



Village News

Volume 38 Issue 8

Serving the people of Cabin John and beyond

Rare Opportunity to Tour Some of the Unique and Inspired Homes of Cabin John June 11



For only the third time in recent history, our residents will have a chance to visit some of the most interesting houses around the community. This year's tour, organized by Susan Roberts, with able assistance from an enthusiastic planning committee, will be held on the second Saturday in June—June 11. (Note change from earlier announced date.) About a dozen houses from all parts of Cabin John will be open for you to enjoy, thanks to the generous cooperation of their owners.

This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen bonds among different neighborhoods of our town.

Hours of the tour will be from 10 am to 2 pm. Tickets and a map may be purchased on the day of the tour only. A flyer in the June issue of the *Village News* will provide further details. The cost for participation will be \$10 per person (no children under 12 please). Proceeds will be donated to the CJ Citizens Association and the *Village News*.

Volunteer house "monitors" are needed to assist at each of the houses on the tour. Monitors will be assigned in pairs, and are asked to take a 2-hour shift, leaving 2 additional hours to do your own touring. If you are willing to be a monitor, please call Susan Roberts at 320-4451 or e-mail her at seroberts05@yahoo.com.

Put the date on your calendar, to be part of a Cabin John tradition and a fun and interesting community day.

Monthly "Voices of the River" Events to Follow May 14 Lockhouse River Center Grand Opening

The grand opening of the Lockhouse 8 River Center, the restored lockhouse at Lock 8 on the C&O canal (at the end of Riverside Drive) will be on May 14, with ribbon cutting at 10 am and an "Insect Walk" at 11 am. There will also be plenty of music, food, and displays. Free parking is available at the Lockhouse 8 pull-off from the Clara Barton parkway or you can walk over from 79th St.

Potomac Conservancy is restoring the lockhouse in partnership with the National Park Service. Volunteer lockkeepers are still needed to greet visitors on weekends. Anyone interested can volunteer one Saturday or Sunday a month from May 14-Sept. 18. Orientation for lockkeepers will be Saturday, April 30, 10:30 am to noon at the Lockhouse. Contact Judy Welles, a Cabin John neighbor, at welles@potomac.org or 301-229-8110.

The Lockhouse will have activities on weekends, such as the Wildflower Walk on April 9 that brought out dozens of Cabin Johners. After the Grand Opening, the next event will be a walk along the C&O Canal towpath with a talk about the seven locks (Lock 8-Lock 14) led by NPS Ranger Rod Sauter, on May 22, at 4 pm. The tour will begin at Lock 8. Refreshments will follow at the end. Bring a blanket or chairs and picnic at Lock 8 after the walk

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Neighborly News

by Barbara Martin

Gertrude Kidwell died in March. She was 89, and had lived in the Gardens for 30 years. Gertrude was an amazing woman. Until she was 85, she worked as a bookkeeper for BF Saul, going to work every day. She got her driver's license at age 70, and learned to use the computer at 75. Gertrude's daughter **Joann Bast** and grandchildren **Kathy** and **Paul Bast** are longtime residents of Thorne Road.

Also in March, **Billy Peyton** died. Billy lived all his life in Cabin John. Billy's many relatives are Cabin John people—his wife **Eileen** of Webb Road, daughters **Brooke Peyton** of Gaithersburg and **Amie St. Angelo** of Germantown, his mother **Frances Peyton**, sister **Jacqueline Bissett**, and brothers **Robert** and **Mark**.

Hometown boy and former County Executive **Neal Potter** recently celebrated his 90th birthday. When Neal was born, Woodrow Wilson was President, prohibition had not yet passed, and Montgomery County had 33,000 residents.

Village News Editor **Heidi Lewis** will be turning 40 in May and her family is organizing a neighborhood 10K race to celebrate. The 10K run and/or walk (dubbed the "Race Over The Hill") will start at 4 pm Saturday May 14 in front of the community center and use the MacArthur bike path and the canal tow path to make the 10K loop. Refreshments will be served at the Lewis home at 7507 MacArthur afterward. Contact Scott Lewis at 301-320-0918 or scott.lewis@gartner.com if you would like to be entered in the race. Special post-race awards to all participants over 40!

Call Barbara Martin at 301-229-3482 or email (barbmartin@comcast.net) with news about Cabin John residents—present or past. New neighbors on your block, new babies, families who are moving elsewhere, deaths, marriages—let me know.

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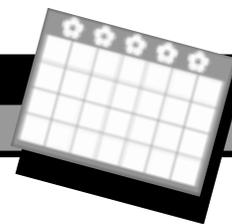
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Dr. Jim Shaw was one of a team of Bethesda-area medical people who went to Thailand in January to help tsunami victims. The *Bethesda Magazine* for March/April features a story of the team's heroic service over 10 days in the devastated area.

Donna Zeigfinger, who lives on Froude Circle, is helping with the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary 5K run and 1 mile walk, to be held Sunday, May 22, 8:30 am in Wheaton Regional Park. The Sanctuary is a 400-acre refuge which provides a permanent home for over 200 formerly abused and abandoned farm animals, and rehabilitated wildlife. For more details go to www.animalsanctuary.org/events/run/html or call Donna at 301-320-2892.

This summer the **Britti** family of Seven Locks Road will be moving to Winston-Salem where **John** has a new job as chief operating officer of a mortgage banking company. **Denise Britti** runs an interior decorating business, and was the organizer and faithful coordinator of the Cabin John Choral group. John and Denise and their children will be here until July.

Community Calendar



- APR**
- 23 Cabin John Creek Cleanup
Union Arch Bridge Playground
9:30 am (see p. 6)
 - 26 CJCA Meeting
Clara Barton Center
7:30 pm (see p. 4)
 - 30 Glen Echo Family Day
Glen Echo Park
11 am - 6 pm (see p. 5)
-
- MAY**
- 1 Tsunami Relief Fundraiser
Brookmont Church
3 - 6 pm (see p. 7)
 - 14 Lockhouse River Center Opening
Lockhouse 8
10 am - 2 pm (see p. 1)
 - 22 Canal Walking Tour
Lockhouse 8
4 pm (see p. 1)
 - 24 CJCA Meeting
Clara Barton Center
7:30 pm

Cabin John Profile: Mark Berman, Renaissance Man

By Andrea Caplan

Born and raised in Flushing, NY, the son of working-class immigrant parents, Mark Berman early on took a strong interest in sports, creative writing, and radical politics. And through the years, his involvement in these activities has intensified. He is a produced playwright, plays senior basketball, and is vice-chair of the WPFW local station board. The station presents a left view of politics, mixed with jazz, blues, and world music. It is self-described as the “Jazz and Justice” station.

As a teenager, Mark wanted to ship out on a freighter to see the world, but ended up as deckhand on a Great Lakes ore boat. He became a member of the National Maritime Union, and tried helping to organize seamen on the Great Lakes. In his last year in high school, Mark, who played varsity baseball, had a tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field, and played in leagues on Long Island.

He enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, becoming involved in radical campus politics. After graduating with a degree in English and history, he moved to Milwaukee and got a job in a major auto plant, eventually being elected as a Head Steward in the UAW-CIO local. He also was involved in the “Joe Must Go” movement, a massive petition drive to recall US Senator Joe McCarthy. Mark was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee and refused to cooperate with what he felt was a witch hunt.

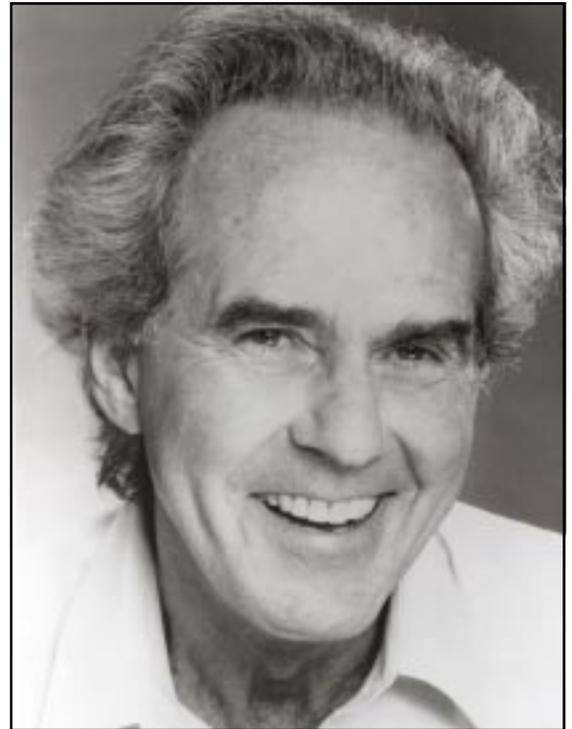
During periodic layoffs, he began writing plays, and played baseball with a team comprised of mostly Puerto Ricans and Mexican-Americans.

He married and moved back to Madison, taking

courses and landing a job as a disc jockey on a local commercial FM station, where he developed a late-night show featuring jazz and folk blues, and off-beat commercials which he wrote. The show was popular and he later served as the station’s program director. He recalls the time Studs Terkel was visiting Madison and appeared on Mark’s show. “I asked him one question about Big Bill Broozy, who had just died, and at whose funeral Studs gave one of the eulogies. Well, for the next 30 minutes, Studs told stories about Big Bill and about Mahalia Jackson...and I didn’t have to ask a single other question during the entire interview.”

One of the Theatre Department teachers at the university read a couple of Mark’s plays, and recommended him for a 2-year McKnight Fellowship in Playwriting at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. He became a member of the Guthrie Theatre acting company; and an early play of his was produced on the second stage there, on a Rockefeller Grant. While in the Twin Cities, Mark and his wife, a post-doctoral fellow at the University, adopted a 5-week-old son.

Mark was hired as an instructor and Playwright-in-Residence at Penn State, where he developed the 5 O-Clock Theatre program which produced original plays written by his students. Several of his own scripts were produced at theatres around the country. Mark was recruited to develop a similar program at Florida State University, and the family moved to Tallahassee.



Mark Berman

© Mark Berman



	Andrea Caplan, B.A., C.M.T.
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(continued on page 6)



CJCA News

by Burr Gray

The next meeting of the CJCA will be Apr. 26, 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Community Center.

Next CJCA Meeting—April 26, 2005 at 7:30 pm at the Clara Barton Community Center. Agenda: presentation by Maryland state personnel on the proposal to add/create toll lanes on the Beltway. If you live on Cypress Grove Lane or other locations next to the Beltway, you will definitely want to attend this meeting.

Summary of March 22, 2005 CJCA Meeting—a two-part motion was considered and passed to make Burr Gray “CJCA president for life” (it should be noted that Mr. Gray was out of the country at the time of the meeting) and to require that cookies provided at CJCA meetings have chocolate in them. Because no quorum was present, the motion is not considered binding and merely a sense of the attendees.

Perfect Record—Many thanks to the following Cabin John individuals/families who have a perfect record of paying dues each of the last six years, which is when we started keeping accurate records. (We were going to publish the list of those who had paid dues 4 or 5 out of the last 6 years but that turned out to be a very long list, so for these purposes we are going with the perfect record

crowd. Even if you did not have a perfect record, you are very much appreciated and your day of notoriety will come. Happy to check our records again upon request): Alexander, Beckman/Speckler, Betz/Biegel, Brehm/Boucher, Carr/Thornton, Chambers/Hyde, Cozens/Nelson, H. Daniel, Janet Davison, Dixon, Dreilinger/Ford, Fiegel, Fortune, Fox/Metz, Fry, Fryer/Cheney, Gardner/Kepler, Geiger, Gelb, Heflin, Heslin, Hsu/Robertson, Hugo, Kans, Kleinberg/Shillinglaw, Lazarus/Austin, S. & H. Lewis, Lindsay, Lucy, Lund, N & L Martin, Mason, McCabe, Minor, Olmer, Orme, F. Patch, Rice/Bergfors, B & D Roberts, Rothschild, Scheinberg, Scott, Shipp, Siefken, Mary Smith, Toder, Townsend, Vogt/Zilly, Wainright, and Weingarten

Missing Village News Editions—CJCA is compiling and converting into electronic format, all of the old issues of the *Village News*. We are missing the issues listed below and hope that a Cabin John resident might have them. Please contact Burr Gray (301-320-2918) if you have any of the following listed by year:

- 1969 – need all issues
- 1974 – need July (Vol 7 #10)

(continued on page 6)



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Glen Echo Park Carousel's 85th Season Begins With Family Day Scheduled for April 30

A Family Day on Saturday, April 30, will usher in the 85th season of the historic Glen Echo Park Dentzel carousel. One of the Washington area's local treasures, the 1921 carousel will be open from April 30 through Sept. 25.

The April 30 Family Day, organized by the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture Inc., will highlight the full range of activities offered at the Park. The celebration will include performances in the one-year-old Puppet Co. Playhouse and in Adventure Theatre, outdoor activities sponsored by Discovery Creek Children's Museum, artist demonstrations, family dances in the Spanish Ballroom, tours by National Park Service rangers, and 75-cent carousel rides. Family Day activities will take place from 11 am to 6 pm.

Later that evening the Clara Barton home will present a "Lamplight Open House & Dramatic Presentation" from 7 to 9 pm with a dramatic presentation at 7:30 pm. Visitors can stroll the beautiful grounds and wander through the historic house at their own pace with docents available to answer questions. Docents will share interesting facts and stories of early 20th century American life and the operations of the early American Red Cross.

RIVER CENTER *cont. from page 1*

to watch the sun setting on the Potomac River. Let Judy know if you will join this Ranger-led walk.

Future "Voices of the River" events at the Lockhouse include a historical presentation on local history on Sunday, June 26, 4:30 pm. Hear how Cabin John got its name, banjo music, and stories about times long ago at the C&O Canal and Potomac River. The event features Cabin John's own Reed Martin and Andy Rice with displays and information about our community's history.

On Sunday, July 24, 5 pm, Hayden Mathews, an "eco-historian" will interpret the forces and events that shaped the Potomac River and the people who lived on its banks for the past 12,000 years. Hiking, paddling, and photography in the tri-state area for over 30 years, he is a knowledgeable, amusing, and passionate speaker on the natural and cultural history of the Potomac River Valley and observer of local life and lore.




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CJCA NEWS
cont. from page 4

- 1979 – need pages 3 & 4 from Jan issue (Vol 11 #6) and need Nov & Dec issues if they were published
- 1985 – need Feb (Vol 18 #6)
- 1994 – need Aug & Sep (Vol 28 #'s 1 & 2), and
- 1995 – need March and Sep (Vol 28 #7 and Vol 29 #2).

Thanks for your help. The *Village News* was started in 1967 and represents an important record of Cabin John's recent history. CJCA hopes to be able to make this information more easily available on a case by case basis to those CJ residents who might have an interest in our community's history.

Annual Cabin John Creek Cleanup set for April 23—Just a heads up that the annual clean-up of the Cabin John Creek is set for the morning of April 23, 2005 (9:30 am start). As always, meet up at playground next to the Union Arch Bridge (one-lane bridge), or up at the park entrance at the intersection of Cypress Grove Lane and Seven Locks. Bring your own gloves if you have

them and be prepared to get a bit wet. Refreshments will be provided.

Updating of the CJCA E-mail List Serve—Please send an e-mail to Gary Barnhard (barnhard@barnhard.com) if you wish to receive the occasional e-mails sent out by CJCA. We average about 3-4 per month. The subject is always either upcoming CJCA events, safety issues, or other local items of interest. We have about 300 homes on the CJCA list but would like to include even more CJ residents. If you already sent such an e-mail and are not receiving the CJCA e-mails, please send it again in the next week.

New Officers—CJCA is looking for new officers for the next year (starting June 05). If you are interested, please contact CJCA Treasurer Bruce Wilmarth at 301-229-8528. We are very much interested in having a change of administration, so please think about investing some time in your community. The term is for one year. — 

BERMAN
cont. from page 3

At FSU Mark directed the national MacArthur Foundation award-winning new plays for 3

years. But a conservative Dean was not enthusiastic about the new plays Mark's Playwrights' Theatre was producing, objecting to social and racial content, although the student and local newspapers hailed Playwrights' as offering some of the most exciting theatre in the city. So Mark packed his bags and the family moved to Bethesda when his wife was hired at NIH.

Goodman in a featured role. The play, about the first major league woman baseball player, was later optioned by Lee Grant, who wanted to direct it for a movie. Mark also began a collaboration with a composer and lyricist on the small cast musical version of his play about Stalin's daughter, *Svelte Anna*, which was performed at the international Mime and Clown Festival, which he describes as an "off-the-wall romp."

After divorcing in the late 80's, Mark settled in Brookmont and took up basketball in a league for older players at Bauer Drive Rec Center. He moved to Cabin John, living first on Archbold Terrace and later in a group house on Persimmon Drive. In 1999, he bought his house on Froude Circle. Meanwhile, the "5-week-old boy" who was adopted in Minnesota became a father and Mark a grandfather to four "terrific kids," including 6-year-old identical twin girls.

With basketball, jogging on the canal, yoga, grandkids, playwriting, involvement with WPFW, and continuous activity against the war in Iraq (which Mark opposed from the start), his life is full. And he is known by colleagues at the radio station Board as "a tough old bird." — 

At this time some of Mark's plays were attracting attention. The late Davey Marlin-Jones circulated Mark's *Lady of the Diamond*, which premiered with Christine Baranski in the title role, and John



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If You Need Transportation Connect-A-Ride Can Help

A significant number of people in Cabin John can no longer drive, and thus have a real problem in getting where they need to go. It can be a real struggle to find a way to shop for groceries or get to important medical appointments. Often help from family and neighbors may not be available. If this applies to you or a Cabin John neighbor, here's where to start getting help.



Connect-A-Ride is sponsored by the Jewish Council on Aging, but provides information and referrals to transportation help sources to anyone, without restriction. The coordinator is Frances Farrow. The office is open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Help is provided on an individual basis. Over the phone, the person you speak with will talk to you about your situation, the places you need to go, how often you would need a ride, your income, and where best to refer you. Connect-A-Ride knows several area private and nonprofit organizations that provide transportation, and will help you with any necessary applications whether you need Metro access, discount taxi service, or a ride to shop or keep doctors' appointments.

Your first step toward getting the transportation help you need is calling 301-738-3252.

—Barbara Martin

May 1 "Mothers for the Motherless" Fundraiser To Aid Tsunami Victims

A group of mothers including Cabin John resident Donna Zeigfinger are sponsoring a silent auction/fundraiser at the Brookmont Church on the corner of Maryland Ave. and Broad St. in Brookmont on Sunday May 1 from 3 to 6 pm. Experience local talent, artists, bakers, potters, musicians and writers as you shop for your Mother's Day/graduation gifts and help out tsunami victims at the same time. The money raised will go to Gokulum Children's Home http://www.ffl.org/html/ffl_tsunami_relief.html and the Humane Society of Asia <http://www.hsiasia.org>. For general information or to volunteer to help, contact Donna Zeigfinger at 301-320-2892 or dzeigfinge@aol.com.

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Mimi Lawrence, Haley Lawrence, and Hannah Duffy are ready to collect.



Kids Enjoy 7th Annual CJ Spring Egg Hunt

Approximately 55 kids attended the Cabin John Spring Egg Hunt last month and found over 800 eggs in the playground. BIG THANKS to the following people for helping out: Hannah Duffy (who stuffed 30 dozen eggs!), the Gurley family, the Harris family, Karen Melchar, the Lewis family (for letting us borrow the parachute!), Maris Myles, Marlene McConnell, Misty Yoklavich, and the Rabner family. Particular thanks go to Ruth Rabner who starts the ball rolling on this effort each year.

Thanks also to all the parents and kids who pitched in to help hide the eggs!



"Scrambling the eggs" after the hunt.



Missy and Brian Rabner.



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SAME DAY SERVICE

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Looking Back in Cabin John

by Andrew E. Rice

What Happened in May 1928

Last month our Cabin John neighbor Uva Cable called to tell me that a former resident of our town had phoned her to say that she just discovered some ancient and disintegrating newspaper columns by Mrs. P. T. Hannan reporting on Cabin John events. They had appeared in a paper called *The Maryland News* in 1928, 1929, and 1930.

Curious to learn more, I consulted the Maryland archives in the Hornbake Library at the University of Maryland and, sure enough, there was a paper by that name published in Rockville at that time. It was preserved on microfilm and I decided I would look through it and see what was happening in Cabin John 77 years ago in the merry month of May. Here's the news, most of it — the sections in quotation marks — presented exactly as it was printed.

Starting with the Citizens Association, we find that at its May 1928 meeting, the Streets Committee reported that Cabin John then had 5 miles of streets and 131 houses. The meeting requested Congressman Zihlman to expedite the survey of Conduit Road (now MacArthur Boulevard) with a view to having it widened. The Schools Committee reported that it had completed its projects of placing drop curtains on the stage of the Glen Echo-Cabin John School (now our Clara Barton Community Center) and had also donated a Chickering grand piano for the auditorium — and that all of this had been done through the voluntary contributions of members. The meeting agreed to present, for the third year, \$5 in gold to the boy or girl most valuable to the school.

Meanwhile, the Cabin John Home Demonstration Club held an entertainment on Saturday evening, May 8, at the school. "The program included vocal solos by Miss Irma Kile and Mr. Potter,

piano solos by Mr. A. H. Schutz. Mr. Paul T. Hannan made a hit with a comic song called 'Ice Cream'. Several humorous recitations were given by Mrs. James Shaver. This was followed by a motion picture program...The entertainment was largely attended and the proceeds amounting to about \$80.00 are to be used to furnish the faculty room of the school."

"A few days earlier the Club had held a business meeting where 'America the Beautiful' was used as the opening song...Mrs. Shaver of the garden committee distributed zinnia seeds. Mr. Potter of the educational committee spoke of a plan to give the children a two weeks course of lessons in music at the Glen Echo-Cabin John School on Saturday mornings...The business meeting was then adjourned to the work session in charge of Mrs. Smith who gave a very interesting and instructive demonstration of crackle-lac." (Anybody know what crackle-lac is?)

Small items of local happenings — somewhat similar to the Neighborly News items in the *Village News* today — appeared regularly. The following are all quoted directly from the May 25, 1928 paper:

- * Mrs. Edith Spence of First Street has just had another short story accepted by McFadden Publications, publishers of the *True Story Magazine*.
- * A new gasoline and automobile accessory station has just been opened by Arthur Selby, at the corner of Conduit Road and Tomlinson Avenue (where Captain's Market is today).
- * The pre-school clinic held on May 17 at the Glen Echo-Cabin John School...was very well attended. More than 50 babies were examined and many of these were vaccinated. Tea was served in the afternoon to the doctors and nurses by Mrs. J.M. Luney of Second Street.
- * Paul Wright of Cropley, Md, who has caused many complaints to traffic officials of Conduit Road... was arrested on May 20 and again on May 23 by US Marshals Bissett and Ferguson. He was arraigned before US Commissioner



C.E.Benson and paid fines respectively of \$40 and \$20.(Pretty steep fines for those days! Benson owned the grocery store where the Veterinary Hospital now stands.)

* The Jr.O.U.A.M. Council No. 11 baseball team of Cabin John was defeated by the Phoenix Athletic Club with a score of 6-2. The game was played Sunday afternoon, May 20. (Jr.O.U.A.M. stands for Junior Order of United American Mechanics, the fraternal group that built the white building at 79th Street and Macarthur)

* A group of about 25 Washington Esperantists were entertained Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Patzer at their house on Fifth Street. A picnic luncheon was served...All conversation was carried on in Esperanto. — 

Editorial note: Orders are still being taken for the second reprinting of Time Was, the memory book about Cabin John put together in 1976 by Elizabeth Kytle. Interested buyers should send a note to Andy Rice at 6517 80th Street, or by e-mail at aerice@comcast.net.



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**“Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world...”**



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5910 Goldsboro Road

Bethesda, Maryland

301-229-3383

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Regular Contributors: Burr Gray, Andy Rice, Barbara Martin.

Ads: 301-229-3515 or mail to *Village News* at above address

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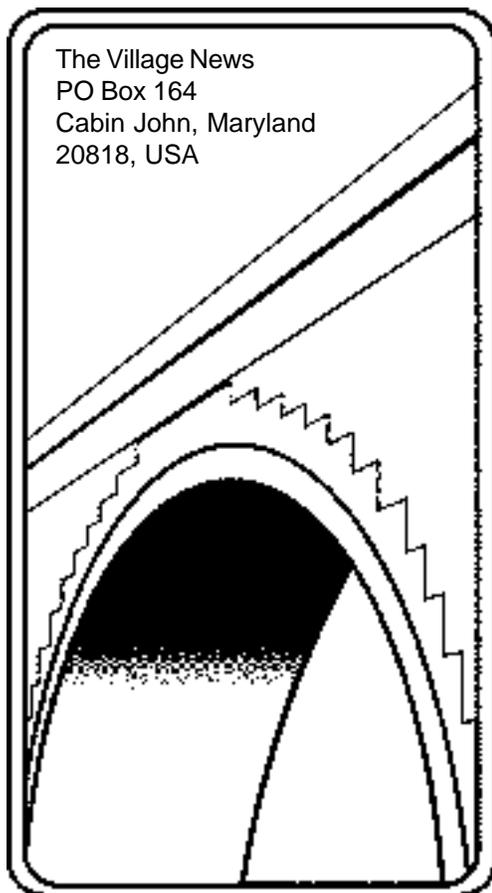
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