

# With focus on history, she's filled scrapbooks galore

By Nancy B. Katz

It is probable that most of us have made up a scrapbook of some event or some period in our lives and stashed it away for future reference. But Evelyn Herold has to qualify, by any manner of measurement, as the scrapbook champion of the world.

This lively, curious, historically minded lady of 80 years has put together more than 55 scrapbooks over a period of more than 30 years, using information and pictures from newspapers, magazines and any other relevant materials. Subject matter is eclectic — ranging from the Chesapeake Bay to birds to trains to oil spills to the Statue of Liberty and lots of things in between. Evelyn explains that making scrapbooks comes naturally — her grandmother, who died in 1910, made up a scrapbook about royal families of the world.

## Historical focus

Most of the scrapbooks have either a historical or natural/environmental focus, and considering the scope of information included, it is obvious that Evelyn's mind must be a depository of encyclopedic knowledge. Each of these huge, three-inch-thick scrapbooks is chock-full of carefully arranged and illustrated material recording in depth every detail of the subject matter. This often requires a set of several books.

One of the most interesting is the five-book set on America's Bicentennial; another 12-book set of weather, four books a year, over a three-year period, is a vast record now in the possession of the National Weather Service. Then there is the proud history of Baltimore's *Pride*, meticulously kept by Evelyn from the incipient idea to her world cruise to the destruction of *Pride I* and the launching of *Pride II*. Evelyn gave this wonderful record to The



Photo by N. Katz

Evelyn Herold, 1st Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps, spent her service years as a physical therapist. Today, in her favorite chair, she holds one of her mammoth scrapbooks about the Statue of Liberty.

Pride of Baltimore, Inc. which is delighted to have such a historic document.

One of the most unusual books is devoted to the comic strip "Mark Trail," which in the *Sunday Sun* is always a lesson about birds and animals in the wild. She compiled a complete history of the Statue of Liberty put together at the start of restoration in '86, and has done innumerable books about old Baltimore, its neighborhoods, its monuments, its historic building, the Great Fire of 1904, etc.

But for Evelyn Herold there was a lot of living before she began her scrapbooks. Born and raised in Baltimore, she graduated from Girls' Latin where she played and excelled in all sports, then went on to Bouve-Boston, graduating in '39 with a degree in Physical Therapy.

She worked for an orthopedist in Charleston, S.C. for a while, then came back to Baltimore to work at University Hospital for three years. She recalls that her salary was \$80 a month. In 1943, she went in the army — as did her three brothers — and was assigned to the 1st Army Airforce Medical Corps, serving for over two years at airfield hospitals in North Carolina, New York and Massachusetts where she applied massage, heat and exercise to

those needing physical therapy.

Out of the army in '46, she worked at Union Memorial where she was the only therapist — "it was not a big career at the time" — handling 20-25 patients daily, plus all the paperwork. She was married in '50, after which she ran the PT department at Keswick, followed by a year of work at Johns Hopkins.

During these years she was "out of commission" many times, enduring and recuperating from operations on her legs, her shoulder and her back, caused by a joint condition. She spent '73 and '74 in a mammoth leg cast, a period ideal for making up scrapbooks, and had her last operation in '93.

It is ironic that a physical therapist should herself need so much therapy, but she says "I've been my own patient, and could gauge my own progress." All of her surgical problems do not seem to have inhibited her life style — she is spry and quick, drives her car and participates in her chosen community activities, which, among others include the University Hospital Auxiliary, the Mayflower Society and the Dames of the Court of Honor.

When she moved into her apartment, she was faced with the enormous puzzle of what to

do with her collection of scrapbooks and other history books she owned. There simply wasn't any room on her shelves, and although she had gotten rid of much of what she had collected over the years, her propensity for collecting and her wide range of interests still tends to fill her library.

But a wonderful solution to the puzzle presented itself. She found Charles Evans, a teacher at Mount de Sales Academy in Catonsville, and a neighbor in her apartment complex. He knew that Evelyn's collection would be a boon to the school library, and that the school would be delighted to take the books off her hands. She is "thrilled that they are being used" and the students are pleased that they have such excellent resource material for their projects.

## Maryland subjects

Included in the 30 or more books and scrapbooks are those about Maryland history, the Chesapeake Bay, two Baltimore sketch books and many aspects of Baltimore history, art subjects, Winston Churchill, tall ships, old amusement parks and other scrapbooks attesting to the eclectic subjects that caught Evelyn Herold's fancy.

She kept her three favorite scrapbooks — the Statue of Liberty, Old Baltimore and Storms — and insists that she's "finished with scrapbooks." But chances are that something will crop up on the news which will trigger her gathering instinct, and she'll be off and running to another put-together.

Evelyn describes herself as a "character" — she is lively, curious about everything and unconventional, with a wry sense of humor that belittles her difficulties — admitting, "I'm pretty good for 80, don't you think?" The fact is that she is an amazing "survivor" of ongoing physical difficulties which she downplays while concentrating on people and events. She is indeed, both "pretty good for 80," and a character — but more than that, she has an inquisitive and vigorous mind which supercedes her physical problems.

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Senior Digest - April 1994