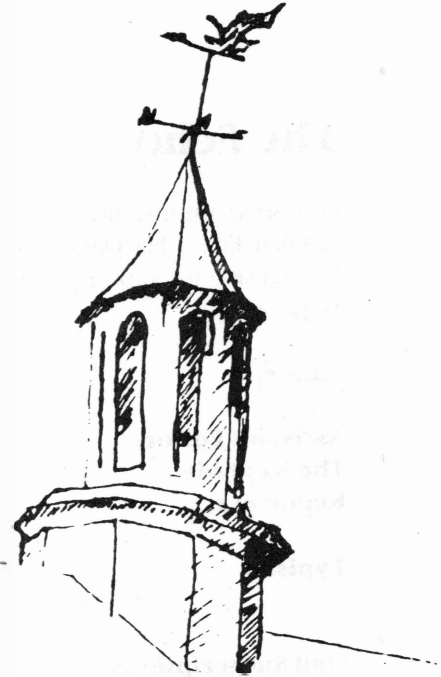


The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



SEPTEMBER 1984

TWO TOWN APARTMENTS GRANTED SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS BY COUNTY

Apartments located in houses at 3 Vassar Circle and 5806 Oxford Road have been granted special exceptions by the Board of Appeals. This means they are legalized for occupancy provided they meet all building code requirements after inspection by the Landlord-Tenant Affairs Office and obtain an occupancy permit.

The two apartments met all the requirements for obtaining a special exception, according to Mayor Kuster.

There has been no decision as yet from the Board after hearings on three other town apartments. The Mayor said he didn't understand "the hold-up." One, at 7309 University Avenue, is on a lot under the 6,000 square foot minimum size requirement. Another, at 7327 University Avenue, is in a cellar, he said. A third, at 6001 Yale Avenue, "should have no trouble conforming to the law, in my opinion."

--continued on page 2

COUNTY WON'T ENFORCE SPEED LIMITS IN TOWN

By Gloria Levin

Councilman Bill Shultz has learned from County staff that County police will not enforce the town's 20 m.p.h. speed limit because State code sets a limit of 25 m.p.h. for residential areas.

Any deviation from the 25 m.p.h. limit would have to be approved as a special exception by the County through the Chief of the Traffic Division.

"Unless we can authenticate our need, we would not be able to have our speed limits upheld in traffic court," Councilman

--continued on page 3



The Echo

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE—September 21

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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Julie Milstien 229-4529
Barbara Odell 229-4494

APARTMENTS (from page 1)

Hearings on applications for special exceptions for two apartments have not yet taken place. They are located at 36 and 30 Wellesley Circle.

Fourteen Glen Echo properties have been identified by the town as containing accessory apartments.

Animal News

The Animal Control Officer reports that all dogs except one have licenses. That dog was also the subject of a warning letter to its owners from the Animal Control Board because of being frequently observed at large.

There are still several cats, however, which have not been licensed by their owners.

FUEL CO-OP REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH TOWNSPEOPLE

By Gloria Levin

Jason Adkins and Fred Kaufmann, representatives from Buyers Up, Public Citizen's Fuel Project, met with interested town residents on August 13 in the Town Hall to discuss the non-profit organization's program for selling heating oil to D.C. area residents at bargain prices.

Started with the assistance of Ralph Nader last winter, Buyers Up currently has over 1,000 member households, including several in Glen Echo, and expects to triple membership within a year.

Buyers Up uses its group purchasing power to contract with major suppliers (in this area, Tri-Continental) for fuel oil at prices substantially lower than the retail market price--a discount of approximately 8-25¢ per gallon, depending on market fluctuations.

Further savings can be achieved by using the "will call" option, involving a call to the supplier when oil is needed and payment upon delivery.

Town resident Anne Lewis has been a member of Buyers Up since last February. She told this reporter that she is "glad to belong to a group looking out for consumer interests." She feels she saved 18¢ per gallon on the (more expensive) automatic delivery plan last winter. Will call, in that case, would have saved her approximately 21¢ per gallon.

Buyers Up estimates an annual savings of from \$100-250 for the average consumer household in this area.

Service contracts on heating equipment are available at a competitive price through Buyers Up. The standard (comprehensive) service contract, with two regular visits, includes an annual inspection,

efficiency test and cleaning as well as emergency service and full maintenance at \$90.

Buyers Up plans additional services for its members, including an Energy Information Clearinghouse and an energy auditing program.

The organization is supported by the \$15 membership fee and a percentage fee charged participating suppliers. Further information is available from Buyers Up at 328-3800.

SPEED LIMITS (from page 1)

Shultz said at the August 13th Town Council meeting.

One method of achieving this would be to have a certified traffic engineering study conducted. The town preferred a second alternative, citing historical precedent and requesting a special exception. The Council felt that sufficient grounds for a variance would be evidence that the County provided the town with 20 m.p.h. street signs in the past and that the speed limit has been set at 20 m.p.h. for at least 20 years.

Councilman Shultz said he felt it would be "more in the interests of people in town" to have a lower speed limit and have it enforced, rather than to implement other "somewhat erratic solutions" which have been proposed, such as speed bumps, to counter complaints by residents of speeding in town.

Yellow paint on curbs to indicate no parking areas is also a variation from County standards and thus unenforceable, the Council was told. The County requires that there be a sign to indicate all no parking areas. Mayor Kuster said he has an opinion from town attorney Tom Craven saying that the County is wrong on this issue.

Town Boatbuilder Recreates 19th Century Paddlewheeler

By Anne Lewis

Imagine being the captain of a sternwheeler boat, plying up the Potomac River to what was once one of the busiest seaports of Colonial America?

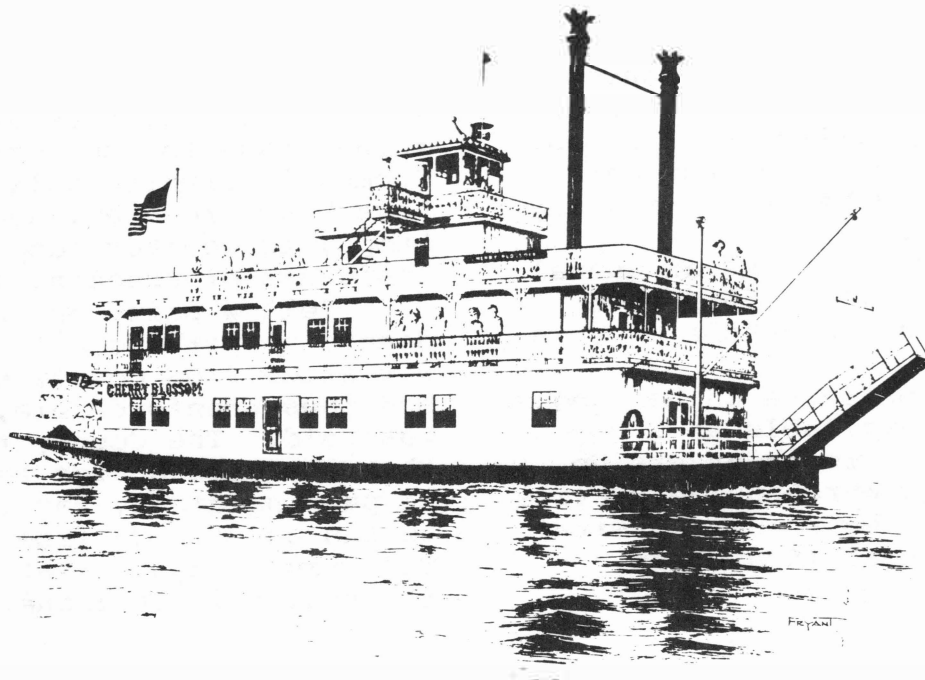
That's the life for a Glen Echo resident, Willem Polak, who applied his Dutch ingenuity to recreate a touch of the Mississippi on our own river.

Mr. Polak owns the Potomac Riverboat Co., whose centerpiece is the Cherry Blossom, as much like a 19th century paddlewheeler as you could find, with marble floors, brass handrails, paintings on the walls and 10 bathrooms. "You could picture yourself on the Mississippi 100 years ago," says Mr. Polak, "except for the air conditioning." The Cherry Blossom is a rarity, he says, one of only a dozen real stern-wheelers in the United States. "It is elegant," he says of the boat he built "from scratch."

Designed by the architectural firm Andrews Chatelain, the boat was built in five and one-half months at Paleka, Fla., near Jacksonville. Mr. Polak, his wife Cathie, and their two children, Mathew and Christin, brought the boat up to Alexandria, where it is docked, through the Intracoastal Waterway, a 945-mile trip that took them six days.

Building and operating boats on the Potomac has been a career for Mr. Polak. He built the 65-footer, Spirit of '76, for the Washington Boat Lines but sold his interest in the lines in May of 1982 to concentrate on building the sternwheeler. His interest in showing

---continued on page 5



RESIDENT BUILDS STERNWHEELER (from page 4)

Washington by water comes from his Dutch background, he says, and now other cities are interested in doing the same. Mr. Polak has had inquiries from Jacksonville, Norfolk and Baltimore about building similar boats for their communities.

The Cherry Blossom is available only for charter, which could be an early morning breakfast or an extravagant dinner dance. The Potomac Riverboat Co., supplies the boat and bar; catering is arranged by those who charter the boat. With two enclosed decks and a third open-air one, the 110-foot boat can accommodate up to 350 passengers.

Alexandria, Mr. Polak points out, was served in the 1800s by schooners, sidewheelers and stern-wheelers and was one of the busiest seaports on the Atlantic seaboard after its founding by Scots merchants in 1749.

"I want to give people a real taste of yesteryear," he says. The Polaks have resided at 6001 Princeton for four years. He suggests that sometime the town of Glen Echo might like to have a party onboard the Cherry Blossom.

GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

6010 Princeton Avenue.....\$100,500

Information on property sales is provided by Kirk Lee of Merrill Lynch Realty.

Baby Boom Continues On Wellesley Circle

The fourth baby born in the past year in one block of Wellesley Circle arrived on August 14.

Stephen Matthew Marks, son of Susan Esserman and Andy Marks of 48 Wellesley Circle, was born at George Washington University Hospital. He weighed in at seven pounds, seven ounces.

The other three Wellesley Circle babies were girls.

COUNCIL ADOPTS ORDINANCES GIVING COUNTY AUTHORITY TO INSPECT TOWN APARTMENTS

The Town Council at its August 13 meeting unanimously adopted two chapters of the County code which effectively authorize the County to inspect and license apartments in Glen Echo.

Without such ordinances the town would have had to undertake its own inspections.

The ordinances authorize enforcement within town of Chapter 29, Landlord-Tenant Relations, and Chapter 26, Housing Standards of the Montgomery County Code.

The Mayor has notified the County that the two chapters were passed by the Council and is awaiting word on whether the County is ready to make the necessary inspections of apartments in town which have been granted special exceptions. (see page 1)

Inspection might be held up until after the so-called "Tilly Frank" legislation becomes effective November 19. This legislation deals with the relationship between County laws and municipal laws and their enforcement.



COUNTY, TOWN GRAPPLING WITH "HOME RULE" LAWS

It all began with a fortune teller in a small town in Prince George's County named Tilly Frank. According to town law, fortune telling was illegal. However, according to Prince George's County law, it was legal.

When Tilly Frank appealed the town decision, the court upheld County laws, thus effectively denying the town "home rule."

State courts, however, said municipal law takes precedence over County law so long as it is equal to or exceeds it in stringency. If it is more lenient, the municipality cannot ask the County to enforce its laws. Thus, a township can reject all County laws so long as it carries out its own enforcement, which is a realistic alternative only for large municipalities.

As a result of the County legislation which becomes effective November 17, the town of Glen Echo must decide whether or not it will keep home rule. The town must indicate to the County if it wishes to exclude some County laws. If it wishes to include some which are not part of the County code it will either have to enforce them itself or negotiate a municipal-county agreement giving the County enforcement responsibilities.

Members of the Glen Echo Town Council are currently examining town ordinances with a view to which ones should be kept intact and looking through the County code to determine which laws should not be adopted. The town can either start by excluding all County laws and then deciding which to incorporate into town law, or by accepting all County laws and then deciding which to exclude -- different approaches to the same end.

Classified Ads

PIANO LESSONS: Experienced teacher. Music degree, performing experience. Certified member Maryland Music Teachers Association. Call 229-7882.

WANTED--Part-time office help needed at office in the Glen Echo Shopping Center. Simmons Realty, Inc., 229-2000.

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and may be left in THE ECHO box at the Post Office or given to Carolyn Reptsik, 7309 University Avenue. PLEASE DO NOT PHONE THEM TO THE EDITOR. Fee to non-residents: \$.50 per line of 30 spaces or fewer. Display ads, \$2 per column inch. Make checks payable to "The Town of Glen Echo" and mail them to Carolyn Reptsik, 7309 University Avenue, Glen Echo, MD 20812.

AD DEADLINE: 24th OF EACH MONTH



Council members will compare opinions at the September meeting, introduce new ordinances at the October meeting and pass them at the November meeting in time to conform with the new County legislation.

Town Bird Becoming More Common This Century

According to the August-September 1984 National Wildlife, the two largest US woodpeckers are the ivorybill and the pileated woodpecker, the Town Bird. "Are" is a hopeful word since, unfortunately, the ivorybill is likely to be extinct.

Felling of the Eastern virgin forests greatly reduced the numbers of both species. The ivorybill lived primarily in mature forests amid trees at least 150 years old. Adult ivorybills are about 20 inches long, being about 2 inches longer than pileated woodpeckers. Both species are black, red, and white. Ivorybills really have white beaks which distinguish them from pileated woodpeckers which have gray to black ones.

Fortunately, pileated woodpeckers are becoming more common. They have evidently adapted better to manmade changes in the eastern forests, being able to exist in relatively young second-growth woods. Further, they probably eat a wider range of foods than ivorybills did.

The Office of Endangered Species gets tantalizing reports of "ivorybills" that are usually pileateds -- or hoaxes. Really finding living ivorybills would excite many persons who are interested in birds, not to mention former Glen Echo resident "Mr. Bird," Roger Tory Peterson.

Edd Barrows



BETHESDA METRO OPENS; RIDE-ON SERVICE EXPANDS

Five new subway stations on the planned Red Line Metro extension opened on August 27, offering direct service from the Grosvenor station north of the Beltway to Metro Center and on to Silver Spring.

Ride-On bus service from the Glen Echo Shopping Center to the Bethesda station at East-West Highway and Wisconsin Avenue is now running on an expanded schedule. The No. 31 bus leaves Glen Echo every half hour from 6:55 a.m. to 7:55 p.m. weekdays. There is no weekend service.

The return trip leaves the Bethesda station every half hour from 6:35 a.m. to 8:05 p.m. The trip takes 15 minutes.

Ride-On bus fare is \$.60. For an additional \$.10, a transfer is available for other Ride-On busses. Transfers are also worth \$.70 toward the fare to Metrobus. The fare for senior citizens is \$.25, plus \$.05 for a transfer. Children under 40 inches tall ride free.

The County is also offering a Bethesdabus, which runs through the commercial sections of Bethesda every 10 minutes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, with a fare of \$.25.

Thanks to

Elizabeth Shar, who collated last month's issue.



Town Council Highlights

August 13, 1984

The Mayor will speak to a number of town residents who are allowing weeds or other growth to obstruct the sidewalks in front of their houses. A "friendly" letter will also be sent....

The town has received an application from James Seavey, an employee of the Glen Echo Fire Department, for the part-time maintenance job with the town....

Mayor Kuster suggested the purchase of a riding lawnmower that would blow snow as part of the equipment that will be needed by the part-time employee. The area needing the most maintenance with a mower was agreed to be the park on the east side of town, which Mayor Kuster estimated to total three building lots. Councilman Shultz said he would prefer that the town have "liquidity and assets" rather than a park in that location and asked that discussion of alternatives to the park be added to the agenda for the next Council meeting....

Mayor Kuster said the town would have to rent more space for storage of equipment or put up its own shed. He estimated that a cinderblock shed could be constructed for \$800. Councilman Shultz said the current practice of renting space from a resident would be preferable because someone would be on the property to protect the equipment....

A part-time person has been hired for a few days to dig out the growth in sidewalks and streets, clean gutters and fix potholes....

The contract for trash pickup expires October 30 and will be re-bid in September. Councilwoman Beers is drafting wordage for a definition of special pickups....

----Anne Lewis

SIDEWALK TO BE CONSTRUCTED

An engineering survey to determine the specifications for the extension of the sidewalk in a block of Wellesley Circle was carried out last month.

The specifications will go out to bid as part of the street work in town and work is expected to begin in early September. The job will only take about two days, according to Mayor Kuster.

A substantial amount of vegetation was removed by a contractor in the area where the sidewalk is to be constructed. It included a great amount of poison ivy.

The contractor's price was so attractive, the Mayor said, that town residents whose sidewalks are similarly obstructed might like to ask him for an estimate for clearing their sidewalks.

In order to avoid damage to tree roots the sidewalk will have either bricks or wood at grade level.

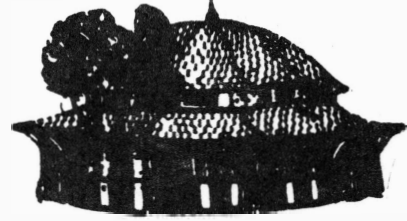
NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 10 - 8 p.m.

All residents encouraged to attend.

Agenda attached to this issue. Contact the Clerk-Treasurer if you wish to add an item to it.





At GLEN ECHO PARK

SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL

September 16:
The Spanish Dance Center,
1 p.m., \$3

September 29:
The Saturday Company,
8 p.m., \$5

September 30:
The Saturday Company,
1 p.m., \$5
Prochotsky Ballet Theater
2:30 p.m., free

POET'S JAM

Saturday, September 15, 5-7 p.m.,
Garth Tate presents poetry,
\$2

MONSTER WORKSHOP

Sunday, September 23
11:30-1:30, Ages 8-12, free
Two groups using two piles of
junk will construct two mon-
sters which will ultimately con-
front each other in a grand
finale!

DANCES CONTINUE

Saturday night dances at
the Spanish Ballroom continue
until September 29, from 8:30
to 11:30 p.m. and cost \$3.50.

Wednesday dances, beginning
at 8 p.m., continue until Octo-
ber 10, and Friday dances, be-
ginning at 8:30, until October
19. Both cost \$3.

Sunday night ballroom
dances continue until October
28, at 8 p.m. and cost \$5.
Music is by the Tom Cunningham
Orchestra.

PERFORMANCES

September 23:
The Sunshine Skiffle Band, 2 p.m.

October 7:
John Jackson, 2 p.m..country blues

October 14:
Joe Glazer, 2 p.m., workers' songs

October 21:
Gus Meade with the Snuffy Smith
Bridge Club, 2 p.m.

October 28:
Helen Schneyer, 2 p.m., ballads,
broadsides, hymns, mining songs

All concerts free

Adventure Theatre

Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp
August 18 - September 23

Wiley and the Hairy Man
October 6 - November 4

Weekends, 1:30 & 3:30, \$3
Call 320-5331 for reservations

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SPONSORS ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE

Twenty-six dealers will be
exhibiting antiques at the Eleventh
Annual Show and Sale sponsored by
the United Methodist Women of
Concord-St. Andrew's Church on Septem-
ber 20, 21 and 22.

Hours for the show are 11 a.m.
to 9 p.m. the first two days, and
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The church is located at River
and Goldsboro Roads. Proceeds from
this event are used for church and
community related projects.