VOLUME 21 Nº 9 SEPTEMBER 2015



is the prime mover of Richmond 2015, the non-profit organizing committee behind the upcoming Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World bicycling championships to be held in Richmond later this month (only the second time in its 94-year history that these prestigious bicycle races have been held in the United States). Wilson's an unconventional CEO who began his career with a New York ad agency and then went to work for Disney World shortly after it opened its gates. There he skyrocketed to the top as marketing director. Later, he was general manager of Kings Dominion. He played a role in the 400th anniversary celebration of Jamestown and Richmond, as well as what has become one of the river city's most popular eventsthe Richmond Folk Festival. continued on page 16

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Cover photograph by REBECCA D'ANGELO



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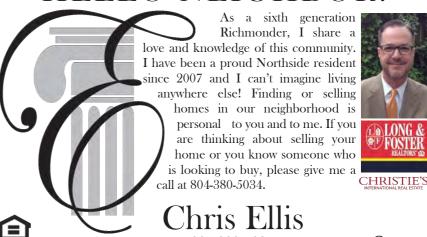
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#### TRAVEL

# **Unspoiled Beaches of Delaware's Coast**

#### by CHARLES MCGUIGAN

## ELAWARE GOT IT right.

At least on the coast. It's a small state to begin with, only twenty-

five miles of coastline from Cape Henlopen in the north to Fenwick Island in the south. Yet about half of it is protected in perpetuity as part of a state park system of prime beach front property bordered with dunes and maritime vegetation from beach plums and wax myrtles to dune grasses and marsh mallows. Scattered through those state parks are a number of tall round towers made of concrete that were built during the Second World War and served as watchtowers for German wolf packs which menaced our coast and merchant fleet through much of that war.

Whenever we're up in Delaware we stay with my brother Bruce and his family who live in Bethany Beach. It's a quiet beach resort, as are all the communities that grace Delaware's shoreline—the exact opposite of Maryland which developed every inch of its shoreline except for Assateague Island, which is fortunately a holding of the National Park Service. The result below the Mason-Dixon line is every bit as depressing as Miami.

Bruce grew up on the water. When still a teenager he pulled peelers for Harry Hemphill on St. Martin's Neck; he even owned his own batch of crab pots which he worked through the summers. Before he learned to boil an egg, he could steam blue crabs and steam them to perfection.

For 30 years he owned and operated Captain Mac's Bait & Tackle Shop on Route 54 in Fenwick Island. It was an incredible shop and he serviced many of the charter boat captains out of Ocean City. He also worked as a commercial fisherman and owned a 42foot trawler built in PEI. When Hurricane Sandy struck and took its toll on the tackle shop, Bruce decided to change course and instead of rebuilding, built a brand new structure that now houses Captain Mac's Fish House.

A deck out back gives you a long view of an arm of Assawoman Bay, and the dining room is sparsely furnished with brightly painted picnic benches, the walls hung with trophy fish. But it's what comes out of the galley that really counts.



Riding up the bike trail to Cape Henlopen.

This is the freshest seafood you're ever likely to eat unless, of course, you catch it yourself. If you eat it at Captain Mac's it was in the ocean yesterday. It really is that fresh. Because of his years working the water, Bruce knows who has the best product. So he regularly travels as far south as Wachapreague, Virginia and as a far north as Cape May, New Jersey to buy the best and freshest seafood there is. And the blue crabs this fish house is known for come from a spot way up in the northern reaches of Chesapeake Bay and they are hands down the best blue crabs in the world. Note about seafood: if it is fresh the flavor is extremely delicate. That's why the dishes they serve at Captain Mac's are simple—steamed, broiled, fried. Heavy sauces and thick crusts of pecan and herbs that some restaurants serve with seafood are trying to hide something.

Bruce along with his wife, Andrea, and their two children, Kirsten and Matthew, all work at the Fish House. Andrea, who works full-time elsewhere, pinch hits when time permits.

One of the things Charles and I do

Brother Bruce, proprietor of Captain Mac's Fish House.



when we visit the Delaware clan is bike. The whole area is very bike friendly. Right next to the neighborhood where my brother's family lives there is a great trail that cuts through a maritime forest, rings a fresh water pond and gradually makes its way to Coastal Highway. I ride this path early in the morning before Charles has gotten up and take the Coastal Highway, which has dedicated bicycle lanes that run the entire length of the coastline. I will generally ride up to Dewey Beach across the Indian River Inlet Bridge, a stunning, almost sculptural span that offers panoramic views of the Atlantic coastline and Indian River and Rehoboth bays. Just a couple miles north of the town of Bethany Beach, the state seashore park begins and rolls on for the next six miles until you enter Dewey Beach. Similarly, south of Bethany, just below York Village, there is another strand of preserved state park beachfront that extends pretty much undisturbed until you enter Fenwick Island. This entire strand is perfect for bicycling, but remember if you're riding with the wind down, you're going to fight the wind coming back.

Our favorite place for bike riding is just north of Rehoboth Beach beyond Henlopen Acres—very high dollar homes. There is a bike trail at Gordon Pond that meanders through





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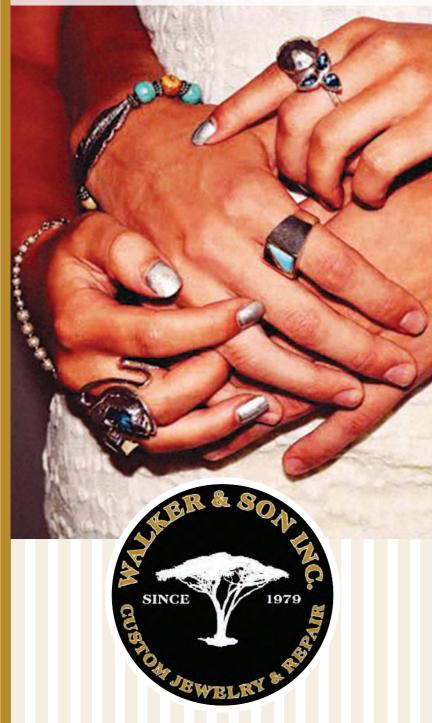


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#### **BOOK REVIEW**

## Prince Edward's Tradition of Racism Alive and Well in Virginia

#### by FRAN WITHROW

AM NOT A NATIVE VIRGINIAN, and did not know that Prince Edward County closed its schools in 1961 rather than integrate until I read Kristen Green's riveting book, "Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County." I confess I read it with a range of emotions: from disbelief to anger and a deep, heart-wrenching sadness.

Green has a unique perspective on this dismal time in Virginia's history: she grew up in Farmville, Prince Edward's county seat. During her research for this book, she discovered that her own grandfather was a leader in the movement to prevent integration of the schools.

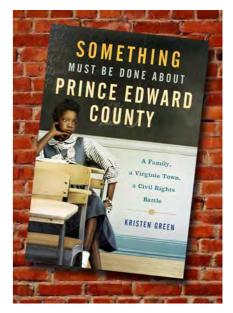
Yet Green was not trapped by this history: she moved away, married a multiracial man, and is mother to two multiracial girls. When she and her husband decided to move to Richmond to be closer to her family, she embarked on the journey that led to this book.

In 1951, Farmville high school student Barbara Johns led a strike to protest the deplorable conditions at her all black high school. Her courageous action led to a lawsuit. This became one of the cases in the Brown decision of 1954 that ended segregation in schools.

Prince Edward did not comply with the ruling, so in 1959 the Supreme Court ordered Prince Edward to desegregate. The county, rather than allow children of all races to learn together, refused to fund public schools and closed them all. Public schools remained closed for an incredible four years.

White parents banded together and opened a private school for their children: the Prince Edward Academy (now known as the Fuqua School). Black families sent their children away to attend school with relatives, or took advantage of an offer from all-black Kittrell College to educate their children. Youngsters without these resources simply stayed at home.

Green meshes her own history-her fears for her multiracial daughters



and her struggles to come to terms with her family's role during this time period—with a detailed look at how Prince Edward was eventually integrated and what the schools look like today.

The Green family's own maid, Elsie, was forced to send her only child to Massachusetts to attend school. Green does an incredible job of personalizing the heartbreak felt by Elsie and other black families during this time.

With all the racial unrest rumbling across our nation now, this is a timely read. How far have we come since the Brown decision of 1954? However far it has been, it appears we have much work still to do. Green's book sets the stage for further reflection, particularly for us in Richmond. Green says Richmond has "given up" on public schools, and that a vast majority of white families still send their children to private schools, particularly after elementary school.

That was certainly my observation as my children wended their way through Richmond's public school system. I didn't have an answer to this disconnect when my children were small, and I still don't. But Green's reflections are assuredly a good place to start.

"Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County," by Kristen Green, \$25.99, HarperCollins





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### BRIEFS

## **Stir Crazy's Latest Adornments**



Over the past couple months, Claire McGowan, owner of Stir Crazy, has given her shop a complete makeover. Crowning it all are two murals by Ed Trask. They enliven the walls of Stir Crazy and tell a visual narrative of the North Side and some of its hidden histories. Ed will be on hand at Stir Crazy Saturday, September 12 to talk about the inspiration for the two murals he painted on the walls of this popular coffee shop in the heart of Bellevue. Hors d'oeuvres will be available and the barista bar will be open for drinks, wine, beer, desserts and so on.

## Living History at Rural Plains

Actors, portraying folks who lived at Rural Plains over the course of two centuries, bring history to life in this remarkable home located on Totopotomoy Creek Battlefield in Mechanicsville. The Sheltons called Rural Plains home for seven generations, from 1725 until 2006.

The Rural Plains Foundation invites the public to witness living history at candlelight walking tours on October 2 and 3. Ticket numbers are limited. Admission is \$10 per person. For ticket information visit cvatickets.com or call 434-390-1939.



## Concert Ballet Launched 40th Season With New Storybook Series

The Concert Ballet of Virginia began its "Ruby Celebration—Our 40th Anniversary Season" with free performances in July and August of the company's newest dance work in The Storybook Series, "Angelina Ballerina."

The Concert Ballet of Virginia, the state's oldest continually operating

ballet company, performs revivals of classic dance works from an extensive repertory of more than 250 pieces and newly commissioned works by Virginia choreographers. Under the artistic direction of Scott Boyer, the Concert Ballet is supported, in part, by Richmond CultureWorks. When you have a rug like the Donald, bad hair days are bound to happen! Please, please don't let this happen to your yard— Call us this Fall and let our stylists do their magic.

FALL 2015



P.S. We ran a color match on his hair and it came back as "yellow tabby".



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**RAINBOW MINUTES** 

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## **Rainbows Everywhere**



N JUNE 26, 2015, rainbows appeared all across the United States. In Minneapolis, the 35-W Bridge was brightly lit with

the colors of the rainbow. In New York City, at 34th Street and 5th Avenue, the top of the Empire State Building was illuminated with rainbow colors, as was the new 1 World Trade Center spire. In the northern part of the state,

## The Sip-In

In the 1960s, many of the respectable bars in New York City's Greenwich Village refused to serve gay male patrons, for fear of being raided by the police and shut down. To bring attention to the problem, Mattachine Society chapter President Dick Leitsch and members Craig Rodwell and John Timmons planned a "sip-in."

The plan was to go into a local bar on April 21, 1966, announce they were homosexuals, and order a drink. Reporters would be on hand to report the bartender's reaction. If refused service, the men planned to sue the bar.

The first bar they targeted was the Ukrainian-American Village Restau-

## Sir Peter Pears Sings

Born in Britain in 1910, Peter Pears was a well-respected tenor in opera and choral music for nearly half a century. He studied organ and voice in England. There he joined the BBC Singers and in 1936, met Benjamin Britten. Within a year they had cemented a 40-year relationship.

Britten wrote leading tenor roles in many of his operas and song cycles specifically for Pears' voice. on the Canadian border, Niagara Falls even sparkled with rainbow colors.

At Disney World in Florida, Cinderella's Castle became more magical when glowing with pride colors. It was no surprise that rainbow-colored lights appeared on San Francisco's City Hall. Even The White House in Washington, DC was lit up with the rainbow.

For it was on June 26, 2015, that the US Supreme Court ruled in favor of Marriage Equality nationwide.

rant on Eighth Avenue, since a sign in its window said, "If you are Gay, Go Away." But a New York Times reporter got there ahead of time and tipped the manager off. He immediately closed the restaurant for the rest of the day. So the men went over to a tavern called Julius, and took a seat at the bar. When the bartender put glasses in front of them, they said, "we are gay and want a drink." The bartender covered the glasses with his hands and refused service. A reporter quickly snapped a photo, which appeared in the Village Voice newspaper.

That was it. The Liquor Authority ended its anti-gay operations.

Together, Britten and Pears co-founded the English Opera Group and the Britten-Pears School for young musicians.

Pears made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1974 and sang regularly at the Royal Opera House. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1977 and died nine years later. He is buried in a churchyard next to his beloved Benjamin.

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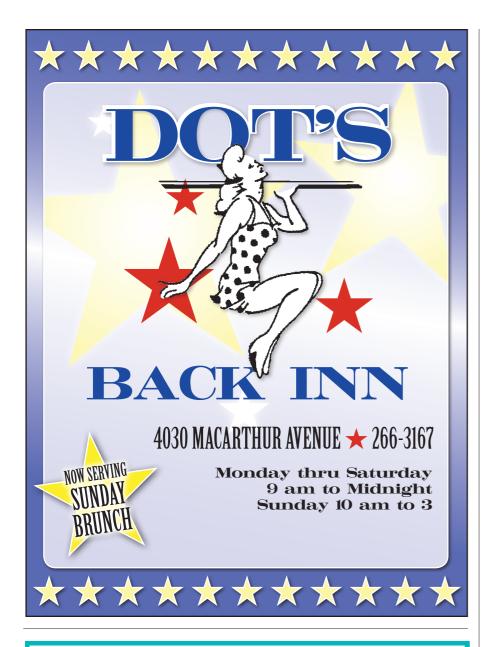




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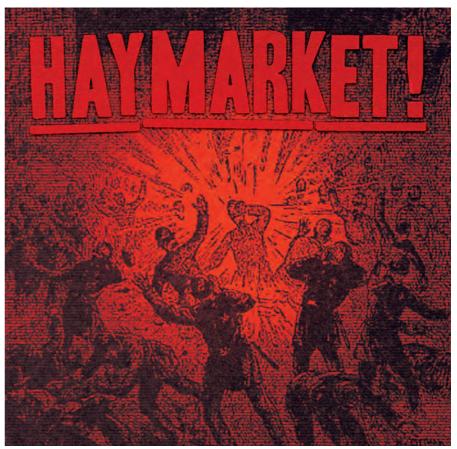
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### **HIDDEN HISTORIES**

# May Day is the Real Labor Day

by JACK R. JOHNSON



**HE ORIGINAL** celebration of Labor Day was May 1st, commemorating those workers killed in Chicago's Haymarket demonstrations for the

eight-hour work day on May 1, 1886. Most countries around the world still celebrate Labor Day on May 1. But not the United States even though the origins of Labor Day started here. So what happened? Why does the U.S now celebrate labor day on the first Monday in September?

You can thank Grover Cleveland for that. And the massacre during the Pullman strike of 1894.

The Pullman strike began in the town of Pullman, Illinois on May 11 when approximately 3,000 employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company began a strike in response to reductions in wages, bringing traffic west of Chicago to a halt.

Eugene V Debs as leader of the American Railway Union, the nation's first industry-wide union, supported the strikers and "a struggle began" according to the New York Times, " between the greatest and most important labor organization and the entire railroad capital". Ultimately, the strike involved some 250,000 workers in 27 states.

President Grover Cleveland ordered federal troops to Chicago to end the strike, causing the deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the US military and US Marshals.

In an effort to win the favor of labor for the upcoming Presidential election, Grover Cleveland made reconciliation with Labor a top political priority. Legislation making Labor Day a national holiday was rushed through Congress unanimously and signed into law a mere six days after the end of the disastrous Pullman strike. But Cleveland didn't want to honor May 1, the existing International Labor Day celebration honoring the massacre that occurred at the Haymarket riots-he feared the association with vet another labor massacre would rile the population. So he chose instead, rather arbitrarily, a date later in the year—the first Monday in September.

Notably—Grover Cleveland lost his re-election bid.

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AUTHORIZED BY RICHARD W. GLOVER, CANDIDATE

Ulilson Hahr: Prime Mover of Richmond 2015

**AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF RICHMOND 2015,** the non-profit organizing committee behind the upcoming Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World bicycling championships, Wilson Flohr Jr. is unrecognizable as a typical American CEO. Clad casually in a sport shirt and loafers, in a small office jammed with an antique desk, filing cabinet and dozens of his own paintings, Flohr projects a casual, informal southern grace under the almost unbear-able logistics of hosting 1,000 of the world's most elite bicyclists from almost 65 countries plus the influx of tens of thousands—if not hundreds of thousands—of visitors into Richmond for the nine-day event while trying to maintain a "business as usual" atmosphere for city employees and residents.

"I'M A BIG BELIEVER in teamwork," he says inside that artistically-cluttered office on South Third Street, seated beside a c. 1923 Philadelphia Toboggan Company Carrousel horse that was a retirement gift, "and that informality is a big part of it."

Success has and continues to flourish under Flohr's laid-back but crisply efficient management style. As general manager of Kings Dominion from 1983 to 1999, he was a wizard with managing large numbers of people but was frequently indiscernible from his own employees. Dressed in jeans and a t-shirt, and insisting everyone call him Wilson, it was not unusual for him to show up at 6:30 a.m. to shadow a rides inspector through the darkest bowels of Smurf Mountain, just to learn how it worked. He could just as easily be seen shucking oysters off the grill in front of the maintenance shop on a Friday afternoon, dining on bear meat provided by a fellow employee or even hanging out with staff, enjoying a few Dortmunder Union beers after hours.

His intense interest in all the workings of the park, his unpretentiousness and promotion of an open door policy was a welcome break from the stuffy, out of touch three-piece CEO portrayals, who frequently operate in secretive, tightly structured office-bound protocols that strangle many American workers and breed distrust.

Born in 1946, Flohr grew up in New Jersey then got his graduate degree at Rollins College in Winter Park Florida. He returned to Florida in 1972 after a short stint at a New York City Advertising agency to work in the marketing department at the newly-opened Walt Disney World, where he rose to the lofty position of marketing manager. "I had several friends working at Disney and they were looking



for someone with Madison Avenue experience, and literally I worked at 346 Madison Avenue at an ad agency, so I had that qualification," Flohr says. "Walt Disney World is not known for paying a lot of money to their associates, but I raised my hand and ultimately got hired."

The success of the Disney Park spurred several other companies in the seventies to get into the regional theme park business, including Marriott, Kroger (operating as Top Value Enterprises), Six Flags and Anheuser-Busch, under the name Busch Gardens. Encouraged by some friends to get out of Disney and into this new world of regional theme parks, Flohr left the Magic Kingdom in 1976. Then, after spending the coldest winter of his life in the marketing department at Kings Island in Cincinnati, Ohio, ping-ponged between there, Charlotte, North Carolina and Doswell, Virginia. "I was promoted to marketing director down at Carowinds," he recalls of his labyrinthine ascent to the top. "I spent three years at Carowinds and ultimately went to Kings Dominion as marketing director after a couple years, then I went back to Carowinds for two years before I returned [as general manager] to KD."

At that time Taft Broadcasting owned 100% of Kings Island and shared a 50-50 ownership with Top Value Enterprises of both Kings Dominion and Carowinds. Wall Street, however, was not recognizing the value of the theme parks as part of Taft's portfolio, which included along with their television and radio properties Hannah-Barbera Productions. So around 1981, when the FCC relaxed their rules on radio and TV station ownership, Taft decided they could get more value for their shareholders by expanding into media rather than theme parks.

Sensing an opportunity, Flohr and eleven other investors, under the leadership of Nelson Schwab, formed Kings Entertainment Company (KECO). They were in the right place at the right time when Taft spun off the parks, and in a leveraged buy-out KECO became the parent company of four parks, including Canada's Wonderland in Toronto.

Soon KECO also took over operations of a Marriott park in Santa Clara, California called Great America. "We were able to

BY DALE BRUMFIELD PHOTOS REBECCA D'ANGELO



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buy all the hardware – everything above ground, and lease the land from the city of Santa Clara," Flohr says. "The land was worth enormous amounts of money, and Santa Clara [considered] the park an important part of recreation and entertainment for their citizens."

Laughingly noting that rain was always his biggest challenge at Kings Dominion, Flohr is very pleased of his KD team's accomplishments during his tenure. "I think one of the most proud parts of my experience at KD was for us to be able to bring in new attractions that no one else had, and test them in our park then roll them out to other parks," he says of the record-breaking successes enjoyed during the mid-tolate 1980s into the 1990s. "We found our niche [in] young families. We had Hannah-Barbera Land for the young children. We had terrific teen appeal in terms of unique, state of the art wood and state of the art steel coasters. We also thought of unique ways to theme them for additional appeal."

"A big part was understanding what our niche was and take full advantage of it."

Flohr retired in January, 1999, almost two years after KECO sold the park properties to Paramount but he didn't sit still very long. An avid wine connoisseur, with an amazing collection inside his Henrico County home, he sat on the board of Williamsburg winery, and a couple days <image>

a week traveled there and shared his marketing thoughts with them. Then in 2003, while "dabbling" with a local advertising agency, he began looking ahead to the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and Richmond, which were both occurring in 2007. "We thought, okay, how would we commemorate and celebrate that in the Richmond region?" he recalls. "So [we] put together a plan in 2003 and we brought in a Walt Disney World consultant to share what they did on their 25th anniversary." Part of the 2007 plan was to celebrate with a variety of events. "We came up with a tall ships event, we tied in the American Folk Festival, the African-American Trail Blazer's event, and what is today the James River Adventure games," he says. Generating support from local corporate partners, as well as Richmond, Henrico, Hanover and Chesterfield counties, a nonprofit board called Richmond Region 2007 was created and Flohr was asked to run it. "I ran it for about four years, and today we are proud of the continuing success of what we call now the Richmond Folk Festival, and the African-American Trailblazers."

Certainly, the Richmond Folk Festival is an unqualified continuing Richmond success. "The Folk Festival was short of funding," Flohr recalls, "but it fit in so nicely with our commemoration celebration, so as a result we made that one of our major events." In 2014 the festival drew thirty artists and over 200,000 visitors.

About three years after the 400th Commemoration celebration, a local group including Medalist Sports, a sports management company, began putting together a competitive bid for the 2015 UCI Road World Championships – a world class event which in its 92-year history had only been held once on American soil. Richmond won the bid on September 21, 2011.

"The Worlds" is a nine-day event, featuring twelve championship races in three categories: Elite Men and Women, Under 23 Men, and Junior Men and Women. Racers will compete in three different disciplines including the traditional road race, the individual time trial and the recently introduced team time trial.

"We actually had over 20 years' experience putting on cycling events," Flohr says. "Medalist Sports helped create the Tour du Pont and the Tour du Trump that was here in the late 1980s and early '90s." Flohr notes his associate and Richmond 2015 COO Tim Miller also ran the Cap Tech

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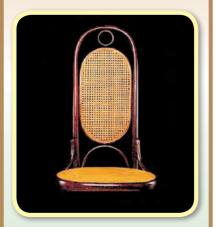


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#### Classic in 2003 and 2004.

When Flohr and his Richmond 2015 associates - including CFO, long-time friend and former Vice President of Finance at Kings Dominion, Jim Copp - visited cities in Europe to find what made them successful hosting large bicycling events, they discovered that not only was the priority on making the courses exciting and competitive enough to challenge the best cyclists in the world, but just as important was the impact of the event on the local residents and commuters. "What we want to make sure is that people from all over the state, all over the country and all over the world when they come here can get around very easily," he says. "That, and creating a race course that made it easy for people to get to work and get home from work."

Richmond 2015 introduced 80 pages on the event's navigation web site (navigate. richmond.2015.com) describing the road closures, and how people can maneuver downtown during those nine days. "The maps break it out by day and demonstrate that we are conscious of not only people who come see the race but those who come to work, then need to get home," he says.

While organizers project 450,000 onsite spectators from the Richmond region and around the world over the nine days, the actual number of unique visitors and the resulting estimated \$150 million economic impact comes from a study completed in 2012 by the research firm Chmura Economics & Analytics. They based the estimates on attendance at the 2003 world championships in Hamilton, Canada, which was the last time this event was held in North America.

Flohr also adds that races were intentionally scheduled between 9:00 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. so as not to affect morning or afternoon rush hour. In a remarkable stroke of timing, these hours also coincide with prime-time television viewing in Europe, whose viewership over the course of the event is estimated to be in the hundreds of millions.

Many of the races start at TV camerafriendly local landmarks. "We have the individual time trials on Wednesday starting at Kings Dominion," Flohr says. "The team time trials will start at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, then the last race, the men's elite road race, will begin at the University of Richmond. They are all very attractive sites." He notes that all the races finish at 5th and Broad Street.

The last road race is a 10-mile circuit, traversing a circuitous path from West Broad to Governors Street. "They have Libbie Hill, the 23rd Street hill, then Governors Street hill," Flohr says. "The men's race has 15 trips around this ten-mile course, so they are going to have to go up those hills 15 times in six hours of saddle time."

Of course, a crucial factor is how well the races showcase the entire Richmond region, not just a couple isolated spots. "From a tourism standpoint, and from the perspective of how do we make ourselves more appealing to international companies who may like to come to America to base their international operations - what better way to view an area than one that is bicycle friendly? So it's showing the world we are a great place to visit, live and work," says Flohr.

Flohr has been very pleased with the collaboration of the city, Hanover and Henrico counties to the event. "The spirit of cooperation has been terrific," he claims, stating that the police, emergency, fire and rescue, are working "hand in glove" along with the state and Homeland Security as well.

Back in his Kings Dominion days Flohr could frequently be seen running the 3.5mile perimeter road around the Hanover theme park during his lunch break, but now says his running days are over, preferring instead to swim, bicycle and paint. "I first started taking some pottery, painting and drawing courses the last year I was involved with the commemoration celebration," he says. "I enjoy playing golf, but I wanted something else more stimulating. Painting is great and when you are in front of the canvas your focus can be 100% on that and I find it very rewarding. It's great too with three children that have places that need decorations."

The Richmond region rarely hosts a world championship, especially one of this magnitude. More than anything, Flohr and his team want to encourage people who don't know anything about cycling to come out and see what remarkable competitors these bicyclists really are, and share the almost unbelievable thrill of seeing dozens of finely-tuned athletes going 35 miles per hour down a cobblestone street mere inches apart. Organizers also would love for viewers to spread out and "show the 350 visiting media outlets that Richmond is supportive of a major event like this."

"It's a party as much as anything else. We want to make sure everybody has a good time in Richmond. We have so many different attractions that folks who come from out of town will have a great time and our local folks will enjoy the races."

#### "How cool is that?"

The Worlds runs from September 19 through 27. Opening Ceremonies are Friday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. on Brown's Island. They are free and open to the public. The National Anthem will be performed by Richmond's own American Idol finalist, Rayvon Owen. The Parade of Flags will feature flags created by students from Richmond Public Schools representing the 60-plus nations competing in the event. 🕅

For more information go to Richmond2015.com.



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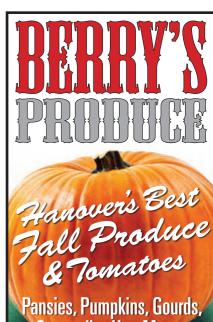
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# September



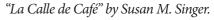
Jesse Mattes as Bobby, Jeffrey Schmidt as Teach and Alan Sader as Donny.

## **American Buffalo at Quill Theatre**

Quill Theatre is pleased to announce the first show of its 31st season – American Buffalo by Pulitzer Prize winning author David Mamet. Directed by Daniel Moore American Buffalo will run October 8th through November 1st at Theatre Lab's basement location, 300 East Broad Street in downtown Richmond.

Starring Alan Sader as Donny, Jeffrey Schmidt as Teach and Jesse Mattes as Bobby, American Buffalo tells the story of a single day in a junk shop in Chicago in the mid-1970s. Three small-time would-be crooks scramble to pull off a fast heist for easy money. As they plan the unlikely caper, an increasing tension among them tests their friendship and threatens to shatter everything they have fought for. Hilarious and appalling, this brute race for a lowlife version of the American dream is brilliantly syncopated by Mamet's rapid-fire two-bit bum's lingo.

Check out Quill's 2015-16 season at www.Quill'Theatre.org 804-340-0115



## Paintings by Susan M Fisher at Stir Crazy

The works of Susan M. Fisher are on display this month at Stir Crazy. A prolific painter since age twelve, Susan studied with Professor Erjun Zhao for eight years. Her paintings are impressionistic with a rich palette of colors and evocative of time and place. Her paintings are for sale; inquire at the register. Meet the artist at her reception at Stir Crazy from 3-5 pm Sunday, September 13.





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