



One of the beautiful features of Chesapeake Bay are the sunsets.

Paul Marti last year set off on a trip of a lifetime. Marti, who teaches history and geography at Rochester High School, plans to sail around the world. From time to time on his epic journey, he will be pausing to pass on experiences to *Street Scene* readers. The following is a summary of his trip along the eastern seaboard late last summer.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY, Sept. 1-Oct. 15** — Great storms have always fascinated me. Comfortable and secure in my home, I've watched for hours as the heavens cracked with lightning and the sounds of thunder and wind enhanced nature's magnificent show.

Today, storms not only fascinate me, but also dictate routes to be followed and areas to be avoided.

The North Atlantic hurricane season, which lasts from June to early November, made our choice of route south quite simple. We would hug the U.S. East Coast and follow the intracoastal waterway to Miami. If a hurricane should occur, we would have ample warning and be able to find a suitable anchorage to ride out the storm.

A pleasant side benefit of this route is the relative comfort of protected waters and the opportunity to sail the Chesapeake Bay, one of America's premier cruising areas.

I remember Dennis White, my eighth grade history teacher, explaining that the Tigris and Euphrates rivers formed the cradle of civilization. A good case can be made for the Chesapeake Bay being the cradle of American civilization.

As a lover of history, I was delighted and excited to explore Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake is America's largest bay, stretching 190 miles from its northwest corner to the Atlantic Ocean in the Southeast. Its width varies up to a maximum of 30 miles. The bay is bordered by the states of Maryland and Virginia.

**TO ARRIVE** in the Chesapeake Bay from New Jersey, we sailed south from the Barnegat Inlet with stops at Atlantic City and the beautiful port town of Cape May, N.J.

It was early September and already a hint of fall in the air. At this time of year, I would normally be learning the names of new students and settling into the challenge of a fresh school year. Instead, on that first day, we sailed up the Delaware Bay and made a night passage through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canals.

It was the first day that I experienced a bit of homesickness. Starting back to school, seeing friends, both staff and students, are always a pleasure. As the day passed, my mind drifted to thoughts of Rochester High School and happy memories.

We anchored that evening in Chesapeake City, Md., along with many others in a tiny bay a short walk from town. Chesapeake City is considered the gateway to the Bay and houses the original pumps, built in 1837, to fill and empty the locks of the old canal.

After a rainy morning walk for groceries and stove fuel, we started down the Elk River and entered the Bay.

Our plan was to spend about five weeks on the Bay. Enough time was planned to explore a little, meet up with friends and time our passage south to avoid the hurricane season.

Both Betsy and I had been looking forward to the

## Sittin' on the dock of Chesapeake Bay

### CIRCUMNAVIGATION - a journal

Chesapeake and slowing our pace. The first three months of our journey were spent mostly in passage-making. This was our first opportunity to gear down and stay in one area for more than a few days.

Virtually every river and inlet has something to offer. If one wants, you can find solitude in the quiet anchorage of the eastern shore. For the first few days we did exactly that. In Worton Creek, in Fairlee Creek and the Sassafras River, we visited places Capt. John Smith wrote about in his travels of 1607.

Switching sides of the Bay is like switching worlds. From the 18th century villages of the eastern shore, we sailed across to the bustling city of Baltimore.

The first views of Baltimore are of heavy industry, both active and defunct. The harbor is somewhat dirty with ships of a dozen nations waiting at anchor to load or unload the cargoes of the world. Today, Baltimore

is one of the East Coast's busiest harbors.

Early Baltimore played an important role in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Fells Point was the center of shipping that supplied our fledgling Navy in our struggles against the British. More than 200 privateers sailed out of Baltimore to wreak havoc on the British fleet.

It was the bombardment of Fort Mifflin by the British in 1814 that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner." A flag with 15 stars still flies over the well-maintained fort.

Past Fort Mifflin, downtown Baltimore — like downtown Detroit — is reclaiming its waterfront. Shops, restaurants, parks and cultural institutions line the harbor.

**WE PLANNED** our arrival with that of the Detroit Tigers and saw Jack Morris pick up his 17th win in a 12-4 rout. I was surprised by the large number of Detroit fans cheering the Tigers on at Baltimore's Municipal Stadium.

From Baltimore, we headed down the Bay, spending a few more days in quiet anchorage, doing chores and meeting some of the local people.

Along the western shore of the Bay, homes dating back to colonial times share the waterfront with the modern urban sprawl of the Washington-Baltimore-Annapolis complex.

Annapolis was our next stop and, for us, the most

enjoyable big city of the Bay. We spent about two weeks anchored just off the U.S. Naval Academy. Evenings were always a pleasure as the Navy Band tuned up for Saturday football games.

Founded in 1649, Annapolis is a beautiful city. Much of it remains the same as in the days of the Revolution. The State House, where Gen. George Washington resigned his commission in 1783, is in the heart of the city's historic district and a few minutes' walk from the harbor.

In the harbor, we anchored near "Piet Heyn" and spent a good deal of time with the DeLangs. Case and Mary DeLang, formerly of Southfield, are also heading south to winter in the Bahamas. We have become quite good friends and have enjoyed Mary's superb cooking while hearing of their world travels and future plans.

Both Mary and Case are a delight and are one of the several Michigan crews we met heading south.

**ANNAPOLIS ALSO** was the meeting place for our first visitors from home. Bob and Suzanne Baldwin of Rochester came down to cruise with us for a week. We were both excited about having company and catching up on news from home.

With the Baldwins, we sailed across the Bay to St. Michaels, Md., and spent time anchored off the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. We also sailed down to Oxford, Md. Both towns date back to the 17th century and share our colonial heritage.

The Bay was at its best for the Baldwins, good breezes and swimsuit Indian summer weather. As Suzanne would say, it was "bloody wonderful."

After parting with the Baldwins, we returned to St. Michaels to do some much needed boat work and catch up on some passage reading.

In the overall circumnavigation plan, the Chesapeake and the Intracoastal portions are some of the easiest miles we shall travel. Being in protected waters in American territory with friends visiting, we feel more on vacation than on a leg of a world journey.

However, we certainly are enjoying the benefits of cruising in America, knowing that our next leg will take us to the open sea and unfamiliar lands.

We returned one last time to Annapolis, this time by car. Dave and Judy McWhirter of Rochester came down to visit and we all took in the Annapolis sailboat show. The McWhirters are also sailing enthusiasts and are a familiar sight, sailing their 28-foot Pearson sloop Nari Lea on Lake St. Clair.

At the boat show, we picked up several items we needed for Keemp and also spent some time looking at other yachts, planning our dream boat.

With the boat show over and our company gone, it was time once again to start heading south.

**WE LEFT** St. Michaels on Oct. 13 and headed through exhilarating days of sailing to Norfolk, Va. The winds were cooperative as we broad reached in 25-30 knots of air, enjoying the sunshine.

Almost six weeks had passed since we left New Jersey and entered the Chesapeake. During that time, we had a chance to explore and learn more of the local history, had an opportunity to share time with friends and prepare the boat for the next leg of our journey.

On Oct. 18 we passed the U.S. Navy Yard at Norfolk and began the 1,000-mile intracoastal passage to Miami. Our goal was to be provisioned and ready to depart for the Bahamas in time to enjoy Thanksgiving in the sun.



There are a lot of sights to visit around Chesapeake Bay. One is the U.S. Naval Base in Norfolk, Va. Paul Marti grapples with some crabs, which are plentiful in the bay.

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Some of the festivals built around spring wildflowers and morel mushrooms have been held during the past week; the Lewiston Mushroom Festival will be held May 14. Springbrook Hills Resort at Walloon Lakes will build you a weekend package around mushroom hunting through May 22.

That should get your deep breathing started.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT dates in

May: Tulip Time in Holland May 11-14; Maifest in Alpena May 14; Maple City Metric Bicycle Tour in Adrian May 21; Heritage Festival, Big Rapids May 20-22; Spring Kite Festival, May 21; and Windsurfing Regatta May 28-29 in South Haven.

Also: Volksmarch, a 10k walking event in Grandville May 24; Highland Festival and Games May 28-29; Michigan Great Lakes Wildlife Festival in Clare May 28-29; Fort Michilimackineac Pageant May 28-30; annual horse pulling contest in Fountain May 30.

On those same May 28-29 dates you might explore a festival I have just heard about for the first time: Feast of the St. Clair at Pine Grove Park in Port Huron. It is a living history re-enactment of the historical events of the 17th and 18th centuries: life styles, crafts, camp life, Indian rituals, colonial French dancing, life and drum corps and all. Call 982-0891 for more information.

And just to alert you to early June: Cereal Festival, Battle Creek, June 2-4; Festival '88, Grand Rapids, June 3-5; Lilac Festival, Mackinac Island,

May 3-12. More June events in our pages for the next two weeks.

If your fantasy of the great spring outdoors includes a fishing rod, the Tawas Bay Fishing Derby runs through Sept. 5 (telephone 800-55-TAWAS); the Steelheaders Annual Fishing Tournament will be held in South Haven May 13-15; the Lake Charlevoix Area Trout Tournament is on May 20-22 (616-651-5768); and the Memorial Day Sportfishing Tournament is scheduled in Pentwater May 28-30.

**PLAN AHEAD.** You can fish any

of the inland streams, rivers and lakes, or the Great Lakes, during the Third Annual Free Fishing Week, June 11-12. You won't be required to have either a fishing license or a trout-salmon stamp, but other normal fishing rules apply.

And if you need a little fishing advice from your friends at the DNR, ask for the pamphlet Michigan Fish and How to Catch Them. Call the Fisheries Division of DNR at (317) 373-1280. For fishing conditions around the state, call the conditions hotline (317) 373-0908.

Springtime  
is a busy  
time