

Dorothy Lamour, in 1939, sans sarong

Dorothy Lamour (b. 1914), the film star siren in the sarong, made dozens of Paramount films during the 1930s and '40s. If there was a palm tree on a movie studio's back lot, you could be sure she was under it.

In late 1942 she was in Baltimore for personal appearances and because her mother was in Johns Hopkins for an operation. Some years later, at a Hollywood party, she was asked how she liked the city. "I really don't know," she replied. "The only part of Baltimore I saw was inside the hospital, a million war workers, a sky full of bad weather and in the two squares, a statue of some



Lamour lived locally at 607 Sudbrook Road.

old duffer on a horse.

By a strange twist of fate, she married the man who asked her the question: Air Force Captain William Ross Howard III, a direct descendant of the "old duffer," Revolutionary War hero John Eager Howard.

She and her husband returned to Baltimore in 1957 and moved into a house at 607 Sudbrook Road in Sudbrook Park. There she raised two sons, kept house, and made guest appearances. Although the Howard family had many valuable antiques, at one point she seemed quite proud of the aluminum and plastic web chairs she got by redeeming thirty-five books of green stamps. When Sunpapers writer Ralph Reppert interviewed her in 1963, she asked, "Are you comfortable in that chair? That's seven books of green stamps you're sitting on."