From beginning to end, the forty-four people who attended the Alliance Spring Dinner on March 15 enjoyed themselves. As they arrived, they found pictures of historical markers on their tables; they tried to put the markers on the county maps where they belong. Later the key was displayed. This game is housed in the Alliance office and may be borrowed.

The festivities opened with a welcome from Peter Rees, who thanked some of the people who had helped prepare for the dinner. Maple Dale provided its usual excellent meal, following which the awards winners were announced.

Neil Webster and Annie Neubauer helped with the presentations, which were a high point, as always.

Lyn Groves, a social studies teacher at H. B. duPont Middle School, was the recipient of the Delaware Geographic Alliance Geography Teacher of the Year award. It's always a high point of the dinner when the award(s) for Distinguished Service are given out, partly because they are a closely kept secret before the presentation. The Alliance gave three Distinguished Service awards this year to three very deserving TCs. All three have been active and have contributed greatly to the Alliance:

Cindy Baker (ASGI-98),

Terry Koppel (ASGI-92),

and

Becky Reed (ASGI-98)

Congratulations, all.

Happily, Sam Felicia of Rand McNally was able to join us this year; he is always generous to and supportive of Alliance efforts.

After the honors had been taken care of, the guest speaker, Russ McCabe, described some of the resources in the Delaware State Archives and how they have been used in the past to teach geography. He was at once entertaining and informative. Since one of his duties is overseeing the historical marker program, he was pleased to see our marker game. He also shared some history of the new building and explained the repair work that needs to be done.

Mary Alice Aguilar, Pat Killalea, Annie Neubauer and Neil Webster all helped.
Meet Two Delaware Teachers

Brenda S. Treherne
(ASG-00) holds degrees from Millersville University and Wilmington College. A seventeen year veteran, she is part of the Seaford High School social studies department.

Seaford operates on a block schedule, and Brenda loves it. She says she never feels herself to be rushed and believes her students attain a greater depth of understanding than they did before block scheduling, and she is able to get to know them better as well.

Brenda teaches one section of twelfth grade comparative government and three sections of ninth grade American government. In all her classes she makes heavy use of maps.

Her students followed the presidential election closely last fall. Along with students across the state, they participated in a straw vote. They also mapped the electoral college results at home on election night. Write-out was a popular Florida color. However, Brenda says that by and large her students are not fundamentally engaged by politics. They were, in fact, nonplussed by her pointing out that they would be voting in the next presidential election.

Brenda hopes that she'll soon have an opportunity to teach geography. She plans to take the AP institute this summer along with a Seaford colleague.

Cheri F. Bragg holds a B.S. from New York University and is bringing her career to a close after thirty-three years. She'll retire in June from her seventh grade social studies position in the Lake Forest District.

The first quarter of the year is devoted entirely to geography, but Cheri stresses it all through the year. The class we observed began with current events reports. Half were delivered orally and half in written form. The oral reports took a short time, but in the follow-up period students used atlases to find physical and political features involved. They continued using map-reading skills to answer questions such as "Why did the plane take off from that city?" or, "Which coast of South America were they on?" The students were engaged and volunteered confidently. After current events, the class moved on to their continuing study of George Washington. Again using atlases, they picked out possible routes from Mt. Vernon to New York City for Washington's inauguration. Again the students were clearly comfortable in

Cheri listens to Danny Hazel give a current events report

It is through exercises like this that Cheri is able to integrate geography heavily into the three quarters of the year devoted to history.

You may wonder why we are highlighting a social studies teacher who is not a TC. Cheri was very active and instrumental in the formation of the Alliance and was an enormous help in putting out the first few issues of the newsletter. In 1989, she was also a force behind the drive to find and mark the geographic center of Delaware. The marker for that spot is on Rt. 12 east of Felton.
Treasures from the Poetry Contest

The results of the Earth Day poetry contest are in. There were forty-one entries in the K-2, 3-5 and adult categories. It was disappointing that no students entered in the 6-8 or 9-12 categories, but the entries we did receive were of high quality. All participants received certificates, and each winner got a few very modest prizes.

In the K-2 category, Cody Dyson of P. L. Dunbar Elementary School in Laurel took first prize with a lovely haiku:

See the bee near me
Comes so close to me -- it stings.
Ouch! It hurts a lot!

Laura Hill’s
Third graders at West Seaford Elementary School earned a special award for their group effort entitled “Our Glorious Delaware.”

We were sorry not to be able to award this group a prize, but the rules called for individual entries.

The individual winner of the 3-5 category was Eric Pritchett of Booker T. Washington Elementary School of Capital District. His little poem “Our Earth is Good,” which appears in the second column, shows a real flair.

The adult category drew eight entries from four people and gave the editor considerable difficulty in settling on a winner. Jan Gantzhorn of H. B. duPont Middle School took the prize with a ten-stanza poem which met the criteria of meter and subject matter and gave an account of our loss of ecological health over time as well as a plan for future change.

Our Earth is Good
by Eric Pritchett

Our Earth is good. Our Earth is grand.
It grows green grass and builds gold sand.
Great Lakes
Colored blue
Wide clouds
Colored white
and when it all comes together
boy, what a beautiful site! (sic)

For Gram, by Jan Gantzhorn
Grandma used to talk a lot
About the clear, blue sky.
And how she used to cup her hands
To drink from the creek nearby.

The flowers grew just everywhere.
As far as your eye could see.
And you could hear those froggies croak,
Near the porch on a summer’s eve.

But all that seems so different now.
It’s not the same, I fear.
Who knows how much will be left
When summer comes next year.

We should have taken better care
Of what was ours to share.
Grandma said there was tons of stuff
We had wealth beyond compare.

But we didn’t use our heads it seems.
Now our fields and trees are bare.
The rivers and the oceans too.
May be clogged beyond repair.

Grandma’s gone and so it seems,
Our memories soon will fade.
But maybe we’ve a second chance.
Perhaps we can make a trade.

We’ll give the factories back their waste,
And the pollutants they have made.
We’ll make the rivers and streams run clear
And plant flowers in the glade.

See Poetry, Page 7
Mary Anna seems to have her emotions well in hand, but would you say Cindy is surprised? excited?

What Have We Been Up To?

Between September 26, 2000, and April 9, 2001, the Alliance sponsored, co-sponsored or presented workshops on twenty-four different occasions. Mary Anna Taylor and sixteen other TCs made presentations, several of them on multiple occasions.

At these events there were a total of 530 people in attendance, resulting in the Alliance having an impact on 10,060 students!

In addition, TCs have made seven Geography Awareness Week presentations, held Geography Nights at their schools, given slide presentations, and assisted at the Geography Bee.

A Mystery

We have Delaware Bay. We're close to Chesapeake Bay. Fine! But why do we have Carolina Bays? See page 7 for the answer.

Another Successful Geography Bee

On April 6, the Delaware State Geographic Bee was held in Clayton Hall on the University of Delaware campus and provided the 250 people in the audience with considerable drama. There were seventy-six qualified contestants, but one chose not to compete. Eighteen TCs sponsored school bees, and nine assisted at the Bee.

Having survived a run-off to make the list of ten finalists, Ramsey Furse prevailed for the third time. He is a seventh grader at Lewes Middle School. Ying Chen, a Kirk Middle School eighth grader took second; and David Pizzato, a Sanford School sixth grader took third.

Congratulations to all the students, thanks to parents and teachers for their support, and best wishes to Ramsey when he represents Delaware at the national level and the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.

Ramsey Furse
Around the World in Twenty Terms

In this puzzle, your job is to insert these twenty terms in their correct blanks. None are omitted or used twice. The blanks do not indicate how many words are in the term, but an “s” may be added to indicate the word is pluralized. Terms are lettered to save space. On our trip we visited or sighted all the continents.

A. aquifer K. inselberg
B. aurora L. isthmus
C. alluvial fan M. key
D. crevasse N. loess
E. estuary O. oases
F. fjord P. oxbow
G. geothermal energy Q. physiologic density
H. great circle R. rift system
I. horse latitudes S. taiga
J. ice sheet T. terminal moraine

All TCs with time last summer boarded a ship at the Port of Wilmington (all on the Alliance, of course). After unpacking and chatting with our roomies, we found ourselves emerging from our own familiar 1._____. Heading northeast, we soon arrived off Long Island. Circumnavigating it let us observe the features that told us it’s really two 2._____. Donning jackets as we continued much farther north, we reached the southern tip of Greenland. We were able to see some of the great 3._____. that covers 80% of its surface. Heading east northeast brought us to Iceland, where we enjoyed the benefits of 4._____. during a two-day hotel stay. Tired of winter wear, we headed southwest. Crossing

????????????????????????????????????

Dela-Where?

Below you will find a section taken from one of the county maps. Can you locate it in your mental map? The object is to name the town nearest to this area. The answer appears elsewhere in these pages in the form of enough more of the map to make it easy.

BASE INFORMATION PREPARED AND COPYRIGHTED BY THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION GROUP.

Moving Westward

According to the Census Bureau, the center of population in 1790 was near Chestertown, MD. Since then it has moved 1000 miles to the west and a little south. In 2000 the center was located near Edgar Springs, MO.
Winter and Spring Events

TC Workshop was a success. Speaker Mike McGrath gave the fourteen participants plenty of material to digest and plan classroom use for. The overall topic was Delaware land use.

The April 2 Xpeditions Workshop, which was part of the DCET Conference, drew twenty-one participants and reportedly was an extremely valuable illumination of technological applications in the classroom through the Xpeditions site. Those who were able to attend for the second day gave Shannon Sullivan, the keynote speaker, rave reviews.

On April 5 the Delaware Council for the Social Studies held its dinner honoring sixteen Delaware teachers who had been nominated by their districts for recognition of distinguished work in social studies.

The meal was followed by a talk from Julee Harper, Delaware’s Teacher of the Year. One gentleman said that she was so inspiring that he nearly changed his mind about retiring this June.

Five of the honorees were TCS:

Carl Fennell
(ASGI-90)
Capital

Mary Hall
(ASGI-00)
Christina

How Stands Religion?

A Cultural Geography Study

The Washington Post reported recently on a study conducted by the International Social Survey Program, an academic study group. The question under study was whether or not there was a real as well as a perceived diminution in religious belief. To that end, statistics were given for those between eighteen and twenty-nine years and for those over sixty.

The study involved sixteen countries, but the Post reported on only eight: U.S., Italy, Ireland, Austria, France, Britain, Sweden and Germany. This selection would clearly concern itself with the Judeo-Christian believers.

The results were quite startling. The percentage of each age group that answered “yes” to a question was reported for each of the eight countries. Of the 128 percentages given, in only three cases did a younger group respond with a greater percentage than the older group!

There were eight questions, to be answered with “yes” or “no:”

Do you believe strongly in God?
Do you attend religious services at least once a month?
Do you pray at least twice a month?
Do you believe in life after death?
Do you believe in religious miracles?
Do you believe that the Bible should be taken literally?
Do you believe in Heaven?
Do you believe in Hell?

In all but the three cases mentioned above, those over sixty answered “yes,” not only more often but in many cases more than twice as often. However, in four areas the differences were slight, those having to do with life after death, miracles, Heaven and Hell. In these areas, the younger respondents were within 10% or 15% of the older ones.

As a general rule, the U.S. and Italy seemed to be “more religious” than the other countries. France, Britain, Sweden and Germany had quite low percentages overall.

There were some strange anomalies: two of the three groups of younger respondents who out-scored their older countrymen were Austrians; although 46% young and 92% older Irish people attend services, only 28% young and 73% older ones believe strongly in God; more young Americans than older ones believe in Hell.

The greatest gaps between age groups seemed to be in France, Britain, Sweden and Germany in the basic area of a strong belief in God. The percentages for the younger group in those countries were 13%, 12%, 11% and 10%, while the older group responded “yes” 45%, 35%, 36% and 32% respectively.

As the Post points out, “Europe, full of ancient cathedrals and shrines, has become a place with little living religion. Churches are empty in many countries, and sociologists worry about the future moral standards of the continent.”
Poetry, from page 3
Maybe then I'll show that clear blue sky
And the flowers in the glade
To my grandkids when they come to sit,
On my porch swing, in the shade.
Then maybe Gram will see us there
And whisper a little prayer
To thank us all for cleaning up
And showing that we care.

And maybe she'll smile down on us
And the changes that we've made.
As we listen to those frogs croak,
By the creek where Grandma played.

Carolina Bays in Delaware?
Maybe you were driven crazy
as the editor was by a Delaware
Geological Survey map published for
Earth Science Week and liberally
handed out by Mary Anna. It is a map
of “Selected Geomorphic Features of
Delaware,” and therein lay the puzzle.
Several rough circular features, some with water and some
without, were labeled as Carolina Bays. Now, your editor was stumped, not to
mention baffled. She consulted
several sources, both human and
textual, and got nowhere. Getting
nowhere is one of her better skills. Finally, however, Sandy Schenck of
DGS came to her rescue.

Answer to Dela-Where?

These Delaware
map puzzles seem
to have been a
success. Does
anybody have an
idea for next year?

Answers to Around the World
in Twenty Terms
1.  E. estuary
2.  T. terminal moraine
3.  J. ice sheet
4.  G. geothermal energy
5.  I. horse latitudes
6.  M. keys
7.  C. alluvial fans
8.  D. crevasse
9.  O. oases
10. A. aquifers
11. L. isthmus
12. R. rift system
13. S. taiga
14. N. loess
15. H. great circle
16. K. inselberg - island mountain
17. Q. physiologic density
18. B. aurora
19. F. fjords
20. P. oxbow

The Upcoming Summer
The Alliance will not be operating an ASGI this summer. Instead, we will be cooperating in the planning and running of a Social Studies/Reading Institute to be held in Newark from June 18 to July 3. It will involve teachers from K to 5 and will show them ways in which they can teach the social studies by integrating them into their reading instruction.

During the week of July 15 to July 20, the Alliance will be running an AP Institute at the Virden Center for high school teachers interested in teaching the course.

Books?
No, we have not forgotten about book reviews. They were written for this issue, but we had so many photographs that something had to go. You'll get them in the fall.
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