THE VILLAGE NEWS

Volume 17, No. 3 *SERVING THE PEOPLE OF CABIN JOHN AND BEYOND* November 1983

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(If you want your event listed in this calendar, please call Susan Luchs, 320-3401, by the 10th of the month. The calendar is open to all community groups.)

Saturday, October 22 Clara Barton Center for Children Play Yard Clean-Up Day; rain date October 29. (See story this issue)

Tuesday, October 25 Cabin John Appreciation Night, 8 p.m., Clara Barton/Washington International School. (See box this page)

Friday, October 28 Cabin John United Methodist Church Rummage Sale, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Continued on Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, November 5 Help build a new playground structure for Clara Barton Center for Children. (See story this issue)

Sunday, November 6 Riverside Assembly of God will begin a Children's Crusade, 6:30 p.m. (continuing through Thursday, November 10)

CABIN JOHN APPRECIATION NIGHT

Newcomers and oldtimers alike will find something of interest at Cabin John Appreciation Night on Tuesday, October 25, at 8 p.m. in the Clara Barton/Washington International School.

If you are new to the area, come and learn some of the history and lore of this fascinating community. If you grew up in Cabin John (and an unusually large number of residents did), come and look at the old photographs of classes at Clara Barton School and try to identify yourself and your friends. On display will be old photographs, memorabilia from the Cabin John Hotel, Indian artifacts, and similar items of historical and cultural interest. There will also be a short program including old film strips and recordings and talks about Cabin John history. Cider and doughnuts will be served.

"Please plan to join us with your family and friends," says Susan Vogt, President of the Cabin John Citizens Association, the sponsor of the evening. And if you have any contributions to make, please call the coordinator of the evening, Barbara Martin, at 229-3482.

SCHOOL NEWS.....

Volunteers are needed two or three days a week for a few hours beginning in November to assist the Resource Center at Bannockburn Elementary School to work with children experiencing learning difficulties. Lots of patience, reliability and willingness to follow directions are necessary characteristics. Please contact Nancy Favin at the school, 229-3097.....

The Cabin John 3 & 4 Year Old School has room for a few more children for the current year. Please call Annette Davis, 229-0754.....

The playground of the Clara Barton School is not looking well. The blacktop is eroding, weeds fill the cracks, and the one remaining tree was lost in a storm last month. The Clara Barton Center is therefore holding two parent workdays this fall (in cooperation with the 3 & 4 Year Old School). On Saturday, October 22, the effort will be directed toward planting (trees, shrubs and flowers) and tidying up the yard. On November 5 workers will concentrate on building a new play structure.

Community involvement is welcome -- manpower, materials, suggestions. We can use donations of trees, shrubs, and plants, top soil, railroad ties, wood chips, lawn bags, etc. We can use help in removing trash. Call 320-4565 if you would like to help. All contributions are tax deductible.

TIME FOR A NEW DEAL FOR CABIN JOHN'S LIFELINE: LET'S IMPROVE MACARTHUR BOULEVARD

Pat Connelly, resident of Cabin John, has recently been doing some speaking and writing about an avenue some call the "road less travelled" and others "the sylvan way". To all of us it is MacArthur Boulevard and like the sun at its zenith, it is so obvious that most of us simply take it for granted.

It is a vibrant ribbon of asphalt linking the contemporary oppulence of Georgetown to the primordial roar of the Potomac's plunge over Great Falls. Along this avenue which is walked, cycled and driven by so many in our community, Cabin John has, according to Mr. Connelly, "the distinction of being the only community west of the District line which has homes and businesses fronting the boulevard. Yet the design and landscaping of the boulevard as it winds its way through Cabin John is no different than in those areas where residential properties do not abut MacArthur.

"The boulevard expands to a wide treeless swath as it proceeds west over the aqueduct. Open drainage ditches on the north side and a bike path on the south side bisect the Cabin John community. Its expansive design encourages highway speeds, the open drainage ditches prevent pedestrians from using the north side and force runners, walkers and bikers to vie for space on an unprotected glass-strewn pothole-festered bike path."

Some love it the way it is and say that to change its design would be to desecrate Nirvana. Others wag their fingers at the speedsters who drive Mac Grand Prix Blvd. They mutter the unprintable as they pull glass from the flat tires of their bikes. They scratch their heads in bewilderment as they ponder the challenge of pulling their cars from the open ditches whenever it snows on Lincoln's birthday. The latter group may not agree about religion, politics or bridge, but to a person they agree that the Grand Avenue MacArthur Blvd needs some changes.

How do you feel? Do you want to spare the boulevard from "improvements" by an out-of-town planning board? Do you want to see certain changes made such as stop lights, enclosed culverts, curbs, landscaping, signage, cross-walks, a better bike path? If you have an opinion that you want considered or if you have an idea that you want to develop into a reality, you should be alert to Pat Connelly, former President of the Cabin John Citizens Association, who is now planning a series of citizen meetings in an attempt to form a consensus that he says "should be delivered to the Montgomery County Planning Board at the open sessions they are hosting called 'Let's Talk'." (Continued on page 5)

BIDS TO DESIGN NEW REC CENTER NOW BEING SOUGHT

The Montgomery County Recreation Department is now seeking bids for the design of the recreation center which will replace the building destroyed by fire in the park near Union Arch Bridge. Ground breaking for the new structure is expected next spring. The Department had proposed the immediate construction of a basketball court, but at its September 27 meeting the Cabin John Citizens Association voted to ask that no construction take place until the entire plan for the center has been approved.

AT GLEN ECHO PARK.....

Cabin John resident and Park Ranger Diane Leatherman reports that two workshops will be held at the Park on Saturday, November 12: one on how to weave wild vine wreaths and decorate them with wildflowers, herbs, etc. and the other on how to make your own holiday cards and gift wrappings. At 1:30 on Sunday, November 13, there will be a free "Punch & Judy" puppet performance and demonstration. For more information call Diane at 492-6282.

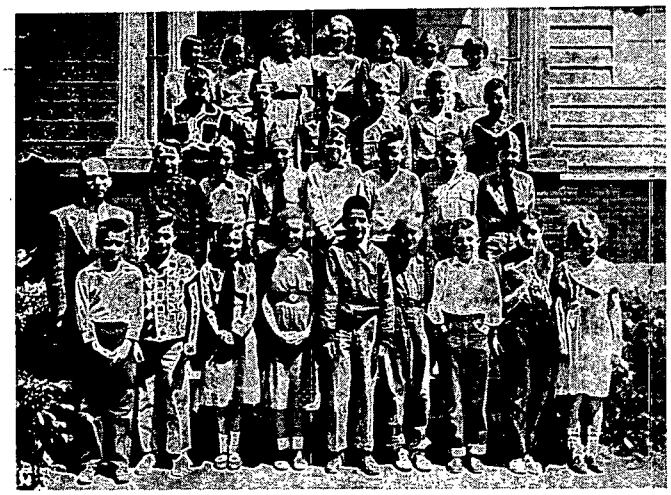


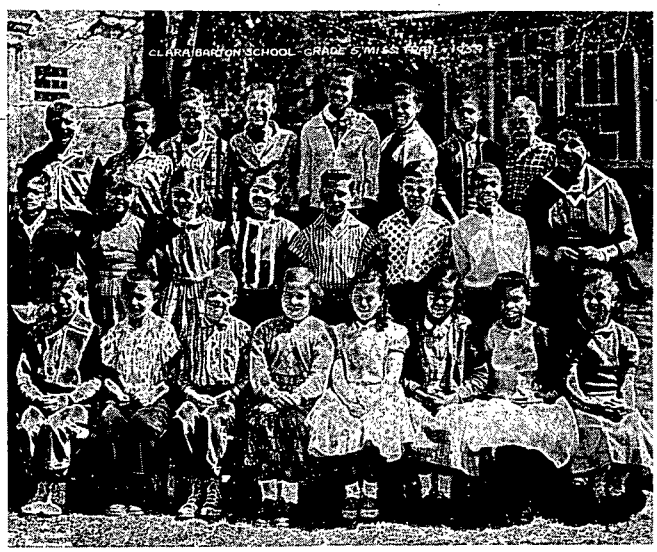
CABIN JOHN BUS SERVICE PLANNED IN 1984

At the very end of next year, when subway service begins in Bethesda, a new county bus route is expected to begin operating through Cabin John. Route #32 will run during rush hours (6 to 9 am, and 4 to 7 pm) from the subway stop at Wisconsin Ave., and Old Georgetown Rd., down Wilson Lane to MacArthur and then out MacArthur to the Model Basin.

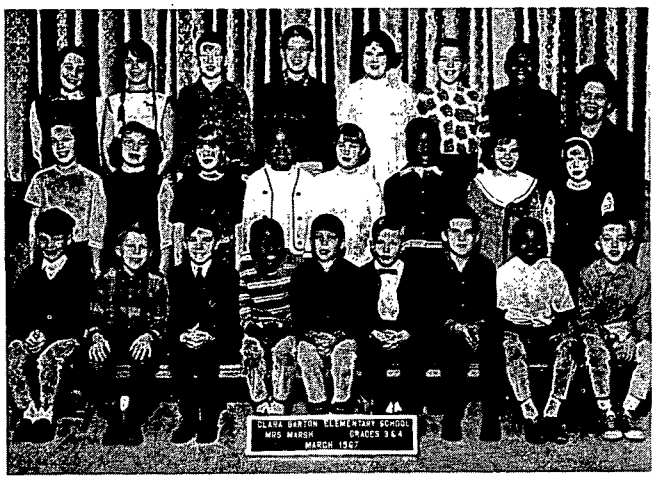
DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE

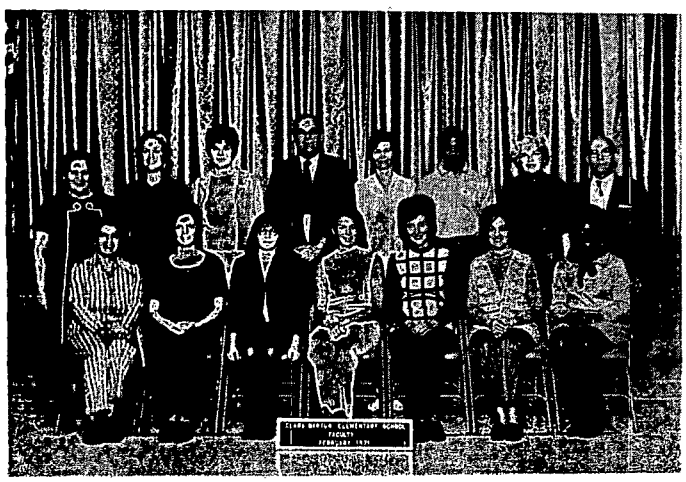
from 1954, 1959, 1960, 1967, 1971, 1973?













CABIN JOHN HERITAGE NIGHT

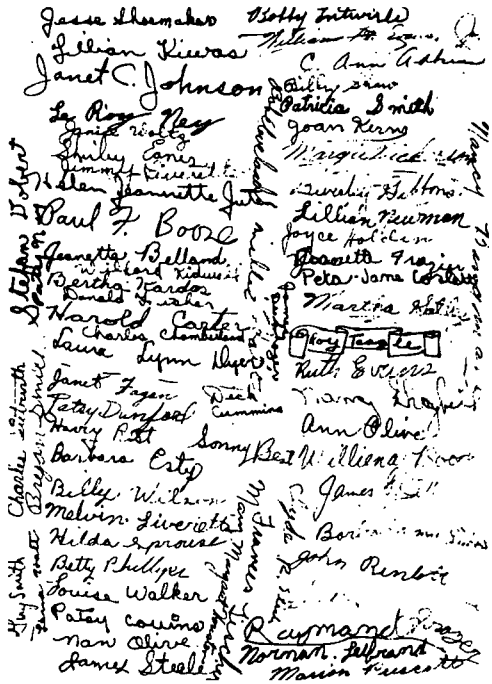
October 25, 1983
Washington International School 75th Street

• Clara Barton School Photos 1951-1974 • Old School Movies, 1952 and 1957 • Pictures and Memorabilia from the Cabin John Bridge Hotel • Indian Artifacts • Newspaper articles about Cabin John • Maps • Reminiscences • Stories • Refreshments • Fun • More Fun

Help Identify People and Dates. In this photo we can tell who they are by the autographs, but when was it taken?







The Cabin John Bridge Hotel

The People of Cabin John

By Barbara Martin

CABIN JOHN'S ISLAND DWELLERS

Their story is the stuff that dreams are made of. They live on an island in the Potomac - Minnie's Island - due South of the Cabin John Gardens, in a house with no modern conveniences. This summer they lived on that island in a 12' by 16' treehouse, and wakened every morning to watch heron, beavers, and carp in a secluded inlet. They kayak on the river 365 days a year, unless the Potomac is completely frozen over when they practice in the Model Basin. They are singularly focused on the 1984 Olympics flatwater kayaking events, and are so determined to qualify for the US team that all other activities and concerns are subordinated to that goal.

They are Cathy Hearn and Daniel Johnson, Cabin Johners for the past year.

Cathy was 14, the daughter of a boat-loving Garrett Park family, when she made her decision to become a serious kayaker. Persuading the authorities at Walter Johnson High School to let her substitute private kayak training for her PE requirement, she arranged her class schedule to reserve some year-round daylight hours on the river. At Hampshire College, she designed her own program of study - the psychology and physiology of athletic training - and fitted her college work around her kayaking. Since finishing college, she has worked at jobs that allow her to do her daily training, jobs that she can quit every spring when it's time to focus exclusively on getting ready for the summer competitions.

Daniel grew up in Illinois, canoeing with his family on the Rock River. Summers, the family went to Northern Wisconsin and canoed on nearby lakes. He was 16 when he watched the 1972 Olympics on television. In that year only, the Olympics included a whitewater kayaking competition. Daniel watched with total fascination, then and there committing himself to becoming a champion kayaker. That summer at camp where he was a counselor, Daniel rose at 6 each morning to practice alone in a borrowed kayak. He picked up speed and skill, and taught himself the Eskimo roll (over, under water, and up again). Equipped with a mail-order kayak and equipment, he set off for St. Lawrence College in upstate New York. Although there was no official kayak team, he found a small group of fellow enthusiasts. The year he graduated with a degree in geology, Daniel made the National team and competed in world kayaking events. Now he works as a carpenter to support his "real life," and like Cathy, gives up gainful employment during the serious kayak season.

Why are they living on Minnie's Island?

"It's ideal for us. The family that owns the place is glad to have us as caretakers, and we feel fortunate to have such a unique home. The island is a beautiful place, a wildflower showcase. We're right on the river so our training area is at our door."

Cathy and Daniel - blond, tanned, and radiating health - are 1983 pioneers. To get to their island home, they step from rock to rock, or, in the winter walk over the ice. Anything that gets out there arrives by boat, backpack, or a homemade float. Lights are kerosene, heat is a woodstove, cooking is on the woodstove or Coleman unit, water pumped and carried and a chemical toilet are the "plumbing." They have no telephone or postal address.

It turns out that the Washington area, especially the Potomac from Great Falls down, is the most popular area in the US for serious canoe and kayak training. Slalom courses are constructed in the Brookmont area of the river, and expert kayakers practice below Great Falls and Little Falls. All of the US world champions live in our neck of the river.

Now 25 and 28, Cathy and Daniel are giving themselves three to five years to achieve all

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 2)

they can in the world of kayaking competition. This includes, besides next year's Olympics, many world competitions, such as the Europa Cup and the Pan-American Cup.

Already, Cathy has been three times a World Champion. In 1979, in Quebec, she won three of four events - only the second woman to do so in the history of that competition (no one has ever won all four). She has three gold medals, an assortment of silver and bronze medals. She is currently ranked #1 in the US. Barely missing the Olympic team in 1980, Daniel has been on world championship teams - both whitewater and flatwater - since 1977.

When those years of achievement they've set for themselves are over, then Cathy and Daniel intend to become traditional careerists, he in construction, she in sports medicine. But for now their life is kayaking. That means daily running, weight lifting, and an hour a day on the water - in the spring and summer two or three hours daily.

What explains such total devotion to excelling in a sport? For kayaking, it most surely is not money; there is virtually no commercial opportunity connected with it. Cathy explains, "I have a pride in doing well for the United States. I also have pride in accomplishing it by myself, with my own support. Other countries' teams are funded, ours are not, and yet the Europeans are coming here to learn from us. The US produces the best kayaking people in the world."

Like Cathy Hearn and Daniel Johnson.

LANDSCAPING
in harmony with your taste & budget
Unusual Design • Wood Decks
Brick & Stone Patios • R.R. Ties
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Mark Willcher and Company
320-2040

ED CLARK & SON
ABC TRUCKING
•moving
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reasonable
229-7311

CABIN JOHN: INTERNATIONAL?

The staff of the Village News have the impression that Cabin John seems to have a large number of residents who come from other cultures, or have more than ordinary interest and experience in working, living or visiting in other countries.

In an effort to determine the extent to which that impression is true, we are asking readers from other countries or with international ties to complete the survey form below. We will pull together the result and report our findings in a future issue of the Village News.

Thanks for your cooperation.

SURVEY FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please indicate with a B, L, or V which applies to each country listed.

Countries:

BORN (B) _____

LIVED (L) _____

VISIT (V) _____

OFTEN _____

Languages Spoken: _____

_____

_____

Please attach any stories/anecdotes about your international/cross cultural experience you think will be of interest to readers.

Mail to: VILLAGE NEWS
P. O. Box 164
Cabin John, Md. 20818

(Continued from page 2) MacARTHUR BOULEVARD

Pat Connelly (whose phone number is 320-4806) is a far sighted thinker who has this to say about the matter. "There is quite a bit of new development in Cabin John and north of Cabin John. Seven Locks Road will soon carry a considerable increase in traffic most of which will be commuter traffic destined for downtown via MacArthur Blvd. Growth of traffic is inevitable and should be dealt with before it becomes a problem.

"The County Master Plan which includes MacArthur Blvd was written in 1973 and is up for review. It appears that money for improvement is available at both the local and state level. However, it will take concerted citizen participation and representation to channel these funds in ways that are beneficial to the community. A voluntary citizens group with a small steering committee could be extremely effective, particularly with the support of the Cabin John Citizens Association."

How much time would be required of a volunteer? "Two or three hours per month could make a big impact,"says Pat.

Remember, if you don't participate, you may see all sorts of strange and unwanted developments conceived by strangers to the community. These changes might be cast in concrete and they just might be on your doorstep.

-- Ken Diffenderfer

HOUSES FOR SALE

Residents of Cabin John are often asked by outsiders if they know of houses available in the community. As a convenience, the Village News lists below the houses known to be for sale as of October 15:

6519 76th St., 2 br, 1-1/2 ba, rambler, $114,950

6532 79th St., 2 br, 2 ba, bi-level, $219,000

6426 83rd Pl.,5 br, 3 ba, split foyer, $109,999

7512 Arden Rd., 3 br, 1 ba, rambler, $91,500

8019 Riverside, 5 br, 4 ba, contemp. to be built, $235,000

(Information contributed by Cindy Offterdinger,654-3222)

Expert Alterations
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229-1404



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FOOD SHOP
PASTRIES•MEATS•CARRY-OUT!
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MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
6.30 am to 6:00 pm

FIRE DEPARTMENT AIMS AT MOVE IN JUNE

The Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department will be moving to new and enlarged facilities by June 1984, weather and other construction variables willing, according to Captain Jackson of the Department. Located on River Road next to the quarry, the foundation for the new building was begun in early August, with a projected completion date of ten months. "It's the hole in the ground on the right hand side, headed toward Potomac,"says Jackson.

The new facility will be 13,500 square feet, substantially larger than the present firehouse on MacArthur Boulevard, and will include a large meeting room which will accomodate up to 60 people, three equipment bays, kitchen, watch, and living facilities for both women and men firefighters. The new firehous will also include an exercise room, another innovation for the department.

Captain Jackson noted that the department is also soliciting funds to purchase a special hydraulic tool which will greatly expand the rescue capability of the department in our community. The department will match funds raised from the public on a dollar for dollar basis. The new equipment will cost $8,000, and $1,500 has been raised to date. Contributions should be sent to the Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 41, Cabin John 20818, attention Sgt. Berger.

--Bill LeClere



NO JOB TOO SMALL
OR TOO LARGE



Danny Saling

CONTRACTOR 320-5623

THE VILLAGE NEWS

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CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: IBM electric typewriter, standard model; typing table w/storage compartment; occasional chair; assorted office supplies. All used. Must sacrifice for lack of space. Call Jeanne Casamento at Seven Locks Press, 320-2130.

* * * *

BABYSITTER WANTED: Caring, responsible, non-smoker to care for 8 month old boy M W F 9:30-3:30 in my home or yours. Call Lina Adler 229-6561.

* * * *

FOR SALE: Solid blue wooden office desk. $60. Call 229-1315.

* * * *

How about a friendly game of DUPLICATE BRIDGE? We're trying to put together a group which will play for fun -- not master points. So if you enjoy bridge, we'd like to hear from you. No duplicate experience required. Phone 229-7543.

* * * *

WANTED: Enterprising teen-ager to work three afternoons a week wrapping books for mailing. Phone Seven Locks Press, 320-2130.

* * * *

FOR SALE: Knitted baby coverlets variegated pink and blue. Ideal for gifts. 229-4097.

* * * *

SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER NEEDED, accuracy essential, 12-15 hrs/month, to assist a clinical psychologist, salary negotiable. Call Betsy Lawrence, PhD, 229-6706.

* * * *

(Classified ads should be sent to P.O. Box 164, Cabin John 20818, by the 10th of each month. The rate is 50¢ per line.)

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Maryland 20818

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