

Union Downs race track is built in the Haymarket area as proposed. as the track is laid out right where the barn is. Histori-

the barn, which is of unknown age, and may preserve it in a painting as well.

Putting Haymarket history on canvas

By J.C. COOK

Historical works of art allow us to record history in the making and capture places and events gone by. This talent, of recording our history, is one of the many talents Mary Dulany Carter contributes to the town of Haymarket as she captures their history on canvas.

Carter, whose roots are well established in the Haymarket area, met me at Matthew's to sip iced tea in the historic downtown area of Haymarket.

Carter, who was born and raised just outside of Haymarket, began her career at age 2, when her father contributed to her skill by drawing a picture of a horse which she copied over and over again.

Carter has progressed a long way since that day and has been a major contributor to the historical reminders of Haymarket with such art work as the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Haymarket town hall and the caboose with further historical works on the horizon.

A member of the Haymarket Historical Commission, Carter thrives on the history of the town, which is her history as well. Her ancestors belonged to this area. Her uncle was William Bailey Tyler, a relation of George G. Tyler who Tyler Elementary School is named after. The school was established in 1968.

Another ancestor, Colonel William Tyler, owned the horse named Enterprise who competed with Rob Hennings Little Johnny in the famous medley versus medley race that took place on the race track in Haymarket back in 1804.

This historical time has given Carter yet another theme for one of her paintings to express her great joy for the animal world and history combined.

The tremendous amount of research that Carter does to make her projects authentic, also make them extremely time consuming.

She is currently completing research on the 1804 race, however she is still searching to

discover what racing colors were worn — details such as these are important to Carter.

While the proposed horse track Dominion Downs which is in the Haymarket area is still in a holding pattern, Carter is not missing the opportunity to take pictures of a barn that is located on the site where the race track may be built.

The barn, located on property once known as Cloverland, is now owned by Hap Holliday who is attached to the Holliday Enterprises in Washington, D.C.,

the land is presently being leased by the Virginia Beef Association.

Cloverland was at one time owned by Mary Dulany Carter's ancestors, the Dulanys and Chinns, and was sold many years ago and has since changed hands again. The house that stood on the site was demolished sometime after 1979.

As Carter looked at the barn she recalled playing in it as a child. "It was a shame it was slated to be torn down as it is one of the bigger and older barns in the three counties and is in good shape," Carter stated.

Carter hopes that there is some way for the Wilson family to work around the existing barn and implement the track itself into the layout of the track. Unfortunately, according to Carter, she was told by Wilson Jr. that the track will be going right through the barn itself so unless plans are altered the barn will be demolished.

The barnyard-red barn appears to be in stable condition and a prime target for restoration — possibly with minimal work. The floor, which is cement, is the storage space for some well preserved wooden church pews and some old wooden doors which lean up against the barn's steel supports. Carter is not sure how old the barn is, nevertheless, she has decided to try to preserve this part of the town's history and her history by capturing it on canvas.

Carter's favorite subjects, however, are not buildings or

people — which she avoids painting whenever possible.

The subjects that she enjoys working with the most, she states with a twinkle in her eyes and enthusiasm in her voice, are those from the animal world. Carter spends considerable time at the zoo studying animals and hopes of one day paying a visit to Africa.

Carter had planned on visiting Africa on three different occasions. Two of the trips were canceled due to illness of a traveling partner. She was advised to cancel the third trip because war had broken out in the area she planned to visit.

Carter has not let the cancellations get her down, rather they have made her strive to alleviate any future cancellations when she next schedules a trip to Africa.

She has enhanced her life in other areas by taking training in the medical field and earned the status of Emergency Medical Technician.

In fact she was a volunteer EMT in The Plains fire depart-



Inside the barn, old doors and some well-preserved wooden church pews are stored, taking advantage of the intact roof and the cement floor.

ment where her son Randy Carter is presently a volunteer fire fighter. Many of the Carter-family members are involved in similar fields of pursuit with her sister, who also lives in the Broad Run area, a registered nurse at Fauquier County Hospital.

Since the age of 2 when her father drew a picture of a horse for her, Carter has invested much into her love of art by training herself.

She studied art at the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, D.C., and has continued training herself to further her pursuits.

She vows that sooner or later she will make the dreamed of visit to Africa to capture her favorite species on canvas. In the meantime she has been concentrating on local animals, especially horses. Carter has recently been commissioned to do a work on some horses owned by Virginians.

Carter's works were on display in Waterford Virginia this past weekend and will be on display and for sale at Millwood Virginia beginning Oct. 17.

Carter's historical Haymarket works will be placed in the caboose which is slated to be a small historical museum in Haymarket once it is completed.

The completion date is unknown at this point as the Historical Commission is hoping for volunteers to assist with electrical, carpentry work on stairs for exit and a handicap ramp, telephone, heat and air conditioning work.

School seeks crafters

The Tyler Elementary School, which is named after relatives of Mary Dulany Carter, located in Gainesville, is seeking crafters for a craft show to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23. An 8x10 space is \$25, or \$35 with a table. Call 754-2334 for more information on this inside show.

J.C. Cook is a Journal Messenger community correspondent for several communities in western Prince William County.

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