

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 29 No. 8

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

April 1996

HELP REOPEN THE CANAL

by Trudi Bick

Do you bike, hike, picnic, bird watch, people watch, or fish along the C&O Canal and Towpath? Do you just like knowing it's there? Well here's your chance to help reopen at least our section of the canal.

The Potomac Conservancy (PC) a local, private non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the Potomac Gorge, is implementing a volunteer effort to repair the tow path from Lock 5 to Lock 10 by early summer. In support of this project, the Cabin John Citizens Association (CJCA) recently donated \$1000 to the PC, and is challenging the residents and businesses of Cabin John to exceed that donation. The residents of Brookmont collectively contributed \$6000.

Since the January flooding, Paul Rosa, the Executive Director of the PC, has been working closely with the National Park Service to assess the damage to the canal, develop a repair plan, and identify volunteers to donate goods and services to get the job done. The National Park Service has been grateful for the Conservancy help because of the



cost savings and the relative speed at which the PC can move.

At the CJCA meeting on March 26, Rosa explained the PC plan of action, and appealed to Cabin John for support.

According to Rosa, what is needed most are: skilled trades-

men such as carpenters, stone masons, and equipment operators; equipment such as bobcats, small trucks, and graders; materials such as fill and building materials; and money to buy materials or services not obtained through donation.

If you want to volunteer your time and effort, call Paul Rosa at 703 642 9880. If you would like to donate money and help Cabin John meet its challenge, send a check, payable to the Potomac Conservancy, to

Trudi Bick, 6713 Tomlinson Ter., Cabin John. For purposes of our CJCA challenge, Trudi will keep a tally of contributions (no names), and quickly forward all donations (tax-deductible) to the PC. The total amount donated will be reported in the Village News.

Senior Program Planned At Clara Barton Center

The end of the summer will see the start of a new program for seniors at the Clara Barton Community Center. Once a week (probably on Wednesday or Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) a broad range of activities will be offered for people 55 or older.

Opening day will be in the second or third week of September, with a schedule of events announced for two or three months in advance. Speakers, entertainment, special observances of holidays, a light aerobic exercise program (and perhaps a Walking Club), and excursions to nearby

points of interest (such as Glen Echo Park) are among the expected activities. Participants will have a voice in determining what is offered.

Patterned after the successful Potomac Seniors Group, and run by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, the new service will look to the wide range of talent in the Cabin John community for many of its speakers and performers. The program will be free, although participants will be encouraged to buy a moderately priced Department of Recreation activity card.

Additional information about the new seniors program will appear in the Village News as it becomes available.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30 at the Clara Barton Community Center

90- 90-92

LOOKING BACKWARD IN CABIN JOHN

by Andy Rice

The name "Cabin John" is sometimes confusing. How do we explain Cabin John Mall, Cabin John Middle School, or Cabin John Regional Park, each of which is far removed from the community of Cabin John? The answer, of course, is that they are all located along the watershed of Cabin John Creek and it is from the creek, rather than our town, that they derive their names.

In fact, our Cabin John is not the only one in the state of Maryland. Some years ago a resident of Cecil County wrote to the editor of *The Village News* to inquire as to the origin of the name, since the property he owned was on a stream in that county also known as Cabin John Creek. We could only respond by offering him the various hypotheses, previously mentioned in this column, that have sought to explain the unusual appellation.

Apart from the name, however, what is known about the actual history of Cabin John? The Indians who originally inhabited the area — among them the Susquehanas, the Piscataways, and the Senecas — were pushed out as European settlement expanded in the 17th century. Prince George's County was formed in 1695; it then embraced all of what is now Montgomery County, which did not become a separate entity until 1776. Meanwhile, in 1742, the Maryland colonial government had reached an agreement with the Indian confederacy under which the tribes, in return for a payment of 300 pounds, relinquished all claim to territory within Maryland.

Land in the Cabin John area was originally owned by several large landowners, but by the middle of the 19th century it was all in the hands of the family of Joseph G. White. After the Civil War, the family began to sell it off in pieces; the new owners included William Dowling (who built the large white house still standing on the west side of 80th Street), the Bobinger family (who subsequently built the famous Cabin John Bridge Hotel) and the Tuohey family (who owned the land that is now the shopping center).

The Dowling family gradually increased its holdings until, in 1912 (when it owned practically all the land except the Bobinger and Tuohey tracts), it was all sold (over 600 acres) for \$50,000 to the American Land Company headed by J.S. Tomlinson. This was the beginning of "modern" Cabin John.

Tomlinson called the area Cabin John Park and divided it into many lots of various sizes (although for the most part they were about 100 by 150 feet). His extensive advertising (see the adjacent example) attracted many buyers, most of whom settled here but some of whom were only summer residents, escaping the heat of the city.

3 Dozen Attractive Features

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| 8. Magnificent Situations | 26. Sunshine and Shade |
| 9. Surface Undulating | 27. Abundant Shade Trees |
| 10. Perfect Drainage | 28. Healthy Community |
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WRITE FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS

Community life grew. The Cabin John Citizens Association was founded in 1919, the Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department followed in 1930, and other clubs and activities also flourished. With these, future columns will deal.

Looking only at property ownership, however, there was one decisive event in Cabin John's history still to come. In 1959, a real estate developer, the Bogley Company, came up with a plan to buy up all the houses in Cabin John and convert the area into high-rise apartments, townhouses, and a shopping center. Company agents went door-to-door with offers to buy, and a strong division of opinion emerged among citizens, with some eager to sell and others dead set against the plan. Whether the company could have obtained County approval for the extensive rezoning that the plan would have required remains a moot point; at a dramatic special

Neighborhood Events

Whitman High School Presents "South Pacific"

The Whitman Drama Department is pleased to announce South Pacific as its spring musical. This popular Rodgers and Hammerstein production contains many memorable show-stoppers. South Pacific is being held on May 9, 10 and 11 at 7:30 PM in the Whitman Auditorium. To purchase tickets, which are \$6, call 301 320 6600.

Bannockburn Nursery School invites you to join them for their annual fund-raising event which will be held in the Bannockburn Community Clubhouse on Saturday May 18 at 6:30 pm.

The "Evening of California Dreamin'" will feature an Auction, wine tasting hosted by Beaulieu Vineyards and supper catered by Furin's of Georgetown.

For details call Kathleen Roberson at 299-0600.

The Bannockburn Nursery School will be having free parent-toddler get togethers on Fridays April 26th, May 3rd and 10th at the Nursery School at 6314 Bannockburn Drive from 12:30 to 2:00. The parent-toddler time is designed as a casual get together for neighborhood children between the ages of 18 months and 3 years and their parents. Either Mom or Dad are invited to attend with the child and siblings are welcome. (Please no nannies or other non-parent caregivers.)

The school has a few openings for next year and is accepting applications for children ages 2 to 5. Contact the school at 320-4252 or Heidi Bumpers, Membership Chairperson at 229-8395.

Vacation Bible School at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 5500 Massachusetts Ave. Bethesda, MD 20816
June 24th until June 28, 9:30 AM-12:15 For children ages 3-13. All are welcome. Call Mrs. Ini Beckman at 229-7295 or the church at 229-2800

Flea Market at the United Methodist Church.
May 4 1996. Space available. Call 459-6368 or 229 7076 by April 20th.

Looking Back continued

meeting of the Citizens Association, held in the auditorium of the fire house, residents voted 75% against the Bogley proposal, which was then abandoned. For the present, Cabin John's unique character had been preserved. *Thanks to Village News Archivist Andy Rice for contributing this feature. If you have photos or mementos of the good old days in Cabin John, the Village News would like to use them with this feature.*

Crab Feast Planning Meeting

Please Help! We Need You!!

Please come to our planning meeting on Monday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center Without a lot of help from volunteers, this year's Crab Feast will not be the success we hope it to be. Helping out is a great way to meet your neighbors and contribute to our community's major fund-raiser.

If you would like to help but can't make it to the meeting, please call Lori Rieckelman at 320-6299.

To announce an event in The Village News send a written notice to: Editor, PO Box 164, Cabin John Md 20818. The next deadline and mailing date is published on the inside back page.

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Wednesday Evening: 7:00 Prayer, Testimonies, Bible questions

Friday Morning: 10:00 Community prayer and Bible study

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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. Send news, advertisements, letters, and subscriptions to:

The Village News
 PO Box 164
 Cabin John, Maryland 20818

The next deadline is 10 AM Saturday May 11 for the issue mailing May 22nd.

People who make *The Village News* possible:

Barbara and Ger Quinn, Jerry Rhodes, Barbara and Reed Martin
 Contributors: Trudi Bick, Andy Rice, Helen Daniel,

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	51-100 bags	\$2.75
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	Large Size	\$3.40
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To place an ad in the Village News classifieds send your ad before the first Saturday of the month to the address in the box above. The cost is 25 cents per word.

If you have questions, call Jerry Rhodes at 320-5219.

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