

# Cabin John Village News

Vol. 5 No. 5

January 1972

## JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 12 Democratic Precinct Meeting 8 pm 6611 80th Pl.  
Jan. 15 Story Hour Little Falls Library 10:30 am  
Jan. 17 Potomac Valley Homemakers 11:30 am Community Center  
Jan. 22 Story Hour, Little Falls Library 10:30 am  
Jan. 25 Citizens Asso. 7:30 pm Clara Barton School  
Jan. 27 PTA Movies 2:30 - 3:30 pm Clara Barton School  
Feb. 1 PTA Meeting 7:30 Exec. 8pm Prog. Clara Barton Sch.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Little Falls Library on Mass. Ave is having two more Story Hours this month for preschoolers, aged 4 and 5. They will be held at 10:30 am on Sat. Jan 15 and again at 10:30 am on Jan 22. Please pre-register at the library.

There is another service available from the County library system. It's the Library Service to the Homebound, and is free to all people who are confined temporarily or permanently to the home. Records, periodicals, books and paperbacks are all available. For information call Mrs. Fox or Mr. Spottswood at 424-7223

## CITIZENS MEET TO PLAN FOR 1972

The regular meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association will be at 7:30 on Jan 25 at Clara Barton School. Committees have been identified and chairmen will be presented to announce their plans for the next few weeks.

Robert Palme, chairman of the CJ Development Corporation will outline some tentative plans, and Tom Brown, our man at the Community Development Department will be there to help things along.

You remember that the five planning committees are (1) Housing, (2) Schools and Public Services, (3) Public Improvement, (4) Natural Resources, and (5) Land Use. Please come ready to decide which committee(s) you would like to join.

This is our meeting to draw up our planning schedule and m.o. See you at 7:30 p.m.

## POTOMAC VALLEY HOMEMAKERS

There will be a county-wide Officer's meeting on Tues. Jan 11 from 10 - 12 am at the Aspen Hill Library.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Homemakers is invited to the Jan. 17 meeting at the Cabin John Community Center at 11:30 am.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SURVEY

Each month we will publish another group of comments from the Community Survey. This issue presents comments on two major subjects.

### A Shopping Center

A small shopping center, well-planned, could be attractive and would meet the needs of many people.

Rather than just letting it happen, why doesn't the community hire an architect and come up with something we can support with pride. We can do a responsible job ourselves; let's not take what some promoter gives us.

If we have a shopping center, let's make it uniformly attractive, not a hodgepodge like Glen Echo.

The best place for a small shopping center would be the Tuohy tract.

We could use a nice family restaurant here, but Tuohy's Restaurant as it is now is unacceptable.

A commercial-community cluster could include a library, health center, daycare center.

What is the status of the grey building across 79th from Tuohy's? Could that be part of the commercial-community complex? That seems ideal for a library and daycare center.

A small shopping center would give employment to our residents, including teenagers.

Those who have cars can drive to Potomac or Bethesda; those without cars are seriously hampered. Senior citizens especially need stores they can walk to.

There should be no commercial establishments in Cabin John; close those existing; allow no more.

### Senior Citizens

What county services are available to our oldsters? Are they getting any, especially medical?

Many older people are in bad shape as far as housing. Would there be a way they could get some help in maintenance of homes and yards?

If we did have a senior citizens complex here, would there be any way of keeping it just for Cabin Johners and their relatives? It would be wonderful if, when old Cabin Johners can't take care of their homes any more, they could still live here.

Good public transportation is important to senior citizens. How about a bus route into Bethesda? Or occasional chartered buses into town to sightsee, etc.?

The elderly desperately need stores they can walk to. This is a wonderful place for retirees as long as they can drive, but then what?

PTA NEWS

At the January PTA meeting, some current statistics were given by Mr. Stanley Kaplan, principal and Mrs. Barbara Gesswein, coordinator of volunteers. There are 175 students presently enrolled at Clara Barton representing 125 families. Mrs. Lee and her two assistants have prepared as many as 330 lunches in our school cafeteria to be distributed among Clara Barton, Carderock Elem., and Concord Elem. each day.

There are 17 volunteers from the community working for a total of 30 hours per week at the school. The volunteer programs currently active at the school are Reading, Math, Library, and Breakfast supervision.

Mrs. Gesswein also interviewed the teachers to find out what specific donations they would appreciate for their classrooms. If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact Mrs. Gesswein at 229 - 8146.

- Mrs. Bagg (library) - 9x12 rug, any type, 8 mm film loops
- Mrs. Smith (Kindergarten) - carpet tiles or rug, rocking chair
- Mrs. Kirkland (1st) - small rug, small bookcase, working typewriter, puzzles, board games, checkers, cash for extra supplies.
- Mrs. Fisher (1st-2nd) small rug, smaller rug, small bookcase, typewriter, puzzles, board games, checkers, pot holder loops, cash
- Miss Fazekas (2nd-3rd) small rug cash
- Mrs. Marsh (3rd-4th) treadle sewing machine, hand operated wringer, cash
- Miss Greene (4th-5th) cash
- Mr. Goodson (5th-6th) typewriter

This year's first movie afternoon at the school was also set up. Movies will be shown on Jan 27 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in the All Purpose Room. Admission will be 50¢ per child, and popcorn(10¢) and soda pop(10¢) will be available. These movies are furnished by the county library system, and the proceeds go to the PTA.

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The February meeting of the PTA will be held on Feb. 1 at the school beginning at 7:30 with an executive committee meeting, followed by the general meeting at 8 pm. The subject will be Interpersonal Learning with Mr. Glen Black from the Montgomery County Dept. of Human Resources as the speaker. This will be an exceptionally interesting evening and everyone from the community is invited.

Parents and their children mingled, square-danced, and had great fun together recently celebrating the sesquicentennial of Clara Barton's birth, at the school in Cabin John named for the founder of the American Red Cross.

The "groovy" occasion was sponsored by the PTA and the Cabin John Park Citizens' Association. Everything was "relative:" everybody "communicated" and E. Guy Jewell, recent retiree (50 years' service) of the Montgomery County Public Schools system, and first principal of the school, rejoiced.

It looked, he noted, like a return to the good, old days of the family unit that danced together, prayed together, and stayed together.

County Councilman Neal Potter, 55, a pupil of Mr. Jewell, and an initial graduate of the old Glen Echo-Cabin John School (now Clara Barton Elementary), in 1928, also addressed the capacity crowd and recited some oldtime doings in the community when he was a boy.

In the 1920's, Principal Jewell had to scoot around in his Model T Ford to five 1-room schools, each equipped with a "modern" privy and well in the Glen Echo-Cabin John area. Present Clara Barton School consolidated that previously in Concord, Glen Echo, Cabin John, Carderock, and Persimmon Tree Road. Neal Potter lived and worked on his father's farm, which the Capital Beltway now traverses.

At the square-dance intermission, other Cabin John oldtimers were introduced: William "Buzz" Potter (brother of Neal); Dick Armstrong, Charles R. Smith-- all accompanied by their wives-- and Mrs. Loretta Tuohy Hall.

Council Potter was presented with a large caricature depicting him in a barnyard, gathering a basket of eggs. It was entitled "From Pullets to Politics." Mr. Jewell received a caricature showing him driving an ancient Ford, price-tagged \$420. Noted Cabin John artist, Mrs. Connie Herdeck, executed the cartoons.

by Morris Fradin

Also during intermission, Clara Barton's 150th birthday was well celebrated. Organized by Bill White refreshments included birthday cakes of all shapes and sizes which were consumed by the hungry dancers, along with punch. A beautiful table of fresh fruit, nuts and decorations was provided by Home Study.

The Square Dance itself was an enormously successful event. Cabin Johners of all ages - from 80 plus to 2 years old do-si-doed and Virginia Reeled. Parents "honored" their children, and sixth graders took second graders as partners. Everyone was sorry to see the night end, but plans are already underway for another Square Dance in the Spring. Thanks are due to Betty Sponagle from the PTA and Morris Fradin from the Cabin John Citizens Asso. who were responsible for making Dec. 7 one of the nicest evenings in Cabin John in a long time.

WHEN A HOUSE IS A HOME AND A MUSEUM

The Clara Barton House, like love, is not to be entered into lightly. You may intend to give it only flirtation time--say 20 minutes--and become enthralled into an hour-and-a-half encounter. And if you're like me, you'll find yourself in a continuing romance, returning again and again, cajoling family and friends into making a visit you know will delight them.

Built like a Mississippi river boat, with staterooms along the side and a three-storey high open center, the house is part museum, part intact yesterday, total charm.

My mother had lace curtains in the living room like the ones in Clara Barton's house, and my grandmother used a crank telephone like the one you will see there. My great-grandmother did samplers like Clara Barton left, and I'm afraid I have nothing to match the teapot that came over on the Mayflower.

The delight of a visit to the house is in no small measure due to Miss Ruth Bonzer, resident chatelaine who with hard work, ingenuity, and devotion keeps the look and the spirit of Clara Barton's house very warm and real. Miss Bonzer, a young lady of perhaps 70 years, came here from Iowa seven years ago, bringing with her heirlooms of her own family (the Mayflower teapot is hers), a keen appreciation of Americana past, and a multi-talented nephew who, in addition to a full-time job, serves as caretaker, artistic decorator and resident organist.

Like the White House, the Clara Barton house has some space that is not for public viewing but for private living. In order to help with the expenses of keeping the house running, there are eight small apartments rented out to young men who work nearby. I saw two of the tenants on my last visit, casual, friendly, intelligent. I wonder what it's like--actually living in an historic home and a museum.

Clara Barton left the house to her lifelong companion, confidante, and advisor, Dr. Hubbel. I asked Miss Bonzer why bachelor Hubbel and spinster Barton never married, and her answer was that he was ten years younger. This leaves me with a delightful speculation about yet another side of that courageous and astonishing early women's libber.

You could travel many miles before you would find a more entrancing place than the big house off MacArthur Boulevard where the red cross shines in the top window.

Barbara Clark

GIRL SCOUTS TAKE TRIP

Thirteen girl scouts plus Mrs. Jo Ann Bast and Mrs. Fishel took a trip to Front Royal over the holidays. They spent from Dec. 28-30 at a cabin on top of the mountain, hiking, cooking, exploring, and spying on deer, quail, wild turkey, and rabbits.

The girl scout troop is open to girls 9 - 11 years old or in 4th-6th grades. If any new girls are interested, please call Mrs. Bast at 229 - 8789.

Here is a recipe which won a Better Homes & Gardens prize for Miss Ruth Bonzer, of Clara Barton House. BAKED EGGPLANT

- 1 eggplant, peeled and diced
- 1 T. chopped onion
- 1 T. Crisco
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1 t. salt
- 1/2 t. pepper
- 1 T. chopped parsley
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 1 T. melted butter
- buttered bread crumbs

Cover eggplant with boiling water, cook 10 minutes, drain and mash. Brown onion in hot fat, add eggplant and bread crumbs and fry until dry, stirring frequently. Add seasoning, parsley, and eggs; mix well and remove from heat. Brush baking dish with butter, add eggplant mixture and sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake in moderate oven (350° for 30 minutes. Serve with white sauce. Serves 6

WHITE SAUCE

Blend 1 T. butter and 1 T. flour; gradually add 1 cup milk, and stir until thickened and smooth. Add 1 t. salt and 1/2 t. pepper and boil 2 minutes. Serve over eggplant.

January Garden Chores

The month of January was given various forbidden names by America's original inhabitants. They called it variously the Snow Moon, the Ice Moon, the Moon of Strong Cold, and the Moon When Snow Drifts into the Tepees. We would do well to guard against the dangers of ice and snow to our gardens during these winter months.

Do all that you can to prevent heavy accumulations of snow from breaking evergreens. Shake or brush the snow before it becomes wet and heavy and before it freezes into solid masses. A wooden rake and a broom are useful tools for this work.

Guard against damage to evergreens and to other plants set under the eaves of the house, by snowslides from the roof. When the weather is cold and the branches are brittle, such shrubs as Yew, Boxwood, Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel are easily split apart by heavy snowslides.

Use branches of old Christmas trees to protect the leaves of evergreens from losing moisture due to drying winds. Stand the boughs upright around the evergreens you want to protect. Three of them around a rhododendron or small pine or spruce, tied together at the top, make an excellent wind break and also reduce temperature changes by shading the plants from brilliant sun.

Branches of Christmas trees, when spread over the perennial border will prevent deep freezing and will reduce damage that might be caused by alternate freezing and thawing. Other materials which may be used for mulch are salt hay, pine needles, shredded leaves, ground corn cobs, and shredded bark. Wherever salt is needed to melt ice on sidewalks or drives it should be used with great care. Although it will not kill your lawn it will do great harm to trees and shrubs. It will cause next spring's evergreen needles to show copper and yellow tones, and the leaves of deciduous trees to turn bronzy or reddish. When spring comes flush the soil thoroughly with plenty of water and root feed liberally.

A Letter to the Editor

Recently one of the businesses in town changed hands and, as I am sure you have noticed, veterinary hospital is about to open (if it has not by time we go to press) at the corner of 78th and MacArthur. Probably everyone agrees that it is nice to see the old place fixed up.

Unfortunately the owner, Dr. Antic, was welcomed to town by having his brand new windows broken out and some theft of property committed. It would be hard for anyone under those circumstances to feel very "welcome" and indeed most people might rue the decision to settle in Cabin John.

I love Cabin John and think it is unfortunate when someone else only has a chance to see our unpleasant sides. I apologize here and now for the times when my own children may be doing things they should not--because as all of us who are parents know--we do not always know where our children are and what they are doing!

Diane Heflin  
Village News  
6509 76th St.  
Cabin John, Md.  
20731

Comments are invited.  
Please send them to:

NEW NEIGHBORS

Mr. and Mrs. John Lefebure and James Van Riper recently moved to 83rd St. Welcome!

RECIPE LADY'S FILES

DELECTABLE HAMBURG CASSEROLE

Minda Wetzel

- 3 Tbs oil
- 2 lbs hamburg
- 2 medium onions, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 can (6 oz) mushrooms
- - - - -
- 1 #2 can tomatoes (2½ C)
- 1 can tomatoe paste
- 8 oz noodles (cooked) or 3 cups rice
- ¼ C dry red wine
- ½ tsp paprika
- 1 Tbs salt
- Thyme, marjoram, and/or basil
- 1 Tbsp worcestershire sauce
- 4 oz grated sharp cheeze

Brown meat, mushrooms, onions, and garlic in oil. Add tomato paste wine, noodles, seasonings. After mixing chill in casserole in which it will be cooked. Before baking, sprinkle the top with grated cheeze. Bake 45 mins at 375 degrees. Serves 10 - 12 for under \$3.00.

( I add ½ cup fresh chopped parsley to the mixture. Also easy to add a box of frozen (or leftover) vegetable.)  
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WANT ADS

Wanted: Cleaning lady to do general house work 1 day per week in Cabin John. Please call 229-4217

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Career Day at Clara Barton School was an enormous success. On October 26th, adults from Cabin John went back to school. Traditionally it had been a day when adults could visit their community's school and find out what was happening. But on October 26th the tables were turned and the kids were the ones finding out what was happening --- happening in the work and lives of the adults in their town. It was an eye opening and mind expanding experience for every child and adult there. It was a day which made educational news nationally. Everybody learned a lot and everybody had a very good time.

That special day marked the beginning of an unusual involvement between the adult world of Cabin John and a wider learning experience for every child in our school.

There is a necessary next step, however, that needs your help.

It's a matter first of finding out what careers and special interests occupy the adults of Cabin John. Clara Barton needs an inventory of the human resources that exist in our community before these talents can be brought into any kind of contact with kids. As soon as an informal listing of who-does-what and who's-interested-in-what can be collected, then the PTA will work to make it easy for the school and the community to get together. There may be more events like Career Day or opportunities to go into the individual class room -- where what we do as adults can be explored by children and their teacher. The rewards are to be had by everybody involved.

Creating just the opposite of the Generation Gap seems like a pretty good idea, and it will take very little to make our beginning.

Please fill in the form on the reverse side of this page. Then return the information within the week to the PTA by any of the following:

1. Drop it off with the secretary at the Clara Barton school office.
2. Give it to a school child to drop in the office as he or she arrives at school.
3. Call 229-6479 or 229-0108 or 229-6431 to give information over the phone or to have someone come by your home to pick it up.

Many, many thanks for your help.

THE CLARA BARTON PTA  
AND CHILDREN

Please fill in the following  
to help the PTA build on the  
success of Career Day:

| I | <u>Names</u>                          | <u>Address/ Phone</u> | <u>Occupation</u> | and/or | <u>Hobbies, Talents<br/>Special Interests</u> |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------|---|
|   | (any adult who lives<br>in your home) |                       |                   |        |   |

| II | <u>Neighbors or Acquaintances</u> | <u>Address/ Phone</u><br>(if you know it) | <u>Occupation</u><br>(to best of your knowledge) | and/or | <u>Hobbies, Talents<br/>Special Interests</u> |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------|---|
|    |                                   |   |  |        |   |