

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 18, Number 10 *SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND*

June 1985

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Here are the officers elected for the 1985-86 year of the Cabin John Citizens Association. The voting took place at the May 28 meeting.

Co-presidents: Jack Fellows and Kay Tamzarian
1st Vice president: David Johnson
2nd Vice presidents: Anne and George Stockton
Secretary: Arlene Dwyer
Treasurer: George Lichtblau

NEWS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Cabin John Fire Department is developing a list of residences with special needs, i.e. handicapped, invalids, persons on respirators, etc. If you have such a special situation, call (365-2255) or write the Fire Department (P.O. Box 41, Cabin John 20818) and a representative will call.

The increase in the Department's response area has brought an increase in emergency calls, which means that more volunteers are needed. To discuss the various roles of volunteer members, phone or drop in at the new headquarters at 8201 River Road.

The Department is also making its annual appeal for funds. Your check in any amount sent to the above address will help keep its service standards high.

TOMLINSON AVENUE SIGN NOW INSTALLED

Effective Friday, June 14, left turns onto Tomlinson Avenue for southbound traffic on Seven Locks Road became illegal. The only exception is for commercial vehicles unable to use MacArthur Blvd. because of its weight limitations.

The left turn ban is a safety measure to reduce through traffic on the residential street. Restrictions on such traffic had long been sought by the Citizens Association.

At its May 28 meeting, the Association reiterated its request for restrictions on right turn traffic from MacArthur onto Tomlinson. Its first choice was for a "no right turn" sign during the morning and evening rush hours.

ASSOCIATION OPPOSES TENNIS BUBBLE

The application of Palisades Swimming Pool Association for permission to erect a bubble over its tennis courts to permit year-round playing was opposed by the Cabin John Citizens Association at its May 28 meeting.

Increases in noise, traffic and light were the objections raised. The pool neighborhood would become more of a business area and would change the environmental characteristics of the surrounding community.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 27 and July 11:
County Hearings on proposed bubble over Palisades Pool tennis courts. For details, call Louise Goyette, 229-8853.

July 14: Picnic for old and new officers of Cabin John Citizens Association, at home of Betsy Lawrence, 7629 Cabin Road, 4 to 6 p.m. (229-6706).

September: Don't forget the annual Cabin John Crab Feast in the first half of September. Exact date to be announced.

DANCE GROUP INVITES NEW DANCERS

Registration for a beginners' class at the

St. Columba's Scottish Country Dance Group is open through June 25. Call the Morrisons at 241-8940.

The dance group meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Clara Barton School, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., in Cabin John.

THIS SUMMER AT GLEN ECHO

Our Cabin John resident, Diane Leatherman, who is a park ranger at Glen Echo Park, provides a wealth of information on summer activities at the park. Among the highlights:

July 7 is Crafts and Music Day from noon to 5 p.m. Many craftspeople will be there to talk about their work and sell moderately priced items.

July 11, 18, and 25 there will be puppet shows at 7 p.m.

July 27 the Carousel, which normally operates in the day time three days a week, will be open in the evening from 7 to 11 p.m.

July 28 will be Medieval Day at the Park -- costumes, singers, dancers, mock military tournament, and much more. 12 to 6 p.m.

And every Friday night there is square and contra dancing, Saturday night ballroom dancing to big band music, and Sunday night folk dancing.

Call Diane or her associates at the Park Office, 492-6282, for more information on these and other programs.

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LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENTS OF THE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

As the new co-presidents of the Cabin John Citizens Association, we have high hopes for a productive and fun year. We are especially looking forward to meeting many of you as we work together to meet the needs of the community.

Cabin John truly is a special "place in the sun." The rural setting, location and economic diversity are among the many attributes that contribute to its uniqueness. However, you are the community's most treasured resource. Each of the 750 families that live within the borders of Cabin John can work together to strengthen our community and provide direction for its growth -- the way we, the community members, see fit.

We would like to congratulate and thank Betsy Lawrence and the former Executive Committee for the many accomplishments of the past year. We plan to continue support for all the important issues they energetically tackled, most importantly Cabin John land use.

When we agreed to serve as presidents of the Association it was because we wanted to bring even more to community life in Cabin John. This means organizing needed community services, such as additional low-cost day care, as well as expanding social functions, including a First Annual Cabin John 10-K and Family Fun Run. And high on the list is the building and full-scale operation of the Community Recreation Center. We want it! We need it! We'll have it!

Within the coming months we will present an ambitious list of "possibilities" which with your help can become realities. We look forward to your involvement, whether it be chairing a committee, organizing an activity, making phone calls, attending meetings, or calling us with an idea.

We can build Cabin John into any kind of community we want! Your participation will make a difference. It's the willingness of people like Cathy Orme who agreed at the last minute to oversee the free swim program at Palisades Pool (Thank you, Cathy). Let's all join together in making Cabin John more than another exploited geographic location in Montgomery County. Let's make it a "community" in which we want to live.

Sincerely,

Jack Fellows
Kay Tamzarian

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING
PRESIDENT OF THE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

The CJCA 1984-85 year has drawn to a close. Cabin John is booming, with one in ten houses in Montgomery County being built here. It is a time of great change and growth.

Thanks to each of the hundreds of you who have worked countless hours (an old cliché, clearly true and necessary this year particularly) on projects to improve public services, solve pollution problems, and monitor land use developments, plus keeping all our regular programs and annual community events running. Thanks a million for your support of me and my officers.

Special thanks go to my two dear friends, Linda Wichmann and Jane Price, who not only went the extra mile but went even farther when we needed them. Thanks once again for all who have served Cabin John in this and past years.

Betsy Lawrence, Ph.D.
(now a) Former President, CJCA

IN MEMORIAM: ALAN OSBOURNE

Alan Osbourne, who had lived in Cabin John for 36 years, died May 18 at the age of 88. A grandson by marriage of author Robert Louis Stevenson, Mr. Osbourne was born in Stevenson's home on the island of Samoa. As a child he lived in Portugal, Scotland, and Italy, as well as the United States.

A graduate of MIT in naval architecture and marine engineering, Mr. Osbourne was editor of "Modern Marine Engineer's Manual," still in use as a text book at MIT and the Coast Guard Academy. He was instrumental in constructing the merchant fleet called "Victory Ships" during World War II. He developed torpedo-detecting equipment for U.S. ships, a system that played a part in the only capture of a German U-boat. He campaigned for the use of sonar buoys -- dropped to locate submarines -- and personally tested lifeboats and life-jackets.

Mr. Osbourne was a familiar sight as he walked his English setters around the streets of Cabin John. He had strong opinions on nearly everything and expressed himself with forthrightness and wit. He was anti many things, but always pro-Cabin John.



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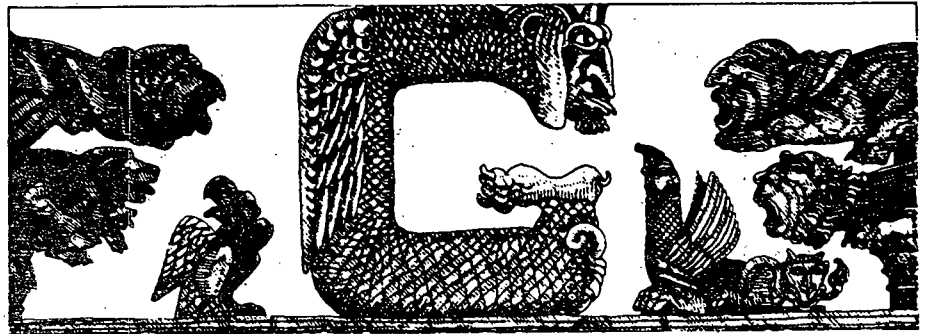
(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: August 17, 1985. The rate is 50¢ per line.)

WANTED: Part-time employee with good clerical skills (typing, word processing, filing, etc.) Call Seven Locks Press, 320-2130.

OUR PLAYGROUP needs new members. We now have three, ranging in age from 18 months to 2 years old. We're in Carderock Springs near River Road and Seven Locks, towards Potomac. Mothers come with their children. Call Susan Burkhalter, 469-8728, or Rita Kukura, 469-8899.

FOUND: a cello. Call 229-5851 or 229-6528 to identify.

NOW AVAILABLE: Reprint of the Cabin John Community Plan, adopted in 1973 and still the guiding design for Cabin John. 150 pages, \$13. 229-6706.



The People of Cabin John

FROM INDIA TO CABIN JOHN AND BACK AGAIN

By Barbara Martin

Sushil and Veena Titus and their two daughters are the pastoral family of Cabin John Methodist Church. Since they came to the U.S. -- and to this town -- in July 1980, they have come to be loved by the church and the community, and that love and appreciation is returned.

Sushil and Veena have been serving the church while studying at Wesley Theological Seminary (affiliated with American University). Sushil graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in May; Veena will graduate in December with a Masters in Religious Education.

Everything about their story is out of the ordinary. In 1974, Sushil was a pastor in a Methodist church in India, having graduated from an Indian seminary. Veena was a school-teacher. They met at the E. Stanley Jones Retreat Center, a Christian ashram. Although nearly all marriages in India are arranged by parents, in this case Sushil and Veena made their own "discovery." Still, they followed traditional procedures, getting approval of their families. "We saw each other only three or four times before our marriage," Sushil recalls. "I called on Veena in her home, and her parents were always present."

"In India," Veena explains, "the culture is very protective. A couple cannot be alone before marriage. They cannot touch, not even shake hands." The suitability of the marriage is the responsibility of the families, so they do a thorough job, checking out the couple with relatives, friends and the community. Divorce is possible but very rare, so everything is done to assure that the couple will match well. Either the man or the woman (though they seldom have any part in

the selection) can veto a suggested partner.

Christians account for only .2% of India's 700 million people. Sushil's father is a Methodist minister, now retired. When Sushil and Veena had been married six years, an American bishop who had served 26 years in India arranged for them to come to the U.S. In this, they were following a pattern of many educated Indians, who go to England, Canada, or the U.S. for advanced study. These are the countries of choice since English is required in all schools in India. It is the common language because there are 17 major Indian languages spoken throughout that country.

When the Tituses arrived in Cabin John, they had two suitcases, a four-year-old daughter (with another on the way), much curiosity, hope, and courage. People of the church gave them household furnishings, and took them to their hearts. "These hundred people were warm and kind; they made our transition easy; they became our family. Since almost no one in India except the few rich can afford a car, we didn't know how to drive. People of the congregation drove us to the store, to the doctor, everywhere. Then they taught us to drive. By our second year we were able to buy a car of our own."

Their older daughter, Aradhana (who prefers to be called Anna), spoke no English. She entered the Four-Year-Old program and in one month was speaking whole sentences. Within four months she was fluent in English. "She loved the school. The teachers were so kind, and the activities and all the toys were a delight to her. In India a child has only one or two toys."

Anna, now 9, has been attending Bannockburn School and has been selected for the gifted and talented program. "In India school is not fun; it is very serious learning. There are state schools and mission schools; both require payment for attendance. Children are taught to read, to write, to memorize. There is little opportunity or

encouragement to express onself. A student has an assigned chair, and she stays in that chair almost all day."

Their younger daughter, Anjana, 4, attends the Clara Barton Day Care Center and loves it. "We are very grateful to the Center for giving her a scholarship which made it affordable."

Originally the Tituses were to stay at Cabin John Methodist Church until 1984, but they were given an extension by the church until December of this year. They don't know what their pastoral assignment will be in India, but they talk about the general situation there. Usually there is one Methodist church per town, and some congregations can have 1000 to 3000 people. People are very religious and the minister is expected to officiate at all ceremonies -- weddings, funerals, baptisms, birthday blessings, etc. Contrary to American custom, there is no extra payment to the minister for these functions -- it all goes with the salary.

Life will be markedly different. The standard of living is much lower; wages are very low and 40% are unemployed. In proportion to income, everything is expensive. With a salary of 500 rupees a month (a rupee is worth about 8-1/2 ¢), a gallon of milk costs 30 rupees, meat 28 rupees per kg., chicken 35 rupees per kg., so people cannot afford those foods. Air-conditioning and automatic heating are almost unknown. "I have never been in a home or a public building or place of business in India that was centrally heated," says Sushil.

When I talked with the Tituses, the church was having its Rummage Sale next door. "There are no rummage sales in India; no one has anything extra to give or sell." Except in very rich families, babies are born at home. There is electricity, but it is routinely cut off during heavy-load periods.

"It will be hard, especially for the children, to give up this very good life to return to the problems of India. We made a promise to ourselves that we would go back and work for our people, so we have kept that reality in our minds all

the time. Many will call us foolish to give up what is here in the United States, but they must call us honest."

When the Tituses return they will be with the families they have not seen for five years, except for Sushil's father who came in 1982 on a speaking assignment. None of their other relatives have visited them here because the cost of passage is prohibitive. The Tituses took a loan to come here, have repaid that and have saved for their return passage.

In addition to their religious studies at Wesley, Sushil and Veena have absorbed many "American" ideas. Their comments are enthusiastic.

"Traffic is so organized. On the Beltway you can travel 55 because that's sensible and safe, but on a residential street you go 25 or 30. In India there are no specified speeds and cars rush along a little street at about 80 m.p.h. The Beltway is wonderful -- so much freedom; you can be King of the Road. Where did they get the ideas of beltways?"

"Americans know so much about physical fitness; Indians do not. A fat baby is thought to be a healthy baby; a mark of status is to sit and have everything done for you. When we go back, we will institute health programs for nutrition, hygiene, and physical fitness. Since it is through the church, the congregation will accept these new teachings."

Sushil is a fitness and sports enthusiast. While at Wesley Seminary he was the American University table tennis champion for three years. At Cabin John Methodist Church, a Ping-Pong table is set up in the recreation hall, and neighborhood children have been encouraged to come in and play. Sushil has also spent many hours in greening, making flower beds and watching new flowers come up each month. Veena has taken responsibility for preparing the Village News for mailing; each month the folding and stapling crew meets at the church to work.

Sushil and Veena talked about attitudes toward people in India.

(Continued on page 6)

THE VILLAGE NEWS

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Volunteer staff for this issue: Cherry Doyle (design), Judy Duffield (production), Susan Gelb (business), Kay Kemp (mailing), Andy Rice (editorial) and the great folding and mailing crew.



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(Continued from page 5)

Children are well-trained, courteous and respectful. They are consistently reared with firmness and calmness. Between parents and children there is no violence, rudeness or abusive language. Indian parents take full responsibility for their children.

Older people are respected, always taken care of. There are no nursing homes; all old people live with their families, sharing the family resources, however meager or humble they may be. One asks an older person for advice. It is unthinkable to argue with an elder. A disadvantage is that a younger sibling is always the junior; even when he is 60 years old he must defer to a parent or an older brother.

When they return to India, Veena and Sushil will serve their assigned church together as a team. They are idealistic in their commitment to improving life for their congregation and practical in their ideas of how they want to do that. "We will always remember our stay in the U.S. and in Cabin John as some of the best and most fruitfully spent years of our lives. We have received much and we have a great responsibility in sharing this by helping others upon our return."

Indian names all have a meaning. Aradhana means worship, Anjana means dark-eyed, Sushil means kind and gentle, Veena is a musical instrument. As I talked with these two fine people, I was struck by how life, love, enthusiasm and integrity come singing through them. Their names are well chosen.

*****HAPPY SUMMER TO YOU!*****

The Village News wishes all its readers an enjoyable summer. The next issue will appear in late August.

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