

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

seedling

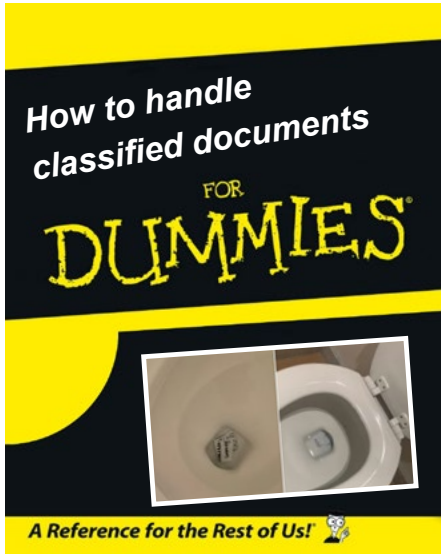
August 26, 2022



Flushed

By Chester Taylor

Most of us who have worked for the federal government have had to handle classified documents and material. Some of us have been classified material custodians or couriers. Because of our jobs, we had clearances to read clas-



sified documents and even had to work in Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities, called SCIFs. We all went through background checks, read instructions, and signed documents that we understood the instructions and promised not to disclose classified information to anyone unless there was a need to know. We were warned that if we violated any of these instructions, we would be prosecuted and spend the rest of our lives at the “crossbar hotel” at Fort Leavenworth.

The law (18 U.S. Code § 1924) is clear on the unauthorized removal and retention of classified documents or material, “Whoever, being an officer,

employee, contractor, or consultant of the United States, and, by virtue of his office, employment, position, or contract, becomes possessed of documents or materials containing classified information of the United States, knowingly removes such documents or materials without authority and with the intent to retain such documents or materials at an unauthorized location shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both.”

Why do we have this and other pertinent laws to protect our secrets? Well, there are spies who steal and reveal our secrets for financial gain, notoriety, or ideological reasons. Of the hundreds of recent spies, Jonathan Pollard, Robert Hansen, Aldrich Ames, John Anthon Walker, and, charged but not convicted, Julian Assange come to mind. Under the Espionage Act of 1917, 18 U.S.C. ch. 37 (18 U.S.C. § 792 et seq.), it is illegal for anyone who has information related to national defense to use it “to the injury of the United States” or “to the advantage of any foreign nation.” Anyone convicted of violating the law could face a fine or up to 10 years in prison.

A few tips for handling classified documents.

- ✓ Don't take classified documents home.
- ✓ Don't flush classified documents down the toilet.
- ✓ Don't toss classified documents in the trash can.
- ✓ Don't leave classified documents unattended.
- ✓ Don't store classified documents in an unauthorized container. 📖

Tiny libraries

Tucked away in the small meeting room off each Montebello lobby is an enticing cabinet full of books! It's not a secret, but it's not well-known that through the years, Montebelloans have taken their well-read novels, cookbooks, and other fiction and non-fiction books

to the cabinet to share with their neighbors. In return, we are free to take whatever we like from the cabinet to read, keep, pass on, or return.

Take a little tour of the nearest community book cabinet to see what you can find. And check your home bookshelves for items to share. – Karen Barnes 📖

voices on the 37

Overheard

Due to their architecture and laws of physics, our buildings have delightful acoustics. If you live in a front-facing unit and your windows are open, then you know you can hear conversations taking place outside. With cooler weather on the horizon and more windows open, please be aware of this fact when talking on the phone or sharing a confidence with a neighbor near the portico. Same goes for gabbing or having friends over on an open balcony. Outdoor conversations are especially audible later at night when ambient noises are hushed. So the next time you roll up to the front entrance after a wild night of partying, be aware that walls have ears. – MK 📖

Cover: *The butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) is going to seed in our Village Green garden.*

Photo by Patricia Jacobec

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 Alexandria, Virginia

This publication accepts no funding or oversight from advertisers, residents, or the Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association. All opinions are encouraged and reflect the diversity of views in the community. All articles and photographs come from Montebello residents. To receive or contribute to this email-only gazette, contact montebellovoice@cox.net or visit on the web at www.montebellovoice.com.

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Grounds Committee presents proposal for interior front entrance

By Mikhailina Karina

A welcoming new landscape vista with seasonal interest, flowers, boulders, and color will replace the current bland hillside by the front gate.

At last Tuesday’s board work session, Patricia Jacubec, chair of the Developed Landscape Subcommittee of the Grounds Committee, presented a proposal for the front entrance hillside that would complete the front entrance landscaping beautification project begun with revamping of the outside area along the service road.

The estimated cost of the project

is \$48,207, which will come from the Reserve account. Additional irrigation will be between \$5,000 and \$8,000. Maintenance will be part of the regular landscaping services with a negligible cost increase. Bidding is currently in progress and should be complete in September for board vote. If approved, work will begin this fall.

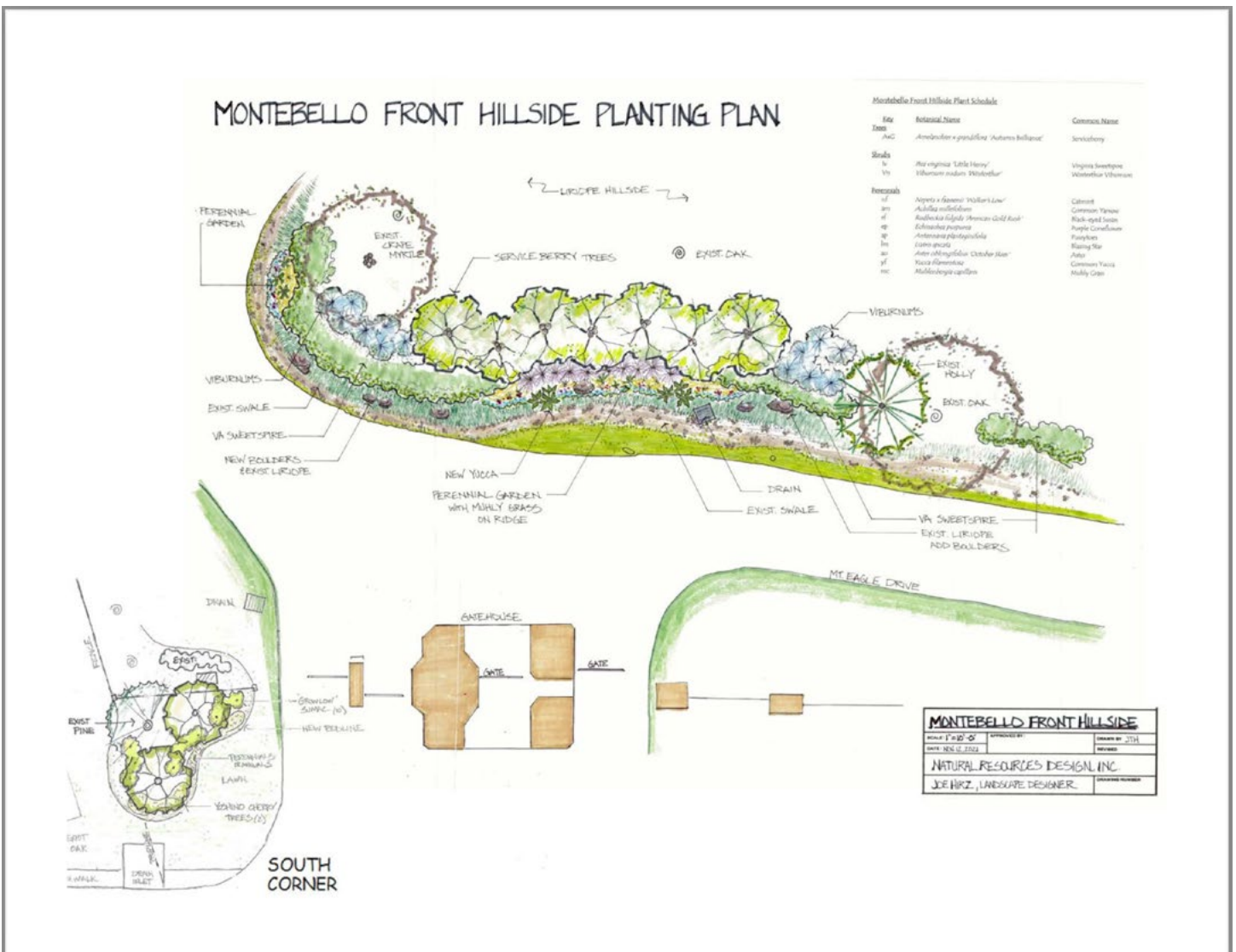
According to the proposal, the low-maintenance landscaping will enhance the area’s aesthetics and improve plant choices – all on a modest budget.

Native plants, which won’t be attractive to deer, will include brilliant serviceberry, Virginia sweetspire, Winterthur Viburnum, purple catmint, white

pussetoes, purple cornflower, black eye susan, white yarrow, purple blazing star, and pink muhly grass.

“When this is completed, I think it will be as pretty as our butterfly gardens are and an example of leveraging environmentally sound practices of using native plants to increase biodiversity as a way to beautify our campus,” Jacubec said.

The design and all of the slide content was done by [Natural Resources Design, Inc.](#) The full presentation is in board packet at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sVifDyAsINkX_TVn-JB7iz_pSlbfzQGpK/view.



women's club luncheon



Photos by Dian McDonald



women's club luncheon



The Vatican

By Joe de Angelis

The Vatican is the smallest sovereign state in the world. In 1984 the Vatican was designated an UNESCO World Heritage Site and it is the only World Heritage Site to encompass an entire sovereign, geopolitical state. The history of the Vatican, including its name, dates back to the ancient Etruscans who lived on the alluvial plain on the west bank of the Tiber River across the river from Rome. During the Roman Republic (509-27 BC), perhaps even earlier, the Romans referred to this marshy area as the *Ager Vaticanus* (Vatican field) which referred to an Etruscan settlement, named *Vatica* or *Vaticum*, which was located in that general area. The name *Vaticum* is derived from the Etruscan god *Vagiti* (wailing) “who presides over the beginning of human speech.” The word Vatican, however, actually comes from the Latin word *vaticināri*, which is derived from *vātēs*, meaning to prophesy, to foretell, or oracle. Since the name Vatican has its roots in Latin, it stands to reason that it is Latin, rather than an Etruscan word from the vocabulary of a people that the Romans vanquished. However, there may or may not be a link between the Etruscan *Vaticum* and the Latin *Vaticum* given that they both relate to speech, but that is a matter for linguistic scholars.

In 396 BC the Romans defeated the Etruscans and gained possession of some of their lands, to include the *Ager Vaticanus*. Shortly before the beginning of the first century AD the Romans

drained the *Ager Vaticanus* and began building villas and public buildings on the newly stabilized land.

In AD 37 Emperor Caligula brought an obelisk to Rome from Heliopolis Egypt, which he intended to be the center piece of his *circus* (racetrack), which he began to build in AD 40. However, Caligula was assassinated in AD 41 and the circus was completed by Emperor Nero and is commonly referred to as the *Nerone circo ludios* (-Circus of Nero). After the Great Fire of Rome in AD 64 (18 July) the Circus of Nero became the site of the first state-sponsored persecutions of



Christians, to include the Apostle Peter. Many historians and scholars believe that the fire was the excuse and the motivation that spurred Nero to persecute Christians. Two years later, in AD 68, it is believed that Peter was crucified, upside-down, on the *spina* (spine or median strip) of the Circus of Nero near the ancient Egyptian obelisk. Today, that obelisk stands in the center of St. Peter's square and is known as the Vatican Obelisk.

According to tradition, Peter's remains were buried just outside the Circus of Nero on the *Mons Vaticanus* ac-

ross the *Via Cornelia*, a road that ran east and west along the northern wall of the circus, less than 165 yards from where he was crucified. Legend tells us also that Peter's grave was initially marked by a red rock, symbolic of his name, however, that is most unlikely, but a shrine was built on the site some years later.

In AD 306 Constantine became emperor of the Roman Empire, and in AD 313 he issued the Edict of Milan, which brought Christianity into the pantheon of Roman religious sects. Ten years later Christianity would become the official religion of the Roman Empire. Also, in AD 313 Emperor Constantine gave Pope Saint Militades (311-314) all of the *Ager Vaticanus*, as well as the Lateran Palace in the city of Rome, which became the residence of the popes. In AD 326 the Emperor built the Constantine Basilica, which is now referred to as Old Saint Peter's Basilica. The circus of Nero having been long abandoned, Constantine used many of the stones from the circus to build his basilica, which was built over the site believed to be the grave of St. Peter, with the asp of the basilica situated so that it was centered above the grave. Constantine's Basilica remained as the primary basilica of Rome from the fourth to the 16th century.

Commissioned by Emperor Constantine and consecrated by Pope Sylvester I in AD 324, the *Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano* was the main place of worship for popes, who until the 14th century resided in the adjacent Lateran Palace. When the *Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano* became a symbol of papal authority, the papal *cathe-dra* (chair of St. Peter) was placed in its interior, rendering it the Cathedral of



the Pope as the Bishop of Rome.

From the fifth century on there was a noticeable association between the Vatican and the Papacy. Starting with Emperor Constantine building of the Basilica of St. Peter and Pope Symmachus (498-514) commissioning two new buildings, circa AD 505, close to the Basilica, which served as an alternative residence to the [Lateran Palace](#). More buildings were commissioned over the years to replace the crumbling ruins of the Vatican resulting in the Apostolic Palace that we know today. From that time on, the *Ager Vaticanus* became a very active venue for Christianity due to the activities associated with the Basilica and the Apostolic Palace.

Beginning in AD 756 the Roman Pontiffs began accumulating territories throughout the Italian Peninsula and became their temporal, as well as their spiritual sovereign. Officially, these territories were considered the State of the Church, but were commonly referred to as the Papal States, which consisted of most of the modern Italian regions of Lazio, Marche, Umbria, Romagna, and portions of Emilia. These territories became major states in Italy under the direct sovereign rule of the Pope. The Papal States were major players in the geopolitics of the Italian Peninsula from the eighth century until the final unification of Italy in 1870.

Between 848 and 852, Pope Leo IV expanded the city walls of Rome to include Vatican Hill on the other side of the Tiber River, thereby placing it within the city limits of Rome. His primary concern in doing so was to protect the Basilica of St. Peter and the Vatican. In 1279, Pope Nicholas III moved the Pa-

pal residence to the Vatican and enclosed the area behind walls. However, during the ensuing Babylonian Captivity (1309 to 1377) all of the Popes resided in [Avignon](#), France, and consequently, there was very little, if any connection between the Popes, Saint Peter's Basilica, or the Vatican. After the return of the Papacy to Rome in 1377, the Vatican became the official residence of the Popes and has remained so ever since.

Over the centuries, old Saint Peter's Basilica, and the burial site of Saint Peter, gradually gained in importance, eventually becoming a major place of pilgrimage for Catholics. But by the time the Papacy returned to the Vatican in 1377, the Basilica built by Constantine had fallen into major disrepair. The first Pope to consider rebuilding the Basilica, or at least making radical changes, was [Pope Nicholas V](#) (1447–1455). He commissioned work on the old Basilica from [Leone Battista Alberti](#) and [Bernardo Rossellino](#), while at the same time he had Rossellino design a plan for an entirely new basilica. By the time of Pope Nicholas V's death, little had been achieved in the way of renovations.

In 1475, [Pope Sixtus IV](#), formally established the Vatican Apostolic Library which was predicated on the vision of [Pope Nicholas V](#): "A Rome with extensive public works to lure pilgrims and scholars to the city and for Rome to be seen as an institution for humanist scholarship." One of the oldest libraries in the world, if not the oldest, the Vatican Library contains one of the most significant and extensive collections of historical texts on history, law, philosophy, science, and theology. It has 75,000 historical [codices](#), as well as 1.1 million printed books, which include some 8,500 [incunabula](#), that is, printed literature before the invention of the printing press.

In February 1506 Pope Julius II purchased a marble sculpture, *Laocöon and His Sons*, which was discovered in a vineyard in Rome on 14 January. The

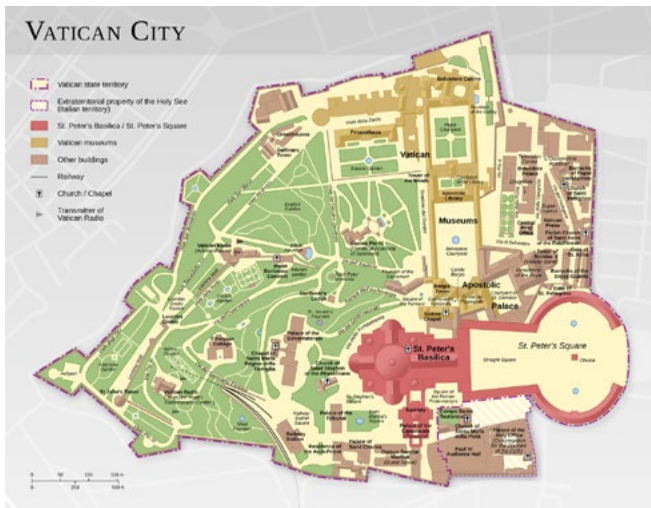
Pope put the sculpture on public display at the Vatican exactly one month after its discovery. This, in effect was the birth of the Vatican Museums. Throughout the centuries the Vatican has amassed an immense collection of the most renowned ancient [Roman sculptures](#) and the most important masterpieces of [Renaissance art](#) in the world, to include the Sistine Chapel and the [Stanze di Raffaello](#).

With the old basilica practically in ruins, [Pope Julius II](#) decided to completely demolish it and replace it with a new, monumental structure. Construction of the present day basilica commenced on 18 April 1506 with the laying of the foundation stone by the [Pope](#). The basilica's design is that of a Latin cross with three isles and a [dome](#) at the crossing, directly above the high [altar](#) which is located above the grave of St. Peter.

In 1546, Pope Paul III appointed Michelangelo architect of [Saint Peter's Basilica](#). Michelangelo worked on the basilica until his death in 1564. Over the course of 120 years, a total of seven architects worked on the basilica under the watchful and guiding eyes of 20 reigning Popes. Their combined efforts resulting in the present-day basilica which was completed on 18 November 1626.

One of the largest and most beautiful squares in the world, the [Piazza San Pietro](#) ([St. Peter's Square](#)) was commissioned by Pope Alexander VII in 1656, and designed by [Gian Lorenzo Bernini](#). It is an elliptical forecourt enclosed by a massive [colonnade](#) with Doric columns, which stand four deep, and there are 140 statues of saints atop the colonnade facing the piazza. The [colonnade](#) rings the piazza forming a keyhole effect, which alludes to Saint Peter as the keeper of the keys to Heaven. All of which adds to the grandeur of the Vatican.

The Renaissance Popes, principally [Sixtus IV](#), [Innocent VIII](#), [Alexander VI](#), [Julius II](#), [Leo X](#), and [Clement VII](#), were great patrons of the arts, and it



the Pope's prerogatives or to make laws. The Popes demanded that the **Holy See** remain independent in its exercise of spiritual jurisdiction. This dispute between the Vatican and the Kingdom of Italy, which lasted for nearly 60 years, became known as the **Roman Question**.

The **Roman Question** was brought to its conclusion in 1929 with the signing of the Lateran Treaty between King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy and Pope Pius XI. The treaty was signed by Benito Mussolini, for the Italian state and by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Gasparri for the Papacy. The treaty created the *Stato della Città del Vaticano* (Vatican City State) as an independent political entity with the **Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano**, the official cathedral of the Bishop of Rome. Located in the city of Rome, the cathedral was designated an extra-territorial link of the *Stato della Città del Vaticano*.

was they who began to assemble the great collections of art and to construct the wonderful galleries. In 1586 Pope Sixtus V had the obelisk of Nero's Circus moved to its present location in St. Peter's Square. During the Baroque period (1600-1750) it was Pope Alexander VII, through the genius of Gian Lorenzo Bernini, that the Vatican, as well as Rome itself, was transformed into the wondrous city we have today.

On 20 September 1870, **Royal Italian Army** troops entered the city of Rome bringing about the total defeat of the Papal States under Pope Pius IX, which had existed for the past 1,114 years. This concluded the long process of unification of the Italian Peninsula (Risorgimento) under the Kingdom of Italy and established Rome as the capital city of the newly unified Italian state. As a result, the Pope Pius IX lost Lazio and Rome and no longer had any physical territory except St. Peter's Basilica, the Apostolic Palace, the **Basilica di San Giovanni in Laterano**, and related buildings of the Vatican. The **Royal Italian Army** never occupied the Vatican. Even though the Italian government guaranteed the Pope's liberty and freedom of movement, both within Italy, as well as abroad, the Popes refused to set foot outside the walls of the Vatican, thereby earning them the moniker "prisoners of the Vatican" until the signing of the **Lateran Treaty** in 1929.

Pope Pius IX and his successors refused to recognize the right of the King of Italy to reign over the former territory of the Papal States, or to decide

According to the Treaty, the Holy See would acknowledge Italian sovereignty over the territory of the former Papal States, and the Kingdom of Italy would recognize papal sovereignty over **Vatican City**. The Holy See also limited its request for indemnity to \$92 million for the loss of the Papal States and other ecclesiastical property confiscated by the Italian State.

Pope Pius IX, however, rejected the Law of Guarantees, also referred to as the Law of Papal Guarantees, passed in 1871, which accorded the **Pope** certain honors and privileges similar to those enjoyed by the **King of Italy**, to include the right to send and receive **ambassadors**, with full **diplomatic immunity**, just as a ruler of a sovereign state would have. The law also provided for an annual financial payment to the Pope, which Pius IX rejected: The Vatican was to be an independent sovereign state.

Today the Vatican is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church with the Pope at its head. The Pope, who resides in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace, is the spiritual leader of 1.32 billion Roman Catholics worldwide, and is also the sovereign head of Vatican City. With net assets believed to be about four billion euros, the Vatican functions as a sovereign secular state on the world stage. There are 86 countries currently maintaining embassies to the Holy See, however, due to the limited size of Vatican City (109 acres) all of the embassies to the Holy See are located in the city of **Rome**. The Holy See also maintains 116 Apostolic Nunciatures worldwide.

The Vatican is an important historical and religious site. Most importantly it is the site of the tomb of the Apostle Peter, the first of an uninterrupted line of 266 Roman Pontiffs. The most important feature of the Basilica of Saint Peter is the burial site of Saint Peter. The Vatican, throughout its history has gone to great lengths to maintain the site and its credibility, as evidenced by the actions of Pope Paul VI, who in 1968 announced to the world, "The bones in question were truly those of the Apostle Peter himself." However, this fact does not negate the grandeur and splendor of the Basilica itself, rather it reinforces it as the most holy site in Christendom. From its grand size and architecture, which in itself is a masterpiece of Renaissance and Baroque architecture, to the unparalleled works of art contained therein, and the grandiose piazza extended before its grand entrance, Saint Peter's Basilica is a wonder to behold.

In addition to its religious significance, the Vatican is a treasure trove of iconic art and architecture that will forever be directly and tangibly linked with the history of Christianity, Europe, and the world. 🏛️

A cold cash crop

By Bob Shea

What is ice? Basically it is frozen water that is available through our refrigerator doors, at the soft drink dispenser in fast food restaurants, and in large bags at every 7-11. It cools stuff. We take it for granted in a Coke, in iced tea, in a martini on the rocks, or in an ice pack for a sore back.

However, that was not always the case.

I grew up in New Hampshire near Lake Massabesic, which provides the drinking water for the city of Manchester. In the summer, fishing and boating were allowed, but no swimming. In the winter when the lake was frozen, ice skating and ice fishing were permitted in addition to a few ice boats that were basically skeleton sail boats with runners. Water purity was essential.

On one section of the lake shore, the Manchester Coal and Ice Company (MCIC) each winter and spring harvested ice. They built an ice house as close to the lake as possible with just a two-lane asphalt road between it and the shoreline. The ice house was a building about four stories tall, the size of a football field with thick wooden interior and exterior walls filled with sawdust for insulation.

Connecting the ice house to the lake shore, passing over the roadway on wooden trestles, was a conveyor belt powered by a gasoline engine. As soon as the ice was at some predetermined thickness, the company began to harvest ice.

Once the snow was cleared, they used large circular saws powered by gasoline engines mounted on sleds pulled by horses. The saws would cut

the ice into large floating rectangles that would be floated to the area near the conveyor and cut by men with long saws into pieces about 4x2 feet and as thick as that day's ice, probably 18 to 20 inches thick. Using long poles with hooks on one end, other men would muscle the ice blocks onto the conveyor to travel up and over the road to the highest level of the ice house.

Inside the ice house were movable



gravity chutes that let the ice slide downward where other men also with hooked poles directed the ice around the interior rooms until the entire floor was covered with ice. Then a layer of saw dust was applied, and another ice layer was started. This continued until the entire ice house was filled.

Cutting the ice on the lake was precisely done to ensure that the saw sleds and horses were always on solid ice and also to make sure the cut mini icebergs could be floated to the conveyor for additional cutting. It was a choreographed

process like a chess game with ice, open water, men, and equipment moving to keep the harvest moving. It was probably akin to painting the floor in a room and being careful not to paint oneself into a corner.

At a nearby railroad spur, insulated Boston and Maine Railroad boxcars were also loaded with ice for shipment to Boston.

I am sure that the Manchester Coal and Ice Company, a private company, paid the Manchester Waterworks, a public utility, a fee based on ice tonnage. Additionally, I am sure, at least I hope, that there had to be safeguards in place to keep the lake pristine despite gasoline-powered saws and normal human debris, not to mention horse manure.

When the weather started to warm up in the spring and into the summer, I can recall many MCIC open-topped trucks going through our neighborhood each day hauling that winter's ice crop to the city. The hotter the day, the more trucks we would see. Since the trucks were open-topped, the ice would be covered with black rubber blankets. Nevertheless, each truck on a hot day would leave a trail on the roadway of dripping water from slowly melting ice.

ing ice.

My grandmother did not have a refrigerator when I was very young. She had an ice box. It was an insulated upright cabinet with a compartment at the top for a block of ice and a pan at the bottom to collect the water from the melted ice. She had a bright yellow card that she would put in her front window to tell the iceman how much ice she needed. There were four numbers on it, and the one that was at the top of the card indicated how much ice, in pounds, she wanted delivered that day.

ice, ice baby

The iceman would stop in front of her house, note the number on the card, and carve the appropriate-sized piece from the large blocks on his truck. He had a hand ice chisel and wore a rubber cape on his back. When cut, he would use a pair of ice tongs to lift the block, swing it onto his back, and go in the back door, placing the ice in her ice box. The ice man's truck would usually attract a bunch of kids on a hot summer day, and if the iceman was a good guy, he would chop off a few slivers of ice for the gathered kids. It was a real treat for us. Life was good!

Even when refrigerators became commonplace, and the iceman was out of business for home delivery, there were limited ice options. Top-of-the-line refrigerators had a small compartment just big enough for two ice cube trays with about 12 ice cubes in each tray. It had to be a special occasion for the family to use that ice in a drink, for it would be about 12 hours before the trays were frozen again.

Since the refrigerators were usually small by today's standards, containing eggs, milk, meat, margarine, some pro-



duce, left-overs, most soft drinks never saw the inside of the refrigerator but were kept in the cooler cellar. In New Hampshire, all houses had cellars or basements. Home freezers and store-bought frozen food were unknown at the time. Ice was a luxury for most families.

The cycle continued. Cold winter days, frozen lake, snow clearing, ice harvesting, hot days, large consumer demand, trucks leaking water, reduced

ice consumption in the fall and winter, more cold days, start harvesting again.

As an aside, the MCIC used many of the same open trucks in the winter to deliver coal for home heating. The coal would be pre-loaded in canvas bags that could be hefted by one man, the former iceman. They were probably almost too heavy for one man to carry. Using the same rubber cape on his back, he would carry bags of coal over his shoulder to a cellar window that opened into the coal bin. Using a chute he would empty the bags into the coal bin where it was accessible to the homeowner to shovel into his coal-fired furnace.

In the mid-1950s, the company changed its name to Manchester Coal and Oil Company. Ice harvesting had entered the history books.

Today we take ice for granted, for it is readily available and made by machines. With global warming, I am not sure the MCIC could still harvest its cold cash crop from the frozen lake even if there was a demand. The ice on

the lake is probably not thick enough to support the machinery, men, and animals needed for the harvest. We have made progress, or have we?

Also, kids today do not have the thrill of having the iceman hand them a sliver of ice on a hot August day. They are missing something, I think. 🍷



*Water aerobics
Photo by Linda
Brownlee*

**Polymer Clay Play!
Make It! Bake It! Take It!**

**Tuesday Sep 6, 2-5pm
and of course : eat chocolate!**

Where: The Underground CC



keychain

Come join us for a fun afternoon with soothing clay. Simply roll it, squish it, and make it! In this month's event, you can make a bead, a keychain, a zipper pull, or whatever else your heart desires!
Thanks to the Activities Group support for our AiM Polymer Clay Group, we will have everything, clay, tools and ovens onsite so you can make and bake your piece and take it with you. Just bring yourself — and a friend! Relax those hands with clay and have some fun with us!



Luggage tags.



Heart beads - pendants, or brooches

What is Polymer Clay?
Polymer Clay is a non-toxic synthetic clay that can be baked to strong hardness in a toaster oven. With lots of colors and a myriad of techniques, it can be used to make pretty much any type of art - whether it is wall art, jewelry, or home decor, or utility items.

AiM Polymer Clay



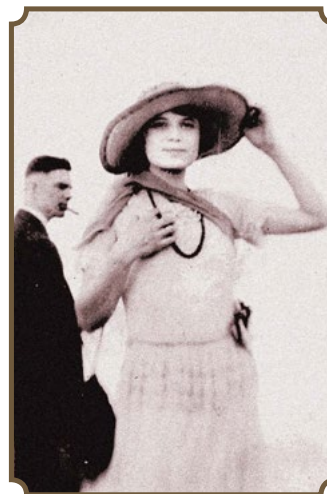
Photos by Dian McDonald



Arts in Montebello presents

**Places and Faces – Montebello & More
Opening Reception**

September 10 at 4 p.m. at the Montebello Grille



Restored photo by Joel Miller



Photo by Dian McDonald

Two of AiM's photographers, **Dian McDonald** and **Joel Miller**, will be using the Community Center's vast display walls to exhibit everything from today's portraits to restored vintage photography from a century ago





Found alongside trail behind building 1, a vintage 1950s Roy Rogers Geo. Schmidt toy cap pistol, something I had as a kid way back when. If in fine condition, it could bring upwards of \$160 on eBay.

Don Savage