



# THE MOUNTAIN MEMO

Volume 8 Number 1

April, 1992

WELCOME NEW PROPERTY OWNERS !!!!  
We have three (3) new property owners since our last newsletter. Welcome to:

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Long      B-5  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wilson    C-4  
Mr. Robert C. Handwerk,      D-15

The Board would like to welcome our new property owners. If any of the Board members can be of assistance to you, please feel free to call on us. Board members are:

Chairman  
Bud Wyman  
173 Crossbow Lane  
Gaithersburg, Md. 20878  
301-963-0232

Treasurer  
Shirley DePaolis  
101 Woodside Ave.  
Thurmont, Md. 21788  
301-271-4000

Dave Klaas  
1714 Wentworth Ave.  
Baltimore, Md. 21234

Mauricio Torres  
11841 Marmary Road  
Gaithersburg, Md. 20878

Howard Smith, Jr.  
6915 Greenvale Ct.  
Frederick, Md. 21702

Alternate  
Bill Payne  
92 Valley Oak Ct.  
Caldorf, Md. 20601

# SALE!

As promised in our last newsletter, here is a list of properties for sale by owners:

Lot A-8<sup>6</sup> 5.034 Ac.      \$8,500  
M/M Frank Stefancic  
301-865-3044

Lot A-8 5.093 Ac.      \$9,500  
M/M Robert Henninger  
401-893-2663 or 256-4749

Lot C-6 5.250 Ac.      \$10,000  
Mary Easton  
301-724-5848(H) 722-4232(W)

Lot D-6 5.436 Ac.      \$38,000  
w/2 bedroom cabin  
M/M Al Stahl  
304-263-6071

Lot D-8 5.047 Ac.      \$7,000  
Ms. Holly Sanchez  
203-790-8308(H) 791-0748(W)

For your information.....  
Lot A-4 is listed with Homestead Properties. They are asking \$10,000 for it. Idris Rossell is the realtor who has handled most of the sales on our properties. She is located at 209 N. Washington Street, Berkeley Springs. 304-258-4604. The attorney that has handled most of the settlements is Mr. Steve Mathias, you can reach him on 304-263-0836.



*Just over the mountain...*

#### A SOULFUL EXPERIENCE

Morgan County, western neighbor to Berkeley County, encompasses a wonderful blend of historic landmarks, country inns and spectacular natural settings.

In George Washington's early days as a surveyor, he sought out the place that Native Americans had known for centuries—Berkeley Springs, a series of warm mineral springs thought to have healing powers. Officially named "Bath," this 1776 Morgan County town became the nation's first spa. It rejuvenated our first president and does the same for year round visitors today.

For nearly 150 years after George Washington delighted in its mineral waters, the town of Bath continued as a fashionable and romantic resort. Summering in Bath for Colonials through Victorian industrialists meant match-making, balls, duels and daily promenades in the tree shaded town surrounding the mineral baths. A self guided walking tour through the town marks the lots of Washington family members, inventor James Rumsey and General Horatio Gates.

Today, summer is a time to enjoy the delightful in-town state park surrounding the springs. Dangle your toes in the warm spring water runoff, bring a picnic to free concerts, or slip into a heated Roman style bath daily, year round at the spa or, daily in summer, weekends in winter, at the 1815 Roman Bath House. The Museum of Berkeley Springs, housed over the Roman baths, exhibits the history of the country's first spa, daily in summer, weekends spring and fall. The Country Inn, adjacent to the park, provides lodging, dining, dancing and its own Renaissance Spa.

South of town, Cacapon State Park attracts golfers with its 18 hole Robert Trent Jones championship golf course and unusual double greens. Visitors stay in a 50 room lodge with restaurant or 30 rustic cabins. Tennis, lake swimming, boating, cross country skiing and nature and craft programs complete the scene at this wonderful recreational getaway.

South of Berkeley Springs is the acclaimed Coolfont Resort, Conference Center and Health Spa, set on 1,200 mountain acres. Accommodations range from chalets and rustic cabins to vacation homes and lodge rooms. The Swim and Fitness Club features a full spa, a 60 foot heated pool and special programs to control stress, weight and smoking.

Coolfont also offers fishing and boating and fine dining at the Treetop Restaurant.

Historic in-town bed and breakfast inns include the Highlawn Inn, Janesway B&B, On the Banks, Manor Inn and Maria's Inn, and fine dining is available at Tari's.

For night owls, there's live entertainment at Tari's. A vintage movie theater offers first run films and real popcorn weekends and all summer.

#### FESTIVALS AND FUNDS

Each year, Berkeley Springs celebrates the *Festival of the Waters*, inaugurating winter in January and continuing with special festivities and programs through March. In February, the town hosts an international water tasting.

The second weekend in August, the *Craft Studio Tour and Interior Show* features the work of artists in a display at the Country Inn and their shops around the county. Every Columbus Day weekend, downtown Berkeley Springs hosts the traditional *Apple Butter Festival*. In the park and surrounding streets, rich sweet apple butter simmers all day in copper kettles, while visitors enjoy the arts, crafts, entertainment and people—Berkeley Springs is a town where hospitality is important.

On a hillside overlooking the town looms Berkeley Castle, built in 1886-1889 by Colonel Taylor Suit for his bride, Rosa Pelham. Several rooms are open for tours, and the castle is available for weddings and special events such as murder mystery weekends.

#### TREASURE HUNTING

Nearly 100 antique dealers offer their wares at the Old Factory Antique Mall on Williams Street, the new Berkeley Springs Antique Mall, across from the Roman Bath House and the Antique House on Washington Street. The collector of arts and country crafts will find quaint shops including Shenandoah Country and Mountain Laurel Crafts.

#### LETTING THE WATERS FLOW

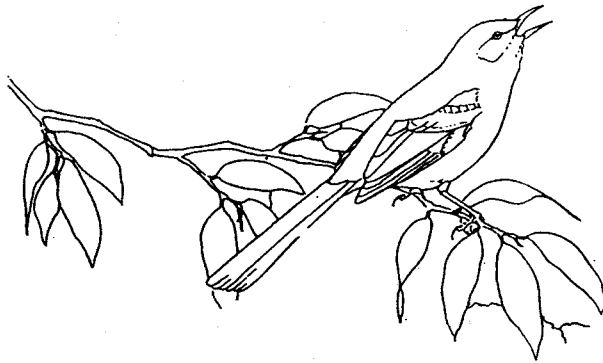
The C&O Canal was vital to early transportation in Morgan County. When the canal builders reached the mountains at Paw Paw, west of Berkeley Springs, they had to tunnel through sheer rock to continue the waterway. Visitors are welcome to walk through this engineering wonder, which runs almost a mile underground, and visit the small park at its entrance.

The town and the tunnel are named for the paw paw, a tasty egg-shaped fruit often called "the West Virginia banana."

Also west of Berkeley Springs on Route 9, Prospect Peak provides a spectacular view of the Cacapon River and the railroad from a roadside overlook.



WEST VIRGINIA FLORA & FAUNA.....



If you're a novice at "birding", beware! The song you hear may not be the elusive species you think, but the tenacious mockingbird.

Mockingbird gets its name from its ability to mimic many different species of birds. But it doesn't stop there. Bird watchers report that these imitators can also sound like insects, squeaky wheels and even human laughter.

Inviting mockingbirds to your yard or garden is not as difficult as you may think. Both the male and female build the nest made of twigs and dry vegetation in a tree, shrub,

or vines. They line the nest with moss. There are usually two broods a year, with three to five eggs per brood. They eat fruit and berries off shrubs. One of their favorite foods from a feeder is raisins. Their favorite nesting places are in dense shrubs.

A mockingbird will defend what it thinks is its territory against any and all intruders -other birds, cats, dogs, people, and even its own reflection. Because of this, many people feel that mockingbirds are a menace and don't like them in their yards. But they'll reward you with their imitations and antics.

# WILD FLOWERS

## LARGE-FLOWERED

### TRILLIUM

The name Trillium is from the Latin word *tres*, three, in reference to the fact that the parts of the flower are arranged in threes. This is the largest and most beautiful of the 5 Trilliums found in the State.

Of all the spring wild flowers, none is more familiar nor more characteristic of rich woodlands throughout the State. Like white stars they gleam from shady road-borders in every county. The corolla turns pink in age.



Trillium grandiflorum

## What Makes a Poisonous Snake

The rattlesnake and copperhead are the only two poisonous snakes in West Virginia although several of the non-poisonous snakes, especially the garter snake, will bite at the least provocation.

There are six characteristics which are commonly used to separate poisonous from non-poisonous snakes.

Our poisonous snakes have a "pit" between the eye and the nostril, a vertically elliptical eye pupil (cat-eyed), a large triangular head which is wider than the neck to which it is attached, a blunt tipped tail and only one row of plates on the underside of the tail. In contrast, non-poisonous varieties have no pit, they have round pupils in their eyes, the head is about the same size as the neck to which it is attached, the tail is usually sharp pointed and there are two rows of plates under the tail. In addition, it is safe to say that any West Virginia snake which has length-wise stripes or which is uniformly one color is non-poisonous.

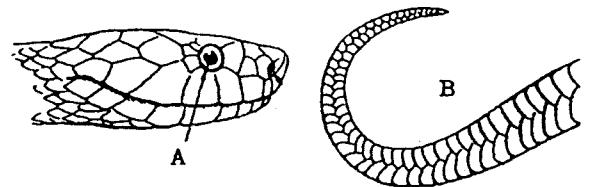


Figure I - Harmless snakes have a round pupil (a) and divided scales on the underside of the tail (b).

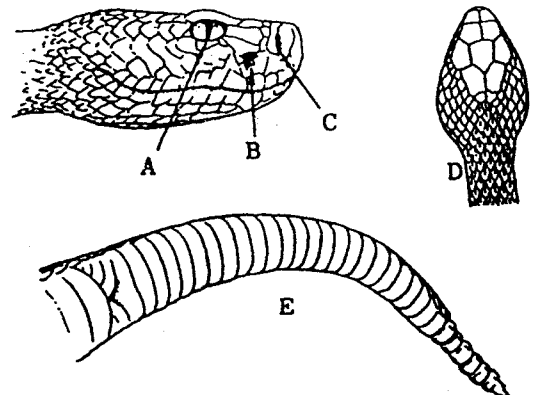


Figure II - Poisonous snakes have an elliptical pupil (a), a pit or opening (b) close to the nostril (c), a head that is much wider than the neck to which it is attached (d), and undivided scales on the underside of the tail (e).