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Gary Ditto's Newsletter

SPRING 1995

More Remembrances by Alfred D. Noyes, age 87

In this issue, we continue our feature on Alfred Noyes who has much to say about Kensington in the early days.

In the 1920s, as an alternative to the commuter service of the B&O railroad, many Kensington residents used streetcars to get to the District. The end of the line for the trolley car service was just 2 1/2 miles from Kensington, but without a road in between Kensington and the closest station in Chevy Chase Lake, commuters were unable to take advantage of the streetcar system. In 1906, Mr. Phillips acquired a defunct railway line and began offering Kensington residents connecting trolley car service to Chevy Chase Lake. The 15-minute trip over a winding, unballasted track was operated by a one-man crew who collected fares with power cut to half-speed, and the car moving at not over five miles per hour. From Chevy Chase Lake, it would take about an hour by Capitol Traction Company streetcar to get to Washington.

During the early years of its operation, the trolley line was a familiar Kensington institution which fostered a great feeling of camaraderie between passengers and operator. The morning cars not only carried commuters to work, but also high school age students to school, since there were no high schools near Kensington. As a child, Mr. Noyes and his brother sold the Washington Post and the Washington Times for two cents a piece to commuters. It was here that they met up with some of Kensington's most interesting residents. Many were Union civil war veterans who worked for the government and used the streetcars to get to Washington. Mr. Noyes fondly remembers one of the veterans, Major Hartshorn who used to joke about Mr. Noyes as a boy, saying "You're just like a sore thumb, you're always on hand." He describes another colorful commuter, "Mr. Cannon, a confederate civil war veteran and "unreconstructed rebel" who used to wear his gray confederate coat in the winter." In 1925, the Capitol Traction Company took over Mr. Phillips' line, and in 1933, the operation was abandoned altogether with the substitution of buses.



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School Days

Mr. Noyes recalls that the elementary school in those days was housed in two separate buildings on Armory Avenue where the Community Center is now located. The smaller of the two buildings was a two-room school house for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. The larger building was a 4-room frame structure that housed the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades. The town later acquired this building to house the volunteer fire department before it was eventually destroyed by fire.

Because children in Maryland were only required to attend school for 11 years, it was difficult if someone wanted to go on to college in another state where the schooling requirement was usually 12 years. Many families who wanted to send their children to college in another state would enroll them in 8th grade at the E. V. Brown School across the District line. In 1927, Mr. Noyes graduated from Central High School in Washington, D.C., where his father was a history teacher for over 30 years.

Mr. Noyes attended Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. He finished up his law degree by attending night classes at the National University Law School which later became the National Law Center at The George Washington University. From 1946-1970, Mr. Noyes was a Juvenile Court Judge in Rockville.

Though no longer a Kensington resident, Noyes believes that parts of Kensington have retained much of their small town charm. With memories like his, we can imagine what it must have been like in that era.



Summer Quest '95: Books Are Amazing

Whether you are in town or traveling, your child can enjoy books all summer. To encourage and help elementary school children to read all summer, our public libraries are sponsoring Summer Quest.

Taking part is easy. Come to the Kensington Park Library any time starting June 15th. Each child will receive a card for a free McDonald's meal and a list of special Summer Quest events, in addition to their own game board and stickers. Children set their own reading goals for the summer program, which continues through September 2nd.

A magician will start off the county's Summer Quest '95 Kickoff on June 2nd at 4 p.m. at Wheaton Plaza's lower level. Children and their parents are invited.



Share Yourself with Youngsters

If you are over 55 and have a desire to enjoy the pleasures of sharing with young children in day care centers, the Interages Grandcare program is looking for you. Register now for a three-day training class that will prepare you for a fun, meaningful, and interesting experience in a part-time, paid position in a child care center in Montgomery County.

Through this intergenerational program, you can pass on your favorite songs, tell stories of how it used to be, and give lots of loving attention to youngsters who will thrive on it. The loving attention you receive in return will put a whole new perspective on the joys of "intergenerating." Call Harolyn Cohen at Interages for detailed information about the training class starting in June. The phone number is 949-3551.

**Hawkins Produce —
A Family Affair**



Just about everyone in the Hawkins family has helped out in one way or another at Hawkins Produce on Knowles Avenue in Kensington. Ann Hawkins began selling garden-fresh tomatoes, jams, and jellies from a picnic table 16 years ago. In the years since, Jim Senior, Jim Junior, and Joe Hawkins, as well as their friends Dottie and Eliza have become familiar faces at Hawkins. Jim Junior will be graduating from college in May. Hawkins Produce will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day until Christmas Eve. Ann welcomes suggestions about anything they can do to serve the community better.



Need Yard Help?

Many Parkwood neighbors remember Patrick Dillon, the teenager, when he was mowing lawns and doing other yard work during his high school years. He's continued his education and has now started a small business in the neighborhood. PSD Maintenance will do mowing, spring cleanups, general yard upkeep, seasonal work, hauling, or whatever else will help you. For free estimates, call Patrick at 564-0003.

Gary Ditto's Newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. It is edited by Kensington Communications.

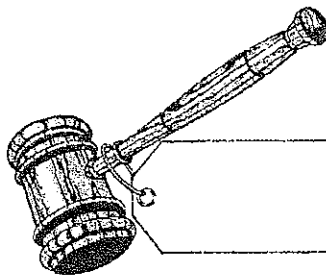
Come to the Noyes Benefit Auction!

Strathmore Hall will definitely be the place to be Thursday evening, June 1st, and we hope you'll be there too. People from near and far are gathering in support of Kensington's wonderful Noyes Children's Library. The very first library in the entire Washington area, this cozy 100-plus-year-old building houses a special collection and offers services for all the children of Montgomery County. Its funding comes from a private-public partnership. This evening's event is sponsored by the Noyes Children's Library Foundation.

The benefit auction promises to be *A Garden of Delights*—art by Mary Anne Reilly, P. Buckley Moss, and John Lutes...spectacular birdhouses, mailboxes, and garden furniture...vacation packages...an Arch Campbell Sneak Preview Tea...tea with Diane Rehm...a command performance by John Lyon's new band Kensington Station....and much more will be on the auction block. The festivities begin at 7:30 p.m.

Veteran auctioneer John Chirtea will preside, with guest appearances by columnist Bob Levey, newswoman Gail Pennypacker, comedian Chip Franklin, musician John Lyon, and other local celebrities.

The evening will also feature a light buffet, dessert, wine, and champagne. Tickets are \$30 each, and you'll be benefiting a wonderful cause. To order tickets, please call 929-0861.

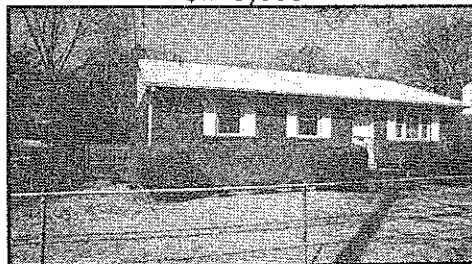


**FOR SALE
\$319,000**



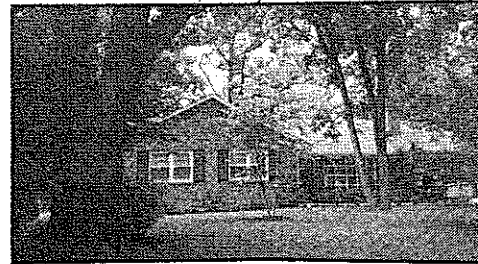
3824 Warner Street, Kensington
Classic 1906 Victorian. Master Suite w/ Cathedral Ceilings, 4 add'l Bedrooms, LR, DR, Country Kit, Full Basement, Large Pvt Yard w/ Deck

**FOR SALE
\$145,000**



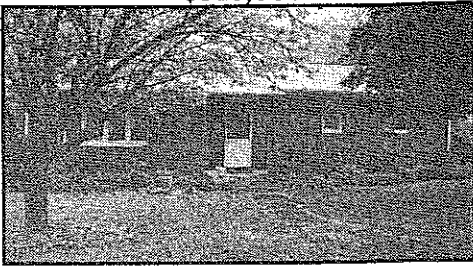
11708 Rocking Horse Rd,
Rockville
Rambler in Great Condition.
Liv Rm, Din El, Rec Rm,
3 BR, 1 BA

**FOR SALE
\$315,000**



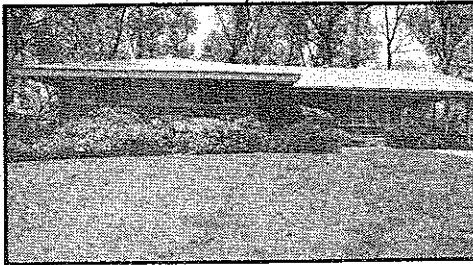
3104 Kent Street, Kensington.
Fabulous Opportunity!
Renovated Ranch.
New Kit, LR w/ FP,
4 BR, 3 BA

FOR SALE
\$310,000



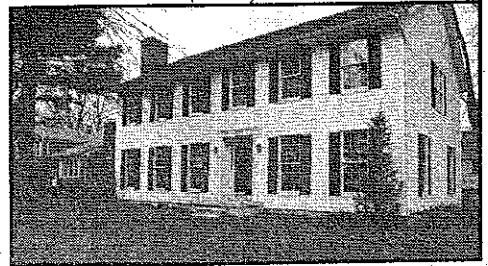
4509 Dresden Street, Kensington
Outstanding Home. New Gourmet
Kitchen plus Addition with
Cathedral Ceilings. 4 BR + Den

FOR SALE
\$399,000



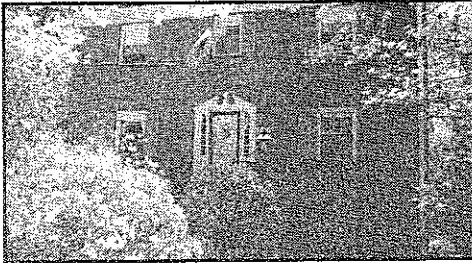
5805 Lenox Road, Bethesda
Renovated Ranch
Updated Kit, Lg Liv Rm w/ FP,
Hdwd Floors, Rec Rm, 4 BR, 3 BA

FOR SALE
\$349,900



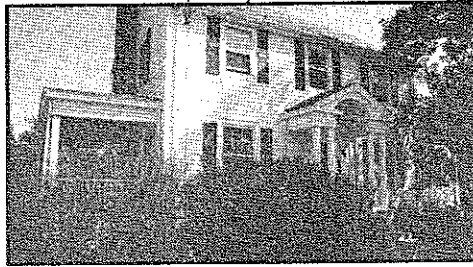
4313 Clearbrook Lane, Kensington
Colonial w/ Country Kit,
Liv Rm w/ FP, DR, Hdwd Flrs,
4 Lg BR, 3 BA

FOR SALE
\$439,000



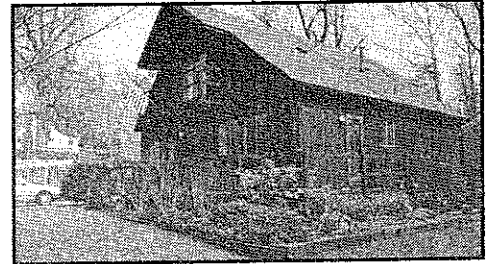
3404 Kent Street, Kensington
Classic Colonial - Mint Condition!
LR & FR w/ FPs. Screened-In
Porch, Office, 4 BR, 2 FB & 2 HB

FOR SALE
\$299,000



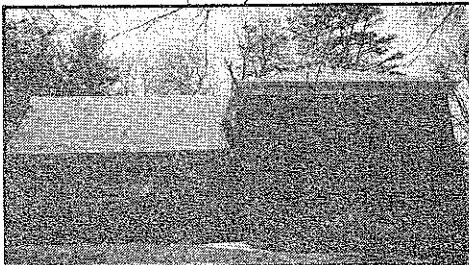
4315 39th Street NW, D.C.
Exquisite Colonial. Deck, Liv Rm
w/FP, FamRm, In-Law Suite, 3 BR,
Remod Kit, Close to Metro, More!

FOR SALE
\$269,000



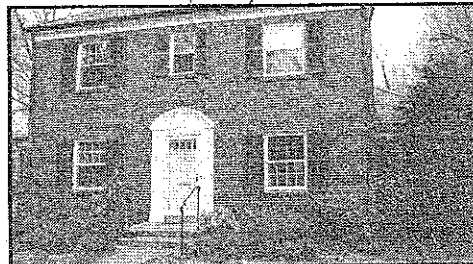
10707 Saint Paul Street, Kensington
Unique Home
Many Decks, Beaut. Landscaping,
Liv Rm w/ FP, DR, DN, 3 BR, 2 BA

FOR SALE
\$439,000



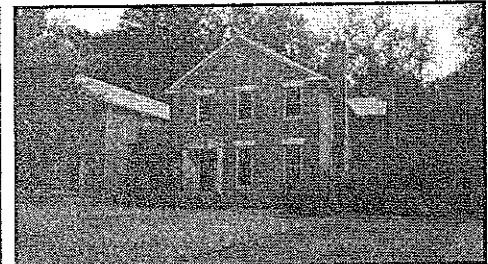
3612 Littledale Road, Kensington
Fabulous 5-Level Split!
Liv. Rm. w/ FP, Din Rm, Lg
Screened Porch, Updated Kitchen

FOR SALE
\$399,000



4109 Oliver Street, Chevy Chase
Updated Colonial. Liv Rm w/ FP,
Den, Fam Rm, Refinished
Hdwd Flrs, 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA

UNDER CONTRACT



10007 Kensington Parkway,
Kensington. Colonial in Exc.
Condition. Fam Rm w/ FP,
Din Rm, Liv Rm, Pool, 4 BR

*Each of the homes pictured in this
newsletter is a Gary Ditto listing.*

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