

The Scottish Rose

A Resident Publication

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The idea behind THE SCOTTISH ROSE – an idea from this resident himself – was simple enough: it was the thought that, in addition to the many exclusive amenities of Scotia Village, one overlooked treasure was the interesting personalities of many of the residents here. Men and women of achievement, people of substance that you would likely choose – if you had the choice - as desirable neighbors.

The thought then led to the obvious conclusion that this virtue should be made known to those who are looking for a perfect retirement community. For after all, aren't those of accomplishment, of zeal and dedication, the kind of friends you would like to have? We think so, and from that germ of an idea the Scottish Rose was born.

Because of space limitations, each issue of the Scottish Rose, published quarterly, will feature two current residents of Scotia Village, and we must say that the supply of interesting residents here guarantees that many, many issues will follow! That is because this lifelong living community counts among its citizenry so very many of genuine attractiveness. Scotia Village has the kind of individuals that you will want to count as your friends: achievers, givers, and people of principle and of caring.

What is life like at Scotia Village one may ask? Well, first of all new residents quickly realize that there is a bond here, unspoken but understood. It is warm, genuine, and friendly. It exists in the minds of all that this last of life's journeys can be the crowning time of all – one's family grown and on their own life journey – what is left is that Perfect Voyage. And perhaps that says it all: life is a voyage. It is best put into perspective by that Great Trinity of a happy and fulfilled life; "Live Well, Laugh Often, and Love Lots".

Jim Beales, Scotia Village resident since 2008

Above: Resident, Jesse Nowell, tends the exploding rose garden one summer morning





DARTHEA (DOTTIE) WILCOX

Close friends, residents of Scotia Village, convinced Dottie and Nelson Wilcox to forsake their proposed move to a retirement community near Philadelphia and, instead, to move to Scotia Village. This is especially noteworthy because there are many, many excellent retirement homes located in the Philadelphia suburbs. To pick Scotia Village, in faraway North Carolina, indicates the decision to select Scotia Village was a profound one.

The year was 1994 and this charming couple, dedicated Quakers, moved here, and Scotia Village has benefited from their presence ever since.

Quickly Dottie and her accomplished husband, Nelson immersed themselves in Scotia Village's social life. Scotia Village was just 5 years old then, emerging into its adult personality. Following the Quaker tenet of "making a contribution" wherever they live, both individuals immersed themselves in the social activities of this place. Nelson was instrumental in the beginning of The Scotia News, our monthly periodical, as well as, a

host of social activities all designed to make this place more enjoyable. All of the Wilcox's efforts resulted in a fabulous life style

Following Nelson's untimely death, Dottie has carried on in the best of Quaker tradition, making a contribution. Always ready with a quick riposte, she is a solid member of Scotia Village's Quiz Bowl team, an intellectual pursuit where we elders take on all comers. Throughout most of her adult life, Dottie was a teacher of the young. Molding young minds has been a rewarding experience for this vivacious lady.

A perfect example of her caring is her love of animals. After her pet Yorkie died, Dottie could not stand the loneliness, so she went to a nearby dog pound and adopted a delightful "mutt" whom she named Bonnie. A symbolic act of kindness and love is the fact that Bonnie is blind. It takes a special person to extend the bond of love to a pet who may bump into things, but to Dottie, that doesn't matter. What does matter is extending one's love and "making a contribution".

In the 1960's Dottie and Nelson adopted two children; Andy and Barbara who now, adults in their own right, are the light of Dottie's life.

Scotia Village is proud to have Dottie Wilcox as one of its premier citizens.



The words of the immortal John Donne, sums up the essence of our life here amongst our roses, azaleas and dogwoods.

*"Neither Spring nor Summer beauty hath such Grace,
Than I have seen in one Autumnal face."*

-John Donne

JOHN P. (JACK) HANNA

It is a pleasure to reflect on the life and achievements of one of Scotia Village's best known citizens. This accomplished gentleman traces his ancestry to 18 generations of Gaelic history, making him a true son of Scotland. Born in Concord, New Hampshire in 1924, at eighteen years of age he entered the prestigious Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, better known as RPI. This school, the oldest and most prestigious of technological institutes of higher learning in the world was attractive to Jack.

Like thousands of other American boys, Jack joined the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps which promised that it would allow college students to fulfill their requirements before being called to active duty. As it was with him and thousands of others, soon, with only one year of college, he was in khaki.

His penchant for engineering led to more and more technical involvement. Later, as part of the US Army Signal Corps he became a player in what was to become the area of greatest growth in the next 60 years, and that is the field of telecommunications.



After a stint in Europe, Jack Hanna returned to the United States where, upon discharge, he resumed his education at RPI. Graduating in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, he began his lifelong career with General Electric, spanning 34 years.

Also, at that time, Jack met and courted the lovely Evelyn, a war widow with a young child. Both smitten, they soon wed and Jack adopted the boy, then 3 ½ years old. They later had four more boys.

An enthusiasm which this couple shared was working with church youth groups, wherever they lived. And this strong bond of caring for others was to endure for over thirty years.

Those years encompassed times of huge advancement in technology. The one area most affected by the Technology Revolution was in the area of electronics and communications. And Jack Hanna was very much a part of it. Integrated circuits, solid state technology and other esoteric fields were those in which Jack probed.

The United States soon led in communications technology, and Jack Hanna, moving up the ranks of increasingly higher T&D levels at General Electric, was very much at the center of it.

Early in their marriage, Jack and Evelyn shared their love of boating. Beginning with small craft, easily transported atop the car, over the years the

size – and complexity of the boats increased as they probed waters, both salty and fresh in both the United States, and Canada.

Their last and largest craft was a 42 footer which allowed them to take longer cruises, christened the JEVNA, a corruption of both Jack and Evelyn's names, plus the last two letters of their last name.

It was a 25th anniversary Holland-American cruise stop in Barbados which changes their lives forever. There, on a sandy beach they were accosted by a poor woman who thrust her infant into Evelyn's arms, saying, "Please give my baby a life – I cannot". Having seen, first hand, the level of destitution on these former colonial islands, they vowed to help, upon Jack's retirement a decade later.

Jack's career of solid contribution had reached its zenith, which was why, at the age of 58 he took early retirement from GE, and he and Evelyn devoted their lives to helping those without hope. They could live on their boat, travel the Caribbean, and aid philanthropic activities there.

Their first activity was joining with the Institute for Cultural Affairs in Jamaica. In their JEVNA they traveled south through the Windward Passage to help economic development with 16 villages in the Blue Mountains there. In a three year period they learned enough to want to try more development effort in the Caribbean.

They picked the ravaged country of Haiti, surely one of the poorest in our hemisphere, to try to establish a Rural Development Program. Sponsored under a covenant with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, they chose to adopt a "watershed" approach on the denuded southern arm of Haiti. Now, in its 22nd year, this effort has spread to five watersheds and one waterfront community.



Above a teacher works with Haitian children in an example of a school that was started as part of Jack Hanna's Rural Development Program in Haiti. The work started over 20 years ago is still ongoing in five watershed communities in Haiti.

Haiti was visited quarterly for many years; Jack reckons that over 50 trips were made until their "second retirement" in 2001

Sailing out of New Bern, North Carolina, Jack and Evelyn both realized that age was taking its toll. They began an intensive search for a Continuing Care Retirement Community, recognizing that communities which belonged to this association had to meet exceptionally high requirements. Searching throughout the East Coast they soon settled on Scotia Village as the perfect place. It meant selling their boat, but life sets its own pace.

Jack and Evelyn became active members of the Scotia Village scene beginning in 2001

In failing health, Jack lost his beloved Evelyn some years later. He remains bereft, yet such is the measure of this man that he still remains active in all aspects of Scotia Village life, with especial interest in financial affairs.

Scotia Village counts among its strongest assets the presence of Jack Hanna.

If you would like more information on the

Scotia Village Community,

Please call 910-277-2000 or visit

www.scotiavillage.org

