.; a small fee is charged for this service. The knitters join the menders from 10 to 11:45. Increasingly those who knit are working on a wider variety of charitable projects. Some work on their own projects and some of the projects are other forms of needlework than knitting and sewing.

Most recently, on November 10, the Atrium was converted into a Show-and-Sell area for the numerous crafts produced by the Busy Hands Group, which now includes those who knit, sew, crochet, embroider, needlepoint, quilt, and weave. The sale was very successful, raising a total of \$1,074, of which \$214 was from quilting and weaving. Items that were not sold at the sale were packed and sent to various charities: caps for newborns to Virtua Memorial in Mt. Holly; caps for American Indian Children to the Bureau of Indian Affairs; two cartons of knitted items each to

the AFSC and Methodist Church Women, along with checks for \$717.50 to each from accumulated sales; dining aprons for use by patients in Woolman; and lap afghans for Haddon and Estaugh residents. In addition, \$1,264 was given to the Appreciation Fund. Obviously, these are very Busy Hands.

In January 2005, a new resident, **Shigeko Kawano** from Merion, PA, is moving to Medford Leas. She has promised her folding cutting table and a rotary fabric cutter to the Busy Hands Group. Both items are eagerly awaited, as is Mrs. Kawano.

With the increasing number of people who are enjoying keeping their hands busy, the Busy Hands Group will be providing more opportunities for participants to get together for socialization and congeniality. Starting January 6, 2005, the Busy Hands Room will be open on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 in addition to the regular Wednesday morning openings. This time will be for those wanting to work on any knitting, weaving, crocheting, needlepoint, embroidery, or other needlework activity, whether on one of the charitable projects or one of their own. No sewing alterations or repairs will be accepted on Thursdays.

The quilters meet in the Busy Hands Room on Monday afternoons and the weavers work in the room when others are not using it. A closing word: residents and outsiders are welcome to visit the Busy Hands Room and admire whatever is on display, but please don't touch the looms or other projects that may be in process.



ART GALLERY NEWS

by Helen L. Vukasin

In January, Jules Burrowes, daughter of long term ML residents **John** and **Sally Burrowes**, will display her work in wood reliefs and monotypes in the Medford Leas Art Gallery.

Jules has been practicing printmaking for the last twenty years. "There is a special quality to working wood, which does not happen in other mediums of relief printmaking. The wood often has its own idea about what ought to be created from it. I spend time watching the wood, feeling the grain and the knots and the texture for a while before I can begin to cut the wood," said Ms. Burrowes.

The Opening Reception for the exhibit will be Saturday, January 8, 2005, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Jules will say a few words about her work at 4 p.m.

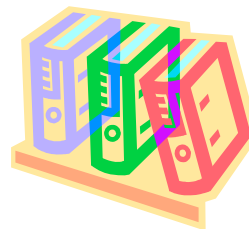
At Lumberton Leas there will be an entirely new show opening on January 15, 2005. The Second Annual Staff Show will close on January 14.

Dorothy Tillman, a resident of Medford Leas, will be showing a retrospective of some of her best photographs. These include landscapes, character studies and foreign places. **Sam Howarth**, also a longtime resident of Medford Leas, newly moved to the courts, will show some of his paintings in watercolor. **Gladys Wynkoop**, a resident on the Medford Campus who works in watercolors, has also agreed to join this exhibit at Lumberton.

IN MEMORIAM

Ursula Ostromecki	November 20
Margaret Turner	November 26
Doreen Lee	November 29
Helene Donnelly	December 12

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY



Reference

- R613 *Merck Manual of Health and Aging*
 R616 *Merck Manual of Medical Information – Home Ed.*
 R616 *New Harvard Guide to Women's Health*

Nonfiction and Biography

- 818 Carlin, G. *When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?*
 152.4 Jamison, K. *Exuberance*
 940.54 Kurson, R. *Shadow Divers*
 303.6 *The 9/11 Commission Report*
 791.45 Schieffer, B. *Face the Nation*
 973 Stewart, J. *America (The Book)*
 B Bunting, J. *Ulysses Grant*
 B Pauley, J. *Skywriting*

Fiction

- Audouard, A. *Farewell, My Only One*
 Binchy, M. *Nights of Rain and Stars*
 Follett, K. *Whiteout*
 Gore, K. *Sammy's Hill*
 McCall Smith, A. *The Sunday Philosophy Club*
 Roberts, N. *Northern Lights*
 Roth, P. *The Plot Against America*
 Wolfe, T. *I Am Charlotte Simmons*

Mystery

- Beaton, M.C. *Deadly Dance*
 Brown, S. *White Hot*
 Clark, M.H. and C.H. *The Christmas Thief*
 Cornwell, P. *Trace*
 Grafton, S. *R Is for Ricochet*
 Grimes, M. *Winds of Change*
 Hill, R. *Good Morning, Midnight*
 Patterson, J. *London Bridges*
 Rendell, R. *Rottweiler*
 Smith, M.C. *Wolves Eat Dogs*
 Truman, M. *Murder at Union Station*

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

by George Rubin

There has been a request for another AARP Safe Driving Course. A signup sheet will be posted at the front desk at Medford Leas early in January 2005.

The course will be given February 8-9, 2005, in the Medford Leas Auditorium. At least 15 residents must sign up for this course to be given and pay \$10.00 for this 2-day course. It will run from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. each of the 2 days.

All the lectures must be attended to qualify for successful certification of the course. Auto insurance companies are required by law to remove 5% from your basic insurance premium or 2 points off your driving record. Check with your auto insurance company.

Residents must sign up by January 27. A \$10.00 check must be included with your application made out to AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE. Put your check in an envelope and leave it in Box 64 or Box 632.

Any questions call George Rubin 3064 or Robert Morrow 3632.

GIFT SHOP OPPORTUNITY

by Joan Bellman

A good way to meet and help people is to work in the Gift Shop. There are three openings for sales volunteers: Two to work regularly on Saturdays from noon to 1:30 p.m., and one to work regularly on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Any couples interested? We welcome all volunteers. Please contact Frances Carter at 3664.

LUMBERTON IDOL

by Maggie Heineman

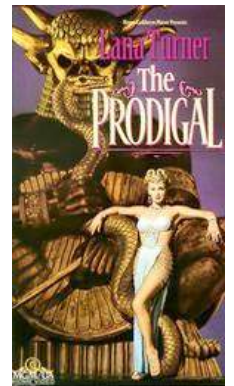


Driving north on 541, after the sign welcoming you to Lumberton (Township), look to the left for the "Harriett's Oil Service" sign. Then look up the road on the left for the yellow house with an eye-popping something-or-other staring over a stockade fence out toward the highway. It's the general shape of a sitting Buddha, but with wide and pointy ears and two pairs of horns. It's holding the bottom half of a large snake. A gnome-like figure has been placed into the broken-off serpent, rather like flowers into a vase. What is that thing? Why is it there? Has a pagan cult moved into the yellow house?

(photo by Herb Heineman)

The answer to the monster mystery was provided in a November 10 article in the *Smyrna Clayton Sun Times* headlined, "Landmark Smyrna statue sold – Longtime eye-catcher on Route 13 bought by New Jersey man."

The eleven-foot tall, 2,000-pound, fiberglass and steel monster-with-snake was built as a prop for a 1955 Lana Turner movie. Somehow it became the property of Newark Lawn Service from which, in 1984, it was purchased for \$3,500 and moved to Smyrna, bringing attention to itself and to the owner's business.



Ashley McKnight, the reporter of the statue's recent purchase by Denny Van Istendal of Lumberton, described Mr. Van Istendal as a gregarious man whose "excitement was as big as his newly acquired \$4,000 lawn ornament." Van Istendal installed a five-foot dirt pedestal to raise the monster above fence level. His renovation plans include a replacement head for the serpent.

CRYPTOGRAM

by Russell Hill

Here is the solution to the December cryptogram:

THE THINGS THAT I HAD NOT OUGHT TO
 I DO BECAUSE IVE GOTTO
 WOTTHE HELL, WOTTHEHELL,
 AND I END WITH MY FAVORITE MOTTO
 TOUJOURS GAI, TOUJOURS GAI.
 MARQUIS

The correct solvers were: **Ken and Helen Anderson, Mary Barth, Ruth Blattenberger, Mort Bregman, Florence Brudon, Marion Burk, Scott Charles, Liz Dill, Betty Donahue, Lorretta Elkin, Louise Evaul, Gil Goering, Mickey Gray, Bob Hambleton, Herb Heineman, Barbara Heizman, Jane Hunter, Euseba Kamensky, Sally Klos, Mary Hope Mason, Alice Norcross, Helen Peterson, Betty Preston, Liliane Reynolds, Alfred Rudrauff, Doris Salati, Florence Sawyer, Bonnie Schilling, Ellen Stimler, Hana Stranska, Miriam Ward, Ellen Wiener, John and Marie Winton, Gladys Wynkoop.**

Here is the January cryptogram:

RH RJ SZKW HL JVV ESC
 NLKWKVW JSLGPW SZFV
 ULKTVW Z PVHHVK
 BGKBLKHRMT HL HVPP LU
 ZKHSGK'J WVZHS
 JHVEZKH

Please put solutions in an envelope and leave on Medford Leas Life shelf by January 10.

MEDFORD LEAS LIFE

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**Deadline for submissions:
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