

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 24, Number 9

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND

May 1991

MAC ARTHUR SQUARE UPDATE

After extensive discussions, community representatives drew up a list of priorities concerning the development of Mac Arthur Square. On May 14, Bob Wilkoff, Sherri Stahl and Taffy Kingscott met with Garrett and Smith to discuss our priorities. The developers agreed to provide a detailed response to our proposals after they had re-searched the issues involved. At the time of publication we are awaiting their response. Please come to the Citizens Association meeting on Tuesday, May 28 to get the latest news. While we hope to have a draft agreement for the review of Association by that time, it is too early to fully predict an outcome at this moment (5/17/91).

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS SLATE

The Citizens Association has had a very busy and successful year. Highlights include the crab feast which raised the largest amount of funds ever, the always-fun Christmas party, the establishment of a committee to respond to the potential development of the Captain's Market, an emotionally charged meeting regarding that proposal, and the ongoing debate over the future of the Mac Arthur Square site. Given the volume of activity, the community is very grateful for the efforts of the officers of the Citizens Association, particularly Bob Wilkoff, whose professional excellence has made a huge difference in our dealings with both the County and the Mac Arthur Square developers.

We are fortunate to have a mixture of both current officers and new people who are willing to serve as officers for the 1991-1992 season. Bob Greenberg and Kathy Siefken are "retiring" as officers. Gordon Hugo, our treasurer, has moved to New York State, where he has taken a job with IBM. The proposed slate of officers for the upcoming year is: President, Taffy Kingscott; 1st Vice President, Adriana Klich; 2nd Vice President, Helen Daniel; 3rd Vice President, Maureen Willoughby; Secretary, Cathy Nelson; Treasurer, Joe Hugo; Land Use Chairman, Bob Wilkoff. These officers and any other suggestions will be voted upon at the upcoming meeting. Please plan to attend.



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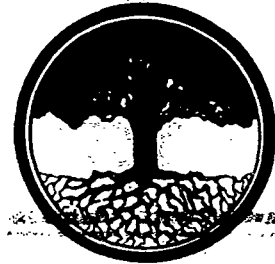
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THE VILLAGE NEWS

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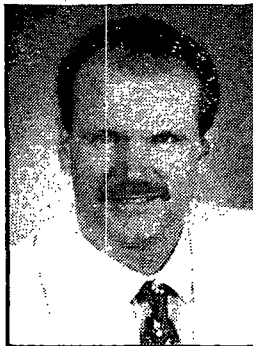
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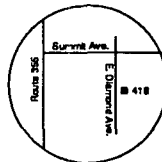
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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN
CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
September 1991 - August 1992**

The Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) is mounting its annual membership drive early this year for two reasons: (1) we would like to create a complete membership roster for the 1991-1992 year, and (2) there are several important issues which need the community's support.

We hope that all Cabin John residents will renew or join the association by returning the membership application below.

Cabin John Citizens Association
Membership Application
September 1991 - August 1992

Name(s) (please print): -----

Address: ----- Zip Code: -----

Phone Number: ----- New Member? _____ Renewal? _____

Type of Membership: Family/Household (\$10) _____ Individual (\$7) _____

Subjects or Projects of Interest? -----

Additional Donations? CJCA _____ Village News _____ Other _____

Mail to: Cabin John Citizens Association
P.O. 31
Cabin John, Maryland 20818

For Additional Information:
Taffy Kingscott, President,
229-8135; Joe Hugo,
Treasurer, 229-9256.

NEW CABIN JOHN T-SHIRT!

SEE OTHER SIDE

The People of Cabin John**JERRY SHAW: WHEN CABIN JOHN WAS YOUNG**

It would be hard to find someone with more roots in Cabin John than Jerry Shaw. She was born here a mere 70 years ago, but her parents, grandparents, and other relatives were here before then.

When Jerry's parents married (1912), they lived for a short time in N.E. Washington while their house "in the country" was being built. Jerry Redden was born in the house on what was then Woodrow Avenue. (Today the street is 79th.) Across Conduit Road (named MacArthur Boulevard after World War II) was the Dennis Tuoheys' store--and home. They had a grocery store in a portion of their home and lived in the remainder.

Isabelle Redden, Jerry's mother, raised 250 white leghorn chickens, hatching them in a Sears Roebuck brooder that operated on kerosene. Her father, Gene, an optical instrument maker, worked at the Washington Navy Yard. Twice a week he would set out for work with a basket of eggs on his arm, to sell to fellow workers. Mr. Redden travelled to work on the streetcar that came up to the east side of the Union Arch Bridge. The streetcars stopped running in D.C. and Maryland in the mid-1950's.

"There was no electricity in Cabin John, and Dad went to Pepco, where he was told he would have to enroll 15 houses and that they would require a \$15 fee from each home. There were that many houses in the community then, but not everyone could afford the fee. My Grandmother Case offered to pay for those who couldn't. And so we got electricity."

When Jerry was five, her father built a new home--a Sears Roebuck kit house--located at the east corner of Conduit Road and Woodrow Avenue. (This is the house owned by the Worshams for 50 years and lived in today by Uva Worsham Cable.)

Conduit Road was paved, but all the side streets were cinders--a material easy to come by since most households and businesses heated with coal.

When the Dennis Tuoheys died, their son Dave, who inherited the store, rented it to the Harry Williams family, who had two daughters. For the first time, Jerry had a girl for a playmate. Meanwhile she had acquired a Shetland pony and four ducks to join her dog and cat that had grown up with her. Her dad was about to build another house.

Mr. Redden's grandmother, Sarah Pennifield, had come to the United States from England as an 11-year-old. She lived in Washington and when grown became a graduate mid-wife who attended Mrs. Grover Cleveland when the president's first baby was born in the White House. President Cleveland was so appreciative of her services, he appointed Mrs. Pennifield the first police matron of the Washington, D.C. police force. "My great-grandmother was a feisty little lady, and on retirement she tried living with each of her daughters, but didn't get along with them. She asked my father if she could come live with us. Instead, Dad built her a little house of her own on the rear of our backyard. It was just three rooms with an outdoor privy. She ate most of her meals with us." After great-grandmother died at 97, the house was bought by the Bill Shuffs and then the Everett Morgals. That house (6433 79th Street) is now occupied by Larry Massett.

"Many neighbors had a garden and most people had chickens. We had chickens and four pigs. No one else around us had pigs, but my grandparents had two unimproved lots--all woods--and the pigs were maintained well away from any homes. Each spring my dad and granddad bought four piglets to be butchered in the fall. My mother canned and preserved. Each fall J.E. Dyer in Georgetown delivered a barrel of flour and a quantity of sugar to our house. Mother kept her pantry well stocked. We shopped in Georgetown for other staples. For immediate needs Mom would send me to Tuohey's store. The Tuoheys had lots of penny candy. My favorites were the small chocolate-covered caramels at five for a penny.

"In the summer we always ate our meals on our rear screened porch. We had a wooden-slat swing at the end of the porch."

Children in the area attended school on Wilson Lane (in the area of today's Presbyterian Church) but a new school was planned in Cabin John. There was a rivalry between the communities of Glen Echo and Cabin John because each wanted the school site in their neighborhood. Since Cabin John was chosen for the site, a compromise was reached, and the school was named Glen Echo Cabin John. The school opened in 1928 with grades 1 through 8; kindergarten was not offered them. Children were brought by bus from Brookmont, River Road, and Glen Echo.

"Though I was eligible to start school in 1927, my dad decreed I was not going to cross Union Arch Bridge (two-way traffic at that time) to get to school. We did not have bus pickup as we were less than a mile from the school. He felt I could wait for the new school opening. The Tuoheys and Bakers made the same decision."

Sometime during the late 1920's, the Army Corps of Engineers raised the level of Conduit Road about six feet. The Redden's house, which had been level with the road, had to be terraced. "Many of the homes along the conduit on the south side were affected much worse than we were. My dad, however, was a perfectionist, and he disliked his lowered front yard. In a few years when Dave Tuohey dedicated land for the firehouse (which was totally volunteer), my father bought a lot on Conduit Road on the north side (now 7707 MacArthur).

"Mother and Dad decided on a stone house for their third home. It was complete in 1932. I was 11. That same year the Cabin John Hotel (formerly run by the Bobbingers and located where Ericsson Road is now) burned to the ground. My mom awakened me in the middle of the night to watch out the window. The flames were wild-looking, even though we were blocks away. It had been in terrible shape for years and much of it had collapsed.

"Mrs. Bobbinger, a widow, operated a little stand outside her house and somewhat of a taxi service from the end of the streetcar line to wherever you wanted to go in Cabin John. When my grandmother and I returned from shopping downtown, it was great to have Mrs. Bobbinger drive us home for 25 cents."

Jerry's grandparents operated the historic tavern at Great Falls. They leased it from the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company and opened it during an extended summer season. "There were 28 rooms, two baths, no central heat; for electricity they operated a Delco generator plant. There was no inside stairway, so guests had to go outside to go to bed. Fireplaces were in every room, but they didn't work. The tavern was built in 1828; my granddad, Will Case, was born there in 1859. In the flood of 1937, there was four feet of water in the building. On nice weekends, before the season started, I would go up there with

my grandparents to open the stand. We sold sandwiches, hot dogs, sodas, candy, cigarettes. When the tavern opened to guests, my grandmother served a full-course combination dinner of fried chicken and sea bass for \$1.50. She had hired help in her kitchen and waiters to serve, but she always did the cooking herself. She had a frying pan large enough to hold four cut-up chickens. All the cooking was done on a coal range.

From 1936 to 1940, the Reddens took over the tavern from the grandparents. The family would move to Great Falls in April and stay until early November. Every day Jerry's father made the trip to the Washington Navy Yard and Jerry travelled to Western High School at 35th and R Streets, N.W. She was in the B-CC High School area, but children living outside Washington were allowed to attend D.C. schools if a parent worked for the federal government. "Ruby Lynch and I took the streetcar and then walked seven blocks to Western. It was a fine academic high school. Western celebrated its 50th anniversary the year I graduated in 1940.

"Eventually we got a telephone at Great Falls, a party line with about 18 families on it. The C&O Canal Company gave us 30 days' notice in December 1940 to vacate the property because the federal government had bought it. We had 28 rooms of furniture to dispose of in cold December."

After Western and Strayers Business College, Jerry got a probational appointment at the Washington Navy Yard.

At David Taylor she was head secretary for the Aerodynamics Laboratory. In 1946, young Win Shaw, newly discharged from the Air Force, came to the Model Basin to test models in the wind tunnel. Win was a Chevy Chase boy; he and Jerry had lived five miles apart all their lives but had never met. Their first date was sledding on the hills of Bannockburn Golf Course. In three months they were engaged.

The newlyweds lived in the stone house on what is now MacArthur Boulevard, and when Jerry's parents returned from Norfolk in 1949, Mr. Redden built the young couple a house around the corner from Jerry's birthplace.

"Win dug the drywell by hand, nine feet in diameter and 13 feet deep. With all that digging, Win was getting thin while I was getting fat—we had a baby on the way.

(Continued on page 6)

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(Continued from page 4)

My dad finished the house on August 12, I resigned my job, and Karen arrived September 9. Stephen, our son, was born three years later."

Jerry was active in P-TA for ten years when Karen and Steve attended the renamed Clara Barton School. In 1962 she returned to David Taylor part-time. In 1971 she transferred to NIMH.

In 1983, she retired with 33 years' service, five years after that Win retired from the Air and Space Museum at Smithsonian.

The Shaws spent many years in active community effort. "For 20 years we opposed all attempts to commercialize Cabin John.

We kept busy by proposed high rises, in-door paddle courts, nursing homes, and high-density townhouses. All this interest in Cabin John was a result of open spaces available and the completion of the new Beltway. The Citizens Association approved by vote that the Cabin John Gardens homes be offered for sale to the residents living there, rather than be demolished. Once they were purchased by the residents, they formed a co-op and soon after were approached by developers with high promises of wealth. Our community was divided by all the proposals offered. The 'for' and 'against' votes were very close at times."

Jerry and Win have their granddaughters, Allison and Lisa, most Saturdays, keep a beautiful flower garden, and are members of Hermon Presbyterian Church on Persimmon Tree Lane. "My dad's parents were married at Hermon before the church was completed in 1874, Dad attended Hermon with his family, and he and Mother were married there. I was christened there and so were Karen, Stephen, and Steve's son, David."

You can't get much more tied to a community than is Geraldine Redden Shaw.

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CABIN JOHN VILLAGE NEWS
1990-1991 TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME

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Donations	20.00
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Subscriptions	65.00
Crab Feast Proceeds	500.00
Checking Account Interest	<u>123.95</u>
 TOTAL INCOME	 \$2,957.75

EXPENDITURES

P.O. Box Rental	28.00
Labels	190.58
Printing of Village News	2,168.56
Mailing of Village News	1,109.66
Bulk Mail Permit	75.00
Typing	32.00
Postage Stamps	6.12
Miscellaneous	<u>16.50</u>
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	 \$3,626.42

Net Income for September 1, 1990 through August 31, 1991	(668.67)
Balance forwarded from August 31, 1990	\$2,660.48
Balance on Hand August 31, 1991	\$1,991.81

Submitted by:

Clare Amoruso
Business Manager