

THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 32 No. 9

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

June 1999

NEIGHBORLY NEWS June 1999

by Barbara Martin

Dr. Henry Briefs, who lived on Macarthur for more than 40 years, has died. Henry was born in Germany and came to Washington as a teenager. During WW II, he served in the Army in an intelligence unit, interrogating German prisoners of war. He was chairman of the Economics Department at Georgetown. The Briefs may have had the largest family in Cabin John-- 10 children, many of whom still live in the Wheaton/Rockville/Bethesda area.

More achievements for our young people. **Maria Kallman**, daughter of Kate Grinberg and Tim Kallman, made the K-1 women's kayak team in the US Canoe and Kayak Junior Nationals. The Kallmans live on 76th street.

Aryn and Avryl Klich are expert swimmers. Both competed last month in the International Caribbean Invitational, in St. Croix, VI. Aryn earned the gold medal for the 200-meter butterfly swim, and a silver and a bronze for other events. Avryl won two silvers and a bronze. The girls are the daughters of Adriana and Richard Klich; the family lives on 76th Street.

Janis and Greg Glenn have moved to Riverside Drive with their four children: Erin, in college; Megan at Whitman; Gregory at Pyle; and Luke, 2. Greg is a research scientist working on a skin patch vaccination.

Richard and Lynn Hopkins are new neighbors on Macarthur. They have two teenage sons, Daniel and Noah, and a daughter, Gabrielle, at Clemson. Richard and Lynn design commercial cafeterias, e.g., for colleges and government agencies.

On 83rd Place, new owner **David Powers** is renovating his house, the one that was the home of Nelly Creamer. David is a computer consultant.

New to 79th Street are **Alicia Radice and Horst VonSchilling**. Alicia is a consulting physician; Horst has a BMW dealership. Alicia and Horst formerly lived on Tomlinson Terrace.

This thanks comes from **Danny Harris**:

"To all friends and neighbors who were so kind with words, food and cards during the time my wife, **Virginia**, was in Suburban Hospital recovering from a heart attack... To neighbors who brought a cake for Virginia and me when we celebrated our mutual birthday on May 2nd... To all neighbors and friends involved in helping me with dismantling the interiors of homes scheduled to be torn down, and salvaging materials to be used for homes in the Cumberland area being renovated for low-income families and the elderly...

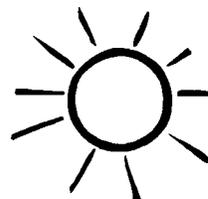
I say thank you so very much. You are appreciated."

New to 75th Place are **Rich and Jennifer Samit**, formerly of Glover Park in the District. Rich works in real estate and Jennifer is an RN. They first came to know Cabin John through visits with their friends Bruce and Barbara Wilmarth and bike rides on the canal. They're happy to now be joining the community.

Please call me at 301-229-3482 with news of births, deaths, marriages, honors, new neighbors, former residents.

Next CJCA Meeting - May 25 at 7:30 at Clara Barton Community Center.

Agenda - (1) Election of Officers for next year (slate is B. Gray - Pres., L. Heflin - VP, B. Wilmarth - Treas., G. Barnahard - Sec.), (2) thanks to Hughes Landscaping for donation of X-mas tree sale proceeds, (3) long term effort to improve the health of the Cabin John Creek, and (4) discussion of concept of possible 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Seven Locks Road and MacArthur Blvd. and possible pedestrian crossings at various parts of MacArthur.



Palisades Pool Opens to Cabin John residents for annual free swim hours

see page 6 for details

**CABIN JOHN
CITIZENS ASSOC.**

- April 27, 1999 Meeting Notes

1. Tom Jacobus, Chief of the Washington Aqueduct (the water supply system /conduit underneath MacArthur Blvd), gave a brief history of the system (which supplies water to Washington, D.C. and Falls Church, VA) and described some of the upcoming projects that the Corps of Engineers is planning over the next 2 years that might affect travel along MacArthur. The original conduit was built directly under MacArthur, while a second conduit was added alongside in 1927. The Corps' projects include (1) improving the interconnections and beautifying the circle at the Goldsboro/MacArthur intersection in Glen Echo this summer/fall, (2) repairing the conduit under MacArthur next

winter/spring that will probably involve some work in the middle of the road, and (3) redoing some previous repair work on the Union Arch Bridge next spring/summer to be consistent with the historical nature of the bridge. The last effort will probably require some detouring of traffic and bicyclists when the time comes. Mr. Jacobus also noted that, while the MacArthur Blvd. property is still federally owned, repair and maintenance of MacArthur was turned over to the County a while back.

2. A motion was passed to spend up to \$200 to purchase County electronic data that contains all of the real estate/zoning/mapping information on the Cabin John community. This will allow the Citizens Association to provide accurate maps of specific locations in Cabin John when the need arises. Gary Barnhard (Barnhard & Ass.) (301-229-8012) offered to use the data to provide maps to interested residents at cost.

3. A motion was passed to create a fund specifically to be used to assist Cabin John residents who are addressing zoning issues that are supported by the Citizens Association. This fund would be created from a specific mailing/solicitation on the issue.

4. A motion was passed to alert businesses/residents of the effort underway to restore the integrity of the bike path. The goal is to eliminate parked cars that block the bike path. An effort is being made with the County to better identify and mark the bike path, among other things. As part of this effort, the County recently cleared pathside debris.

**CABIN JOHN CREEK
CLEANUP YIELDS
BOUNTY**

The annual cleanup organized by the Citizens Association and supported this year by the Bannockburn Elementary School (as organized by Heidi Bumpers and Dawn Fyock) fell once again on a beautiful sunny day and prompted about 80 adults and kids to trek up and down the Cabin John Creek collecting about 40 bags of trash.

The youngest kids and their parents worked on the easiest part, and so on. The old Cabin John veterans worked the toughest sections. Once again, the Montgomery County Park and Planning Commission supported the effort by providing gloves and arranging for two so-called "Stream Striders" (Della and Brian Currenton) to educate everyone as to the issues affecting the health of the stream and the watershed.

The Citizens Association is organizing an effort with the County and other neighborhoods to improve the health of the stream on a long term basis and is looking for volunteers to assist with this more complicated and difficult task. Please call Burr Gray (320-2918) if you are interested in working on this issue.



Let's Talk!

Eleanor Balaban

229-7990

LOOKING BACK- WARD IN CABIN JOHN

By Andrew E. Rice

Tales of the Canal

It's hard to imagine looking backward in Cabin John without thinking about the C & O Canal. Although many of these historical columns over the last two or three years have dealt with the Canal in one way or another, It seems to be a topic of continuing interest. So, at the risk of repeating what some readers already know well, this column will again deal with this fascinating subject.

As with some of the previous columns, I am highly indebted to Elizabeth Kytle for most of what follows. In 1976, on the occasion of the U.S. Bicentennial, she interviewed 18 old-timers then living in Cabin John and wrote down what they told her of the old days. The fullest account of the canal came in her talk with Otho Swain, who had been born on a canal boat in 1901. His father was the locktender at the lock which now bears his name: Swain's Lock (Lock 21, about two miles out River Road from Potomac Village).

Under construction from 1828 to 1850, the Canal runs 185 miles from Georgetown to Cumberland and contains 74 locks as it rises from virtual sea level in Georgetown to 605 feet at Cumberland. It is 50 to 60 feet wide in most places, although all the locks are 15 feet wide. Most of the rock for the locks is sandstone from Seneca. As a commercial waterway it operated until 1924, when

the railroad finally won the battle between them.

Otho Swain, recalling his own experience as well as what he heard from his father and grandfather (who had helped build the canal), told Elizabeth Kytle that "when the boats were running, when they first started the canal, there were over 500 boats on it and they used to run day and night. They always had two teams of mules and the tow lines were 65 yards long. One team would pull four to six hours then they'd rest up and the others worked."

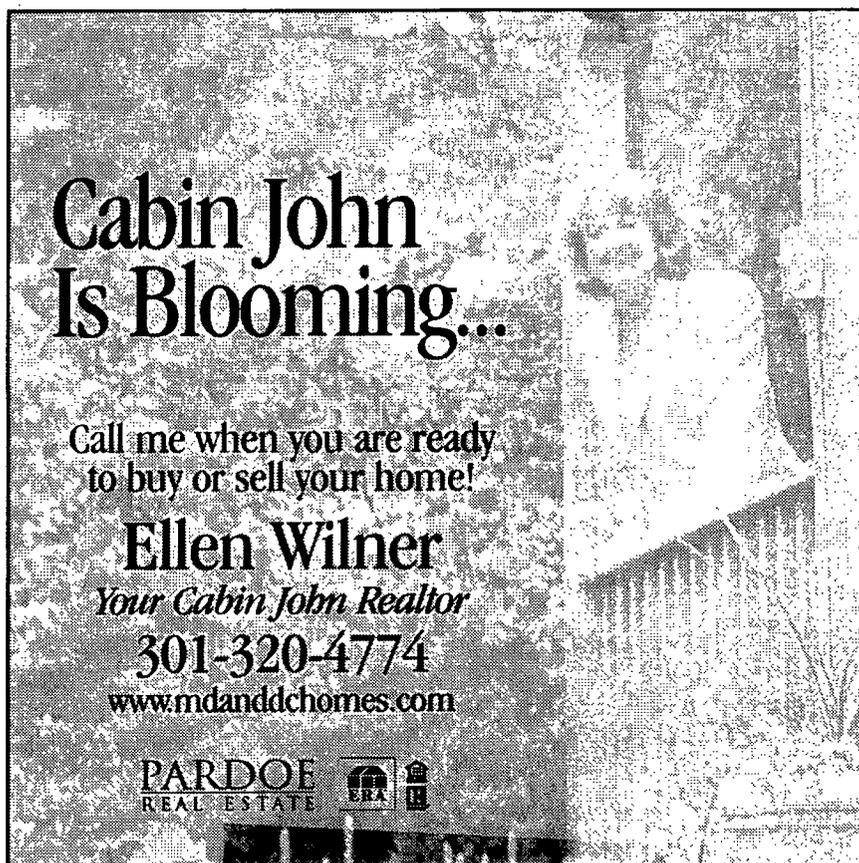
"A canal boat hauled anywhere from 117 to 120 tons. It was about 90 to 95 feet long, and about 14-1/2 feet wide -- only a few inches less wide than the locks.

Continued On Page 4

MIXED PAPER COL- LECTION BEGINS FOR SOME IN COUNTY Cabin John collection in 2000 plan

On March 21st, Montgomery County began the collection of residential mixed papers in over 15,000 homes in 'collection area 2' -from Wheaton to Chevy Chase. Junk mail, computer paper, cereal boxes and corrugated paperboard are being accepted in addition to newspapers in the blue bins for that area.

According to current plans, all of Montgomery County will be covered by the program by mid-2000. In the meantime, Cabin John'ers can take mixed paper to Georgetown Paper Stock, 14818 Southlawn Lane in Rockville, ph# 301-762-6990.



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ERA

LOOKING BACK

Continued From Page 3

The stable was in front. In the middle was the hay house. And at the back was what amounted to a little house on the boat -- quarters for the captain and his wife and family."

"Getting food along the canal was no problem. Most every 25 miles there'd be a grocery store right at the lock. And there used to be boats that came up from Georgetown and they'd pull right alongside of your boat and you'd buy anything you wanted -- oysters, bananas, everything. . . ."

"Once you got the hang of steering, it just came to you, but the hardest thing about steering was to steer through a lock. There's not much room on either side, and if you'd gone bumping through you'd have torn your boat up. And you had to know how to stop the boat. If you couldn't stop the boat right, you'd break through the locks' gates."



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**CRAB FEAST 1999
PLANS BEGINNING**

Yes, it is that time of year... almost. We are beginning to awaken to the realization that if the birds have migrated back, it won't be long before they are migrating *away* again and *that* means Cabin John's Annual Crab and Chicken Feast is slowly getting closer. Or quickly, depending on how organized we feel on any given day! We will be having an organizational meeting on Thursday, June 10, 7:30pm at the Clara Barton Community Center.

Traditionally the Crab Feast has been held on the Saturday following Labor Day, but this year Rosh Hashanah falls on that date so we are moving the Crab Feast back one week to **Saturday, September 18, 1999.**

This is a wonderful event for our community and a great way to get involved and share your community spirit. We are in need of a great many people to make the event work and if you are available for a little amount of time or a large amount of time we would like to see you; all help is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

If you won't be able to attend the meeting in June feel free to call either of us (Lori Reickelman or Nicki Wright) and we will put you in touch with the appropriate person. Nicki: 301-229-8258 Lori: 301-320-6299.

Neighborhood Services

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MEET THE PRESIDENT: BURR GRAY

by Barbara Martin

Burr Gray had a peripatetic boyhood. Until he was 9, he lived with his family in the Middle East--Lebanon; Baghdad; Amman, Jordan--while his father (who spoke fluent Arabic) was a political attache in the U.S. Foreign Service. An English-speaking Kindergarten was held in the Gray's house in Baghdad. A younger brother was born in Iraq, a younger sister in Beirut. There was the sabbatical year when the family lived near Burr's mother's relatives in Minnesota; that's where he went to first grade and learned to play ice hockey. But his roots were in Vermont, where his grandparents lived, and where he was born. His grandfather was a college professor, and the grandparents were the models for a well-known book by Wallace Stegner, "Crossing To Safety."

In 1967, Burr's father left the Foreign Service and the family moved to Greensboro, Vermont. "That was the first traditional New England winter I remember--snow, skiing, maple sugaring." His father worked in a political campaign, then came to Washington to work for the Environmental Protection Agency. The family lived in McLean, Virginia, but went back to Vermont every summer. Burr learned to sail and to love New England.

In high school, Burr was attracted to the science courses and chose Dartmouth College because of its reputation for a

fine chemistry department and (probably more important) because it was in rural New England. At Dartmouth two important things happened: he branched out into environmental studies, which would become his life's professional focus, and he met Liz Pickar who would become his life's partner.

After graduation, Burr worked for a year in Boston for an environmental consulting firm, then entered Georgetown Law School. Liz, meanwhile, was getting her law degree at the University of Virginia Law School.

When he finished at Georgetown, Burr--who had sailed on the varsity team at Dartmouth--left with two friends on a two months' sailing trip from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

His next venture was working on Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaign. At first a volunteer, he was then hired as Deputy Director of Operations. "Big title, small salary." The night that Hart won the New Hampshire primary, Burr proposed and Liz accepted. They were married in 1984, and Burr found a job in EPA's legal enforcement office, specializing in air quality.

He left EPA in 1987, and for the next 8 years, worked in several environmental law firms, before he again became a government lawyer, this time for the National Guard Bureau, deciding that employment in the Federal Government fit better with family life than private practice did. Liz had made that choice too, and was working as an attorney for the U.S. Securities and Ex-

change Commission. By this time, the Grays were living in American University Park and were the parents of a daughter, Lindley. They moved to Cabin John in 1991, to Tomlinson Court. Daughter Rachel joined the family 2 years later.

Perhaps it was his Quaker upbringing--the religion's focus on community service, his mother's strong support of good causes, his high-school years at Sidwell Friends--that led him to get involved with the Cabin John Citizens Association. He was vice-president, then in 1997 became president. With a strong team of officers, Susan Roberts, Bruce Wilmarth, and Gary Barnhardt, Burr's presidency has been admirable. In the last 2 years the Association has published a new directory, sponsored two successful Cabin John Creek clean-up days, joined the push that resulted in rewatering

Continued On Page 6

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

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TEACHER WITH TRUCK - Local school teacher seeking summer work in garden maintenance, brush removal, general hauling. Available full time mid-July, weekends before. Call Mark Leatherman at 301-229-

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MEET THE PRESIDENT

Continued From Page 5

the Canal, held Christmas parties that included local merchants and organizations, accomplished beautification projects around the Community Center, set up Channel 5's TV coverage of our town, invited speakers to address concerns of Cabin John and the County, incorporated the Association, made progress on bike path improvement, advocated protective positions regarding house construction, and held never-better Crab Feasts.

The good news is that Burr has agreed to continue leadership for the next year. "I love doing this," is his amazing-but-true statement. This year will mark the 80th anniversary of the Citizens Association, and plans are

underway for a celebration. Burr also wants to form an alliance of communities that border the Cabin John Creek to bring back the health of that stream. We are very fortunate to have a leader with enthusiasm, vision, and get-it-done abilities.

PALISADES POOL TO OPEN JUNE 22 FOR CABIN JOHN RESIDENTS

Starting June 22, Cabin John residents are admitted free of charge to the Palisades Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Children aged 7 and under must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Children aged 8-14 who will be left by themselves at the pool will be asked to satisfy the swim test - swimming one length of the pool and treading water for one minute.

Please sign in at the pool - some proof of residency (such as being listed in the Cabin John Community Directory, an ID with address, or mail received at a Cabin John address) may be required for admission.

The Palisades Pool (229-9879) is located off Seven Locks Road between Carver Road and Cyprus Grove Lane. 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.

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WATER RETURNS TO LOCAL STRETCH OF THE C&O CANAL

On April 22, 1999, Superintendent Doug Faris and other National Park Service staff held a ceremony to announce the park's recovery from the two great floods of 1996 and the rewatering of the Canal.

With several important engineering changes, including an area designed as a spillway just above Old Angler's Inn, the Canal should be able to better withstand floods in the future.

Several local citizen groups, including the Cabin John Citizens Association, played a critical role in convincing the Park Service of the merit and desire of the community in taking the actions necessary to restore the water to this portion of the Canal.

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

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

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The annual Folklife Festival on the National Mall will feature exhibits from New Hampshire, Romania and South Africa. This FREE event presents a wondrous display of art, culture, food, music, industry, and natural resources indigenous to the highlighted regions. For more info: (202)287-3424 or www.si.edu/folklife

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