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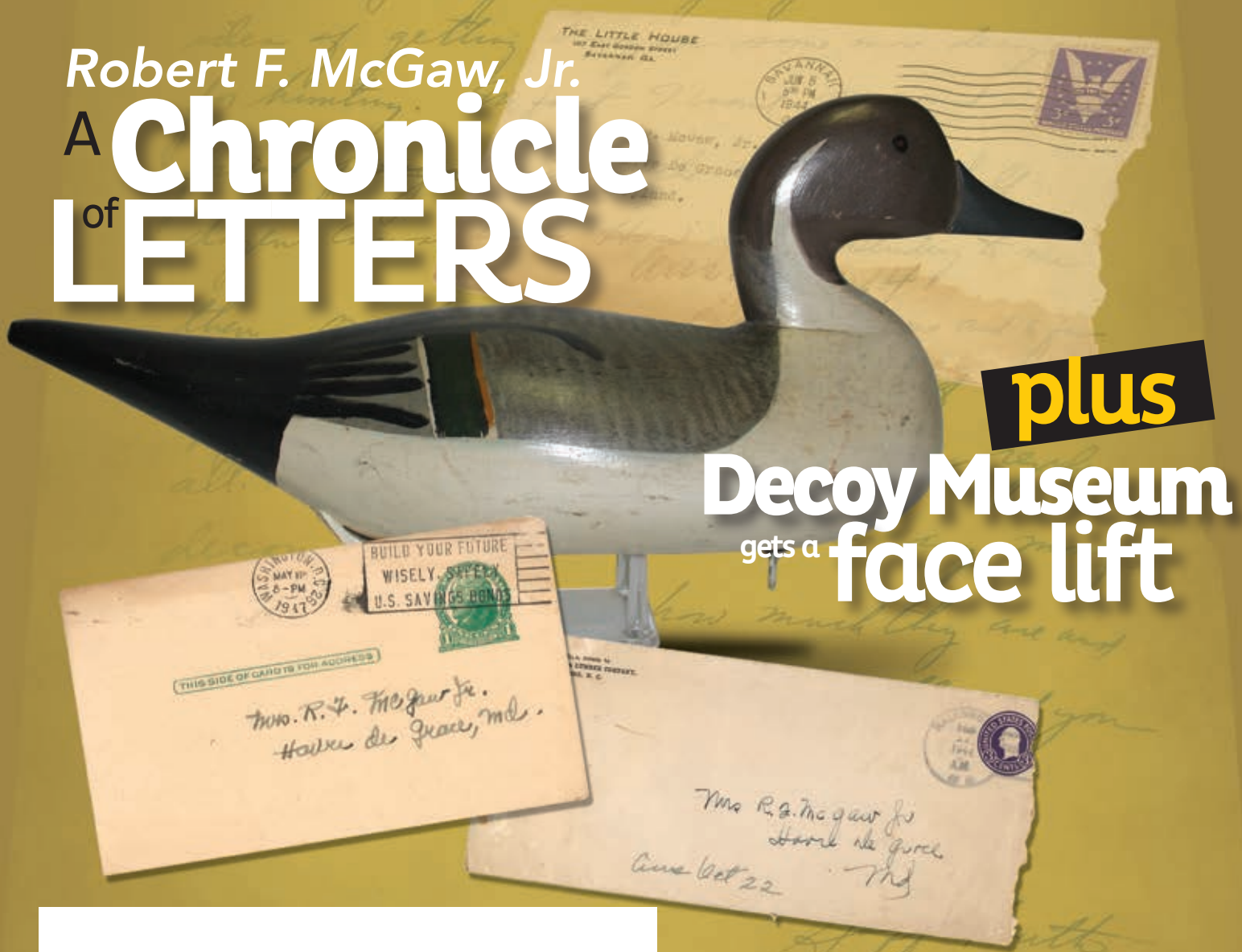
The Canvasback

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

Fall 2011
Vol. 20 No. 4

\$7.00

Robert F. McGaw, Jr.
A **Chronicle**
of **LETTERS**



plus

Decoy Museum
gets a **face lift**





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can•vas•back (kan'ves bak'), *n., pl. -backs*, (esp. collectively) — **back**.

1. a north american wild duck, the male of which has a whitish back and a reddish-brown head and neck. **2.** a style of decoy made famous by carvers of the Susquehanna Flats region. **3.** a quarterly publication of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

How does it all come together? The next time you pay a visit to your Museum, take a look around at your new surroundings. Do you notice anything different? The face of the Museum has taken on a new up-to-date appearance. Did it just happen or has it always looked that way? Some will notice, others will not. This past summer many changes took place here, a few on the inside and many on the outside. One of our great accomplishments since my last column is the Museum's name is now included on the Maryland Green Registry. A special thank you goes to Chuck and

Lori Maslin for their assistance with the application. We are the first museum in Maryland to be included on the list of environmentally conscious businesses. Our name is among a group of other businesses that are making an effort to conserve and protect our environment. We received a letter noting this accomplishment from State Governor Martin O'Malley.



The Voice of America visited Havre de Grace this past July and I was honored to have been interviewed by June Soh. Ms. Soh is an award-winning international journalist. She spent hours in Havre de Grace, touring the Museum, greeting Captain Bob Jobes and his son Casey as they pulled into the yacht basin with their day's harvest of blue crabs. After a visit with Captain Bob at his decoy shop, Ms. Soh toured Mitch Shank's home and decoy collection then completed her visit at the decoy shop of Jeannie Vincenti. The video is broadcast into 133 countries and translated into 44 languages.

The Maryland Comptroller, Peter Franchot visited Havre de Grace in August and walked the promenade from the lighthouse to the Museum. His tour of the Museum was concluded with a reception on the second floor. The Comptroller wrote the Museum following his visit and was highly complimentary of all that is here. I will repeat myself and comment that we all seem to take for granted what we have and only a set of new eyes can truly appreciate the magnitude of our wonderful Museum.

—C. John Sullivan

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CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Bob Bendler
Margaret Jones
C. John Sullivan

DESIGN AND TYPESETTING

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215 Giles Street
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
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www.decoymuseum.com

From the President

Dear Museum Member,

It is my pleasure to announce to our membership and visitors that after three years the second floor deck will soon be open again to all. The deck was in need of a major renovation and the finances were not there to move forward and replace it.

However, The R. Madison Mitchell Trust had a unique opportunity to enter into a partnership with Todd Pauliny, RBC Wealth Management, the Ed Funk family, the City of Havre de Grace, MacGregor's Restaurant, IMARK Builders, Bill Denny's Automotive Inc., Harford Refrigeration, Pollitt Signs, and other corporate and private donors to make this renovation possible.



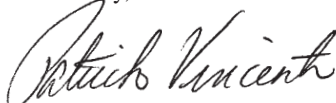
Photo by Leo Heppner

After meeting and discussing a plan of attack, bids were submitted for this project by several contractors and IMARK builders was selected. IMARK's Mark Gorrera has worked with the Museum in the past on several capital projects, so it was felt he truly knew the building inside and out. Soon after the renovation started the scope of the project widened to include the entire front façade of the building. As a result of their efforts IMARK and their contractors have done a spectacular job. So please, when you visit the Museum walk onto the new Ed Funk Observation Deck (weather permitting) and take advantage of the grand view of the Susquehanna Flats and the Chesapeake Bay.

Also, in order to improve the grand view from the deck, a second partnership came together to enhance the shoreline between the promenade and the Museum. After discussions with the Critical Area Commission, Griff Evans—Ecological Restoration & Management, The Mitchell Trust, Decoy Museum, City of Havre de Grace, Delta Waterfowl, and Maryland Ducks Unlimited are working with Steven Hillyer and the students of Havre de Grace High School Environmental Program, to enhance and promote the growth of native vegetation in this area.

On behalf of the Directors for the Mitchell Trust and the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum we thank all of you for your efforts on this project and your continued support of the Museum.

Sincerely,


Pat Vincenti

FUNDED IN PART BY

Maryland State Arts Council • City of Havre de Grace • Harford County

The Havre de Grace Decoy Museum is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.

Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the arts, a federal agency.

Tax deductible contributions can be made to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum.

The Museum was incorporated in 1981 as a non-profit organization which exists to document and interpret waterfowl decoys as this art form applies to the social and economic life of the upper Chesapeake Bay region.



MUSEUM FIGURE OF JIM PIERCE IN PRODUCTION

By Bob Bendler
Treasurer, Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

For a number of years, the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum Board of Directors has considered adding a "wax" figure of its first President, Jimmy Pierce, to the Second Floor Gallery. Well, now it is going to happen.

Through the efforts of a special committee established for this specific purpose by your Board, a high quality museum figure producer has been identified and is now under contract to create such a figure. It is our hope that it will be done by early November 2011. After consulting with Jim Pierce and his family, it was decided to use as the model the picture on the front of the 1991 Decoy Festival booklet showing Jim working on a Wood Duck Drake. He was the 1991 Honorary Festival Chairman. Jim and his son Charlie have been meeting with the producer, Dorfman Figures in Baltimore, and will oversee the various steps in the process to ensure that the final product meets our high standards.

Now you may ask, where did the money for this project come from during these tough economic times? Good question! As you have read often in the Canvasback and in correspondence from the Museum, your Board of Directors and staff have made concerted efforts to maintain an adequate revenue stream to sustain full-time operation of the Museum. This has not been easy and has happened only because of the continued support of our members. I am pleased to report that this initiative is being funded from source-





es outside the regular Museum funding sources and will not impact our operating budget. A separate and very successful fund raising effort was coordinated by Charlie Pierce. As a result we raised enough to cover the cost of the figure (\$9,250). Additional funding for related expenses, such as the showcase, is in the works. It should be noted that similar outside fund raising was done for many of the figures currently in the gallery.

Why was Dorfman Figures in Baltimore chosen? For several reasons: (1) they

satisfied with the procedure that will be followed to create his lifelike reproduction, (3) the cost to create this figure was reasonable and competitive with other companies that were explored, and (4) the company last used by the Museum is no longer in business.

The new figure will be on display in the second floor gallery, near the top of the stairs. As you enter the gallery from the stairs, it will be to your immediate right. To the left is Charlie Joiner's figure and then Captain Harry Jobes'. This area

is ideal to use because it welcomes you as you enter the gallery. The new exhibit location will allow the staff to utilize the original Jim Pierce case to display decoys from additional Honorary Chairs.

Ideally, we would like to unveil the Pierce figure at the 25th Anniversary Dinner being held on November 2, 2011, at the Museum in the second floor gallery. November 2nd was the actual Grand Opening date for the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Given the uncertainty of production process times, it may not be ready. If that is the case, Dorfman will be present to give an update and show slides of the figure in process and, of course, we will have the original Jim Pierce on hand to stand in. We are all hoping to have both there.

Invitations and tickets for the 25th Anniversary Celebration will be arriving soon. There is limited space, so please send in your RSVP cards early. ■

Fowl Weather Foils Duck Fair

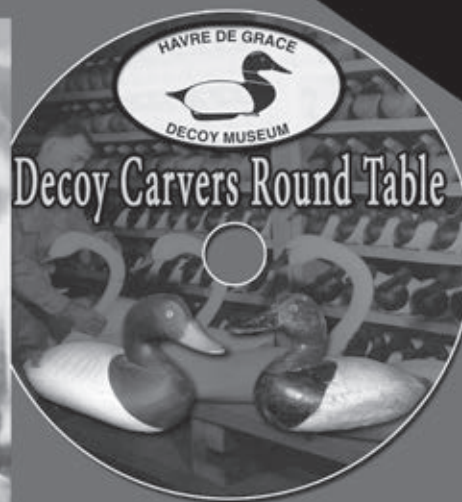
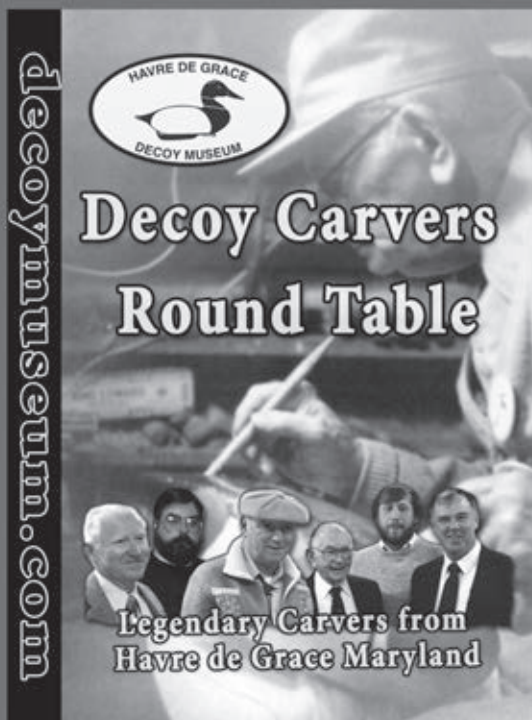
The Duck Fair scheduled for September 10, 2011, was cancelled due to flooding conditions in the Havre de Grace Area.

The excessive rainfall from the remnants of Hurricane Lee overloaded the Susquehanna River and resulted in the declaration of a State of Emergency due to extremely high river levels. The levels were expected to approach those of Hurricane Agnes, which were devastating. After consultation with Havre de Grace town officials, local public safety personnel, and event organizers, it was decided, in the interest of safety, to cancel the fair. The Board of Directors regrets any inconvenience this may have caused for our members, vendors, and visitors.

We are pleased to report that the Museum sustained no damage from the storm. Fortunately, the river did not crest at the anticipated levels and Havre de Grace was spared

the level of devastation feared. As the weather began to clear on Saturday morning, the Museum was able to open to the public. Many, if not most, of our visitors that weekend were in the area to view the flood conditions. On a brighter note, the Gift Shop had a productive day, making more than enough to cover the expenses we had outlaid for the Fair.

The Museum had taken all reasonable precautions in preparation for the high water. All items on the lower level of the building were raised and sand bags were placed in all the flood prone areas. The Museum owes a special thanks to all those who participated in these preparations, including our President, Director of Operations, Event Coordinator, and staff. They planned for the worst and hoped for the best. All in all, the city and the Museum were very fortunate. ■



New DVD!
Only \$12.00

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purchase exclusively
at the
Havre de Grace
Decoy Museum!*

Join us as we sit down with legendary carvers from the decoy capitol of the world, Havre de Grace, Maryland. Nearly 2 hours of decoy carver history from the beginning of the century to today's carvers. Experience how current carvers learned their trade from true legends like Madison Mitchell, Ward Brothers, Sam Barnes Bob McGaw and Paul Gibson.

Need more information?

Visit the Museum Gift Shop or Call the Museum at 410-939-3739

Fall Raffle 2011

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM

A Chance to win ONE of five valuable prizes. Five tickets will be drawn.

Winners will be notified in the order they were chosen and will be able to select one from the prizes listed below.

**Tickets are
\$5.00 each
6 for \$25.00
or 10 for \$40.00**



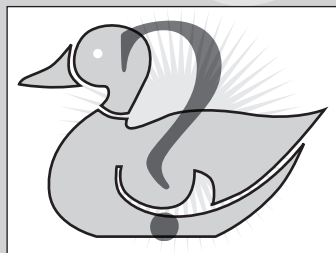
1st Prize
Wood Duck
made/signed by Jimmy Pierce



2nd Prize
Gunning Light
made by Jimmy Pierce



3rd Prize
Dove
painted/signed by Jimmy Pierce



4th Prize
Mystery Decoy
made by Jimmy Pierce



5th Prize
**1991 Jimmy Pierce
Honorary Festival Book
& Show Poster**
signed by Jimmy Pierce

Drawing will be held 4pm on December 11, 2011
during the Candlelight Tour. For tickets call **410-939-3739**.
(additional tickets will be available at the Museum)

The Museum Goes green



Martin O'Malley, Governor

August 16, 2011

Dear Member of the Maryland Green Registry:

Thank you for joining the Maryland Green Registry. Your action is a critical part of our effort to make Maryland *Smart, Green and Growing* successful. You are now part of an expanding group of organizations working toward a sustainable Maryland through sound environmental practices. Thank you for your leadership.

Please find enclosed a window decal for display at your facility. You may also use the Maryland Green Registry program logo on letterhead or other documents to show your organization's commitment to reducing its environmental impact. Your profile has been posted on the Maryland Green Registry website and you will be invited to update your profile one year from now to share information on new environmental practices and results.

The Maryland Department of the Environment's Pollution Prevention Program is available to assist you in setting and reaching your environmental goals. The Program serves as a clearinghouse of information and resources on pollution prevention topics and offers on-site pollution prevention assistance service through the University of Maryland Manufacturing Assistance Program. Please contact Laura Armstrong at 410-537-4119 or larstrong@mde.state.md.us for information about these services or questions about the Maryland Green Registry.

Your support and your organization's commitment to the protection and conservation of the natural resources of Maryland is making a difference.

Sincerely,

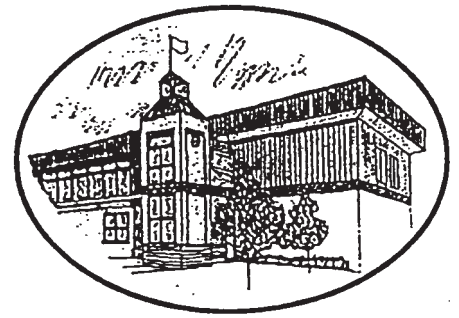
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Martin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Governor

Spreading the Word...

The Havre de Grace DECOY MUSEUM

as printed in The Sinkbox, a publication of the Maryland DU



Over thirty years ago, May 14, 1982, the Havre de Grace Decoy Festival Committee held their first festival with the goal of establishing a decoy museum. The dean of Upper Bay decoy makers, R. Madison Mitchell, served as Honorary Chairman. About five years later, he presided over the grand opening of that Museum, which has grown to be the premier decoy museum in the country, housed in the "Decoy Capital of the World," Havre de Grace, Maryland.

Today this fine landmark museum is open daily and has a membership approaching 1,000. This year, their Decoy Festival marked its 30th consecutive event. The Festival and Museum have drawn tens of thousands of visitors over the years including US Presidents, governors, business leaders, hunting enthusiasts, art lovers, history buffs, tourists, and more. Its broad appeal offers something for everyone.

While major displays are geared to showcasing vintage and contemporary decoys, their makers, and the production process, much attention has been given the hunting tradition that gave birth to the decoy. A superb collection of the instruments used in conjunction with these "counterfeit wildfowl," such as a sinkbox, a sneak boat, punt guns and battery guns (tools of the trade for early "market gunners"), as well as many of more recent vintage still in use today is on display.

Showcased also are shotguns of gauges unheard of, or outlawed, today (4, 6, 8 etc); punt guns the size of small cannons; and other tools for the massive harvest

of waterfowl when it was plentiful, in demand, and legal.

As one tours the Museum, one immediately observes a historic rig from the early 1900's. About 200 wooden decoys displayed in a lay-out boat as they would have been transported at that time. The rig was assembled and hunted over by Frank "HomeRun" Baker from Trappe, Maryland. Frank played baseball with fellow Hall of Fame member Babe Ruth when with the New York Yankees, (Ruth was also an avid duck hunter). Frank was related to Madison Mitchell by marriage — small world! A book is currently in production by the Museum on Home Run Baker and his decoys.

A continued tour takes one through an elaborate display of decoy making paraphernalia once used by the master decoy makers. Also, audio/visual stations explain the process and give remarkable perspective on the early days of gunning the Chesapeake Bay. Moving on to an elaborate wood walkway, a close up view is provided of all the various vintage equipment

utilized in hunting over decoys, many long since outlawed.

Proceeding to the second floor, one observes hundreds of decoys by Chesapeake Bay area carvers. Not only samples from virtually every decoy maker past and present from the Upper Bay, but complete collections from many of the most renowned. Legendary figures such as Mitchell, Bryan, and Gibson have been honored with life size wax likenesses. In many cases, one of every species of waterfowl made by a Past Honorary Festival Chairmen is on display. Also housed on the second floor is an extensive library of decoy related books and documents which are available to members for perusal and research purposes.

Returning to the ground floor, a visit to the Museum's gift shop offers an opportunity to pick up a souvenir or a decoy locally produced by one of many local craftsmen. Finally, before leaving the grounds, a visit to the adjacent "Madison Mitchell Decoy Shop" is worthwhile. The actual building that Mr. Mitchell used for years to produce his now famous decoys has been preserved in its entirety and relocated on the Museum site.

On May 6, 7 & 8, 2011, the 30th Annual Havre de Grace Decoy Festival was held. The format and venue has been enhanced and now includes not only decoys and wildfowl art, but also a waterfowl hunting and conservation component housed in an adjacent community center.

Museum membership starts at only \$25 per year for individuals and \$40 for families. Members receive free admission, discounts at the gift shop, and a subscription to the Museum's magazine the "Canvasback." ■

For more information about the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, please call 410-939-3739, visit their Web Site www.decoymuseum.com, or stop by 215 Giles Street, Havre de Grace, MD 21078.

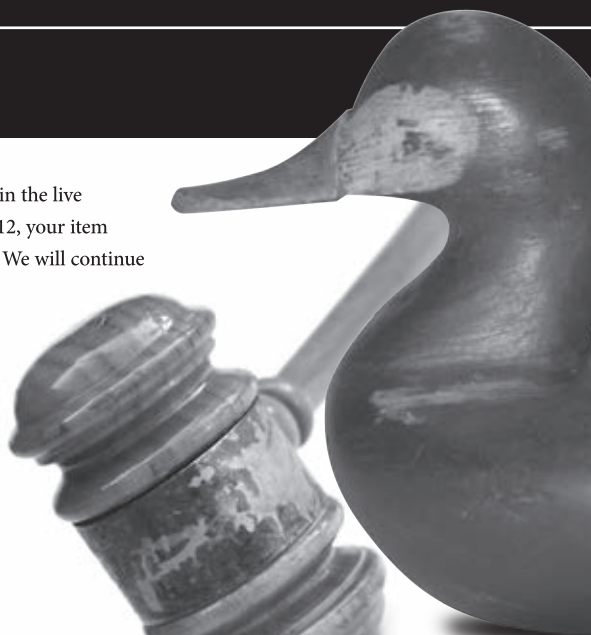
Wanted

Auction items for the Live Auction to be held Saturday, May 5, 2011 during the 31st Annual Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival.

If you have decoys that you would like to sell or donate to the Museum for inclusion in the live auction, please contact the Museum. If we receive the item BEFORE February 17, 2012, your item will be photographed and included in the Festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine. We will continue to take consignments and donations for the auction until we have reached the 100 lot limit. Any items received AFTER February 17th will not be included in the Festival issue of the *Canvasback* magazine but, will be listed on the AMENDED list that will be made available as soon as the 100 lots are filled.

The commission rate will be 10% from the buyer and 25% from the seller. All proceeds will benefit the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. Consignments must be received by February 17, 2012, in order for photographs to be included in the Festival catalog.

If you have any questions or have an item to consign or donate to the auction, please do not hesitate to call the Museum Monday — Friday between 10am and 4pm at 410-939-3739 or email decoymuseum@yahoo.com.



39th Annual Candlelight Tour

December 11, 2011

Museum Hours: Noon – 4 p.m.
Candlelight Tour: 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Admission after 4pm requires
Candlelight Tour ticket

Candlelight Tour Tickets
will be available at the
museum. Call for pricing.

4pm will be the drawing
for the Fall Raffle.

Call the Decoy Museum at **410-939-3739** for more information.



AN IMPORTANT REQUEST

from Your Museum Board of Directors

We really need your help! In our previous edition of the *Canvasback* (Summer 2011) — we sent out our first Membership Survey, in postcard form, on page 36.

If you have not filled it out and returned your survey...

Our Board of Directors would greatly appreciate your input for our upcoming Long Range Planning sessions. If you have not already sent in your Member Survey, we are asking that you please take the time fill it out and send it in as soon as possible (*Canvasback*, Summer 2011, page 36.) For those of you have already sent in your Member Survey postcard, *we thank you!*

All replies will be kept strictly confidential and will only be used to help us plan the future of your Museum for the next generation.

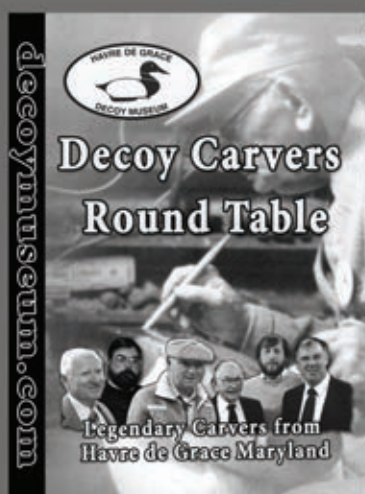
In appreciation for your participation in our Member Survey, your name will be entered into a drawing. You will have a chance to win one of the following prizes:

- A Madison Mitchell black duck
- A rare Bill Veasey decorative clapper rail
- A print by Suzan Thomas, "The Right Choice"
- A signed Madison Mitchell pewter belt buckle

Please remember to place your name and return address on the front of the post card so we can contact you in the event you are a winner in our drawing.

We thank you in advance for your help in ensuring the future success of your Museum for generations to come by completing and sending in our simple, yet very important survey.

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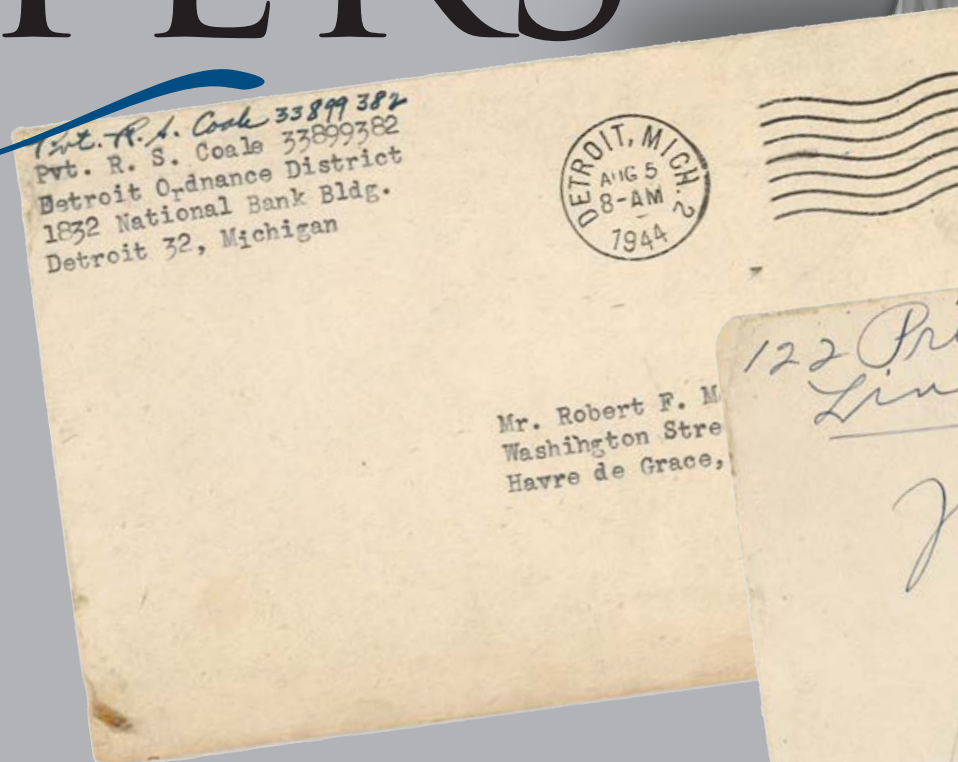
cpackard@charliepackardsflooringamerica.com
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A *Chronicle* OF LETTERS

By C. John Sullivan

ROBERT F. MCGAW, JR.
1879-1958

Revisited



The passion of a collector never rests. For those of you who followed the sitcom *Seinfeld* you will recall a great remark that Jerry Seinfeld made on one of his shows. It was in reference to men and the use of the television remote control device. He said "Men don't care what's on TV. They only care what else is on TV." When I was cleaning out my late mother's home, I found a small piece of paper placed inside what was to become her last journal; written on that paper was that exact quote and the date of the episode when Jerry had

uttered that line. Mom apparently felt that quote so appropriate for me that she had written it down and kept it where someday I was sure to uncover it. For collectors the expression of "what else is on" may be translated into "what else is out there?" or "what's next for me to discover?," for it is not so much a matter of what we have collected, but more like what will be our next great find.

In my long association with the late John M. M. Pusey, I collected many wonderful items from him. There were many great days of finding "stuff" in his buildings, things that were to me simply magnificent objects. Many of the items, which were to John just in his way, were coveted by me.

If time allowed, I often times considered writing a book about the items from the Puseys. I would have photos and captions and the story behind the particular "find." In 1985, I did exactly that with the publication of *A Chronicle of Letters*. That book was the result of finding a box of letters in the Pusey warehouse filled with papers from the McGaw estate. John Pusey was a close friend of McGaw and was a beneficiary of the estate. The letters had been stored since McGaw's death in 1958. Now fast forward to the summer of 2011, and John's son Joel Pusey calls me with yet another collection of just-found letters written to Robert F. McGaw, Jr., and his wife, Carrie Polhemus Moore McGaw. A great find and another excit-

Continues on page 16



Continued from page 15

ing chapter in this collector's life. But this collection is exciting to more than just me.

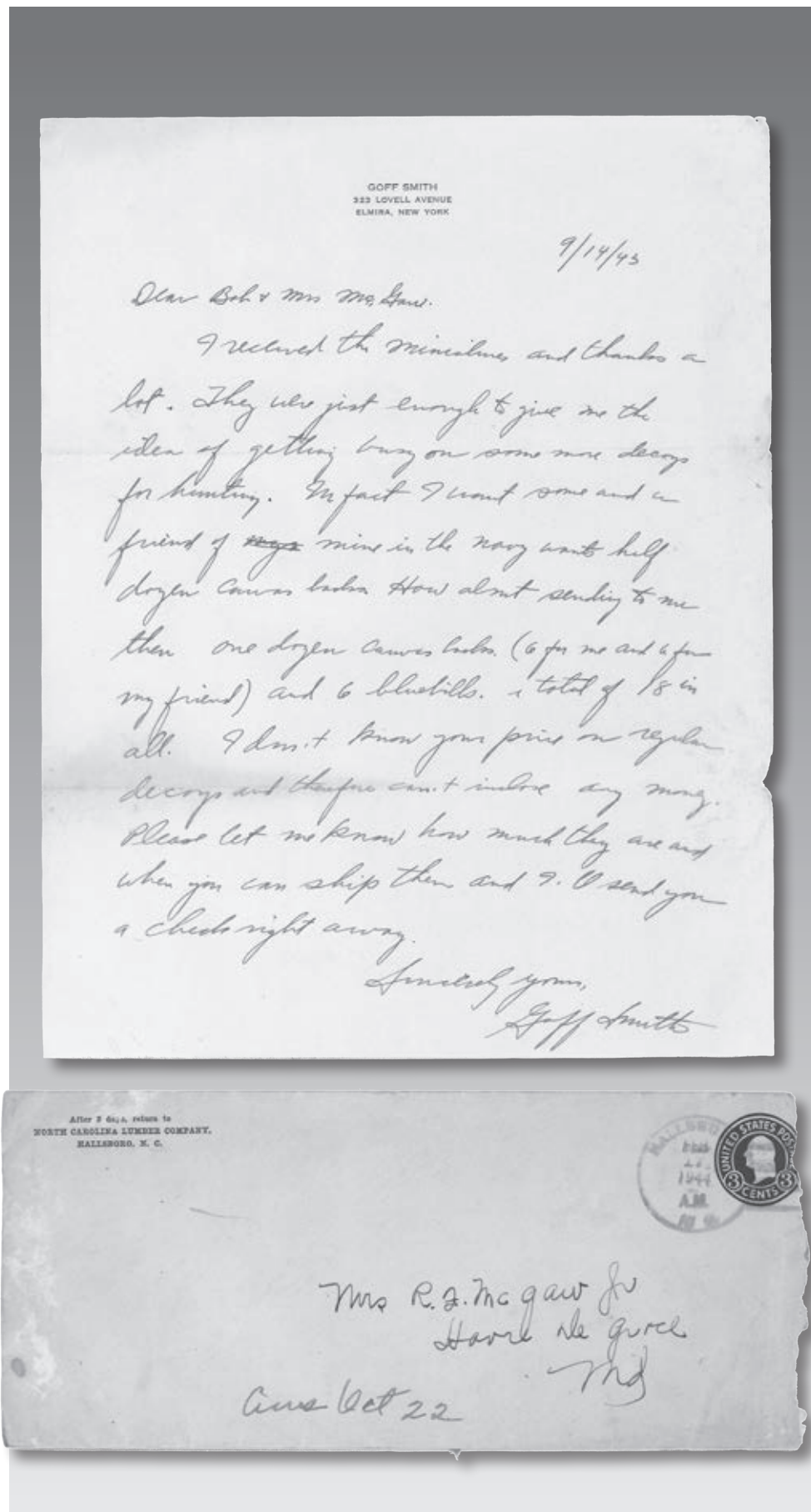
Joel decided that the best home for this collection is here at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. What a great choice for the Pusey family and what an incredible gift to the Museum. These letters provide a glimpse into, not just the McGaws, but to those writing to them.

The letters date from the late 1930s to the late 1940s. Some are quite brief and simply request decoys, or a price list for his decoys. Many of the letters misspell McGaw and do exactly what the modern day spell check does and refer to Mr. and Mrs. McGraw. Other letters are concerned with medical issues and bad times that old Bob was experiencing. One writer had shipped a damaged decoy for repair and made reference to it in a follow-up letter as "how is my cripple coming along." In 1943 an order came from New York from an Army Captain who had been stationed at Aberdeen in 1940. In it he asks: "I don't know what your prices are now but they were .75 cents each before."

A writer from New Jersey wrote a thank you reply after receiving their order noting that "they arrived in fine condition; my husband always did say that they were works of art." One letter requested that a catalog and price list describing decoys be shipped. One of the more intense writers wrote to McGaw from Baltimore in January of 1944; "I am most interested in Canvasback, Redhead, Blackhead, and American Goldeneye decoys. Also Canada goose decoys, I would also like to know how and of what wood they are constructed and how they are painted. I would also like to know the prices of your miniatures, I have seen some of your decoys and I think they are the best of the many different kinds I have seen."

Someone who was apparently quite rough on his decoys or perhaps a decoy maker himself wrote from Cortland, New York, ordering two dozen redheads and two dozen canvasbacks and requested heads only. In March 10, 1946 Mrs. Earnshaw Cook of Tuxedo Park, New

Continues on page 22





18TH ANNUAL R. MADISON MITCHELL ENDOWMENT TRUST BANQUET

The Eighteenth Annual R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust Banquet was a huge success. Lou Ward and the staff of the Bayou Restaurant hosted a capacity crowd of three hundred and five and did a superb job. It truly was an evening of celebration.

Born this day in 1901, Mr. Mitchell would have been 110 years old. The Decoy Museum was celebrating its 25th anniversary, and the Decoy Festival was celebrating its 30th anniversary. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres started the evening while friends and supporters viewed the items available in the live and silent auctions. This year's lottery items were Wood Duck drakes and Madison Mitchell Black Ducks. The Wood Ducks were generously donated by the Bryan family, Gary and Jean Ross. Charlie Bryan started these decoys before he passed and they were completed for this evening by Bill Schaubert. All of the decoys sold and they were well received.

This year's donation from the Mitchell Trust to the Museum's collection was made possible by Ed and Jane Zimmer. Their generous gift of an English Breech Loading Punt Gun in excellent condition made for quite an addition. Both Ed and Jane were on hand for the presentation.

Following the awards portion of the evening's program, auctioneer Zach Shelley began the live auction. The auctions highlight was two half-size decoys carved by Madison Mitchell in the 1950s. These decoys donated by Mitch Mitchell, were a part of Madison's personal collection. The decoys sold for three thousand dollars each. All of the proceeds from the live auction as well as the entire evening make it possible for the Trust to continue to fulfill its mission.

On behalf of the directors of the Mitchell Trust, we thank all of you who attended and donated to the annual banquet. Without your continued support Mr. Mitchell's goals could not be realized. ■



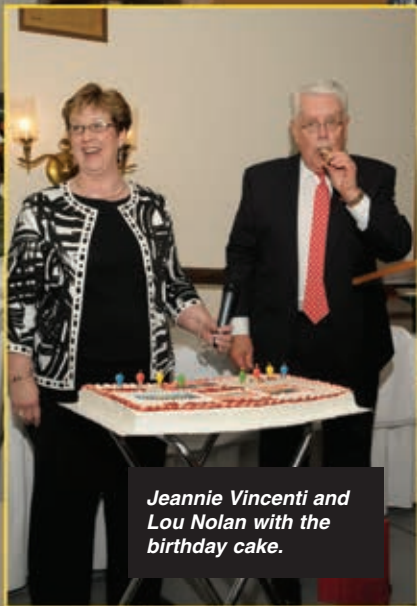
Lottery Decoys. Bryan Wood Ducks and Mitchell Black Ducks.



Todd Pauliny looks pleased to receive his plaque.



Door prizes.



Jeannie Vincenti and Lou Nolan with the birthday cake.



Ed Funk enjoying his oyster provided by Harris Seafood.



R. Madison Mitchell, Jr. and S. R. Smith show off some live auction items.



Busily distributing tickets.



Mayor Wayne Dougherty welcomes everyone to Havre de Grace.



Speaker Lou Nolan



Ed and Jane Zimmer receive appreciation for their donation of an English Breech loading punt gun.



C. John Sullivan shows off his donation to the Museum.

ALL DECKED

In early August, the long desired and much needed renovations began on the Museum's deck. The deck had been deemed unusable due to the deteriorating condition of the decking and the railing that was no longer up to safety code.

On August 9th IMark Builders began demolition of the deck. In no time the old decking was removed and years of debris and insects were cleaned up. Close inspection revealed years of water damage to the metal sheathing underneath requiring additional repairs.

With the replacement of the new deck underway, a few maintenance issues were addressed. The deck has been resealed and leaks fixed. The new planking on the deck is a UV resistant recycled plastic practically eliminating deck maintenance. The railing is made of the same UV and heat resistant materials and is stronger than the original railing. The front porch of the Museum was renovated to create a new and bolder look. The original support beams for the deck were originally covered with aluminum to create a column look. The aluminum was removed and blocks that match the ones used for the elevator were used to create new columns. New half-columns replaced the full ones on the front of the building and brown cap stones were incorporated to tie in the brown stones on the elevator addition. The front of the building and the elevator addition now appear to be one continuous building and newcomers will never realize there





Out

Deck renovation and building repairs almost complete.



had ever been an addition to the building. The overall effect, as one long-time Museum member stated, “It looks like a brand new building.”

The exterior wall of the carving room was replaced. The carving room was originally part of the parking garage that was open to the outdoors. The opening had been framed out and covered. Over 25 years of weather, snow and minor flooding took its toll. The wall was replaced with block and a new steel security door added. The new wall looks as if it had always been part of the original building.

The deck renovation has solved a number of minor maintenance issues and will enhance the visitor’s experience. The deck will now be open to the public and the view is wonderful. The next time you come to the Museum you will notice something missing. Several trees in front of the Museum near the promenade have been removed. A new native species replanting of vegetation and trees will occur. There are still minor renovations to be completed. IMark Builders did an outstanding job considering the flooding and what seems like never-ending rainy days.

The Grand Re-opening and dedication of the deck will take place Wednesday, November 2, 2011, during the Anniversary Celebration. When you receive your invitation, make plans to attend and be one of the first to walk out and enjoy the view! ■

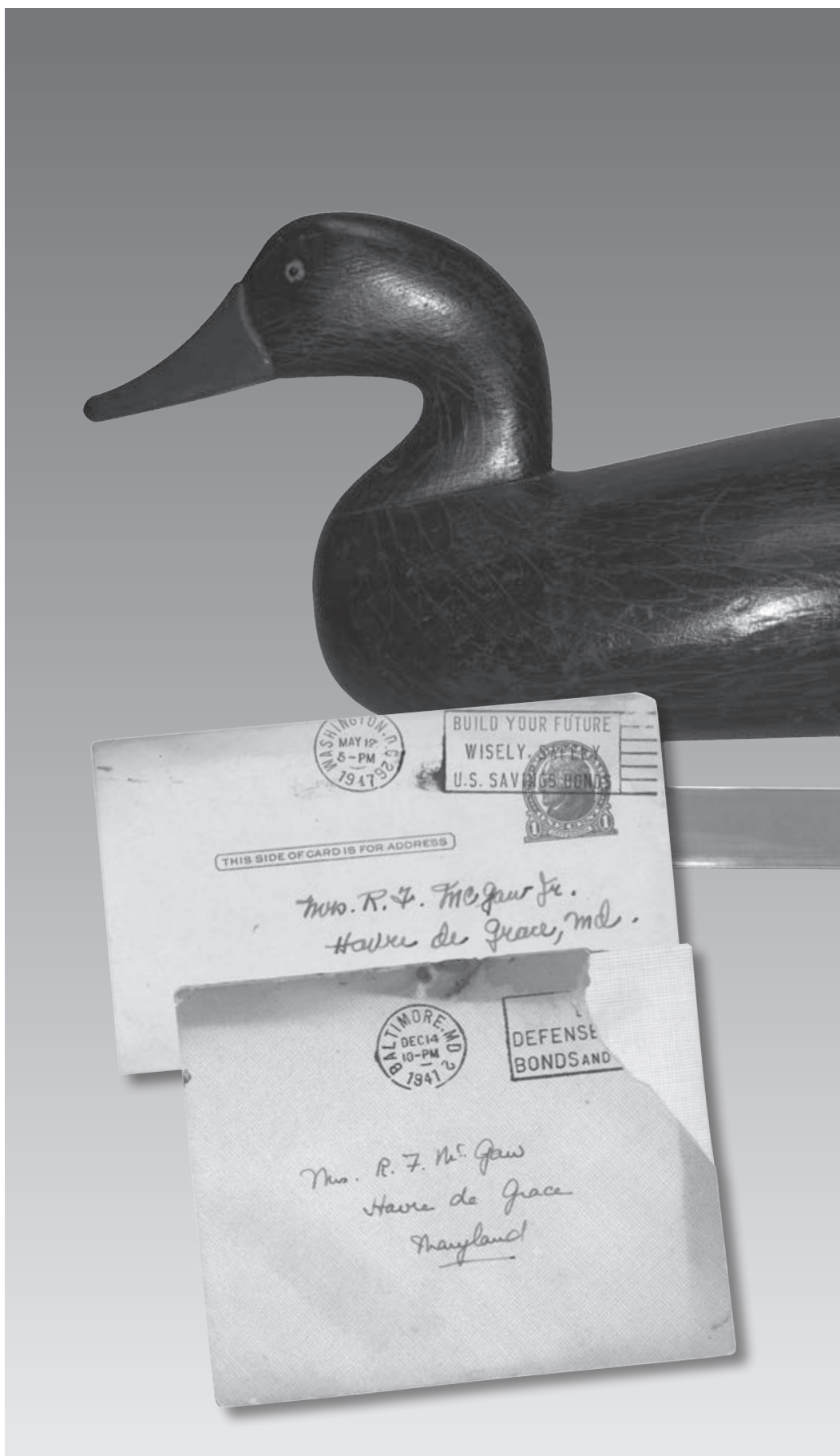
York, wrote a kind and gentle letter phrasing the beauty of the decoys she had received, and commented on the weather conditions at her home in New York stating that: "with the deep new-fallen snow, sparkling like sugar in the sun, and every twig coated with ice, we are having one of those perfect days that no human being could possibly complain about."

Most collectors of McGaw decoys are familiar with his full-size duck decoys and geese, but a few letters included orders for full-size swan decoys. The president of the Continental Life Insurance Company of Washington D.C. included in his letter of April 1944 not only his order for two full-size swan decoys, but a recommendation that Bob "drink the juice of a whole lemon in a little water three times a day with a teaspoonful of baking soda" as a cure for his arthritis. Those letters ordering swan, will spark a hope in dedicated collectors, that perhaps McGaw did create a few swan decoys.

Nearly 40 years ago, I did inspect two early swan decoys from this region of the bay. The swan were what a few of us refer to as "committee decoys." The swan heads and necks were carved by McGaw and perfectly fitted onto Madison Mitchell bodies. The match up was perfect and those old decoys were quite simply wonderful to behold.

This collection of letters reveal the depth of Robert F. McGaw's national reputation. Many of his customers had been stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground and began collecting in their days in the military community. After being transferred or moving out of the area, they maintained a relationship with Bob and Carrie McGaw. They were concerned with their medical conditions and suggested remedies and wished them good health.

Some made recommendations for personal reasons, one writer made a special request that Bob not use the typical desk blotter on the bottom of the miniature decoy bases but, rather a brightly colored felt. Whatever they included in their decoy orders, they show a genuine concern for the decoy manufacturer from Havre de Grace, for his health and his wife, and for the magnificent folk art he created. ■







Museum Members

Thank you and welcome to the following members and businesses that recently renewed their membership or newly joined us (from 5/11-9/11). Your continued support and contributions are essential to the overall success of the Decoy Museum:

DANIEL ABBATE, JR.	JOHN & ELIZABETH GROSS	ALAN & JUDY MILLER
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Make Plans Now for the 31st Annual Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival

Make sure you mark your calendars and join us for another exciting event with many decoy & wildlife artists, carving competitions, hunting and fishing suppliers/dealers/guide services, retriever dog demonstrations, dog competitions, dog clinics, live auction, silent auctions, food and more.

May 4th, 5th & 6th, 2012

Friday: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

★ LIVE AUCTION ★

ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD AT

Havre de Grace Middle School

401 Lewis Lane

Decoy Museum

Market & Giles Streets

Havre de Grace Activity Center

401 Lewis Lane (*behind Middle School*)

*call for
more information*

410-939-3739

or visit us online

www.decoymuseum.com

HAVRE DE GRACE DECOY MUSEUM
215 Giles Street • Havre de Grace, MD 21078





Chesapeake Bay Swan Display

A temporary display of swan decoys is now a focus in the main gallery of the Museum. Examples include full-size swans by R. Madison Mitchell, "Gunner" Alvin Meekins, Wildfowler Decoy Company, Milton Watson, Robert Litzenberg, and others. Additionally, a display case of miniature swan is included.

The miniatures on display were created by other Bay area carvers. Included are examples by Henry A. Fleckenstein, Jr., Captain Bob Jobes, Tom Harmon, and Captain Jimmy Wright. All of these decoys are on loan and will remain on display through 2012.





LEFT TO RIGHT: Museum Director, C. John Sullivan, Maryland Comptroller, Peter Franchot, and Museum President, Pat Vincenti pose for a picture during Mr. Franchot's tour of Havre de Grace Decoy Museum this past August. — Photo by Leo Heppner.

MEMBERSHIP UPGRADES

Coming
Soon!

Look for our new Membership upgrade opportunities in the next issue of the *Canvasback* (Winter 2011) for:

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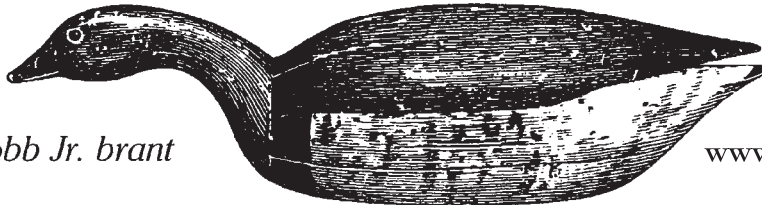
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Have You Got What it Takes to be a Volunteer?

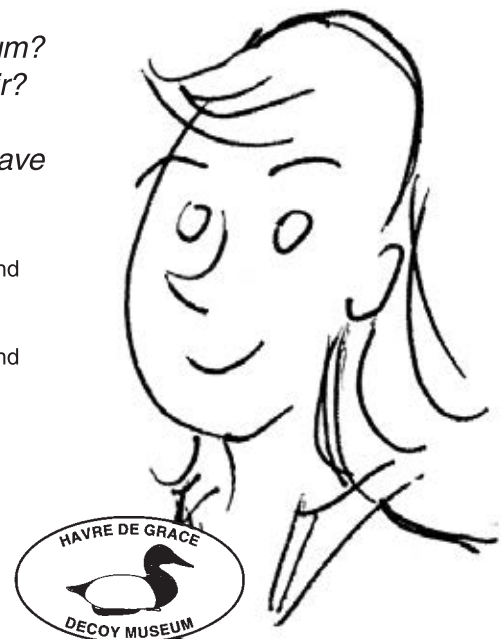
*Do you have a few hours a week you could give to the museum?
How about a few hours a year for the Festival or the Duck Fair?
Do you enjoy early morning bird walks and would you like to
share your knowledge with others? If you have the time, we have
the need.*

The Museum is dedicated to offering a wide variety of activities to its members and to the public. We are looking for volunteers who would like to assist with leading adult group tours, and/or answer phones. Can you help with large mailings or assist with special events like the Festival and Duck Fair? We would like to expand our activities and programs, but we need your help.

Volunteers are a great asset to any organization. We would love to have you come aboard.

Contact Margaret Jones

at the Museum 410-939-3739 or email us at decoymuseum@yahoo.com to see how you can become a part of our volunteer staff.



Flock to the Shop

Limited Quantities Available

Hurry in to our Gift Shop to pick-up your 25th Anniversary hat and t-shirt while supplies last!
They are going fast — don't miss out on this great holiday gift!



The Museum's gift shop has unique and whimsical items for everyone.
Remember, as a member of the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum you receive a **10% discount** on all but a few select items.

DECOY MUSEUM
Gift Shop
Located inside the HdG Decoy Museum



Calendar of Events

The Ward Foundation Education Series

Call the Ward Foundation for a complete listing of this year's seminars, classes and workshops, programs and exhibits.
Call Salisbury University Education Department at (410) 742-4988 ext 110 or visit their website at www.wardmuseum.org

The Decoy Museum's Exhibits

"Tools of the Market Gunner" Exhibit featuring a number of punt and battery guns, on loan from the R. Madison Mitchell Endowment Trust, in the Library

Potomac Decoy Collector's association High Head Decoys exhibit, second floor gallery

An exhibit of Factory Decoys, donated by Dr. M. Kramer, second floor gallery

The Magnificent Michael Bequest, an extraordinary pair of "Daddy" Holly canvasbacks, First floor near the "Gunning the Flats" exhibit

Chesapeake Bay Swans, main gallery

Tour Reservations

Book your tours early. Talk to your children's or grandchildren's teachers now about signing up for educational programs and tours of the Decoy Museum. Harford County school system classes are free and we have several different tours to offer different age or grade levels. Programs for scouts and home schooled children are also available.

OCTOBER 29TH	NOVEMBER 11TH
Community History Day, War of 1812 Commemoration. 10am-3pm. The Heritage Museums of Havre de Grace will be hosting a free Community History Day at Activities Center in Havre de Grace. Public is encouraged to bring antiques to be appraised and filmed for MPT's Chesapeake Collectibles. Music, dance, and artisans from 1812 era will perform; many history-related organizations will exhibit. Admission is free. For more information call 410-939-2100	Veteran's Day Observances. 11:00 am. Join members of the American Legion Post 47 at Tydings Park to recognize our veterans. For more information call: 410-939-0234
OCTOBER 30TH	NOVEMBER 12TH
Annual Halloween Parade! 6:00 pm registration, 6:30 pm Parade. Meet at the corner of Washington st, and Congress Ave. dressed in costume. Join us for a great parade! Sponsored by HdG Recreation Committee. For more information contact: Karen Green at 410-939-6724 or email: hdgactivityctr@harfordcountymd.gov	Historic Nature Walk on North Park Trail. 10am. Enjoy a free, guided nature and historical walk of the north Park Trail. Walk is approximately one hour. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information contact: 410-939-5780; email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website: http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org
NOVEMBER 4TH	Founder's Day at the Maritime Museum. 11am-8pm. Celebrate the Maritime Museum's founding! Enjoy a discounts offered in Museum Gift Shop. Not a member? Join today! For more information contact: 410-939-4800; email: museum@comcast.net or visit their website: http://www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org
First Fridays! 5-9pm. Come to downtown Havre de Grace for a fun-filled evening. Enjoy great music, restaurant specials and bargains at the many shops in town. A varitey of attractions for all ages are offered on First Fridays. For more information contact: Main Street, Inc. at 410-939-1811; email: hdgmainstreet@verizon.net or visit their website: http://www.mainstreethd-g.org	NOVEMBER 12TH TO NOVEMBER 13TH
	Pirates by the Bay. Sat. 10-4pm, Sun. 11-4pm. Visit the Lock House Museum to learn about the real history of piracy on the Chesapeake and its connections to our City. Visit pirate camps and watch attacks. Watch history come to life!

For more information contact: 410-939-5780; email: director@lockhouse-museum.org or visit their website: <http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org>

DECEMBER 2ND

Christmas Parade and Light Up Night with Santa! 6pm. Join us for the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting at the corner of Washington St. and St. John St. Santa is coming to town to welcome everyone to the Christmas Season and to hear all of your child's wishes! For more information contact: 410-939-2100

DECEMBER 3RD TO DECEMBER 4TH

Christmas Open House at Steppingstone Farm Museum. 12-4pm. Historic farmhouse decorated for the holidays, music in the parlor, cider and cookies in the farmhouse kitchen. Museum Store will be open for holiday gift shopping. For more information contact: 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762; email: steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or visit their website: <http://www.steppingstonemuseum.org>

DECEMBER 10TH TO DECEMBER 11TH

Christmas Boutique at the Lock House Museum. Sat. 9-8pm, Sun. noon-8pm. Enjoy shopping in an historic setting at the Lock House for handcrafted traditional holiday shopping. All of the items are one-of-a-kind, including fresh greens, made by the Lock House Ladies.

For more information contact: 410-939-5780; email: director@lockhouse-museum.org or visit their website: <http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org>

DECEMBER 11TH

39th Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Havre de Grace. 12-8pm. Begin your day by visiting the museums, shopping in the City's many unique shops, enjoy a delicious lunch, early dinner, or after tour meal at our chef-owned and operated restaurants then tour the homes from 4-8pm. Admission is \$15.00. For more information contact: 410-939-5780; email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website: <http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org>

Maritime Christmas. 10-8pm. Enjoy seasonal treats, music, demonstrations and more! Also enjoy a discount offered in the Museum Gift Shop. The Museum will be a stop on the Candlelight Tour. Free admission to the museum - tickets required for the Candlelight Tour. For more information contact: 410-939-4800; email: museum@comcast.net or visit their website: <http://www.maritimemuseum.org>

Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. 12-8pm. The Museum will be a stop on the Candlelight Tour. Normal admission to the museum will apply from 12-4pm. Candlelight Tour tickets required from 4pm-8pm. The Fall Raffle will be drawn at 4pm. For more information contact: 410-939-3739; decoymuseum@yahoo.com or visit our website: <http://www.decoymuseum.com>. For more information regarding the Candlelight Tour contact: 410-939-5780; email: director@lockhousemuseum.org or visit their website: <http://www.thelockhousemuseum.org>

DECEMBER 25TH

13th Annual Outdoor Nativity Scene Contest. Register by calling the Susquehanna Ministerium by Dec. 13 to be recognized for Residential or Business Awards. Open to the greater HdG Community. For more information contact: 410-939-5233

DECEMBER 26TH

Havre de Grace Church Tour. 2-4pm. Enjoy a free, self-guided tour of the churches of HdG. To obtain a list of participating churches, contact: HdG United Methodist church at 101 S. Union Avenue or go to the Visitor Center at 450 Pennington Ave.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information contact: 410-939-2464 or 410-939-2100.

members:

You can help promote the Decoy Museum by sending the name and contact information of your local newspaper to The Canvasback. With this information we can reach out and send our news releases to the papers in your area! Please mail this information to the Decoy Museum, 215 Giles St., Havre de Grace, MD 21078, attn: Margaret Jones or email to decoymuseum@yahoo.com

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