

Mill House Monthly
August, 2018

A Publication of the Occoquan Historical Society



Psst. Have you heard?

The Occoquan Historical Society is hosting a fund raiser on October 7, in River Mill Park. It's a fried chicken dinner with all the fixings. We are invited! Home-made ice cream for dessert too. Save the date and I'll tell you more later on.

When I Wander from Occoquan.....

Marge Shaffer

President, Occoquan Historical Society

My family reunions with my children and grandchildren are always energetic and fun. In the past, we did things like white water rafting, jet skiing, zip lines, hiking and biking. This year we visited Moab National Park and Arches National Park in Utah for a week of extensive trekking, ATV off-roading and rappelling.

Yes, for the first time, I rappelled down two vertical slot canyons! I was a little shaky at first but it became really fun before too long. The first was a 130 foot drop and the second was just over 100 feet. The floors of the canyons were a cool reprieve from the hundred degree temps above.

I should mention that these hikes were not strolling pathways but instead were rocky uneven hills. One early morning trek of about 10 miles became HOT, HOT, HOT before noon in the Moab desert. Mercifully, we had the foresight to wear Camelbak water-filled backpacks and we soaked our hats in each of the tiny cool streams we crossed.



For the 3-mile night hike to Delicate Arch in Arches National Park, we not only wore the water-filled backpacks, we also donned lighted headbands to help us climb the uneven rocky terrain. I must confess, some of the time, my teenage grandsons held my hand to guide me in the dark. (I loved it and secretly wanted to hold their hands once again anyway.)

Would I do it again? You bet, but in cooler temps not in the unforgiving July heat.



Previous page: Marge starting her descent into the canyon.
Top: delicate Arch at night.
Above: Marge and her grandsons.

Looking Back

The article below is from our Mill House Museum scrapbook collection. June was the first president of the Occoquan Historical Society when it formed in 1969 as Historic Occoquan Inc. June has remained not just a member of the historical society but has served on the board every year since. That's 49 years with 50 rolling around soon. A better example of community service can't be found!

1992

She wore every hat in town

Occoquan legend calls it a career

By SARAH CAGLE
Journal staff writer

Ask June Randolph what happened in Occoquan in a given year and she has to stop and recall whether that was when she was town postal clerk, a Town Council member, town clerk, town treasurer, town judge or mayor.

Randolph, 72, has dedicated 35 years of public service to the merchant town since moving there with her husband in 1954. One day in 1989, she even sported the town sergeant's badge because former mayor Charles Pugh wanted her to have held every position in the town's government.

"I can't remember the order [of the positions]," she said, laughing. "It was all very rewarding."

But more than likely, Randolph can recall just what was going on in the historic community each year. And whatever it was, she probably helped make it go more smoothly.

"I don't know of anything in the town of Occoquan she hasn't played a part in," Pugh said. "She has been everything you can be in this town. She's always there when you need her."

This month, Randolph exchanged her position on the town Planning Commission — which she chaired for 22 years — for a life of traveling and spending time with her grandchildren.

"It's probably beyond the time I should have retired," she said. "The older I get, the harder it is to sit still."

Randolph, who served in the FBI and the Navy before entering



Andrew Farewell/Journal

June Randolph has held every major municipal job in Occoquan, including mayor.

town politics, has seen Occoquan grow to a thriving tourist spot. She was the first chairman of the Planning Commission and wrote the zoning ordinances for Historic Occoquan.

In the early 1960s, she secured a loan to buy the current Town Hall, then a Methodist church,

which is now named Davis-Randolph Hall. In the 1970s, she also bought the land for the Mamie Davis Memorial Park, named for the former mayor.

"Mamie Davis is an icon in town," said former council member Robert Lehto, "but I think June is on the next rung."

OCCOQUAN

JUDY FORSBERG — 491-2329

Famous quilt on display at museum

POTOMAC NEWS, Dumfries, Va., April 18, 1979.

Have you heard about "Agnes," but never seen pictures of her? Have you heard about the famous Occoquan quilt, the "before" Occoquan, and the arrowheads that were found on Gordon Boulevard but never seen them either?

This weekend you will have your chance. To continue the 10th anniversary celebration of Historic Occoquan Inc., the Mill House Museum will open Sunday at 2 p.m. This date commemorates the meeting of April 22, 1969, when of-

ficers were elected, the name Historic Occoquan, Inc. chosen, the slogan selected—"Research, Restore and Promote Occoquan," and first steps taken to establish a museum.

All friends of Occoquan are invited to this official opening of the season. Hostesses will be on duty on all Saturdays and Sundays through June 30, thereafter on a daily basis through October. Come and enjoy the charms of Occoquan, especially of the Mill House Museum.



POTOMAC NEWS, Wednesday, June 9, 1971, Page B-1

3rd ANNUAL OUTDOOR Antique Sale

Commerce Street, Occoquan, Va.

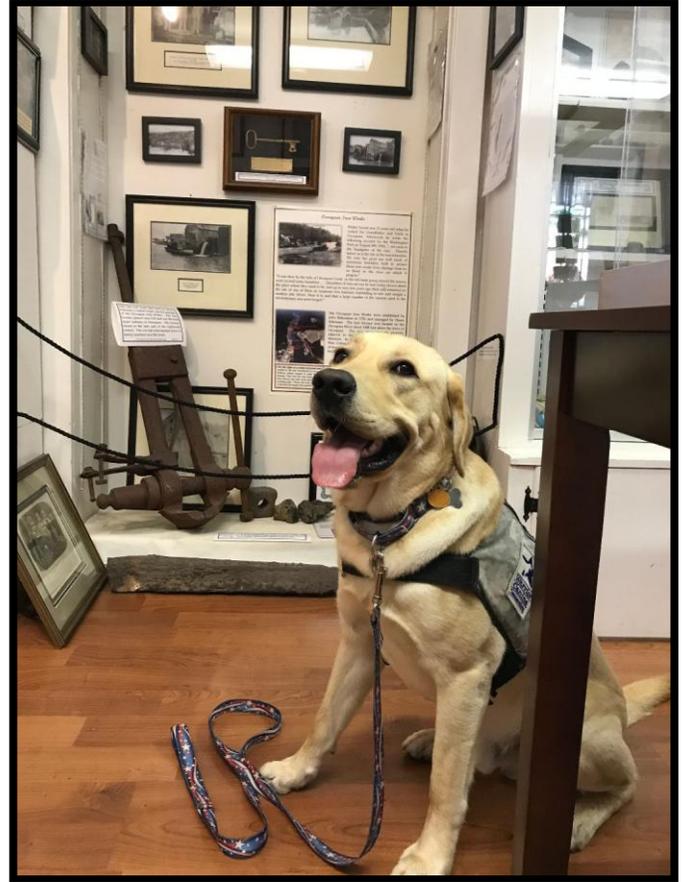
Saturday, June 12
10 'til 6

A once a year opportunity to view the wares of numerous antique dealers.

Sponsored by
Historic Occoquan, Inc.

The scrapbook page above covers two different dates in history. In 1979, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the historical society, the article asks if you have seen the famous quilt, the locally found arrowheads and the "Hurricane Agnes" pictures. Have you? We still have them; stop in to look at those and many more exhibits on Occoquan history!

The museum photo on the left is before the cul-de-sac was re-designed, we are sans benches and planters, and our museum sign hangs above the door. The yearly antique sale began in 1969 to raise funds for Historic Occoquan Inc. This would eventually evolve into the bi-annual "Town of Occoquan Arts and Crafts" shows.



Troy, a WCC Service Dog

On Sunday, August 5, Troy stopped at the Mill House with his people. He was a perfect gentleman during his visit to the museum. WCC stands for Warrior Canine Connection. The program connects service members or veterans with combat stress to train future service dogs for other Wounded Warriors. Visit www.WarriorCanineConnection.org for more information.

Mill House Museum, PO Box 65, 413 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125
www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org 703-491-7525
Open Sunday through Saturday 11-4

