The Washington Post gave us some very nice publicity on February 8. I hope you all saw the cover story in the District Extra on that day, complete with photographs and a well-written story by Post reporter Karlyn Barker. We have copies of the text (with one photo only), so let Richard know if you want a copy (202-244-2379). An abbreviated version appeared in one of the Virginia Extra editions, but regrettably not in the Montgomery County edition. Of course, the object was not to get Richard’s picture in the paper, but to make more people aware of what our project is all about and attract new members. It seemed to have the desired effect—we had eight phone calls and six e-mails as a result of the article, and our web site registered 51 hits on the day the article came out. Several callers joined FOPM and others made contributions. We also got some fresh ideas: one of the callers (and new member), Kate Maynor, came up with an idea for a Community Day at the mill in May and offered to help get the word out (see below). Another positive outcome from the article was a $1000 grant from ANC3F, the Advisory Neighborhood Council for the area which includes Peirce Mill.

Our hopes for sharing the cost of the restoration of Peirce Mill with the National Park Service were raised by recent news that President Bush was requesting $4.9 billion over the next five years to restore what Bush described as “the nation’s crumbling national park system.” What this means to Peirce Mill is not yet clear, but we are monitoring the situation with Rock Creek Park officials in hopes of getting some funds for our project in future NPS budgets.

Following up on Kate Maynor’s suggestion, we are planning a “Community Day” at the mill on Saturday, May 5. We are focusing on people living in the neighborhood, especially apartment houses along Connecticut Avenue, but all members are welcome—and encouraged!—to attend. The program runs from noon to 4:00 PM and will include programs for children, mill tours, films, a progress report on on-going work on the floors of the mill, a talk on the planned fish passage around the nearby dam on Rock Creek, and musical entertainment. Come, bring the children, and learn about the work your organization is sponsoring at the mill. Here is the full schedule:

12:00—12:15 Welcome/Progress report on work at the mill. (Richard Abbott, Laura Illige)
1:00—2:00 Special kids program. (Park Ranger Aly Baltrus)
1:30—2:15 Mill tour (Park Ranger Russell Lahti, with FOPM volunteers)
2:00—3:30 Musical entertainment
2:30—3:30 Talk of fish passage project—outside by the dam. (Laura Illige)
3:00—3:45 Mill tour
Films will be offered throughout the day upon request.

Lifting the upper floors of the mill

After lengthy preparations to be sure no damage was done to the mill—or the workers—Steve Ortado finally was able to turn the crank and begin the lift of the upper floors of the mill. Moments in the History of Peirce Mill

On a sunny day in June 1940, some families are visiting the mill. The north and west walls are covered with ivy. You can see the breast wheel and parts of the headrace. In this period the mill ground useful quantities of corn meal and flour and supplied them to government cafeterias.
Are you on e-mail?

The number of people with e-mail these days is really amazing! Of our 95 members, 70 have e-mail now, a big jump over last year. This makes communication with members much easier. Although we’re relying mainly on this newsletter to communicate with members, there are times when an e-mail is useful. Last week Richard sent an e-mail to the entire list about an event at the Cleveland Park Library on April 21 (an illustrated lecture on the history of Peirce Mill) which would be just a bit too early to inform members through the newsletter. Hence the e-mail notification. If you did not receive that e-mail, then we don’t have you on the list. In that case, please inform Sheila Ploger at ploger@us.net.

New round of fund-raising begins

Fund raising by the Friends is being carried out on two fronts. Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr., assisted by Mrs. I. Townsend Burden, continue to develop new sources of funds through direct contact with donors. Meanwhile, a Friends committee (David Lyman, Lisa Siegurt, Barry Nestor and Steve Dryden) is generating grant applications to foundations which supported us last year, and making calls to foundations and corporations listed in directories to identify new sources and their requirements.

The list of grants and donations received thus far appears below. This is an update of the list published in the Spring 2000 edition of Milling About and will be a regular feature of the Spring issue from now on.

Grants and Donations Received by FOPM
May 1997 through January 2001

Foundation, Corporate and Association
Grants and Pledges
Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation $3,000
May 1997
Riggs Bank $100
October 1997
James Ford Bell Foundation $30,000
March 1998
D.C. Historical Society $150
October 1999
National Parks & Conservation Association (Georgia Pacific Corp.) $48,800
July 1999
Chevy Chase Bank September 1999
PERCO October 1999
Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of Washington, D.C. $3,000
October 1999
Helen Parker Willard Foundation $5,000
December 1999
The Kiplinger Foundation (Pledge) $50,000
January 2000
Dahlgren and Use Attorneys-at-Law $2,000
January 2000
Philip L. Graham Foundation $20,000
May 2000
Marjorie Merriweather Post Foundation $10,000
July 2000
Fannie Mae Foundation $1,000
September 2000
Helen Day Knick Foundation $5,000
October 2000
Marcat Foundation $12,500
December 2000
Clark Winchcombe Foundation $10,000
December 2000
Helen Parker Willard Foundation $5,000
December 2000
Total $215,550

Special Grants
The National Park Service (for architecture and engineering studies) $21,000
October 1998/June 2000
The National Trust for Historic Preservation (for services of fund raising consultant) $5,000
November 1998
Total $26,000

Individual Donations
Mr. Joe L. Albirton $5,000
Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr. $4,300
Mrs. Florence Keys Willard $4,000
Mr. and Mrs. Adam Sieminski $1,000
Mrs. Florence Keys Willard $5,000
Mr. and Mrs. James Wright $100
Mr. John Sangert $100
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wieczorowski $100
Mrs. Marie Keats (in memory of Margo Hills Tyler) $867
Other Individual Donations $687

Total $12,657

Grand Total of Cash Grants $259,207

In addition, in-kind grants valued at a total of $4,500 were received from Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr. (printing costs), Mrs. Barbara Gaillard McNear (sketch of the mill), the National Institutes of Health (white oak tree), Mr. Robert E. Day (materials for special events), and Mr. Daniel Goggin (web site costs).

FOPM Board Members, Officers and Key Individuals

President: Richard Abbott
Vice President: Steve Dryden
Secretary/Treasurer: Sheila Ploger
Business Manager: David Lyman
Archivist: Philip Gaudette
Legal and Tax Affairs: Gene Hines
Chair, Proctors Committee: Mrs. Randall H. Hagner, Jr.
Assistant Chair, Proctors Committee: Mrs. I. Townsend Burden
Special Events Coordinator: Robert Day

Steel and timber shoring in place around the column.