

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 27 No. 5

Serving the people of Cabin John and Beyond

January 1994

Christmas Party

by Lori Rieckelman, Christmas Party Co-Chairperson

The Cabin John Annual Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 12 at the Cabin John United Methodist Church. It was an afternoon filled with fun and activities—we heard stories, sang Christmas Carols, played games, ate delicious goodies, and had a surprise visit from Santa! A wonderful time was had by all.

Special thank-you's to many people for making this event happen: Rene Riley-Adams for her energy, time and creativity in co-coordinating this party; Cathie Nelsen for arranging and transporting the Christmas tree and to Mark Wilcher for donating the beautiful live tree (that will be planted on the church grounds as soon as the ground thaws); the Cabin John- Brookmont pre-school 3 and 4 year olds and their teachers for entertaining us with carols; Maureen Willoughby for her enthusiastic reading of our traditional Christmas story; Judie and Fred Mopsik and Harry Rieckelman for setting up the room, and cleaning it up afterwards; and last but not least, to our Santa, Andy Rice, who did such a tremendous job ho, ho, ho-ing!



Citizen's Association Meeting

7:30 PM, January 25 — *Be There!*

by Fred Mopsik

The next meeting of the Cabin John Citizen Association will be devoted to reports on the latest twists to the MacArthur Plaza shopping center battle and a report on the proposed Montgomery County ordinance establishing standards for implementing traffic control procedures in any neighborhood. Both of these issues are of continuing importance for our community.

Recently, Judie and I have been asked to serve on a citizens advisory panel for future proposed sewer construction. We have just received the first report on the proposals and they will be presented at the meeting. If there are any residents that have any familiarity with the past history with respect to impacts on our community, please come and share your experiences so that we can better defend against any adverse impacts on Cabin John.

At this time we would like to thank Lori Rieckelman for organizing the Christmas Party. Her article on it appears elsewhere in the Village News. Also, we would like to thank Larry Dean of Proteus, Ralph Osborne of The Market on the Boulevard, Jean Badalamenti of the Coop, Inge Engel and Lucy Waldstein of the Elegant Needle, and Harry Ahn of the Firehouse Cleaners for making excellent presentations to our community at the last meeting. Everyone present learned a great deal about our local businesses and the exchange between the business people and the members present was beneficial to all. We all learned that issues of traffic and parking are as much an issue to the businesses as to us. The Coop has written a letter to the County requesting a stop sign from the parking lot onto Seven Locks Road.

Glen Echo Park Scene

Adventure Theater presents *James and the Giant Peach* through February 20 on weekends at 1:30 and 3:30 PM. Tickets are \$4.50. For more information call 320-5331.

The Puppet Company performing every Wednesday and Thursday 10 & 11:30 am, and most Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am, 1 & 2 pm, tickets \$4, is presenting *The Magic of Hans Cristian Andersen* from February 2 through 27. For more information call 320-6668.

The Glen Echo Gallery is currently featuring paintings by Cathie Nelsen through January 27.

People of Cabin John

Olga Long

by Barbara Martin

Olga Long was born 83 years ago in Northeast Washington D.C. "It was on Trinidad Avenue, near Bladensburg and Mt. Olivet Roads. There were nine houses on our street and all around us were woods. Gude Brothers Nursery was just across the street. We used to play on Mulligan's Hill--the highest point of land in Washington. Later I found out the official name was Mt. Hamilton. We camped and fished in the Eastern Branch, which was later called the Anacostia River."

Olga was one of six children, next to the oldest. Her father worked for C&P Telephone Co. for 50 years as an installer and repairman. Olga remembers when Washington telephone numbers were three digits. "Ours was 1-2-3." Her father was chosen to go to Norfolk to install the first rotary phones. Until then, all calls were operator-handled.

Wheatley Elementary was Olga's grade school, and then she went to Eastern High--the first one in her family to go to high school. She followed a business course and graduated in 1927. In her first job, Olga worked Monday through Friday, plus half-day on Saturday, for an insurance company. Her salary was \$7 a week. Later she worked for National Radio Institute, a company that sold correspondence courses in building and servicing radios.

In 1935, she married Bernie Long, the boy next door. "We knew each other since I was 11 and he was 12. I had a double wedding with my sister, and we were standing up for each other. The minister got so mixed up he almost married me to my brother-in-law."

The newlyweds didn't take a honeymoon, but instead put a down payment on a house on R Street, just

off Bladensburg Road. "A year later, the woods across the street was fenced in and became the Washington Arboretum."

Bernard was a stonecutter for Corson Gruman. He cut granite curbstones--a trade he learned from his father. "In those days, all the Washington curbs were made from granite. Now they're cement." After they moved to Cabin John, Bernie would bring home leftover pieces of granite; the stone walls around their property were made by him from those pieces.

In 1943, their daughter, Barbara, was born. Soon after Olga's father died, her mother became paralyzed, and Olga and Bernie took her into their home. They needed more room, and a co-worker of Bernie's urged them to come out to his town--Cabin John, Maryland. They found the house they wanted at the corner of MacArthur and 79th Place, a house they bought from Helen Bissett. "It was hard to leave our honeymoon house, but we loved being out here in the country."

Bernie discovered Hermit's Island (opposite Brickyard Road) and was soon spending weekends camping and fishing there. Usually friends went with him and sometimes Boy Scouts or neighborhood boys. A few years ago, a man came by and told Olga how much those weekends had meant to him when he was a youngster in Cabin John. "Mr. Long was so good to all us boys. He was more a father to me than my own father."

Bernie and his friends built a fireplace, a table and benches, and a cabinet attached to a tree. Then they got more ambitious and built a shack to sleep in. Offutt Island is Federal Government land, but things were pretty informal back then. However,

when a Cabin John youth drowned in the Potomac (not when Bernie and his friends were there), the writeup in the newspaper referred to the location as Long's Island. Soon after, the Interior Department made an inspection and notified the Longs that the shack would have to come down. But the fishing and the camping went on for 20 years. "They rigged up a strong rope over the side of a 60' cliff, and they liked to go down that way. It was a beautiful island."

Although she was born and raised a Lutheran, Olga joined the Cabin John Methodist Church because it was so convenient. "The parsonage was built the year we moved here--1949--and Mr. Holden was the minister. I guess we've had 20 or more ministers since then." For 23 years, Olga was treasurer of the Sunday School, and was a member of the Women's Society for 40 years. For the last 20 years she has been secretary of membership for the church. "I think you have to die to give up a job at the church."

Daughter Barbara went to school at Clara Barton, then went to Walter Johnson High School. Olga remembers when the school bus stopped in front of "the soda fountain," (later a laundromat, now the vet's). "Sometimes the bus wouldn't come and a lot of the kids thought that was great--they wouldn't have to go to school that day. But I always got out the car and drove Barbara to school."

She recalls when the present Wild Bird Center building housed Candey's grocery store and the post office. Tuohey's bar and restaurant was a block away from the Longs. "When we first moved in, we couldn't get telephone service right away; when I needed to make a call, I had to go into Tuohey's with the beer

Olga Long *con'd from page 2*

smell and the jukebox playing."

"The fire department had wonderful parades every Fourth of July. There was a group of Cabin John girls who drilled as a baton-twirling team and marched in the parades. Barbara was one of them. I think I still have her old batons."

When Olga names her friends from 40 years ago, you hear many of the old Cabin John names: Mrs. Blandford, the Camplairs ("They had horses, and they sold the milk from their goats"), the Lejkos, Mrs. Neidert, Dorothy Helen Nelson who had the beauty shop, the Carlocks ("They kept horses in their front field"), Nettie Mae Burgess who brought flowers to Olga's mother,

Mr. Holloway, the Totoros, the Springmanns who gave her a sequoia magnolia that grows in the yard today.

Olga has always been an enthusiastic gardener. "We bought a double lot, and that back property was just a jungle. But we cleared the brush and put in tiered flower gardens. Some of the little azaleas we put in are 6' tall and even wider now."

During her years of homemaking, gardening, working at church, Olga was caring for her bedridden mother. Her mother lived 20 years after her stroke and Olga, alone, took care of her. "She was a heavy woman, over 200 pounds. When she was in the hospital, I saw four nurses together turning her over. I used to do it by myself."

Bernie developed Parkinson's disease in 1981 and died seven years later. The Longs had been married almost 53 years.

Olga's sister lives in Camp Springs. "I talk to her every night. We're the only ones left."

Her daughter lives on the Eastern Shore and visits often. Her son-in-law has just installed a new furnace for Olga. One grandson, Timothy Gardner is in Ellicott City. Her other

grandson, Richard Gardner, is in Delaware, and there is a great-granddaughter, Aleicha. Another great-grandchild is on the way and Olga is planning to make a quilt for the baby.

Olga's handiwork is everywhere in her house. A quilt in the Cathedral Window pattern, pillows, embroidery, crocheting, and paintings. "They're just paint-by-the-numbers, but I think they're right pretty."

She drives her '69 Chevy to the store and to doctors' appointments.

"That was the first new car I ever had, and it's still chugging along, just like me."

Her health is good. "My knees bother me some. And then a few years back I hurt my shoulder and I have a pin in there. When the weather changes, I feel some aches. That's just weather bones. I can't complain."

Olga Long is a strong woman, a woman who has met life with courage and patience and faith, a neighbor to be proud of.

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THE VILLAGE NEWS PEOPLE

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 per year. Please send news, ads, letters and subscriptions to:

The VILLAGE NEWS
P.O. Box 164,
Cabin John, MD 20818.

The next deadline is 10 am., Saturday February 12, 1994.

Volunteers for this issue:

Editor: Lauren Forestell

Contributing Editors: Fred & Judy Mopsik
Barbara Martin

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Business Manager: Clare Amoruso

Production: Dan Blum

Mailing: Barbara and Reed Martin

Join the Fun of Putting Out the Village News

Clare Amoruso, the Village News business manager is looking for someone to take over her position. The business manager handles the classified and display ads, subscriptions for non-residents, prepares an annual financial statement, and keeps the checking account in order. These duties take approximately 3 hours per month. It gives you an opportunity to support your community during hours of your choosing.

If you can balance your checkbook, this could be the job for you!! If you are interested, call Clare at 320-2685.

'Round Town ...

Gerry Shaw is home from the hospital recovering from her recent surgery. Get well soon, Gerry.

...

Andrew Vogt, son of former CICA President Susan, graduated from Carnegie-Mellon last year and is now working as prop director for Mister Roger's Neighborhood. Can you say "Good work, Mr. Vogt"?

...

The Cabin John-Brookmont Children's Program located in Brookmont is a pre-school for 3 and 4 year olds, and is accepting applications for fall of '94. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 12:30 pm. For more information, call 320-6780 or 229-5872.

...

The Glen Echo Park Gallery hosted an opening reception January 7 for *The View from Here*, a collection of paintings by Cabin John Gardens artist, Cathie Nelsen. Her haunting and powerful portraits, will be on display (many for sale) through January 30.

Cabin John mourns the passing of lifelong resident Alvin Lynch this month. Rest in peace.



Let's Talk!

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Dear Editor:

As a daily visitor to Cabin John, I would like to bring to your attention a matter of some urgency.

In the course of my morning commute I travel along Tomlinson Street (sic) and Arden Road. In attempting to negotiate these narrow streets I encounter children playing IN THE STREET while waiting for their school bus, unsupervised, nearly every morning. The hazard this creates cannot be overstated. Please advise parents living along this commuter corridor to keep their children in their houses until the bus appears. If parents cannot be at home to supervise, then housekeepers should assume authority.

On a related topic, I would advise that, as taxpayers, you do not have to accept the sub-standard roads which Montgomery County is providing in Cabin John. It should be a fairly simple matter to force the county to improve the streets to meet conformance with its own minimum standards for residential areas. This might include widening some streets and adding curbs and sidewalks. In addition to allowing the streets to accommodate rush hour in a safe and efficient manner, this would also be an enhancement to appearance and property values.

Ronald Gaines, Potomac, MD

Advertising Rates.

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up to 5" x 7 1/2"	\$50.00
2/3 page	\$65.00
Full Page	\$80.00

Advertisers who prepay for 10 issues receive a 20% discount; for example, a \$15.00 ad would be \$150, less \$30, or ... \$120.00.

The classified ad rate is ten cents per word. To place an ad call Clare Amoruso at 320-2685.

RECYCLE YOUR GOOD OLD STUFF

Clean out your closets and recycle those old clothes and shoes! The County Dept of Environmental Protection recycling program includes opportunities to recycle used clothing and textiles including drapes, towels, shoes, sheets, belts, handbags and fabric remnants at least 15" square.

All cloth textiles must be clean and dry, and shoes must be in pairs. Place materials in a plastic bag (to protect items from mildew).

The materials are made available to local charities and shelters. Any surplus or unsuitable items are sold to a textile recycler who sends the materials overseas or to manufacturers who make carpet backing, car seat stuffing, etc.

Items may be dropped off at the County's Transfer Station, Route 355 and Shady Grove Road. Use the Route 355 entrance and look for the textile trailer in the Recycling Center parking lot on the right. The transfer Station is open weekdays 7:30 am to 8 pm, Saturdays 7:30 am to 5 pm and Sundays 9 am to 5 pm. Call 217-2870 for more information. ~

Community Calendar

Soup and Salad Dinner. Everyone is invited to enjoy all the delicious hot soups (many varieties) and green salad they can eat on Saturday, **January 22**, from 5 PM to 7 PM at the Cabin John Methodist Church on MacArthur Blvd. at 77th Street. The donation requested is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children 5-12, and those under 5 eat free. Beverage is included, and desserts will be available for purchase.

The Wild Bird Center plans several workshops for children: Saturday, **January 29** at 11 am or 1:30 pm, **Make your Own Bird Feeder.** Children will make feeders from kits to take home. Age 5 and up. Cost is \$10 per child. Call to reserve a place at 229-3141. Saturday Feb. 12 at 1 pm Scott Deibler of the Gulf Branch Nature Center in Arlington will bring a Barred Owl with him when he comes to speak about owls in our area. This event is free and all ages are welcome. ~

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Briefly noted . . .

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Citizens Advisory Board has scheduled a meeting for Monday, February 28 at 7:00 pm. For more information call 986-4325.

. . .

Beware of Frozen Ponds

Please, please, please tell your children about the dangers of walking or skating on ponds or on the canal. Ice may be thin and the water may be deep.

. . .

The Montgomery County Charter Review Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 23, 1994 at 7:30 PM in the 3rd floor Council Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Building, Rockville, Maryland.

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Cabin John United Methodist Church

9:45 am	Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am	Worship (child care available)
6:30 pm	Youth Fellowship (Grades 5-12)

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