

# Cabin John Village News

Vol. 5 No. 6

February 1972

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Feb. 7 Recreation Program begins  
Clara Barton Elem. 2:30
- Feb. 11 Weaving and Decoupage  
Little Falls Library 3-5 pm
- Feb. 16 Laura Ingalls Wilder Program  
Little Falls Library 3:15 pm
- Feb. 19 Penny Theatre  
Little Falls Library 11:15 am
- Feb. 20 Featured Speaker, St. Andrews Methodist Church 11 am
- Feb. 22 Citizens Asso. 7:30 pm  
Clara Barton Elem.
- Mar. 7 PTA Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Clara Barton Elem.

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If your club or organization has news or events which you would like to put in the paper, just contact Maryann Wilson 229-3397 or Susan Vogt 229-6479.

## Little Falls Library News

There will be a craft exhibit at the library on the 4th and the 11th of February from 3:00 to 5:00 on both Fridays. Featured on the 4th will be exhibits of decoupage and weaving, and on the 11th the subject will be crochet and weaving.

On the 19th of February there will be a penny theater presentation of the Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Neighbors for children aged 4 to 6 years. Show time on the 19th will be 11:15 a.m.

A Laura Ingalls Wilder program will be presented on the 16th of February at 3:15 p.m. for girls 3rd grade and up who are fans of the Little House series. The program will include displays, a booktalk, and pictures.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SURVEY

Each month we will publish comments from the community survey. Some slight condensing and rewording has been done, but essentially these statements of opinion are just as the various citizens expressed them.

### MacArthur Boulevard

Should be our first priority; make it so charming we could all be proud. It's our main street, yet it presents our worst image. No wonder Cabin John has a "trashy" reputation in some quarters.

It could be beautiful. How about off-street parking? A sidewalk for the whole length of CJ? Beautification of homes and other establishments fronting on MacArthur? Dogwoods or flowering trees along the south side? Enforcement of litter prohibitions?

We could close MacArthur to through traffic.

A citizens meeting should be devoted just to MacArthur. Insure that a high-ranking official from Army Corps of Engineers be there to answer responsibly all questions and recommendations.

Why doesn't Army Corps clear their right-of-way of weeds and shrubs? 35 years ago they used to keep it clear on both sides of the road; now the banks are overgrown. If I didn't maintain the area in front of my house I couldn't even see the road. And water from the road runs down into my yard; what recourse do I have?

It badly needs resurfacing, not just a patch job now and then.

Will the oft-touted parallel service road ever materialize? Just where will it be?

Develop small parks along MacArthur.

I don't want MacArthur improved; it will be too attractive to developers.

### And Other Roads in Cabin John

Need a thruway from Tomlinson to 79th Street so pedestrians won't cut across private property. Extend Tomlinson to 79th through Carver Road.

Need more access roads to the Parkway.

MacArthur is limited to 6 ton weights and Seven Locks to 5 tons. That is being violated all the time--almost has to be--so I suggest county improve Seven Locks Road and the bridge if only to make our trucking needs legal.

Traffic through community could be controlled with new access to Parkway off Baltway. People who don't live right around here probably don't know that the Glen Echo exit goes to the Parkway. Why isn't it so marked?

Persimmon Tree Road should have an overpass and an entry onto the Parkway.

Roads aren't safe without curbing and sidewalks.

Don't want curbing and sidewalks. They cost money, destroy the rural atmosphere, and encourage high-priced developers to come in.

I see limited access as one key to keeping CJ the way I like it, so I am not in favor of improving roads leading into town.

Widening of Tomlinson would benefit only passers-thru, not the residents.

The road to Great Falls needs resurfacing badly.

Will the Shapiro tract have other access roads than Persimmon Tree?

The bridge on Seven Locks should be widened and the boulder removed. It's so dangerous.

Close old CJ bridge (Union Arch) to commuter traffic, open only to bicycles and pedestrians. Restore the name "Old Conduit Road" to MacArthur and limit it to local traffic.

Garden Tips for February

The Indians had two names for this month, the Moon of the Snow Blind and the Hunger Moon. For gardeners the latter is an especially appropriate name. Our hunger for flowers is so great that we spend hours studying the garden and seed catalogs we sent for in January, and often select plants that please our fancy rather than those that would do well in our particular garden spots.

During this month you should watch your perennials carefully. Rain and thaws may form puddles that damage the plants by excluding air and by freezing about the crowns. Make small ditches with a hoe to draw excess water away from the plants.

During a mild spell, if you notice young perennials partly heaved out of the ground by frost action, push them back into place.

Check the winter covering you put on your plants in late fall and be sure it is still in place, but take care that it does not pack down and exclude air from rock plants and other perennials that keep their leaves during the winter.

The earliest bulbs such as snowdrops and some crocuses will be well above ground and a few may already be in bloom. Other bulbs may show above ground prematurely during mild spells because of too shallow planting. When this happens and you fear that cold weather later will harm them, cover them with a two- or three-inch layer of peat moss and sand, as soon as the tips of the bulbs appear above the surface and before the leaves begin to separate.

If you have a spell of fair weather you might do some of your spring pruning of flowering shrubs, particularly old, tangled, overgrown specimens and kinds that bloom in summer on shoots that begin to develop this spring. Some of these are the Rose of Sharon, Vitex, Spirea Bumalda and its varieties, and the Butterfly Bush (Buddleia).

If you had a serious outbreak of tent caterpillars in your area last year, look for the egg masses now -- on apples, and wild cherries especially. They look like inch-wide varnished bands about a quarter inch thick. Cut them off and burn them; each one contains 150 to 300 eggs.

Well budded branches of forsythia, flowering quince, pussy willows, or flowering peach can readily be forced if brought indoors now.

Dormant spraying of trees, shrubs and vines that need this treatment may be done late in the month or any time before the buds begin to open. Apply oil sprays only when the temperature is above 45 degrees and when there is no chance of its dropping below freezing the night following application.

Theresa P. Jessup

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Income Tax Help

The Cabin John Post Office has an easy to use tax booklet called Your Federal Income Tax. It only costs 75¢, and has clear answers to questions, helpful charts, and sample forms filled out. Just 75¢ might help you save money on your income tax this year.

JANUARY CITIZENS REPORT

Bill White will coordinate this spring's Cabin John Cleanup Day. Tom Brown will see whether the county can help with trucks. Meanwhile, did you know that you are entitled to a special trash pickup every 3 months of items that the regular trash collection won't take? Call 424-2200.

Two deteriorated buildings on Seven Locks will be removed by special arrangement by the county with the owners' permission.

The Pollinger dispute is still in the preliminary stages of court process. Nothing imminent.

A discussion was held as to how the children of CJ might have more use of the Palisades Swimming Pool.

Dr. Stephen Antic, owner and operator of the new Alpine Veterinary Center at Seven Locks and MacArthur was introduced. He plans to open in mid-February.

Committee chairmen were announced for the CJ Community Plan. They are:

- Housing, John Badgley 2522; Schools and Public Services, Gladys Richardson 0108; Public Improvements, McDonald Dodds 3934; Natural Resources, Morris Fradin 1338; Land Use, Barbara Clark 6431; CJ Development, Rob Palme 7058.

All of these committees are open to any interested Cabin Johner. Call the chairman of the committee which interests you.

Mr. Palme explained the purpose of the Development Corporation, a legal enabling instrument for carrying out the plans of the other committees. The board of the Corporation is open; call Rob if you would be interested in serving on it.

FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

During the next several months, citizens in Cabin John shall have the opportunity to participate in the preparation of a citizens community plan. This plan shall deal with problems such as housing, schools, public services, public improvements, natural resources and land use.

The purpose of this community planning effort is to enable citizens to recommend how Cabin John should be developed. The plan will be as complete and creative as citizens desire. This plan shall in no way be a Montgomery County plan for Cabin John. It shall be your plan for the future.

Now is the time to voice your ideas, complaints, desires and dislikes. I urge all citizens who are interested to contact the appropriate committee chairmen.

If for any reason you would rather express your views directly to the County Government, please feel free to contact me at any time at the office or I will be glad to meet with any Cabin John resident on a personal basis.

Thomas R. Brown  
Planner  
Montgomery County Dept.  
of Community Development  
279-1582

## FROM WEST SAMOA TO CABIN JOHN

Alan Osbourne has a lot to say about Robert Louis Stevenson, and he should know. His grandmother married the man.

I made an appointment for an hour's interview with Mr. Osbourne to talk about his connections with the famous author of "Treasure Island," "A Child's Garden of Verses," and "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." The interview lasted two hours and ended for lack of time, never lack of information.

Alan is a retired marine consultant, listed in Who's Who as the author of a widely used manual of marine engineering and the inventor of a viscosity control of liquid suspensions using an ellipsoidal rotor in liquids.

But it was about his memories of the RLS story that I had come to hear. From Mr. Osbourne's point of view, the story begins with Fanny Vandergrift who married Sam Osbourne in Indiana in the mid-1850's. Sam was an officer in the Civil War--a Union officer in divided Indiana--who was too lenient in his treatment of Confederate prisoners and was asked to resign from the Army. Sam and Fanny and their three children went to California where Sam became an expert court reporter and an agent for silver claims. In San Francisco, Sam pushed for making Yosemite a national park, founded the Bohemian Club, and got rich in mining stocks.

Fanny went in for oil painting, and persuaded Sam to send her to Europe (with the children) to study the art of Belgium and France firsthand.

But history entered the lives of the Osbournes. The United States went off the silver standard and Sam Osbourne lost his fortune. He hadn't even the money to bring his family home. Fanny was in terrible straits; her older son, Lloyd, stole dogs on the streets of Paris to be resold for meat, and her younger son died of malnutrition. Leaving Paris, she went to Fontainebleau, an art colony for foreign painters and writers.

And here she met Robert Louis Stevenson. Fanny was 40 then, a beautiful woman. Alan Osbourne remembers that his grandmother always looked youthful, even into her seventies. She was totally without money to support herself and her children. Stevenson was 26, a man who had never been well and who had never worked at anything in his life. With Fanny's encouragement he began to apply himself to his writing and Fanny looked after him. They needed each other; and they were deeply in love.

But, unexpectedly, Sam Osbourne sent money for his wife and children to come back to California. What her reasoning was, we don't know, but Fanny returned to San Francisco and Sam. The Osbourne reunion was not happy for long, and they soon were divorced.

Stevenson came to Monterey, and in 1880, he and Fanny were married. Robert was a reformed man, determined to live on his own earnings, rather than on the fortune of his father, a successful and renowned engineer. He tried his hand at newspaper writing but without success. The Stevensons were poor and Robert's health was falling, and soon RLS, Fanny and Lloyd were on their way to Europe.

In Scotland and in Switzerland, Fanny nursed her husband and encouraged his writing. Lloyd loved his stepfather and the two of them enjoyed each other greatly. For Lloyd's amusement, RLS began an adventure story, writing a chapter every day which he read to Fanny and Lloyd in the evening. Lloyd drew a map of buried treasure and RLS constructed the story around it. One evening a friend, who published a magazine for

boys, heard the evening's chapter and persuaded Stevenson to publish the story in serial form in his magazine. It was "Treasure Island", and within a year Robert Louis Stevenson was a famous man.

After that, everything he wrote sold to an eager and admiring world. As his fame increased his health became worse, and the Stevensons went to the hot and steamy refuge of Samoa. The climate was better for RLS and the books came forth regularly. Lloyd, who had long been his stepfather's secretary and assistant, decided to do some writing himself. He and Stevenson collaborated on three novels and Lloyd Osbourne was launched on his writing career.

In 1894, when he was 44, Robert Louis Stevenson died. Lloyd went to California to settle some financial affairs and met Catherine Durham, an intense young lady with a strong will and a natural ability for management. She became, in consecutive order, Mrs. Lloyd Osbourne, manager of the Samoan ranches, and the mother of Alan.

Baby Alan, his mother and father, and Grandmother Fanny travelled to Great Britain by invitation of Queen Victoria, to attend the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Alan was baptised en route to England on board the ship Alameda by the Bishop of Wellington. In London, Lloyd Osbourne was welcomed and honored by J.M. Barrie, Bret Harte, and Kipling. Alan remembers that his father wrote fiction for the Saturday Evening Post and was hailed as a master of the short story.

Once again the history of the world directly affected the history of the Stevenson-Osbourne family. Lloyd Osbourne spoke out passionately against U.S. government action in Samoa and became forever after an anathema to the U.S. government administrators there. He was forbidden to return to Vailima. The family lived for a while in Madiera, and little Alan, just learning to talk, said his first words--in Portuguese. While the Osbournes and Fanny Stevenson were living in Scotland, the great San Francisco fire raged right up to the door of a mansion that Fanny owned in the suburbs of that city. A water brigade, headed by the tenor Enrico Caruso, was all that saved the home from destruction.

The family moved to San Francisco, and domestic strains became acute. First Fanny moved away--to Santa Barbara--and then Lloyd and Catherine separated. Alan was 5 by this time and had a baby brother. Lloyd went to New York City and Alan and his brother and mother lived in several places across the country. Finally Lloyd agreed to finance a trip to Italy for his estranged wife and the boys. The trip lengthened into four years, and Catherine became involved in the social life of Rome. Alan was left very much on his own, even to the matter of schooling.

His education was rather unconventional. Each morning he bought the English edition of the Paris Tribune and taught himself to read. In San Francisco, Catherine was equally casual about school for her sons, and Alan's formal education consisted entirely of a short course in drafting at an engineering school when he was 15, and one semester at a military school the following year. Nevertheless, he did well enough on the entrance exams to get into an Ivy League university.

Mr. Osbourne is understandably proud of his forebears, incredibly well informed about particulars of their lives, and very open to visitors. Stop by 6512 75th Street and become acquainted. But not if you have

ST. ANDREWS CHURCH HAS GUEST SPEAKER

On Sun. Feb. 20, at the 11 am service, the Reverend Forrest C. Stith will be a guest speaker at the St. Andrews Methodist Church. Rev. Stith has an executive title as long as your arm, but he's also noted as a dynamic speaker, who uses his beautiful singing voice during his presentation.

St. Andrews is located at the intersection of River and Goldsboro Roads, and all are welcome to enjoy this youthful and dynamic speaker.

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TRAFFIC LIGHT SITUATION

As many of the parents of Clara Barton children already know, there has recently been some disturbing discussion about the removal of the traffic light on MacArthur Blvd.

The Army Corps of Engineers no longer want to operate the traffic light, and intend to turn over its operation to the County government. But the light is almost 30 years old, and the obsolete parts would make it impossible to repair if it ever broke down. Therefore, the county authorized the Engineers to take it down, but claimed that they didn't have the \$5000 needed to buy and install a new traffic light. At this point the school was notified of the impending action.

Mrs. Kathleen Lopez, chairwoman of the Health and Safety Committee of the PTA, made dozens of telephone calls to the Army Corps of Engineers, a petition was circulated in the Cabin John Gardens, the First and Second graders wrote letters to Mr. Kanz, Mont. county Chief Traffic Engineer, and Mrs. Lopez explored alternatives with Montgomery County officials.

Finally, as a result of all the hours of work, a delay in any action was granted, and just recently, that delay was made officially indefinite.

While everyone is obviously elated that the light will not be removed in the near future, we need to be realistic too. If and when the old light beaks down, it will be removed and not replaced unless we act now. Many people should write individual letters to the county representative to request funding for a new modern traffic light at that intersection. At least the county should make new traffic studies especially during the morning rush hour to prove that a traffic light is warranted for the 60 or 70 children who cross there every day.

The person to contact is:  
 Mr. Anthony Kanz  
 Chief Traffic Engineer of Mont. Co.  
 County Office Building  
 S. Perry Street  
 Rockville, Md. 20850

Don't wait to write your letter. If the light breaks down, it will be too late.  
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HOME STUDY MAKES PROFIT

The Cabin John branch of Home Study Inc. wishes to thank all the people who sold and bought candy in November off behalf of the Camp Fund. A profit of \$89.76 was made, and the candy was completely sold out. Another Candy Sale is being planned for this spring.

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BB GUNS ARE ILLEGAL

Did you know that it is illegal to fire a BB gun in a residential neighborhood? Several reports have been made to the police of kids firing at birds or squirrels in people's yards. Maps of where it is permissible to fire BB guns are available at any police station.

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REPLY FROM GILBERT GUDE

Maryland Congressman Gilbert Gude has replied to Mr. Dan Mater's letter concerning noise and pollution from National Airport. Mr. Mater shared his reply with the editor, who thought other people might be interested. Mr. Gude has introduced legislation to authorize Maryland, Va. and DC to establish regional authority over all area airports. While this legislation has not been enacted as of yet, Mr. Gude assures Mr. Mater that he remains concerned about the "over-utilization of National Airport."

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Recreation Program at Clara Barton

The Spring session of the Montgomery County Recreation Department's program is about to begin at Clara Barton Elementary School in the All-Purpose Room. The six separate classes are open to all elementary school aged children in Cabin John, and will begin the week of February 7, lasting until the week of March 31. Being offered this Spring are the following:

- \*\*\*Mondays\*\*\*  
Arts and Crafts  
 Grades 1-3. Boys and Girls. 2:30 - 3:30  
 Grades 4-6. Boys and Girls. 3:30 - 4:30
- \*\*\*Wednesdays\*\*\*  
Tumbling  
 Grades 1-3. Girls. 2:30 - 3:30  
Body Building and Self Defense  
 Grades 4-6. Boys. 3:30-- 4:30
- \*\*\*Fridays\*\*\*  
Gym Hockey  
 Grades 1-3. Boys. 2:30 - 3:30  
Contemporary Dance  
 Grades 4-6. Girls. 3:30 - 4:30

The fee for each class is \$1.00. Forms to participate may be picked up at the Clara Barton School office, the St. Bartholomews School office, or at the first class meeting.

NEW NEIGHBORS

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Howard and 4 of their 7 children have recently moved to 83rd Place. Mr. Howard is the new Chief of the Indian Division of OEO, and they moved here from Montana. The Howards two youngest children attend Clara Barton. Welcome to you all!

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IT'S A SMALL WORLD DEPARTMENT

When she renewed her subscription to the Village News, Mrs. Frances Iglehart commented on the Comments to the Survey which she had been reading. She said "I hope you succeed in your attempts to procure bus service to Bethesda. I believe we first proposed this in 1947!"

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RENOWNED CRAFTSMAN RELATED TO CABIN JOHN FAMILY

At the recently opened Renwick Museum at 17th St. and Penn. Ave., there is an exhibit of the five most highly regarded wood craftsmen. Among them is Wharton Esherick whose daughter and son-in-law live in Cabin John. Mr. Esherick has on exhibit several stools and chairs, a fantastically constructed desk, and other items which are all well worth seeing. Having died some time ago, Mr. Esherick's studio is being turned into a museum in Penn., and will be open to the public in the future.

Esherick's daughter Ruth Bascomb, her husband Bob, and his wife live on Arden Rd., where Mrs. Esherick can often be seen walking with her walker in between lots of bicycles and children. This exhibit is well worth the trip downtown, so don't miss it.

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MARCH PTA MEETING

The March PTA Meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on March 7 will feature a panel discussion between parents and teachers with a moderator. This will include discussion of many levels of the educational process. Plan to be there so your voice can be heard - you won't want to miss it.

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Dogs and Garbage

Several complaints have been received about big dogs who roam around and tip over other people's garbage cans in Cabin John. Not only is it illegal to let dogs roam around, but the spilled garbage is often not picked up. If you own a dog, please keep track of its whereabouts, and if your garbage can gets tipped over, please clean up the mess. Rats are not only found in the city, and uncovered garbage will attract them.

WANT ADS

SALE: Record player, monaural, console model, teak cabinet. \$25  
229-2522

SALE: Kenmore washer 1970, excellent condition. 4 speed, 4 cycle. 10 lb. capacity \$100; RCA Console, bl. & wh., 21" TV. Cab. in excell. cond., set needs minor repair. \$30 or offer. Antique chest of drawers, cherry wood, needs refin. \$35. Day Bed, old but in good cond. \$15. If interested call 229-1134.

GIVEAWAY: 2 male, 3 female black semi-Siamese kittens. 2 mos. old. Also female adult. Really great pets. Call 229-4539.

NEEDED: Avon Representative for Cabin John or Glen Echo area. Part-time job. Days call Mrs. Bartolemei 628-3167; Evenings 948-5972.

WANTED: Practical nurse, registered for rehabilitation of stroke patient 3 days per week. 229-2522

WANTED: Babysitter for creative care of 4 yr. old boy every Sat. 15 or older. Call after 6 pm Mrs. Sahakiar 229-8731.

FOR RENT: New one bedroom furnished apt. Air cond., soundproof, \$175 per mo. utilities incl. 7732 Mac Arthur Blvd. Call Dr. Antic 229-2400.

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VILLAGE NEWS INFORMATION

If you don't get your Village News, check the Post Office or the Quick Food Shop. Copies are left there.

Have you sent in your dollar for the past year of Village News?

Commercial ads cost \$3 per month, or \$8 for 3 mos. Want ads cost 50¢ for 3 lines.

LET US KNOW ABOUT NEW NEIGHBORS AND RECIPES. THE STAFF AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE LISTED ON THIS PAGE. Do you know someone who would like to have the Village News mailed to them? It costs \$2. Let us know.

WHITHER MACARTHUR BOULEVARD?

Mr. John Kester, chief of Washington Aqueduct Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, will be the featured speaker at the February 22 meeting of the Citizens Association. The focus of the evening will be "The Future of MacArthur Boulevard." Mr. Richard Lynch, Director of Public Works for the county has also been invited to talk about the same subject. A representative of the county police will be there, too.

Is it possible we can get some straight answers, uncomplicated by buck passing? Come and press for responsible direction. 7:30 p.m. at Clara Barton Elementary School. Bring your Village News with the MacArthur Boulevard comments.

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VILLAGE NEWS STAFF

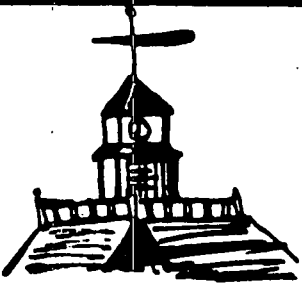
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