

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 21, Number 1 *SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND*

August 1987

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND CABIN JOHN...

...Bad news on the Clara Barton School building renovation is reported by David Schindel, head of the community committee that has been negotiating with the county. It has turned out that there is not enough unobligated money in the county budget to go ahead with the project immediately. Instead, supplemental funds will have to be appropriated by the County Council.

...Cabin John United Methodist Church announces another of its popular "Favorite Hymn Sings" on Tuesday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. The church is also starting a Children's Sunday School at 10 a.m., beginning on Sept. 13. Interested parents should get in touch with Rev. Walt Shropshire, at 229-8233.

...The Clara Barton Center for Children is looking for high school or college students to work with 3-5 year old children from 4 to 6 p.m., and with elementary school children from 3 to 6 p.m. Call 320-4565 if you are interested.

(Continued on page 2)

CABIN JOHN'S FAVORITE END-OF-SUMMER EVENT TAKES PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 12: THE CRAB FEAST!

Old and new residents of Cabin John are marking their calendars now for the year's most popular community event: the annual Cabin John Crab and Chicken Feast. This year the event will be held on Saturday afternoon, September 12, from 2 to 6 p.m.

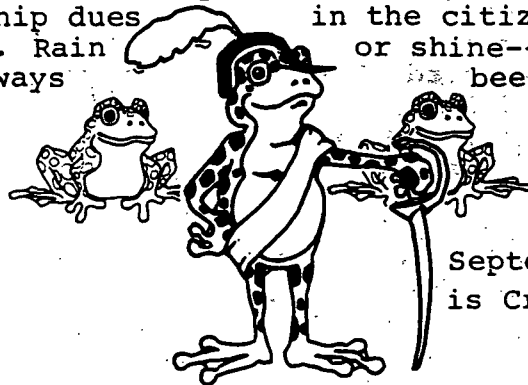
Although the location of the Feast will be slightly different than for the past ten years, it will take place in the same general neighborhood--in the spacious backyard of Claude Clifton at 19 Carver Road.

Culinary highlights of the big day include quantities of Maryland crabs, succulent greens and other vegetables, plenty of barbecued chicken, and a roster of home-made baked goods. Soft drinks and beer will also be available.

The Crab Feast raises money for community purposes such as this Village News newspaper, but ticket prices are reasonable. Beginning about two weeks before the event, volunteers will be going door-to-door to sell advance tickets (cheaper than purchasing at the gate).

The success of the Crab Feast depends on the contributions of many volunteers who do everything from putting up the serving tent to cooking and serving the food to cleaning up afterwards. It's a nice way to get to know other members of the community. If you'd like to volunteer for any aspect of the event, please call the president of the Cabin John Citizens Association, Maureen Willoughby, at 229-5794.

There will be Cabin John t-shirts on sale at the feast, and you can also pay your annual membership dues in the citizens association. Rain or shine--but so far it's always been shine.



September 12
is Crab Feast Day!

PARKWAY NAME
NOT YET DECIDED

The Clara Barton Parkway would be the new name of the Maryland George Washington Memorial Parkway, if a bill introduced by Congresswoman Constance Morella becomes law.

Confusion with the Virginia parkway also named for the first president has led to calls for renaming the Maryland side. The National Park Service asked for suggestions for the new name, and a majority of those responding indicated a preference for the name, Martha Washington Parkway.

The Morella bill also has much support, however. In addition, Senator Barbara Mikuski's office has expressed an interest in calling the road the C & O Canal Parkway.

Now that Congress is in the act, no decision by the Park Service can be immediately expected.

(Continued from page 1)

...Cabin John's Seven Locks Press will publish next month a new book by Cabin John author Elizabeth Kytile, well known locally for her earlier volume about the C & O Canal. Advance copies of the new book, entitled "The Voices of Robby Wilde," may now be purchased from the publisher at \$17.95, plus shipping costs. Call 320-2130 or drop in at the offices above High's in the Glen Echo Shopping Center.

CLASSIFIED

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: Saturday, September 19. The rate is 50¢ per line (figure 7 words to a line). Please send check, payable to "Village News," with ad.)

RENTERS LOOKING TO BUY. Couple living in Cabin John for past five years wants to buy house in Cabin John, Mohican Hills, or Glen Echo area for price under \$200,000. Please call Jill or Philip Sayre, nights, at 320-2275.

* * *

LARGE quantity of oak firewood for sale. Some split, some not split. \$150 and you remove. 229-3482.

* * *

FOR SALE: Fuji 10-speed men's bicycle with rack. Good condition, \$75 or best offer. Call 229-8139.

* * *

FOR SALE: Upholstered chair and matching rocker, rust colored, slender wooden arms, great condition. Only \$400 the pair. Call 229-0842.

* * *

FOR SALE: Puch moped, has not been run in 3 years. \$100. Also 3-wheel moped-trike, \$250. 229-3482.

Cabin John Citizens Association Financial Report

1986-1987

Income

Membership dues	\$ 405.00
Interest on checking account	209.53
1986 Crab Feast Proceeds	3,494.60
Cabin John Community Directory Ads	205.00
Additional contributions to Linda Billings Fund	142.50
Miscellaneous	10.00
	<u>\$4,466.63</u>

Expenditures

Crab Feast expenses	\$1,093.98
Christmas Party	147.37
Insurance-Summer Swim	250.00
Postal Box Rental	29.00
Printing and Copying Expenses	38.66
Miscellaneous	30.00
Distribution of Crab Feast Proceeds	
Cabin John 3&4 Year Old School	561.95
Cabin John Village News	1,677.13
	<u>\$3,828.09</u>

Net Income from 9/1/86 through 8/31/87 \$ 638.54
Assets on hand as of 9/1/86 2,923.30

Assets on hand as of 8/31/87 \$3,561.84

(Report submitted by Clare Amoruso, Treasurer)

The People of Cabin John

DANNY HARRIS AND THE PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA

By Barbara Martin

In May of 1985, Danny Harris, a 35-year resident of Cabin John, retired from the David Taylor Model Basin. He figured his days would be spent from then on with gardening, traveling, and taking it easy. It didn't work out that way.

Thirteen years before, Danny had bought some land in Hampshire County, West Virginia, where he raised the Christmas trees that Cabin John neighbors bought each season. In November 1985, unprecedented rainstorms and the subsequent flooding hit the 29 West Virginia counties that border the Potomac, Cheat, Black Fork, and Dry Fork Rivers. Danny decided to go up and see what damage his land had suffered.

"What I found absolutely stunned me," Danny recalls. "People had lost everything. Their homes were ruined; some houses couldn't even be found. I saw children, women, men in shock, weeping, hardly able to understand that everything they had owned was gone. It was overwhelming; they didn't know where to start, what to do."

Danny came home very disturbed, and when he heard a radio announcement asking for volunteers to help the flood victims, he offered his help. Supplies were being collected for the homeless, and Danny drove his pick-up truck from the collection center in Wheaton to the devastated regions of West Virginia. "I made 10 trips in 2 weeks. My truck was packed as full as I could manage, and all of us who were carrying supplies up there did it at our own expense."

More than 10,000 families lost their homes and all their belongings. Thousands more saw severe damage to their property and salvaged only a few things from the devastation.

"It's just hard to tell anybody what it was like," says Danny. "Some lowlying areas were under 52 feet of water--52 feet! Houses made of cinder

block were torn apart. Ten old people in a Senior Citizens home got up to the top story of their building where they were rescued by boat through the windows. The force of the flood water burst out all the windows. They were terrified."

Emergency help was provided in some measure by government agencies, and volunteers from the Washington area quickly swung into action. A collection center at Northwood High School took in clothes, blankets, and food for immediate relief. As the waters receded, the people of the hard-hit West Virginia areas tried to make plans for rebuilding their homes. At this point, building supplies became a much-needed priority. Local plumbing, electrical, and lumber suppliers donated materials. Safeway and other large concerns lent their drivers and trucks to get the materials to West Virginia.

Danny, an expert plumber, helped people to repair and rebuild their houses, while continuing to bring clothing, furniture, and appliances from this area. "People had moved in with relatives in crowded quarters, and things were very bad. West Virginia was one of the economically depressed states even before this. And now so many more people were out of work because businesses and industries were totally destroyed and the farms--well, some areas lost up to 20" of topsoil and everything right down to bare rock. You can't grow anything in that situation. People had no money and no way to get any. Very few people had carried insurance; when you're poor, insurance is something you figure you can't afford. They were in a terrible state and still are. Forty-eight people died in the flood, and many died soon after as a result of the shock and strain."

After the first rush of sympathy and volunteer help, public interest waned. But Danny and some faithful few knew that the need was still great. Federal and state aid came in the

amount of \$12 million; flood damage is estimated at \$634 million, over 50 times what was compensated.

"In January 1986, three of us got together and formed a corporation so we could organize the help that was needed so bad. We called it People for America." Danny is vice-president and director. It has become his life. After several months, Montgomery County would no longer let PFA use Northwood High space free, and the organization could not afford the \$500 a month rent that was asked. Danny's garage, house, yard, and driveway on Caraway Street are chock full of donations waiting to go to West Virginia.

"We need help," Danny states. "We really need so much help. We need a big warehouse kind of space for collection storage. We need more transportation than my small pick-up. Somebody gave us a 1-ton panel truck, but I've got to get it through inspection before I can use it, and it needs about \$500 worth of engine and front-end work. We desperately need building supplies. If anybody in Cabin John has a connection with a business, we would be so glad to have seconds or damaged materials just so they're usable. If anyone is remodeling, we can sure use what they take out--windows, doors, carpets, light fixtures, anything. So many folks in West Virginia still have no stoves, refrigerators, washers, driers, vacuum cleaners. We need those things, and we need furniture--tables, dressers, sofas, chairs, rugs, curtains, especially beds and bedding. All kinds of clothes are welcome, and just so it's clean, it doesn't have to be in perfect condition; the women there are glad to mend it.

"Children's clothes and baby equipment. Food, packaged or canned. Tools for building or yard work. If anybody has finished a construction project and has things left over, we want it; insulation and sheetrock are specially needed. You can bring donations here or I can come and pick it up. We take things to churches and to individual families, too, when I know there are specific things they need."

"Another thing people have given that's so much appreciated is cars. If a car runs, it doesn't matter what it looks like or how old it is. We ask you to fill the tank and give us the title. Somebody will get a friend to drive him down and then he'll drive the car back."

Danny travels to West Virginia every couple of weeks and stays 4 or 5 days when he's there, helping people work on their houses. "There's three widows living in one tiny trailer. An awful lot of people are living in trailers and other crowded situations. They need to get back into homes."

"I've had good help from neighbors right here in Cabin John," Danny says. "Tom Denell is always willing to give me a hand, and George Salansky, who delivers Cabin John's mail, has helped carry things up there. And Virginia, my wife, she's the secretary; she answers the phone and takes all the messages."

When just about everybody else's attention and interest has gone to other things, why does Danny keep on? "It's rewarding. The people appreciate anything we bring them or help them with. These mountain people are kind. They're proud and they keep on. I wish anybody in Cabin John who has a skill or is just a plain handyman would call me; if they could come down to West Virginia and help even once it would mean so much. Or if people would be willing to get a notice into their church bulletin explaining our needs and giving my number, that would be good. Or if there's somebody here who would be interested in helping me organize a community yard sale to benefit PFA, it would be great."

Remember, everything is tax deductible. PFA has printed forms to record your gifts. Danny Harris's phone number is 229-7982. As he says, "Anything you can do will help people who need it."



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THE VILLAGE NEWS

P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818.

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

HOUSES FOR SALE

Properties currently for sale in Cabin John include the following:

- 6 McKay Circle, rambler, 2 br, 1 ba, \$99,500
- 6513 Seven Locks Rd., rambler, 2 br, 2 ba, \$179,900


6509 75th Place, contemporary Victorian, 3 br, 2½ ba, \$335,000
 (Information furnished by Cindy Offterdinger, 897-8048 or 951-0313.)

ED CLARK & SON
ABC TRUCKING
moving
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229-7311

CABIN JOHN DIRECTORIES


There are still some Cabin John Directories left. The Directory lists residents of Cabin John with addresses and telephone numbers. It also includes a valuable section that lists residents who offer skills and services of many kinds. And there are also lists of County services and nearby stores.

If you are a new resident, know of a new resident, or have lost your copy, there's a Directory waiting for you. Please call the Martins at 229-3482. There is no charge.




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Bethesda Co-op

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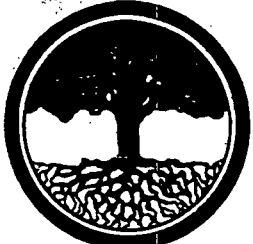
7945 MacARTHUR BOULEVARD
 .986-0796 1 mile northwest of Glen Echo 986-0796
 MON SAT 9 AM-8 PM SUNDAY 11-6 PM. Plenty of Parking

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Next deadline:
September 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

DOWN GLEN ECHO WAY...



LANDSCAPING
in harmony with your
taste & budget

Unusual Design • Wood Decks
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Unique & Beautiful Plantings

**Mark Willcher
and Company**
320-2040

(The Village News seems to be known across the country, to judge by the following letter that arrived recently.)

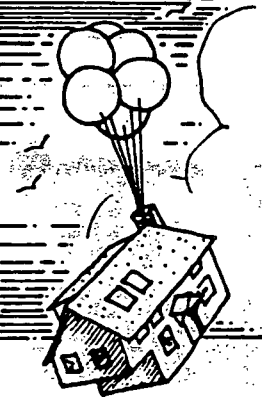
For the purposes of garnering more information for a book that I'm writing on the history of chickens in America, I'd welcome any fact or anecdote that relates to the chicken in any way--such as chicken jokes, chicken sayings, folk tales inspired by chickens, facts about fancy show chickens, chickens as foster parents of other birds, chickens as pets, etc. Also sought are interesting stories about people who have raised chickens, have loved them or hated them, viewed them as noble or as despicable,

All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged at the time of publication. Please send them to me at 1780 Manor Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Thank you.

--Dolores M. Westrich

...Many Cabin Johners attended the opening performance of the Big Apple Circus at Glen Echo Park on August 11. The performance was a benefit for the Glen Echo Park Foundation and raised some \$8000. It was enjoyed by all, even though the ringmaster forgot to announce that the Foundation had planned a reception for all the audience in the circus ring after the show!

...The Town of Glen Echo has asked that the plan to relocate the Glen Echo bus terminal be put on hold until a thorough traffic engineering study is made of the complex MacArthur/Goldsboro intersection. Traffic has increased markedly in the area over recent years; this appears to be due partly to Cabin John's larger population and partly to the attraction of Maryland State Lottery sales at Glen Echo Pharmacy.



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