

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 18, Number 6 *SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND*

February 1985

MANY NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS BEING PLANNED FOR VACANT LAND IN CABIN JOHN

During the past six months plans for developing empty land in Cabin John have been sprouting at a rate not seen for many years. Among the projects currently being planned are the following:

- the Johnson tract at the corner of Tomlinson and Seven Locks around the water tower. Here 22 houses are proposed on two cul-de-sacs. This is the highest property in Cabin John and, following objections from the Citizens Association, the County is requiring the builder to conduct a drainage study before the proposed plan is given a hearing. The Association has also raised objection to the grading being proposed which would leave less than 2 trees per lot on this heavily wooded tract.

- the Lemm tract which is on high ground north of MacArthur Boulevard west of Persimmon Tree. Sixteen houses are proposed, with access via River Rock Terrace. The Persimmon Tree Association of homeowners has raised various objections and, since that Association actually owns a piece of property over which the access road would be built, they have considerable leverage!

- the wooded area in back of Palisades Pool, with an access road to be called Tomlinson Avenue running in through what

is now the driveway of Calvin Dove. A zoning hearing will be held on April 22 because the builder wants to put up 11 houses on R-90 zoning instead of the 5 he could construct under the present R-200 classification.

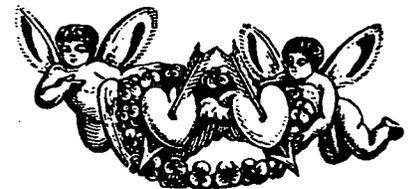
- an area north and east of 82nd Street and Riverside. The county has rejected an eight-house plan, but the developer is trying to get approval for undersized lots (on the grounds that other homes in the area support these smaller lots). No such approvals have been given by the County since 1959.

- the Wilcoxon property off Osage Lane. Five houses have been approved by the County here, with the proviso that Osage Lane be widened to 30 feet.

Further away is the Avenel Farm development off Persimmon Tree at Bradley. This 850 lot development will be of particular concern to Cabin John because of the increased traffic which it will generate on MacArthur Boulevard. On all these proposed developments the Cabin John Citizens Association is keeping a careful eye.

SHOULD BELTWAY WIDENING INCLUDE A SOUND BARRIER?

The Cabin John Citizens Association has been invited to join in legal action to require Maryland to construct a sound barrier at the same time it widens the Beltway from 3 to 4 lanes between Cabin John Bridge and River Road. The State Department of Transportation has argued against barrier construction, holding that it would cost \$10 million. The CJCA is considering arguments on both sides before deciding whether to join in the suit.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TO LEAVE CABIN JOHN

With the end of the current school year, the Washington International School will give up the use of the Clara Barton building and will consolidate the two grades presently housed there with one of its two other in-town campuses.

Clara Barton was a public school until the Board of Education closed it in 1974. Thereafter it housed St. Andrews Episcopal School and, for the last several years, the International School. Its future fate is not yet known.

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NEWS FROM JUST BEYOND CABIN JOHN

A show of paintings, "In and Around Glen Echo", will open at Glen Echo Park Gallery on March 1st from 7 to 9 pm. The show will continue through April 1st. Gallery hours are 10 to 5, Monday thru Friday, and noon to 6 on weekends.....The Bannockburn Cooperative Nursery School is now accepting applications for the 1985-86 school year. Programs are available for 2,3, and 4-year olds. An open house will be held on March 30. Details: Shelley Shorb, 229-0313.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(If you want your event listed in this calendar, please call Amy Wilson, 229-8745. The next deadline is March 16. The calendar is open to all community-related groups.)

Sunday, February 24 Folk concert, co-sponsored by Bethesda Co-op and National Park Service, 2:30 pm at Glen Echo Park, featuring Reuben Musgrave (\$3.50). Following Sundays will feature: Mar. 3, Magpie (\$4); Mar. 10, Bob Hitchcock (\$3.50); Mar. 17, Mantle (\$2.50).

Tuesday, February 26 Cabin John Citizens Association meeting, 8 pm, Washington International School

Monday, March 11 Citizens Association Executive Committee meeting, 8 pm, 7629 Cabin Road

Mid-March Final public hearing on development plans for the Johnson tract (Tomlinson and Seven Locks). For details, call 495-4600.

LETTER FROM THE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The agenda for our next Citizens Association meeting on Tuesday, February 26 (8 pm at the Washington International School) includes:

- A) Update on the Johnson tract (water tower area) development
- B) Update on the Lemm tract development (Persimmon Tree and MacArthur)
- C) Beltway sound diversion
- D) Request from the Montgomery County Taxicab Association to support prohibition of billboards on taxicabs
- E) The move of the Washington International School from Clara Barton
- F) Heliport in Bethesda

The Citizens Association has been quite active businesswise this year. Come and give us your views on these issues.

Betsy Lawrence, Ph.D.
President

P.S. Thanks to Maximum Savings Association for helping with the reproduction of CJCA documents!

QUICK FOOD TO BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS

For the first time in many years, the Quick Food Shop (MacArthur and Tomlinson) will be serving its customers on Sundays. Sunday hours began on February 17 and will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Sunday from now on.

The People of Cabin John

BILL WHITE: ALWAYS PART OF CABIN JOHN

By Barbara Martin

Almost everyone in Cabin John knows Bill White, it seems. At Gibson Grove AME Zion Church, he has held about every position you can name: Sunday School teacher, president of the Men's Club, Trustee, on the Board of Ushers, president of the Flower Committee, and Chairman of Friends Day for 10 years. On Riverside Drive, he is known as the man who makes yards blossom -- where he has cared for the property of Betty and Charles Thompson for 31 years. To the Black community, he has been the spark plug of every event and is a relative of half the neighborhood. To the town at large, he is the driving force behind the annual Crab Feast, the man who shows up with a platter of food for a bereaved family or a bouquet of flowers for a newcomer in town.

"I was part of Cabin John before I was born," Bill says. He explains that he has roots in Cabin John as far back as the end of the Civil War when his ancestors, freed slaves, were given plots of land in the Cabin John area. "All the area that is now Scotland, all down Seven Locks Road to MacArthur -- all that had different names then but it's the same land, and it was all parcelled to Blacks. My grandparents and my parents lived here and I was born here. There are Black families that have lived around Cabin John for a hundred years and more: Jones, Harpers, Harrises, Carters, Masons, Whites."

Then over the years some of the families lost their land when they were unable to pay the taxes, and most of the properties were purchased by Mrs. Lilly Stone. Bill's family and other families rented from her.

Gibson Grove was Bill's family church and he attended that church from babyhood. At one time the church building was used as a

school for the Black children of Cabin John. Eventually the Black school was moved to a building next to the Black cemetery, a building that was torn down when the Evergreen community was developed.

When he was 16, Bill's family moved into Washington, south of Sibley Hospital, but after two years Bill came back to Cabin John to live in his grandmother's house on Seven Locks Road. Bill began working as a gardener for a retired Marine officer, Major C. C. Riner, who lived on Riverside Drive. For seven years Bill took care of Major Riner's yard and when the home was sold to the Thompsons, Bill continued on with them.

His was a large family -- five boys and five girls -- and when his grandmother's house burned down several years after the family returned to Cabin John, the family members divided up to live with various relatives. Bill went to live with his cousin Clyde McKinney. This cousin lived in a house that had once been a beer garden called HobNobs, located off Seven Locks Road behind the present site of the VanEmmerik's house. But "there was some rowdiness and the man lost his license, so when I moved in with Clyde it wasn't a beer garden any more, but just a house."

The 16 houses on Carver Road were built by the Federal Government during World War II to house workers at the David Taylor Model Basin. In those days of segregation, Cabin John Gardens (built at the same time) was for Whites, Carver Road for Blacks. A Mr. Fields was in charge of maintenance for both developments, and in the early fifties Bill's close friend, John Coleman, worked for Mr. Fields. John Coleman urged Bill to get his brother Charles, a veteran, to apply to rent a house on Carver Road, and soon

Bill's brother and his mother moved in.

At about this time, Bill's sister-in-law met a young woman whom she invited to her church. Mildred came to Gibson Grove, joined the choir, and fell in love with Bill. When they married, the newlyweds moved in with Bill's mother and the family of five at 9 Carver Road. "We all got along," Bill remembers. "Mother and Mildred loved each other."

Bill was caddying at Burning Tree Golf Club and one of his regulars was Congressman Leslie Arends from Illinois. Now that he was a married man, Bill decided he needed the security of a government job, and Congressman Arends was able to pave the way for his being hired at National Institutes of Health. "I was on the housekeeping staff, worked nights and took care of the labs. After three years I got on day shift. I loved it. The fourteenth floor was my territory. I did my job well and people were friendly. Everybody knew Bill White. I guess they should; I worked there 27 years."

When Bill and Mildred had been married five years, they moved to an apartment in Rockville. While they were in Rockville, they adopted Bill's nephew, Tony. After seven years in Rockville, they came back to Cabin John. "Living in an apartment is terrible," Bill declares. "You can't even have a garden, and it's nothing like Cabin John." The Whites bought 21 Carver Road from Mildred's sister. The financing was arranged by the son of Bill's old employer, Major Riner. Young Riner was vice-president of a bank. "We borrowed \$7,000 for the mortgage and \$6,000 more to fix it up. I paid off the loan in 15 years, and almost all the work of fixing up the house I did myself. I enjoyed it."

In the sixties, Home Study was an active program in Montgomery County. Essentially, it was to help children -- in any way possible -- to do better in school. The Cabin John Home Study group focused on tu-

toring and on providing clothes or books so that a child's school career could be more successful. Bill joined Home Study and became Co-Chairman with Celeste Swedenburg. The group decided to have, as their big fund-raiser, a Crab Feast. This was in 1964. That first year, approximately 100 people came and the event raised about \$150. It was so popular that it became an annual event. Except for one year when it was held at Palisades Pool, it has always taken place in the field behind Bill's house, partly on his land, partly on land owned by Mrs. Lilly Stone.

After eight years of Crab Feasts put on entirely by the Black community, the Citizens Association was asked to help in organizing the event and the responsibilities (and proceeds) were distributed. Current sponsorship is divided among Home Study, Citizens Association, Village News, and the Three-and-Four-Year-Old School. But the women of Carver Road have always been the cooks -- turning out wonderful pots of collards, green beans, coleslaw, potato salad, and baked beans to go with the delicious crabs and chicken.

Bill was chairman of the Crab Feast for the first four years. "Then one year I told them I couldn't do it and they didn't have it that year. But everybody was so disappointed that we started it up again the next year and there's been a Crab Feast ever since." For many years, Celeste Swedenburg and Bill put together the entire annual event. Over the years the Crab Feast's fame and attendance grew. In 1984 over 400 people enjoyed the Feast.

When Palisades Pool was in the planning stages, the developers wanted to run the water lines in through Bill's property. Bill was vice-president of the Citizens Association at that time, and he realized the opportunity for the community to have some influence on pool policies and operations. The developers agreed that a group of Cabin John people should meet with them to promote pool-community

BILL WHITE

(Continued from page 4)

cooperation, and they agreed to pay a lawyer to facilitate negotiations. Although the final decision of the builders was to run the water lines in from Seven Locks instead of through Bill's property, the pool governing board did agree to open the pool twice a week to town children and to permit Cabin John pool members to pass along their memberships if they should sell their houses.

In addition, the lawyer, Evelyn Cooper, divided her fee with Bill, who used his share to buy membership in Palisades Pool. For two years Bill served on the pool board, and he frequently used his membership to bring as guests Carver Road children, newcomers to town, and -- for five years -- 65 vol-

unteer patients from NIH who would round off the day with a picnic in Bill's backyard. Last year Bill was made a life member of Palisades.

Ever since he started caddyng at Burning Tree when he was 15, Bill has been an avid golfer. With his four brothers and three cousins, Bill played for years at many area golf courses. Until two years ago he was playing regularly and was for nine years a member of the official NIH team.

In 1976 Mildred White died of a heart attack, and since that time Bill and Tony have been the family at 21 Carver Road. Tony, who attended school at Clara Barton, Pyle, and Whitman, is now a security guard at White Flint on the evening shift. He would like to be a policeman. A friend of Tony's, Floyd Summers, also

lives with them; typically Bill has opened his home to this young man who calls him Uncle Billy. Three brothers and a sister still live on Carver Road, and two more sisters live in Scotland.

Four years ago, Bill became ill and was diagnosed as having Parkinson's Disease. He retired last year on disability and is now "taking it easy and doing pretty well, although I have to take a lot of medicine." He gives his yard and flowers the same painstaking attention as always. He keeps abreast of what is going on in the Citizens Association, where he served for three years as Vice-President in the seventies. And he observes that Cabin John has gotten even better. "I think it's a more friendly town every year. And people are proud to say they live here now. I know I am."

CABIN JOHN MAN CITED FOR YOUTH CORPS CREATION

The Montgomery Journal and five County delegates to the state legislature have joined in honoring Frazier Kellogg for his dedicated efforts to bring about the creation of a Maryland Youth Conservation Corps. The Corps was established last year, modelled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the depression 1930's.

Said the Journal: "One man -- Frazier Kellogg of Cabin John -- made it happen... collected data, prepared working papers, lobbied his delegates... We should all be grateful... for Kellogg's work on behalf of his community."

SEASONAL WREATHS

DRIED FLOWERS

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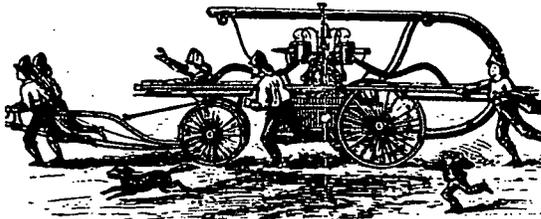
BY APPOINTMENT

320-2417

THE VILLAGE NEWS

is published monthly (except in summer) and is distributed free to all Cabin John residents. The subscription rate for others is \$5 a year. Our address is P.O. Box 164, Cabin John MD 20818.

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ADVERTISING RATES

Display ads are accepted at the following rates:

Full page	\$40
2/3 page	30
1/2 page	25
1/3 page	15
1/6 page	10
1/12 page	6

CLASSIFIED

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: March 16. The rate is 50¢ per line.)

FOR SALE Viking sewing machine - model 6030 - with carrying case, 5 cams, instructions. Completely checked by dealer. \$395.00. Please call 524-9784 after 5:00 p.m.

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HOUSE TO SHARE: Quiet, clean 2BR house to share w/ prof. female. Near canal, large sunny yard, W/D, A/C, nice neighbors. No pets or smokers, please. \$350 plus 1/2. 229-2592.

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LOST CAT NEEDS HOME. Beautiful, gentle white adult female cat, with black patch on back, appeared in our backyard last summer. Cold winter nights spent in our shed. Spayed and house-trained. Loves being petted and carried. Our child being allergic, cat headed for animal shelter unless home found. Phone 320-3986.

* * * *

UNUSUAL GIFTS: baskets of flowering plants from \$6, small seasonal wreaths \$9, herb and vegetable plants in the spring...Rose Tattoo by appointment...320-2417.

* * * *

KNOW YOUR CABIN JOHN HISTORY! Two fascinating accounts of glimpses back in time have been reproduced by the Village News and are on sale at \$3 each (postpaid): A Brief History of Cabin John Park, written by Edith Armstrong in 1947, and The Story of Cabin John, a transcript of reminiscences at a PTA meeting in 1957. Send your check, payable to the Village News, to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Make nice gifts.

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