

'Monocacy' film premieres Sunday

By IKE WILSON
News-Post Staff

"Monocacy," a two-hour journey into the prehistory of Frederick County, will premiere at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 28, on Cable Channel 10, the local origination channel of GS Communications. Two encore showings are planned in April.

The word "Monocacy" is an old Indian name meaning "river of many bends" or "well-fenced garden." Monocacy was the earliest known name for this area or the land encompassing the Monocacy River, valley and immediate surroundings.

The documentary begins about 1.2 billion years ago and chronicles the geological and meta-geographical events that shaped the region. The processes that created landforms and waterways such as Catoctin Mountain, Steiner's Hill, Rocky Ridge, Chimney Rock and the Potomac and Monocacy rivers are explained.

In addition, early life forms such as marine organisms and land dwelling dinosaurs are explored.

The documentary's second hour takes a look at the first humans who inhabited and traveled through the area. These people predate the earliest known German settlers to come into the Monocacy Valley by some 12,000 years. The Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods, along with the Woodland period of Indian habitation, are discussed in reference to Frederick County.

The program will take viewers up through the 1500's and concludes with a tour of local archeological sites and related findings.

"We are very excited to cablecast the Monocacy documentary," said Rich Angerman, general manager for GS Communications in Maryland. "It is another tribute to the great heritage of Frederick County, and we are committed to projects such as this that serve in educating and entertaining our customers."

Narrated by Tim Marrone, the program includes a collection of knowledgeable and experienced commentators. These include Edward J. Kerns, former director of the Frederick County Board of Edu-

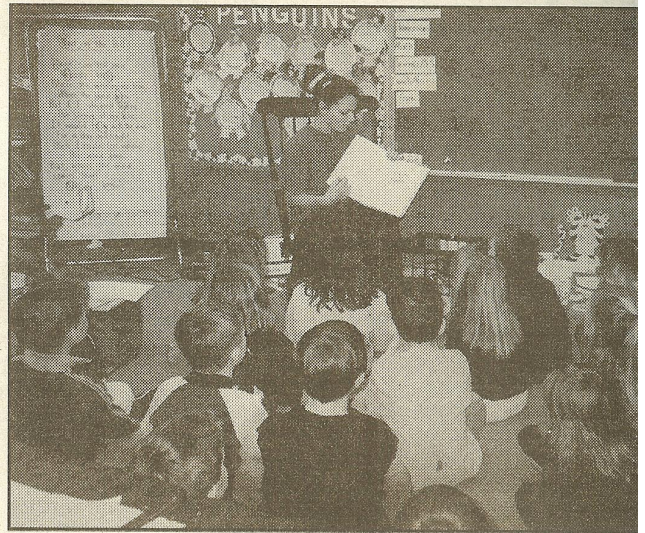
cation's Earth and Space Science Laboratory; Dr. William Meredith, retired biology professor at Mount St. Mary's College; Dr. Peter Kranz, paleontologist and founding member of the Dinosaur Fund of Maryland; Spencer Geasey, longtime local avocational archeologist; Hettie Ballweber, archeologist and writer; Tyler Bastian, state terrestrial archeologist of the Maryland Historic Trust; Maureen Kavanagh, archeological survey administrator with the Maryland Historic Trust; and Bill Davis, resource protection supervisor for the National Park Police.

Friday, Mr. Geasey said his contribution to the project primarily dealt with the Indians and geological formations.

"I helped Chris make field trips and showed him various Indian sites, and also let him photograph various types of Indian artifacts I have, such as stone axes, arrow heads and clay pottery they made. Indian sites are everywhere in Frederick County," Mr. Geasey said. He said Indian history in the county dates back to "at least an 11,000-year time span, and sites are primarily near major streams and rivers.

"Monocacy" serves as a prelude to the 1995 documentary "Frederick Towne," which chronicled 250 years of Frederick history. Two years in the making, this new documentary is Cable 10 Producer and Production Services Manager Chris Haugh's follow-up to the 1997 nationally recognized offering "Up From The Meadows: The History of Black Americans in Frederick County."

Mr. Haugh and GS Communications have plans for releasing another documentary later this year summarizing the events of this region in the 1600's, from the European conquest and to the time of the first settlers. This program named "Sugarloaf: The Quest for Riches and Redemption in the Monocacy Valley" will include the stories of the Piscataway and Tuscarora Indian tribes as well as those of early explorers, Christoph Von Graffenreid and Louis Michel, and Indian traders such as Martin Chartier.



Read Across America

Windsor Knolls Middle School students visited Kennedy Elementary School classrooms to participate in "Read Across America Day." They read Dr. Seuss books to the younger students. Cleveland reads to Nicole Williams' first-graders.



Charity Night

Francis Scott Key Lions Club recently held its annual Charity Night. Donations were presented to the following organizations represented by, from left: Nancy Waalkes, manager of the Food Bank; Brian Scott, executive director of Frederick County Coalition; Judy Duears, president of FSK Lions, and her family; Rosalyne Reynolds, executive director of For Homeless Families; Martha Young, director of volunteer services at Community Living; and Warren Spaid, director of Heart

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