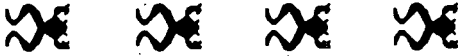


# THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 24, Number 3

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

October 1990



## CRAB FEAST PROCEEDS ARE LARGEST IN YEARS: ALLOCATIONS TO BE MADE AT NEXT CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Income of \$3508 and expenses of \$1285 left a balance of \$2223 after the books were closed on Cabin John's annual September Crab Feast, reported Citizens Association Treasurer Hugo at the last Citizens Association meeting on September 25. This was the largest proceeds in recent years.

As is customary, the bulk of the funds are expected to be donated to various community-related organizations and activities, such as the Clara Barton Center for Children, the 3-and-4-Year-Old School, the Clara Barton Recreation Center, the Glen Echo Park Foundation, etc. Decision on the allocations will be made at the next meeting of the Association on Tuesday, November 23 (8 p.m., Clara Barton Center), to which all citizens are invited. The meeting will also feature a forum of candidates running for state and county office, organized by Helen Daniel. (Continued on page 2)

## THANKS TO THE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS WHO PUT ON THE CRAB FEAST

Cabin John's Crab Feast on September 15 wouldn't have been the great success it was without the generous volunteer efforts of dozens of Cabin Johners. Here are the ones who did the job (and if anyone has inadvertently been omitted, our sincere apologies; it's sometimes hard to keep track of the many people who pitch in).

Overall coordinators: Bob Greenberg, Maureen Willoughby, Gordon Hugo, Kathy Siefken, and Taffy Kingscott.

Chicken cooks: Dave Murphy, Judy and Fred Mopsik, Stan Schaper, Duff Marquardt

Vegetable preparers: Jane Hunter, Mary Morgal, Olga Long, Robert Friedel, Maureen Willoughby, Taffy Kingscott, Geri Metz, Lucy Van Heekerin, Ginny Van Heekerin, Kitty Kelly, Susan Vogt, Cappie Morgan, Kathy Siefken, Susan Gelb, John Kingscott, Celeste Swedenburg, Claude Clifton

Servers: Judy Vogt, Cappie Morgan (and her mother),

Taffy Kingscott's mother, Aileen Ackerman, Cherry Doyle, Susan Vogt, Peter Vogt, Barbara and Gerry Quinn, Kathleen McManus, Kelly McManus, Virginia Quesada, Janie Winslow

Tickets: Diane Leatherman, Gordon Hugo

Bake sale: Sharon Miller

Clean-Up: Frank McKinney, Andy Rice

Crab purchase: Susan Vogt  
Chicken purchase: Maureen Willoughby

Dry goods purchase: Kathy Siefken

Flyers: Joan Liversidge (Bethesda Youth Services)

Signs: Dennis and Pat Burke

Tables and chairs: John Gelb (and many helpful teenagers)

Also to be thanked are the volunteers who addressed invitations to the opening ceremony of the Cabin John Community Center. Margie Craig was in charge and her co-workers were Ellen Jankowski, Maggie Ikeda, Chris Donnelly, Kay Kemp, and Marie Keefe.

## CANDIDATES FORUM AT OCTOBER 23 MEETING

The competing candidates in two important races at the November 6 election will speak at the Cabin John Citizens Association meeting on Tuesday, November 23, at 8 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center.

On state issues, the candidates will be Charles F. Chester (D) and Howard A. Denis (R) who are running for the State Senate. On county issues, the debate will be between Marilyn Goldwater (D) and Betty Ann Krahnke (R), candidates for the County Council from the first Councilmanic district.

All voters in Cabin John are welcome to come to question the candidates about issues of particular concern to them.



## THE VILLAGE NEWS

is published monthly except in July and December and is sent free to every Cabin John household. Others may subscribe for \$5 a year. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818. Next deadline: 10 a.m., November 17. Volunteer staff: Andy Rice, editor (229-3503); Cherry Doyle, design and lay-out; Clare Amoruso, advertising and subscriptions (320-2685); Barbara and Reed Martin, mailing; Dan Blum, Production.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CABIN JOHN: NEWS OF OUR COMMUNITY

...Coming up on Saturday, November 17, are two community events. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the annual **Holiday Craft Fair** will take place at the **Cabin John United Methodist Church**, 77th Street and MacArthur. For all the details, contact Jean Maggio at 229-6301. On the same day, the **Cabin John Post Office** will hold an **Open House**. Mail postmarked on that day will receive a very special cancellation showing the Union Arch Bridge and giving important dates in Cabin John history. Anyone interested in displaying historic items during the Open House should get in touch with any employee at the Post Office.

...A combined **Thanksgiving Eve service** will take place on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the **Cabin John United Methodist Church**, bringing together the congregations of that church and the **Gibson Grove A.M.E. Zion Church**. There will be music by the Gibson Grove Senior Choir and Cabin John

Adult Choir. The sermon will be by the Rev. Joseph A. Davis of Gibson Grove, and the offering will go to the Maryland Food Committee. All are welcome.

...Famed nature photographer Bates Littlehales will be in Cabin John on Saturday, October 20, at the **Cabin John Wild Bird Center** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. He will autograph copies of his new book of bird photographs "Bird Watch," and will answer questions on bird photography from interested amateurs.

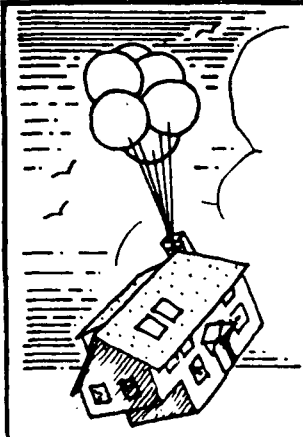
...The **Bethesda Co-op** will celebrate its 15th anniversary on Saturday, November 3, with a Mexican dinner, music, and games. The event will be held at the River Road Unitarian Church. The following weekend, on Sunday, November 11, the Co-op will sponsor a "Run for Life," a 10K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run for the benefit of Whitman Walker Clinic; the event will start at 9 a.m. Full information on both events is available from the Co-op in the Mac-

Arthur Plaza Shopping Center.

...A shortage of volunteers has held up completion of the **Cabin John Community Directory**, but a fall publication date is still expected. To offer a helping hand on the final details of this useful directory of people and services in Cabin John, call Gerry Quinn at 229-8030.

...The owners of the **MacArthur Plaza Shopping Center** have taken to Montgomery County Circuit Court the decision of the Board of Appeals denying variances for building a new structure larger than permitted under current zoning laws. Cabin Johners may be called as witnesses.

...The **Cabin John Recreation Center** has announced that the start of the Senior Program, scheduled for September 25, has been postponed due to the illness of Susan Keane. However, seniors are welcome to drop in any day after 1:30 p.m. to play cards, table tennis or billiards.



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## OVERSEAS HOLIDAY MAIL DEADLINES SET

Because of the heavy load on U.S. air and shipping transportation engaged in equipping U.S. forces overseas, the Post Office has urged that packages going overseas for holiday delivery be mailed earlier than usual. Cabin John Postmaster LaVerne Baptist has announced that the deadline for Christmas parcels via airmail is November 16 for the Middle East and Southeast Asia, with somewhat later dates for other regions. For a full schedule of mailing deadlines, check with the Post Office.

(Continued from page 1)

At the September meeting, there was vigorous discussion of what should be done about motorists who pass on the right on MacArthur Boulevard by running up on the bike path/

sidewalk. Suggestions of various kinds of barriers were made and are now being presented by CJCA President Taffy Kingscott to the County Department of Transportation.

Concerned about property assessments? Taxes? Budget deficits?

Worried about speeding on MacArthur Boulevard? Library closings?

In favor of -- or opposed to -- a longer school year?

What's your state or county issue?

You'll have a chance to raise it at the

## **CABIN JOHN CANDIDATES FORUM**

on **TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 23**, starting at **8 p.m.**

at the **Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Boulevard in Cabin John**

On the platform will be two sets of candidates:

Candidates for the State Senate in Annapolis from our 16th Legislative District:

**Charles F. Chester (Dem.)**

**Howard A. Denis (Rep.)**

Candidates for the County Council from the newly established 1st Council District:

**Marilyn Goldwater (Dem.)**

**Betty Ann Krahnke (Rep.)**

Each Senate candidate will speak for 7 minutes, after which there will be time for questions and comments from the audience, with each candidate given 2 minutes for a concluding statement.

Then each Council candidate will speak and the same procedure will be followed.

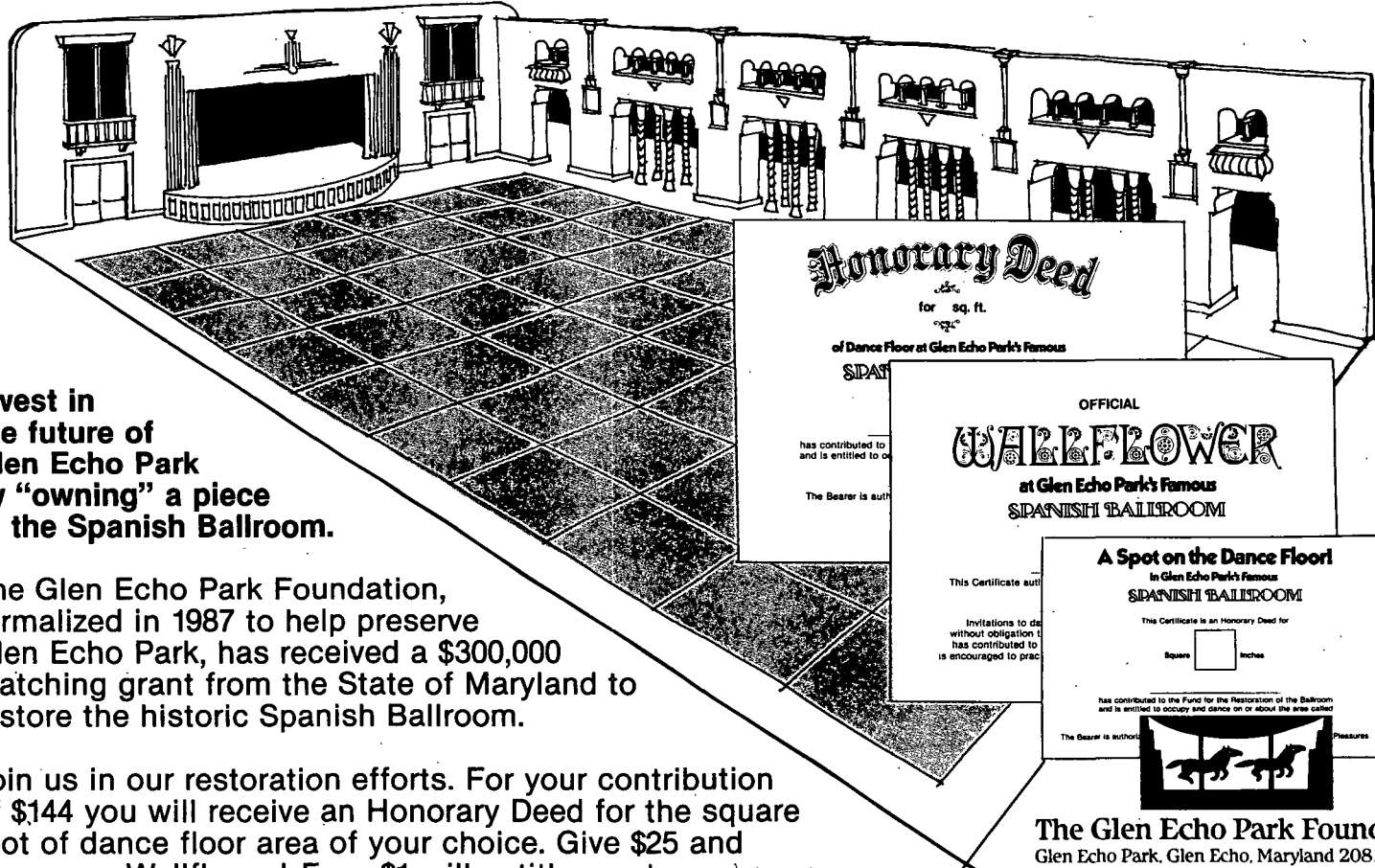
Remember, Election Day is November 6. You'll be better able to vote if you come to hear the candidates, find out what they stand for, and ask them questions directly. This your chance right here in Cabin John on October 23!

(Sponsored by the Cabin John Citizens Association)

# Own a Spot on the Dance Floor!

## And Help Restore Glen Echo Park's Famous

# SPANISH BALLROOM



Invest in the future of Glen Echo Park by "owning" a piece of the Spanish Ballroom.

The Glen Echo Park Foundation, formalized in 1987 to help preserve Glen Echo Park, has received a \$300,000 matching grant from the State of Maryland to restore the historic Spanish Ballroom.

Join us in our restoration efforts. For your contribution of \$144 you will receive an Honorary Deed for the square foot of dance floor area of your choice. Give \$25 and become a Wallflower! Even \$1 will entitle you to own a square inch of the Ballroom floor. Buy several, they make great gifts!

The Glen Echo Park Foundation  
Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812

320-2330

## Help Restore Glen Echo Park's Famous Spanish Ballroom

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I would like \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft. or \_\_\_\_\_ sq. in.  
 in \_\_\_\_\_ (dance name)  
 OR send me a deed for space  
 in \_\_\_\_\_ (flower name).

I have enclosed my check made payable to the Glen Echo Park Foundation.

Mail your check with this form to the Glen Echo Park Foundation, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, Maryland 20812. We will send your certificates by return mail. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>DANCE SQUARES</b><br/>                 Big Apple<br/>                 Black Bottom<br/>                 Bop<br/>                 Boogaloo<br/>                 Bossa Nova<br/>                 Breakdance<br/>                 Bump<br/>                 Bunny Hop<br/>                 Cajun<br/>                 Ceili<br/>                 Cha Cha<br/>                 Charleston<br/>                 Cheat 'er Swing<br/>                 Chorus Jig<br/>                 Clog<br/>                 Conga<br/>                 Cotton-eyed Joe<br/>                 Da Butt<br/>                 Farmer's Daughter<br/>                 Flamenco<br/>                 Flying Dutchman<br/>                 Fox Trot<br/>                 Frug<br/>                 Glen Echo Reel</p> | <p>Grand Promenade<br/>                 Hambo<br/>                 Hand Jive<br/>                 Hokey Pokey<br/>                 Hora<br/>                 Hustle<br/>                 Jerk<br/>                 Jig<br/>                 Jitterbug<br/>                 Kerry Set<br/>                 Lancers' Quadrille<br/>                 Lindy<br/>                 Madison<br/>                 Mambo<br/>                 Mashed Potato<br/>                 Merengue<br/>                 Mexican Hat Dance<br/>                 Passages<br/>                 Polka<br/>                 Pony<br/>                 Rock 'n Roll<br/>                 Rory O'More<br/>                 Rumba<br/>                 Schottische<br/>                 Samba</p> | <p>Shadrach's Delight<br/>                 Shuffle<br/>                 Smoke on the Water<br/>                 Strathspey<br/>                 Stroll<br/>                 Swing<br/>                 Symmetrical Fours<br/>                 Tango<br/>                 Texas Two-Step<br/>                 Threes and Sevens<br/>                 Truckin'<br/>                 Twist<br/>                 Two-Step<br/>                 Waltz<br/>                 Watusi<br/>                 Western Swing</p> <p><b>WALLFLOWERS</b><br/>                 Gardenia<br/>                 Orchid<br/>                 Carnation<br/>                 Rose<br/>                 Camellia</p> |
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## Own a Spot on the Dance Floor!

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- They remind you that you love to dance.
- Give a certificate to your hostess when you go visiting.
- Or one to your partner to remind that you love to dance.
- Stuff stockings with Ballroom certificates.
- Frame them and hang them on the wall.
- Certificates encourage memories of dance-filled evenings.
- They are strong hints to your non-dancing partner.
- Send a Ballroom certificate to an old dancing partner.
- Remind someone of those good times you had together at Glen Echo — make the memory a reality.



Other cities have allowed halls like the Spanish Ballroom to disappear, losing both period architecture and the joys of social dancing. The Glen Echo Park Foundation has mobilized to ensure that this won't happen in Washington. "Purchase" a square foot of the historic dance floor and join us in preserving our historic Spanish Ballroom. Be a real Washingtonian and help restore one of our area's most unsung landmarks.

The People of Cabin John**KATHY SIEFKEN: HELPING KIDS AGAINST THE ODDS**

By Barbara Martin

Kathy Siefken has spent her adult life giving a boost to children who have difficulty with basic life skills--reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The youngest of four sisters raised on Chicago's South Side, Kathy won a scholarship to the University of Illinois where she majored in special education, with an emphasis on learning disabilities. As president of the women's council, she found herself frequently working with the president of the men's council, David Siefken. "We became good friends first, and fell in love second."

At graduation, Kathy and David set out a life plan: they would marry, they would work and save, they would start their family, they would get their Master's degrees together. "I wanted David to further his career and I wanted to go ahead with mine too. I wasn't going to be a wife who works to send her husband to graduate school. We both worked--for 3 years--and then we both got our Master's degrees in Florida. Amy was a brand-new baby when we went to Florida, and we juggled things around together."

From Florida the family moved back to Chicago to be near the grandparents. Kathy worked for the Hinsdale school system as a resource teacher for the learning-disabled.

In 1979 when David took a Federal government job dealing with nuclear waste, the Siefkens--now expanded with son Chris--moved to Gaithersburg. They put pre-schooler Chris in a Montessori school and within 2 months Kathy was teaching there. "The next year I worked part-time for Montgomery County schools working with learning-disabled kids, and then I took a year to go back for classes in supervision and administration at Montgomery College and Maryland U."

In 1986 the Siefkens moved to Cabin John. "We loved our Gaithersburg neighborhood but fighting the 270 traffic every day was wearing us out." They bought a new "Victorian" house on Tomlinson Terrace.

Now Kathy works fulltime at Oakland Terrace Elementary School in Silver Spring. She has her own resource room, but moves to various classrooms to work with small groups, often on the same lesson, but giving extra help and encouragement.

There are divisions within the field of special education. Kathy's specialty is learning disabilities. "Learning-disabled" means that there is a significant discrepancy between a child's ability and performance. Unlike a "slow learner" whose IQ is below average, a learning-disabled child has average intelligence but is not doing average school work. Some years back, kids who couldn't keep up, for whatever reason, were separated into their own classes. But when Congress decreed that all children should be educated "in the least restrictive environment," learning-disabled children came into the regular classrooms, and resource teachers like Kathy give those children extra help and support. Now in Montgomery County, every elementary, junior high and senior high school has a fulltime resource teacher. Junior and senior high schools often have three or four teachers.

Kathy has this to say about special education programs in our county. "Montgomery County does a wonderful job of working with kids and parents. Very few kids are missed or misdiagnosed. The system is extremely responsive to kids' needs. The county provides all students with periodic screening procedures to identify learning problems. Both achievement tests and teachers' observations spot learning problems. Some students identify themselves through their behaviors; they act up, turn off, or play around because of learning problems. Mild problems can usually be overcome as teachers individualize instruction and activities, and as parents confer and cooperate with teachers. But if academic or behavioral concerns persist, a teacher will bring these concerns to the school's Educational Management Team (EMT). Team members include the principal, reading teacher, counselor, nurse, classroom teacher, resource teacher, and speech and language teacher. The parent is a participating team member too.

"The team discusses concerns and works out strategies to make school a successful experience for the student. Often it takes several conferences over time, plus a screening meeting and an evaluation meeting, before the child's special help program is mapped out. This is a necessary but lengthy procedure, sometimes frustrating to the parents who want to get results right away. But the procedure is to protect the children, to be sure of the right diagnosis."

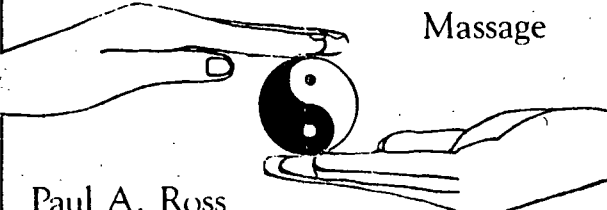
A big part of Kathy's job is as a partner in the EMT. She does the educational testing--giving the child a group of standardized

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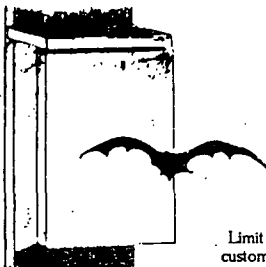
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achievement tests in math, reading,  
written language, and perceptual tests.

Many learning disabilities are classified as reading problems; Kathy spends 4 hours a day working with children on these. One common difficulty is visual discrimination--getting b's and d's, p's and q's mixed. About 7 percent of the U.S. population has difficulty learning to read. Americans have trouble doing math too, in about the same percentage. But there is a difference in the source of the difficulty. Since math is like a ladder, if you don't learn basic math operations from the beginning, you won't be able to do more complicated math functions. So Kathy helps kids who somehow missed learning the math they should have mastered in second, third, and fourth grades; she catches them up so they can do what their classmates are doing.

Kathy is aware that school children today, in general, are often shortchanged on the kinds of activities that develop reading and writing. "Because the county demands so much in the curriculum--social skills, health education, etc.--such things as basic printing and handwriting don't get a lot of time. When a child hasn't developed the fine motor skills needed for forming letters clearly and easily, that child can dread or avoid writing. Kids tend to answer questions with a word or two, instead of in complete sentences. Without practice, the ability to express oneself in writing suffers. But there isn't time for everything we'd like our children to learn; school days are crowded. Often the parents, who are supposed to oversee homework, don't know just what the teachers want."

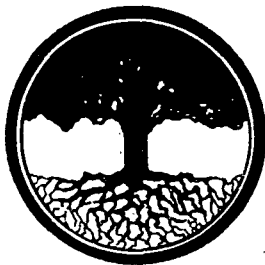
Does Kathy enjoy her work? "Oh yes, the field of special education is always changing. We're much more enlightened now as to how to diagnose and remedy a problem. The old idea was that if you needed special education, you were dumb. But the new idea is that learning disabilities can and should be taken care of, and there is a great demand from parents for that extra attention for their kids. I like being able to help children succeed in their classrooms. It's definitely a team effort; I spend a lot of time evaluating and planning with each classroom teacher. And since they're busy during all the school day, I go early, stay late, and spend most Sunday evenings on the phone--working things out with the teacher for the best support we can give a child. I'm doing what I have always wanted to do."

**UP AND DOWN**

**MacARTHUR BOULEVARD...**

...Glen Echo Park's parking lot will undergo reconstruction before long; the work is expected to take at least six months, which may make events which require major parking difficult to hold at the park. Minnehaha Creek (whose flooding damaged the lot last year) will be left open and crossed by a wooden bridge from the parking area.

...Sunday, October 21, is Hazardous Waste Cleanup Day in Montgomery County. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day, the County Solid Waste Transfer Stations (Route 355 and Shady Grove Road) will accept insecticides, herbicides, pesticides, paint thinner, gasoline, kerosene, antifreeze, oil-based paints, brake fluid, photographic chemicals, chemistry sets and other potentially toxic materials (but not latex paint, radioactive materials, asbestos, or compressed gas cylinders).



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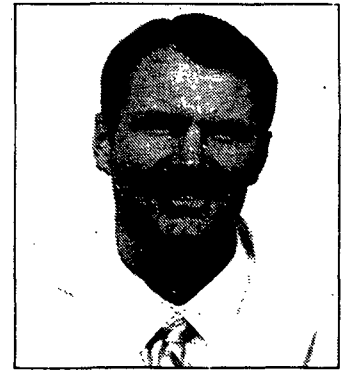
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