

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



JANUARY 1983

Trash Contract Awarded to Montgomery County Refuse

By Julie Milstien

Montgomery County Refuse Company, the lower of the two bidders for Glen Echo trash collection, was awarded a contract for 1983 by a 3-0 vote at the December 13 Town Council meeting. Councilwoman Rex Borsari was absent for the vote.

Bids were received from Montgomery County Refuse, the present contractor, in the amount of \$18,536 for 100 houses and 10 special pickups, and from Ronald W. Tenley for \$24,100, plus dump fees, for the same service.

The contract was for the period from January 1, 1983 through December 31, 1983, but contained an extension option for two additional years. Town attorney, Tom Craven, who was present, advised that the town could accept this without soliciting additional bids.

POLICE TO MEET WITH MAYOR REGARDING COMPLAINTS OF LACK OF COOPERATION

After reading in last month's ECHO of the Mayor's concern over "the unwillingness of the County police to enforce County and Town laws in Glen Echo," Lt. James Vohn contacted Mayor Kuster and suggested a meeting with County police representatives in January. The Mayor is considering inviting the representatives, Capt. Renfrew and Lt. Roby, to the January 17 Council meeting.

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THE ECHO

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE—February 4

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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POLICE TO MEET WITH MAYOR (from page 1)

"Lt. Vohn wanted to know what our problems were and I quite frankly told him they were the lack of police enforcement of the town ordinances regarding traffic violations and the situation surrounding Trav's," the Mayor recounted. He added that he told Lt. Vohn the town was concerned about both the actions of the clientele in the street outside Trav's, including the noise and rowdiness, and a severe traffic problem at that location.

The Mayor said he had already met with Sgt. Phillips at the Park Police

substation in Glen Echo Park. "They are aware of the problems at Trav's and have the same feelings about them as I do. In order to make those people do what they are supposed to do you have to crack down on them and the Montgomery County police aren't doing what they should do.

"The people living on that side of town have as much right to live peacefully as the rest of us on the other side of town," he said.

--- Carlotta Anderson

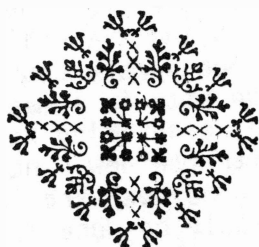
Editorial

When Mother Nature dumped eight inches of snow on Glen Echo December 12, the town streets were well-plowed within hours. In fact, after driving through many Bethesda and D. C. streets, we concluded that Glen Echo had the best snow removal for that storm.

For this, townspeople should thank the conscientious and hard-working Mayor and Town Council, who must plan not only snow removal but all the sundry operations that fall to the lot of the government of a small town. Indeed, with everyone (as it seems) busier than ever before and volunteerism at a low ebb, we should be doubly grateful that we have such public-spirited residents who are willing to devote many hours without pay for the benefit of their fellow townspeople.

However, it seems excessive that the hardest-working of the lot -- the Mayor -- should also have to plan and carry out the town parties. In the absence of other volunteers willing to take on the responsibility, Mayor Kuster organized and did much of the work for both the Halloween and Christmas/Holiday parties this year. He even advertised in THE ECHO for people willing to help on the Holiday party and received only one response!

We also noted that around 64 people attended the Halloween party and at least 50 came to the Holiday party -- that is, they had a couple hours free time to attend a party. Wouldn't it be nice if all the people who attend town parties offered to help with them and the Mayor could limit his responsibilities to town business?



OPPOSITION PLANNED TO BUS LINE CLOSING

By Sheldon Milstien

The Bannockburn Citizens Association is planning to coordinate efforts of local communities opposed to the projected closing of the N4/N5 bus line before METRO holds public hearings on the proposed changes next fall.

Ed Malloy, a representative of the Association, said he will seek the formulation of a consensus position of all concerned local communities to present at the hearings, which have not yet been scheduled.

METRO plans to phase out commuter buslines and replace them with feeder lines to nearby subway stations as the subway to the suburbs is completed. This means that the N4/N5 lines, which now runs between Glen Echo and Farragut Square in D. C., will be eliminated. METRO proposes to replace it with a feeder line on Wilson Boulevard to the Bethesda METRO station.

Commuters who currently use that line will likely suffer both increased commuting expense and travel time, especially for those who will have to transfer at METRO Center to another subway line.

The Bethesda subway line is not due to be completed to Shady Grove until at least mid-1984 and will probably not be completed on time.

BODY IDENTIFIED

The body found by two hikers on Cabin John Island, just below Glen Echo on Thanksgiving Day was identified last month as Donald Davis, 51, of the 5500 block of 78th Avenue in Cabin John.

The body was so badly decomposed that it was not possible to determine the cause of death, according to Sandra Alley, U. S. Park Service spokeswoman.

SANTA COMES TO GLEN ECHO

A roly-poly Santa Claus with red cheeks managed to take time out from his busy pre-Christmas schedule to attend the Glen Echo town holiday party on Sunday, December 19 at the Town Hall.

Approximately 50 town residents also attended and drank wine and punch and snacked on hors d'oeuvres with their neighbors while a chamber music group serenaded them.

The hall was decked with boughs and ornaments and a Christmas tree by Julie Milstien, Rex Borsari, Fred Kuster, Nancy Long and Peggy Holland. The punch was provided by Rollina and Hiro Sadarangani and Paula Wolff brought a case of wine.

The musical ensemble was arranged by Rex Borsari and consisted of Michael Kligerman, violin; Willa Kligerman, flute and Susan Tamulevich, piano.

The evening concluded with some of the guests singing Christmas carols.

--- Carlotta Anderson

Classified Ads

THE CLARA BARTON CENTER on MacArthur Boulevard in Cabin John is looking for people interested in serving as substitute teachers. If interested, call 320-4565.

* * * * *

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and may be left in THE ECHO box at the Post Office or given to Ann Simpich, 23 Wellesley Circle.

Please do not phone them to the Editor.

Fee to non-residents: 50¢ per line of 36 spaces or fewer. Make checks payable to "The Town of Glen Echo" and mail them to Ann Simpich, 23 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812.

AD DEADLINE: 24th of EACH MONTH

Town Council Highlights

December 13, 1982

Progress is being made on the new town street signs, which will be white with green lettering. Since the standards will be replaced, the old standards will be made available to town residents on a first come, first served basis.

Anyone interested in obtaining standards, which could be used for house signs or other purposes, may acquire them for a \$5 donation to the Arbor Day Fund.

Mayor Kuster would like anyone interested in installing the standards and signs for the town to contact him.

The Maryland Municipal League is directing municipalities to put wording in their charters which will exempt them from specific county laws which they do not wish to have applied, reported Councilwoman Borsari. However, municipality ordinances must be at least as restrictive at those of the county in the area of public health.

Mayor Kuster expressed his gratitude to retiring Clerk-Treasurer Paula Wolff. This was joined by a unanimous vote of appreciation from the Council. Since then, the Mayor has been contacted by two town residents who are seriously interested in the post. Mrs. Wolff will probably continue in her job through January and February until a replacement can take over.

Trav's has been sold under conditional contract to two lawyers, one from Potomac and one from Alaska, who plan to keep it pretty much as it was, reported Mayor Kuster.

He noted his hope that they will work with the town to bring the building into compliance with Montgomery County code and to occupy the site in a manner inoffensive to the neighboring houses. He will try to invite the new owners to the next town meeting to hear the Council's views on what should be done at the site.

--- Julie Milstien

NOTEWORTHY GLEN ECHO BUILDINGS: 13 Vassar Circle Part II

By J. Manuel Espinosa

As our household grew, from five to six, with the birth of a fourth son in 1954, and for a time to eight, with a grandmother and aunt, we gradually enlarged the house to its present size. Besides adding the bedroom downstairs, next to the already existing smaller one, we raised the back side of the roof to provide two large and one small bedrooms and a bath, enlarged the downstairs bathroom, enlarged and remodelled the dining room and kitchen, and added a living room with fireplace, removing the outside screened porch.

The front porch now is open with three square pillars. Hidden inside these pillars are preserved, for sentimental reasons, three of the Victorian style pillars that surrounded the L-shaped porch of 1950.

Our family's most active years as a part of the Glen Echo scene were the 1950's and 1960's, when our four sons were young, living the life of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer. The areas across MacArthur Boulevard, and past Cabin John Bridge, and along MacArthur past Glen Echo Park (which was in full swing as an amusement park), were still largely undeveloped. Glen Echo was still a country area edged by woods and shaded creeks, the Canal, and a beautiful area of the Potomac.

The Parkway had not yet been built, and a steep path covered with large boulders led down practically from our yard to the Canal, which could be crossed by a small wooden foot bridge, now gone. In these haunts, the boys-along with other neighborhood boys-explored every inch of the land, finding mini-balls, and a cannon ball, of Civil War days, oddly colored rocks, large pieces of broken plates from the old Cabin John Bridge Hotel that was destroyed by fire in the early 1930's, and the like.

They fished and went swimming in the river, ice-skated on the Canal just below the town, and engaged in other more dangerous exploits such as rowing out past Cabin John Island and being caught in a heavy storm, all a part of the day's worry and anguish for the parents. In those days, in almost any given year, there were approximately 100 children in the town between the ages of four and fifteen. Our boys counted among their friends nearly fifty neighborhood boys.

The 1950's and 1960's were also a very active period in the organizing of community activities for children by the Town Council, as might be expected in view of their unusually large numbers. Many mothers were involved in their and other children's activities.

My wife Betty was a Cub Scout den mother for over four years. She was active in organizing the annual Halloween Week events. In 1952, she was placed in charge of these events by the Mayor. It was a notable affair, beginning with a mock election in which the children were the participants.

13 VASSAR CIRCLE (continued from preceding page)

The town government was taken over for the week by the youthful elected officers - the Mayor, the Town Council members, Police Chief, Fire Chief, etc.

One or another of our sons, Joe (Pepe), Raymond (Corky), John, and Tom, served in each of these capacities at one time or another. Some residents even received parking tickets for parking violations from the youthful "officers." Frank Blair, later of Today fame, featured the 1952 elections on his morning program on Channel 4.

The Halloween events ended with an evening procession down University Avenue to the Fire House on Vassar Circle (now the Baptist Church), led by the Glen Echo Fire Truck, with children hanging on from all sides, and the smaller ones riding in the ambulance, and finally a grand Halloween costume party, with the judging of costumes, with prizes, and eats. For 13 Vassar Circle, those were memorable years.



By

Ann Simpich

THE KEYHOLE

Paula Gaber and Nanny Eldredge, both 10 and students at Bannockburn Elementary School, were on the team representing Bannockburn on "It's Elementary," seen on Channel 7 on Saturday, December 11 at 11 a.m.

* * * * *

Happy Birthday to:

Bonnie Whyte-----January 9
Ronnie Vine-----January 15

* * * * *

Ann Simpich was unable to do "The Keyhole" this month due to the death of a close friend. Her column will resume with the next issue.

Please leave items for "The Keyhole" in her mailbox at 23 Wellesley Circle or in THE ECHO box at the post office.

* * * * *

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 17 - 8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall

All Residents Encouraged to Attend

Those wishing to add items to the agenda of the meeting should contact Clerk-Treasurer Paula Wolff, 229-2378

* * * * *

NEW FIRE CHIEF CHOSEN

Acting Chief Phillip Stillerman was promoted to full time chief of the Glen Echo Fire Department at the November 23 meeting of the Glen Echo Fire Board, according to Mayor Fred Kuster, treasurer of the Fire Board.

The meeting was held at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

FILL DIRT NOT GRADED

The town is unhappy that eight truckloads of fill dirt "contributed" by the S. Albert Paving Company and offered for use of any town resident contain large stones and were not graded after being dumped. The dirt was dumped on the right-of-way next to the Town Hall.

Sediment Control Officer wrote the company advising that it had breached an oral agreement to grade the dirt and to provide "clean" dirt. The letter requested action by November 30, 1982.

Attorney Tom Craven told the Council and Mayor at the December meeting that they had an option of filing for the cost of grading in Small Claims Court, although it might cost almost as much in legal fees as would be recovered. He said he would require a written estimate of the cost of grading in order to file and the Mayor will obtain this before the January Council meeting.

---Julie Milstien

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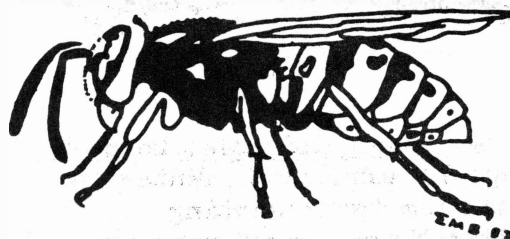
International School Expands

The Washington International School, located in the former Clara Barton Elementary School building in Cabin John, will be operating a full elementary school at that location beginning with the 1983-84 school year, according to The Village News of Cabin John.

The School has held only fourth and fifth grade classes at the Cabin John location since it opened there last year. The School also has a full elementary school at a campus in Georgetown as well as a secondary program at the Tregaron estate on Macomb St., N.W.

The School has open house tours every Thursday from 12:00 to 1:00. The phone number is 364-1830. Instruction is bilingual in English and French or English and Spanish.

BUG NEWS



From Edd Barrows

Glen Echo's Only Hummingbirds

In the last three summers, while I have gardened in this town, my yard has been visited from June to September by spritely ruby-throated hummingbirds. Although there are hundreds of kinds of hummers, only this one species is found in Glen Echo.

I have seen mostly females among my flowers; occasionally a male has been seen zooming about looking for nectar and insects. A male can be distinguished by his irridescent red throat plumage.

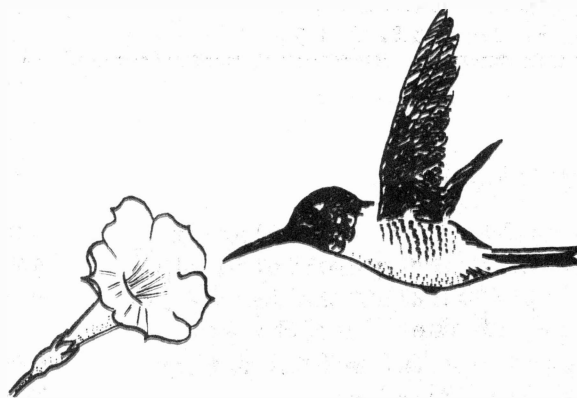
The birds were especially attracted to red and orange flowers, such as bee-balm (Oswego tea), cannas, and impatiens. Since the cannas have such deep flowers, the birds would perch on the flowers momentarily while imbibing nectar, apparently probing as deeply as they could.

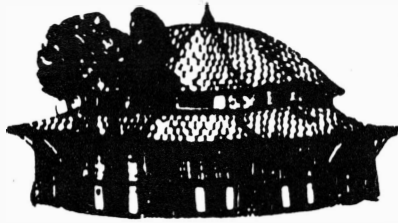
Gladiolus of all colors were also visited by the ruby-throats. Sometimes a bird visited every open gladiolus flower, one by one, in a matter of seconds. These birds are also especially fond of trumpet vine flowers, which few persons grew in Glen Echo.

The ruby-throats overwinter in the tropics. Scientific sources report that an individual can fly nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico, yet it weighs only one-quarter ounce!

If you don't have a good place for growing the flowers hummingbirds like, you can still feed and observe them if you set up a plastic hummingbird feeder. A feeder outside a favorite window can add zest to your life.

Male ruby-throated hummer
visiting trumpet creeper.
(Tracing from Field Guide
to Birds.)





At GLEN ECHO PARK

A landscape architect of the National Park Service, Paul Stoehr, has met with Councilwoman Debbie Beers to plan the playground to be sited in Glen Echo Park. He expects to provide Councilwoman Beers with a model or sketches which could be used for fundraising.

A press release about the project will be issued soon. Diane Leatherman at Glen Echo Park and town resident Cathie Polak will help with dissemination of press information.

The National Park Service has been slated for a possible 25% budget cut by the Office of Management and Budget, Parkway Superintendent John Byrne reported to Councilwoman Nancy Long.

The Spanish ballroom renovation project is almost completed, although the Park Service had only enough money to paint three sides of the Ballroom.

At the CLARA BARTON SITE

Sunday, February 6-- 1 - 4 p.m.

19th Century Paper Dolls:

Mrs. Marta Krebs will be bringing over 100 dolls for display. Visitors are invited to bring their own paper dolls to the program.

There was a small ceremony at the Clara Barton House on December 15 in which Jack Fish, Director, National Capital Region, National Park Service, gave a donation to acquire a graphophone, a predecessor of the gramophone, to which Clara Barton used to listen, as indicated in her various journals and diaries.

Glen Echo Dance Theatre presents Cheryl Koehler's

A Japanese Tale

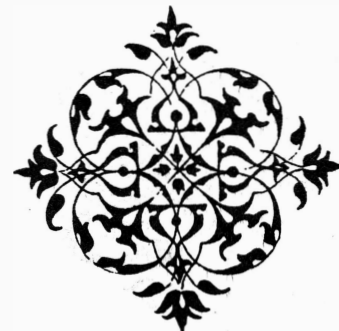
As Told with Puppets and Dancers

Saturday & Sunday, January 15 & 16
8:00 p.m. - Glen Echo Dance Studio

Admission: \$5; students & seniors \$4

At the GALLERY

January 9 through February: A show honoring the outstanding students in all media who have studied under the Creative Education Program at Glen Echo Park in the past year.
Hours: Mon-Fri, 10-5; Sat. & Sun. 12-5



Adventure Theatre presents

THE ODYSSEY

January 15 - February 13
Saturdays and Sundays
at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$3 Reservations: 320-5331

A puppet play true in spirit and incident to Homer's epic for children of all ages.

Beginning February 26:
THE MARVELOUS STORY OF PUSS IN BOOTS