

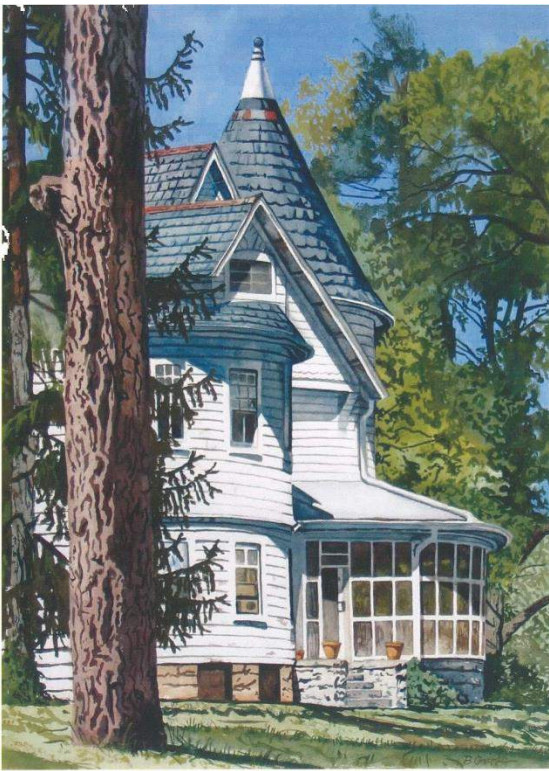
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Gary & Diana Ditto's Newsletter

Fall 2013

A Visit with Gloria and Dan Botkiss 60 Years on Carroll Place - Part 1

By Antoinette Kranenburg



Gloria Botkiss, a substitute teacher, was on her way to work at Kensington Elementary School, when she spotted the lot on Carroll Place. The area was still wooded and wet from a creek. It was the early 1950ies and a developer was building new homes, working his way down the street.

At the time, Dan and Gloria Botkiss and their young daughter made their home in Wheaton.

After coming out of the Army in 1945, Dan had gone back to Penn State to study business and hotel administration. That is where he met Gloria, a pre-law student. They married and had a baby.

Because Gloria is a 4th generation Washingtonian, the young couple wanted to settle in the Washington area. Gloria's father, an auditor for NBC, was born at 13th and Gallatin and her mother grew up near the Capitol. Gloria was born in Petworth at 4th and Kennedy and later moved to 8th and Dahlia.

There was a shortage of housing after the war and a place to rent was hard to find – no pets, no babies, Dan explains.

...continued on page 2

Painting courtesy of Dan Botkiss, artist unknown.

Carroll Place forms a circle around Warner Mansion with its sloping lawns and grand old trees. Built by Washington financier Brainard Warner as a summer home, the historic Queen Anne home was originally named Hadley Hall. A large barn with two cupolas, once part of a farm, functioned as a carriage house and still stands. From 1951 to 2005 the property was home to Circle Manor Nursing Home. Purchased by the Montgomery Parks Department through the Legacy Open Space Program, the grounds are now a public park. An extensive restoration of the historic property is nearing completion.

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- Gloria and Dan Botkiss *continued*

Thanks to the G.I Bill the young family was able to buy a house in Wheaton with a \$5 down payment! They lived there 5 years.

The house on Carroll Place was built "to spec" for them, and on top of that, to help them buy their new home, the builder bought their house in Wheaton.

They liked Kensington. You could walk to the bank and the grocery store, as you still can today. In bad weather you had the train. Dan remembers that when it snowed he would take the train down to Union Station, hail someone for a ride downtown, have breakfast at the Mayflower Hotel, then go to his office at Connecticut and K.

Gloria taught in local schools for 30 years, as a substitute teacher. She vividly remembers her time doing practice teaching in Ms Andrella Buchanan's first grade at Kensington Elementary School. She is not sure of the spelling of Ms Buchanan's first name, but she remembers her fondly as an excellent teacher.

"She was tiny with size 4 1/2 shoes and at perhaps 4 foot tall hardly taller than the children." Every day Ms Buchanan would bring her Chihuahua to class, which the children loved. Though Ms Buchanan could no longer see well, she knew the books by heart and so she was able to teach first grade.

Prompted by Dan, Gloria explained how she came to organize substitute teachers. The Board of Education had decided to cut the pay for substitute teachers in half from about \$30 per day to \$15 per day. "Lee James and I were in the Teachers room when we heard. I said it is unfair and we decided to form a group of substitute teachers. We got a good group and went to hearings."

When told they would have more clout if they joined a union, they formed the Maryland Association of Substitute Teachers (M.A.S.T.) and joined the Montgomery County Education Association (M.C.E.A.) Dan remembers Gloria being in the news and on the radio as president of M.A.S.T. Eventually they were able to stop the pay cut.

Mr. Botkiss served in the European theater under General Patton with an army anti-aircraft outfit. His job was to shoot down V1 flying bombs, a precursor of today's drones. He operated the unit's Range Setter Instrument to set the elevation and azimuth of a target after deciding whether it was friend or foe. Then the anti-aircraft gun would be set in power.

He was awarded 4 Battle stars, one of them for the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. His unit was set up between Metz and Nancy. Luckily the Germans went through Belgium, bypassing Metz and Nancy.

He served on the Kensington Town Council for 6 years, 3 terms. He was zoning chairman for the Town Council and Chairman of the Maryland Municipal League. Asked what moved him to public service Dan says "I am the type of guy, if I get interested in something I want to follow through and make a contribution." He was concerned about preserving Kensington's character as small town with a garden city history.

To be continued in the next newsletter



10th Annual Cardinal 5K Race

Saturday, November 9, 2013, 8:30 a.m.

Come out for the 10th annual Cardinal 5K and 1/2 mile Kids' Fun Run/Walk and support Holy Redeemer School. This year's race introduces the new ChronoTrack B-Tag timing technology. The light-weight disposable tag attaches to the reverse side of the bib and records each runner's official time, from crossing the start line to reaching the finish line. Please visit www.cardinal5k.com to register online.

New Noyes Library Advisory Committee



Volunteers needed!

Kathie Meizner, Library Manager for *Kensington Park* and *Noyes Children's Library*, is forming a Library Advisory Committee (LAC) for the Noyes Children's Library. The LAC gives local input to the countywide board and, very important, is a way for the library to get ideas and feedback from the community. The LAC will meet about 5 times a year for about 1.5 hours, most likely on a weekday evening. *Please consider joining!* To volunteer or learn more about this opportunity, contact Kathie Meizner at 240-773-9505 or Kathie.meizner@montgomerycountymd.gov.



Lawrence J. Cohen, author of *Playful Parenting* and the newly published *The Opposite of Worry*, will give two talks on how empathy and playfulness can help children and teens move from anxiety, worry and fear to connection, trust and balance.

Thursday, November 7, 7:30-9 p.m., in Potomac, \$25

Friday, November 8, 9:30-11:30 am, in Bethesda, \$35

Register at www.PEPparent.org or call 301-929-8824

Christ Church Kensington's Annual

Big Apple Turnover & Rummage Sale

Saturday, November 2, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

4001 Franklin Street, Kensington



It is Fall and time for apples and rummage sales! Come to shop and have a delicious lunch. The Rummage Sale includes kids clothing & toys, books, housewares, jewelry & accessories, collectables & decorative pieces, sporting goods, electronics and more. Apple Delights will include homemade pies, apple baked goods, hot & cold cider and lunch features homemade soup & sandwiches. For more please visit www.ccpk.org; to help please contact Caroline Turner cjt220@yahoo.com.



The 3rd annual *All Aboard Kensington!* model train show put smiles on faces young and old. The history of Kensington is intimately connected to the railroad and there is just something about trains that captures the imagination. Be sure to *save September 13 and 14, 2014*, the weekend after Labor Day, when this wonderful show returns.

All Aboard Kensington! benefits the Noyes Library Foundation and the Kensington Historical Society. Under the slogan *Make More Noyes!* the Foundation is raising funds for the much-needed renovation and expansion of Noyes. The proposed project will provide three stories of beautiful space within the historic building, all to further the Library's mission of connecting children and their families to the world of books.

A big thank you to the National Capital Trackers, members of the Kensington Historical Society and the Noyes Library Foundation, railroad story teller and singer Matthew Dodd, JennyCakes Bakery, Scout Troop 439, the Town of Kensington and all who made the event possible.

For a video of this year's event and possibly a glimpse of your (grand-) children and neighbors, visit www.thedittogroup.com.

Silent Auction



Saturday, October 26, 2013, 3 to 5 p.m.
Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church
 10123 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington

Come for afternoon tea and an opportunity to bid on a wide variety of goods and services. The funds raised in the silent auction will be used to provide disaster assistance, medical care, education, clothing and hunger relief. To donate an item, contact the church office at 301-949-2900 or Office@WarnerMemorial.org.

E-Mail Updates from The Ditto Group—

Sign up for either or both of these updates:

- Our Monthly Sold Reports, sent via e-mail
- Our weekly "Open House" e-mail

You choose what to sign up for and you can always unsubscribe. Sign up on our home page:

www.thedittogroup.com.

For dates and news of more events, be sure to visit the Community Activities Calendar on the web site:
www.thedittogroup.com

Gary and Diana Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. The editor is Antoinette Kranenburg of Kensington, assisted by Cherry Wunderlich. Many thanks to Gloria and Dan Botkiss for their stories and all they do for Kensington.

Art and Craft Fair

Saturday, November 9, 2013, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Woman's Club of Chevy Chase

7931 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, Maryland

Local artisans will sell hand-made jewelry, clothing, glassware, art work in oils, acrylics, and watercolors, children's books, quilts, pottery, and more. Lunch will be served between 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. The fair benefits non-profit community organizations.

Community Yard Sale, Treasure Trove, and Book Sale

Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Over 1000 fiction biographies, history, and other reading material will be for sale at ridiculously low prices. To rent a space for the indoor Community Yard Sale on Saturday, November 16, please go to www.wccmaryland.org. Proceeds benefit charities and scholarships in the community.

The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own"

Sunday, November 17, 2013, 2 p.m.

Stravinsky's "L'Histoire du Soldat" performed in its entirety with the narration.

Friday Morning Music Club Concert

Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at 12:00 p.m.

A free concert of Haydn, songs by Brahms, Schumann, and Handel and more, followed by a tea reception. Reservations are not required. For details go to www.wccmaryland.org and click on public events.

2nd Annual Living In Pink Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, October 19 and 20, 2013

Kensington Antique Row

Come shop along Kensington Antique Row to benefit breast cancer research all weekend. 10% of all sales by participating merchants will be donated to Living in Pink, an organization run solely by volunteers and 100% of the funds raised goes to qualified breast cancer research. Antique Row offers art galleries, lighting, furniture, linens, jewelry, vintage and new clothing, and several eating establishments. Shops will have SPECIAL SALES and there will be beer tasting on Saturday. For details visit www.kensingtonantiquerow.com.



Kensington Arts Theatre Presents:

PARADE

Parade brings to life the tragic, true story of the trial and lynching of a man wrongly accused of murder. Written by acclaimed playwright Alfred Uhry (*Driving Miss Daisy*) and composed by Jason Robert Brown, PARADE won Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Score in 2000. Its subject matter offers a moral lesson about the dangers of prejudice and ignorance that is not to be forgotten.

Kensington Arts Theatre performs at the Kensington Town Hall. Starting with PARADE there will be raised seating. Performance dates are October 25, 26, November 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16. For tickets and more information please visit www.katonline.org or call 206-888-6642.



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The Ditto Group Real Estate Activity



For Sale

4016 Cleveland Street
 Kensington/Chevy Chase View
 List Price - \$979,000



For Sale

9917 La Duke Drive
 Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
 List Price - \$919,000



For Sale

3814 Washington Street
 Kensington/Kensington
 List Price - \$775,000



For Sale

3517 Plyers Mill Court
 Kensington/Kensington
 List Price - \$579,000



For Sale

3419 Plyers Mill Road
 Kensington/Kensington
 List Price - \$475,000



UNDER CONTRACT

10203 Clearbrook Place
 Kensington/Martins Add to Ch Ch View
 List Price - \$639,000



UNDER CONTRACT

9312 East Parkhill Drive
 Bethesda/Parkhill
 List Price - \$695,000



UNDER CONTRACT

9834 Campbell Drive
 Kensington/Rock Creek Hills
 List Price - \$595,000



SOLD 10/15/2013

3502 Kensington Court
 Kensington/Kensington
 \$ 685,000



PUMPKIN COUPON

Bring this Coupon & Receive One
 Free Child Size Pumpkin
 for Every Child.

WHERE: The Park Across from
 St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 10401 Armory Ave, Kensington

DATES & HOURS: Oct 16-31st
 Monday - Friday: 2:00-7:00 PM
 Saturday 10:00-7:00 PM
 Sunday 11:30-6 PM

"Pumpkins with Purpose"

All proceeds from "Pumpkins With Purpose"
 support the Volunteers in Mission trip to
 Nicaragua and our Hunger Ministry
 which provides food to our neighbors in need.

