



THE VILLAGE CRIER

Newsletter of the

ANNAPOLIS VILLAGERS



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

APRIL-MAY 1996

MAY 14 MEMBERS MEETING

The next members meeting of The Annapolis Villagers will be held on May 14, 1996, 7:00 p.m. at The American Legion, Post 175, Manhattan Beach, Severna Park, MD. Remember that the meeting room has been moved to the larger Banquet Room located in the rear of the Legion. See page 8 for directions. An exciting agenda is planned.

MAY BASKET DECORATING CONTEST

A tisket, a tasket you could win a prize for a May Basket

Don't put your Easter Baskets away yet, we're sure you will want to reuse them for the May meeting. We will be holding our 1st Annual Dept. 56 May Basket Decorating Contest at the May 14 meeting.

All members are encouraged to enter. The rules are simple. All you have to do is decorate a basket using D56 products. The contest is not limited to lighted houses. You can decorate a basket with one or more lighted houses and / or accessories from any village, Snowbabies, Miniature Snowbabies, Snowbunnies, Merry Makers, Winter Silhouette, All Through The House or any other D56 line. Use new, current or retired pieces. The possibilities are endless. Whatever you choose, the only requirements are:

- You must use a basket. Any shape or size is acceptable, including hanging baskets, wall mounted baskets or cornucopias. Bushel baskets - even laundry baskets if you wish.
- Your entire display entry must be self contained in the basket.
- Your display must be built around D56 products (non D56 items may be used to accent the display.)

We hope to see many members entering the contest. It is a good way to share display ideas. Please contact Pete Baer, (410)867-0086 or John Ehrenreich, (410)647-1680 in advance if you are entering a basket so that sufficient display tables are available. Bring your finished basket to the May 14 meeting, arriving by 6:30PM to set up your display prior to the start of the meeting. Owners of the displays will not be identified until after the judging. Judging for the best overall display will be by the members present at the meeting for First, Second and

Third place. Here is a list of the prizes:

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st Place: | Prize valued at approx. \$50.00 |
| 2nd Place: | Prize valued at approx. \$25.00 |
| 3rd Place: | Prize valued at approx. \$15.00 |

See *This Olde Village* with Bob Villager, page 6, for some basket ideas.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At our May meeting, President Bill Murphy will ask for the formation of a nominating committee. The purpose of the committee is to draft a slate of candidates for the election of various offices at our July meeting. If you are interested in assisting in this very important function, please contact Bill Murphy at 757-4582 or before the start of the May meeting.

VILLAGERS TO RAFFLE SV ICE PALACE

The Annapolis Villagers have been fortunate to obtain a Snow Village Ice Palace. This is a much anticipated new piece offered this year. We will raffle the Ice Palace on June 23 at our Summer Brunch Fest (see page 2). Sales will begin on April 27. Chances will sell for \$1.00 each. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. The Ice Palace is a regular S.V. release but there has been wide spread demand. Collectors quickly recognized that the Ice Palace would fit nicely with North Pole, Snowbabies, Disney Parks and even Christmas in the City or alone with just accessories. Initial distribution appears to be four Ice Palaces to select dealers. Eventually your local dealer will receive their allotment but many dealers have reported that the wait list for the Ice Palace is longer than the one for the Grapes Inn.

This is not only a chance to get an early Ice Palace, but to also benefit the club and Ronald McDonald House with additional funds. If you are interested in buying and / or selling chances please contact Bill Murphy at 757-4582.

D56 Trivia: What is the name of the Chimney Sweep in Dickens' Village?
Answer on page 8

THE PREZ SAYS

With the weather finally breaking we can surely say goodbye to winter and hello to spring. For those that did not make the Bus Trip to Secaucus, all I can say is that you missed an outstanding, exceptional trip. I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who helped make the trip memorable. Without the untiring efforts of so many people, it would have been just another long bus ride.

I am proud to tell you that with the success of *The Annapolis Villagers*, we were recently able to make a \$150 donation to The Hospice of the Chesapeake. Previously, we donated a portion of our 1994 Auction proceeds to this worthy organization.

A Nominating Committee will be formed at the May meeting. I would like to encourage all members (new and those who have been with us) to volunteer for the Standing Committees. I guarantee the more you get involved, the more fun you have.

At the May meeting, I will display the certificate that the club received from The Charles Dickens Heritage Foundation. One of our members, Gary Palmer, of The Frame Shoppe, beautifully mounted and framed the certificate for the Villagers.

The Villagers are very lucky to have come by a Snow Village Ice Palace within the first week of issue. We felt it would be unique to hold a fund raising raffle for this sought after piece and an opportunity to donate a share of the proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House. I urge all members to help sell chances. Let's make this raffle a success!

The officers and committees have been busy planning events for the enjoyment of all Villagers. Starting off with the May basket contest at the members meeting and Brunch in June, these events will take us right into summer and our Christmas in July Party. We look forward to seeing you at these fun-filled events.

Bill Murphy

GET READY FOR... VILLAGERS' SUMMER BRUNCH FEST AND CHRISTMAS IN JULY PARTY

Sunday, June 23, 1996 at 10:00 a.m., The Annapolis Villagers will have a Summer Brunch at The Fleet Reserve Club. Our 1995 Birthday Party in September and our Christmas Party held at the Fleet Reserve Club got great reviews by the members who attended. Now that the weather is warming up, we will be able to enjoy brunch on the deck and watch the boats come into the Annapolis Harbor. We will also hold the drawing for the Ice Palace at our Brunch Fest.

Saturday, July 20, from 2:00 p.m. to ? the members meeting will be our annual Christmas in July Party. Peter and Trudi Baer have graciously agreed to host this event, pool side, at their home. We will have a very brief business meeting to conduct the election of officers. Your participation is very important since the selection of capable officers will determine the success of our club. Following the elections, the order of the day will be FUN!

As we are still planning activities for both events. Come to our May meeting or see the next issue of *The Village Crier* for more details.

WATCH FOR D56 MID YEAR
ANNOUNCEMENTS IN MAY

WILLIAMSBURG GATHERING MARCH 14, 15 & 16 1997

At the March meeting, we announced that the Mid-Atlantic Village Gathering would be held at The Woodlands, Williamsburg, VA, March 14 - 16, 1997. Once again, the three sponsoring clubs, including *The Annapolis Villagers*, are working to put together a great Gathering. Activities include Seminars, Swap & Sell, Show & Sell, Room Hopping. The number to call for hotel reservations is 1-800-HISTORY. Ask for Group Reservations for the Mid-Atlantic Dept. 56 Gathering. More info will be available on The Gathering as we receive it.

MARCH MEETING

We would like to thank those who helped to make our March meeting a success:

- The Saint Paul MN Winter Carnival, for the loan of photos and videos on the Ice Castles of the Winter Carnival,
- Member Debbie Frazer, Manager, Banner's Hallmark, Annapolis Mall, for bringing many of the new for 1996 lighted houses and accessories to the meeting,
- Tom Russ, Russ Country Gardens, Taylorsville, for his discussion on D56 stock and prohibition of dealer's placing lighted houses on sale,
- Judith Price, Dept. 56's Ms. Lit Town, for the loan of the video of a Minnesota television program profiling Dept. 56,
- Member Bernice Smith for making the Snowbunny basket for the raffle.

VILLAGERS ATTEND NATIONAL COLLECTORS EXPO IN SECAUCUS, NJ

All trips start with some anxiety but when the bus is missing, anxiety turns to panic. There was no bus in sight as Villagers and guests gathered at the Annapolis Mall on Saturday, April 13. After some frantic calls, we found out that the bus that was to be at the Mall by 5:45 a.m. was actually at another shopping center waiting for us. Eventually the bus arrived and by 6:15 a.m. we were on our way. Our friendly Bus Driver, John, lost no time in getting us back on schedule. After a stop at the Rt 70 Park & Ride to pick up The Blackeyed Susan 56'ers and more guests, a full bus of 47 sleepy-eyed Villagers, Susans and guests headed north for the bi-annual International Collectors Exposition in Secaucus, NJ. Thanks to our Hospitality Chairperson, Lynne Murphy, hot coffee and cold soda were ready for us to get the adrenalin going. The Presidents of both clubs, Bill Murphy and Anne Graff served beverages and a continental breakfast of pastries, muffins or bagels with cream cheese.

After breakfast, everyone had time to look through the "Goodie Bag" handed them as they boarded the bus. The "Goodie Bags" were filled with lots of information and items of interest from local dealers. Everyone was also given a free ticket for one of the special door prizes to be awarded on the bus. (See Prize Page list.) Bill Murphy and Anne Graff, shared the Master of Ceremonies duties for the trip and they kept everyone busy with door prizes and raffle drawings. In addition to the free special drawings, everyone won one of the free door prizes. Raffle tickets were a bargain at 7 for \$1.00 for 1 of the 18 donated raffle prizes. Did we mention,

we watched D56 videos, too?

Before we knew it, we arrived at Secaucus. Dept. 56 was centrally located near the main entrance and many of our group made it our first stop. We found Judith Price (Ms. Lit Town), Rhonda Ritchie, Editor, D56 Quarterly, other staffers and reps, including our own, Jon and Cathy Kramer. D56's "giveaway" was a pair of trendy sunglasses with D56 on the lenses. (There was a rumor going around that when you put on these sunglasses, you only have eyes for D56--you may be able to "see" for yourself, if you are lucky enough to win a pair in the door prize drawing at our May meeting.) We learned that we just missed Jeanne Marie Dickens as she had been at the expo earlier in the morning.

The D56 display included all of the new pieces for the villages, Snowbabies, Snowbunnies, All Through the House, Winter Silhouette, Merry Makers and Christmas Ornaments. The new Snow Village and Heritage pieces were incorporated into displays with the current pieces.

D56 even had the new animated pieces like flying Santa and Snow Cloud. The Santa was nice but the cloud was not working -- due to a problem we all can relate to--dead batteries!

Tom Underwood, D56's display and design person, gave non-stop decorating and displaying ideas for all of the villages and some of the other lines. See Bob Villager's column in this issue for details on Tom's fabulous displays.

After D56, we saw what seemed like an endless array of collectible products--some we were familiar with, such as Enesco, Hummel, Coca Cola, Disney to less familiar names but equally interesting collectible products. We also got to meet and chat with Jeanne and Peter George, publishers of The Village Chronicle, which is all about D56, as well as representatives of "The Greenbook" Guide of D56 Secondary Market Prices and Chris and Bill Gorman, co-presidents of The National Council of (D56) Clubs.

Some of our group attended the Swap and Sell, next door at the parking garage. We heard complaints about the poor lighting in the garage from other attendees at the Exposition. However, by the number of packages carried back on the bus for the return trip, it was apparent members of our group who went to the Swap and Sell found some sought after items.

By the time everyone boarded the bus for the trip home we were tired but not too tired for a drawing of even more raffle prizes and special prizes. We relaxed watching the Snowbaby video with cold sodas, beer or wine and pretzels and popcorn. We stopped for dinner at the Delaware House. Before we knew it, we arrived at the Rt. 70 Park and Ride to

drop off The Black Eyed Susan 56'ers and guests and then we were soon back in Annapolis. While it was a long day, it was an enjoyable, memorable day for all who attended.

WINTER CARNIVAL ICE PALACE EPILOG

In the last issue of The Village Crier we contributed a considerable amount of space to the Dept 56 Snow Village Ice Palace and the past Ice Castles of the Winter Carnivals held in Saint Paul, MN. We were not planning a follow up article but some interesting things are happening in Minnesota.

As we reported The St. Paul Festival & Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization, annually produces the Winter Carnival. However, due to cost and weather conditions, the construction of an Ice Castle is reserved for special occasions. Karen Vento, Public Relations Specialist, who provided us with information, photos and the videos of the Ice Castles, told us that an Ice Castle is being planned for the January, 2000 Winter Carnival. Department 56, headquartered nearby in Eden Prairie, MN, is supporting The Saint Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation in a special way. The Annapolis Villagers offered their support by requesting a Press Release from the Foundation to publicize their upcoming fund raising efforts to D56 collectors.

Here is the Press Release we received: Saint Paul Winter Carnival and Heritage Foundation announced "Department 56 Winter Wonderland To Be Unveiled At Minneapolis Festival Of Festivals to be held May 17 through May 19..." " The St. Paul Winter Carnival will unveil Department 56's *Winter Wonderland*... The scene includes a new and much anticipated ice castle, skating rink complete with skaters, a King and Queen, trees, snow and many more eye catching collectibles." "The Department 56 scene incorporates many other (ST. Paul) Winter Carnival traditions including a King and Queen who are part of the Carnival's legend.... Collectors and visitors may also purchase a \$1 chance to win this spectacular scene ..."

Unfortunately, unless we are traveling to Minnesota any time soon, we cannot participate in the chance to win the Winter Wonderland display. The Saint Paul Winter Carnival and Heritage Foundation is not permitted by Minnesota law to sell chances by mail. Apparently all games of chance must be purchased in person.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Here we *grow* again. The Villagers welcome new members:

JoAnn Naylor, Arnold, MD
Claire Raffa, Arnold, MD
Mary Jane & Brian Stock, Edgewater, MD
Evelyn Webb, Queen Anne, MD

THE RUMOR MILL

#18 REVISITED? ... eGAD's, is there another DV Signature Series lighted house with a limited period of stamped production, just as the #18 Boarding School, in the works?

MUM'S THE WORD ... D56 isn't talking so collectors continue to speculate if that really is an "S" on the NP Elfin Forge. Last month we asked if it could be the first piece to spell out "Santa." We have also heard that it could be the start of "Series."

GET IT WHILE YOU CAN....If you collect "All Through the House" and you don't have the sign, you may want to see if your dealer still has it. It could be gone with the mid year announcements.

IS IT A FAIRY TALE...Or will Disney Parks have its first limited edition--"Cinderella's Castle?"

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CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS BEFORE OPENING FOR BUSINESS...Mrs. Claus shocked the NP by sending D56 back to the drawing board and bringing Martha Stewart in to handle the decorating chores for NP Santa's Rooming House.

WHERE IN THE DICKENS...

by John Ehrenreich

This is the first of several articles that will appear periodically in *The Village Crier*. In this space I will try to present information about the buildings of Dickens' Village and how they are related to Charles Dickens' writings. I hope you find it informative and interesting.

In the works of Dickens, you will find many references to locations, places or buildings. As you would expect in works of fiction, many of these places are purely the invention of Dickens but he did not rely totally on his inventiveness. Dickens was well traveled and incorporated what he observed in his writings. He often incorporated real

buildings and places in his tales though not always using real names. Sometimes he described a real building in detail but changed the name in his story. Whatever the case, real building, real building with a different name or totally fictional, there are many, many building references in his works.

Since the Dickens' Village is Department 56's rendition of the Dickens era, you would expect D56 to draw from Dickens' works for inspiration. Over the years, they have done just that. The DV was first released in 1984 and the first buildings from a Dickens story appeared two years later. These were Fezziwig's Warehouse, Scrooge & Marley Counting House and The Cottage of Bob Cratchit & Tiny Tim (all 3 retired in 1995). These, of course, are known as the Christmas Carol Cottages and come from the Dickens story, "A Christmas Carol". In later years, The Flat of Ebenezer Scrooge (1989), Nephew Fred's Flat (1991, r.1994), Boarding & Lodging School #18 (1993, r.1993) and Board & Lodging School #43 (1994) were added to the Christmas Carol series. As an aside, many collectors wonder why there are two Boarding Schools. The #18 version was *limited to year of production* and has a special bottom stamp of the Charles Dickens Heritage Foundation commemorating the 150th anniversary of "A Christmas Carol". The #43 version is not limited and does not have the special stamp. Taken together, the two addresses, 18 & 43 represent the year "A Christmas Carol" was written -- 1843.

Other Dickens titles gave us "The Old Curiosity Shop" (1987) and the "Nicholas Nickleby" series (1988, r.1991) which includes Nicholas Nickleby Cottage and Wackford Squeers Boarding School. The "David Copperfield" series (1989,

r.1992) included Mr. Wickfield Solicitor, Betsy Trotwood's Cottage and Peggotty's Seaside Cottage. The last D56 series based on a Dickens title was "Oliver Twist" (1991) which included Fagin's Hide-A-Way (r.1995), Brownlow House (r.1993) and Maylie Cottage (r. 1993).

Many more D56 DV buildings are based on Dickens works but they are more obscure. A most recent example is the Grapes Inn. Charles Dickens did not use the name Grapes Inn in any of his works but in "Our Mutual Friend" he describes a waterfront tavern called "Six Jolly Fellowship Porters". This tavern was probably the Grapes Inn. The Grapes Inn is a real building that existed on Narrow Street in Limehouse. See the accompanying photo and notice the boats at the foot of the picture. The real thing is not as charming as our D56 version and aren't you glad D56 chose to use the Inn's real name instead of calling it the tavern of "Six Jolly Fellowship Porters" as Dickens did.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you would like to write an article or a series of articles, your contribution will be greatly appreciated. *The Village Crier* wants to include articles on all D56 collectibles, and needs you, the collector, to contribute and share your knowledge.

(information for portions of this article came from "The Dickens Encyclopedia" by Arthur L. Hayward, first published in 1924.)

MARCH MEETING RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZES

WINNER	PRIZE	CONTRIBUTOR
Pat Fisher	\$50.00 Gift Certificate	Carrie's Collectibles, Crofton, MD
Bill Murphy	What The Dickens, 1 yr. subscription	Judith Issacson, publisher
Carole Dietz	Village Classified, 6 mo. subscription	Paul & Mirta Burns, publishers
Lynne Murphy	\$10.00 Gift Certificate	Bay Hills Cards & Gifts, Arnold, MD
Jennifer Balla	\$10.00 Gift Certificate	Bay Hills Cards & Gifts, Arnold, MD
John Stevenson	D56 Quarterly, single issue	Russ Country Gardens & Gifts, Taylorsville, MD
Bob Emory	D56 Quarterly, single issue	Annapolis Villagers
Ruth Palmer	Village Classified, single issue	Paul & Mirta Burns, publishers
Debbie Reeder	What The Dickens, single issue	Judith Issacson, publisher
Carol Emory	Easter Basket Raffle, (\$40.00 value)	Annapolis Villagers
Tom Russ	50 -50 Raffle (\$20.00)	Tom donated winnings back to the club

SECAUCUS BUS TRIP

In addition to the 18 raffle prizes, for which tickets were sold, and the three Special Door Prizes listed above, everyone on the trip received a goodie bag and a Door Prize. There were over \$900 in gift certificates, merchandize prizes given away to Annapolis Villagers, Blackeyed Susan 56'ers and guests as well as additional support by local dealers and businesses. In addition to both clubs, here is a list of those who supported the bus trip and made it a great success for all who participated:

Country Cottage, Severna Park,
 Calico Mouse, Annapolis and Glen Burnie,
 Banner's Hallmark, Annapolis Mall,
 Russ Country Gardens, Taylorsville,
 Bay Hills Cards and Gifts, Arnold,
 The Christmas Goose, LTD, Queenstown
 Garland's, Baltimore
 The Seaside Country Store, DEL
 The Country Bunny, DEL
 The Touch , Lexington Park
 Carrie's Collectibles, Crofton
 Remembering You, Annapolis Mall
 PennDen, Bowie
 Bay Hills Deli, Arnold
 Port Tack Wine and Spirits, Arnold
 John Lonergan, Chesapeake Charter, Annapolis

**The Annapolis Villagers appreciates all those who support the club.
 We encourage all members to stop in or contact our supporters and introduce yourself.**

THIS OLDE VILLAGE

by Bob Villager

It is not too early to start planning for Christmas, 1996 or better yet, why not display D56 all year round with a little bit of creativity... Bob Villager

Dear Bob: I am a new collector and don't have much room to display my collection. What suggestions can you give me.

NEWBIE COLLECTOR

Dear Newbie: Try and see as many displays in various settings as possible. For some really creative ideas, come to our May 14 meeting to see how members decorate baskets with D56.

Another suggestion is to be sure to attend *The Annapolis Villager* House Tours. While our tour of the homes of our Lanham members was cancelled due to the January snow, we will have tours in January, 1997. Also visit as many of our supporting dealers as possible to see how they display. Some of these are very creative and can be adapted for small spaces. Look around your home at bookshelves, furniture, tables, baskets etc. to display one or a small group of your collection in different areas of your home. In small displays, your collections will not take up large amounts of space.

Displayed in this manner, you have added interesting year round accents in your home.

At the Secaucus Show, Tom Underwood of D56 did great displays that took up very little space: SV Holly Bros. Garage in a wheel barrow tire, The Grapes Inn nestled in a Grapevine wreath with added candles made a great table centerpiece, All Thru the House's bedroom scene pieces displayed in a doll bed was another neat idea. SV Starbucks Coffee is black and white and it was beautifully displayed in a black and white tray accented with black and white mugs and napkins. It seems like every time we passed by the D56 display, Tom had a large crowd watching him create yet another "Why didn't I think of that" stunning but simple and easy display with just a few pieces.

For our May basket contest, you can produce equally impressive results with one or more D56 collectibles in a basket. Everyone loved the basket that we raffled at our March meeting. It was quick and easy to make and contained only one Snowbunny, a tree studded with different color gum drops, and a fence around the

tree. We marveled at a larger basket we saw recently at a dealer -- it contained Little Town of Bethlehem, placed on styrofoam painted brown and accented with small, plastic palm trees.

Here are some more suggestions for the basket contest: SV Piza Pizza or any of the CIC, SV or NEV restaurants could be used for food theme baskets. SV Marvel's with beauty supplies, any of the clock shops in the various villages teamed with watches or other time pieces, the banks or the CIC Stock Exchange with a money theme, the NEV lighthouses or Pierce's Boat Works with a nautical motif. These are just a few ideas to get you started as you can see the possibilities are endless -- and you don't always need styrofoam or trees to display your pieces in a basket. If you still are not convinced of your abilities -- you won't know until you try. More important than the prizes for the contest, you will go home with your basket to display your favorite piece all year long.

NEW MAGAZINE OFFERS COMPLIMENTARY INTRODUCTORY ISSUE

We received an introduction to a new publication, *The Village Scene*, and collectors are being offered the first issue free, without obligation.

The new magazine will deal with all lighted collectibles including D56, as well as displays, trains and accessories from around the world. If you would like a free copy of the premier issue, send your name and address to:

The Village Scene
8631 NW 45th Street
Lauderhill, FL 33351

D56'S SUSAN ENGEL GRANTS INTERVIEW

Susan Engel, D56 President and Chief Operating Officer, was interviewed in March by several publishers of the larger, well known publications--Village Press, Dickens Exchange, Village Classified, Village Chronicle, What the Dickens, Village Network and Village Exchange. Roger Bain, Publisher of the Village Press recorded the interview and published it in the Village Press' current issue. We are sure that her interview will find its way into all of the other publications shortly -- look for it.

CALENDAR

SIGNATURE INN ORNAMENTS

While we have not seen Susan Engle's interview to verify the report, we have heard she announced during the interview that D56 will produce ornaments of the first two DV Signature Inns--Crown and Cricket and Pied Bull. Ever since the first ornament was introduced for the Dedlock's many DV collectors have asked for production of ornaments for the first two inn. This past year a Sir John Falstaff ornament was released and we are sure a Grapes Inn ornament will be released this year. If you missed either the Dedlock or the Falstaff, they are still available at dealers.

WISH LIST

Are you looking for that one retired lighted house that eluded you a few years back? Perhaps your village has grown to the point that the only way you can add that one new house that is a *must have* is to sell one of your existing pieces to make room. Well, if either of these situations describes you, Annapolis Villagers may be able to help. The Villagers have grown so much over the past year that many of our newer members may not be aware that we maintain a *Wish List*. If you are looking for a particular item, you can contact Jeannette Grebowsky and let her know of your wish. She also maintains another list of pieces that are "For Sale / Trade" from club members. When she finds a match, she lets the perspective buyer and seller know. Annapolis Villagers are not involved in the transaction. It is up to the individuals to strike their own bargain. If you are looking for an item or want to sell an item you can contact Jeannette at (301)552-2910.

LOOK FOR THE CLUB BULLETIN BOARD AT THE MEETING

Thanks to Jack Graff, The Villagers now have a portable bulletin board. At the May meeting, you will see pictures of our Secaucus Trip, Wish List Offerings, Dealer and Event Flyers as well as other info related to our D56 collections.

******TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:** Yes, the Chimney Sweep in your Chimney Sweep accessory has a name. He is Tom Hawkins and his place of business is next to Hembleton Pewterer.

Let us know about dealer events, swap & sells and open houses, etc and we will list them here.

- Apr. 20-27 **The Main St. Corner Shoppe**, Laurel MD. 13th Anniversary celebration. Call (301)725-3099 for more info.
- Apr. 26-28 **PA5-6000 Gathering**, Lancaster, PA. For info, call Greg Roth (717)653-0369.
- May 4 **The Calico Mouse** Open House at all 3 locations, 10:00am to 3:00pm. A GCC Dealer Exclusive, Snowbabies "Star In A Box" will be available. Call any location for more info, Main St. Annapolis (410)268-9066, Marley Station Mall (410)760-2757 or Annapolis Harbour Center (410)266-7204.
- May 5 **The Touch**, Lexington Park, MD 1st Annual Open House. 10:00 am to 6:00 pm with special drawings every 15 minutes from 1pm to 4pm. Call (301)862-4505 for more info.
- May 14 **Annapolis Villagers** Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Featuring a May Basket Display Contest.
- June 11 **Annapolis Villagers** Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- June 23 **Annapolis Villagers Summer Brunch**, 10:00 am at The Fleet Reserve Club, Annapolis.
- July 20 **Annapolis Villagers** Membership Meeting and a pool side Christmas In July Party at the home of Peter & Trudi Baer, 2:00 p.m. til ?
- Aug 13 **Annapolis Villagers** Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Sept 10 **Annapolis Villagers** Membership Meeting. Fifth Anniversary
- Sept. 7-8 **Bachman's Village Gathering**, Minn., MN For info. call Bachman's, 1-800-4-BLOOMS
- Sept. 22 **Russ Country Gardens & Gifts**, Taylorsville, MD. Swap & Sell. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Winfield Fire Hall. For additional info. or table rental call (410) 875-2385 or 1-800-371-2385.

- Oct. 5 **Golden Goose**, Occoquan, VA. Open House
- Nov. 7-11 **D56's 1996 "Home for the Holidays" dealer events.** Look for more info in future editions of The Village Crier.
- Dec. 6 **D56 Retirement Day**

DIRECTIONS TO MAY 14 MEETING

From Rt. 50, take Rt. 2 North Exit. Follow Rt. 2 North (Ritchie Highway) through Arnold. After the traffic light at Rt. 2 and College Parkway, the next light is Jones Station Road. On your right, you will see an Amoco Gas Station and a Crown Gas Station on the opposite corners.

At the intersection of Rt. 2 North and Jones Station Road, turn right onto Jones Station Road and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Road which is between the Crown Gas Station and the wooded area with the Manhattan Beach Community and American Legion Post 175 signs. Follow Manhattan Beach Road approximately two tenths of a mile and make a left into the parking lot of American Legion Post 175. The entrance to the Banquet Room is to the left side of the parking lot in the rear.

From Route 2 South (Ritchie Highway) At Jones Station Road, make a left and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Road. Proceed as above.

FROM THE EDITOR

It was another month with lots of news to fit into this edition of The Village Crier. We hope that you enjoy it all and we look forward to seeing you at the May 14 meeting.

Pat Ehrenreich

Deadline of June-July Village Crier is June 10. Please mail your items of interest so that they are received by June 10.

The Village Crier
c/o Patricia Ehrenreich, Editor
Post Office Box 2043
Annapolis MD 21404