



# THE LAUREL LIGHT

February 5, 2003

Volume VII, Number 1

News from the Laurel Historical Society and The Laurel Museum

[www.laurelhistory.org](http://www.laurelhistory.org)

## Upcoming Calendar & Meeting Notice:

- February 9<sup>th</sup> City of Laurel Open House  
City Hall 1-4 PM
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Program: *The African American Journey in Laurel*
- March 29<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION!  
The Society's Annual Gala
- April 10<sup>th</sup> Program: *Victory Gardens – A Home Front Success*
- April 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting
- April 26<sup>th</sup> New Exhibit Member Opening  
*Over Here: Life in Laurel during World War II*
- April 27<sup>th</sup> New Exhibit Public Opening
- May 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Elections

See articles inside for more details!

## Welcome New Members:

Joan Adams  
Vincent Cipriani  
George Delaney\*  
Doris Johnson  
Randolf Lusk\*  
Bill Mace  
Tom & Coleen Maclean\*  
Chief David Moore

\*Lifetime Membership

*Special Thanks to Robert Marton for giving gift memberships this year.*

**The Laurel Historical Society is proud to have the following Community Business and Professional Partners:**

**The Citizens National Bank  
The Laurel Leader**

## Coming Soon!

Your invitation to  
Celebration!  
An Evening in Honor of  
J. Donald Henyon &  
Laurel's WWII Spirit

March 29, 2003  
Laurel Park Race course

Dinner  
Dancing  
Silent Auction  
Details on P.2

## HELP WANTED

### GUIDES & MUSEUM SHOP

Help us to be open more days  
The Laurel Museum seeks volunteers for the following schedules: Guides and Museum Shop Aides one Friday per month 10 am to 2 pm; Guides the 3rd Sunday each month 1 pm to 4 pm; Resource Aides Mondays or Thursdays between 10 am and 2 pm to assist in the library and respond to caller's questions. Training provided. Call Shari Pollard 301-776-5229.

### RECORDING SECRETARY

The Executive Committee is looking for a member interested in the office of Recording Secretary. Duties include taking minutes at the meetings of the Board (4 per year) Executive Committee (4-6 per year) and general meetings (3-5 per year) The Office is currently vacant and appointment to the office is an

appointment to the Board of Directors until the Annual Meeting in May. Call Marlene Frazier 301 490 1344 or Betty Compton 301 776 6933

## **2003 Celebration!**

Think USO. Think Big Band Music. Think Canteens. Think March 29 at the Laurel Park Race Course for this Year's Celebration! benefiting the Laurel Historical Society and the Laurel Museum. J. Donald Henyon, former Chairman of The Citizens National Bank, and long time civic activist, will be this year's honoree. In addition to honoring Don Henyon, the evening will celebrate Laurel's WWII Home Town Spirit. The theme for 2003 follows along with the theme of the Laurel Museum's next exhibition: Over Here: Life in Laurel During WWII. Margie McCeney is chairing this year's event. Her committee is meeting regularly on Monday evenings between now and March 29.

The LHS's annual gala has become a tradition in the Laurel community. Last year more than 250 area residents, friends and associates attended the evening, which also includes a dynamite Silent Auction. Individual tickets are \$75 – watch for your invitation—in the mail soon.

If you have an item you want to donate to the Silent Auction, (vacation homes/trips, especially welcome) please contact SilentAuction Chair Jhanna Levin at L&L Gifts, Gourmet & Fine Chocolates [jhanna@lkgiftsgourmet.com](mailto:jhanna@lkgiftsgourmet.com) 301-725-7539



**Large Baskets or Hatboxes are also needed for the Auction.**

### **About J. Donald Henyon:**



"Hanging out at the corner of Fourth & Main for almost 40 years has

been my great reward," Says Don.

He first became a member of the Laurel community in 1964 when he joined The Citizens National Bank, ultimately rising to the position of President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman in 1985 until his retirement in 1996. Throughout that career he took a hands-on involved attitude in Laurel's growth, development and prosperity. As president of Citizens, he was responsible for the decision to keep the bank "on the Street," when it built its new headquarters. He not only helped the Laurel Historical Society early on, but has helped many other community and business organizations too numerous to list, to prosper. Don is a veteran of both WWII and Korea, and his service in three branches of the armed forces; Navy, Army, and Air Force; makes him a particularly appropriate choice for this year. His vintage restored cars (current passion: VW Bugs) and antique trunks have graced parades and homes throughout Laurel. He and his wife Jean have two children (twins) and five grandchildren.

There are still opportunities available for sponsors that would like to underwrite

part of the expenses of the event. Please contact Jim McCeney at [jmcceney@verizon.net](mailto:jmcceney@verizon.net)

## **Notice of Proposed Bylaw**

### **Changes:**

**The following changes to the bylaws are proposed by the Board of Directors to clarify procedure for committee appointments and appointment of officers to fill a vacancy: (changes are underlined)**

Article 4, Sec.2,A: Duties of the President  
Change item #1 to read:  
Have general supervision of the affairs of The Society including the appointment of committees required to carry out the operations of the Society.  
The president may appoint the chairpersons of such committees or direct that they be elected by the committee.

Article 5, Sec.5 Vacancies  
Vacancies among the Directors shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee of the Board. If an officer is appointed to fill a vacancy which occurs in the first year of a term the appointee will serve until the next annual meeting. At that time the post will be filled by election to a special one year term. A vacancy occurring in the second year of a term will be filled for the balance of the term.

Article 7,Sec.3: Additional Committees (of the Board):

The Chairperson of the Board of Directors may appoint additional committees which may be needed to carry out the duties of the Board of Directors.  
The Chairperson of the Board may appoint the chairpersons of such committees or direct that they be elected by the committee.

**These changes will be presented to the membership for approval at the Annual Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

## **The Laurel Light**

Published bi-monthly by:

**The Laurel Historical Society Inc.  
817 Main St.; Laurel, MD 20707-**

**3429**

**Editor: Marlene Frazier**

## **Programs!**

**Thursday, February 13, 2003 –  
7:30 Laurel Pool Club Room  
The African American  
Journey in Laurel**

“We have been active participants in the history of Laurel,” notes Sandra Johnson, Historian of St. Mark’s Church and member of the Laurel Historical Society Board of Directors. Follow the journey of African Americans in Laurel from before the Civil War. Bring friends, and please be ready to share your stories.

**Thursday, April 10, 2003-  
7:30 Laurel Pool Club Room  
VICTORY GARDENS – A HOME  
FRONT SUCCESS STORY**

Sixty years ago Victory Gardens swept the nation. As we prepare to open our next exhibition, and plant a Victory Garden on the Laurel Museum grounds, learn more about this WWII (and earlier) war effort.



Join author Susan Pennington, curator of the Smithsonian’s Victory Garden project of the “Within These Walls” exhibition and author of the newly published, *Feast Your Eyes: the Unexpected Beauty of Vegetable Gardens* will join us to talk about Victory Gardens (which are included in her

book) and other vegetable-related historical topics. From 1999 to 2001, Susan was the Enid A. Haupt fellow at the SI's Horticulture department, where she curated the *Feast Your Eyes* exhibits as part of the American Garden Legacy Series.

*Ms. Pennington will have copies of her book available.*

## **Volunteers of the Year 2002**



Bud and Mary Ann Merson received this year's award for their willing participation at countless events on behalf of the Laurel Historical Society. They were presented with the annual award by Society President Jim McCeney. Mayor Craig Moe also honored them with a certificate of recognition from the City of Laurel.

The reception on January 9<sup>th</sup> celebrated all of our many volunteers who make the work of the Laurel Historical Society and Laurel Museum possible. The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department generously presented the Society with copies of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Publication.

## **Volunteers+Serendipity=Small Miracle**

Laurel Museum volunteer Betty Lint and her husband, Ken recognized Laurel

scenes in a suitcase full of photos at a local auction. They were the successful bidders and donated the pictures to the Museum.

Museum Director Carol Runyon put them where other volunteers could see them and possibly identify some of the people and places in the photos. Only a few days before moving to Florida Penny Phelps saw them and recognized some of the subjects of the photos. She gave their names and a phone number to Carol.

Carol called the family to get more information and discovered that the photos had been stolen from their home quite some time before. The museum will copy some of the photos for our collection and the originals will be returned to the family.

## **Penny Phelps**



Long time volunteer, Penny Phelps is moving to Florida. Many of the volunteers that she has worked with and other Society members gathered for a going away party on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> She was presented with one of the beautiful new Museum Shop Red Laurel Throws to

remind her of how much LHS appreciates all she has done for many years. We understand there is a lucky small Museum in Florida that needs a little help.

### **Lessons from the past**

The reward for preserving history is the ability to learn from the past.

The Laurel Museum recently accessioned a letter donated by Lisa Losito & Doug Humphrey. It was written at the time of the Civil War by a Union soldier from “Camp at Laurel, Maryland” on March 19<sup>th</sup> 1863. In this letter to his sister he talks about a problem that troubles us today and it shows that people faced this challenge before, did what they needed to do and went on to the next challenge.

After telling his sister about problems with pay and discussing mutual friends and other every day matters, the soldier writes:

***“You speak of the small pox (in your letter of) 2/5. It has been near here then at Wash(ington) There has been at least half a dozen cases in the village. Five persons have died here in town to my knowledge. All of us soldiers were vaccinated and were not allowed to leave camp for several days. As good luck would have it we all escaped. There was not a single case among the soldiers. It is more than two months ago that we were vaccinated and the small pox played out very soon after that.*”**

Laurel Museum Shop  
now carrying Cat's Meow  
Collectibles of  
historic Laurel

### **Gone from the Streetscape:**



This building, formerly situated at 45 Avondale Street was recently demolished. It had an interesting background in Laurel history. An old Laurel resident, Henry Turney, remembered that his father, Marvin Turney had the house moved to its most recent location. He watched men grease the logs on which the house was moved from its previous spot on the corner of Avondale and Main. Mr. Turney recalls that the house belonged to the Millards before his father moved it.

Records show that the Millards owned a general store on the corner of Avondale and Main around 1910 and that prior to that, there was a marble works shop on the same corner in 1894.

Mr. Michael Collins of Legends, Inc. allowed Society Members to take pictures of the inside of the building and save a

few architectural items that could be removed prior to the demolition.

The Laurel Historical Society  
The Laurel Museum  
817 Main Street  
Laurel, MD 20707-3429