

# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 16, No. 9

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

May 1983

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(If you want your event listed in this calendar, please call Susan Luchs, 320-3401, by the 10th of the month. The calendar is open to all community groups.)

Saturday, May 21 Rummage Sale, Cabin John United Methodist Church, 9:30 am to 3 pm.

Tuesday, May 24 Cabin John Citizen Association Meeting, 8 pm, Clara Barton School.

Friday, June 3 7:30 pm Riverside Assembly of God ensemble group will present gospel music followed by a movie, "God's Prison Game". This is the first of a series of Friday evening outdoor concerts by the church, all to be held in the yard behind Clara Barton School.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT BEGINS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CHECK

The Cabin John Fire Department has begun its annual inspection of commercial properties in its service area. Uniformed firefighters will make a particular check of compliance with the 1982 county law requiring that numerals at least six inches high be posted for a property's street address

The same law recommends that single family dwellings post three inch numerals.

## COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDS FOR REC CENTER

On Monday, May 2, the Montgomery County Council voted 6 - 0 to approve \$180,000 for the reconstruction of the Cabin John Recreation Center. The vote was the culmination of a week of intensive lobbying by the Cabin John community.

Every Council member was contacted and key members received personal visits. Barbara Martin presented the community's case at the Council session as well as handing in a petition signed by 273 area residents.

"Special thanks must go to Betsy Lawrence, Jean Maggio, "Duff" Marquardt, Don Marshall, Barbara Martin and Maureen Willoughby for their leading role in this successful effort," stated Citizens Association President Pat Connelly.



## CABIN JOHN WATERWAYS FEATURED AT MEETING

At its last regular meeting until the fall, the Cabin John Citizens Association will center attention on the C & O Canal (with a brief speech on its history by Elizabeth Kytle) and on the Potomac River (with presentations by Park rangers on its recreational and safety features). The meeting will be held at 8 pm on Tuesday, May 24, at the Clara Barton School.

The meeting will also hear the latest report on the Tomlinson Avenue situation and will elect Association officers for 1983-84. The candidates presented by the Nominating Committee chaired by Dave Murphy are as follows:

President: Susan Vogt  
First Vice President: Linda Billings  
Second Vice President: George Hessler  
Secretary: Barbara Martin  
Treasurer: George Lichtblau

(Further nominations may be made from the floor.)

**BROWNIES AND CUB SCOUTS  
INVITE NEW ENROLLMENT**

On Monday, May 23, Brownie Troop #116 will hold an open meeting from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Bannockburn Clubhouse. Girls entering 2nd or 3rd grade in the fall of 1983 are invited to attend. For further information, call Blanche Wine, 229-2946.

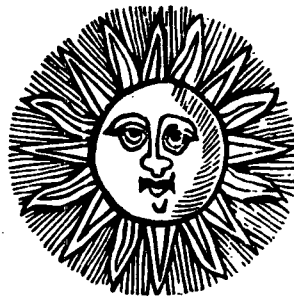
On the same day, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm in the Music Room of Bannockburn Elementary School, there will be a sign-in for boys interested in cub scouting in the fall of 1983. Information at the meeting will be of interest to boys entering 3rd to 6th grade.

**NEWS OF CABIN  
JOHN'S CHURCHES**

Pastor Ron Gavin of the Riverside Assembly of God (6523 78th St.) has set up a program for collection of food and clothing for free distribution to needy persons. A storage room has been established at the church with metal shelves donated by Glen Echo Exxon. If you have clothes or nonperishable foodstuffs to donate (tax deductible), call Pastor Gavin at 229-5054.

The church's outdoor concert series, which begins on June 3, will continue on June 10 with guitarist Harvey Willis and on June 17 with the Southern Gospel Ecumen.

Cabin John United Methodist Church will have a vacation church school from June 27 to July 1 (9 am to 11:30 am) for children from nursery school to grade 6. To register, call Veena Titus (229-8233) or Sue Evens (279-2637).



**PALISADES POOL AGAIN  
OPEN FOR "FREE SWIM"**

The long-standing "free swim" program for Cabin John children will be carried on again in 1983, thanks to the cooperation of the Palisades Swimming Pool Association.

Under the guidance of the Cabin John Citizens Association, as many as 75 children may swim free of charge at the pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The free swim season will open on June 21 and close on August 30.

Each child must bring a permission slip from his parent or guardian on the first day he comes to swim. Children unaccompanied by adults must be at least six years old.

Adult volunteers are urgently needed to run the program. Please call Diane Leatherman (229-7412), coordinator for the past 15 years, to offer your help.

**QUICK  
FOOD SHOP**

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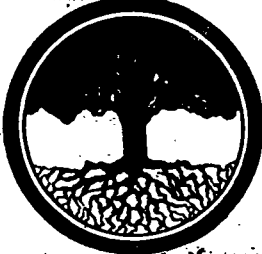
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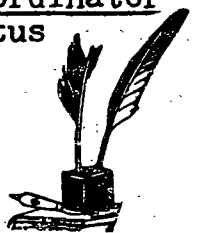
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## The People of Cabin John

### ELIZABETH KYTLE: WHAT MAKES A WRITER WRITE?

By Barbara Martin

Elizabeth Kytile didn't intend to be a writer. But she met a woman whose story needed to be told. In the 1940s in Atlanta, Georgia, this woman helped Elizabeth with her housecleaning, and as they worked they talked. Or more accurately, Willie Mae talked about her life, and Elizabeth listened.

Convinced that people needed to know about the life of a woman born before 1900, experiencing what it was to be poor and Black in the South, Elizabeth decided to put the story on paper. She did so in Willie Mae's own idiom, capturing the flavor and speech of that region of rural Georgia. The result, published by Knopf in 1958, was "Willie Mae."

Years later, when Calvin and Elizabeth were living in Cabin John, Calvin served as chairman of the town's Bicentennial celebration. The Kytiles conceived of a Cabin John memory book -- a collection of reminiscences by early town residents. Elizabeth undertook to interview 18 oldtimers and to reproduce their stories. Thus was born "Time Was," glimpses of the way life used to be in the Cabin John of years past -- stories that needed to be preserved for our local heritage. The book was so successful that all 2000 copies are gone now.

Elizabeth is a cat lover. She treasures her family of four cats, rescued one at a time from hunger and desertion. She decided that the story needed to be told of how this family grew, influencing one another. So she took many photographs of the cats, joined them together with text, and produced "Four Cats Make One Pride." Calvin's publishing house, Seven Locks Press, brought out the book in 1978; it has sold 10,000 copies.

One of the old Cabin John area people Elizabeth interviewed for "Time Was" was Otho Swain, who was born and lived on the C&O Canal.

Elizabeth realized that there were other "canal stories" that needed to be captured before those remaining few who still remembered were gone. And so, another book came to be -- "Home on the Canal." The subtitle explains the book: an informal history of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and recollections of eleven men and women who lived and worked on i

Elizabeth prefaced the personal stories with a narrative account of the canal's history. Its publication last month was celebrated by the National Park Service with a barge trip from Great Falls and a party at the Tavern. All of the nine storytellers who are still living were there to reminisce and to honor the old days on the canal. This latest book is available from Seven Locks Press (P.O. Box 72, Cabin John 20818) and at Great Falls (MD) Tavern.

Elizabeth's writing is natural and highly readable. She respects the way people actually talk and skillfully tells their stories using their words. She writes because she wants the world to know what others' lives are like. In her three "people" books, she has focused upon old people, believing that in our youth-worshipping society, oldsters are a treasure to be heard and valued.

Though Elizabeth is the writer, Calvin is the strong supporter of her efforts. It was Calvin who encouraged her to develop her ideas into books. It was Calvin who drove her on many trips to interview the old canal people now living in Western Maryland.

Elizabeth is enthusiastic about her husband's part in her writing projects, and about the talent of the graphic artists who designed and produced her books. And most of all she appreciated the people (and cats) who are the subjects of her writing. "The stories are their stories," she declares, "and those stories needed to be told."

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(Please send your classified ad to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818, by the 10th of the month. The rate is 50¢ per line.)

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YARD SALE: Sat., June 4th, 10 am to 5 pm, 7656 Tomlinson Ave., Cabin John.

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ROOM FOR SUMMER NEEDED: Responsible young woman will be working in Washington for the summer; needs room with kitchen privileges, or will housesit. Mid-June to end of August. Excellent references. Please call Barbara Martin at 229-3482.

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WANTED TO RENT: House or townhouse, Cabin John/Bannockburn school district. Needed August 1. 972-2525.

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FOR RENT: Apt. to share with young male. \$200/mo. plus 1/4 util. Avail. 5/15. 229-6515.

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GIVEAWAY BAMBOO. You dig it and take it away. Martin. 229-3482.

TO THE TALL GENTLEMAN IN THE CHAUFFEURED LIMOUSINE, his Ladies-of-the-Night say "Thank You" for a SPLENDID evening !!!!!



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