

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 10, Number 3 SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

March 1977

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

- Sat. Mar. 12, 8 p.m., Clara Barton Day Care Benefit Square Dance and Auction at the Clara Barton School Auditorium
- Tues. Mar. 22, 8 p.m., Cabin John Citizen's Assoc. March Meeting  
Cabin John United Methodist Church  
Agenda: Presentation of proposed revisions of Constitution and By-Laws
- Fri. Mar. 25., Maryland Day, Libraries Closed
- Wed. Mar. 30., Auto tags expire
- Mon. Apr. 4, Public School Spring Vacation
- Tues. Apr. 12, Public School Resumes
- Fri. April 15, Income Tax Due
- Sat. May 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Carnival and Yard Sale, Clara Barton School
- Sun. June 5, Cabin John Day Picnic, Cabin John Rec. Center.

## SQUARE DANCE AND AUCTION

Time: 8PM Saturday, March 12  
Place: Clara Barton School  
Benefit: Clara Barton Day Care Scholarship Fund  
Cost: \$2.50 per person  
Everybody Come!!!

## CABIN JOHN DAY

Let's keep the Bicentennial-Chautauqua spirit going in Cabin John with a community picnic on Sunday, June 5 at the Cabin John Recreation Center. Pack a basket and join your neighbors for the afternoon.

We are looking for interested people who might like to organize games, music, a bike parade, or come up with your own activity to add to the day. How about a return match between the Village News and Volunteer Fire Dept. ball teams? The Village News team needs a captain and players. All activities are optional! If you would like to organize an event at the picnic, call Janet Dence -- 229-7394.

## PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING

On March 1, the Montgomery County Council held a public hearing on the proposal to "up-zone" certain property in Cabin John along MacArthur Blvd. back to commercial (C-1) zoning. The Citizen's Assoc. presented testimony favoring most of the proposals (including the Quick Food Shop). But it opposed changing the grey office building next to the Touhey tract to commercial, and it particularly asked the Council to include the Wilner property in the up zoning. The Park and Planning Commission had recommended that it remain residential, despite the overwhelming community sentiment, expressed in the June 1975 town meeting and in many other ways, in favor of commercial zoning for this property.

The record of the hearing will remain open until the close of business on March 16, in case anyone wishes to file an additional statement, and the Council is expected to act on the matter at its regular meeting on March 22nd.

## Citizen's Association News

Calvin Kytte has been elected Second Vice President of the Cabin John Citizen's Association to fill the unexpired term of Martin Hochman who moved to California. Calvin Kytte ran last year's community bicentennial celebration, Chautauqua '76.

## Dorothy Helen's Beauty Shop

Dorothy Helen was denied her request for a special exception to have her shop in her home, in accordance with a law that such small home businesses may not employ anyone outside the family.

## TO CABIN JOHN:

Thank you is a very small word to say to all of you who helped in so many ways when my husband Dale passed away. You're a Community with very big hearts.

We love you and God Bless you.

Karen and Gary Senger

MY FRIEND DALE SENGER

Dale Senger died on February 20, 1977. That makes the world different for me.

Dale and Karen Senger were the first family I met when I came to Cabin John. On moving day, they came across the street to help unload and carry in furniture. My youngest son, six years old then, was apprehensive about leaving his old house and friends, until Gary Senger appeared, six, blond, and smiling; and then everything was fine. So from the very first day here, the Sengers have been the best possible neighbors and friends.

I've really never known anyone else like Dale. He could build anything, or fix anything. Especially if it had moving parts. I suppose there were a thousand times when I - or my children or friends - said "I'll ask Dale about it," or "Let's show it to Dale." And we always knew that not only would Dale know what to do, but that he would gladly tell us or help us. I think that was the most amazing thing about the man - not his mechanical genius but his limitless, cheerful generosity with his talent and his time.

How many hundreds of people in this town - kids, teenagers, men, women - have showed up in Dale Senger's driveway with an ailing bike, car, lawnmower, or motorcycle? And if it was a motorcycle, it didn't even need to be ailing; you would just bring it down for Dale to admire with you.

How that man loved motorcycles! He must have owned 20 over the years, maybe twice that number. And every cycle owner in Cabin John, from a nine-year-old with his first putt-putt to the middle-aged Saturday drivers, looked to Dale for advice, doctoring, and shared enthusiasm.

I believe he was happiest working on a motorcycle. No, second happiest; he was happiest riding one. Gunning down the road, with a lot of noise and a lot of motion.

In fact, that's the way I think of Dale - noise and motion. Laughing, joking, hustling around, enjoying life.

He lived 37 years. He had known for the last five years that he had a serious heart condition, that any exertion was a danger. Possibly he could have lived longer by changing his style to milk and a snail's pace. But that wasn't Dale's idea of living. His choice was to go on working and playing with all the energy he had. And to go on giving himself to all of us. I don't think he had any doubts or regrets about his choice.

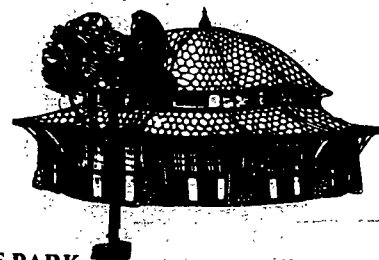
I often heard people say "Dale's such a kid!" and they said it with a grin, and as a tribute. It was a tribute to the free, fun-loving, mischievous, let's-go child that is in all of us, but that was in double measure in Dale. The rest of us were too staid and sensible to go rocking through life like Dale, but we took pleasure in his doing it.

Medically, Dale had a bad heart. In a different sense, though, he had a wonderful heart - full of honesty, enthusiasm, and generosity.

Last week I got a letter from my son in college. He said about Dale: "The universe feels different without him. I mean - Dale, for God's sake. It's one of those things like the sun coming up in the morning; you just figure it's always going to be there."

He was a friend to so many of us - a good friend, a real friend, the best kind. I loved him.

Barbara Clark

IN THE PARKGLEN ECHO PARK

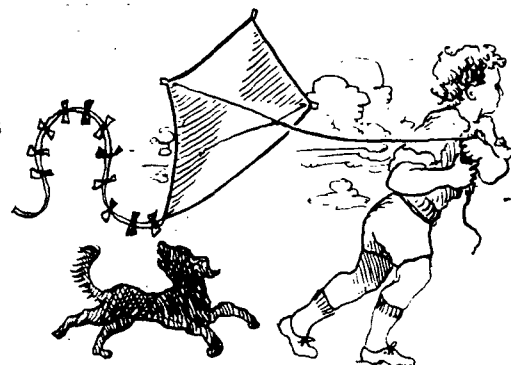
March 12 & 13 (Sat, Sun.)  
Adventure Theatre presents "Land of the Dragon" in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The fantasy was written by Madge Miller and the setting is in China. Performances 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Tickets \$1.50. Call 320-5331 weekdays 10 to 2 p.m. for reservations.

March 19 & 20 (Sat. & Sun.)  
Adventure Theatre presents "Land of Dragon". See above.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Kite Day: Sat. March 19.  
Annual kite-flying festivities on the Washington Monument grounds; kick-off Kite Week. Free kites and string will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. Noon to 2 p.m. Everyone invited.

Go Fly A Kite: Sun. Mar. 20.  
Celebrate the arrival of spring in Rock Creek Park. Bring a kite along and fill the sky with color! Meet at 1 p.m. at Military Field, Military and Glover Roads, N.W.



**CABIN JOHN TRAILS:**

by Ed Clark

I'm quick to believe that spring has arrived to replace winter and all those fuel cost adjustments. (Just plain Kilowatt hours have a more honest sound, but those were the good old days.) It's been a strange winter! My 85 year old Uncle John up North at Cape Vincent, N.Y., right on the St. Lawrence River says it's been the worst winter in his memory -- and he remembers many of them!

It looks like most of us made it through, though in the past month or so I've lost my step-father, Larry Stokes (New Jersey) and a close friend, Dale Senger (here in Cabin John) both of heart attacks.

I guess for me, the most reliable indicator of the arrival of spring to Cabin John (and I'll set aside the crocuses) has been that Dale Senger would get out back and start rebuilding three or four motorcycles for the trail-riding season, a season that would last right up until cold weather in the fall. It wouldn't be long after the first spring day that the mini-bikers and cycle riders hereabouts would start crowding into the Sengers driveway -- and come Sunday for sure, there would be an expedition up off Navy Road or out to the gravel pits of Beltsville. (Saturday was get-em-all runnin' Day.) And it was often times a family affair with lunch packed by Karen for Dale and their son Gary.

The greatest thing about Dale Senger was his eagerness to help his friends. He had a very positive way of solving things -- a lot of practical skills with cabinetry and carpentry, earning his living with his home improvement work.

His special enjoyment though, was to work with motors, and he would go to any lengths of

time and effort to resurrect a friend's car or motorcycle without regard to the time of day or night.

Like many people in Cabin John, Dale's life was centered on his family. In my experience it was a less complicated life than most. He was a straightforward friend who took pride in his family, in his work, and in his word. For me, just one of Dale's many friends, spring won't be the same this year.

**PROTECTING YOUR HOME AGAINST BURGLARIES**

Officer Stanley Wills of the Mont. Co. Police Dept. addressed the Feb. meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association at the Cabin John Gardens Community Center on Feb. 22, at the invitation of Al Rieke, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee.

Officer Wills gave a very complete account of how to protect one's home against burglary. He pointed out that would-be burglars are not apt to persist at a house if they cannot get inside within 4-5 minutes. Home security therefore should be strong enough to defeat entry in that time period. He discussed various kinds of locks for doors and windows and gave many

**ED CLARK & SON**  
**ABC TRUCKING**  
**moving**  
**hauling**  
**yard work**  
**reasonable**  
**229-7311**

helpful hints about how to keep a home looking occupied when the occupants are away. Among other things, he reminded citizens that they can borrow, from any police station or Public Library in Mont. Co., a tool for marking valuable possessions with the "soundex" number which appears on drivers licenses. After marking these items, the home owner puts a sticker on his window and this discourages burglars since it is difficult for them to dispose of marked property.

An excellent booklet called "Burglary Prevention: Your Best Home Insurance" is available from the Police Dept. and gives detailed information.

Andy Rice

**Dorothy Helens**  
 BEAUTY SALON  
 TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY  
 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 7630 TOMLINSON AVENUE at No. 15  
 229-1361 or 229-9811

**FOUR YEAR OLD SCHOOL**  
 Registration for the 1977-78 program of the Cabin John Four Year Old School will be held Wednesday, April 20, 1977, 8:00 p.m., 6525 80th St. Cabin John. Any parents of children 3½ to kindergarten who are interested in observing the program at Clara Barton during March or early April, or who have questions about the school should call Cattie Morgan, President 1976-77 (320-3269) or Annette Davis, Head Teacher (229-0754).

## GOING LIKE NINETY! CABIN JOHN SALUTES CABIN JOHN SMITH

Sunday, Feb. 20 marked the 90th birthday of Charles Reginald Smith, known to countless old car buffs as "Cabin John Smith" to differentiate him from Boonsboro Smith, Hagerstown Smith, and other gentry named Smith who travel around Maryland or all over the U.S. - or even to Europe to gawk at museum pieces of ancient motor vehicles restored by loving hands.

At least 90 relatives, friends, and neighbors crowded into the Community House of Cabin John Gardens to join the car buffs in paying tribute to "Cabin John Smith". All stuffed themselves on goodies and left a mound of gifts - many wrapped in automotive-motif paper.

Frances Smith, of 16 Webb Road, a daughter-in-law, arranged the moving tribute to an unusual man who has been a motorcycle buff, auto builder, building contractor, house-builder, hotel superintendent, and antique car restorer. One of his prize restorations - an air-cooled Franklin - is displayed in the Smithsonian Museum. Mr. Smith has also been supplier and repairman to generations of Cabin Johners. He constructed his own honeymoon home at 6512 75th Street and has lived in it with his wife, Gladys, for 64 years.

Among those who smiled, hugged, wished, or sang "Happy Birthday" to the peppery old-timer, were Charlotte and Nels Bortz (daughter and son-in-law) their daughter Becky, their son Mark, his wife, Ruth, and their offspring, Julie and Scott. (The youngsters are only two of the Smiths' eight great-grandchildren.) Jean Smith Summerlin and her husband, Dr. Matthew Summerlin, were there, as were their daughter and son-in-law, the Robert Andersons of Berkeley Springs, West Va. Son

Donald Smith and his wife took part in the festivities, helping to greet Mrs. Ed Wendler and daughter, Mrs. Davis - former residents of the Clara Barton House. Edith Hanley, a cousin of Mrs. Smith, also came to greet "Cousin Reggie".

Dr. Andrew Rudnai, family physician, was on hand. So were old friends and former Cabin Johners Neal and "Buzz" Potter with their wives, as well as Austin White, David Martin, and Clifford Tutweiler of Culpeper Va., who drove up in a vintage Studebaker truck, to "mix it up" with another Studebaker fan, Dan Webber, grandson of Cabin John "Studebaker" Smith.

Among the many Cabin Johners who came to pump the hand of Neighbor Smith were the Bernsteins, Dot and Andy Clark, the Denells, Fradins, Kemps, Kytles, Mrs. Isaac Marshall, Mrs. Pearman Marshall, Dagny Newman, the Marshall Utterbacks, Bill White, and the Charles Wilsons.

Isaac Inkrote sent his greetings - as did hosts of others - too many to mention. (As the nonagenarian suggested with a twinkle, when this writer regretted not knowing or mentioning everyone who attended: "Just write that omission of anyone's name is unintentional. I love 'em all!")

by Morris Fradin

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Apologies are due the Glen Echo Echo for failure to credit them with portions of the article on the reopening of the Cabin John Bridge in the January issue. Late night typists error!

### NEWCOMERS!

Copies of the CABIN JOHN COMMUNITY PLAN and the CABIN JOHN COMMUNITY DIRECTORY can be obtained by calling Cappie Morgan at 320-3269.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY TALE

The sun rose at 6:51 a.m. on Feb. 22, over the northeast corner of 75th St. and Arden Road, where stood a cinderblock foundation created only 2 days earlier. Long before sun set at 5:53 p.m., another complete new home had been added to Cabin John.

Would I tell a lie on Washington's Birthday?

What happened was a revelation to oldtime Cabin Johners - including that nonagenarian, "Cabin John Smith" who put together his own home 63 years ago, piece-by-piece, a "Hello" away at 6512 75th St.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick L. Purtell of Gaithersburg and their children Megan (1½) and Derek (3½), will very soon be living in the two modules that were lifted off two trailer trucks and deposited back-to-back on the foundation, while everyone in the immediate area flocked to gape at the 100 foot high crane, the traffic-blocking trucks, bulldozer, workmen, and the proud Purtells taking movies of their "instant home" while dodging cars of curious drivers, squeezing past to park and gawking at the activity.

When one examined the kitchen and bathroom in one module, finished with cabinets and furnished with electrical appliances in crates - even linoleum for the floors - one could believe the gag of a new homeowner who phones a contractor one day and signs a check for a new house delivered the next week.

Who said: "Gimme the good old days?!"

Morris Fradin

## • Aid for Insulation

By DON HEMENWAY

A federally-funded home insulation program is available in Montgomery County to low income, handicapped and elderly residents who own homes in need of repair and insulation.

The program is being run by the Community Action Agency (CAA) and is being funded by a \$15,000 federal grant which will allow 50 homes to be weatherized, according to James Farmer, executive director, of CAA, Office of Human Resources.

Applicants qualify for the program on a scale based on yearly income and family size, Farmer said.

Repairing broken windows, adding weather stripping to windows and doors, caulking cracks and joints, and patching walls and the roof are the first part of the program, according to the Office of Information.

"I understand that there are over 3500 substandard homes in the county, and some of these houses are over 200 years old," said William Weiger, coordinator of the Weatherization Program.

The second part of the program is to insulate exposed heating conduits, floors, walls, and attics. The CAA hopes these improvements will overcome possible safety and health problems, and lower utility and fuel costs at least 25 percent, according to the Office of Information.

"In many of these homes," Weiger said, "about 40 percent of the fuel used escapes through the attic."

Federal funds are also being used to hire a construction crew to help with the repairs. The residents themselves will also help with the repairs, when possible and members of local Junior Chamber of Commerce organizations have volunteered to help out on Saturdays, according to the Office of Information.

The CAA also has a \$5000 emergency fuel fund from which 100 low income families can receive up to \$50 to help offset increased heating costs, provided recipients meet federal income guidelines, Farmer said.

Anyone seeking further information should, contact the Weatherization Program at 14 Maryland Ave., Rockville, 279-1245.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOOKMOBILE

The Public Library Bookmobile will stop in Cabin John every week on Mondays, 5:00-5:30 in the Gardens at Ericsson and Russell Roads. To call and check if it will be there in bad weather, call 279-1960.

## STREET 70 THEATRE

Street 70 Theatre Company is presenting a series of original shows at the Rockville Civic Center.

During Spring vacation, two shows will be performed: Monday, April 4, will be "General Up-roar and His Mixed Company," an improvisational show of skits, sounds and movements; and on Tuesday, April 5, the popular Mime Troupe will perform "A Bag of Mime". These shows are for children aged 6 to 12. Tickets are \$1 each. Call 468-4172 for information.

## PALISADES POOL

The Palisades Swimming Pool Assoc. Inc., P.O. Box 636, Glen Echo, Md. 20768 will open its membership waiting list again from April 1 until May 1, 1977. Those interested in becoming members should mail their names addresses and telephone numbers to the above address. As of April 1, a Membership Application Form will be mailed to them.

## TRANSPORTATION CHAIRPERSON NEEDED FOR CABIN JOHN

The Citizen's Association is searching for a chairperson for the Transportation Committee. We need someone to organize a task force to deal with the County on such matters as the Seven Locks Road Re-construction, drainage problems, possible minibus service, bike paths, etc. If interested call Andy Rice at 229-7367.

## VILLAGE NEWS FUND DRIVE

The Village News will be having a house-to-house fund drive this spring. We will be asking every household which has not sent in their \$2.00 to contribute if they can. Please call Janet Dence (229-7394), Cappi Morgan (320-3269), or Minda Wetzel (229-4618) if you would be willing to ring doorbells in your neighborhood for us.

## NEW EDITOR SOUGHT

The Village News will need a new editor or editors starting this summer after the June issue. Anyone interested in learning what's involved call Minda Wetzel, 229-4618.

## Blood Pressure Check Offered

Had your blood pressure checked recently?

High blood pressure kills some 60,000 Americans annually and contributes to the death of some 150,000 others. It rarely has any symptoms, but a quick painless test will detect it.

To help county residents the Red Cross is offering free blood pressure screening four Tuesdays in March in the lobby of the Bethesda Branch library at the corner of Arlington Rd. and Elm St., Bethesda. The testing will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8 and Tuesdays, March 15, 22 and 29.

REGISTERED MASTER PLUMBER

**EMIL DOLEZAL**

PLUMBING AND HEATING

DISHWASHERS\*REMODELING\*HEATERS

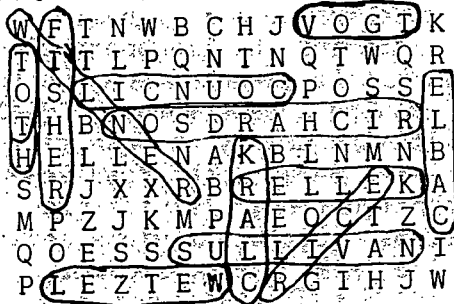
REPAIRS\*DRAIN SERVICE\*DISPOSERS

FULLY BONDED AND INSURED

229-5685

KIDS KORNER

Mini word find submitted by Judy Vogt. Answers to last month's puzzle:



THE VILLAGE NEWS PEOPLE

Minda Wetzel, editor  
Margaret Stream, telephone news - 229-1821

Janet Dence, treasurer  
Cappi Morgan, distribution  
Harry Schnipper, Photography Editor

Andy Rice, Citizens' Assoc. News

Bev Sullivan, School news

Barbara Clark

Susan Vogt

KIDS CORNER:

Judy Vogt

Marian Council

Doug Cable

Tiny Tots Concert  
(for children 3-6)

Performed by the Mont. Co.

Prep. Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, March 27, 2-2:30 p.m.  
3:30-4 p.m.

Place: Albert Einstein High School Gym, Kensington

Tickets: Advanced \$1.00

At door: \$1.25

For information call 946-7893

or Judy McFarland 320-5824

Sponsored by the Md. Council of Parent Participation

Nursary Schools

CABIN JOHN CARNIVAL AND COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday May 7th  
Clara Barton Elementary School  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Huge rummage sale; everyday and International foods; games for kids; pony rides; Mother's Day and Spring plants; much more.

\*Rain date - May 14th

COLLECT YOUR RUMMAGE:

We are now working hard to gather as much rummage as possible during March and April for the Four Year Old Program Carnival and Yard Sale May 7th. For pick-up please call:

Fran Patch -- general rummage 229-8542

Marie Keefe -- clothes 229-5340

THE VILLAGE NEWS DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES:

Full page	\$40.00
2/3 page	\$30.00
1/2 page	\$25.00
1/3 page	\$15.00
1/6 page	\$10.00
1/12 page	\$ 6.00

The VILLAGE NEWS is published monthly in Cabin John, Maryland. Subscriptions are \$4.00 per year for non-residents and free to Cabin John residents. Mail all articles, inquiries, suggestions, letters and subscriptions (with payment) to:

The Editor  
THE VILLAGE NEWS  
Post Office Box 164  
Cabin John, Maryland 20731

QUICK FOOD SHOP

PASTRIES\*MEATS\*CARRY-OUT!  
GROCERIES\*BREAKFAST\*LUNCH  
MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

6:30 am to 6:00 pm

A WORD OF WARNING

DESTROYING mailboxes is a federal offense with serious legal consequences. It is not just a prank. Please tell your kids to think twice before they find themselves with police records.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Sharp color TV, Portable, used, finicky antenna, but dependable. \$60 or best offer. Ed Clark - 229-7311.

HANDYMAN: I am pleased to recommend Alan Giese for carpentry or fix-it jobs. Alan has worked for me for two years, and I find him to be knowledgeable, dependable, and fair. His work is excellent, his charges are reasonable, and he has good ideas about how to do things. Alan is in his mid-20's and lives in Glen Echo. Call 229-6675. Barbara Clark

GIVEAWAY: Leaf/grass catcher attachment to power mower. Fits Tru-Test 1973-74 #10 and 11, and 1972 lowboy model. Maybe it will fit your machine; if so, you're welcome to it. B. Clark, 229-2722 during business hours.

WANTED:

1. Studio couch in good condition (not sofaped)
  2. Freezer-upright or chest
  3. Table and chairs, light or medium wood (cherry, oak, maple, etc.)
- Barbara Clark - 229-2722 during business hours

Classified Ads:

50¢ a line, paid in advance to The Village News, Box 164, Cabin John, Md. 20731.