

# New Owners at Buckhall Store

BY STEPHANIE WALKER  
JM Staff Writer

The new owners of the Buckhall General Store, alias the Buckhall Mall, will be celebrating the store's "re-grand opening" this weekend (May 5 and 6) to introduce themselves to area residents.

John and Mary Stewart, who have been members of the Buckhall Community for the past eight years, became the official new owners and operators of the general store, located on Old Davis Ford Rd., in March when they purchased the business from its former owner, Tom DeLabello.

The Stewarts purchased the store when DeLabello's sons decided they were not interested in acquiring the business from their father, John said.

The husband and wife team operate the store jointly with John acting as manager, while Mary keeps the books in order. Assistant manager Steve Flemming, a

native of D.C. who recently moved to the community, also plays a role in the store's management.

The store, which has actually been in business since about 1905, has undergone some changes since the Stewarts took over. These changes, according to John, will be beneficial to the patrons of the country store, and also to the new proprietors.

John, who is a veteran of the Vietnam War, and has done everything from photography to driving a truck, said he is ready to start "being a service to the people."

"Cleaning up the place is the biggest change we've made for the community," John said. "A lot of local people had quit coming because of the dust and dirt."

John said he has spread new gravel in the parking lot, which has remedied the dust situation, and is now getting the inside of the building in tip-top condition.

"We've painted and carpeted some areas of the store," he said. "And now I'm doing some electrical work to bring the building up to safety standards."

"We're hoping to enhance the outside of the building with new siding," John continued, "but that's in the future."

For the local fishermen, the Stewarts are planning to open their doors at 6 a.m. on weekends to sell tackle and bait. "As fishing season dwindles," John said, "we'll re-establish our hours."

But then when the cold weather sets in again, store hours will be 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. According to John, this will allow commuters to get hot coffee almost as soon as they leave their homes. "When I was commuting to Springfield, I had to travel to

Burke for a cup of coffee," he said.

John Stewart said he will also be getting his federal firearms license within 40 days and will sell guns on a buy/order basis. "I'm not going to stock them," he said, "because then I'll have to mark the guns up 100 percent. If I order them on request, I'll only have to mark them up 10 or 20 percent."

John said he plans to reduce prices. This will be evident this Saturday and Sunday when a hotdog and a 16-ounce soda can be purchased for 79 cents.

Other specials for the grand opening celebration will include 20 percent discounts on all clothing and shoes and a 10 percent discount on all hardware and schrade knives. Buckhall also features custom hand-crafted knives.

For over 50 years the general store has been selling groceries, hardware, ammunition, seeds, plants, beer, fishing tackle and bait, and many country artifacts.

The Stewarts invite local residents to drop by and experience their country store: where the motto is "service with a smile."

## Firm Selected

Guernsey Office Products, Inc. of Woodbridge was recently selected by IBM to be the authorized dealer for all of Northern Virginia, including Prince William and Loudoun counties, to market the entire line of typewriters.

promotion to brigadier general, being promoted May 16, 1983.

He is the sixth member of his immediate family to serve with the active military forces, with one brother, Captain Richard D. Milligan, on active duty with the U.S. Navy.

## Vala Honored

Dennis R. Vala of 8026 Devlin Road, Bristow, was honored by John Hancock Mutual-Life Insurance Co. as a regional sales leader.

A member of the Company's Northern Virginia district office, Vala was among 132 representatives from the company's South Atlantic region who qualified to attend the Regional Honor Club conference at the Americana's Dutch Resort Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

John Hancock district agency representatives from 20 offices in the region were cited for their sales

# Milligan To Replace Hopkins at QMB

Robert F. Milligan, presently the Commanding General, 6th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C., will soon be transferring to MCDEC to become the Development Center's next director.

At a ceremony tentatively set for June 22, BGen. Milligan will assume command from BGen. Joseph E. Hopkins as both the Director of the Development Center and Deputy for Development, MCDEC.

BGen. Milligan was born Dec. 27, 1932 in Teaneck, N.J. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in June, 1956, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He later earned a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Rochester and has completed Doctorate studies at the University of Maryland.

BGen. Milligan has served as Marine Corps Liaison



Stephanie Walker-The Journal Messenger

Assistant manager Steve Flemming, left, and co-owner John Stewart at Buckhall General Store

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