

# **Discovering Our School Community**

By  
Grade 5

1955 - 1956

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Pasadena, Maryland

# Discovering Our Community

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# DISCOVERING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## ***I. GEOGRAPHY***

Riviera Beach is located in the third district of Anne Arundel County. The school area includes several small waterfront communities.

School busses bring pupils from Orchard Beach, Stoney Beach, Rockview Beach, Carvel Beach, Greenland Beach and Clearwater Beach. These communities are between Coxe's Creek and Stoney Creek and from the Patapsco River, on the north, to Nabb's Creek on the south.

In the other direction busses come from Rock Hill Beach and pick up children at Cottage Grove Beach on the way to School. Rock Hill is on the west side of Rock Creek at its source. Cottage Grove is on the same side of Rock Creek, north of Rock Hill.

The majority of our pupils walk to school from Sunset Beach, Bar Harbor and Riviera Beach. Sunset Beach is on the east bank of Stoney Creek. Bar Harbor reaches from Sunset to Rock Creek. Riviera Beach is the largest of these communities. It stretches from the east bank of Stoney Creek to the west bank of Rock Creek. It is bordered on the north by the Patapsco River and on the south by Fort Smallwood Road.

The total distance from Coxe's Creek to Rock Creek is about two miles, and from Patapsco River to the end of Rock Hill Beach is about three miles. We are about 15 miles from downtown Baltimore and 16 miles from Annapolis.

Our community is located just a little above the famous White Rocks of the Patapsco. These formations of sandstone may be seen clearly from any spot on the river front of Riviera Beach. Rock Creek, the southern border of Riviera Beach, Bar Harbor, and Rock Hill Beach, was named for these rocks, because its mouth is directly opposite them.

At the north of Stoney Creek, on the other side of Riviera Beach are some rocks like the White Rocks. They jut from the water in the same way as White Rocks but are brownish-gray in color. They are called the Brown Rocks. Stoney Creek was named for these and the large pile of rocks at Smith's Point (or Stoney Point), which is the most northern corner of Riviera Beach at the mouth of Stoney Creek. It is very shallow. Two boats are known to have been beaten to pieces on these rocks during bad storms. One of these boats may still be seen submerged just below the surface of the water in the channel around the rocks.

Stoney Creek is dangerous for swimmers. Several lives have been lost in Stoney Creek - mostly visitors in our community who did not know what the bottom is like. The bottom of Stoney Creek looks sandy near shore. But there is a sharp drop a little ways out from shore making a deep channel for boats. The water in this drop is very cold and a severe shock to anyone diving too deep into it. There are also beds of rocks hidden in the depths that are a hazard to the diver. Rock Creek has a similar drop, but here the bottom is mud and sand near the shore, and the drop is more natural.

Both streams are like long coves regulated by the tides. They are not estuaries of the Patapsco River.

At the heart of the River front in Riviera Beach is a small inlet. It changes in width according to the tides. Sometimes it is only a little more than a foot wide. At other times it is over six feet wide. It runs for about fifty feet through a small tidal marsh to a "L" shaped inland lake. The bottom of the lake is pure sand, but the center part of the lake is a deep drop covered with a matting of thick seaweed, bordered with black mud. The depth of the lake has not been sounded, so far as we know, but it is believed to be "bottomless". The tidal marsh extends from a mound of white sand and seaweed on the river front on either side of the lake until it tapers down to nothing at the back bank. The widest part of the marsh is probably forty feet when the tide is out. At other times it is nearly submerged in water.

Above and around the marsh is a patch of woods several hundred feet wide. This woods is thick and grown over with vines, all kinds of small trees and bushes, and larger oaks, etc. Other patches of woods like this one line the creek cliffs on both sides, broken only by clusters of houses in the different communities, and extends along the river front up to Fort Smallwood Road north of Orchard Beach. These woods are dotted with tidal marshes and swamps.

This whole area is just a little above tide level and almost entirely flat, although it is somewhat rolling in places. There is a sea cliff nearly all around our shores on river and creeks. Erosion of these cliffs was at one time very bad. The Riviera Beach Development Company saw the danger and had stone groins and bulkheads put up on Stoney Creek and the Patapsco River front. This was done in 1928-1931. There has been no important erosion since then, except in 1933, when several houses sank in Bar Harbor from water that had washed back underneath the land.

Our community has the pleasant, mild, healthful climate year round that is found in most parts of the middle Atlantic coastal states. Although we have so many quick and surprising changes in the weather, summer and winter, that folks often say,

"If you don't like the weather in Riviera Beach,  
Just wait a few minutes; it'll change."

There are hardly ever any extremes in weather conditions around here. Still it is not unusual to shiver a few days in June or to find it so warm once or twice in January that a coat is uncomfortable.

As a rule, winters are not so cold as they are in even Carroll County. In fact, the average temperature for the last fifty years or so in winter here is 36 degrees F. Only twice has the thermometer dropped much below zero for any length of time. But on January 9, 1934 and January 10, 1899 it shrunk clear down to 7 degrees below zero. That is the lowest temperature ever recorded here.

Just as you might expect, we don't get much snow. Some old person here may remember the winter of 1892 when sixty inches of snow fell during one storm, but this is very unusual; as is the year, 1913, when only 2.4 inches fell all winter long. We expect to see the snowy blanket two or three times a year, and it usually lasts a couple days at a time.

In the last week of March fruit trees begin to bud, our heaviest rains begin to fall, and spring is here to stay. Our growing season is from 207 to 214 days long, and already farmers are preparing

their planting and housewives are carefully resetting their rosebushes and planting their packets of radish and lettuce seeds March 15th.

The average temperature reading in spring is 54 degrees F. and the average rainfall is 12.7 inches, ideal conditions for the tobacco and truck crops grown on neighboring farms.

Summer in our community seems to come suddenly. Usually the first two weeks in June are cool and breezy. All at once, the wind dies down, and we find ourselves in the heart of our warm, wet summer, whose average temperature is only 75.6 degrees F. Only once did the temperature rise as high as 107 degrees F.; that was July 10, 1936. But now, due to the humidity, our summer seems very hot to us.

We think the humidity here has a great effect on the way we feel about the weather. Since we are surrounded on three sides by rivers and are so near the bay, the humidity is high the year round. There is so much moisture in the air that many people say that they can feel it and that it clings to their skin and clothes in tiny dew-droplets on certain days. Of course, such dampness makes the hottest and the coldest days more uncomfortable than more extreme temperatures in other places.

Even though the humidity in the air makes the weather seem very unpleasant, there is another feature of our climate which offers much relief on hot days. That is the cool breeze that blows almost continually from the Chesapeake Bay. It is welcomed by everyone in the summertime, unless there is a "North-easter" behind it. This happens once in a while and always brings a strong rain storm.

Most of our storms, winds or rain, occur in the spring and summer. Some of them are exciting in the freak pranks they play. Such are the electric storms that occasionally wander down from the north. Most of these, however, never reach past Baltimore. In fact, Baltimore often has winds and rain that we don't get, although the city is only 4 miles away. The strongest wind we ever recorded happened on June 12, 1948 when it reached 61 miles per hour.

Autumn is a quiet, warm season around here, and heavy with the fragrance of late-blooming flowers. Days are hot and dry; nights are cool and heavy with dew. An average of only 9.37 inches of rain falls in autumn, and most of it falls during the nights. Fall seems long and winter seems to come more gradually than spring and summer. Maybe this is because people are busily preparing for winter early, ordering oil, hanging storm-sash, digging up flowers bulbs and flowering bushes; while vacationers, who are going late in the hope that they will avoid the mobs, are still crowding the beaches and resorts near here.

Most of us seem to do a great deal of complaining about the weather here and declare that it is the worst heat in the east. But we discovered in our survey that five families moved here solely because they liked the climate and about eighty-five families coming here partly because of their liking the climate of our community.

There was once a time when this part of Anne Arundel County was a thick, woody place and the home of many kinds of animals and game birds. But gone are the days of the wolf, deer, red and gray fox, and wild turkey. Today only two or three animals and birds are hunted for sport or food. The small Eastern Cotton-Tail rabbit is still seen in great numbers in all of the low, rough places, where there is tall grease weed or thorn bushes to hide him. Boys who are just old enough to get their first hunting license get a lot of fun in "bagging" them although their small size and great numbers do not offer much sport to the older man.

Once in a while an opossum or raccoon wanders into someone's back yard. They live in all the wooded places in the southern part of Rock Hill Beach and Tickneck Road. Colored folks hunt them often and say they are "very good eating" when they are well cooked. We have one game bird which is served in the finest restaurants at a large price. That is the quail. There are many of them nesting in our fields and woodlands.

Much of our land is swampy and low, and ideal home for the muskrat and otter. Although we do not see many of them, sometimes one strays into a farmer's barn and is caught in his rat trap. Our rats are called "rice rats" and are a problem in several parts of our community. They aren't large, as rats grow, but there are hundreds of them. Some people think that this is because we live so near the port of Baltimore. Others of our little problem-makers are the common ground mole, in his soft, brown coat, the field mouse, with his cute little "Mickey Mouse" ears, and the small, red chipmunks, who greet our amateur farmers in the morning with a cherry "Hello" from the feed box. Probably the most hated by children is the ugly black bat, who swoops from the trees up by the graveyard and scares little boys who forget to go home when their mothers call them.

There is a place in Rock Hill Beach and another on Tickneck Road where a strange little creature lives that is often mistaken for a bat. He flits from limb to limb and tree to tree in a playful sort of way. He is the furry flying-squirrel, the most talked about animal in groups of children here.

Many tall tales are told about the length of our black snakes and water moccasins. Some may be possible. As least, most of us have been very scared seeing one, and it looks pretty big at the time. Although there are not supposed to be any poisonous water snakes in our community, four out of five adults we have talked to declare that they have seen water moccasins here and that they are the real, poisonous ones. They also say that these snakes are very large. At any rate, there are water snakes near the heads of Stoney Creek and Rock Creek and some of them are three and four feet long. Several tavern-keepers and individuals have proudly displayed them in their houses and places of business.

The Pilot Blacksnake is common and the Black Racer is seen almost anyplace without warning, even crossing lawns and gardens. Once in a long while, a copperhead is spotted and reported near Orchard Beach. But there are more reports of the Queen snake by residents here than any other except the garter snake.

After the spring rains and the weather grows warmer, so many terrapin, lizards and snails appear that it seems like an army invasion. All three are collected by boys and girls, but the terrapin is best liked. A good sport here is to paint a name on the back of a terrapin and let him go at the end of the season. Then the fun is to wait and see whether or not he will show up the next year.

The mud-eel comes to us about the same time as the terrapins do and stay around all summer, stealing fishermen's bait and making a nuisance of himself. Few eels caught here are old enough to be good to eat. Fishing, say the old-timers, used to be good in Rock Creek; but now most of the good fish are gone. The fisherman must be satisfied with yellow and white perch, sunfish, and cat fish, or go down to Seven Foot Knoll by boat for trout, hardheads, shad, croakers, and bass.

There is an inland lake in Riviera Beach which is one of nature's hatching places for little shrimp. Of course, they are thick everywhere that there is a lot of seaweed in Rock Creek and Stoney Creek, but there are millions of them in this lake, and many fishermen go there to get

them for bait. Others get bait by setting traps for minnows which come to our water in droves every year.

Whether he fishes or not, nearly everyone in our community goes out for the blue crab. The soft crab is especially popular. Men, women, and children spend hours wading shallow water, or sitting in small boats or on piers, gathering a “mess” of crabs for Sunday supper.

One of our most interesting water animals is the “night-shiner.” In late summer and early autumn swimmers are thrilled by these tiny noctilucas, which are so many they cannot be seen; but whenever the water is disturbed, millions of them give off a weird bluish light. Often on a dark night a swimmer can see his whole body bathed in the soft glow from these tiny creatures. Not so well liked are the jelly-fish that swim up the bay in July and August. Although most of them are too small to have much sting (In fact, most have none at all), a sea nettle sometime gets this far and makes swimmers suspicious of all kinds of “Jellies”.

Our animals are few; the fishes seem to be getting less all the time; snakes are much talked about but seldom seen. On the other hand, we have many different types of birds. One of the best loved and most seen is the cardinal. He lives in all the woodsy places and fields that are not yet cleared of bushes. Another, the red bird, seen in fewer numbers, but living much as the cardinal does is believed to be the summer tanager. He looks like the cardinal without his top-knot, except that he is a little brighter in color. Another tanager, the scarlet tanager, visits us every summer. The red-winged black bird, the cardinal, quail, blue-jay, woodpecker, and flicker are with us all year round. Other colorful birds that we see in great numbers are the ruby-throated humming bird, robin, bluebird, wild canary, mockingbird, thrushes, finches, wrens, warblers and sparrows are without number. The Baltimore oriole, Maryland’s state bird, is a hard bird to spot, but he lives here in the thicket undergrowth on Tickneck Road. Seldom seen, but often heard, is the whippoorwill, who lives deep in the woods where the trees are thick and larger.

The owl, a large bird, is heard often at night. Turkey buzzards are seen circling overhead day after day. They are among our ugliest birds, but most useful, because they keep the woods and fields clean of carrion. Some ducks are hunted near here. Goose and swan are seen flying overhead. Of course, cranes, sea gulls, and sand pipers and herons are constant visitors.

Although our community is not the dense, wooded place it was at one time there are patches of woodland all around Orchard Beach, Greenland Beach, and Rock Hill Beach; and Tickneck Road is bordered with a thick woods of trees of many kinds.

One of the best loved trees, perhaps, is the Tulip tree. It blossoms very early in spring and grows well in high, well-drained places. Many people here like them so well they transplant them to their own yards. In these high woods grows the dogwood, which is also seemingly a favorite. Our dogwood is not so plentiful as it is in other areas of the county and is guarded jealously by everyone who has it on his property.

The wild plum, another flowering tree that blooms early in the spring, has pure white, fragrant flowers. But it is not like our dogwood and tulip tree in the way it grows. It is hardly bigger than a large bush and is found mostly in the thickets and at the edge of briary fields. Some people gather the fruit of the wild plum for jelly and preserves.

Most of the persimmon trees in our area are the Ruby kind and very good to eat, but there are a few Hicks. Some housewives make preserves of them, as they do the wild cherry, blackberry,

and raspberry, which grow nearby. But probably they are the most popular with the children, who just pick them off the ground and eat them. Up near the graveyard in Riviera Beach grow a dozen or more Osage Orange trees. Boys and girls gather their yellow blossoms in May and throw the mock oranges at each other in the fall. The fruit is strange looking and children declare that if you eat them, you will die a terrible death.

The papaw is another favorite tree with boys and girls. Often in the late autumn they come to school with their pockets filled with papaws or with hickory nuts and black walnuts which grow in all the fertile swamps near the water.

The silver maple, sycamore, cypress, and red cedar are usually found here near these nut trees in low, moist places. The honey locust, beech, oak, pine and spruce, on the other hand, seem to prefer the high, sandy slopes.

The Norway spruce did not always live here. So many people imported them to landscape with, they are now everywhere. There are many originally cultivated trees growing wild here now. The most important ones are fruit trees - cherry, apple, and pear.

The holly, which is only a small bush in some places, grows to be a tall tree here. Some of them are twenty feet high, with berries. The holly grows taller near the water and in swamps, but the bushes are seen in every wooded spot from Tickneck Road to Carvel Beach.

None of our trees have been used in industry of any kind, so far as we know; but those few we have are healthy looking and strong, in spite of the fact that there have been so many forest fires on our woods in the last twenty years. Several years ago a terrible fire stripped a whole section of woods north of Orchard Beach. But now it has grown up with fine saplings and promises to be good forest someday.

The soil in Riviera Beach and the surrounding communities ranges from sand to a sandy-loam mostly. It is ideal for growing truck crops and tobacco. Along the shore of Rock Creek and Stoney Creek are large and small rocks, gravel and yellow mud. Where the water has washed away, leaving a steep bank, on Stoney Creek and Rock Creek, the soil is very dark and loamy; on the flatter areas there is just loose sand. White sand and yellow sand is found on the Patapsco river front of Orchard Beach and Riviera Beach. It covers (except in two or three places) several feet of hardened red and gray clay. All the deep coves of Stoney Creek and Rock Creek have a deep, fine, black, rich mud on the creek bottom and in some places on the shore.

None of the clays of our community would be of any commercial value, so far as we know. This is because they do not occur in large amounts and are mostly coated and mixed with an iron crust.

In our soil are both brown iron ores and white iron ores. On the main beach there is a deposit of paint ore. Several pieces of slag are found on the southern end of Rock Hill Beach by one of the children. We wondered whether or not there had ever been an iron furnace there, but there is no record of one.

Although there is believed to be no natural gas or petroleum in our community, often we hear rumors that someone struck gas while drilling a well near the creek front. It has been suggested that this may be only swamp gas; it is well known that the creek washes underground on the Rock Creek side even where there is no swamp on the surface.

Two natural springs are used in our community. One is in the county right-of-way to the water in Rock Hill Beach. One is near the inland lake in Riviera Beach. The water of both is clear and cool and pure enough to drink. Other springs pop up now and then, but those two seem to be always “with us.”

The value of our community is not so much in its resources and minerals, but its closeness to Baltimore and the water, a very good location for family living, and especially fine for growing children.

## **II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

What is now Riviera Beach was at one time two large farms. The east side of the Beach was a farm known as “Part of Brown’s Adventure,” bounded by Rock Creek, Patapsco River and the Thomas Farm. The first owner we have found record of was Leonard Forman who at his death willed the land to Ellen Stansbury. In 1862 there was a legal battle concerning this ownership between Emma Stansbury and Samuel Lynch. The court appointed Alexander B. Hagner as trustee and he sold the entire farm to Oliver H. Williams on October 16, 1862. This farm, now known as just “Brown’s Adventure” was sold at public auction on October 27, 1899 and bought by Arthur L. Shreve. There is a record of this entire land changing hands in 1882 for the price of \$2,000. On April 30, 1903, August G. Schmidt obtained the land from Shreve. At this time the farm included 166 acres. Mr. George Schmidt of Mountain Road spent several of his boyhood years at this farm of his father and told us many interesting things. They had a loading pier (the remains of which may be seen today). They took their crops to this pier in a two horse wagon. They raised the crops found mostly in this area, cantaloupe, watermelon, strawberries, tomatoes, beans, potatoes. They sold the first summer place to the former Mayor Broening of Baltimore.

Mr. Schmidt sold his farm to Dockman in 1914. While in Dockman’s possession the main farm house burned down. The foundation of this house may still be seen at the corner of Wanda and Main Roads, in Riviera Beach. In 1921 Dockman sold his land to T. W. Pumphrey who, with his brothers formed the Riviera Beach Development Company in 1924.

On the west side of the beach, bounded by Stoney Creek, Patapsco River and other farms, was the Thomas farm. We found in the records in Annapolis that on December 22nd, 1838 a Wm. Stewart sold to W. John Thomas at public sale the “Greenock Farm” at \$40 per acre. We are not sure this is the same farm because previous dates were found on the tombstones in the Thomas graveyard. In 1845 due to bankruptcy of John Thomas, Joseph Thomas gained control of the Thomas Farm. This land remained with the Thomas family until purchased by Louis Grebb. The Thomas farm house still stands and with many additions to the original structure is serving as a hotel, known as Locust Lodge. It is possibly the oldest house in this area. About a block from the house was the family graveyard.

Today we can find the headstone of eight graves, bearing these names and dates:

Elizabeth Thomas	1833 - 38 years
Benjamin Thomas	1833 - 53 years
Henry Clay Wheeler	Feb. 11, 1843

Elizabeth B. McComas	Feb.15, 1887 - 67 years of age
Mary E. Dunn, wife of George W. Dunn	July14, 1835 - June 5, 1877
George H. Dunn, husband of Mary E. Dunn	June 4, 1836 - Feb. 28, 1902
Joseph E. Thomas	Sep. 19, 1821 - August 29, 1898
Sarah A. Thomas	June 28, 1837 - Jan. 1, 1906

The graves of Joseph and Sarah Thomas are still enclosed in an iron fence. Several years ago this graveyard was overgrown and honeysuckle covered most of the graves. Now the land is used as a pasture and horses have knocked over most of the tombstones.

The old loading wharf used by the Thomas's to load their products for shipping to the city may still be seen. Through the years it has been broken up and parts washed away by the tides. Only pilings still remain.

The manager of the Thomas farm for many years was Mr. Osborne. It is believed that he lived in the only other house on the Thomas farm which is now owned by Mr. C. C. Legal.

In 1925 Louis Grebb sold the Thomas Farm to Mr. Pumphrey.

Mr. Schmidt really began the Summer Colony which was formed when he sold a small piece of land to Mayor Broening about 1914 for a summer home. Following that date a few other pieces of property were sold for summer homes but not until the Pumphrey's took over did this area become valued as "Shore" property instead of farming land.

### **III. POPULATION**

Using our own class as a representative of the whole community we have determined the ancestry of people living in this area. The greatest majority of our citizens are descendants of immigrants from Germany, England, and Ireland. Many other countries are represented by a smaller number of descendants, including the original American, the Indian. Here is a list with the percentage of representation as found in our class.

Germany	25%	Czechoslovakia	3%
England	20%	Italy	3%
Ireland	18%	Sweden	3%
Indian	6%	Norway	3%
France	4%	Holland	3%
Scotland	4%	Russia	1 %
Austria/ Hungary	3%	Denmark	1%

We have only the white race of people living in this area because until the recent federal law concerning non-segregation was enacted each of the beaches had clauses in their deeds restricting the sale of land to white gentiles only.

Most people have moved to their recent homes from other places in this county or from Baltimore City. Some came from West Virginia, Virginia or Pennsylvania. A fewer number came from states further away. Some of our neighbors came from foreign countries. We have three families from Norway, two families from Germany and one each from France, Hungary, Scotland, Russia and England.

Until World War II this whole area was chiefly a summer resort area with very few people living here in the winter but several hundred moving down for the summer months. With the great influx of defense workers to Baltimore from 1941 on, the summer homes were converted to year round dwelling and now permanent homes were built.

Today, in these beaches, there are very few summer "Shore" homes left and the house-building boom has never been equaled.

In the near future we expect an even greater growth in population because the Western Electric is planning to build a plant on the northern side of Coxe's Creek and that will bring more workers to our community.

#### ***IV. Transportation and Communication***

Can you imagine a community without electricity? Before 1927 no one living in this area had electricity in their homes. Light was from candles and oil lamps and lanterns. Cooking was usually done on wood-burning stoves. Most people did not have much heat in the wintertime. They had to depend on fireplaces or stoves to heat each room of the house.

When, in 1927, the Consolidated Gas Electric Light and Power Company, of Baltimore finally erected poles and strung wires to Greenland Beach, Carvel Beach, Orchard Beach, and Riviera Beach, many people were prepared to receive electricity into their homes. Two of the first families to get electricity service and who are still using it in the same houses today are Mr. George E. Rowley and Dr. Smith, both of Riviera Beach.

In April 1928 the lines were extended to Cottage Grove Beach. Sunset Beach was not electrified until June 1931. Everyone in our community does not use electricity but it is available to all who want it. The power for this area is supplied from the generating station at Westport.

Today we use electricity for water pumps, phones, radio, television, refrigeration, lights, stoves, irons, washing machines, sewing machines, heat, electric trains and other toys and appliances. We also use street lights, advertising signs, store freezers, and an electric motor to operate the draw bridge.

What do you think! 22 years before this community had electricity we had telephones! Before that if you wanted to talk to your neighbor you would have to ride or walk to their home to talk to them. In 1905, the Rock Creek and Marley Co. started the beginning of telephones in our community by putting in two lines and twenty-two telephones.

Later on, in 1914, the Chesapeake and Potomac Co. bought this area and took over the responsibility of stringing up lines and installing phones. They strung up nine lines, making a total of 11 lines raising the amount of phones to 112 phones. When this company bought this area, telephones were just beginning their long line of styles. They were all phones with long stems to the mouthpiece and the receiver hung in a cradle on the side. The modern phone is in most homes now.

The exchange was named and called the Armiger exchange. Later the company divided the exchange to Armiger and Sunset exchanges. Mrs. Schramm was the first switchboard operator. Mrs. Schramm and her sister operated the switchboard for a period of 19 years, from 1914 to 1933.

In 1933 a new and better office was built. It was the Armiger office on Tickneck Road. This took the place of Mrs. Schramm's home operated switchboard. In 1936 there were 345 phones and they were converted from magnetic to common battery operation. In 1938 a new and still better office was built to replace that of the old building. It was still on Tickneck and Mountain Roads, next door to the first one.

Since 1914 when the first 22 phones were installed there has been a lot of changes. Today there are 2,500 telephones in all the communities served by this branch of the telephone company. Mrs. Schramm is still alive, but today there are 24 telephone operators to take the calls that she and her sister used to take care of.

In the early days of our community it was not easy to get from one place to another. There were only farm roads here. The roads were all very sandy and so bad in spring and winter that a horse couldn't pull a wagon through there. One or two farmers were lucky enough to have hard, dirt roads. But these, too, were often very muddy and difficult to drive on. After a hard rain or snowfall ruts became so deep that wagons lost or broke wheels in them. Even when Fort Smallwood Road was being built, trucks had to line up to push one another through the sand and mud in some places.

Going to Baltimore in those days was a long, tiring job. Not only were the roads bad, but forty years ago there wasn't even a bridge over Stoney Creek. To get into the city, people had to go clear around to Lipton's Corner on Mountain Road. The only other way to get there was to take a boat to Pratt Street.

For several years before Riviera Beach was developed, the Kitty Night used to bring people from Baltimore to Fairview Beach. After farms grew up in Riviera Beach and the nearby countryside this boat also stopped at the three piers on Rock Creek. It hauled the crops farmers grew, the supplies they need and sometimes the farmers themselves.

There were other boats that came to Riviera Beach and Rock Hill Beach. One of these belonged to Mr. Jenkins.

The only way that people could get from place to place, then, was by boat or by horse and wagon. There is a story here that an old colored man drove folks around in a cart and that after electricity came to this area there was a cable car across Stoney Creek. We have not found any evidence to prove this statement, but one or two "old-timers" declare it is true.

Because it was so hard to get to the stores years ago all the people living here were farmers. The trip to Baltimore by wagon was long and impossible in bad weather; the boat ran only from March first to December twenty-fourth. All winter supplies had to be bought at one time and many things they needed made by hand. Not only that, but at one time vegetables, fruits and other produce was brought into Baltimore by wagons and boats from counties nearby. Then it had to be hauled down here by boat. Such a long trip would spoil most things before they reached us. Besides, produce could only be had in the summertime, since there was no quick way to bring it from the south - as we do now in planes and refrigerator trains and trucks. These early settlers had to depend on the land for fruits and vegetables, and can and preserve them for the winter. Also, for a long time their products were in demand in Baltimore who got all its produce from local farmers.

But two transportation changes made a great difference in the sort of people who came here to live. The first was, of course the invention and finally use of the refrigerator car and air freight. Farmers crops were no longer in demand in Baltimore because they had to compete with the southern farmer who had established a year-round market there. Farmers began to sell out; a few stayed but raised tobacco instead of peas and carrots and so on. Then the second thing happened that speeded up the change.

A road was cut through which is now Fort Smallwood Road, and in 1914 a wooden bridge was built across Stoney Creek. This opened up a shorter way to come by wagon or car from Baltimore. Right away people in the city who were tired of its crowds, noise and limited space began to think of this area as a wonderful summer vacation ground. First there were camps, then summer homes scattered here and there. The Pumphrey brothers saw the possibility of a good investment, bought Riviera Beach, and formed the Riviera Beach Development Company in 1924. The company built good roads in Riviera Beach for people who would want to come here to live - in permanent homes - they hoped. Starting Riviera Beach was an ideal; it was to be a perfect town and community. The first project for this community - roads - was done well. They were laid out carefully according to plan except the Thomas' farm road and the Jenkins farm road; these remained the same. All the roads were graded and graveled.

More and more people began to come here to buy; and in 1925 Stoney Bridge was rebuilt. In those days a Negro, Mr. Locklear, started a bus service to Brooklyn. But still Fort Smallwood Road and Riviera Beach roads couldn't be traveled at all in winter. So only "summer" people continued to buy lots here. These people were interested only in lots very near the water. Sunset Beach, just across the road from Riviera Beach, was still a big farm.

At that time another man who could see the trend, bought Mr. Locklear's franchise. This was Mr. Charles L. Cook, who had been driving a bus from Gibson Island to the city since 1912. He brought his bus, which was a converted truck, with him, and ran it and the other bus to the carline in Curtis Bay and back. Mr. Cook started his business in Riviera Beach on January 1, 1928.

Then several improvements were made in the roads which made Mr. Cook's and Mr. Pumphrey's hopes a reality. In 1930 the Anne Arundel County Commissioners took over the maintenance of all Riviera Beach Roads. In 1932 the State Roads Commission paved Fort Smallwood Road to make it easier to get to Fort Smallwood and the waterfront lots and beaches along the way. Later, in 1937, the county paved all the important roads in Riviera Beach and

those of other beaches later. Now more and more people who were tired of city life moved to our community to live permanently.

The improved bus service, the cars most people now owned, and good roads made it easy for people to get back and forth to work in the city or go shopping wherever they wanted to. Owning shore property, living in the country, having room to spread out in were things that now brought folks pouring into the beaches for permanent year round homes.

Meanwhile, Cook's Motor Coach Line, as our bus company was named, continued to grow in spite of the lean years of the depression. In fact, during the war, Cook's busses were the only means of transportation to and from work for a large part of our residents. He added busses from time to time; and finally his office in the ESSO station across from Matuskey's was too small. He needed a station of his own. In the fall of 1943 the station, as it is today, was finished. On December 3, 1945 he began running his busses to Howard and Lombard Streets in Baltimore for the convenience of his passengers. Today Mr. Cook has five busses that he is very proud of. They carry passengers to and from Baltimore every hour. He estimates that he transports twenty times as many people every year more than he did when he first began running his busses in Riviera Beach.

After the second world war was ended weekend traffic to the public beaches between here and Fort Smallwood was even greater than before the war. Special busses were used to haul all the extra people that wanted to come here for a day's outing. Stoney Creek Bridge became a serious bottleneck to Fort Smallwood Road. It had a one way draw, and cars were often lined for over a mile waiting for it to close after a yacht had passed. This happened several times a day on a weekend.

People were delighted when a new bridge was built over Stoney Creek by the State Roads Commission. It was opened to traffic on Christmas Eve, 1948. This concrete and steel bridge cost \$963,194.47 altogether, including the approach roads.

The following is a copy of an article which appeared in the Southern Maryland Times during the war. We thought it interesting:

*It was way back in 1912 when roads in Anne Arundel were no more than trails, that Charles L. Cook established his Riviera Beach, Brooklyn, Gibson Island - to Baltimore bus lines. Passengers in those days were few and far between, but need for such a service was eminent; and all through the depression with aging equipment Charles L. Cook stuck doggedly to his dreams of the future. For he saw the possibilities in the growth of Northern Anne Arundel county. In 1928 Mr. Cook sold part of his operations in the Gibson Island Line to his former business associate, Mr. Wm. B. Chairs, who still carries on this service.*

*Today, with newly built offices and waiting rooms, and added employees and new busses, the Cook's Motor Coach Lines' success was a great help to Uncle Sam's war effort. The Cook's Motor coach Lines now operates in twenty different communities along three great rivers, and it is estimated that more than a thousand war-workers are transported three times daily from their homes to the various industrial plants in northern Anne Arundel county and Baltimore City. Mr. Cook's son, Charles F. Cook, serves as the lines secretary.*

## **V. *BUSINESSES***

We have made a list of businesses located in our community. This may not be a complete list but it has surprised many people to see how many businesses are supported by our relatively small community.

### **A. Carvel Beach**

Pete's Barber Shop

Thomas's Shipyard

Brown's Rooming House

Tucker's Farm

### **B. Greenland Beach**

County Motors

Jeff's Auto Supply Store

Sea Girst Inn

Eddie's Super Market

Jimmy Knott's Boat Yard

Mock's Filling Station

Jack's Seafood Store

Reinhardt's Tavern

Empire Lumber Co.

Cross Country Garage

Bud's Sign Shop

Shue's Restaurant & Tavern

Bakery

Captain Buck's Tavern

LaRue's Store

Voit's Store

Arundel Ice Cream Parlor

County Motor's Taxi Service

### **C. Orchard Beach - Stoney Beach**

Walker's Store

Lark Inn

### **D. Riviera Beach - Bar Harbor**

Matuskey's Store

Max's Grocery Store

Rachuba's Drug Store

United Hardware & Supply

J.B. Smith M. D.

Hubbard's Grocery Store

Herman's Grocery Store

Knoblock's Dept. Store

Pumphrey Real Estate Office

Seipe Electric Co

Frank's Ice Cream Parlor

Treasure Chest

Jerry's Beauty Shop	U.S. Post Office (Branch)
Cleckner Bros.	Riviera Barber Shop
Geary Store & Garage	Johnson's Contracting Co.
J.W. Fox, Contractor	Hamilton Egg Route
Beatty Well Drilling	Smitty's Bar
Roy's Barber Shop	Minter's Amoco Station
L. Walker, Contractor	Clatchey Electric Co.
Keene, Contractor	Roloff's Betholine-Sinclare Station

E. Sunset Beach

Cook's Motor Coach Co.	Hick's ESSO Station
Texaco Station	Dr. Mallow, Dentist
O'Roark's Restaurant	Stadiger's Justice of the Peace
Julia's Beauty Shop	

F. Rock Hill Beach

Simmon's Store	County Electric
Brookwood Farms	Cottage Grove Amusement Park
Anthony's Store	Lester Johnson, Contractor

## **VI. HOUSING**

The most common type of house in our community is the bungalow or cottage. Although several of the large farm homes are still being used, only a half-dozen or so large, two story homes have been built since this settlement has been developed. Some smaller, two story houses are found, but the most popular house has one floor and sometimes finished attic bedrooms.

There are two or three duplex homes in our community and one row house. This row house is on Smith's Point and was built originally by a man for his children and their families.

The old Thomas farmhouse is now a hotel. There are several apartment houses but only one is constructed on the apartment house design. Others are in private homes or over places of business.

Although our community has never had any housing projects - that is, no company has ever undertaken reclaiming property or building on a large scale - individuals have been building new

homes for themselves constantly since the beaches were first laid out in the late twenties. With the exception of the war years, when materials weren't available, there was never a year that did not see the building of several new homes. In fact, this year, alone, there are over a dozen being built in Riviera Beach and neighboring beaches.

This is a community where nearly all homes are built by the owner or if they are contracted the owner is seen on the grounds working with the men. We believe this is mostly because of the interest people here take in their homes. Many are self-designed.

With the exception of a few areas where there are yet a great number of summer homes, all houses have plumbing, electricity, running water, gas, telephone, and furnaces.

Our telephone office is the Armiger-Sunset exchange on Mountain Road. Electricity is furnished by the Consolidated Gas and Electric Light and Power Company of Baltimore. Bottle gas is hauled in by trucks from different oil companies. Houses without a central heating unit are few indeed. The type of furnace most used is the oil burner using oil also brought in by truck.

Everyone has a well. Most of them are shallow-dug wells; some deep-dug; some drilled. All homes, except a very few, have plumbing and an electric water pump. Even the summer homes have this utility.

In the older sections of Orchard and Carvel Beach and Bar Harbor there are some homes without basements. These are either summer homes or former summer homes not yet converted completely.

In our survey we found no rented homes except for those few families living in apartments. Although there is no doubt that there are some renting north of Stoney Creek and in Bar Harbor. Home ownership seems to be the rule.

When we asked people why they came here to live, most folks said that we had one convenience or another that they desired.

Twenty-five percent of those we interviewed came to live here because it was near their work. Our community is only four miles from the city line and the Coast Guard Yard, only nine miles from Glen Burnie and about sixteen miles from Annapolis. Workers can leave home and arrive at their work in minutes and miss the main lines of the heavy Baltimore going-to-work traffic.

Twenty percent liked the fact that they could "spread-out" and have a yard large enough to enjoy. Still they are near enough to Baltimore shopping districts and places of amusement, it is only a twenty minute drive to the city; yet ours has all the advantages of a rural community.

One of the chief attractions to the people living here is the beach. We enjoy the privacy of a restricted beach which is not more than a ten minute walk from any home in our community. There are many places to tie yachts and a boat repair yard and fueling stations are nearby. Fifty percent of our residents live here because of our shore.

Other conveniences might be given such as our business district. It includes all sorts of small businesses: hardware store, gift shop, dentist and doctor offices, two self-service markets, post office, filling stations, clothing store, first aid station, dry cleaners, supper clubs, five and dime store, drug store, restaurants and others. We also have two fire companies, five churches,

playgrounds, lodges, clubs, two schools, and active improvement associations and civic groups in our community.

Nearly all of us live here for more or less the same reasons - the conveniences we feel our community has to offer adequate space to enjoy our homes; nearness to shopping centers, our work, the water, and recreational places; protection of our good fire departments and county police; having our own schools and churches.

Our beaches are young and far from crowded. Most of the homes were built by people who are family-oriented. We know of no noteworthy inadequacy on our housing at the present time.

## **VII. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Dr. J. Brady Smith, general practitioner, has his office in Riviera Beach, on Fort Smallwood Road. He is the only physician in this immediate community. Dr. Mallow, a dentist, also practices in Riviera Beach. We have no clinics or hospitals in this area but there is a clinic at Magothy Health Center open to our citizens and we are not too far from the hospitals of Baltimore. Each fire department has ambulance service ready in case of any emergency.

There is no central water supply in any of our beaches. Each homeowner has dug or drilled a well for his own use. The county supplies a garbage collection and disposal for the entire area twice a week in summer time and for some beaches once a week in the winter while the larger beaches continue their semi-weekly schedule.

All of our beaches are patrolled by officers from Ferndale Police Station which is the closest Anne Arundel County police station to our community. In addition to the county part the Fort Smallwood Highway is patrolled by state troopers. Many beaches have a special officer, to keep peace and order in that particular area. These officers were appointed by the county but paid by the development company. The officers are residents of the community and their chief job is to keep the public from bathing at the private beaches.

The third district Magistrate Court on Mountain Road serves this community. They take care of civil suits up to \$300, theft cases up to \$100, and motor vehicles cases involving anyone sixteen years or older.

More serious crimes than those are handled by the Circuit Court in Annapolis. Any criminal cases under eighteen years of age go to the juvenile court in Annapolis.

Our Riviera Beach Fire Company was begun in 1930 by Mac Eshenbach. He organized a group of volunteers and became the first fire chief.

The following September, 1931, they bought a new fire truck from the United States Fire Apparatus Company of Wilmington, Delaware. This truck had many new features for that time and was brought by the factory man here for demonstration.

This truck had:

500 gal. pump	2 1/2 in. hose	1 1/2 in. hose
3/4 in. booster line	24 ft. ladder	12 ft. ladder

4 in. suction hose      coats, boots, helmets

The firemen were thrilled with the engine. The factory man wanted to demonstrate it, so he and Ellsworth Barton, then chief of the company, climbed aboard and started down Fort Smallwood Road. But at that time Fort Smallwood Road was being graded up for pavement. A road machine that took up over half of the road loomed suddenly ahead of the truck. The demonstrator slowed down and cut over to keep from hitting the machine. The slope was too great for the heavy engine and it turned over, killing chief Barton.

Nevertheless, the truck was bought and put in Mac's garage, because there was no engine house at that time.

In 1934 a new building was completed on Tickneck Road in Sunset Beach. It was one story high and only half as long or wide as the building there today. The engine was then proudly moved to its new home.

At this time our company answered calls from Stoney Creek to Gibson Island, and as far over as old Annapolis Road.

In 1937 the company bought its first ambulance, which we still have. It was a Buick bought from the Flexible Body Company. This purchase made it necessary to enlarge the building again. So in 1938 the building was made longer and a second floor added.

The company grew as the community grew and the need was greater. In the next year, 1939, firemen began to train for fire-fighting at the University of Maryland. Guess work was gone. Since that time our men have kept in training all the time with these courses in basic and advanced fire-fighting.

The men must have been glad for this training, when in 1941 our company helped fight the worst fire in its history, Thirty-two hundred acres of woods and fields, nine houses and several garages and sheds burned. The fire is believed to have started at Millersville and was finally stopped at Brandon Shores.

In 1914 it was decided that in case of another fire like that, there should always be an extra engine to call. So funds were raised and a second engine was purchased in 1942. Both of these trucks are still serving our needs.

Another purchase was made in 1947 - a second ambulance was bought. Again, the next year it was necessary to add to the fire house. This time they enlarged it to twice its former size.

As the company received better support, another ambulance was bought in 1950, and the second one sold. This gave the company two ambulances and two fire trucks, which we still have today. This was good for in 1951 we had to answer three hundred and twenty five fire calls and four hundred ambulance calls. Our present fire chief believes that the greatest cause of this large number of fires was careless burning of trash on windy days.

It is said that the Riviera Beach Volunteer Fire Company Inc. is one of the best in the country. In 1951, when they had so many calls they received a cup from G. Henry Knoblock for having the snappiest firemen in the Memorial Day Parade here.

The company has a paid chauffeur, who must be on duty at all times; but all the other firemen are volunteers. The fire chief is chosen by majority vote at the general business meeting of the firemen. These meetings are held once a month, as is also the meeting of the Board of Directors.

The company answers calls anywhere in the third district. There are about three hundred fire calls a year and about four hundred ambulance calls.

Funds for equipment and the operation of this community service is gotten from the functions the Ladies auxiliary sponsors, bingos, carnivals, solicitations, and a small appropriation from the county each year.

Our fire chiefs were:

Mac Eshenbach	Ellsworth Barton	Lawrence Walker
Ray Zittle	Calvin Bayne	William Mahle

### ***VIII. DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGION***

Years before Riviera Beach was developed Father Leonard Ripple of Saint Rose of Lima Parrish in Brooklyn started a mission down here. Mass had to be held in a tent.

The church now standing on Church and Tickneck Road was completed in 1924. It continued as a mission, associated with St. Rose of Lima for twenty-two years. In 1946 on November 22, Father Raymond Kelly came to Riviera Beach as St. Jane Frances' first pastor, and the church became a Parrish. That year, besides the priest's daily mass, two masses were said on Sundays.

Now the Parrish had grown so that five masses are necessary on Sunday, except in summer when there are six. These are said in the school hall because it is larger and will seat one thousand people.

The first May procession in our Parrish was held in 1947. The present Mrs. Joseph Stewart was the Queen of that year.

Associated with the church is the Sanctuary Society, whose president is Mr. Charles Wholy. Another society of the Parrish is the Sodality, whose president is Miss Margaret Mooney. The Holy Name Society's president is Paul Klatt. William Omeara is organist; his wife is choir director.

The Lutheran church was built on Fort Smallwood Road in Orchard Beach in 1945 and named by its pastor, who is remembered as the Rev. Mr. Fink.

Its earliest member families were:

Bracks	Fahmallers	Smelsers
Squires	Taymans	Wilbes

The first baptism recorded was Linda Tayman. Early members met in the Improvement Association Hall. The superintendent of the Sunday School is Mr. Harry Zeller. The present pastor is the Reverend Mr. Valde Mezezers.

The councilmen are:

Mr. Alfred Squires	Gustan Kurtz	Emil Quasney
Edwin Schaken	Howard C. Graf	Harry Zeller

The cornerstone of the Community Methodist Church of Riviera Beach was laid on September 12, 1925. Previous to this a group of people held church meetings first on Mrs. Anna Riley's front porch, then in Mrs. Stadiger's garage and then in a tent at the corner of Carvel and Main Roads. At this time Riviera Beach was only a summer colony and the church was open about ten Sundays a year.

Today the original building plus a recent addition known as "Fellowship" Hall houses 24 Sunday School Classes, an active church membership, a junior and intermediate Methodist Youth Fellowship, Women's Society of Christian Service, two Girl Scout troops, a Brownie Scout troop, a Boy Scout troop and Sea Scout troop, a daily kindergarten class, and special meetings of various other organizations.

Rev. Charles S. Harrison was the very first minister in the church. Since 1947 the pulpit has been occupied by Rev. Wm. Cook.

Due to the fact that there were no "All the Year" Protestant Churches in the community, the Jenkins Memorial Church was organized on the front porch of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Benway of Carroll Road, Riviera Beach on the 2nd Sunday of June, 1931, with 6 children and 3 adults and \$3.68 in cash. Mr. James Jenkins, a farmer, offered a plot of ground and gave a check for a reasonable amount toward building the church.

Rev. Charles S. Harrison who had just returned from Walfordburg, Pennsylvania and moved to Bar Harbor, was called and urged to undertake the building of an "All the Year" church. The Reverend and his committee whom he had gotten together really got busy. The membership increased weekly, both Sunday School and Church, and on Sunday, December 13, of the same year, 1931, the Jenkins Memorial Church was dedicated to God and to the community.

In November 1951, a building committee was formed with the pastor as leader to erect an addition to the church for the Sunday School, two new rooms, a new hot water heating system, a larger kitchen and dining room. This will be dedicated on Sunday, June 8, 1952. For three years a school bus has been bringing about 55 persons to Sunday School each Sunday. Rev. C. S. Harrison has served as pastor since 1931. He is both founder and pastor.

In Carvel Beach there is a small, picturesque church which is run by the people of the community. It is non sectarian and there a Sunday School for the children of the beach is held every Sunday.

Mr. Schaefer is Superintendent and has been since the beginning of the church in 1940. There is church for adults, only on special Sundays when a visiting minister is secured to conduct their services.

## ***IX. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES***

Many, many years ago a small school was built near Tickneck Road at the junction of the Neidert and Stinchcomb farms. This was known as the Rock Point School. It had only one room with an average attendance of 19 children. The property was deeded on September 18, 1869, but we do not know exactly what year the building was constructed. This school was used by the residents in our community until 1926 when it was closed and the children were transported to Jacobsville School.

In 1943 a new school was built in Riviera Beach and this one continues to serve the children in this area. The first year Mrs. Virginia D. Moore was principal of the six-room school. Since that time four more classrooms have been added to the school and Miss Nancy P. Hopkins has become Principal.

When the Jacobsville School served this area the children completed 7 grades there and then rode the school bus to Glen Burnie for 4 years of secondary education. Now the children attend six grades of elementary school at Riviera Beach, then 3 grades of Junior High School at the new George Fox School in Green Haven. From there, they go to Glen Burnie for 3 years of senior high schooling.

In 1948 three sisters of Notre Dame, with Sister Emmanuel as Superior, came to this Parrish to open school for Catholic children.

The first was an all brown, wooden building, having only three grades. Each year made more plain the need for a larger school. This was built on the lot adjoining the one belonging to the public school. It was of modern design with eight classrooms, a large auditorium, and kitchen for serving hot lunches to the children.

There are now six sisters teaching here, and a new convent is planned for next year to house the additional sisters that are needed to take care of the increased enrollment. The first grade alone is to have sixty-five youngsters in it next year.

There are now six grades in the school, and every one is filled as full as the size of the classrooms will allow.

## ***X. RECREATION FACILITIES***

There are certain annual affairs that everyone looks forward to and the whole community attends with enthusiasm. Every year the Lions Club sponsors a parade on Memorial Day. Many organizations and businesses present marching units or floats for this parade.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Riviera Beach Fire Dept. have a minstrel show each year as also does the Catholic Church. Both of these shows are very popular. There is always a big turnout for the musical review given by the Catholic School, the May Day Festival of the Public School, the May Day Exercises of the Catholic Church and the Christmas Play of the Public School. The two dancing schools have recitals every year, Knoblock's Department Store has a fashion show

each spring and perhaps the gayest time of all is the summer carnival time. Riviera Beach Fire Department open their week of carnival with a noisy parade of Fire engines, ambulances, bands and auxiliaries of many neighboring Fire Departments. Many churches and other organizations hold carnivals each year. Throughout the year all organizations (Ladies Aux. of the Churches especially) serve dinners, have bake sales, plays, etc., which we all enjoy as we meet with our neighbors and friends.

When the Riviera Beach Development Co. planned this community, they included a playground. Part of this land was equipped with swings, see saws, climbing bars, merry-go-round, a jungle gym and a pavilion. The other section has been made into a football and baseball field. For many years the community had a football team which played teams from surrounding communities. At the present time the field is used only by the children of the area in their play.

Within our community there is an amusement park and a community bathing beach open to the public, known as "Cottage Grove Beach." Large crowds from Baltimore come to this beach each summer. They have bath houses, many tables and benches in a picnic grove, baseball fields, ferris wheels, carousel, miniature railroad, pony rides, several pavilions, refreshment stands, cocktail lounge and dining room.

The first Girl Scout Troop in this area was organized in Riviera Beach by Mrs. Elsie Heer and Mrs. Louise Robinson in 1941. Since that year Girl Scouting in our community has grown to the extent that today there is an Intermediate and a Brownie Troop in Orchard Beach, three Intermediate, two Brownie Troops and a Senior Troop in Riviera Beach. The troops are filled to capacity with waiting lines in nearly every case and the need of additional troops next September seems definite. The present leaders are Mrs. Schaarf and Mrs. Bowler in Orchard Beach, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Krickler, Mrs. Gleim, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Frank and Mrs. Craig in Riviera Beach. Mrs. Stasch is neighborhood chairman of scouting in this community and Mrs. Heer conducts leadership training courses.

The first Boy Scout Troop was begun in Riviera Beach in 1942 by Mr. Frank Neat. Today there is an intermediate troop led by Mr. Gosnell and a Sea Scout Troop led by Mr. Phillips. At the present time the cub scouts are being reorganized. There is a Boy Scout Troop in Orchard Beach led by Mr. Hall.

## ***XI. CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS***

The Riviera Beach Yacht Club was begun about 1940. It was the outgrowth of a small "Men's Club" that met at various members' homes. There are 20 charter members. Today the club owns its waterfront property, clubhouse, and is incorporated. There are approximately 60 members. Mr. Charles Stevens is the present Commander.

About 3 years after formation of the yacht club the wives of members formed an organization known as "the Anchors". They meet at the clubhouse and strive to aid the Yacht Club. There are about 25 members and the president is Mrs. Arthur Heise.

The Lions Club is a world wide organization. The club was started in Riviera Beach in 1949 by Mr. Edward Smith, Jr. and Dr. J. Brady Smith, Mrs. Lewis Bookhultz, and Mr. Justin Buick and

others. The first president was Mr. Bookhultz and Mr. Jack Derr is president at the present time. The club dues are sixteen dollars per year. One dollar per person goes to the national headquarters. Meetings are twice a month. The purpose is to provide community services, with special attention paid to sight conservation.

A general meeting of parents and teachers of the Riviera Beach School was held in the school on Wednesday, September 22, 1943. Mr. Heer asked to act as chairman for this meeting, the main purpose of which was to organize a Parents-Teachers Association.

The faculty of the school was introduced by Mr. A. P. Van Metre, coordinating principal of Riviera Beach, Jacobsville and Pasadena schools.

October 14, 1943 Election of officers for P.T.S. was as follows:

President	Watson Heer
1st Vice President	Mrs. Virginia Moore
2nd Vice President	Mrs. Norris Erb
Secretary	Mrs. John Beatty
Treasurer	Mrs. Josephine Pugh

Mr. Pumphrey donated a piano and radio.

Meetings were held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8 pm

## ***XII. OUR COMMUNITY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE***

Recently our class made a survey of our community to get an idea of what families in this area felt were our greatest problems. This is what we found out:

Transportation	3.9%
Water Supply	41.38%
Sewage	28.1 4%
Dope	.66%
Entertainment for children	1.65%
Recreation	1.55%
Schools	.66%
Roads	11.92%
Mail Service	.33%
Delinquency	.33%
Litter on the beach	.66%

The bad water supply and poor means of sewage disposal have been talked about for several years. A petition has even been sent to the Baltimore City Council requesting that city water be brought to our community. We have had no results as yet. Our Improvement Association, the Parent Teachers Association, and other civic groups are working on this problem.

It is hoped that the Baltimore Transit Company will extend its lines this far because city water may follow it. It is also hoped that the new industrial plant going in between us and Foreman's Corner will hasten its installation.

In the last two months the county and state have been working on the roads in Riviera Beach and on Tickneck Road widening the berm. It is hoped that the many holes that are so hard on our automobiles will be repaired in all the beaches.

Since so much beach traffic passes our community day after day in the summer and more and more people are making their permanent homes here, there has been a rapid growth in the places of business along Fort Smallwood Road. It is believed that within a very few years the whole length of this road will be business from the Coast Guard to Rock Hill Beach.

There are many rumors of industries going in between Baltimore and Annapolis. Also, there are indications that Baltimore Transit will extend its operations to Orchard Beach, at least, after industry that is started north of Orchard Beach is completed. Furthermore, our people have been relentless in their demands for city water and sewage and continued, improved roads. If and when all these things come about, it seems reasonable that the next step will be annexation to Baltimore itself, with the other benefits such action would bring.

Boat racing on Rock Creek and Stoney Creek has made swimming and fishing alike disagreeable, difficult and at some times almost impossible. Will there be some sort of compromise made, or isn't it that important to the swimmers and fishermen who are complaining now?

Properties are increasing in value all the time because of the businesses growing up and movement of the city people even farther from the center of Baltimore city. Will this plus the new industries create a housing problem in our community, whose appeal is now spaciousness?

There is a definite trend now to a greater amount of social life in our community, and a greater variety of social organizations. There is noticeably a greater spirit of cooperation now than ever before.

### ***UPDATE TO "DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGION"***

The Riviera Beach Development Co. donated the land for the Trinity Episcopal Methodist Church in 1925. Rev. Charles Harrison was the first pastor of the summer only church. The building was built for \$8,000. In 1940, the church became a year round church with Rev. Thomas Baker as pastor. The Fellowship Hall was added in 1949 at a cost of \$9,000 and the name of the church became The Community Methodist Church, better known as "The Pink

Church” because of it was painted pink. In 1954 a parsonage was bought on Harlem and Creek Roads.

On February 4, 1962 a new building was consecrated on four acres of land, purchased for \$10,000 per acre, on Fort Smallwood Road and Duvall Hwy. The building housed a large sanctuary/community room, classrooms and offices. The mortgage was burned on May 13, 1973.

In the early 1990’s a permanent sanctuary and additional classrooms were added.