

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 29 No. 10

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

June 1996

A Tree Still Grows in Cabin John

If you walk down 76th Street between Arden Road and Cabin Road you will see a 50 foot, 40 year old Willow Oak tree four feet from an attractive new house. Michael Lerner, the President of Meridian Homes of Bethesda, who constructed the home had originally sited the house on the lot such that the tree would have to be cut down. Kate Grinberg, who lives across the street and who is a self proclaimed "tree hugger" called Michael to see if he could save the tree. Michael made an engineering calculation and was able to resite the house several feet to save the tree. Before starting construction, Michael deep root fed the tree and root pruned it. The long term life of the tree is still uncertain but it has an excellent chance of survival.

Our new neighbors, Penny and Hugh Latimer, are delighted to have this Willow Oak in their yard and all of their 76th Street neighbors are too. The natural, wooded beauty of Cabin John is one of our town's appeals. Kate's advocacy and the builder's responsiveness should energize all of us to the cooperation that can be achieved between members of the community and builders.

Thank you Michael Lerner and we welcome Penny and Hugh and their daughters, Nicole and Brittany, to Cabin John.

Clare Amoruso



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Pool open to Cabin John residents

Starting June 25th Cabin John residents will be admitted to Palisades Pool on Tuesday and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Children aged 7 and under must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Some proof of residency such as an ID or mail received at a Cabin John address may be required for admission.

The Cabin John Free Swim was part of an agreement between the Cabin John community and the founders of the Palisades Pool to gain neighborhood approval of the zoning variance that permitted the pool to be constructed.

The neighborhood contact for the program is Mary Potter, 365-0420. The Palisades Pool (229-9879) is located off Seven Locks Road between Carver Road and Cyprus Grove Lane.

**Cabin John Citizens Association Meeting
Tuesday, June 25 at 7:30 at the Clara Barton Community Center**

Looking Backwards in Cabin John

The Archivist is away this month. This feature will return in August



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OPPORTUNITY STILL OPEN FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

Last month we announced openings for free training in learning to mail the Village News—as substitutes when we may be away now and then, enjoying the retired life. Civic-minded resident Rita Powell has kindly volunteered. This job is easier, quicker, more fun when two (or more) are working together on it. Each step of the process is clearly written out, and the entire job takes about 4 hours of work. SO, we invite you (singular or plural) to join Rita in learning how to do this important—but not terribly demanding—occasional job. Operators are still standing by. 229-3482, Barbara and Reed Martin.

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Young Cabin John poets work chosen as among the best

Ashley D. Manion of Cabin John has just had her work published in **Best Poems of 1996**, a treasury of today's poetry compiled by The National Library of Poetry. This is her poem:

Love

Love is a complicated thing.
 It can be a struggle through the vines or a breeze through the tops of the trees.
 So many words to speak yet none seem to come to your mouth.
 So many people, so little pairs.
 A thing of many emotions.
 Love, the most complicated thing.

by Ashley D. Manion
 Age 14

It is with sadness that the Village News has learned of the death of fifteen year-old Daniel Bingham. The Bingham family lived in Cabin John until 1986 when they moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Daniel's parents are George Bingham and Mary Vinton. Daniel attended Clara Barton Center for Children and had a brother, Josh, and a sister, Abby. Daniel died while on a school trip. If you wish to express condolences, the family can be reached at Box 81, Route 9, Santa Fe, NM 87505

**Summer Fun for the Entire Family
 Host an International Student**



French H.S. students, ages 15-17 years
 Host families needed for 3 weeks... 469-6319

Neighborhood Events

The Crab Feast is coming

There is a place for everybody to contribute to the success of the neighborhood's one big fund raiser. Hang out with your neighbors. Meet all those people whose names you don't know.

Food servers needed:

Call Clare Amoruso 320-2685

Veggie Prep:

Call Helen at 229-1521

Table and chair placement technicians:

Call Andy Rice, 229-3503

Chicken Grillers:

Call Stan Schaper and Jan Smith, 320-3422

Managers and organizers needed

for beverages, kids activities, clean-up.

Call Lori Rieckelman at 320-6299

Advance ticket sales:

Barbara Martin, 229-3482

Diane Leatherman, 229-7412

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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Our Cabin John Neighbors Marjie Craig

by Barbara Martin



Reporter Marjie Reese (Craig) of *The Akron Beacon Journal* shown with two co-workers in this 1945 photo. Marjie is in the foreground

Marjie Craig has lived in Cabin John for 43 years. And although it took her some moving around to get here, she has ties to Maryland from way back. Her grandparents were from Ellicott City and Port Deposit; her parents were Baltimoreans who happened to be in Elmira, New York, when Marjie was born.

Her mother was a schoolteacher and her father, William Reese, was a security officer for Bethlehem Steel. He moved the family from Elmira to Bethlehem's Baltimore plant and then to Akron, Ohio.

"I can remember the trip to Akron. I had my second birthday right before we left. My grandfather took me to a carnival and won a Kewpie doll for me that I took on the train. I can even remember the hotel where we stayed while my parents looked for a house."

The family bought a home in Firestone Park, a neighborhood developed by Harvey Firestone of tire fame. Marjie's dad walked to work at the nearby Firestone plant. "My dad was head of police at Firestone, my mother stayed home with me until I was 5 and then she went back to teaching. But within 2 years, I had a sister; I felt as though she was my baby and I was sort of a second mother."

"There were no buses, but we got around in a jitney; that was a big car with a lot of us packed in, and we each paid 5 cents for the ride. I skipped the eighth grade and started high school early. My favorite sub-

ject was English and when I entered the University of Akron I was planning to teach."

But Marjie took a journalism class as an elective, and her life took a new turn. Nearby Kent State University combined some classes with Marjie's school and the newspaper staffs—including Marjie—exchanged some projects. On the staff of Kent State's paper was a young man named Jim Craig. He was an English major and a columnist for the school paper. "I was sold on him before I even met him because I had read his writing and he wrote very well."

But Jim graduated and found a job on Scripps Howard's Times Press. Meanwhile, at 19, Marjie decided she needed experience more than further education and applied for a job on that same paper. "I went in to see the editor; I was wearing a raspberry suit and a white hat. I got the job, a reporter for the Society section."

Jim was on assignment elsewhere in Ohio for several months, and when he returned was assigned to the police beat. Their paths didn't cross until Easter Sunday. "A photographer and I were covering the Easter Parade. We went to several churches, and I wrote down who was there and what they were wearing. When we got back to the office, the photographer went out for food. I was starving so I asked him to bring me two hamburgers; then of course I could only eat one so there was a cold hamburger sitting on my desk. I was pecking away and in walked Jim Craig. He said he was hungry and he accepted the cold hamburger. In a way, I guess that established—for life as it turned out—that he was not going to expect gourmet food from me. We started seeing each other on a regular basis."

On her 21st birthday, Marjie celebrated by going to Cleveland, 40 miles away, and buying a new wardrobe. I had my own money, I liked my job, I was a happy girl."

The next day, the bubble burst. The paper had been sold, and everyone was out of a job. "I liked that crowd of reporters and editors best of all the groups I've ever worked with. We got along so well together. It was so sad that suddenly we all had to go separate ways."

Eventually Marjie was hired by the Jack Knight paper, the Akron Beacon Journal. Jim's new job was with the Athens, Ohio, Messenger. Marjie saw him on weekends. Then he became a reporter for a Cumberland, Maryland, newspaper. But in April 1941,

he was drafted and sent to Ft. Meade to do his 8-month peacetime stint. "Jim was 28—the oldest man in his unit; the others called him Pops."

When his service time was nearly over, Jim lined up a job with the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and came to Akron to spend a long leave with Marjie. On his first night home, a Saturday, they became engaged. And on Sunday, they went to a movie.

"When we came out, the newsboys were shouting 'Extra, extra.' It was December 7."

His furlough was canceled, his discharge was canceled, and Jim was in the war. He served in one war zone after another for the next 3 1/2 years. As soon as the war was over and Jim was a civilian, he and Marjie were married. They lived in Cumberland for 2 years while Jim worked for the Cumberland paper. When he was offered the assistant editorship of the American Forestry magazine, the Craigs moved to Washington. With one short detour of Jim's working for a New York paper, the family settled in this area permanently.

By now they had four sons and Marjie knew what her requirements were for a house. "It had to be on a dead end street, in a friendly neighborhood, near a park, and close to the elementary school." They found what they wanted on Arden Road in Cabin John, and moved in January 15, 1953. In the next few years, they added a fifth son and a daughter to the family. "Six children is a lot, but you only have to get used to one more at a time. A big family was what we wanted."

"We cared a lot about Cabin John always." Jim was president of the Clara Barton PTA and president of the CJ Citizens Association during the years when the Cabin John Plan was developed. Marjie was active in town doings and wrote and published the PTA newsletter. "When Jim came home, he would take over the children and I would go to bed for a much needed sleep. When he had them all fed and asleep and things were quiet, I would get up and work on projects. I put out the PTA newsletter and that's when I got it done—after the kids were asleep."

In the early days, the youngsters sang in the choir at CJ Methodist Church and went to Sunday School there. In 1962 the Craigs joined Westmoreland Congregational Church. Marjie is still very much a part of that church.

At one time three Craig sons were at Whitman, one at Pyle, and the youngest two children at Clara Barton



The Craig family in 1961. The children are Bill, 14; Dick, 13; Rob, 7; Dave, 12; Marjorie, 4; and Jon, 11.

Elementary. Marjie was busy in all three of the PTA's.

Editor-in-chief Jim Craig retired from American Forestry in 1977. "We had 9 years of just the two of us at home. We did some traveling—England, Scotland, Wales—and mostly we just did what we darn well pleased." Jim died in 1986 and is in the memorial garden at Westmoreland Church.

Marjie has kept active. For years she worked on the annual bazaar at Westmoreland and edited the church newsletter; now she is now helping with the church's Meals On Wheels program. She keeps up with the sorority she has belonged to for 60 years. She is in good health and enjoys the time she spends gardening. She happily "grandmothers" six grandchildren.

Some of her brood are local; some have spread out. Bill, married with one son, lives in Brea, California, is retired from the Air Force and teaches. Dick, married with one child, is a Methodist minister in Cheltenham, Maryland. David, married with four kids, lives in Derwood and is a computer whiz. Jon, married with two step-children, lives in Bethesda and is a builder and project manager for Manor Care. Robert, an accomplished tenor soloist, has lived and sung all over the world. Daughter Marjorie Craig Mitchell is a graduate student in drama at Yale.

Reflecting on Cabin John, Marjie says, "I think the town has grown very nicely. I have little patience with people who sit and complain; do something for your community and help it to be the good place we all want to live in. I've lived on my block of Arden Road longer than anyone else. Cabin John is a wonderful home."

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REMINDER:
THE VILLAGE NEWS TAKES A VACATION IN JULY
THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 10 AM SATURDAY, AUGUST 10.
WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR STORIES PHOTOS AND ARTWORK FROM THE COMMUNITY.
CALL GER OR BARBARA QUINN AT 2298030.

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 August 10 for the issue mailing August 24.

People who make the Village News possible:
 Barbara and Ger Quinn, Jerry Rhodes, Barbara and Reed Martin
 Contributors: Clare Amoruso, Burr Gray, Dianne Leatherman

CLASSIFIED ADS

ACCOUNTING/FINANCIAL/ MANAGEMENT SERVICES: Experienced Cabin John resident with MBA available for monthly contract work. Call 229-1521 if you are in need of accounting, financial or management assistance.

HOME(S) WANTED: Experienced house-sitter seeks local residences near area grandchildren during July & August. Will care for plants, pets, garden or assist as a mother's helper. Even exchange. References, write Mirabel, 20E Stratford Hills, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 or call any time 919-933-3454.

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PIANO LESSONS Children and Adults welcome. My studio (Cabin John) or your home. Call Susan Roberts. 320-4451

Wanted: **2 ROOMS** Cabin John/Glen Echo, Call Paul 202-466-9000 (O) or 301-229-4357 (H)

HOUSE RENTAL NEEDED: Cabin John Family seeks local house to rent while our house is undergoing renovation from July to December. Call Andrew at 229-9307

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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