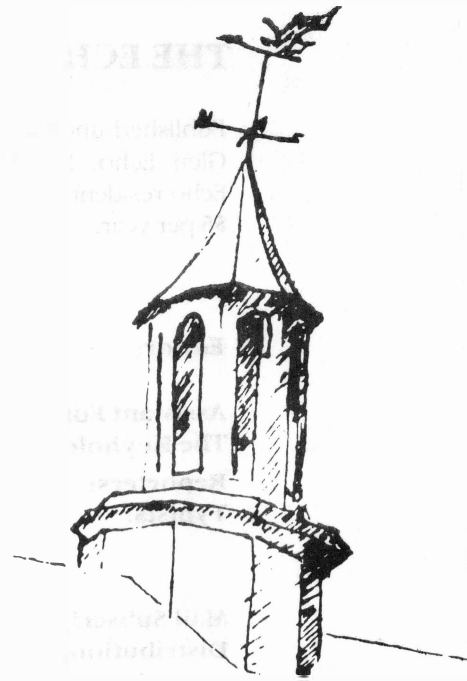


# The Echo

The Town of  
**GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND**  
Chartered, 1904



**JUNE, 1981**

## **Town Drops Appeals of Permits for Wellesley Circle House**

By Sheldon Milstien

The newly-elected Town Council voted at its first session on May 19 to drop plans for appeals of the re-subdivision permission and building permit issued to Jack Gunnell and Louise Engelhardt for construction of a house at 36 Wellesley Circle.

The house is already under construction and Mr. Gunnell told THE ECHO last month that if he lost the case he would link the new construction with the existing house at 34 Wellesley Circle in which he is now living.

Mayor Kuster asked the town attorney at the Council meeting his opinion on the chances of the town's winning the case. The attorney, Tom Craven, replied that he thought the chances were not good, probably less than one in 10.

He said he also felt that this case would not establish a precedent for the building on substandard lots in Glen Echo in the future, since the major focus to be considered is the character of a lot with respect to other lots in the area. He said there is such a wide range of lot sizes in Glen Echo that each case has to be considered individually.

The hearing on the town's appeal of the re-subdivision permit was scheduled for July 8. A separate hearing on the appeal of the granting of a building permit was to take place June 25.

(continued on page 2)

### **RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC**

Thursday, June 11

7 - 8 p.m.

In front of the Town Hall

Dog Licenses Also Available

All dogs over four months of age must be vaccinated and licensed by the town of Glen Echo by July 1

Rabies Vaccination: Free  
Licenses: \$2 for males or  
spayed females; \$4 for  
unspayed females

## THE ECHO

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(229-3748)

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**Collating:** Betty and Bill Briggs

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The Writer's Center

Letters to the Editor are welcomed, as well as articles for publication. Volunteer reporters and typists are always needed. Call the Editor, 229-3748.

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### TOWN OFFICIALS

#### MAYOR:

Fred Kuster 229-2070

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Debbie Beers 229-7308

Nancy Long 229-0196

Bonnie Whyte 229-3392

Rex Borsari 229-4555

#### CLERK-TREASURER:

Paula Wolff 229-2378

#### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Daryl Kuster 229-2070

#### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Louise Engelhardt 229-0219

Frank Corder 229-6747

Julie Milstien 229-4529

### REPORTERS NEEDED FOR *THE ECHO*

With the election of Bonnie Whyte, former Assistant Editor of this paper, and Rex Borsari, invaluable reporter for several years, THE ECHO's editorial staff has been severely depleted.

If you would like to do occasional reporting on matters of interest to your fellow townspeople please contact the Editor at 229-3748. Writing ability not essential.

### TOWN DROPS APPEALS (from page 1)

Councilwoman Borsari moved to discontinue both appeals. She and Councilwoman Beers voted in favor, Councilwoman Whyte opposed, and Councilwoman Long abstained.

THE ECHO is distributed to Glen Echo residents around the middle of each month (a few days before the next Town Council meeting). If you should not receive a copy, you may find an extra one at the Post Office. Just ask a clerk for one.

## BUILDER OUTLINES PLANS FOR TWO HOUSES ON OAKDALE VILLA SITE

By Bonnie Whyte and Sheldon Milstien

Developer Richardson Beard has accepted Mayor Fred Kuster's invitation to address the Town Council meeting on June 8 regarding his subdivision and development plans for the Oakdale Villa property at 44 Wellesley Circle.

Currently, he wants to resubdivide the 25,000-plus square foot property into three lots and build two Glen Echo-type Victorian style homes on the land, while selling Oakdale Villa separately.

Mr. Beard presented his preliminary plans for re-subdivision at a work session of the Park and Planning Commission on May 18. The meeting was attended by Councilwomen Nancy Long and Bonnie Whyte, and resident Daryl Kuster.

A major problem with Beard's plan would appear to be the concern of the Historical Preservation Commission for preserving the frontal visual vista of the property, which would be altered by the proposed common driveway for access to the new properties in the rear.

Subdivision chief John Broda suggested that Mr. Beard "get all his ducks in order" before he went before the whole Planning Board, due to the significant objections and problems being raised over the property. He asked Mr. Beard to bring site and elevations plans and pictures to the public hearing, which will probably occur in mid-June.

At the May 19 Town Council meeting Mayor Kuster asked town attorney Tom Craven to attend the Planning Commission meeting to present the town's position. Councilwoman Long suggested it should include the following points: the town of Glen Echo prefers that no changes be made to the property; Beard's plan for a common driveway is not a good one; and many valuable trees will be

lost by the proposed subdivision.

After the May 18 work session, the townspeople present had an informal discussion with Mr. Beard about his plans. He stated his intention to carefully site the houses and keep as many trees as possible, since it is good business on his part to keep trees and greenery.

When it was pointed out that his reputation in town has been tarnished due to the continuing sediment problem at the location of the two houses he built on Bryn Mawr Avenue, he said he was unaware of the continuing situation.

He said that financially he needs to build two houses on the land. He suggested that permanent restrictions regarding the frontage of the property be written into the land contracts so that the frontal visual appearance of the Villa is not damaged.

The Park and Planning Commission will give two weeks notice of its public hearing to the town and nearby land owners and is expected to make its decision immediately after the public hearing. The Historical Preservation Commission will have review authority over all changes on the site.

Mr. Beard said he wants to begin work on the land, on which settlement apparently has been delayed until late June, by the end of the summer.

### OPENINGS AT CABIN JOHN SCHOOL

The Cabin John Three and Four Year Old School has a few places left for the 1981-82 school year.

This is an accredited, non-profit preschool, meeting five mornings a week from September through May in the Clara Barton School Building in Cabin John.

For more information please call Susan Gelb at 229-5851.

## RESTORATION OF CLARA BARTON HOUSE TO REFLECT HER SIMPLICITY

By Jim Shaut

In honor of the 100th birthday of the American Red Cross, the Clara Barton National Historic Site on May 21 opened three newly-restored rooms. Two were the offices from which Clara Barton directed the Red Cross from 1897-1904 and the third is her dining room. The house is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10-5, and Sunday, 1-5.

Clara Barton's home at Glen Echo owes its existence to two unrelated facts: the Johnstown Flood of 1889 and a plan for a housing development in Glen Echo, Maryland. In 1890, Edwin and Edward Baltzley decided to develop a cultural and intellectual residential community in Glen Echo. They established a branch of the National Chataqua dedicated to education and productive recreation. They offered Clara Barton land and workmen to build a structure in hopes that her presence would be a testimonial to the soundness of their enterprise.

The proposal proved timely, since she and her associate, Dr. Julian Hubbell, were looking for a new headquarters building for the Red Cross (the Johnstown Flood having destroyed the original one). It was understood that the land would be Red Cross property, although Clara Barton had it deeded directly to her. She could never clearly separate her private possessions from those of the Red Cross.

Dr. Hubbell supervised construction, simulating the design of the Johnstown structure, but adding an exquisite third floor "lantern" room over the central well. The house was originally used only as a warehouse, since the often sickly Clara Barton found commuting to D.C. too taxing. Fortunately the electric trolley of 1897 made Glen Echo more accessible to D.C., so Clara Barton moved to Glen Echo.

The Glen Echo house was the headquarters of the American National Red Cross from 1897 to 1904, and served official activities as well as those of a quiet retreat and farm. The plentiful intermixture of vege-



### CLARA BARTON HOUSE (continued)

tables and flowers included two varieties of the "Clara Barton Rose" developed by appreciative nurserymen and strawberry plants sent from survivors of a disastrous hurricane and tidal wave in Galveston, Texas.

The home changed hands from Miss Barton to Dr. Hubbell, then his nieces, the Frank sisters from Iowa, and in 1964, the deed was sold to the incorporated Friends of Clara Barton, (in April 1965, designated a registered national landmark.) After the Friends made their final payment in 1975, the deed was passed to the National Park Service, along with a donation of \$8,400, (in 1979) to purchase furnishings. The Friends' generosity has been a big factor in the preservation of this house.

The National Park Service has completed the historic structure and grounds report, with the furnishings report of some 2000 pieces nearing completion. The house is to be restored to its 1897 to 1904 appearance, omitting most of the modifications made in the years after Miss Barton's death when the structure became a rooming house.

Closed doorways are being reopened, wallpaper and homosote removed to bare the original (or in some cases, reproduced) muslin material. The structure is being stabilized and reinforced with a safe floor load capacity. The oak flooring laid over Clara Barton's pine floors will be removed. The house is being kept open during the entire restoration of the 38 rooms.

When the homosote was removed from the exterior walls, newspapers dating from the 1890's were found to have been used as insulation. Also found were ledgers, papers, diaries, and photographs which were instrumental in aiding the restoration work and identifying many of the furnishings.

The \$8,400, donated by the Friends of Clara Barton is helping make possible the refurnishings. Curators are seeking such items as roll-top desks, cast iron presses and dozens of inkwells and pens. Restoration and refurnishing work is expected to take many years to complete although the Red Cross offices have been completed in time for this May 1981 Red Cross Centennial.

At present Miss Barton's bedroom contains a large maple bed with a small table next to it. The bed belonged to Miss Barton; however, research has indicated that she slept on a hard cot and had a painted peach crate next to the bed for a nightstand. She found no incongruity in placing a peach crate table on a priceless Oriental rug presented to her by the Sultan of Turkey. The house will not be a showcase for lovely Victorian furniture; it will reflect the practical, no-nonsense attitude of Clara Barton, herself. She considered her work for the Red Cross to be vastly more important than competing for a place among the social elite of her day. Practicality and simplicity were her guidelines. Clara Barton died in Glen Echo, April 12, 1912, at the age of 90.

(Author Jim Shaut is a remodeler who has restored an 185-year-old house in Virginia. He lives at 6004 Harvard Avenue.)

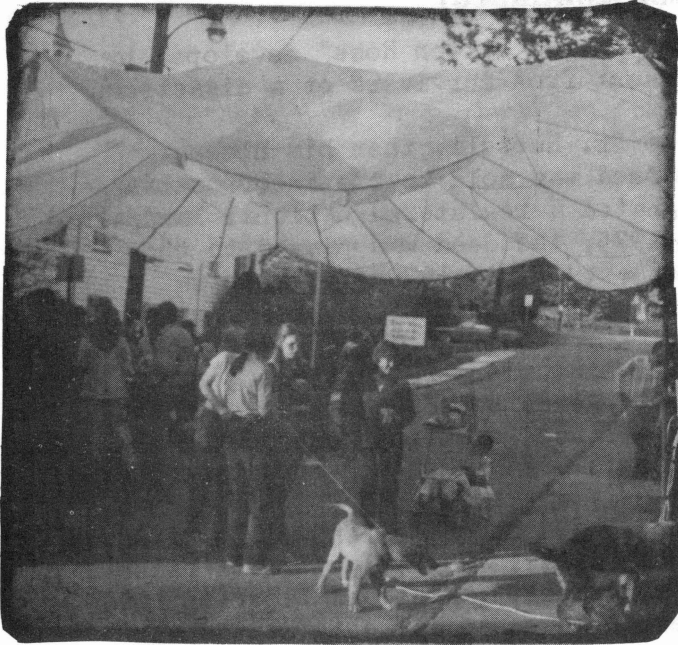
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WANTED - As part of the Centennial celebration of the founding of the American Red Cross, the Clara Barton National Historic Site will sponsor a day-long symposium on 19th century American philanthropy on August 22. Persons interested in presenting papers on Clara Barton, the Red Cross or other aspects of 19th century humanitarian reform, should contact Sandra Weber, Program Director, 492-6246 by July 20.

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## AT THE HARVARD AVENUE BLOCK PARTY



Dogs, babies and lots of good food and neighborliness.

Photo by Eric Anderson

## MAN CONVICTED OF BREAKING AND ENTERING WELLESLEY CIRCLE HOUSE

Robert Lee Ruphard, 39, was convicted of breaking and entering the house of George and Ann Simpich at 23 Wellesley Circle. Maryland District Court Judge William Miller on May 19.

Mr. Ruphard was sentenced to two years probation. Under the terms of his probation he must attend Alcoholics Anonymous, undergo psychiatric treatment and stay away from the Simpich house.

Mr. Ruphard opened an unlocked door of her house around 5 p.m. on April 26, according to Mrs. Simpich, and acted threateningly. He would not leave when asked, she said. Her husband was asleep at the time.

Later the Simpich's called police and Mr. Ruphard, who was known to them, was arrested at another location. He claimed at the trial that he had knocked on the door and only entered when he received no response.

## REX BORSARI ELECTED TO COUNCIL

Rex Borsari was elected to the Glen Echo Town Council in a special election at the Town Hall on May 18.

The election was called by Mayor Fred Kuster because Mrs. Borsari and Ronnie Vine tied for third place in the regular May 4 town elections. Mayor Kuster had planned to appoint the third place candidate to fill the remainder of his term, which became vacant after he was elected to the mayoral post.

Councilwoman Borsari will thus serve only two years before her seat is again up for election.

As it turned out, Mrs. Borsari ran unopposed. Former Councilman Vine, who was appointed to a Council seat in February, 1980, decided not to run again.

"Chivalry is not dead," he explained, "and I wanted to give the ladies a chance." He said he intended to remain active in town affairs, attending meetings and "every once in a while writing a letter to THE ECHO."

He sees himself, he said, with tongue in cheek, as "a kind of elder statesman--at least I'm old enough to be."

Mrs. Borsari, sitting in the Council chambers, personally thanked each of the 36 voters who turned out to give her support even though the election was not contested.

There were three new voters registered and three absentee voters, according to Paul Alban, Chairman of the Board of Elections. He was again assisted by Betty Briggs, Janice Miller and Barbara Odell.

## POLICE REPORT Continued

Mr. Ruphard, who lives at 8612 Fenway Rd., Bethesda, has been wandering around Glen Echo on and off for months and managed to talk his way into several homes. He is white, of medium height and build with light brown hair worn over his forehead. He is often unshaven.

## TOWN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - May 19

Rex Borsari was sworn in as Town Councilwoman at the first Council meeting presided over by newly-elected Mayor Fred Kuster. Mrs. Borsari was elected to the seat in a special election the day before to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Councilman Fred Kuster.

After this, Ronnie, er, Freddie, passed out jelly beans to the Council and the eight Glen Echo residents in attendance. The Mayor said he will present his State-of-the-Town Address at the next Council meeting on June 8.

Town Attorney Tom Craven reported that the long-standing dispute over the use of the town right-of-way property between the Sadarangani and the Deebo property has apparently been settled amicably. Both parties have agreed to placement of a fence and also to pay the \$1 per year fee to the town for use of the property. The agreement will not affect future use of the property as a right-of-way.

Mayor Kuster hopes to have a new trash contract drawn up for approval by the Council before the next meeting so that bids can be solicited. Town attorney Craven said that since Montgomery County is proposing to triple dumping fees in the near future, the contract should be written to cover this. There was some discussion of special pickups of trash or building materials, which are presently free to town residents with no limit. Clerk-Treasurer Paula Wolff will obtain samples of trash contracts used by other municipalities in the area to use as models.

John Howe of Harvard Avenue was approved and sworn in as the new Sediment Control Officer to replace Rex Rhein, who resigned. Mr. Howe said he has had "much experience pushing dirt around." Mr. Howe reported that the drainage problem causing the formation of a lake on Wellesley Circle has been fixed so that there is now only a pond. Also, that the street patching on

Cornell Avenue is being undermined by a grading problem on the County end of the street.

Councilwoman Borsari was given the job of determining the proper placement of the new park benches in the town park located at the corner of University and Princeton Avenues. She plans to have them installed near the fences of the adjoining properties.

Other topics discussed during the three-hour meeting are taken up elsewhere in this issue. Although the jelly beans were passed around repeatedly during the lengthy meeting, there were still some left at adjournment.

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### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 8 - 8:00 p.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall

All residents encouraged to attend.

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### NEW PUBLICATION DATE FOR ECHO

THE ECHO will be distributed on the weekend before the second Monday of each month, beginning with this issue. This will coincide with the new date set for Town Council meetings by Mayor Kuster, who must attend Fire Board meetings on the third Monday of each month, which was the date for Town Council meetings in the past.

Publication of THE ECHO is timed just prior to the Council meetings to encourage the maximum attendance by townspeople.

All material intended for inclusion in THE ECHO, including classified ads, must now reach the Editor by the 24th of each month,

By

Tillie McHally

# THE KEYHOLE

The team of Jane and Brokie Stevenson is at it again. This time they are concentrating on their own home, and not one belonging to someone else. The results of their **efforts** must be rewarding to them because they definitely have added to the appearance of 6106 Yale Avenue.

The landscaping at the rear is quite an improvement, and the newly erected white picket fence certainly fits in with the era in which many of these homes were built. Congratulations neighbors!

\* \* \* \* \*

Four Glen Echo residents ran 15 km (9.3 miles) in the Washington Urban League's 1981 Home Town Run, May 17, which wound through the Columbia Road area, past Howard University, in back of Union Station and around the Capitol. Jim and Greg Anderson of 38 Wellesley Circle, running together, finished in 75.30. Julie Milstien of 6000 Harvard Avenue and Carlotta Anderson, running together, finished in 81.10.

The Sunday before Julia Anderson ran the Bonne Bell 10 km race around the Tidal Basin and Hain's Point, and the Sunday afterwards Julie Milstien and Jim Anderson completed the Diet Pepsi 10 km race around the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol in 80° weather.

\* \* \* \* \*

Congratulations to George and Ann Simpich of 23 Wellesley Circle who are now grandparents. Ann's son, Michael Corner and his wife Peggy, had a son on May 1 at Columbia Hospital for Women. He weighed 8 lbs 4 oz., is named Sean and will make his home with his parents in Gaithersburg.

\* \* \* \* \*

Greg Anderson, formerly of the punk rock band "Youth Brigade", has joined the art rock band "R.E.M." as bass guitarist. They performed May 14 at the Psychedelly

in Bethesda and May 15 and 31 at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. They will be busy next month making their first record at the No Evil Studios, an extended play on the 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  X 16 label.

\* \* \* \* \*

Last, but not least, hearty congratulations to our high school graduates--two girls!

Receiving their diplomas will be Julia Anderson of 38 Wellesley Circle and Diana Monteleone of 6009 Princeton Avenue.

\* \* \* \* \*

### JUNE BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

- Sara Milstein-----June 13
- Rex Borsari-----June 14
- Robby Borsari-----June 15
- Irene Cannon-----June 16
- Lois Carroll-----June 20
- Billy Kuster-----June 28
- Paul Alban-----June 29

\* \* \* \* \*

Please call Tillie at 229-4119 with any items of interest, or drop them into the "Town News Items" container in the Post Office.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Ed. Janice Miller informs us that Tillie neglected to mention her own birthday on April 25, and so we wish her a belated happy birthday. Janice and Jim Miller and Aunt Bessie entertained Judith and Bob Wilson from Columbus, Ohio, as well as Harry and Mildred Davis from Monette, Mo. last month.)



## KUSTER WINS FIRE BOARD POST

Fred Kuster, of 7325 University Avenue, was elected last month to a four-year term as Glen Echo representative on the Glen Echo Fire Department Fire Board. The Board has 16 members representing the local communities.

Mr. Kuster, who is also the town mayor, was running against David Fessenden of 6005 Bryn Mawr Avenue, who had held the post for many years.

The vote was Kuster: 271; Fessenden: 77. At the last Fire Board election four years ago 34 citizens turned out to vote; this year there were 406. The enormous jump was attributed by Mr. Kuster to "some concerned people who thought that with a budget of over \$1 million involved, voters should be made aware of the election." He said two members of the Board who wanted to see changes organized a campaign to get out the vote.

The Board's functions are to present a budget to the County Council as part of the County budget and to make sure the firefighting and life saving equipment is up-to-date, Mr. Kuster said, as well as "to protect the taxpayers' interests." There is also the touchy topic of dealing with the County's desire to turn the Fire Department over to a County-run organization instead of leaving it an individual corporation, he said.

Mr. Kuster, who has since been elected Board treasurer, stressed that the public is welcome to attend the meetings on the third Monday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Fire House on Massachusetts Avenue and Sangamore Road.

## CABIN JOHN ANNOUNCES AIR VICTORY

(From Cabin John's The Village News, reported by Dan Costello)

After many years of protesting jet noises, the citizens of Cabin John finally scored with the Washington Council of Governments (COG). On May 3 the COG voted for a several month long test of the Coalition on Airport Problems (CAP) Scatter Plan. The test is slated to begin this Fall.

The approval of this test gives recognition to the fact that Cabin John has for years borne the brunt of Washington's jet noise. Any permanent changes will be made after the test.

Cabin John should accept any and all equitable changes, but we must continue to fight to make sure that all the noise is never again put back over Cabin John.

**LET  
ANNIE  
FRAME  
IT  
CUSTOM FRAMING**

at

**DO IT YOURSELF PRICES**

For Appointment  
229-1557

10% off Cabin John &  
Glen Echo residents  
through June 1981

**HISTORY OF THE TOWN PARK**

The site of the town picnics, ball games and now park benches on the corner of Princeton and University Avenues was donated to the town of Glen Echo by the heirs of a Glen Echo Councilman in 1945.

This lot, with an area of 2,831 square feet, was donated by the heirs of Ernest Houghton, who was a town Councilman from 1932 to 1938, with several suggestions for its use, including that it might be used as the site for a combined town library and archives facility.

Eventually it was decided to turn it into a park dedicated as a memorial to former Councilman Houghton.

**CLARA BARTON SITE DEDICATION**

The dedication of the First Headquarters of the American Red Cross was held at the Clara Barton House on Friday, May 15 at 11 a.m.

Glen Echo Mayor Fred Kuster was invited to sit on the platform. Also present were Councilwomen Nancy Long and Rex Borsari and town residents Frank Corder, Daryl Kuster, George R. Borsari and Paula and Meaghan Wolff.

The speakers included Russell Dickenson, Director of the National Park Service, Wallace Jorgenson, of the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross and Mrs. Ethel Hartman, Secretary of the Friends of Clara Barton.

Also present were former Congressman Gilbert Gude, Jack Fish, Regional Park Director and John Syrn, Superintendent of the G. W. Parkway.

----Paula Wolff

**VACANCIES AT SWIM POOL**

The Merrimack Swimming Pool has summer rental memberships available.

The pool, located at Fyle Road and Kenhowe Drive, is olympic sized with an additional diving well. An enclosed wading pool is also available. An active swim team welcomes new members.

For more information call Ky Easton at 229-8822.

**GRASS CUT IN TIME FOR FESTIVAL**

The Irish Festival at Glen Echo Park on the Memorial Day weekend looked like a huge success, judging by the number of cars parked along MacArthur Boulevard all the way to Wilson Lane.

Fortunately, the high grass on the islands near the Glen Echo Shopping Center was cut and the huge hole on Oxford Road was filled in in time. Town Councilwoman Bonnie Whyte spent hours on the phone to Montgomery County to get the grass cut and WSSC to finish their work in time for the Festival.

Entrances to Glen Echo at Princeton and Harvard Avenues were blocked and few cars spilled over into town. Cars were parked on the grassy portions of the Fair parking lot and the parking situation seemed orderly and under control.

**GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES**

30 Wesley Circle -- Juan and Gloria Vasquez to Harold and Heather Pinkett  
 .....\$72,000

Coronation -- 3 Vassar Circle was sold to John and Terri Rachlin and John Lynch

Property sales in town are printed in THE ECHO after settlement date. The information is supplied by Realtor Lou Englehardt.

NEW POSTAL RATES

First Class Letters--18¢ first ounce, each additional ounce to 12 oz.

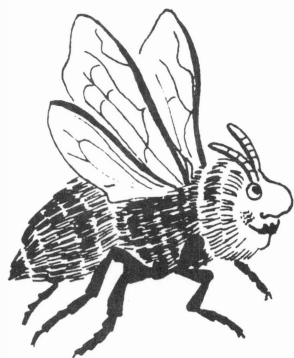
Postcards--12¢

International Airmail to Central America, Caribbean, Colombia & Venezuela-- per 1/2 oz; all other countries-- per 1/2 oz.

Aerograms--30¢ to anywhere in the world

## BEE BONANZA from Edd Barrows

About 5,000 beneficial, attractive tulip tree bees emerged from the lawn of Brockie and Jane Stevenson. The males first appeared in late April; followed by the females in early May. These are bees that are being studied at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Georgetown University as blueberry pollinators. The males are about 1/2 inch long and grayish-brown. The females are a little larger with chestnut brown "fuzz." Only the females sting, but they will not sting unless one picks them up and squeezes them. The slight pain from the sting lasts less than 1 hour. By June most of the adult bees die leaving their young in the ground which will emerge in the following spring. Perhaps the largest number of these bees has been found in a yard in Clinton, MD: over 100,000! If Brockie and Jane take good care of their bees, Glen Echo might be able to beat this record...



Ummmm...  
those tulip trees  
They're the  
bees' knees!

### Wanted ALIVE--Carpenter bees

If you are going to discard any old wood that has carpenter bee nests in it, please let me know because I would like to have the nests for a biological study. Carpenter bees are common in Glen Echo. They resemble bumble bees, except carpenter bees do not have "fur" on their shiny, black abdomens. Carpenter bees are about 1 inch long and have black heads, furry yellowish thoraxes and black abdomens. Entrances to their nests are circular and 1/2 inch in diameter. Often one can find small piles of sawdust around their nests. These are beneficial bees that pollinate crops and native plants.

Edd Barrows (229-3193)

### ADVENTURE THEATRE presents

LOVE RIDES THE RAILS or  
WILL THE MAILTRAIN RUN TONIGHT?

For ages 5 and up

June 13 through July 19  
1:30 and 3:30

\$3

- - - - -

THE FANTASTICKS

For ages 12 and up

Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
evenings - 8 p.m.

June 19 through July 19  
\$3

- - - - -

For reservations call 320-5331