



# MACS Times

The Newsletter of the Middle Atlantic College Stores, Inc. serving Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia since 1970.

## HARRISBURG BECOMES MACS TERRITORY

by Don Burden

Come the last weekend in October, Harrisburg is destined to become MACS territory for a few productive days. "A CAPITOL EVENT" is clearly in the works as the annual meeting committee polishes off the final details and logistics of what is shaping up to be an absolutely stellar event.

Excitement reigns as the momentum builds for MACS in Harrisburg. And how exciting it will be to be in the heart of Pennsylvania—the capital city, Harrisburg.

Harrisburg has been an important transportation center since the days of riverboat traffic. Its western boundary is formed by the romantic Susquehanna River. This location played an important part in its selection as the capital of Pennsylvania in 1812. Because of its location, Harrisburg played a large part in the early development of the Pennsylvania canal system and the subsequent development of the railroads, highways and airlines. Today, Harrisburg is one of the most important commercial centers and distribution points in the East.

In colonial days, John Harris operated a ferry at Harrisburg. His son, John Jr., laid out the town of Harrisburg in 1785, and gave land to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that was later used for the Capitol grounds.

The capital building is a unique Italian Renaissance-style statehouse. Its architecture is inspired by St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and the Opera House in Paris. The building displays a nationally recognized collection of art and sculpture, including some inspirational large murals. At the dedication of the Capitol building in 1906, President Teddy Roosevelt described this structure as "the handsomest building I every saw". The capital dome rises 272 feet. The vaulted dome weighs 52 million pounds. AND there is time in the MACS program to visit the

building to examine its grandeur and explore some of the artwork.

Harrisburg is easily accessible through a modern airport facility serviced by several major airlines. And of course the east-west routes via the PA Turnpike make Harrisburg an easy reach. And some of you might experience crossing the Susquehanna on the new PA Turnpike Bridge. And then again, you might not experience it since it is so modern you may cross the river not even realizing that there is a new bridge beneath your four-wheeler. And then the north south routes provide speedy delivery from Washington, Baltimore and points south. Hit the roads or the airways to Harrisburg—MACS is waiting.

The MACS "Capitol Event" programs provides an array of educational and network events. Changing times and changing focus brings together several industry leaders to exchange information on our industry. Suppliers, wholesalers, publishers, industry professionals, bookstore managers & staff, and administrators are scheduled to be on hand to provide information and expertise on transitioning our businesses to today as well as tomorrow's market. And my radar screen is alerting me to the fact that many former/retired MACS'ers will descend on MACS at Harrisburg as well.

MACS—Harrisburg! Bottom line; be there—it is a meeting that you won't want to miss. Invest in your future! Attend the conveniently located MACS Fall meeting in Harrisburg, PA—October 28—30. Oh yes, you're assured to be home in time for ghosts and goblins of Halloween—Wednesday, October 31.



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