

Cabin John Village News

Vol. 5 No. 9

June 1972

The drive for Village News money has gotten off to a very good start. To date we have collected \$233.00, not quite half of our goal. Several streets have been canvassed by volunteers although very few people did actually offer help there. With the money now on hand, we should be able to publish 5 more issues. If you haven't been called upon, stop waiting, and mail your check today to Cabin John Village News
6509 76th St. Cabin John 20731

Several people have enclosed notes with their checks, all of which I have appreciated. But one note was especially nice, and I thought I would share part of it with everyone. I'm not going to disclose who wrote it because I don't want to let his neighbors off the hook!! In part it reads "I'm sure that all my neighbors and myself like your paper very much... In the event that the other 'seven' on my street forget to mail in their contribution, I would like the privilege to pay for us all." An eight dollar check was enclosed.

The July issue of the Village News will be delivered on July 15 or 16, with the next issue scheduled for the first of September. The Staff needs a vacation too. Have a good summer!!

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THANKS TO DIANE HEFLIN

As Chairman of the Cabin John Four-Year-Old class, I would like to publicly thank Mrs. Diane Heflin for the outstanding job she has done with our children this school year. I am sure I speak for all the parents of our four year olds. Her seemingly never-ending ideas for class activities have included trips to the zoo, Dumbarton Oaks, the regional park, walks along the canal, puppet shows and others. The children have not only made fresh bread in school, but also made their own butter to put on it. They even cooked breakfast one morning. You must admit most four-year-olds do not get the opportunity to do most of these things. It has taught our children not only to play together, but to also work together. Where Diane gets her ideas, zest, enthusiasm and sometimes sheer courage for some of her undertakings, I'll never know, but I hope she never changes. Good luck to you, Diane, in your future years of teaching and may all your classes and their parents be as happy and satisfied as this, your first class.

Ella Fisher
Chairman
Four-year-old class

JUNE CALENDAR

- June 6 PTA meeting 7:30 school library
- June 6 Little Falls Library. 7:30 p.m. slide show
- June 8 Softball game, 6:30 p.m. Fairland Rec Center
- June 9 Clara Barton Field Day Ballgame starts 8:30 a.m.
- June 10 Story hour Little Falls library
- June 13 Softball game 6:30 p.m. Cabin John Rec Center
- June 15 Softball game 6:30 p.m. BCC Rec Center
- June 16 Luncheon for teachers CB school
- June 20 First free swim 11-1 Palisades Pool (and every Tues & Thurs)
- June 23 Book talk 1:30-3 p.m. LF library
- June 27 Softball game 6:30 p.m. Cannon Rd Elem School
- June 28 Penny Theatre LFalls library
- June 29 Softball game 6:30 BCC Rec Cen.
- July 22 Crab Feast

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VFW OFFICERS

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 5633 has chosen these officers for the year.

- President: Ruby Schell
- Senior VP: Linda Ricketts
- Junior VP: Judy Miller
- Treasurer: Frances Hugely
- Chaplain: Dorothy Kuster
- Conductress: Irene Fortner
- Guard: Donna Holifield

The men of the post have selected their leaders, too.

- Commander: Pearman Marshall
- Senior VP: Lawrence Holifield
- Junior VP: Archie Booth
- Quartermaster: R.B. Jones
- Adjutant: Paul Beck
- Judge Advocate: Mickey Ricketts
- Surgeon: Lou Loudermilk
- Chaplain: Ralph Morgel
- 3 yr trustee: W.K. Starbard
- 2 yr trustee: Paul Beck
- 1 yr trustee: Bill Milto

C. J. Fire Dept. Softball Schedule

- June 8 Cabin John at Hillandale #2, West Fairland Recreation Cent.
- June 13 Burtonsville at C. J., C.J. Rec. Center
- June 15 B.C.C. at C.J., B.C.C. Rec.Cent.
- June 27 Cabin John at Hillandale #1, Cannon Road Elem. School
- June 29 Silver Spring at C.J., B.C.C. Rec. Center

Game Time: 6:30 p.m.

PROGRESS ON THE PLAN

Preliminary reports by chairmen of the six Action Committees on May 23 showed good progress, with Tom Brown from the Office of Community Development indicating that the community should be "ready to go" by fall. Brown kicked off the program with an illustrated talk showing zoning, health, housing and park needs in Cabin John. Following Brown's presentation, citizens were free to visit each of the committees and to ask questions.

Chairman John Badgley's Housing Committee reports the following recommendations for the Cabin John Master Plan: 1) a rehabilitation loan fund designed to assist owner occupants of single family homes with the cost of needed repairs and remodeling; 2) federal assistance for home ownership as available from HUD and other sources; 3) federal assistance for the elderly in rental housing through HUD; 4) establishment of minimum property standards and rehabilitation guidelines for residential property; 5) that the association endorse the county's program to purchase housing in deteriorated condition for the purpose of rebuilding and resale; and 6) that the Cabin John Development Corp., in cooperation with the Land Use Committee, carry out the planning and development of housing in the community wherever practical. On this latter proposal Chairman Robert Palme called a meeting of the corporation for May 31.

Possible desirable additions to Cabin John being considered by Barbara Clark's Land Use Committee include: 1) decontamination of the Cabin John Creek; 2) a bike trail through the entire Cabin John Park area and new park addition (a proposal endorsed by several committees); 3) an additional active recreation area; 4) one or more pedestrian accesses to the C & O Canal; 5) Renovated and new moderate income housing; 6) resurfacing MacArthur Blvd. but retain the present location and two-lane highway; planting and good maintenance along sides; 7) a community center; 8) a small branch library; 9) a community/commercial area with a limited number of services in low key architecture; 10) a stopover point on the canal/towpath such as an outdoor cafe with canoe/bike rentals.

A. MacDonald Dodds' committee on Proposed Improvements stressed that the community must zealously guard against any proposed action by developers or others in the guise of improvements which might jeopardize the Master Plan or "be the basis for a claim of change-of-character in the neighborhood in future rezoning attempts." His committee also urged that curbs, gutters and sidewalks not be installed on residential streets unless specifically asked for by owners. Some citizens have indicated a wariness of disruptive improvements that will interfere with Cabin John's trees.

Dodds' committee is also calling for a "return to at least the level of maintenance of MacArthur Blvd which was practiced in years past", and that the County be asked to lend support. A combination footpath and bike trail in the parks and wherever practical in the community was also an aim of the Dodds committee. A loop that would provide the community with a combination trail and **greenbelt** would also provide citizens more access to the C & O Canal. Better street lighting was recommended by the Dodds Committee where requested with emphasis in the Seven Locks and Persimmon Tree Road locations.

Chairman Morris Fradin, of the Natural Resources Committee, stressed that "YOU - the citizens - are the most important resource in the area." He called for a relentless effort to clean up Cabin John Creek, warfare on noise and particularly jet aircraft, a biking trail, acquisition of the Burgess property by the county for conversion into a park, litter cleanup and other improvements.

Chairman Gladys Richardson, Schools and Public Services, said her committee is making a detailed inquiry into schools and public services including transportation needs. It was reported that the D.C. Transit Commission had made no effort whatsoever to contact association officials as regards transportation improvements. A special transportation report will be included in the Richardson report.

The committees have been working hard for the past several months, and will be finalizing their plans over the summer. Any suggestions for any of the committees would be most welcome - just contact the chairman. Remember, this is your plan.

Jim Craig, past Citizens Asso.
President

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HOME STUDY NEWS

Home Study Inc. is delighted to announce that they cleared over \$800 at the Strawberry Festival last month. That money will be spent on camp and college scholarships, and is greatly appreciated. Thanks are due to all who volunteered in baking and selling and who made it such a success.

Home Study summer camp information will be sent home from school with the children in June. If additional information is desired, call Celeste Sweedenburg at 229 - 2282.

**** Free Swim**, sponsored by Home Study at the Palisades Pool, will begin the week of June 19. There will be two days this year, Tues, and Thurs. from 11am to 1pm. All community children from 6 to 15 yrs are welcome. Younger children must be accompanied by a parent. Adults are needed to help supervise on a ratio of 6 kids to one adult. The ticket of admission to the Free Swim is a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian saying: I give permission to _____ to come to the Free Swim at the Palisades Pool and I assume all liability. Signed _____

THE GIRL IN THE PORTRAIT

On a day just before the turn of the century, a young girl was writing a letter on a new machine called a typewriter in the office of H.K. Mulford Co., a Philadelphia pharmaceutical firm. Her desk faced a window into the office of Mr. Mulford. On this day Mr. Mulford was visited by an artist who had been engaged to paint a mural in his home, but talk of the detailed arrangements for the mural was interrupted by the artist's fascination with the girl at the typewriter. "Who is she?" he asked, gazing at her through the window, "would you introduce me?" "She is Miss Constance Inman," he was told, "and I will see if I can persuade her to agree to an introduction at some later time."

This is the way things were done then, folks; very little resemblance to the sales representative asking the receptionist if she is free for lunch and knows a good steakhouse.

But back to 1899. Mr. Mulford asked the pretty young typist if she would consent to meet Mr. Joseph C. Claghorn, artist and gentleman. Mr. Mulford thoroughly covered the Claghorn family (New England whalers to Philadelphia aristocrats, with an uncle who was president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts), Joseph's education (Academy of Fine Arts, School of Industrial Art, U. of Pennsylvania School of Architecture), his impressive reputation (just thirty, he was already much respected in East Coast art circles), and his fine character. Connie agreed to be introduced but without much enthusiasm. I asked her why she was reluctant and this lovely lady now in her tenth decade smiled in remembrance. "I don't like to brag, but you see I already had a great many beaux. My father, a Britisher, played cricket, and all the cricket players fell for me. There was many a gentleman in Philadelphia who wanted my hand." Connie's grandfather founded the Inman Steamship Line, first passenger ships to go between England and the United States.

When Joseph Claghorn had been properly presented, he wasted no time in persuading Connie to come to his Philadelphia studio to sit for an oil portrait. When I responded to this with an interested Ah! Mrs. Claghorn hastened to tell me that the artist's sister had come in from their country home to be present as chaperone at every sitting. This first portrait, unfortunately, is no longer in Mrs. Claghorn's possession, nor can she trace where it has gone.

The Claghorn family invited young Connie to their estate in Wayne, Pennsylvania for weekends and after a romance of remarkably long progression--"Mr. Claghorn courted me for two years"--Joseph and Connie were married in November of 1901 and honeymooned in New York City and the Delaware countryside.

During the early years of their marriage Joseph was manager and art director of an engraving and printing company in addition to doing much work with his own painting. When a wonderful new high school was planned for Washington, D.C., to be one of the first public schools in the country to have a full art department, Joseph applied for the job of director of art. When fall came, Central High was opened at 13th and Clifton Streets, N.W. and the Claghorns came to Washington to stay forever. They had an apartment in the city and began looking for a country home "way out." They bought a small house on the C&O Canal, and lived in it in the summers. When they installed heat in 1924, the Claghorns gave up their city apartment and moved to Cabin John

for good. Joseph added on rooms and an upstairs and then in 1933 built a large studio with ceilings rising to 15' and arching into a huge skylight. Today the skylight has been covered over with plywood and the studio is Mrs. Claghorn's bedroom, but the sign "Claghorn Studio" is still seen at the entrance to the driveway leading off Riverside Drive.

Mr. Claghorn spent twenty-five years teaching the youngsters of Central High (now Cardozo) all forms of art--pottery, jewelry, drawing, painting, etching--and then retired in his mid-sixties to concentrate on his own painting. He was the first local artist to have a one-man exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute. It was an exhibition of etchings of landscapes, nudes, and local buildings.

President and Mrs. Hoover one year sent out a Christmas card etched by Joseph Claghorn. He was commissioned to prepare a portfolio of distinctive Washington landscapes which were presented by President Hoover as a personal gift to the King and Queen of Siam when they visited Washington. One oil, "A Florida Park," and many etchings belong to the National Collection of Fine Arts of the Smithsonian Institute.

For the last twelve years of his life, Joseph Claghorn turned from oils and devoted himself exclusively to water colors which sold as fast as he could produce them. He did old-fashioned scenes--coaches, taverns, blacksmith shops--and he painted all the famous buildings of Williamsburg. Four of these Williamsburg scenes hang in a prestigious bank in Baltimore.

Joseph Claghorn died in February of 1947, and for the past quarter of a century Constance Inman Claghorn has lived alone in the secluded little house on the canal. The rooms are hung with some of her husband's paintings, including a large oil of herself as a young wife. With the years she has lost some of her hearing and most of her sight, and a housekeeper lives with her now.

Her memory is remarkably good and her recollections are many:

President and Mrs. Wilson driving through Cabin John in their high automobile, waving to her and her husband as he painted the trees along Conduit Road -
the Chautauque at Glen Echo -
the one-horse streetcar that came out from downtown, later replaced by the trolley -
the tea-house at 14th and F where she sometimes worked to help her friend who owned it -
walking up to 79th Street for the mail -
Mrs. Tuohy who had a big vegetable garden every year -
Ralph Scott, who built two houses along the canal (now Hall's and Thompson's)
the Potter farm--later sold to make way for the Model Basin--and Mrs. Potter's baked goods stall at the Bethesda market -
happy, quiet days along the canal, with the dogs that were always a part of their lives -
the advent of electricity with the Claghorns the first in town to hook up -
the first telephone line in Cabin John, shared by the Claghorns and five other families .

Mrs. Claghorn never had children, and there are no close relatives. A few dear and faithful friends care for her in these last years of a long life that spans the centuries and centers on Cabin John from today back as far as almost anybody can remember.

Barbara Clark

WANT ADS

Furniture for sale 2 single beds, cot,
2 black bureaus, 2 cherry end tables, tricycle,
2 children's bikes, wagon, crib, 2 overstuffed
chairs. All very reasonably priced. 229-4357
8109 Riverside Avenue.

Plants for sale The greenhouse of Concord
Special School has a variety of outdoor plants,
both flowers and vegetables for sale now and
all through the summer at varying prices.
Also available: ceramic planters filled with
greens, \$5. Take Wilson to Broxburn, left on
Loch Lomond, left on Hidden Creek Road.
These plants are raised by the retarded
students at Concord. Support their project.

Yard work this summer Steve Whittaker, 229-8899
\$5 for an average lawn.

Giveaway Kittens, 3 female, 1 black,
2 tabby. 6 weeks old 229-4567

House for rent 3-bedroom, rec room,
patio, trees, fully furnished.
Available June 20-August 20
229-2522

Furniture for sale 2 hand-woven
sea-grass beige rugs 9 x 15, excell-
ent condition. 5 piece maple dinette
suite. heavy-duty electric fan -
2 speed with timer, 3 electric
motors. J.F. Phillips 7702 Tomlinson

Seamstress will sew ladies' clothes
and do alterations. 229-4769

House in Cabin John wanted to buy
by young couple 229-0651

Giveaways Small chest-type freezer,
sofabed good condition but needs
recovering 229-4690

Used tent wanted to buy 229-0280

Giveaway : Stones, Bricks, and
Miscellaneous from the two
houses on Seven Locks Rd. which
were recently burned down by
the fire department. Soon the
foundations will be bulldozed
over, so get what you want now.

DO YOU HAVE IT??? The Citizens Asso.
is looking for their coffee pot
last used 3 years ago. Did you
agree to store it in your attic
or basement? If you find it, or
have an idea where it might be,
please call Janet Hutchinson at
229-6144.

Recipe of the month

SOMETHING SPECIAL STEW

Use your own amount large or small

Bite size chunks of beef
Bite size chunks of carrots, onions,
potatoes, celery

Tapioca
V8 juice, large or small can

Place uncooked meat in kettle, season,
add vegetables. Add 3 or 4 tablespoons
tapioca. Barely cover with V8 juice.
Cover and bake 4 hours in 250° oven.

Mildred Shuff

VILLAGE NEWS STAFF

Susan Vogt, editor 229-6479
Barbara Clark, features 229-6431
Maryann Wilson, news 229 3397
Theresa Jessup, gardening
Morris Fradin, special articles

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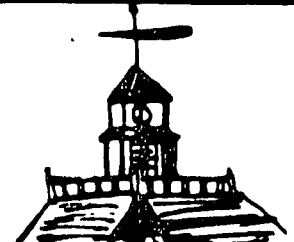
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1972

Globe-Trotter

Comes Home To County

By Morris Fradin

After hump-bumping along on a camel in the Holy Land, crossing the Atlantic on a steamship, crisscrossing the United States by jet liner, and riding her son's motorcycle around Montgomery County, 80-year-young Edith Martin "Bin" Armstrong declares, "I've traveled about every way and everywhere."

But the enthusiastic widow keeps journeying around, alone, "so I can make new friends." She has already visited 40 countries and 14 islands, including Japan and Hawaii. "Even Ireland, where I kissed the Blarney Stone," she chuckles. She trips off to Central America in July.

Annual Visit

"Bin" will complete her annual visit with her son, Richard W. Armstrong, 11101 South Glen Road, Potomac, on June 16. "Meanwhile I'm catching up with all the doings of my family, relatives, and friends in Montgomery County." Richard is a Department of Transportation mechanical engineer, busy on automobile safety programs.

Although vigorously opposed to living in the past, globe-trotter Armstrong is proud to have helped organize the Potomac Valley Homemakers' Club 50 years ago. She has also donated 10,000 volunteer hours to Red Cross activities and 10 years to welfare work in the county. After residing for decades in Cabin John Park and Glen Echo Heights, "Bin" bought a trailer in Naples, Florida. That's "home base" between trips 'round the world and a yearly pilgrimage to Maryland.

Bin's family includes two sons; two daughters-in-law,



EDITH MARTIN "BIN" ARMSTRONG was 72 years young when she posed with her Amish boy oil painting. Photo by Morris Fradin

six grandchildren, two great grandchildren—and countless good friends everywhere she goes!

'Days at Cabin John'

Busy, restless 15 hours of every day, Bin still found time some years ago to author "Days at Cabin John," a volume of quaint anecdotes and stories about the earthy people who lived along the C & O Canal in the early 1900s. The authoress is also a lecturer, gadgeteer, and daily bridge player. As a sewing teacher in summer school classes in the

Bethesda area, she became best known for using a sewing needle as a "magic wand." With it she could transform a dollar's worth of slipcover remnants into a chic gown, or create an attractive housecoat from \$77 worth of materials.

Bin is equally noted as an S.O.S. (Save Old Scraps) specialist. Wherever she goes, she converts scraps

into little treasures. Her nimble mind and fingers create original Christmas tree ornaments from toothpicks, light bulbs, and pine cones. The gilded, silvered toothpicks become starbursts; the lamps are decorated in gay designs; the pine cones are transformed into jolly elves and

Santa Clauses. And when Bin's wool and cotton scraps are braided into colorful rugs, which she donates to church bazaars or welfare groups aiding the needy, the handicrafts sell for fancy prices. So do her "Smile" pillows, stuffed animals, Christmas socks, and all sorts of gimcracks fashioned of felt, cloth, plastics—and a vivid imagination.

Never Studied Art

Young-in-heart Bin never studied art, but scores of her oil paintings decorate the homes of family and friends in many states. "I always give them away, framed and

wired, so the recipients will have to hang them," she laughs. The walls of her mobile home display a number of paintings she favors, particularly one of an Amish boy eating an apple.

From an under-a-bed storehouse in her trailer, Bin extracts a scrap of cloth, a bit of metal, a button, a wine goblet, or a doorknob. These are swiftly formed into a toy for a child, or a dinner table, or a wall conversationpiece for someone seeking "something different." A

bottle cap becomes a medallion; a bridge table, dowel pin, and cloth are turned into a child's colorful playhouse, storable in a small closet bag. Old discards receive new life in her busy hands. She delights in converting rags into raiment, junk into jewels of ingenuity.

One Big Mistake

Bin regrets "one big mistake." She once owned the carriage of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, but allowed playing children to gradually destroy it. "Including its lovely beveled-glass side lanterns," she recalls, wistfully. "I do wish I had saved them." They would now be cherished possessions in the Clara Barton House, an historic shrine in Glen Echo.

Nonetheless, more Montgomery County homes each year acquire Bin-made trinkets. For whenever Bin departs for her winter cocoon in Florida, she leaves behind heaps of curiosity-exciting packages marked "Do Not Open 'Til Christmas" for her great and grand-children, relatives, and myriad of friends in Rockville, Potomac, Bethesda, Glen Echo Heights, and Cabin John Park.

PTA NEWS

There will be a PTA Executive Committee meeting on June 6 in the Clara Barton School Library. This meeting will be open to the community as usual, and is specifically for last year's executive members and those new members already appointed. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm and all teachers and parents are invited. The agenda will include a report from the Health and Safety Committee on Life Science and Human Development (sex education), plans for the four-year-old program, a discussion of report cards, and a proposed evaluation of academic progress.

The officers installed last month at the PTA meeting are Burt Richard-son, President; Susan Vogt, Vice President; Betty Sponaugle, Recording secretary; Kay Kemp, Corresponding secretary; El Geib, Treasurer; and Celeste Swedenburg, Nominating Chairman.

A luncheon is planned on June 16 for all the teachers and staff at the school. This is the day after school closes, but the teachers will still be working. Specifically this will be to thank Miss Fazekas, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Peel for their dedication this year and to wish them well in the future. The Room Mothers are planning this luncheon, and if you want to contribute, please call your room mother.

Citizens have High Hopes for Future
As Action Reports are Prevued;
Conservation Suit gets New Lift

The Cabin John Park Citizens Asso. on May 23 prevued the work of its six Survey Action Committees, cheered news of court action on the Polinger Tract's apartment complex, opposed the zoning plea of the Palisades Pool Asso. to switch from a "community" to a "private" pool, and installed new officers.

With the Clara Barton School All Purpose Room decked out with maps, charts, and picture displays portraying a glowing community future, citizens learned that its six committees- formed as a result of last year's Survey - are in basic agreement on most future procedures. The reports to be finalized this summer and presented for approval next fall call for improvements that will at the same time uphold the Cabin John Master Plan and guard against proposed changes from outside which might jeopardize the appeal of the village and change its character.

It was a red letter evening as Don Wisdom, liason officer for the Potomac Valley League, and Judy Toth, citizen delegate to the 21 community member League, reported that the Maryland Court of appeals has overturned a previous decision, and will now allow the conservation suit aimed at blocking the five story apartment complex, housing more than 500 persons only 600 feet from the Potomac. Many Cabin John citizens are litigants in the suit. The announcement was coupled with news that HUD, responding to pressure from Rep. Gilbert Gude and officers of community groups, will proceed cautiously in providing any funds for the complex. The Association voted \$50 to the League to help press the suit, and started laying plans to raise more money as needed.

The Association approved a proposal by the WSSC to meet with members sometime in June as regards overtaxed sewerage systems in Cabin John. It is hoped that this will be a more substantial meeting that just a plea to conserve water.

Mr. Larry Davies, President of the Palisades Swimming Pool Asso., Inc. addressed the Citizens Asso. concerning the Pool's request before the Zoning Board to change its status from a "community swimming pool" to a "private club". This change would include other changes such as lights at the tennis courts, a starting gun at swim meets, longer hours of operation, and consumption of alcoholic beverages under a one day county license on special occasions. The Association voted to oppose only the change from "community" to "private" pool and elected to send a representative to the June 15 hearing to consider the request at the Zoning Board.

New officers are: Ed Winslow, Pres., George Deihl, vice pred.; Bill White, vice pres.; Kari Pallme, corresponding sec; Carol Snowden, recording sec.; Win Shaw, treasurer; and delegates Jim Craig and Judy Toth. A large hand was given Jim Craig for his service this

LITTLE FALLS LIBRARY NOTES

On June 6 a slide show and discussion on Bali and Bankok will be presented by Mr. Albert E. Kane. The program will take place at 7:30 p.m.

The subject of the book discussion for June is the novel by Thomas McMahon, American Neuclear Chemistry. The book discussion will be on the 23rd of June from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Starting on the 28th of June and continuing each Wednesday through July is a series of folk tales, fairy tales, and penny theater for children aged 6 to 10 years. The series will begin on the 28th of June with a penny theater.

The final story hour for pre-schoolers aged 4 to 6 years will be held on the 10th of June. This program will be discontinued for the summer.

Pre-register at the library for each or all of the Wednesday series, and for the June 10 story hour, or call the library, phone 320-5266.

After June 10th, the library will be closed on Saturdays after 1:00 p.m.

*THANKS AGAIN TO THE CABIN JOHN *
*VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. FOR THEIR *
\$25 CONTRIBUTION TO THE VILLAGE
*NEWS. WE ALL APPRECIATE IT. *

LETTERS OF GRATITUDE

Our Volunteer Fire Department comes to the aid of many people in trouble in the course of a month. Here are two letters from people who know personally how much that aid can mean.

Dear Sir: Because of the courageous efforts of the Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department on April 29, 1972, Milton Westbrook and myself survived what can only be described as the most terrifying two hours I have spent in a river.

I was personally rescued from the rapids below Seneca by an individual who, I believe, merits special recognition, Patrick Ellis. Not only did he pull us from the river but he kept our spirits up in the rescue boat and returned with us to Suburban Hospital by ambulance.

Obviously, mere words can never be equated with the gratitude that is deserved. However, I trust that you will congratulate your men for their efforts and yourself for what has been demonstrated through their swift action to be superior life-saving leadership.

I also hope that the enclosed contribution will help diminish the time and expense of your daily routine of helping people and saving lives. Sincerely, Charles E. Wands

Gentlemen: The Mason and Gill family extend their sincere thanks for a job well done. On May 3rd two of the men from Company 10 transported Mrs. Grace Gill from Northern Virginia's Doctor's Hospital to her home on Columbia Pike in Arlington and was handled with tender loving care from both of these young gentlemen. It is a comfort to know that such services are available for use and I hope that this token of appreciation will suffice. Please thank your men for us from Mrs. Gill.

Sincerely, Mary Mason

This year's officers for the Volunteer Fire Department are: Chief, Ed Gotthardt, President, Roth Cox, Secretary, Bob Burke.