



The Slate

Friends of the One Room School House, Inc.,
Post Office Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431 • February 2007

Looking Back on a Very Successful Year



A vestibule was added to the One Room School in 2006.

With the arrival of the New Year, it seems only appropriate that we look back on a very successful and busy 2006, and share with you a review of our accomplishments. The vestibule restoration project has been completed so we were able to combine the re-dedication of the newly constructed vestibule with our annual Ice Cream Social and hold a ribbon-cutting to mark the occasion.

Although not part of the original building's architecture when free, public education came to Calvert County in 1865, evidence indicates that Port Republic School #7 had a vestibule prior to closing in 1932. These early educational structures, located within walking distance of the student population, were

often built with donated materials and volunteer labor as Maryland sought to provide public education at the end of the Civil War, so it would be logical that a vestibule would have been added once the school became established within the Port Republic community.

With the main structure restored in 1976 under the direction of the Calvert County Retired Teacher's Association, it had always been the desire of all involved to one day restore the vestibule as well.

The July afternoon started much like any day at a one-room schoolhouse with the ceremonial raising of the flag. Chloe Ewalt recruited several re-enactors to
(See Successful Year, cont. on page 2)





Elaine Cochran Dunkle, chair of the original restoration committee in 1976.



"Students" start the day by raising the flag.

Successful Year, cont. from page 1

provide the needed "students" for the day.

Elaine Cochran Dunkle provided the audience with several anecdotes related to the 1976 restoration of the building and recognized the efforts of several who have since passed on.

The restoration of the vestibule had always been a dream of Waters Ross, a past member of the Board of the Friends. Waters had passed away after we set out to raise the funds for the project so the Board felt it only appropriate that we recognize Waters by inviting his widow, Mamie, to help with the ribbon-cutting.

Also during the campaign, Jack Briscoe, Chloe Ewalt's father and a long-time supporter of the schoolhouse, died suddenly and the family requested that the Vestibule Project receive contributions in Jack's name. At the ribbon-cutting, Mary Briscoe joined the descendents of those who had attended the Port Republic One Room Schoolhouse prior to its closing in 1932.



Members of the Howard, Yoe and Hance families join Mamie Ross and Mary Briscoe and her daughter Chloe Ewalt in cutting the ribbon.



Sandy Roberts cools off at the ice cream social. Her drawing of the school with its new vestibule is on the masthead of this issue.



Cake to enjoy with the ice cream.



The Calvert Community Band provides music for the event.



Left: Mike Khalili and Chloe Ewalt serve ice cream to the crowd.

Yes! I Want To Help "The Friends"

MEMBERSHIP includes a newsletter plus information on activities with updates on coming events.

Make checks payable to *Friends of the One Room School House, Inc.* and mail to Post Office Box 431, Port Republic, MD 20676-0431.

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MarPat Foundation Supports Video Project



Mark Greenlees, Mary Ellen Romney and Chloe Ewalt review the questions for the video project.

With generous support from the MarPat Foundation, we set out to capture the oral histories of former students of Maryland's one room schoolhouses with video footage from the building and its surroundings. This "loop" video, when completed, will be on a monitor inside the vestibule for visitors to view and learn about the history of the schoolhouse, early education in Calvert County and to develop a better appreciation of the basic curriculum of all elementary education.

We have been recording oral histories for several years and this project allows some of these comments to be shared by the public in a 12-minute re-enactment of what must have happened during a typical day. We

engaged the services of Britannia Productions, owned and operated by Mark Greenlees of Barstow and reviewed all of the audio recordings prior to starting the filming. Upon review of the tapes it was determined that certain facts were missing from the story that the video would tell. We continued to collect oral histories

(See Video Project, cont. on page 5)



Mark shoots the opening of the school day as the "teacher" rings the bell to bring the students in for lessons.



Chloe Ewalt, right, interviews Beatrice Fletcher for the video project. (photo by Carol Khalili)



Bringing in the firewood

Video Project, cont. from page 4

while Mark set up a filming schedule that would match visuals to the stories off camera.

With the missing elements identified, the committee returned to interview former teachers or students who taught or attended a one room schoolhouse. The interview process would continue while Mark crafted a script and story board for use once filming got underway.

Filming started in October 2006 by using students to re-enact the activities in the schoolhouse. Mark, Chloe and Carol Khalili worked with these willing volunteers, some of whom are direct descendents of students who attended Port Republic School #7. We've included just a few behind the scene "stills" from that day. All of these photos are courtesy of Adrienne Greenlees.

Throughout the day-long shoot, Mark and the Committee kept the activities varied to keep the student's interests high and obtain some valuable footage. The finished product is expected to be about 12 minutes long and will have the "voice over" from the oral histories that have been collected for the past 10 years.

All of this hard work is now in final edit, and we hope to have the finished product in the monitor for use with our tourism program this spring. With the completion of the vestibule, visitors to the building will view the video before entering the building.



An older student helps out the younger children with their lessons.



Dodge ball during recess.



All of our re-enactors smile for a group photo.

**Friends of the One
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*(Newsletter layout and design by
Frances Dunkle Poling.)*

A Brief Financial Report

Bob Pfeiffer, President

Over the past two years we have been the recipients of generous financial support from individual contributors as well as several organizations with roots in Calvert County. When we set out on the Capital Campaign to raise the funds to restore the vestibule, we did so with the strong support of the Garden Clubs of Calvert County and the State Garden Club's House and Garden Tour. With that support jump-starting our efforts, we received further support from The Koenig Charitable Trust, The Christ Church Parish and The MarPat Foundation. Many of the members of the Friends stepped forward to provide large contributions, many in memory of Jack Briscoe and Waters Ross. To all of you, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

The building will always require upkeep and additional program enhancements, so we will always be looking for grants, gifts and contributions but our appeal this year was very low-key for obvious reasons; we appreciate your support and know we are but one of many non-profits that you support.

Our financial house is in order and, due to the fact that this is a volunteer run organization, our annual operational budget is less than \$2,500.00. Within the past two months we've had the exterior of the building re-painted and for the next year we will turn our attention to the collection and the upkeep of the building's interior.

Thanks again for your continued support and we look forward to the unveiling of the video in the spring. We're hoping to have a special premier, so expect an invitation.

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