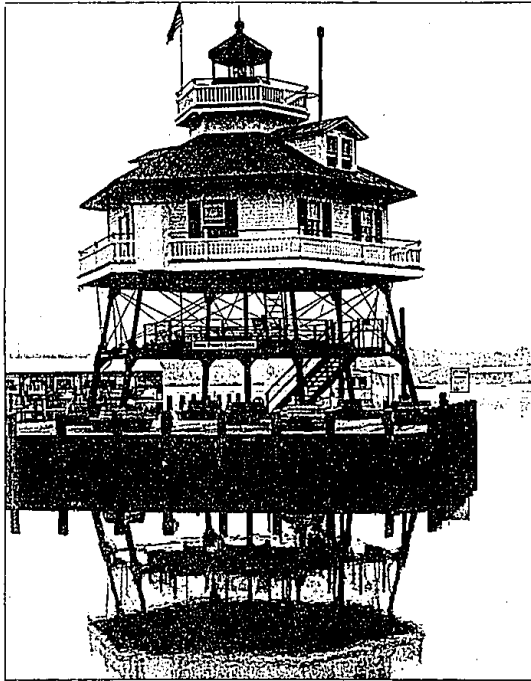


Travel



EC(B, Wb)R6-6D, S-9C, F-10C, *5C

O&E Thursday, November 6, 1986



The Drum Point Lighthouse in Solomons, Md., makes a picturesque reflection in the water.

Maryland brings 17th century back to life

When you get off the bus at Historic St. Mary's City in Maryland, you are standing on deserted roads, with nothing but a bright blue barn (break the wilderness of grass and trees).

This is the site of the first Maryland colony, which thrived here from 1634 until the capital was moved to Annapolis in 1695.

There were only two existing colonies on this Atlantic coast when the Ark and the Dove sailed in 1634: the Plymouth Colony to the north and Jamestown City to the south. This was the frontier of the New World, with the Chesapeake Bay in front and a totally unknown continent behind.

There is nothing here anymore, but what America gained when they moved the capital to Annapolis were the foundations of a 17th-century town, with no 18th- or 19th-century buildings built on top of it.

THE AUTHENTIC 17th-century world is now only underground, but what they are recreating on the bluffs overlooking the St. Mary's River is a taste of the Elizabethan world.

The Brentland Farms Visitor Center has exhibits and films that answer fascinating questions. Why did those 17th-century settlers leave England and why did they come here? England was overpopulated and running out of resources in the days of the first Queen Elizabeth.

Good Queen Bess was not so good to Catholics, so a Catholic nobleman called Lord Baltimore asked for and was given permission to lead a colony to the New World.

1-of-a-kind traveler
Iris Jones
contributing travel editor

The expedition tried and rejected Newfoundland. It sailed into Chesapeake Bay over the objections of Jamestown colonists, who thought they owned the New World for themselves.

The Baltimore party picked this part of the peninsula because fur traders led them to a friendly Indian encampment and the Indians sold them a village, land, longhouses and all. That meant the colonists could go to work right away, establishing plantations to grow tobacco and building the small town that was the colony's legal center. They called the town St. Mary's City.

YOU CAN RECONSTRUCT the way the settlers lived from artifacts archaeologists have dug from the ground, but the best way is to walk or drive to the site where recreated settlement buildings are bringing the 17th century back to life half a mile from the Visitors Center.

If you walk through the empty farm fields, you come upon a scattering of buildings — the Bromo-Howard Plantation House, a few restored buildings and a small sign that says "This is the center of

what was once the town of St. Marie's City."

It doesn't look like much now, but with a little help from your imagination you can see a brick ordinary on this side of the path, a wooden ordinary on the other side, a few crude huts, a distant chapel. An ordinary is a large house where travelers stopped to eat and drink.

Travelers only came in "public times" but the ordinaries did very well. There was no place else to go, no Holiday Inn a round the corner.

As you follow the path along the bluff, you find several of the 17th-century buildings restored on their old foundations. It is fun to visit the Maryland Dove, the State House of 1676, Farthings Ordinary and Arbor (you can lunch in the arbor) and the Old Trinity Church, especially in their setting against the very real St. Mary's College.

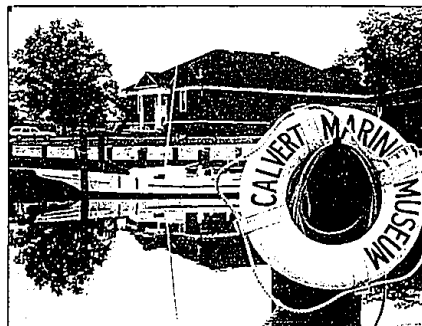
THE BEST history lesson is at Goddard's tobacco farm. Goddard will be leaning in the doorway waiting, with his big bushy black beard and his rough medieval clothes. He will lead you through the kitchen pantry and up the stairs to the loft, but most of all he will tell you what it was like to live here in the 17th century.

Historic St. Mary's is in St. Mary's County at the tip of the peninsula south of Baltimore and Washington. Several festivals are held in the summer, along with a popular outdoor theater. For more information, contact P.O. Box 39, St. Mary's City, Md. 20686.

Or call the state tourism office toll-free (800) 331-1750, operator 250.



Pepper Langley (top), one of Solomons' colorful characters, keeps alive the old woodcarving skills at the Calvert Marine Museum (bottom) in Solomons.



Fiesta Sun
Playa Plata
Playa Dorado Holiday Inn
Directly on the Beach!
1 Wk. From \$781 CDN. • 2 Wks. From \$1061 CDN.
Departure Sundays Nov. 2 to Dec. 7
SPECIAL FEATURE! Free Saturday Night Accommodation in Toronto at the Howard Johnson prior to departure.

WOODSIDE.
TRAVEL SERVICES
660 Ouellette • Windsor
313-964-3500

By Iris Jones

His real name is James Leroy Langley, but everybody in Solomons, Md., calls him Pepper. Pepper was born here, on what used to be an island.

The two big oyster companies piled their shells between the mainland and the island, and somebody eventually built a road on top of the shell pile, so it isn't really an island any more.

Pepper still calls it "The Island," as do the other people who have spent their lives working the Patuxent River flows into Chesapeake Bay. That's what Marylanders say — "The River" — but when you approach it on state Highway 4 across the new Patuxent Bridge, you may wonder if you've ever seen this river before.

There is fresh water upstream somewhere but by this wide water inlet, its bays stretched to the land with marinas and town docks, it is definitely salt.

Pepper's father was a painter in the local shipyard and most of the young men in town grew up in the fishing industry, but James Leroy Langley was an artist from the first. He spent 19 years carving and painting signs for the Patuxent Naval Air Test Center, but his heart has always been in the seagulls, eagles and other seacoast friends that come to life under his carving tools.

PEPPER RETIRED 23 years ago, after three heart attacks, and somewhere along the way he started thinking about a marine museum to keep Solomons' history intact forever. By that time, both the oysters and the cheap labor were gone, victims of over-harvesting, environmental damage and social progress.

captain Joe Lode, president of the Calvert County Historical Association, got the first \$500 grant for the Calvert Marine Museum, which opened in 1970 in the old Solomon High School.

The restored brick building stands on a slight rise above the river, with the 1883 Drum Point Lighthouse glowing in the reflective water of the nearby and a boat house full of red fishing boats beside it.

Interpreters demonstrate oystering, crab pot and trolling fishing, as well as other centuries-old skills at the Small Craft Shed. If you come at the right time, you might also see racing boats from the nearby Solomons Island Model Boat Club or the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, or a demonstration of small craft skills in the boat basin.

"Pepper" Langley works in the Woodcarving and Model Shop of the museum. They devoted the woodcarving studio in his honor. His son, Jimmy, he only one of the four Langley boys who took to woodcarving, works there too.

THE MUSEUM contains seashell and fossil exhibits, and an exhibit

called "War on the Patuxent: 1814," which shows the Chesapeake Flotilla's defense against the British Navy. If you want to see what life was like when Pepper was a young man, look at the oyster nets and the fishing boats.

You can even take a one-hour tour of the Solomons Harbor on the William B. Tension, a "log-built bugeye" made in 1880 as an oyster boat and now the oldest certified passenger-carrying vessel on Chesapeake Bay.

The Wm. B. Tension is all spiffed up and ready to go under the guiding hand of Capt. Jim Tallant, but if you want to see the Tension in its authentic role as an oyster boat, drive down the road to the town of Solomons where the J.C. Lore Oysterhouse has been restored as a Calvert Marine Museum exhibit.

There is a 12-minute film that tells the town's story, a 19th-century tale of oyster beds planted and dredged, of oysters bought from local fishermen and dumped in a pile at the oysterhouse for the shuckers and packers.

There, for a dollar a bucket, the

shuckers opened the oysters one by one, singing "down by the riverside" as they worked. Twenty-one gallons came went into a wooden barrel and were sent to restaurants and dinner tables.

EVENTUALLY, the inevitable happened. The oysters were overharvested. The water was polluted. Social progress created a world where shuckers wouldn't work for \$1 a bucket. And the oyster business died.

There are still a few boats, and you can still buy good seafood in the town restaurants. But most of the old world of Solomons is preserved now in the Calvert Marine Museum, and by the tales told by James Leroy Langley — Pepper to his friends. Pepper was nominated this year for a National Heritage Fellowship Award.

For more information, contact the Calvert Marine Museum, P.O. Box 97, Solomons, Md. 20686 or the Maryland Office of Tourist Development, 45 Calvert St., Annapolis, Md. 21401. The state has a toll-free number for tourists: 800-331-1750, operator 250.

FANTASTIC TRAVEL SERVICE
CRUISE NIGHTS
NOV. 11, 7A P.M. - NOV. 12, 7:30 P.M.
15345 Midland (to the lake) 4310 Orchard Lake Rd. (in Pine Lake Mall)
RSVP: 724-0271 724-0270
R.S.V.P. 724-0270 724-0270
• FILM • FASHION SHOW • GREAT DISCOUNTS • REFRESHMENTS • Mission for the United American Cancer Society

The 10-Day Week
for the price of a 4 night cruise.
Includes:
• 4 night cruise • 3 nights at Disney Hotel
• 3 day pass to Magic Kingdom & Epcot • 2 Nights at Oceanfront Hotel • Car Rental
From \$495 per person Family Plan ONLY \$340 per person
Other good thru February, 1987
Scottie Travel 277-3800

It's Harbor Island Spa's "2 Day Give-a-way"
2 DAYS FREE!
Room Rate Includes The SPA
• 3 supervised meals daily
• 2 snacks daily
• Free massages
• Nutritional
• Exercise & Yoga classes
• Spa for men & women
• Weight loss plans
• Sauna, steam & facial
• Water exercises
• Lotion Body Rub
Call Toll Free Now:
1-800-SPA-SLIM
Every caller will receive a free valuable calorie & nutrition calculator plus information about
HARBOR ISLAND SPA'S 2 DAYS FREE
Starts Dec. 20th: Our Holiday & New Year Gift To You
(Last check-in day January 5th)
3rd PERSON FREE
ADULT OR CHILD IN ROOM — EARLY RESERVATIONS PLEASE
Call now for low rates and information:
Harbor Island Spa 1-800-SPA-SLIM (1-800-772-7546)
On Biscayne Bay Between Miami & Miami Beach ***10 day minimum stay. Poolside Lanai or waterfront Tower Suite.

SAVE 15% to 60%
Join HOTLINE HOLIDAYS
TRAVELQUEST DISCOUNT TRAVEL CLUB
HOTLINE HOLIDAYS acts as a clearinghouse for several Tour Operators, Charter Airlines & Cruise Lines. IF YOU CAN TRAVEL ON SHORT NOTICE (booking 3 days to 6 weeks prior to departure) you can save anywhere from 15% to 60% of retail rates. You'll sail the same cruise ships, stay in the same hotels, and be treated just the same as the full paying passengers.
Based in Michigan, HOTLINE HOLIDAYS/TRAVELQUEST, offers more sunshine destinations with convenient Detroit departures.
Send your check, money order, or card number in the amount of \$25.00 for 1 year membership per household to: HOTLINE HOLIDAYS, 24800 Northwestern Hwy., #105, Southfield, MI 48075. Or, call (313) 357-5940.