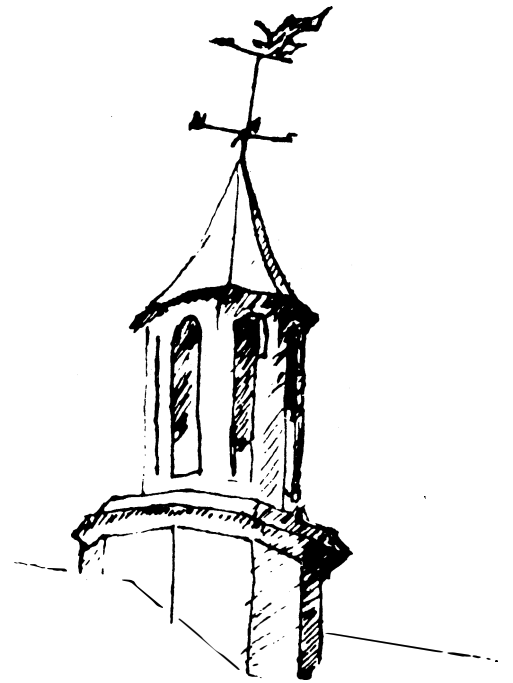


# The Echo

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



October, 1988

### CRIME DRAMA UNFOLDS IN GLEN ECHO Burglar Apprehended Next Day

By Carlotta Anderson

In an impressive display of tactics, utilizing the K-9 corps and a Park Service helicopter, the Montgomery County police last month nabbed a burglary suspect charged with breaking into a Wellesley Circle house. During one period on the evening of September 4, there were six police cars involved in the operation, with several uniformed and plainclothes officers busily taking blood samples, footprints, and dusting for fingerprints.

The drama began around 8:00 p.m. when resident Susan Tamulevich returned home and saw a man bending over a cabinet in her brightly-lit front room. She did not know the man and she had left the house unlit.

She fled to a neighbor's to report the crime-in-progress, but the burglar had apparently seen her. By the time the police arrived, about 10 minutes later, he had left the house. While searching around the house and cruising the town streets, the police called in Officer Lee Marsh from the K-9 team and his German shepherd, Rebel. The dog seemed to pick up the scent from the rear yard, and led Officer Marsh across the Parkway and up the towpath to 78th St. and MacArthur Blvd. in Cabin John. At the same time, a Park Police helicopter, equipped with a heat sensor to pick up body temperature, circled the area, shining its searchlights along the towpath, while other patrol cars checked along the Parkway and shone their lights into the woods.

Inside the house, Officers Paul Barker and Billy West and Detective Gordon Williams determined that the suspect had entered through a bathroom window, which he had tried to pry open. When the glass broke, he had cut the screen with a piece of

---

### LOCAL WOMAN WANTS TO CONVERT TOWN. HOUSE TO COMMERCIAL USE By Gloria Levin

Prospective property owner Sally Law presented tentative plans for commercial use of a Tulane Ave. residence to the Town Council at its September 12 meeting. She said she is in the process of purchasing the house at 6113 Tulane Ave., next to the Glen Echo Station restaurant.

Ms. Laws, who lives in Mohican Hills, proposes to use the property for a yet-to-be-determined commercial purpose. She told the council she might establish a bed-and-breakfast accommodation at the site, but more likely would use the house for her financial research and advisory business, which has four employees.

She said she only has three or four clients per week who

--continued on page 3

--continued on page 2

## THE ECHO

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## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

MARYLAND

20812

Town Office 320-4041

6106 Harvard Avenue

Office Hours: Monday: 9am-1 pm; Saturday: 8-11:30 am

### MAYOR

Fred Kuster 229-2070

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Long 334-2865 or 229-1369

Harry Odell 229-4494

Bill Shultz 229-1269

Renny Springuel 320-2699

### CLERK-TREASURER

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Barbara McCoy 320-4322

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Jane Eldredge 229-4110

Mary Masulla 229-6521

Daryl Kuster 229-2070

Susan Shultz 229-1269

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters are printed exactly as received except that the editor reserves the right to shorten them. Articles for publication are also solicited. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the editor at 229-3748.

## ***PROPOSAL TO CONVERT HOUSE TO COMMERCIAL USE (from page 1)***

would visit the office.

The house is currently used as a non-conforming, two-unit multi-family dwelling, but the residential leases terminate in 1989.

Although she said she intends to purchase the property without certainty regarding its future use, Ms. Law asked for the Council's reaction to her tentative proposals, expressing an intent to conform to the law.

Councilwoman Nancy Long expressed her concern that the town maintain the residential quality of that part of town. Ms. Law agreed, saying, "I don't want a pocket of commercialism there, either."

Councilman Bill Shultz recommended that Ms. Law approach the neighbors for their reactions.

### ***HAVE YOU TESTED FOR RADON?***

The editor would like to hear from any residents who have had their homes tested for radon. The purpose is to determine if radon is a problem in the town of Glen Echo.

### **GLEN ECHO HALLOWEEN**

### **PARTY**

**Sunday, October 30**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Glen Echo Town Hall**

Anyone willing to volunteer to help organize the party, please call Mayor Kuster at 229-2070.

## POLICE PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS IN BURGLARY CHASE (from page 1)

the glass. Officer Harold Cenney dusted the cabinet for fingerprints and took a box of checks the suspect had removed from a drawer so it could be dehydrated for more elaborate fingerprint analysis. Nothing was stolen.

"On a hunch," as Officer Barker explained, Officer Falcinelli discovered a car a few houses away "that did not belong there." Inside, among other personal papers, was a traffic ticket for a person whose description matched that of the intruder. His address was in Cabin John.

Some of the officers went to that address, found blood on the front steps and his parents at home, but no trace of the suspect. An hour or so later, a policeman returned to the scene of the crime and found the car gone.

The following afternoon, police returned to the Cabin John address and found the suspect cutting the lawn, according to Officer Barker. "He voluntarily accompanied us to the police station and eventually made a full confession after we read him his rights," he said.

In the confession, according to Officer Barker, he said that he had only been in the house three minutes. He said he had not fled across the Parkway, where the dog and helicopter were attempting to track him, but had remained lying in the bushes in the park land behind Wellesley Circle. Eventually, he had returned to his car and driven home.

The blood on the house porch remains a puzzling element, Officer Barker said, since the suspect only had minor brush cuts on his face and apparently had not returned home by the time police arrived there.

The 35-year-old suspect, Henry Briefs, Jr., admitted to two other burglaries, both in Cabin John in August, according to Officer Barker. One took place at night, the other during the day. Jewelry and cassette tapes were stolen in those incidents. Mr. Briefs had no previous record and was released on personal bond after being charged, Officer Barker said.

The trial will be held in October, he said. He added that the maximum sentence is 20 years on each count of nighttime burglary and 10 years for daytime burglary. Officer Barker added that he thought the police could have found the suspect the night of the burglary if the K-9 corps had a bloodhound. The only bloodhounds available are those owned by the state police or one that is privately owned by a county police officer.

Nevertheless, Susan Tamulevich was awed by the police thoroughness that night. Before they left, they even gave her house a safety inspection, advising what steps she could take to make it more secure. "It was a whole package," she marveled, "They came, got clues, got the guy and told me how to fix up the house." She also was touched by the kindness and helpfulness of fellow residents that night, she said.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

A series of daytime residential burglaries are being committed in the local area by the same two suspects, Montgomery County police report. Typically, they park their car some distance from the house to be burglarized, then break in through a rear door or window. They are: Black Male, heavy-set, 5'9"-5'11", 30-40 years old; White Male, average build, blond, 5'9"-5'11", in his 20s...

The police warn citizens not to buy stereo speakers out of vans in parking lots. The speakers are of poor quality and worth a fraction of their selling price. They are not stolen, however...

The sound of breaking glass should always be investigated. If you cannot locate the cause easily, call the police. In some cases the thief will break a window and then hide to see if it was heard, so it is important to watch the area for a few minutes...

#### Incidents in August:

Aug 1-2	6400 78th St., Burglary; Bike stolen from shed
5	6500 79th St., Burglary: Beer, etc. stolen from house
5-7	6500 75th St., Burglary: Jewelry stolen from house
25	6300 Kenhowe, Theft; Tapes stolen from car
29	6200 Vorlich, Burglary; Mower taken from garage

### MAYOR MAY HAVE FOUND NEW CLERK/TREASURER

Mayor Kuster was in the process of interviewing a town resident for the job of clerk/treasurer as *The Echo* went to press.

He had asked the Town Council at last month's meeting for permission to seek a candidate outside of Glen Echo and was prepared to advertise in a local paper.

Councilman Springuel asked him again to consider sharing a town manager with other towns. The mayor responded that sharing requires creation of a three-town "circuit." He said Washington Grove (near Gaithersburg) was interested, but another town was needed.

—Gloria Levin

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# RIDING THE RAILS TO GLEN ECHO

## The Trolley Line's Seventy Years

By J. Manuel Espinosa

### Part I: THE BACKGROUND

Glen Echo's history really began a hundred years ago, in 1888, when two brothers bought a large tract of the land along the Potomac River from Cabin John Creek to the Walthonding Road area overlooking Sycamore Island. The purchasers, Edward and Edwin Baltzley, planned to build a pleasure resort and residential area in this undeveloped section northwest of Washington. "Glen Echo on the Potomac" was the name they chose for the area.

The Baltzley brothers began their grandiose plan by developing the Glen Echo Heights area, building some expensive stone residences that were designed to attract well-to-do Washingtonians. Sales were brisk, and the large stone homes of members of the Baltzley family set the tone for the refined neighborhood. Among the early purchasers of property was Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, wife of the President.

To provide a resort atmosphere, the Baltzleys built a luxurious restaurant, "The Glen Echo Cafe," overlooking the river on a slope below Conduit Road (MacArthur Blvd.) in the area across from the present Sycamore Store. The Cafe, which opened in the early summer of 1890, was several stories high, with many dining rooms, a great dining hall, and a special dining room in a tower high atop the structure, that offered a fantastic view of both sides of the Potomac. The building was constructed of thirty thousand unhewn logs.

For patrons of the restaurant, a two-level horse-drawn coach called "The Talley-Ho" left downtown Washington at 4:30 p.m. every afternoon and returned at 9:00 p.m. Unfortunately, less than six months after it opened, the restaurant burned to the ground.

Overtaken by financial problems, the Baltzleys turned to other projects. The most important of these was their investment in and deeding of property to the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo, a sort of summer school and camp-out for people of all ages and income levels, which opened on June 14, 1891. The deeds of transfer of the property stipulated that it could only be used for educational and cultural purposes. They also required that the land be developed according to a map of the Chautauqua laid out by Henry B. Looker, which included plans for modest homes, with blocks, lots, and street names indicated in detail. The latter clause marked the organized beginnings of the town of Glen Echo.

The emerging town had another exciting neighbor, the elegant Cabin John Bridge Hotel, which preceded and outlived the Chautauqua. Originally, the hotel/restaurant had twenty-five rooms, later expanded to forty rooms, including two large banquet halls, a music hall, a Rathskeller, several bars, a well-stocked cellar of excellent wines, and many other attractions. In the early decades after its opening in 1880, it became the gathering place for the cream of Washington society. Distinguished guests included presidents Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson; Speaker of the house Joe Cannon held most of his social functions there. Many other visitors were attracted to the site to observe the monumental Cabin John Bridge nearby.



A "lookout" with views of the Potomac sat atop a dining room at the Glen Echo Cafe.

—continued on next page

## **GLEN ECHO STARTS AS RESORT A CENTURY AGO (from preceding page)**

The earliest known residences within what is now the town of Glen Echo were the stately old stone house of Mr. William Reading and his wife, Sarah, known variously as the "Reading House" and "Oakdale Villa," and its stone slave quarters, built by the Readings around 1853. (These are located at 42 and 44 Wellesley Circle.) The Baltzleys purchased this part of the extensive Reading property between 1888 and 1891.

The first residents of the emerging town of Glen Echo were families attending the Chautauqua who set up housekeeping in rented cabins in 1891, planning to stay for the second season, which did not materialize. At that time, the Baltzleys had every expectation that the Chautauqua would be a continuing project, and in 1891-92 forty-one "cottages" were built in the area that is now the town of Glen Echo. The cottages were rapidly purchased and new homes were built in the ensuing years. In 1904, John Garrett, one of the early residents, had the brilliant idea of incorporating the town. This was accomplished that year, with Garrett as the first mayor.

### **NEXT MONTH: The Trolley Rolls into Glen Echo**

#### **RESIDENT COMPLAINS OF PARKING VIOLATIONS**

Prompted by a letter of complaint from resident Jim Anderson, the mayor and council last month discussed the enforcement of the town ordinance which prohibits "abandoned" cars on town streets.

Councilman Springuel, who is the Council member assigned to vehicle control, reported his conversation with a county police official who indicated that the police typically do not enforce parking restrictions against an unattended vehicle which is legally tagged, registered, and parked in front of the owner's residence. Town attorney Tom Craven offered to research the county's ordinance to determine if it is consonant with the town's ordinance.

Mr. Anderson had asked the town to act directly "on the proliferation of abandoned cars on the town streets" by issuing the parking citations authorized by the town's recently-enacted Municipal Infractions Ordinances. The town chose instead to attempt to deal with the problem through the police.

The town ordinances prohibit cars from being parked "for an unreasonable length of time so as to impede traffic flow, constitute a health or safety hazard, or impair the aesthetic values of the community." They also restrict cars from being parked for more than five days in the same spot without being moved, unless special permission is given by the town.

Three cars which had been parked on University Ave. for many months without being moved have disappeared since Councilman Springuel called police in to confer.

#### ***OWNER OFFERS TROLLEY LAND AT \$12 PER SQUARE FOOT***

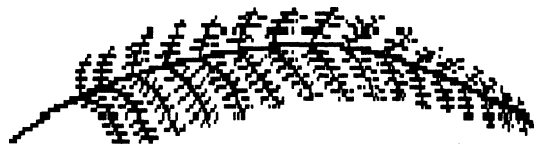
O. Roy Chalk, owner of the old trolley car right-of-way, is finally ready to sell off the land. The Glen Echo trolley stopped running 28 years ago.

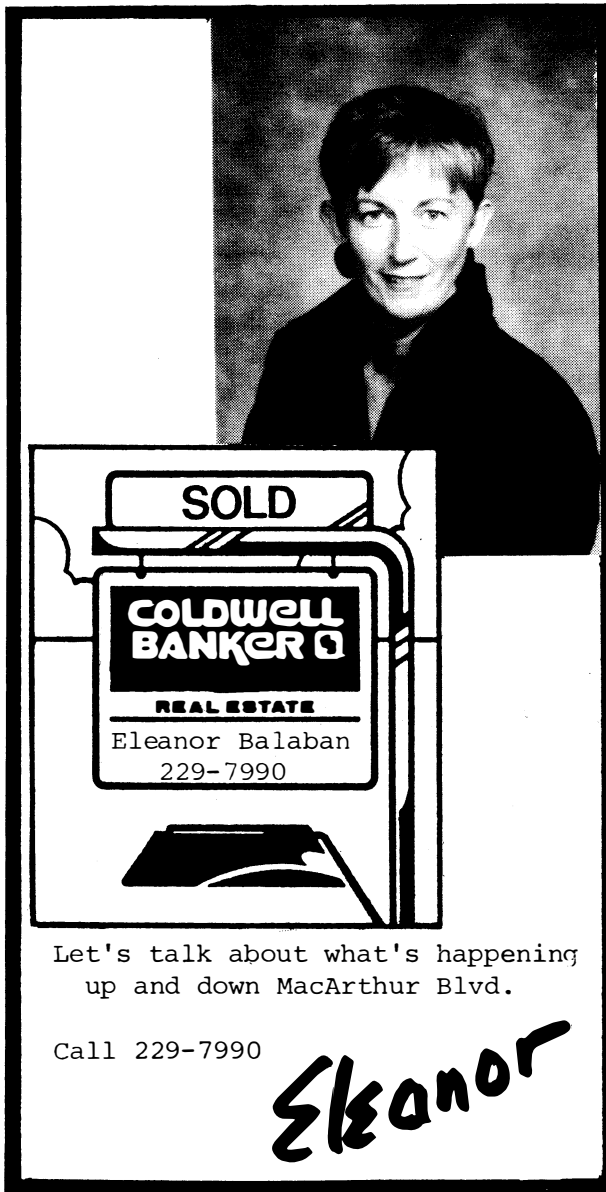
Henry M. Obst, Mr. Chalk's representative, wrote the town suggesting it buy the right-of-way at a price of \$12 per square foot, Mayor Kuster told the Council at its September meeting. Similar offers also were made to property owners living adjacent to the land, several of whom attended the meeting.

There was general agreement that the offered price is excessive, far above the \$4.50 per square foot paid by Brockie and Jane Stevenson within the past couple months for land within 100 feet of the Chalk property.

Council members were also opposed to purchasing property containing the trolley trestle, located between Radcliffe Lane and the Union Arch Bridge, considering it to be in dangerous condition and a potential liability for the town.

The Council authorized Mayor Kuster to meet with Mr. Obst, but recommended he offer adjacent property owners the opportunity to join him in this meeting. Councilman Springuel also recommended that Mayor Kuster request a survey of the property from Mr. Obst.





Let's talk about what's happening up and down MacArthur Blvd.

Call 229-7990

*Eleanor*

## CEREMONY FOR CAROUSEL STAMPS TO BE HELD AT PARK OCTOBER 2

A special ceremony to commemorate the issuing of four new stamps depicting hand-carved carousels will be held in the bumper car pavillion at Glen Echo Park on Sunday, October 2, at noon.

County Executive Sidney Kramer will be one of several speakers. Members of the National Guard will raise the flag and a Postal Service choir will sing the national anthem, according to Glen Echo Postmaster Ellen Nash.

Postal Service employees will be cancelling the carousel stamps with a special cancellation designed for the first day of issue, she said.

## WELCOME NEWCOMERS

A belated welcome to **Tom Pitsenberger**, who moved to 6003 Bryn Mawr Ave. two years ago.

Tom is a sculptor in ceramics and also has a gutter cleaning and replacing business. Since the gutter business is seasonal, he has a half year to do art work, he explains.

A graduate in political science from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Tom is mostly a self-taught artist. He has been working on abstract, figurative works for the past seven years. Some are table-top size, others are larger outdoors pieces. Several are sitting in the rear of his residence, and he will be happy to show them to interested persons if they phone him at 229-1131.

A D.C. native, Tom has a studio at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. His works were recently displayed at the Market Five Gallery in Capitol Hill in a joint exhibit with silkscreen artist Alex Madison.

Tom says he loves Glen Echo. "The longer I stay, the more I like it. It has a real sense of community."

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Another new resident at 6003 Bryn Mawr Ave. is **Angie Gannon**, who hails from Salem, S.D. Angie graduated from Gallaudet University in D.C. with a major in early childhood education. She is now on the staff of the Clara Barton Center for Children.

Angie's hobbies are reading and bicycling. She moved to Glen Echo because she thought it had a nice environment and nice people.

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## POST OFFICE HOURS EXTENDED

The Glen Echo post office isn't open as long as patrons indicated they would like, but at least the hours on Fridays and Saturdays have been lengthened.

Friday afternoon hours, cut last February, were restored as of September 10. The post office is now open every weekday from 8:30-5:00.

The new Saturday hours are 8:30-1:00, a half hour extension.

A recent customer survey showed that most Glen Echo customers would like the facility to open even earlier, so they could use it on the way to work, according to Glen Echo Postmaster Ellen Nash.

"I'm still requesting that we open at 8:00 weekdays," she said, noting that the clerks are already on duty by 7:30.

## COUNCIL WORRIES ABOUT TREES

Councilwoman Long told the Town Council last month that she had heard that Peter Garfield, owner of the former La Haute Cuisine property, was planning to cut down two sycamore trees to make additional parking space on the site.

Although Mayor Kuster indicated that he was informed that that was not Mr. Garfield's intention, he and the council determined to remain vigilant to prevent such an occurrence.

The town's Open Space ordinance requires 60 days notice from a town resident planning to cut down or substantially disfigure (by "topping") a large tree on private property. Such notice must be provided to the Open Space Committee.

—Gloria Levin

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### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 18 — 8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor if you wish to add an item to the agenda

## TOWN WANTS COUNTY COMMISSION TO DO HISTORIC INVENTORY

Mayor Kuster is writing the County Historic Preservation Commission, asking that it do an inventory of historic elements in Glen Echo before the town proceeds further in seeking historic district status.

"There's no point in going ahead unless they give us a hint whether we qualify," he said. Following the suggestion of Don Dworsky in last month's *Echo*, the mayor indicated that it isn't worth polling town residents to determine their preference in the matter unless historic status is a possibility.

---

## BRIEFLY NOTED

Craig Sealing, Inc. finally started the **road work** for which they submitted an estimate in April. The major job, widening the upper section of Wellesley Circle, appears to be near completion. Work was also done in the Baptist Church parking lot and in the area near Glen Echo Station. Many other areas in town remain to be done in the \$18,000 job, with the completion date unsure...

Developers are now hoping to get county permission to build 44 single-family homes on the **Lentini Tract** in the woods near Bannockburn School, according to the September *Bannockburn Newsletter*. A previous bid to build 17 single-family homes and 30 townhouses at that location was turned down in June because of water disposal problems...

Councilwoman Long told the council last month about a rumor of yet another "**grandiose plan**" for use of Glen Echo Park—this time, for a Tivoli Gardens development, reputedly being backed by a wealthy individual...

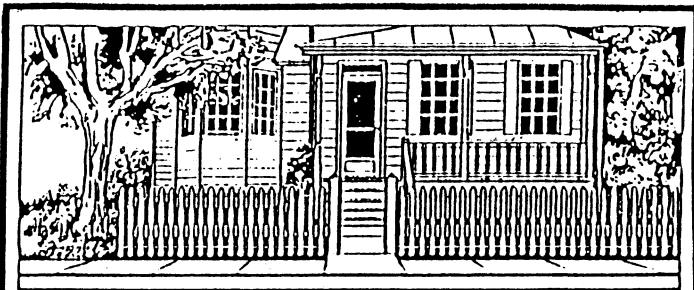
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### GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

6005 Cornell Ave., W.R. Helmig to Edward R. Hertz  
\$200,070

Information on town property transactions is provided by  
Rufus Lusk through his Lusk Reports, a real estate  
information service.

### TOWN PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

7313 University Ave. \$439,500  
6004 Princeton Ave. \$399,900

### AT THE CLARA BARTON SITE

**Biology is Destiny?  
Women & Health in the 19th Century  
Sunday, October 16, 2:00 p.m.**

### BLOODMOBILE HERE OCTOBER 31

"We Want Your Blood!" the Red Cross declares in a  
special Halloween appeal for blood donors. A "unique  
Halloween party" is how the Monday, October 31  
Bloodmobile at the Clara Barton house is advertised, and  
everyone who donates blood in costume will receive a  
prize.

As usual, refreshments will also be served.

The Bloodmobile takes place between 10:00 and 3:00.  
Reservations are suggested. Please call 492-6245.

## BIG APPLE COMES TO GLEN ECHO

Performances of the Big Apple Circus begin next week, with  
a special benefit show for the Glen Echo Park Foundation on  
opening night, October 4.

Ticket sales have been more than brisk, and those who have  
not yet purchased their tickets should rush to the box office in  
the Glen Echo Park parking lot. Seats for all Saturday  
performances were bought up by corporate sponsors without ever  
going on sale to the general public, according to the Warner's  
box office. All Sunday seats were sold by mid-September.

In addition to the box office, tickets are available at all  
Warner Theatre outlets, including Ticketron, Ticket-Center and  
Teletron 1-800-233-4050. Performances are: Tues. 7:30; Wed.  
11 a.m. and 7:30; Thurs. & Fri. 4:00 and 7:30; Sat. 2:00 and 7:00;  
Sun. 2:00 and 6:00.

## PUPPET SHOW TO BENEFIT FOUNDATION

A special performance of the puppet show, "Pinocchio," will  
be given on Tuesday, October 18, to benefit the Glen Echo Park  
Foundation.

The performance, which is co-sponsored by the Montgomery  
County Arts Council, will be preceded by a pot luck supper in  
the bumper car pavillion at 6:00 p.m. Those wishing to join the  
supper should bring a dish to share or \$2 apiece.

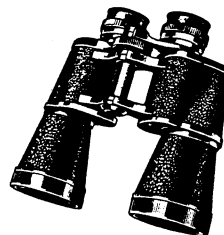
Tickets for the puppet show are \$5 for everyone two years  
old and over. They may be purchased by calling 320-2330, or at  
the door. The show will start at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a few door prizes.

## BUSHNELL Binocular Clinic

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