ANNUAL REPORT OF CHAMBER OF CAMMERCE 1931

Organized in June, 1926, and beginning its operations in January, 1927, the Kent County Chamber of Commerce has just completed its fifth year of active service to the county community. It takes pleasure, therefore, in presenting the following annual report.

Although, during 1931, the Chamber has not gone aggressively into the field for major projects of its own selecting, its work has, nevertheless, grown in quantity and importance due to an augmented number of tasks the community has called upon it to perform, tasks which it has gladly undertaken. In other words, this year, as never before, the county has come to lean more and more upon the Chamber of Commerce.

Ken't School Problem

The Chamber attempted at the beginning of the year to bring to the population of the County a clear understanding of the County's school problem. To this end a number of meetings were held which were addressed by local school authorities. Moreover the Chamber turned its semi-annual banquet last spring into an open dinner meeting, which was splendidly staged by the P. T. A. Dr. Albert S. Cook, State Superintendent of Schools, gave a most informing address. Although the work of school betterment is progressing only slowly, nevertheless, the County has taken some decidedly forward steps in working out a solution for its problem. In at least one area of the county consolidation of schools, for instance, has been affected and plans for further achievement of this sort are under weigh.

The Local Hospital

At the annual meeting one year ago the Chamber pledged its support to the local hospital. Since then financial conditions have prevented the expected progress in realizing the local dream for an institution of this kind so necessary to the county. Nevertheless, the Chamber is still standing by, ready to help whenever the proper time arrives which we are quite certain is not too far distant.

Public Health

The Chamber's interest and activity in the problem of public health in Kent County increases. During the year under report it enrolled Chestertown in the Inter-Chamber Conservation Contest, sponsored by the United States Chamber of Commerce. As result, Chestertown, under the chairmanship of Dr. R. G. Beachley, Kent's full-time health officer, led in cities of its class, those under 20,000 population. This was a great honor. It was a great honor, therefore, when last May the Chamber, represented by Dr. Beachley and Nell C. Westcott executive-secretary, received a beautiful bronze plaque at the annual meeting of the United States Chamber of Commerce held in Atlantic City.

Last year again, too, the Chamber cooperated with local authorities in National Negro Health Week. For the second successive year, Kent County carried off the prize in that splendid work.

Carnegie Hero Medal Awarded

Through the efforts of the Chamber in bringing to the attention of the Carnegie Hero Fund the bravery of James Anthony and P. Medford Brooks, Jr., both of Chestertown, James Anthony was awarded a Carnegie Hero Medal and a fund to be drawn upon as needed and approved by the Hero Fund for his college education. The Chamber greatly regretted the fact that young Brooks' heroism in the same drowning accident that won the honor for young Anthony was not recognized to the same extent but rejoiced with James Anthony in his receiving recognition for his valor.

Advertising Kent

Advertising Kent County is one of the Chamber's biggest jobs. This past year it got behind the project to raise in the County an allotment for the Peninsula's advertising campaign which the Delmarva Eastern Shore Association engineered at the International Balloon Races in Akron, Ohio last summer. The required amount was promptly forthcoming. Kent thus received publicity before the one hundred thousand people attending the races and shared with the Peninsula the subsequent advertising in the rotogravure sections of the Sunday papers and movie newsreels.

Early in the fall of 1931 Samuel Massey, of Chestertown, with his family took an automobile trip to the West Coast in a covered motor wagon. With Mr. Massey's permission, the Chamber had painted on the back of his truck sides "We are from Kent County, Maryland, the County of Good Roads." Mr. Massey carried a large supply of the Chamber's road pamphlets distributing them at his several stopping places. All along his route, he found friends of Kent County and made, of course, many interesting contacts.

At the request of a responsible outsider, the Secretary has assembled a number of characteristic Kent County recipes for a project designed to bring Maryland cookery to more general attention throughout the country, in which project Kent will thus be represented.

One of the most time-consuming and perhaps the most important work which the Chamber does is answering letters and inquiries about Kent County. During previous summers the requests have been largely for information concerning rates for board by the week or month at various County resorts. This past summer, however, such requests for information were more about trips, particularly inquiries for places to get boats for crabbing and fishing parties. A few inquiries came in about summer cottages. Such letters the Chamber takes prompt care of and always with the reply literature concerning Kent County is enclosed and further correspondence solicited.

With the development of Kentmore Park, this County now enjoys practically every attraction in the way of housing facilities to offer people wanting to spend a day, a week, a month, or the season in Kent County.

For some months past the organization of a State Chamber of Commerce has been underscreeg U:ta iov-esiu zation stands ready to assist in every possible and legitimate way in this laudable enterprise. At the request of one of the State Chamber officers, Mrs. Westcott wrote an article on Kent County and Chestertown which appeared in the first issue of the magazine, Maryland, issued by the State Chamber.

Cooperating last August with the Chester River Yacht and Country Club, this Chamber sent out a number of invitations to other commerce bodies inviting them to attend the Country Club's regatta and thus aroused considerable interest in this affair in nearby cities and town.

In July, the president of the Chamber was elected Governor of the 34th District of Rotary International. Consequently the annual assembly of the District was held in Kent County, thus acquainting some 150 representative business and professional men from Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia with this community.

As the weather was extremely warm and the County hardly equipped to handle the crowd, the Committee in charge of the Assembly chartered the S. S. JOHN CADWALADER of the Ericsson Line for two days' session. The program of the dinner meeting at the end of the first day, however, one of the more prominent features of the Assembly, was held at the Hotel Tolchester. Before the dinner, the visitors had time both to take a swim and to tour parts of the County including of course, Chestertown. Kent citizens most generously lent their cars for this purpose, with the result that the Rotary visitors are still enthusiastically referring to their glimpse of Kent County on that occasion.

Since July 15 last, the President of the Chamber, as Governor of the 34th District, in covering his entire ballwick; made up of parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, all of Maryland, and the District of Columbia, has helped to publicize Washington College and Kent County to these neighboring communities and through this incidental means the Chamber has enjoyed another considerable advertising medium.

The Chamber cooperated with the first Kent County Flower Show last summer, accepting the work of getting in touch with county organizations and commercial displays for the Show. It was particularly glad to have had this small part in the splendid work that resulted in a surprisingly fine county-wide Show.

Welfare Work

The Chamber has always been something of a welfare organization.

During the past year, it has been privileged to help several times in bringing jobs and candidates for jobs together. It is always delighted to serve in this way. It has invited, and it continues to invite, any unemployed to register with it and when appropriate positions come into view such registrants are suggested as candidates. In the case of positions coming to the attention of the Chamber for whom no one registered seems to have the qualifications, the Secretary makes it her business to inquire throughout the County until a properly qualified person has been discovered.

It will be remembered that the Chamber of Commerce undertook emergency work for the needy last winter, a part of which effort was noted in the previous annual report. Subsequently to the matter of that report the Chamber continued its work as long as its funds held out. It was privileged to distribute considerable food during the winter and clothing has been distributed throughout the year. The chairman wishes to thank publicly all those who contributed money, food, or clothing for this effort.

At Christmas time this year the Chamber made another drive for useful clothing which it has been and is still distributing. It cooperated with the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company in seeking out names of children to whom the firemen might give toys at Christmas time. This was a splendid work which the firemen carried out most effectively.

The New Charter of Chestertown

The Chamber cooperated in drawing up a new charter for Chestertown which was adopted and which went into effect in August.

Just before the new charter went into effect the local Health Department, with the sympathy and cooperation of the Chamber, secured a more satisfactory milk ordinance.

Offspring of the Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber boasts of four rather vigorous offspring.

First, there is a Chestertown Mercantile Section representing Chestertown business. This Section has done substantial work in drawing the attention of the countryside to Chestertown and in trying to make of Chestertown the best possible shopping center for this area. The Mercantile Section has cooperated generously with County undertakings. Recent advertisements in local newspapers of some of the prominent merchants in town, tying up their weekly ads. with the winter's Turkey Show, is one illustration of this cooperation.

A second offspring of the Chamber is the Maryland Turkey Growers' Association of Kent County which, starting within the Chamber, has now become a vigorous separate organization. With its objectives the Chamber has been heartily in sympathy and has lent it support wherever possible.

The third offshoot of the Chamber sprang into being last year when the Chamber undertook relief work for the County. Rather spontaneously, out of this modest effort, a separate organization has sprung up this year, the County Welfare Association, to which the Chamber is delighted to give its cooperation.

The fourth child of the Chamber might be mentioned as the Society for the Preservation of Eastern Shore antiquities which, composed mostly of Chamber members and officials, put up a stiff fight to retain in the County that outstanding piece of colonial interior wood work, the panelling from the Greate Room of The Abbey which was eventually sold to the Baltimore Museum of Art. This Society hopes that the Abbey itself may yet be turned into a museum, possibly in connection with Washngton College.

All these children of the Chamber of Commerce meet in its office, use its office machinery and set-up, and enjoy the services of its executive secretary.

While some of these projects are more or less in their infancy, the Chamber feels proud of them nevertheless. While it was, perhaps, only the incubator that hatched out these youngsters, it is delighted now to see that they are scraching vigorously and achieving big things for themselves. The Chamber, by no means, wishes to take all the credit for their being but, like a foster parent, it does glory in their growth.

The Chamber is particularly proud of such an achievement as the recent Turkey Show held by the Maryland Turkey Growers' Association of Kent County, with whom it has been affiliated and for whose success its enthusiasm is unbounded.

Program for Next Year

There are so many possibilities confronting a progressive Chamber that it is sometimes difficult to know what best the organization should get back of and push most vigorously. A thoughtful survey of County interests suggests, however, such projects as the following ones which the Chamber this year expects to emphasize and hopes to stimulate interest in:

1. There is our old standby—the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. From its earliest days the Chamber has been aggressively urging, in season and out, the ultimate construction of a bridge from Bay Shore to Tolchester Beach. While at the present time, the project is dormant, the Chamber feels it necessary to keep driving at this objective. The Chamber believes that such a project, so vital to the needs of the Eastern Shore and so conformable with the progress and urge of the time for the most rapid possible transportation, will eventually be realized, if not by some private company at least by some combination of State aid and private enterprise.

The officials of the Chamber for the coming year should keep constantly in touch with Baltimore and Baltimore interests, bringing all possible pressure to bear upon the men and forces who may ultimately construct the bridge.

During the early part of the year 1932 Walter M. Kenly, a member of the Board of Directors sent in his resignation because he was leaving the county. The resignation was accepted with regret and G. Ellsworth Leary, a former member of the Board unanimously elected to fill Mr. Kenly's unexpired term.

For the second time in the life of the Chamber the officers and members were called upon to mourn the passing of a director of the Board. On January 16, 1932, Harry C. Willis, of Fairlee, died in Wilmnigton and was buried in Chester Cemetery on January 19. His passing is a loss to the citizenship of Kent County and of course to the counsels of the directors of the Chamber. His discussions of public questions were thoughtful, tolerant, and always were worth listening to; his criticisms and counsel were always to be heeded. Always interested in the welfare of the County he was particularly valuable in the good roads program. Loyal and friendly as he always was his death leaves a profound sense of loss in those who knew and appreciated him.

2. The Bicentennial of George Washington's Birthday. Kent County is favored above most other counties in having had unusual and direct contact with George Washington. In the first place, this county lay in a direct path with Washington's travels from Mount Vernon to the North. When he went to Philadelphia and New York, he found his best route to be by way of Annapolis, Rock Hall, Chestertown, Galena, and Head of Sassafras. Thus be traversed the county in its greatest dimension. Washington, himself, reports having been within the confines of Kent at least eight times. How many additional visits he may have paid to Kent we do not know.

In the second place, Washington ad a very close connection with Washington College and its then President Dr. William Smith. Every Kent Countian knows that George Washington headed the list of contributors (giving 50 guineas) when Dr. Smith started out to raise the amount of money required by the State Legislature before the Kent County School could be raised to the status of a College. Every one knows, too, that Washington accepted membership on the first Board of Visitors and Governors, attended the public exercises of the College in May 1784, attended a meeting of the Board and subscribed his name to their minutes at that time and subsequently received from the College (1789) the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Perhaps fewer people know that during the latter part of his life George Washington was rather intimately conected, through common interests in the Episcopal Church and in Free Masonry, with Dr. William Smith, first President of Washington College.

In view of these facts it seems very appropriate for Kent County to celebrate this year in connection with the Sesqui-Centennial of Washington College this Bicentennial occasion. We feel that the Chamber should lend this celebration its support and encouragement in every possible way. On the executive committee appointed by the Director of the Celebration, Marion de Kalb Smith, Jr., has been selected to represent the Chamber.

3. Kent County Schools. Consolidation is matter that has been discussed, tried out increasingly in this County and in the country at large, and found to be a progressive and economical step. The Chamber this coming year should help acquaint the County with the facts in the case for further economies and improvement in this direction. The question of a larger high school in Chestertown, which serves one-third of the county, is one of county-wide importance. The last legislature authorized the county to present to the voters the question of a bond issue for enlarging this high school at the next general election to take place in 1932. It is therefore the Chamber's business to acquaint the people of Kent County with the situation so that when the time comes they can vote upon the question with intelligence.

4. Among the matters of public health in which the Inter-Chamber Health Conservation Contest has noted Chestertown to be below par is the sewage problem. This matter is somewhat under weigh in that the State has had plans drawn for a proper disposal plant. The second matter in which this town is below par is in the consumption of milk per capita. According to best health authorities, a quart of milk a day is essential for the best development of a growing child. A survey of the amount of milk consumed here shows that the average child gets far below its quota. Milk prices have been reduced locally. It is fitting that the Chamber attempt a campaign for greater milk consumption for the benefit of the public health of the community and to give it a higher ranking this year in connection with the Health Contest.

In this year of depression 1932 it is even more important to pay attention to the report of the treasurer of the Chamber. The outstanding indebtedness of the Chamber is $138.41. The amount of outstanding dues (one-third of which easily seems collectible) is $475. A big figure it is and yet the members of the Chamber should realize that one year ago the then unpaid back dues amounted to $363, a sum which had been accumulating during the four years of the Chamber's life. The difference between these two amounts ($112) indicates the actual "Chestertown, Maryland" and on the amount of arrearage which accumulated during 1931. The officers of the Chamber bespeak the cooperation of every member in getting in these overdue amounts, most of which should be counted as assets.

The difficulties of the last twelve months through which every business man has been going is to blame for a larger number of resignations than the Chamber had had in any previous year. At the opening of 1931 our roster of members contained 125. At the beginning of 1932 the membership was 93. In spite of this faling off in membership, the President is inclined to feel that the morale of the Chamber is sound. Certainly if there ever was a time when an organization such as this should and could function in a way to serve the welfare of the County these days are that time.

Now is the time for every business and professional man to look around, take his bearing in the new surroundings, and begin to build again for a very different future than any one has ever looked forward to before. It is not the time for discouragement, but one for the use of the best brain power which every man can command. Individual success, however, in this new future is going to depend more largely than hitherto on the community and community success. It is in this common welfare, as the basis out of which individual success is to spring, that the Kent County Chamber of Commerce is interested, and it is for this community welfare that the Chamber is deeply concerned.

The officials of the Chamber, therefore, invite your heartiest cooperation in the new venture which this community, in common with every individual in it, faces. It might not be out of place to recite here the famous words of Benjamin Franklin at the time when the provincial congress was debating the matter of independence from England; he declared: "We must all hang together or we shall hang separately."

It is the increasing welfare of and through this "togetherness" that the Chamber of Commerce stresses. It covets your suggestions as to significant County services and requests your cooperation in its county-wide undertakings.

EASTERN STAR ENTERTAINS

More than one hundred members and guests attended the celebration of the third anniversary of the organization of Chestertown Chapter, No. 86, Order of Eastern Star, held Tuesday night in the Masonic Hall, Chestertown.

Mrs. Zoada Howell, past matron, was in charge of a program which included an address of welcome by Mrs. Avis Wheatley, matron; a history of the order since its organization by Arthur E. Culver, its first patron, and a pageant entitled "The Dreamer's Vision," by the Misses Kathryn Smith, Margaret Jefferson, Lucille Rasin, Patience Pyle, Enna Baxter, Miriam Smith and Helen Adams.

Musical selections were presented by Mrs. Fred G. Usilton, Mrs. Fred G. Livingood, Mrs. Richard A. Groves, Charles Harris, Jr., Mrs. W. Ernest Griffith and Dr. Fred G. Livingood. Mrs George H. Cannan gave a reading.

MILLINGTON

Frank Barnhart, of Chestertown, visited his mother, Mrs Annie Barnhart over the week end.

Rev. Garner, of Valley Lee, Md., pastor of Holy Cross P. E. Church, Millington was to hold service at Millington on Sunday night but was prevented by illness. His pulpil was filled by Rev. Lane, of Cecilton, Md.

Mrs. C. T. Brannigan, of Winchester, Va., is visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Paul Comegys and is sick.

The Faithful Workers Sunday School Class of Asbury M. E. Church had their monthly meeting at the home of Miss Elizabeth Semans on Monday night, February 1st.

Miss Irma Lawyer and Miss Frances H. Fisher, of Pennsylvania, were visitors of Mrs. H. R. Rasin on Saturday last.

Miss Jennie Grass, of Richardson Park, was a guest last week of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Tobin.

Mrs. S. S. Comegys entertained at cards on Friday evening of last week, among those present were: Mrs. Merritt Brice, Miss Clara Bryan, Mrs. R. M Logan, Mrs. H. R. Rasin, Mrs. Spencer Stevens, Mrs. John H. Ahern, Mrs. Paul Comegys.

Mrs. Harry L. Higman attended the funeral of her mother, Mrs. T. Johnson Booth, of Media, Pa., last week; she returned home on Friday and was accompanied home by her father, Mr. Booth.

Miss Pauline Comegys, of West Minster, Md., was a week end guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Comegys.

Miss Pauline Jones, of Wilmington, was a week end visitor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Jones.

Service at Trinity M. E. Church South, February 14th, Sunday School at 2 p. m.; Preaching service at 3 p. m. in charge of presiding Elder Rev. John Paul Tyler. All are welcome.

Mrs. William Reese who has been sick for the past three weeks is somewhat improved.

Because of inclement weather last Thursday evening the attandance at the play presented by the members of Millington Epworth League was not as large as hoped for but we wish to thank all who came and who helped in any way.

The business meeting of Millington Epworth League was held at the home of Edward Walls, near town, Tuesday, February 9. A good number were present and several added to the membership.

KENNEDYVILLE

Mr. Mason Willis and friend, of Philadelphia, spent the week end with is parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Willis.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hill entertained Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hill and Robert and Miss Walls and Mr. Wiltbanks to dinner on Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. James Weer entertained Mr Ferguson and Miss Owens on Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. James Weer entertained Mr. Ferguson and Miss Owens on Sunday evening.

The Sewing Club met at the home of Mrs. Harry Hill Wednesday afternoon.

Miss Nellie Lee, of Wilmington, spent the week end with Miss Nola Hill.

Mr and Mrs George Ringgold spent Wednesday in Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Caldwell and family, of St. Micheals, spent the week end with relatives here.

The Mite Society will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Webb next Wednesday evening, February 17.

Mrs. Lewis Grantlin returned from a Wilmington hospital this week very much improved.

Service in the M. P. church as usual next Sunday.

Service in Grace Presbyterian church next Sunday evening at 7.30 p. m.

Mrs. Brown has been on the sick list the past week.



A good resolution to *make* —a better one to *keep!*

Yes—we know. Some resolutions are just made to be broken. But when you've "solemnly resolved" to be on time during 1932—stick to it!

And better still—slip a Gruen on your wrist and be doubly certain. The Gruen is a watch you can wear with pride—a watch you can trust. For *it is as honestly fine inside as it is beautiful outside.* You'll be sure to find just the model you want in our store. Many for as low as $25. Others to $100 and even $500.

Ostende . . . *Gruen Timekeeping Baguette,* **$85**
Below: the Gruen **Chelsea $40**

J. S. KREEGER
Jeweler and Optometrist
Chestertown Maryland

Member GRUEN WATCH Guild

Wm. Medders & Co SPECIAL ATTENTION TO TELEPHONE ORDERS Still Pond, Md

We make FREE DELIVERY via ERICSSONTRUCK to your town

This is Our "Inventory Sale"

Only Comes ONCE A YEAR

RealClearanceof Stock at Such Bargain Prices

$35 Axminster 9x12 Rugs	$19.75
$25.00 Body Brussel Rugs	$13.50
$2.00 Small Brussel Rugs	$1.00
$4.50 Large Bed Blankets	$2.75
$2.00 Double Bed Blankets	$1.00
$10.00 Brown Enamel Beds	$5.50
$10.00 All Cotton Mattresses	$5.50
$15.00 Layer Lelt Mattresses	$9.00
$35.00 Box Spring Day Beds	$22.50
$35 Velour Steel Spring Couches	$22.50
$35.00 Enamel Kitchen Cabinets	$22.50
$7.50 Porcelain Top Tables	$4.50
$1 Aluminumware Percolators, Roasters, Kettles, etc., all	50c

20c Flower Sifters	10c
20c Heavy Dust Pans	10c
20c Steel Frying Pans	10c
20c Enamel Sauce Pans	10c
20c Gray Agate Dippers	10c
20c Heavy Dripping Pans	10c
20c White Enamel Cups	10c
10c Toilet Paper, 1000 sheets	5c
5c Toilet Paper, roll	2c
5c Pint Tin Cups	2c
5c. Percolator Tops	2c
10c Heavy Fire Shovels	5c
50c Enamel Cooking Ware	25c

©Maryland State Archives msa_sc3326_scm8227-0065