

# OUR 30th Year THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 30 No. 3

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

October 1996



## The Cabin John Bridge Hotel

This photo of the Cabin John Hotel appears to have been taken about a hundred years ago judging by the ladies fashions. Even then Cabin John was a popular destination for bicyclists. There were at least 20 bikes parked at the hotel on the day this picture was taken. The hotel was built in 1870 on 15 acres at the present site of Cabin John Gardens. The 40 room hotel boasted two banquet halls, three private dining rooms, a coffee shop, music hall, two parlors, a barber shop, pool room game room

and an orchestration which is something like a giant music box, producing a sound to imitate an orchestra. This photo was loaned to *The Village News* by Betsy Lawrence. A friend of Betsy's found it in an antique store. It is one of the best we have seen of the hotel.

By the 1920's the popularity of the old hotel had faded in favor of the more modern hotels in Washington. After 1925 it stood vacant and on April 6, 1931 it was destroyed by fire, still filled with furniture and equipment.

## BIKE BETHESDA

The Montgomery County Department of Police and the Bethesda Urban Partnership will be co sponsoring **BIKE BETHESDA**, a police mountain bike competition and a **Bike Rodeo** for children. **BIKE BETHESDA** will begin with a bicycle road race starting at the Bethesda District Station 7359 Wisconsin Ave., at 8 AM on Sunday, Oct. 27. The bike rodeo will begin at 12 noon at the end of the Capitol Crescent Trail at Bethesda and Woodmont Aves. in Bethesda. This location can be reached by riding from Cabin John along the MacArthur Blvd bike path east to the traffic light at

Sangamore Rd. Cross at the light and enter the bike path into the woods and follow the windy trail down the hill to the Crescent Trail to the left. The trail ends at the Bike Rodeo. The Bike Rodeo is open to all children and there is no fee. Prizes will be awarded to all participants.

You can assist the County Police by registering your bicycle at the Bike Rodeo - at no cost to you. This enables police to identify and return stolen property to owners quickly. For more information you can call officer Terry Pierce at 652-9200.

## Cabin John Citizens Association Meeting

Tuesday evening, Oct 22 at 7:30 at the Clara Barton Community Center

### ON THE AGENDA:

Land development and zoning issues.

## Looking Backwards in Cabin John

### The Clara Barton Story (continued)

In the last issue of the Village News, we brought the story of the Clara Barton building up to 1954 when racial integration came smoothly to the Montgomery County public school system. For twenty years thereafter the building was the school that served – and served well – the Cabin John community.

In 1974, however, the County Board of Education decided to close it. It had become one of the most underutilized school buildings in the county, with a capacity of 300 students, but with an enrollment of only about 170. Beginning in September of that year, Cabin John's children were transferred to Bannockburn Elementary.

The big question was what to do with the building. The Board of Education committed itself to consult closely with the community in determining its future use, and discussions continued for several years. One early decision was to lease space to the Cabin John Post Office, which had outgrown its old space in a small frame annex to the home on 77th Street of Cabin John's postmistress, Laura McKelvey, who served in that position from 1944 to 1972. In February 1976, therefore, the Post Office took up quarters in Clara Barton's north end.

Meanwhile, most of the building was used as office space by the Board of Education, sharing it with two private educational programs – the 3-and-4-Year-Old School (which today is located in Brookmont) and the Clara Barton Center for Children (which still operates in the building).

By 1978, however, the Board of Education decided

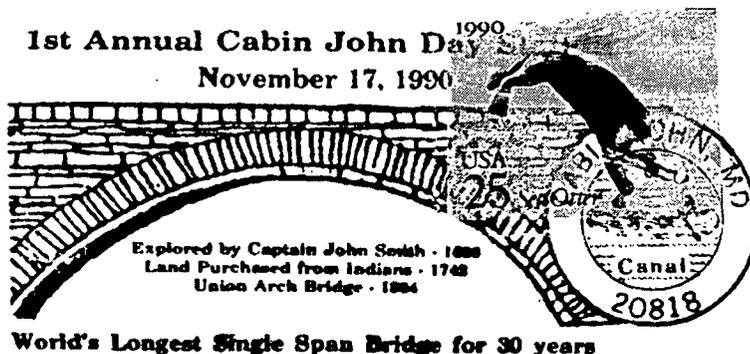
to consolidate its offices elsewhere, and responsibility for the building was turned over directly to the County Government. The County Executive's office immediately began seeking new tenants, although it committed itself to retaining the community-oriented educational activities then under way and to consulting with the Cabin John Citizens Association as to its priorities.

What actually happened next was that an existing private school, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, took over the vacant space on a temporary basis. After it moved out, the International School of Washington leased space for some of its classes. Also, after the Post Office moved to its new quarters in MacArthur Plaza, a small Cabin John-owned publishing house, Seven Locks Press, took over that vacated space.

Before any permanent decisions were reached, however, it became evident that the building badly needed repairs. There were roof leaks and the boiler was deteriorating, and that was only the beginning.

Renovations started in 1985, but the big push came in 1988, 1989, and 1990 when practically everything in the building was done over at a cost of \$1.1 million – including a new heating and cooling system, new windows, doors and insulation, a fire alarm system, a new kitchen, and much much more. All during this period the Citizens Association kept a close eye on the plans, with many meetings with county officials on the future use of the building.

Finally, in September 1990 came the grand re-opening. Bethesda Youth Services had already become a tenant in February of that year, and now the county Department of Recreation took over responsibility for the building. Today it operates a busy program of activities in what we now call the Clara Barton Community Center.



*The first and last annual Cabin John Customer Appreciation Day was celebrated five years ago with a cancellation stamp depicting the Union Arch Bridge. The stamp was designed by our resident postal service employee, Brian Cozens.*

334 Hungerford Drive  
Rockville, Maryland 20850



301-315-0527  
301-315-0532 Fax

## Vote No!

### Seven Reasons To Vote No On Question E

1. **Question E** would amend the County charter and **ultimately put an end** to the community fire-rescue departments in Montgomery County as we know them.
2. **Question E** would **add expensive and unnecessary personnel** to an existing County government agency. The costs for this bureaucracy **must** come from **increased taxes, cuts in emergency service, or both.**
3. Our County government already faces a potential **\$38 million budget deficit in FY98.**
4. **Volunteer** fire fighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians **provide 30 percent** of the staffing for all **primary emergency units** in the county – **saving taxpayers more than \$20 million each year in personnel costs alone.**
5. **Question E** will **put an end to your community's voice** in determining the local level of fire and rescue service in Montgomery County.
6. **Less than 10 percent** of the County's \$77 million **fire/rescue budget** is **provided** to the **volunteer community departments** and they must **account for every penny** of it under Montgomery County Code, Chapter 21.
7. **Montgomery County** has one of the **best fire-rescue systems in the nation.** We don't need to demolish 100 years of service to "fix" a system that already **delivers high-quality, low-cost fire and rescue service.**

**Vote No On Question E On November 5th**  
**Support Your Community Fire/Rescue Departments,**  
**Call 301-315-0527**



The Committee To Save Our Community Fire/Rescue Departments

**Montgomery County residents support their community fire/rescue departments. This is what they have to say:**

**"Finest fire/rescue system in the nation"**

Douglas Duncan, Montgomery County Executive

**"I am 100 percent against the ballot question before us, and I intend to publicly oppose it. I am also trying to encourage my colleagues on the County Council to take a position against it"**

William E. Hanna, Jr., Montgomery County Council

**"The community fire/rescue departments are a 100 year old Montgomery County tradition. They're an integral part of our community, working in conjunction with the paid fire fighters. I know first hand the wonderful service they provide as my son has been active as a volunteer for many years. We must do everything possible to preserve their outstanding contribution to the community. I urge everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 5th and to vote no on Question E."**

Jean Roesser, Montgomery County State Senator

**"We recommend to the voters of Montgomery County a "NO" Vote on Question E."**

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

**"The County's combined fire/rescue system represents a uniquely successful example of a public-private partnership"**

Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight

**"Prudent financial management allows the volunteer departments to use proceeds from decades ago to buy equipment today and help defray current costs by supplementing our tax dollars"**

Ted Koppel, ABC-TV Newscaster

**"Well, it looks to us like one more power grab in a long line of power grabs by the fire unions."**

Gazette newspapers (7/10/96)

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**Support Your Community Fire/Rescue Departments  
Call 301-315-0527**

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Your Community Fire/Rescue Departments Include:

BCC Rescue Squad	Hyattstown
Bethesda	Kensington
Burtonsville	Laytonsville
Cabin John	Rockville
Chevy Chase	Sandy Spring
Damascus	Silver Spring
Gaithersburg/	Takoma Park
Washington Grove	Upper Montgomery
Germantown	Wheaton Rescue Squad
Hillandale	



Paid for by The Committee To Save Our Community Fire/Rescue Departments,  
by authority of Marcine D. Goodloe, Treasurer

**Cooking Pot Missing**

After the September Crab Feast, one of the large cooking pots was misplaced. If you brought any cooking pots home, please check to see if one is possibly not yours. The missing pot is very large and shiny. It belongs to Miss Lily Gibbs, 6 Carver Road, 229-7950. She would very much like to get back her favorite cooking pot.

**Want to talk to the police about anything?**

Susan Roberts is the Cabin John representative at the monthly Police-Citizens Advisory Board Meetings of the Bethesda Police District. Contact Susan with any police-related matters which need to be discussed. Susan may be reached at 320-4451.

**An Added Word of Thanks**

There's an important P.S. to add to last month's story about the successful 1996 Cabin John Crab and Chicken Feast — and that is to extend our gratitude to the churches who lent their tables and chairs and to the business firms who lent their trucks.

- So thanks for your generosity to
- The Glen Echo Baptist Church, Rev. David Cole, pastor;
  - The Church of the Redeemer (in Glen Echo), Rev. Susan Burns, pastor;
  - The Korean Assembly of God, Rev. Duk Pil Yu, pastor;
  - John Hughes of Hughes Landscaping; and
  - Mark Wilcher of Mark Wilcher and Co.

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**Neighborhood Events**

The work of Cabin John's Diane Leatherman appears in a group showing entitled **Life by a Thread, the work of eight fabric artists**. Most of the artworks in the show are wallhangings depicting landscapes, figures, interiors and abstracts. The show may be seen Tuesdays through Sundays, 12-4pm, through November 15th at McCrillis Gardens Gallery, 6910 Greentree Road in Bethesda. For more information contact Diane at 229-7412 or 217-3882

The Walt Whitman Drama Department is pleased to announce **Barefoot in the Park** as its fall play. Come see and hear the show supported by Whitman's new sound and lighting equipment. The cast includes: Jochiem Van Brandt, Tijana Beca, Tarek Ghani, Allison Miller, Max Kuller, and Benjamin Cahn. It will be held on November 21, 22, & 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Whitman auditorium. To purchase tickets, which are \$6, call 301 320 6569. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Glen Echo watercolor instructor Bonny Lundy and Glen Echo resident Tina Quinn will present their most recent paintings at the Yellow Barn Gallery, Glen Echo Park, on November 2nd and 3rd. The gallery is open from 12 noon until 6 p.m. each day. A reception for the artists will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 2, at the Yellow Barn.

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Paul Hersh  
Washington, DC



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## LETTERS

### What's Happened to the Holiday Party?

For many years, a Holiday Party was Cabin John's second most popular community event (the Crab and Chicken Feast was first). Planned primarily for families with small children, but enjoyed by many others, the party usually ran from 4 to 6 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon a couple of weeks before Christmas. Singing, refreshments, and visit by Santa Claus were among the highlights.

But last year the party wasn't held, apparently because nobody volunteered to organize it. Actually, it isn't a big job to put on, especially if four or five people share the tasks (e.g., decorations, food, music, etc.). I would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking part in organizing the party this year. Please call me at 229-3503. If I get several responses, we'll have a little meeting and plan the event. It can be a lot of fun.

*Andy Rice*

### The Village News needs some help

I'm hoping that someone out there among our computer and graphically literate population will help produce this newsletter. The job description can be whatever you want it to be, but the main task is to layout the articles and ads monthly. You can try it for a month now and then and decide if you like it. Equipment and software isn't an issue since the job will bend to suit your capabilities. It's a fun job since you can try out crazy things that would get you fired from a real job. Interested? Call Ger Quinn 229-8030

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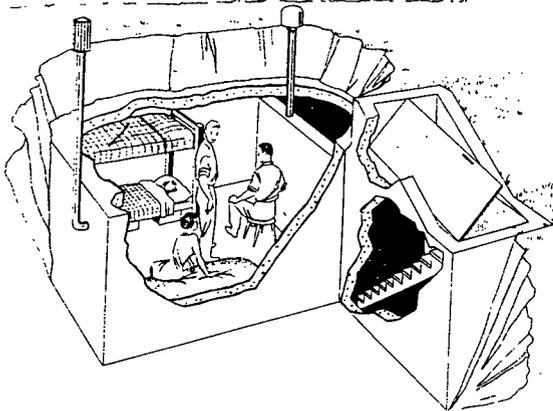


Figure 11.—  
Underground concrete shelter

Figure 12.—Concrete basement shelter  
in new housing

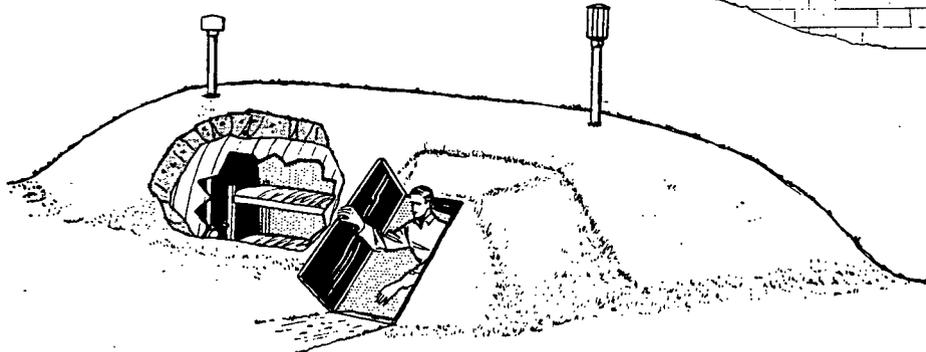
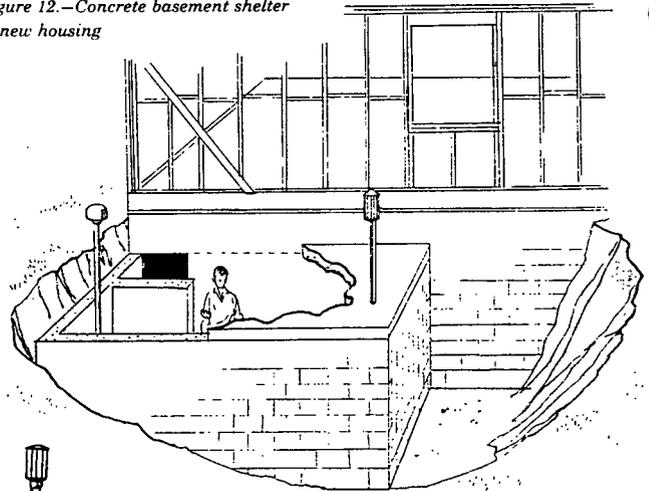


Figure 10.—Pre-shaped metal shelter

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 November 17 for the issue mailing November 21  
People who make the Village News possible:

Barbara and Ger Quinn, Jerry Rhodes, Barbara and Reed Martin  
Contributors: Andy Rice, Susan Roberts

### The Glen Echo Baptist Church

Vassar Circle, Glen Echo, MD

Jesus Christ is our Lord, Saviour and God. He still performs miracles at the Glen Echo Baptist Church. A born again Fellowship. 229-4430.

**Sunday Morning:** Prayer 8:00, Family Sunday School 9:30, Worship and Praise, 11:00.  
All are invited!!

**Sunday Evening:** 6:00 Why we believe the Jewish Bible, 7:00 Praise, Testimonies, Worship, Singing.

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

**Friday Morning:** 10:00 Community prayer and Bible study

Collecting food and clothing for the homeless and needy.



### ALPINE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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**Sat 8:00 am - 3 pm**

7732 MacArthur Boulevard  
Cabin John, MD 20818  
**301/229-2400**

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**MATH TUTOR:** All levels. In your home or mine. Certified. Teaching experience in middle school, high school, and college. Afternoons or evenings available. Call Nancy Shaw at 320-6342.

**BABYSITTER WANTED** 4 to 6 hrs. on weekends in Cabin John for 10-month-old; flexible hours; Call 229-7344

**CONDOMINIUM APARTMENT** in Cabin John, one bedroom (674 sq. ft.) with tablespace kitchen, sunny with good view, parking space included. \$89,500. Becky Harris - 301 469 9621.

**DISCOVER THE OCEAN** during "off season". Enjoy the uninhabited beaches and bird migrations. Partake of excellent fishing, wildlife and adventures. Treat yourself to a weekend or week in a lovely Chincoteague home. Specifically furnished to period, this lovely fisherman's cottage sleeps 4. Children need supervision. Weekend Rates - Fri. & Sat. or Sat. & Sun. \$120 Weekly Rates - \$310 Very flexible check in and check out times. For more info. call Gale or Tonette Beckwith 229-8650

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.

**REMINDER:**  
**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS 10 AM SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17.**  
WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR STORIES PHOTOS AND ARTWORK FROM THE COMMUNITY.  
CALL GER OR BARBARA QUINN AT 229 8030.

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