

Mill windows to be repaired this spring; Scouts line up work for Eagle projects

By HARRY LEACH
Observer Staff

Spring is here, and the restoration work on the Chapman Beverley Mill is going to start in the next couple of weeks with repairs of the windows in the mill. This operation will replace the stones around the windows.

Soon after the windows are completed, Cintec America Inc. will return to the mill to install iron bracing in the stone walls, along with insert circles on two levels. The next time you are close to an old brick or stone building, look up on the walls to see if you see metal circles, approximately the size of a car hubcap. An unidentified family has shown interest in financing the restoration of the mill store; this work is also to begin soon.

Three Eagle Scout candidates have already expressed an interest in working at the mill for their Eagle projects. Thomas Greene of Troop 924 has selected the job of clearing debris from the mill to the eastern end of the mill property. Justin Thorpe of Troop 137 has decided to clear the debris on the bank of Broad Run from the western end of the mill property up to the millrace. Kent Bailey also from Troop 137 has not quite decided what his project will be.

In the years since the mill burned in October 1998, many scouts have become Eagles after they have completed their projects at the mill. Several of these Eagles have completed college and have



Beverley Mill soon after the fire of October 1998.

Courtesy Photo

become fine adults.

Did you know the Chapman Mill is older than the United States? The construction of the mill began in 1740s, over 30 years before 1776. The mill also pre-dates Fauquier County. That's right; the mill was built in Prince William County before Fauquier County was formed out of Prince William County in 1759. The mill is actually located on the Fauquier and Prince William county border.

The mill has provided food for our troops in eight wars. This tradi-

tion began with the French and Indian War, before there was a United States. Some troops in the Revolutionary War were fed food produced at this mill. My great-great-great grandfather lived on Pig Nut Mountain, located between the mill and the Village of the Plains for most of his life. He joined the army during

the War of 1812. Since many of the soldiers in his outfit lived close to Chapman's Mill, it is most likely they ate food from the mill. Some American Troops in the Mexican War ate Chapman's Mill food products in the 1840s. In the early days of the Civil War, the mill was used as a storage place for meat to feed

the troops. Since Civil War Battles raged all around the mill, both armies probably ate food from Chapman's Mill. The mill was occupied many times by both armies during the course of the war. During the Spanish American War, an army camp was established just east of the mill in the closing days of the 1900s. During World Wars I and II, some historians maintain that the mill worked 24 hours a day to produce food for the war effort. After the end of WW II the mill processed and shipped a great deal of grain, flour and corn to the starving war victims of Europe.

Soon after the Civil War, Robert Beverley acquired the mill and changed the name of the mill to Beverley Mill. Many other people have owned the mill, however, the Beverley Mill name has lasted until today. The Chapman family owned the mill for a much longer time than the Beverley family. There have been discussions recently about naming the mill the Chapman/Beverley Mill. The mill closed in mid 1951 as a result of new sanitation regulations and the mill's inability to compete with the mills in the midwestern states.

Soon, we will be able to enjoy the mill in its new status as a place for studying history and as a place for all to enjoy.

**INNOVATIVE
HOMES^{LLC}**
General Contracting & New Home Construction

