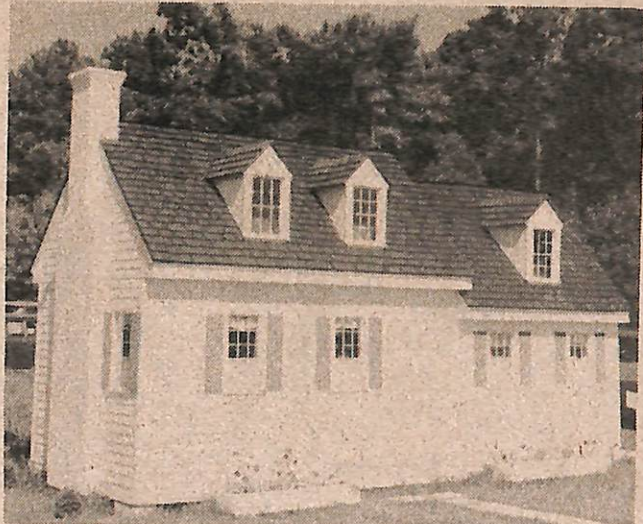


October 7, 1976



County Tourist Center Is Closed After Busy Season

Finishing up the busy tourist season, the Worcester County Bicentennial Center closed last Thursday, September 30. Counting the number of travelers in each party which visited the center during its four-month season, an estimated total of 3,169 visitors were served. This figure represents about 1,200 parties which stopped for directions, information or just to look at the attractive little cottage.

Broken down into areas, this number represents 125 parties from Worcester County and 265 from other sections of Maryland, Delaware, and the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Of the remaining parties, 80 were from Canada, 34 from other foreign countries, 78 from west of the Mississippi, 64 from the mid-west, 104 from the south, 65 from New England and 390 from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

A total of forty-five states and the District of Columbia were represented. Those not represented were Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Wyoming, and Alaska. The fifteen foreign countries represented include Canada, England, France, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Argentina, Panama, Puerto Rico, Denmark, Scotland, Iran, India, and Israeli.

A rough breakdown of the kinds of literature given out during the summer shows 1,379 pertaining to Maryland campgrounds, 1,350 on the Pocomoke River State Parks, and 1,146 pieces of literature of various types on Ocean City. An estimated 1,415 Maryland State maps were given out and a total of 521 Driving Tours, Chesapeake Bay Circle Tours and National Church Heritage Tours were also distributed. There were about 2,000 Cape May Ferry schedules and accompanying maps given out and about 685 other off-shore county brochures. These were in addition to an unspecified number of other types of tour information and special promotional literature.

By far the most popular item at the Center was the brochure on Historic Worcester County which was designed and published by the Worcester County Bicentennial Commission last spring. At least 2,564 of these attractive folders were distributed over the summer.

The Center, which had its official opening on June 8, opened actually on June 1, after many months of preparation on the part of the Commission and the Worcester County Commissioners who helped with the funding. On June 8, a dedication ceremony was held with state and local dignitaries in attendance. The Worcester Bicentennial Chorus sang and the American Legion Post #93 was on hand for the flag-raising. Carrying out the Bicentennial theme, many

of the guests came in Colonial costume.

The Center was open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and was staffed by Ruth Timmons of Snow Hill and Isabelle Leach of Pocomoke City with the help of many volunteers.

Located on the north-bound lane of U.S. 13 south of Pocomoke, the Center is a one-half scale model of the Purnell Cottage in Snow Hill which is said to be the oldest dwelling still standing in that pre-Revolutionary town. The house was designed by Avery Gordy, a carpentry instructor at the Worcester Vocational Center. The house was built by the members of the class of 1976 at the school.

At this writing, the future of the Center is uncertain. There are presently no plans to re-open the center in the spring and no final disposition of the house has been made, according to Robert H. Robertson, chairman of the Worcester Bicentennial Commission which sponsored the project.

The need for a permanent Information Center and Rest Stop on U.S. 13 at the southern Maryland line has been the subject of much discussion locally and by the Maryland Department of Transportation for a number of years.

Del. Russell Hickman and the members of the Pocomoke City Woman's Club have been pushing for such a facility for the last six years. The Department of Transportation has allegedly put an option on a parcel of land near the state line and have placed in escrow funds for site design and land acquisition.

PWP Meeting Set Oct. 9

A social hour will be held at 7:15 p.m. preceding the Saturday, October 9th meeting of Parents Without Partners. The meeting will be held in the Wicomico County Housing Authority Building, Alabama Avenue,

Salisbury. Light refreshments will be served. President Bill Jackson will preside at the business session beginning at 8:00 p.m.

For further information call Shirley Eastman, Lakewood Drive, Salisbury or Margie Durden, Alabama Avenue, Salisbury.

SCHOOL MENU

Monday 10/12

Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Crispy Potatoes
Cole Slaw
Apple Sauce
Milk

Tuesday 10/13

All American Circus
(National School Lunch Week Menu)

Main Attraction: Hot Dog on Roll
Ring Master's Vegetable Beef Soup
Side Show Orange Wedges
Happy Clowns Tutti Fruitti Crisp
Midway Milk

The Bermuda Islands discovered about 1503, remained uninhabited for a century until a ship, carrying settlers to Virginia, was wrecked on the island's reefs.