

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 16, No. 5

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

January 1983

## REC CENTER AND SEVEN LOCKS ROAD TO BE TOPICS OF CITIZENS MEETINGS

The Cabin John Citizens Association will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 25, at 8 p.m., at the Clara Barton School. Topic: Options for rebuilding the Recreation Center.

The CJCA February meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 22, same time and place, with Robert Merriman of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation reporting on plans for improvements to Seven Locks Road.

Stories about both the Rec Center and Seven Locks Road appear elsewhere in this issue of The Village News.

## CABIN JOHN DIRECTORY

Are you a newcomer to Cabin John or were you left out of the 1982 Community Directory? A supplement to this directory is now being prepared and is targeted for distribution in the February 1983 Village News. To have your name included, please call Cappie Morgan, 320-3269. (Also, if you are a newcomer and didn't get a directory, please call Jean Maggio, 229-6301.)

## HOUSE TOUR SCHEDULED FOR THIS SPRING

Four springs ago, several Cabin John families opened their homes to visitors from this community. This "Cabin John House Tour" was so enjoyed that people have been asking when it would be done again.

Now the word is out that a tour is planned for this spring, organized by the Cabin John 3-and-4-year old school. If you have suggestions about homes which would be fun to visit, or if you would be willing to open your own home to your neighbors, please call Cappie Morgan, 320-3269.

(Incidentally, the school currently has room for one more child in its preschool program. It operates 5 mornings a week at the Clara Barton School building, with tuition at \$50 a month. For more information, call Annette Davis (229-0754).)

## AT LAST! SEVEN LOCKS ROAD REBUILDING TO START

by "C.J. Roving Eyes"

The County has long planned to improve, level and widen Seven Locks Road from Lillystone Drive to MacArthur Boulevard. Now a contract has been awarded to Brigham and Day Construction Company and work may begin within a month.

Originally the County had planned to take land from the west side (the side with all the houses) to get the extra road width. In response to this threat, Allen van Emmerik and Ed Clark organized a march down Seven Locks Road -- way back on January 28, 1978! -- ("Roving Eyes" even marched along) and convinced the County to use its own land on the east side for the widening.

As now designed, the section from Lillystone to Tomlinson will have a 6-foot wide bike path on the park side, and the section from Tomlinson to MacArthur will have a 5-foot sidewalk, also on the east side. The stream which passes under the road at the little one-way bridge not far from the Gibson Grove Church will be routed under the road in two pipes, so no real bridge will be evident.

The first section to be done will be from Tomlinson to MacArthur. All through traffic will be diverted down Tomlinson Avenue, but

(Continued on page 2)

SEVEN LOCKS ROAD (Continued from page 1)

Residents will be able to reach their homes at all times. Calcium chloride will be sprayed on the road as needed to control dust.

For citizens who have been wondering why the electric poles were moved many months ago, the answer is that a 69,000 volt line runs down Seven Locks Road and then on to the David Taylor Model Basin and, in order not to disrupt experiments at the Model Basin, the electrical work had to be done at a certain time of year.

(Editor's note: It has also been learned that during road reconstruction, a water main will be extended down Seven Locks Road, thus providing WSSC water to houses along the road from the Beltway to Carver Road. For more information, come to the February 22 Citizens Association meeting.)

TEEN/RECREATION CENTER FOR CABIN JOHN?

Pastor Ron Gavin, Maureen Willoughby, "Duf" Marquadt and Pat Connelly appeared before the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Thursday, January 13, to discuss replacement options for the Cabin John Community Center, and particularly the possibility of establishing a teen and community center with equipment and staffing. The Center, which was destroyed by fire last June, had an insurance coverage which provides \$117,631 for rebuilding.

Marquadt reported at the November 30 Cabin John Citizens Association meeting that the Park and Planning Commission had indicated that it favored replacing the building with only an open picnic shelter. The meeting, however, urged that the structure be designed primarily as a teen center, with gymnasium equipment and a basketball court, with some after-school staff supervision.

Before a decision is reached, the MNCPPC has asked that the Area I Recreation Advisory Board hold public hearings. The date and place of these hearings have not yet been set.

Meanwhile letters of support for the community center plan have been sent to the MNCPPC by Cabin John's neighbors -- the Bannockburn Citizens Association, the Carderock Springs Citizens Association, and the Mayor of Glen Echo. How to build an even wider base of public support for a reconstructed recreation center will be the focus of the next Citizens Association meeting on January 25.

Another opportunity for expressing support for this plan will come on Wednesday, January 26, at 8 p.m., when the Montgomery County Council

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T-SHIRTS COVER CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

Thanks to the proceeds from the sale of those snappy-looking Cabin John T-shirts, THE VILLAGE NEWS will continue to publish. The sale of some 525 shirts has reaped a profit of about \$1,200, all of which goes to support the paper.

The T-shirts were sent all over the USA and as far as Australia for Christmas presents (one is even known to be in the wilds of New Guinea).

Cabin John owes Betsy Lawrence a debt of gratitude for her tireless and highly effective efforts in making the venture the success that it was. Betsy says thanks back to the community for its enthusiastic response.

There are only 20 shirts left to be sold. This is the LAST chance, so call Betsy Lawrence at 229-6706.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* The Village News \*  
\* notes with deep regret \*  
\* the death of Clyde \*  
\* McKinney, 83, on Nov- \*  
\* ember 2, 1982. Mr. \*  
\* McKinney resided with \*  
\* his son, Frank McKinney, \*  
\* long-time Cabin John \*  
\* community leader. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Getting to Know the People of Cabin John

HOMETOWNER SID GRAHAM

By Barbara Martin

If you lived in Cabin John in the 1940's and you liked to dance, chances are you spent Saturday nights at the Junior Order Hall, enjoying the music of Sid Graham and the Hometowners. Sid and his group were a popular country music band that played all around Montgomery County, and hobnobbed with Roy Clark and Jimmy Dean.

Today Sid Graham lives on 81st Street, two doors from the house his father built in 1925.

Sid's mother was born near Potomac, where her father owned Spring Hill Farms. Many times Sid's mother travelled with her father in a horse and wagon from Potomac to a farmers' market in the city. It was a two-day trip, and meant an overnight stay in Washington.

His dad was a builder. He worked on the Cabin John firehouse, and for a couple of years served as volunteer fire chief. For pleasure, Mr. Graham played the fiddle and the banjo. Sid still has his father's fiddle hanging on the wall. When Sid was very young, he became captivated with making music. He played the banjo-ukelele, the guitar, the 5-string banjo, and the tenor banjo.

By the ripe old age of 12, Sid had formed a band with two other Cabin John boys -- Erwin Reeves, who played the mouth organ, and Billy Curtin, who played the Jewsharp. The band auditioned for Joe Brown's Kiddie Show, at station WOL on F Street, and were so popular they played regularly on that show for two years. Joe Brown arranged for them to play on the Wilson Line, a cruise boat that made the Potomac River trip to Mt. Vernon and Marshall Hall. They were billed as the Washington Hillbillies; their pay for playing and singing all the way downriver and back was a fistful of

free tickets for the Marshall Hall roller-coaster and other hair-raising rides.

Over the years, Sid's band changed membership and expanded. They played for dances all over the county and every Saturday they broadcast over WBCC a program of live country music. "We didn't get paid anything," says Sid, "but we used it to publicize where we would be playing for dances. And then we got a percentage of the gate for those dances."

When the Junior Order of American Mechanics opened their new hall on 79th Street, the occasion was celebrated with a dance featuring the music of Sid Graham's band. That building is the present "grey building" at the corner of MacArthur and 79th. For years the Junior Order Hall was the scene of lively Saturday night dances.

It was about this time that the band began searching for a name. Although his buddies suggested "Sid Graham and the Graham Crackers," Sid chose instead "The Hometowners". Some of the members were Bobby Thompson (brother of Margaret Lawrence), Jiggs Farrell, and Pat King -- guitarists; Hank Sandrich and Morris Friedman, fiddlers; Dick Sullivan on bass fiddle, and Sid on the banjo. Sid was then in his late teens.

For years they were a featured group at the Rockville Carnival. It was there one summer in the late 1940's that the Hometowners shared the bill with another country music group, Jimmy Dean and his Texas Wildcats. Roy Clark was a member of that band. Sid recalls that Jimmy Dean walked up while the Hometowners were playing and said, "You boys sound pretty good. Mind if I sit in?"

"Strictly speaking, he wasn't supposed to," says Sid, "because he was union and we weren't. But he did anyway, and it was great."

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The Hometowners disbanded in the 50's when Sid decided he wanted to spend more time with his family -- his wife, the former Mabel Stream of Glen Echo (whom he married in 1941) and daughters Penny and Brenda.

As a boy, Sid loved visiting the blacksmith shop of Jimmy Williams, at the corner of MacArthur and Seven Locks Road. "I used to watch him shoe horses and work on the forge." When it came time to choose a trade, Sid became an ironworker and welder. He made stairs, rails and ornamental ironwork for several companies in Washington.

Sid remembers when the streets of Cabin John had different names from today. His street, 81st, was called Main Street, 79th Street was Woodrow Avenue, and 78th was Halifax Avenue. MacArthur Boulevard, of course, was Conduit Road.

In World War II, Sid recalls, "Conduit Road was carefully guarded, because it covered the water supply for Washington. There were sentry boxes with guards. A chow wagon delivered hot meals to the sentries, and big Army trucks rolled regularly along the road. There was a guard at each end of the bridge, and the area beneath the bridge was fenced off."

What big changes does Sid see from "the old days"?

"Well, of course, there's a lot more houses built up. But the main thing to me that's changed is most all the beer joints are gone. At one time MacArthur was all commercial from the District Line clear out past Cabin John. And most of the places were beer joints. There was the Hilltop Inn by the Army Map Service, the Texas Tavern near where Bonfield's is now, and the Silver Spider. Then there was a gas station, and Sunset Hall next to it. Sunset Hall was known as the 'Bucket of Blood' because it was such a rough place. Then Annie T. Lewis'

store and the Sycamore store. Then Trav's Tavern -- that's still there -- and Pop Miller's and Canada's. Then there was the DGS where the catering service is now, and then the streetcar turnaround. Where the Quick Food is used to be a Sanitary grocery and a Shell gas station, Scott's grocery at 78th Street, with Benson's Country Store right across the street where the veterinarian is. And Tuohey's which was everything from a bar to a restaurant to a country store to the Post Office, and across the street from Tuohey's was Redden's Beer Place. There was a whole bunch of places and somehow there were enough customers for all of them to stay in business."

Now retired, Sid lives with his wife at 6620 81st Street. He doesn't play music any more, but several years ago became interested in CB radio. When it came time to choose a handle, Sid picked an appropriate one -- "Banjo Man."

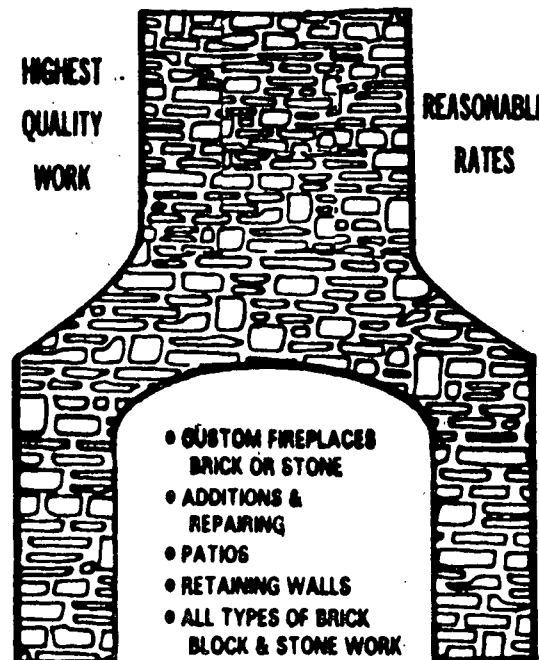


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## THE HOLIDAY PARTY WAS FUN!

This year's Cabin John Christmas/Hanukkah party, held on Sunday, December 12, was filled with music and good company. The 3-and-4-year old school children (with all the help they could get) sang a mixture of holiday songs. Reed Martin and Fred Geiger entertained on the banjo. Barbara Martin led the carol singing, and Vera Dolezal accompanied on the violin.

Also part of the "tradition" was Peter Vogt's audience-supported tall story telling and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus who had gifts for all the children.

Great thanks are also due to Susan Gelb, Kay Kemp, Sydney Fleischer, Mary Gordon and Katy Glakas who helped with the decorations and refreshments, to Gussie and Joe Moravec for handling the coffee, to Janie Winslow for providing the sound system, to Susan Vogt for finding Peter's story, and to Karen Manion and Diane Lee for helping to make Santa's visit a success.

Finally, very special thanks go to Merri Van Emmerik who, once again, was willing to coordinate the pieces and people to make this fun community event happen.

## QUICK FOOD SHOP

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HELP WANTED: Domestic help, 1 day a week, apartment near Little Falls Mall. Experience and references required. Call 229-4626 evenings.

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ACCURATE TYPING SERVICES in English, French, German, Italian. Please call S. Hasny 469-7034.

WE ARE LOOKING for a babysitter for our 9-month old son, in our home or yours if it's child-proofed. We want someone two mornings a week, Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Please call Judy Duffield or Bill Kramer, 229-4567.

DELIGHTFUL CAT needs new home. Housebroken and friendly. Please call 229-7348.

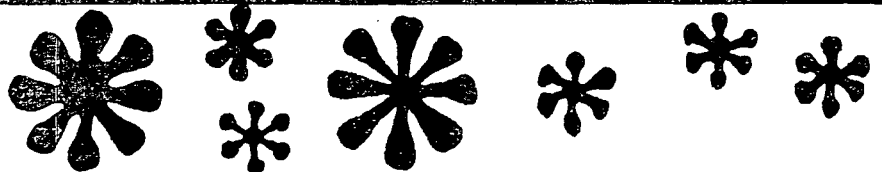
THE CLARA BARTON CENTER on MacArthur Blvd. is looking for people interested in serving as substitute teachers. If interested, call 320-4565.

I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR from anyone else whose house was built from a Sears Roebuck kit. These house kits were available from 1908 thru 1938. Reed Martin 229-3482.

FRIENDS OF SOLIDARITY are collecting warm winter clothing, esp. for children. Monthly shipments to Poland are being distributed to needy people by the Catholic Church. Tax receipts are available. Please call 469-7034 for pick-up.

CABIN JOHN 3-and-4-year old school is looking for a music teacher, One-half hour per week music activities. Contact Katy Glakas 229-6253.

EXTRA COPIES in good condition are needed of Time Was, the Cabin John Bicentennial book. If you have any, please call Elizabeth Kytile, 229-6609.



RECREATION CENTER (Continued from page 2)

will hold Capital Budget hearings in Rockville. Cabin John testimony is being coordinated by Pat Connelly (320-4806) and "Duf" Marquadt (229-1604). Please call them to indicate your interest in attending and to arrange rides.

--by Linda Billings

**RELIEF FROM AIRCRAFT NOISE IS ENDANGERED**

Relief for Cabin John from jet noise has been unexpectedly endangered by new attacks on the "scatter plan" recommended last year by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and now under consideration by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Approval by COG of the plan for equitable sharing of jet noise was the result of years of patient and dedicated work by Dan Costello, Frank Sordyl and others in Cabin John and by the Coalition on Airport Problems (CAP), an area-wide organization whose policies have always included equitable jet noise distribution.

Last month, when the annual meeting of CAP was held, a large turn-out of Northern Virginia residents from areas which presently escape all jet noise problems turned up to oppose the scatter plan. The issue was put off until a special meeting could be held solely to discuss noise distribution; this meeting will be held on or before February 15.

Anticipating that the Virginia "touch-me-nots" will be out in force at that meeting, Allen van Emmerik, who has represented the Cabin John community in CAP, has urged that a vocal group of Cabin Johners also attend to make clear the community's opposition to any abandonment of the scatter plan. "Please call me at 229-8936," says van Emmerik, "and register your interest. I'll keep you fully informed."



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**P.O. BOXHOLDERS**  
Please call Cappie Morgan at 320-3269 if you want to get the Village News regularly henceforth. It's free, but must be requested by Post Office boxholders.

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