

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 32 No. 6

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

March 1999

NEIGHBORLY NEWS Feb. 1999

by Heidi Brown Lewis

This thank you comes from longtime Cabin Johner Joel Rosenthal:

"I wish to express my deep appreciation and thanks to all of you in Cabin John who helped me endure the trials and tribulations rained upon us on Cabin Road for the last six years. I am hopeful that the nightmare has finally ended. I could not have made it without all of you."

Thankfully, Barbara Martin returns to her column for the April issue. Do you know of any births, deaths, marriages, honors, new neighbors, news of former residents? Please call Barbara at 301-229-3482 so we can share the small town news with each other.

CABIN JOHN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

- January 26, 1999 Meeting Notes

1. Charitable Contributions - the meeting members voted to make the following charitable contributions: \$250 to the Glen Echo Park Foundation specifically for upgrading of the children's playground at the Park, \$300 to The Potomac Conservancy for their efforts to preserve the Potomac riverscape and to address the sewer smells that emerge each summer from the Dulles Interceptor sewer that runs along the Canal, \$150 to the Cabin John Fire Dept., \$50 each to the Glen Echo Baptist Church, the Church of the Redeemer in Glen Echo, and the Full Gospel Washington Church in Cabin John in recognition of their annual support of the CrabFeast by providing tables and chairs, \$300 to the Citizens for the Abatement of Aircraft Noise, Inc. (CAAN) for their efforts to keep aircraft noise at acceptable levels, and \$25 to the Gibson Grove AME Zion Church in honor of their 101st anniversary and the historic role that the church played in Cabin John's history.

2. Recognition of Ger & Barbara Quinn- the vote was unanimous to cover costs for a dinner for the Quinns at

their favorite restaurant. This is but a small gesture in recognition of the effort made by the Quinns in preparing The Village News during the past 5 years until this fall when they passed the role to Heidi Brown Lewis.

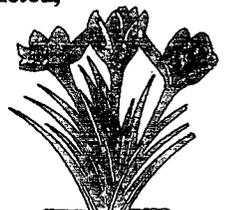
3. Local Vandalism - windows at the Clara Barton Community Center have been broken often enough on weekends during the past several months to be an issue. Additionally, a great many windows were broken at the Bannockburn Elementary School during the weekend of the power outage. Residents should report any suspicious activity that they spot near either of these two locations.

4. Opposition to Pipestem Subdivision Proposal at 6519 76th St. - following an hour long discussion, members voted to oppose the current owner's proposal that would create a pipestem lot in addition to the lot with the existing house, and to send a letter to the County to that effect. A motion was also passed to send a letter to the owner indicating the Citizens Association's willingness to work with the owner to reach agreement on a division of the property that would not create the pipestem lot, and thus

better preserve the aesthetic qualities of the neighborhood in the eyes of the neighbors.

5. Opposition to Construction on the Small Empty Lot on 82nd Place - Consistent with a past position taken by CJCA concerning construction on the extremely small lots (in the 3000 sq ft. size) in this neighborhood, the vote passed to oppose the construction of a house on the particular lot.

C&O Canal Repairs/Rewatering - Park Superintendent Doug Ferris noted the following in a November conversation with CJCA representatives: (1) the desilting of the Canal in this area has been completed, (2) the concrete spillway located just below Widewater that will serve as a sort of release valve in flood situations has been completed,



Next CJCA Meeting -
7:30 p.m. Feb. 23 '99
at the Clara Barton
Community Center:

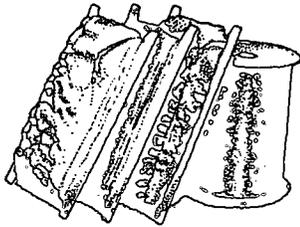
Agenda - (1) Discussion of
Congressional efforts to
expand flights at Reagan
National Airport, (2) pos-
sibility of incorporation of
CJCA, (3) suggestions for
topics at next meetings.

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CJCA NOTES

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(3) the earthen berm at Old Angler's Inn location is in the process of being replaced with a bridge (two concrete pillars currently in place) in order to handle floods, (4) a bridge has been placed over the Canal across from the Union Arch Bridge, and (5) Locks 5 & 7 are in good shape. Superintendent Ferris expects the last few repairs on various culverts under the Canal to be completed this spring, and that water can be reintroduced to the Canal by June of this year.



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.

LOOKING BACKWARD IN CABIN JOHN

By Andrew E. Rice

Now that *The Washington Post* is running a daily historical column featuring an event that occurred on that day in earlier years, it seems timely to take a trip down Memory Lane in Cabin John. I looked at some of our old records and back issues of *The Village News*, therefore, to see what was going on in January and February in the not-so-long-ago.

Back in 1963, three months after the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Executive Committee of the Clara Barton School PTA devoted part of its January meeting to civil defense preparations for the school, including a discussion (as recorded in the minutes of the meeting) of "whether a tran-sistor radio should be purchased for the school in case of emergency."

Things were a bit more cheerful in January 1970 when the PTA Newsletter announced that "Johnny Appleseed" would be the feature film at the school on Thursday, February 5, at 2:15pm. Admission was fifty cents, with both popcorn and pop for sale at ten cents.

A quarter of a century ago, *The Village News* for February 1974 had lots of news! The lead story reported that MacArthur Boulevard would be resurfaced and slightly widened in April or May, and that this work would "probably include a bike path on the south side of the road, reaching from the DC line to Anglers Inn." Meanwhile, final negotiations were underway for the County to acquire the Harris

Tract adjacent to the Palisades Swimming Pool in order to create the new Seven Locks Park. And the lights on the tennis courts next to the Union Arch bridge were finally operational.

During 1975 and 1976 the bridge was much in the news after being closed to traffic after one of the facing stones fell on the Parkway below. The community faced a tangle of overlapping jurisdictions in trying to get it repaired and reopened, but finally the January 1977 *Village News* could report that more than 300 residents had turned out to watch Congressman Gilbert Gude cut the ribbon and officially declare the bridge open again to traffic.

In January 1983 the news was of the beginning of the widening and leveling of Seven Locks Road to make it a safer thoroughfare. Two years later, in January 1985, Ride-On rush hour bus service was initiated along MacArthur Boulevard.

Bad news in February 1988: hundreds of gypsy moth egg masses had been found in the Cabin John neighborhood, presaging a gypsy moth epidemic later in the year. Better news: in January 1989 the \$1.1 million renovation of the Clara Barton school building got under way which ultimately produced the community center we enjoy today.

Those are some highlights of the last third of the 20th century. If we look back 35 years from now, I wonder what the highlights will be of the first third of the 21st century.

Neighborhood Services

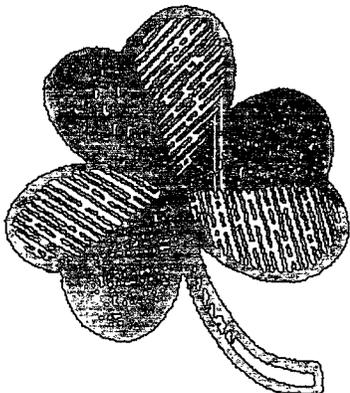
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CABIN JOHN AMERICAN-CHINESE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 7703 MacArthur Boulevard. Mixed cultural and traditional backgrounds, American and Chinese, united in worshipping and serving God together. Residents of Cabin John and surrounding areas: you are warmly invited to share with us. Come and experience the Blessings!!!! English service 9:30 AM, Chinese/English service 11:00 AM on Sundays. Fellowship groups on Fridays at 8:00PM for youth, young professionals, families and children. Call church office at 301-229-8233 or Rev. Chow at 301-340-6467

LAWN MOWING and YARD WORK Amoruso's Lawn Service. Cabin John Resident. (301) 320-2685.



THE "FEMALE STRANGER" WAS NEWS IN THE 30'S

An archival accounting of the story.

By Ger Quinn

Last fall one of my neighbors received a visit from Eleanor Hannen who had grown up in my neighbor's house. Eleanor had many stories about her life in Cabin John in the 1930's. A few weeks after the visit she sent my neighbor some photos and copies of old documents related to the house. Among the documents was a little story that connects our own cabin dwelling John with an unnamed grave site in Alexandria. Several issues ago, Andy Rice shared a version from the '70's. Here's the story as authored by Eleanor Hannen and dated December 5, 1939.

"The Legend of the Female Stranger"
About the time of the Revolutionary War in the latter part of the 18th century, there lived in England a beautiful noblewoman. She was an orphan and the ward of an elderly gentleman. As she grew older he be-

came very fond of her and wished to marry her. However, she loved and was loved by a man, John Smith, who was not of the nobility. Her guardian became very angry on finding this out; one night he and John came to blows. In the fight John accidentally killed the guardian. The lady, who was horrified, insisted they leave England at once. She knew that if he stayed, he would have to stand trial on a manslaughter charge, and as nobility ruled England at this time, he probably would be convicted. So the next night, under cover of darkness, John with his bride left England on a ship bound for the Colonies, captained by his brother.

They landed and docked at Alexandria, VA and paddled up the beautiful Potomac River in canoes to what is now known as the Cabin John Creek. The crew of the ship built John and his wife a cabin in the vicinity of where Cabin John Bridge now stands. They were left with enough provisions for two years when his brother expected again to return to this country.

Continued On Page 7

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BLACK BIRD FLY AWAY

By Lee Lawrence

Hugh Gregory Gallagher, a resident of Cabin John, has recently published his fifth book, which is titled *Black Bird Fly Away - Disabled in an Able-Bodied World*. It was published by Vandamere Press in Arlington.

Other boys were likely to be excited about the White Sox race

for the pennant. Young Hugh Gregory Gallagher was excited by the Prairie House of Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies Van der Rohe apartment houses on the shore of Lake Michigan and the elegant buildings of Louis Sullivan. These men, who have achieved legendary fame, were prominent in the landscape of young Hugh as he grew up in Chicago. Thomas Jefferson is another one of his heroes partially because of Jefferson's design of Monticello Hugh's fascination with architecture fed his hunger to design his own house.

Being paraplegic due to polio would not seem to be considered in his choice of the site for his house. It's at the end of a country lane in Cabin John, Maryland tucked back in the woods,

not visible from the road. Hugh tells you that his house is based on an idea of an Italian Renaissance architect, who believed that emotion is conveyed through forms evolved in the brain, geometrical schemes woven of interlocking forms, relating to each other in height, weight, width and depth. The three dimensional quality demands a visibly organized space. The external perimeters of the house make sense in the context of a cube within a box. You feel comfortable with all the peculiar lines and angles; they are consistent with the concept. They make sense. The house is basically one large room.

Hugh was discovering various requirements based on his handicap. There was the need for level access from every room to the outside. His shoulders are restricted in their strength. Being unable to raise windows he could pull open a door easily so his house has dozens of doors.

There are two freestanding bookcases containing his collection of research. "My Alaska books are there because I did a book on Etok an Inupiat Eskimo from Barrow, Alaska. At age 18 Etok was one of the the earliest and most effective leaders in the

movement that culminated in the Alaska Native Claims Act by which Alaskan natives received two Billion dollars, nine hundred million acres and a percentage of Alaskan revenues. This still is the largest U.S. settlement of Aboriginal rights. "He is indeed my brother," declares Hugh. "Etok's battles were like mine when I was struggling with accessibility and civil rights for disabled people.

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center for more information

Wee Wanna Be Ages 3 - 5 Mon. 10:30 AM
Which sports players do your kids pretend to be? Boys and girls will
be introduced to soccer, basketball, floor hockey, kick ball, agility,
and T-ball through supervised play sessions. Each child can partici-
pate at his/her own pace.

Wee Wanna Be... for Siblings Ages 2 - 5 Mon. 9:30 AM
bring one or more of you children.

Karate/Jujitsu Ages 5 - 12 Wed. 7:00 PM
Introduction to physical and psychological aspects of Karate and Ju-
jitsu. Lecture, exercise, drills and competition with promotional ex-
ams available. Beginning through advanced students.

Karate/Jujitsu Ages 13&up Wed. 8:00 PM

Definitions
Motivational, fun, safe way to start toning your body and burning
calories. Low-impact complete body warm-up, 20 min. leg work and
20 min. of arm, shoulder and back work designed to tone and build
strength, 5 min. abdominal work and 5 min. cool down with stretch-
ing and yoga positions.

Tues. Thurs 6:45PM Wed. Fri. 9:15 AM

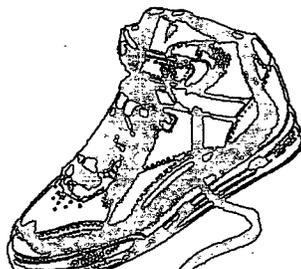
Ongoing Recreation Activities

Senior Exercise Mon. and Wed. 11:30 - 12:15

Adult Drop-in Bridge Mon. 9:30 - 11:30

Fri. 10 - Noon

Adult table tennis Tues., Thurs. 1:00- 2:00



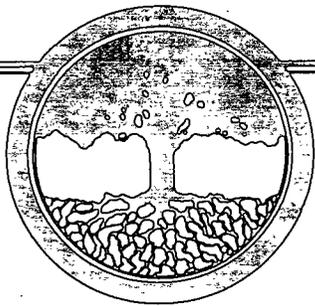
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Cabin John, MD 20818

Note New Deadline Day
The next deadline is 10AM
THURSDAY Mar. 11th for the issue
mailing Mar. 18th.

People who make The Village News
possible: Barbara and Reed Martin,
Lorraine Minor, Heidi Brown Lewis.

Regular Contributors: Burr Gray,
Andy Rice, Diane Leatherman, Ger
Quinn, and Barbara Martin.



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Fly Away

Continued From Page 4

"Campaigning in Alaska for Senator Bartlett gave me plenty of experience battling with barriers. Consequently, I was well prepared to conceive and draft the language for the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968."

It was a banner year for Hugh - he bought his house that year and witnessed the enactment of the Architectural Barriers Act. It was the first civil rights law for people with disabilities. This Act written by Hugh laid the groundwork for the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA) of 1990. The ADA was enacted in response to the overwhelming conclusion of numerous studies done by national organizations that discrimination still persisted in employment, and that there were barriers to public accommodations, transportation and communication.

Hugh says that there are things that he doesn't understand until he writes it down. He admits that he found the United States Senate fascinating but not understandable. So, it was that he

wrote *Advise and Obstruct: The Role of the United States Senate in Foreign Policy Decisions*. It was published and gained Hugh the honor of being a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize.

Polio has been a contributing factor to his life ever since he contracted it when he was 19. FDR became Hugh's model when he was at Warm Springs and for many years thereafter. "While a person who is disabled learns to manage their disability in order to make a way through life. FDR managed his disability for the whole nation." Hugh says that he came to understand that he didn't have the strength to pretend he was FDR. "FDR was super human. I had to write about him. I had a principal reason for writing *A Splendid Deception* which is I want to claim Roosevelt as one of us. I don't want anyone to forget that it was a paraplegic who was the great hero of the 20th Century and that he did it all from a wheelchair."

CLASSIFIEDS

SCHOOL SUBSTITUTES: Clara Barton Center for Children (located at the Clara Barton Community Center) is in need of reliable adults who can assist teachers occasionally mornings, afternoons or both. Would you like to work with 2-5 year olds a few hours a month in a creative, lively environment? Please call Chris for details (301) 320-4565.

TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS. Yellow and white Formica top table with leaf and four matching yellow chairs \$50. Call 301-229-6194.

LOOKING FOR HOUSE: We're a Cabin John family looking for a house/apt. to rent or housesit while our home is renovated. Project is scheduled to begin in June. 301-229-0129.

LOOKING FOR HOUSE: Long time Cabin John residents seek 3-4 bedroom home to rent. 301-320-0707

To place an ad in the Village News classifieds, send us your ad before the first Saturday of the month. The cost is \$0.25 per word. If you have questions, call Lorraine Finor at (301)229-3515



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LEGEND

Continued From Page 3

The happiness of John and his bride lasted only about a year and a half when his wife, who was always very delicate and not used to this climate, became ill with malaria. John became very worried and decided to take her in his canoe down to the nearest doctor at Alexandria.

She lived but a short time after this and John buried her in Christ's Church yard and returned to his cabin at Cabin John Creek broken-hearted.

Having lost all interest in life, and his brother not returning at the set time, he actually starved to death. When his brother who was delayed another year in returning, finally came back to this beautiful section of the country he found John's remains and a letter which told of the sad death of his beloved wife, and her last wish that no one should ever know her real identity and that her grave should be marked "The Grave of the Female Stranger." John also asked that his brother destroy all signs of the cabin and requested that his remains be placed beside his wife's. This the captain is supposed to have done, and returned to England.

Years later, a wealthy man heard this story and looked up the grave at the old church. Finding it in poor condition he had it placed in good shape and a new marker put on it. If you ever visit Christ's Church in Alexandria, VA you can still see the "Grave of the Female Stranger." This is the legend of how Cabin John got its name, and to this day the descendants of residents living near here at that time believe this story and say the spirit of the 'beautiful lady' still hovers over the Cabin John Bridge.

**ADDITION OF 48
FLIGHTS TO
REAGAN NATIONAL
AIRPORT**

Bills have been introduced in Congress that would add an additional 48 flights to National Airport. The group that has coordinated citizen efforts in the past to address regional aircraft noise issues is the Citizens for the Abatement of Aircraft Noise, Inc. (CAAN), P.O. Box 40093, Washington, D.C. 20016 (301320-5905).

CAAN has a web site at www.caan.org

On the website you can find information on the latest bills. The organization recommends that any interested citizens write or phone their Congressional Representatives - Senators Paul Sarbanes and Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, and Rep. Constance Morella, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. The next meeting of the Citizens Association on Feb. 23th will discuss this issue.

**Bannockburn Co-op Nursery
School Holds Annual Auction**



Saturday, March 20th 7PM

All alumni and community friends are invited to "Caribbean Carnival," this year's fundraising auction. There will be a silent and live auction, and dinner featuring margaritas and Caribbean food from Havana Breeze.

Tickets are \$16.00 per person for dinner and auction (\$5.00 for auction only). The "Caribbean Carnival" will be at the Bannockburn Clubhouse. For tickets or more information contact Peggy Philleo at 301-320-8635.

Robert Mattia Photography inc.
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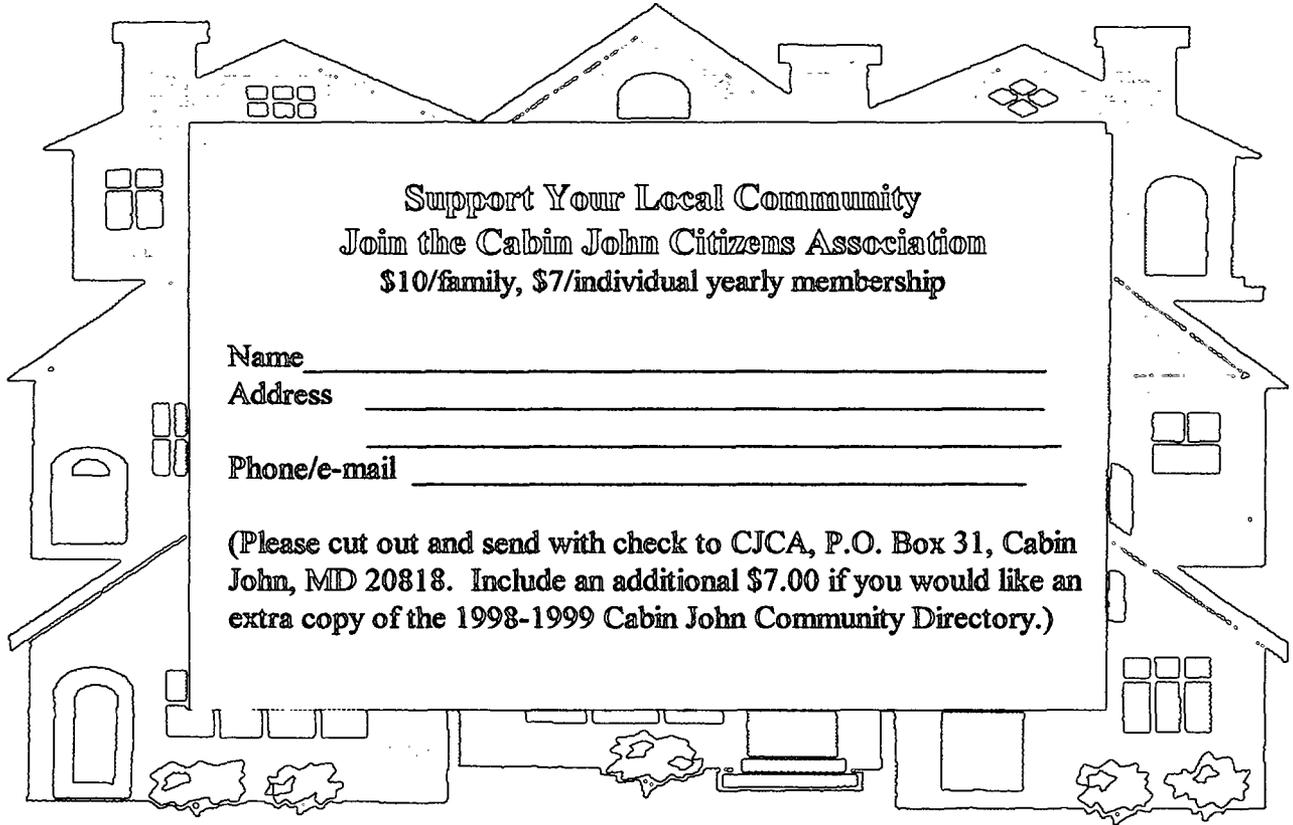
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