

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 20, Number 5 *SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND*

January 1987

FUND RAISER PLANNED FOR GLEN ECHO PARK

A benefit concert for the Glen Echo Park Foundation will be held on Monday, February 2, featuring Taj Mahal. He will perform his own unique blend of blues/rock/folk music.

The event will begin at 8:30p.m. in Gaston Hall at Georgetown University, co-sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and radio station WHFS. Proceeds will go to meet the \$3 million fund-raising goal of the Park Foundation over the next five years.

The Foundation was created last year when the National Park Service announced plans to lease Glen Echo Park. Already over 500 individuals and families have signed up as members. The Foundation's purpose is to preserve the Park as a cultural center.

Advance tickets for the Taj Mahal concert are \$12 and may be bought at the Bethesda Co-op in the MacArthur Square shopping center or at Olsson's Books and Records stores around town. Tickets will be \$15 at the door if space is still available. For further information, contact Diane Leatherman, 229-7412.

RENOVATIONS UNDER WAY AT CLARA BARTON SCHOOL BUT FUTURE USES OF BUILDING REMAIN UNCERTAIN

Several important steps have been taken with respect to the future of the Clara Barton School, but much still needs to be decided. This was the gist of the report made on January 14 to the Board of the Clara Barton Center by Bennett Connelly of the Montgomery County Division of Family Services.

One major decision is that funds from the County and from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission will be used, totalling some \$500,000 to \$700,000. This means that the old recreation building near the school, which burned down several years ago, will not be rebuilt, but recreational facilities will be included in the Clara Barton building.

An architectural contract has been let and final plans for the renovated building are expected in two months. Plans include a full-service kitchen and dining area, as well as turning the all-purpose room into a gym by removing the stage.

However, the expectation that the building would be used in part as a day care center for the elderly has been abandoned. The only group known to be currently interested in renting space in the building (which will be \$5.50 per square foot), in addition to the existing day care center for children, is Bethesda Youth Services which runs teen-age programs.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH THE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION.....

The community's stake in the future use of the Clara Barton School building (see the separate story in this issue on current developments) will be a major topic of discussion at the next meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association on Tuesday, January 27, at 8 p.m. at the school. Now is the time for community views to be made known to County authorities, says CJCA President Tevy Schlafman. "Come and make your input to the recommendations we present to the County."

The February meeting, on the 24th, is expected to be devoted to the airplane noise issue. A new political situation exists with the transfer of National and Dulles Airports from the Federal Government to a new regional airport

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DID YOU KNOW.....

...Volunteers are needed by the Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department, not just for firefighting but for other jobs as well. Station 10, which used to be located on the old firehouse on MacArthur Blvd and is now on River Road just beyond Seven Locks Road, would be glad to hear from lawyers, accountants, typists, librarians, video specialists and computer technicians. Call 365-2255.

...The famous "Washington Post" march was first performed by its composer, John Philip Sousa, and his band in Cabin John. The event took place at the old Cabin John Hotel (which stood at the site of the present Cabin John Gardens before it burned down in the 1930s) on the occasion of a dinner given by the newspaper for its staff.

...The Echo, Glen Echo's town newspaper, reports that a new bus terminal will be built on the grass island on the MacArthur Blvd side of the Glen Echo Shopping Center. Construction is supposed to start some time after March.

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authority. Newly elected Congressman Constance Morella has been invited to speak at the meeting.

Planning is getting under way for the first Cabin John Music Festival to be held in April. Musicians interested in taking part in the event, or anyone who'd like to help organize it, should call Tevy Schlafman (office phone: 229-1468, home phone: 229-3506).

Where will next September's Crab Feast be held? This problem is already under investigation by the CJCA officers. The traditional site is no longer available (it's becoming a road). There is plenty of room on park land, but the drawback with that idea is that beer cannot be served. How about a parking lot? Or can some arrangement be worked out with Palisades Pool? Anyone with ideas should call Schlafman (phone numbers above).



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MON-SAT 9 AM-8 PM SUNDAY 11-6 PM Plenty of Parking

The People of Cabin John

THE DANCE ADDICTS

By Barbara Martin

Martha Pierce and Scott Gilkeson are hooked on dancing. Neither professional dancers nor competitive dancers, they still spend 2 to 4 nights a week on the dance floor. And for those who love to dance -- as they do -- the Washington area is Paradise. "There's contra dancing, square dancing, Scottish dancing, swing dancing, Irish dancing, international folk dancing, clogging, and numerous subspecialties," Scott explains. "If you wanted to, you could go to a dance every night in the week." There's a Dance Hotline at 270-1678, a daily recorded message that tells of upcoming dances.

Martha is especially enthusiastic about Glen Echo. "Of all the places in the whole area, the Glen Echo Ballroom is probably the best. The place will hold 400 dancers at once and the bare wooden floor is ideal. Any band that you want will come to Glen Echo because you can afford them with such a large and dependable attendance. Glen Echo (and other area groups) can get bands from New England, California, even Europe. And we're so lucky to live right next door in Cabin John."

Dances are held at Glen Echo on all weekends from April to October. The ballroom has no heat, so it's not available during the winter. "Although," Scott says, "there's going to be a Polar Bear dance this winter. We'll just bundle up warm and dance anyway."

How did a nice girl from Cleveland get to be a dance fanatic? "I had done some square dancing in high school, but nothing since then. When I moved to Washington 4 years ago, I heard about contra dancing and decided to try it. I loved it. And then I started going to other kinds of dances too. Now I'm on the Washington Swing Dance Committee; that's jitterbug, swing, and old time rock'n'roll -- dances of the 40s and 50s. The new popularity of swing is a recent thing,

just within the past couple of years. At the last swing dance at Northwood High in Silver Spring, there were over 400 people. But whatever kind of dancing we do, it's more than dancing; it's a community of people."

Scott agrees. "Dancers are friendly people and they're nice people. If you start going to dances here, you're instantly in a welcoming group. Dancing is fun, it's high energy exercise, it's very sociable, and it's not expensive." He continues, "Dancers are healthy people. There's no smoking in the dance room, and only a few people go out for a cigarette. And when some places have tried to run a bar in conjunction with a dance, they've lost money. Dancers want water and little else."

I asked Scott how he became so involved in dancing. "I was taking a summer session at Antioch College and they had folk dances out in the open. I really liked it and signed up for a class. I've lived several places since then and I've always looked for dance groups, but there weren't many. Then when I was living in Harrisonburg, Virginia, I went with some friends to a dance weekend in Charlottesville, and that was a great awakening. The whole weekend I danced and loved it. I began driving the 1½ hours from Harrisonburg every time there was a dance event in Charlottesville. And I started going to dance weekends at farther locations. They have all-night dances -- 8 p.m. to dawn -- and whole dance weeks. Dancers from different areas get to know each other, exchange names, and become hosts to other dancers who are traveling on business or to a local dance event."

Martha and Scott often open their house to out-of-towners they've met through dancing, and when there's a special local event, they sometimes have a group of eight or ten who arrive with sleeping bags.

Although Martha's discovery of dancing came after she moved to Washington, Scott, a computer analyst, moved here especially to live in dance heaven. "It was time for me to make a career move and this area was very

attractive to me because of its strong dance program. Non-work friendships are important to me. Within 2 months of moving here and connecting with some dance groups, I had probably 100 friends -- dancers."

For Martha, too, being in a dancing area has become important. A high school teacher, she will be starting medical school in the fall. "As I decide where I want to go to medical school I do think about whether those cities are dance communities. I don't mean it's my first consideration, but I really would be unhappy if I was someplace where I couldn't dance."

The largest organization in Washington that sponsors and publicizes dances is the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. Originally a song and instrumental music group, the Society has now included dancing too. The calendar in their January newsletter shows 25 dance events, all of them open to everyone. And this is not all the dancing that goes on. For instance, it does not show the Scottish dances which until recently were held weekly at the Clara Barton School, and are now meeting elsewhere in Bethesda. Swing dances are in our neighborhood too, held regularly at the American Legion Hall on Cordell Avenue in Bethesda.

Scott and Martha are part of many dance groups. For both of them, contra dancing was their first enthusiasm. Contra dancing is done in long lines, with partners progressing through a pattern to dance with all other couples. "It's more social than square dancing," Martha explains. "In a square you dance with three other couples; in a contra dance you can dance with 50 other couples."

Martha and Scott and thousands of others appreciate the almost limitless dance opportunities in the Washington area. "The ordinary visitor to Washington doesn't hear about the dancing, but the world spreads quickly among dancers. It's a whole different world from politics, big

business, and tourism. There are so many fine dancers around here that it's a constant inspiration to improve, to learn new moves. But on the other hand, nobody should be intimidated. It's not that hard. Really, you can become quite good in a short time. And although couples are welcome, it's not necessary to go with a partner. Dancers are friendly and sociable."

Country and folk dancing in the United States declined sharply around the turn of the century when we changed from a rural to an urban nation. But as far back as 60 years ago, Henry Ford and others were pushing a country dance revival, and across the nation there were Country Dance and Song Societies. And now it's very much "in" again. Seattle, Atlanta, New England are all active centers of dancing, although none of them equals our own geographic area. The Folklife Festival on the Mall always has dance demonstrations and "everybody dance" times. In 1985 at the Festival, Cajun dancing was a great success -- the Louisiana-style dancing that is accompanied by an accordion, and where the dancers move off the beat.

What kind of people are in the Washington dance community? "Well," says Scott, "I'm a computer person and there are a lot of us. Contra dancing, especially, is kind of mathematical; it's neatly laid out in a pattern that's repeated every 64 beats. And there are a lot of teachers like Martha, and Hill staffers, some foreign-born people."

Martha has a theory. "I think lots of people who have non-physical jobs love dancing because it's such a change. It's a right-brain activity so it expands a more intellectual world."

The typical age range is 25-45, but anybody is welcome. Some kids come with their parents and dance or play on the sidelines.

Martha and Scott are enthusiastic boosters. "We don't know of anything that could be more fun or more friendly for just regular people. And if you want to dance, Washington is the best place in the world."



HOUSES FOR SALE

Properties currently for sale in Cabin John:

- 29 Ericsson Rd.,
rambler, 3 br, 1 ba,
\$107,000
- 7805 Tomlinson Ave.,
new Victorian, 3 br,
2½ ba, \$269,500
- 7809 Tomlinson Ave.,
new Victorian, 3 br,
2 fr, 2½ ba, \$279,500
- 2 Tomlinson Ct., new
contemporary Victori-
an, 4 br, 3½ ba,
\$350,000
- 6485 Wishbone Terr.,
contemporary town-
house, 2 br, 2 fb,
2½ ba, \$249,900

(Information furnished by Cindy Offterdinger, 951-0313 or 897-8048.)

"ARCH CONSERVATIVE"

It's hard to know what the dashing and celebrated Montgomery Meigs would think about what they're doing with his renowned feat of civil engineering, but they're doing it! It's easy to know what we think about it -- it's a pain in the neck! There are jack hammers, pressurized concrete, hard hats, and work lights -- INSIDE Cabin John's Union Arch bridge. As we jig and jog day and night, the workmen below are repairing and resurfacing the great 120-year old conduit which carries the District of Columbia's water supply (see the photo on the cover of the Cabin John community directory).

A grimy but very friendly workman explained it this way. When the conduit was built in the 1860's, it was an 8-foot tunnel built of bricks. He doesn't know when it happened, but some time later the brick tunnel was lined with cast iron, like a tire inner tube. Still later a concrete lining was added as an inner inner tube. It's this concrete lining - now 30 or 40 years old and deteriorating - that they are removing with jack hammers and replacing.

There's no heat down there and it's weird and wet. The space is too small for a full crew, so they are working two shifts 'round the clock. They've shut the water flow off, naturally, and at the Cabin John end where they've dammed up the trickle which remains, catfish are accumulating and swimming around furiously in the 2-foot deep pool. And where's the District's water coming from while all this is happening? Well, there's a second conduit along the stream bed which is carrying the full load.

It's nice to know they're taking such good care of our bridge. They will finish in March.

-- Susan Vogt



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TIME TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES IN THE CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

(If you have any question as to whether you have paid your dues this year, you probably haven't. So far only 10 people have paid. Last year, as a result of a door-to-door canvass, the CJCA had 192 members.)

Please sign me up as a member of the Cabin John Citizens Association for the period September 1, 1986 to August 31, 1987.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

_____ \$10 for Family Membership _____ \$7 for Single Membership

NOTE: If the above is more than you can afford, please join by giving what you can.

Please make check payable to CJCA and mail to Clare Amoruso, Treasurer, 7521 Arden Road, Cabin John, MD 20818.

THE VILLAGE NEWS

is published monthly except in July and December and is sent free to every household in Cabin John. Others may subscribe for \$5 a year. Send all communications, news items, etc., to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: February 14.

Volunteer staff:
 Editor: Andy Rice
 Design: Cherry Doyle
 Business Manager:
 Clare Amoruso
 Mailing: Reed Martin
 and friends

NEWS OF OUR SCHOOLS
 ...The Clara Barton Center for Children is seeking a teacher's helper to work with 3 to 5-year-old children from 3 to 6 p.m. several days a week. If interested, call 320-4565.

...The Clara Barton Center also announces that it will hold its spring Yard Sale on Saturday, May 16. Artists and crafts people are welcome, as is anyone who wants to sell his or her own used goods. The fee for table space will be \$10. To participate, call 320-4565.

Village News
P.O. Box 164
Cabin John, Maryland 20818

CLASSIFIED

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: February 14. The rate is 50¢ a line (figure 7 words to a line). Please send check with ad.)

FOR SALE: 71 Volkswagen Squareback Station Wagon. \$600. 320-2464.

* * *

SILVER DOLLAR HOARD. Coins dated from 1878 to 1935. \$8.00 each. 953-3231. Also other coins.

* * *

CAR WANTED TO BUY. Large, V-8, for pulling trailer. Age of car unimportant but must be mechanically dependable. Reed Martin. 229-3482.

* * *

FOR SALE: 1978 Pontiac Sunbird, A/C, manual shift, white, 50,000 miles, runs really well, just passed inspection. \$1200. Call Susan Burkhalter, 469-8728.

* * *

WANTED: Reporters for Village News. If you can give 2 or 3 hours a month digging up facts or writing stories, please call the editor, Andy Rice, at 229-3503.

* * *

CAR POOL: My office is moving to 10th and Penna. Ave., N.W. Does anyone drive near that area? My hours 9-5:30. Gillian Austin, 229-3785.

* * *

FOR SALE: Twin-sized mattress and platform set. Brand new, still in plastic wrappings. \$100. 229-3482.

* * *

MOVING SALE: Sturdy bookshelves, sleep sofa and demi-sofa for family room or basement, hand-knotted pure wool Oriental rugs, ladies' winter coats, children's games, toys, books and sports equipment, 10-speed bike, sleds, indoor plants, etc. 229-8780.

* * *

CAR POOL NEEDED. Live in Carderock Springs near Lilystone and Seven Locks. Work at Veterans Administration (15th and Eye). Times flexible. Call 365-2450 eves.

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