

Crisfield To Hail No. 1 Citizen

Library-Museum To Honor Tawes

By Frank Megargee

Crisfield—A move is under way here to form a nonprofit foundation that would establish a library-museum honoring this town's best-known citizen and Maryland's elder statesman, former Gov. J. Millard Tawes.

An application for a corporation charter will be filed with the state in about two weeks, according to Robert J. Wilson, president of the Crisfield Chamber of Commerce.

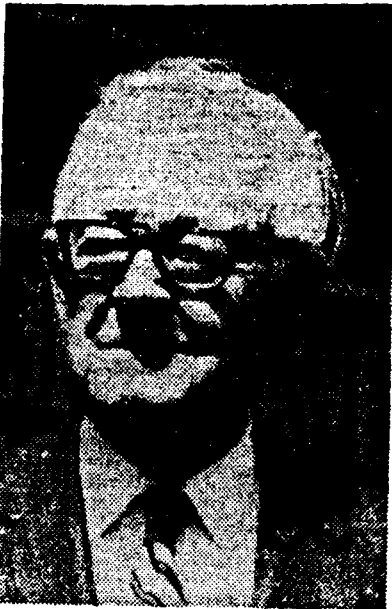
Plans also are well under way for the first "Governor J. Millard Tawes Day" to be held here July 20. That event, which the sponsors hope will become an annual happening, will be the first fund-raiser for the foundation.

About 1,000 invitations have been sent to civic and political leaders throughout the state and more are being mailed out. So far, Mr. Wilson said, about 700 acceptances have been received.

Tickets for the affair are \$10, and the menu will include steamed crabs, clams, corn on the cob and other old Eastern Shore standbys.

Once the infant foundation is established, funds will be sought to build the library-museum to house papers and memorabilia of Mr. Tawes's long public career.

At 83, the silver-haired former gover-



J. MILLARD TAWES

nor is still very active during his "retirement" here. He began his political career in 1930 when he was elected Somerset county clerk of the court, and he held public office continuously for 35 years after that.

The last 16 of those years were in the offices of first state comptroller for two terms and then governor from 1959 until 1967.

After that, he was called back into service by Governor Mandel and served 2½ years as Maryland's first secretary of natural resources and then 18 months as state treasurer.

He thus became the only man to hold all three positions on the state's Board of Public Works: governor, comptroller and treasurer.

Mr. Tawes is still active in civic and political affairs, fills many speaking engagements and maintains an office here.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges and chairman of its subcommittee on finances and administration. He also is honorary chairman of the Governor's Fire Prevention Commission.

He also serves on the hospital board here and the local maritime commission.

Asked how he feels about plans for the foundation, Mr. Tawes said, "It's all right. I've always wanted a place to put the many papers, documents, plaques, citations and other things accumulated during my years in office.

"I told the Chamber people when they came to see me about it and thought it would be a very fine service."