

# The Echo

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



August 2004

### TOWN ENJOYS BLOW-OUT PARTY TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

By Carlotta Anderson

Rain was forecast, but it didn't dare fall on such an important date--Glen Echo's 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Celebration and Parade that was held in and around the town hall on Sunday, July 17.

Instead, the day was balmy as festivities began at 3:00 p.m. on the hall's front lawn with an ice-cream social and entertainment by the "Glen Echos" barbershop quartet. Bethesda's WowCow ice cream parlor delighted all ages with a choice of chocolate-chocolate chip, mint oreo, vanilla and raspberry sherbet along with nuts, syrup and candies as the a capella quartet crooned old-time tunes.

Was the quartet named just for this occasion? Absolutely not. Baritone Richard Cook happens to be the foremost historian of Glen Echo Park. He has amassed a magnificent collection of photos, documents and artifacts collected since he was 16 years old and seeking old bottles and broken china in the woods behind Oakdale Villa. But it was sheer coincidence that Centennial Committee member Susan Grigsby found the "Glen Echos" on the Internet and booked them without knowing of their connection to the town history.

Next came the town parade, led by Reed Martin of Cabin John in the 1931 Ford Deluxe Roadster he has been driving for 30 years. He was followed by George Borsari in his dazzling blue Corvette, with Mayor Debbie Beers as passenger. Then came Jim Anderson in his 1967 red Sunbeam Alpine two-seater convertible, stuffed with Ben and Hank Malmgren,

Miles and Allegra Wilson, and Sonia Lorenzen. They were followed by a joyous crowd of young and old on bikes, trikes, foot, in strollers, on shoulders and even in a wheelchair down University and around Wellesley past colorful balloons, flags and bunting.

The Sunshine Skiffle Band was performing on the lawn with its trademark "junkyard instruments"—an upside-down washtub ("gut bucket") and laundry washboard as rhythm instruments augmented by a whining musical saw and some more conventional instruments. Volunteer musician Don Lerman, a town resident, added his saxophone to the raucous mix. The Sunshine Skiffle Band is well known to patrons of the Washington Folk Festival, where it has performed for 22 years.

—continued on page 3

#### TOWN COUNCIL DATE CHANGED

The date for the regular monthly meeting of the Glen Echo Town Council will be Monday, Aug. 16, at 8:00 p.m., rather than Aug. 9.

The meeting date had to be changed because of travel schedules of town council members.

# THE ECHO

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♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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20812**

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9:00 a.m.- noon or by appointment

### MAYOR

Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eve Arber 301-263-0016

Tim Maloy 301-229-4745

Dan Macy 301-229-2122

Nancy Long 301-332-3823

### CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

### TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

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## PARTY (FROM P. 1)

Inside the town hall, Montgomery County Councilman Howard Denis leaped onto the stage to read a proclamation from the County Executive and County Council thanking Glen Echo for doing so much to maintain and enhance the community. He noted proudly that he has been representing Glen Echo for 23 percent of its centennial life. Other officials from the county and Glen Echo Park were also in attendance.

At least 90 people enjoyed a potluck supper, sitting at tables in the festively decorated hall and bringing up hamburgers and hot dogs that were grilled outside and provided by the town. The celebration wound up with glasses of champagne left over from the April Centennial Birthday Party and served by Andrea and Steve Matney.

The event was featured in an article in the Metro section of the July 19 *Washington Post* and in the July 21 issue of the *Gazette*, "Town of Glen Echo Celebrates a Century."

Members of the Centennial Committee who spent much time organizing the event were Eve Arber, Nancy Long, Susan Grigsby and Kate Horwitz. They were assisted by Ed Hunter, Dan and Constance Macy, and Cathy Polak. Thank you all!



**Steve and Andrea Matney offered champagne for a celebration toast.**



**The parade moves down University Ave. as Reed Martin drives his 1931 Ford Deluxe Roadster, accompanied by Carlotta Anderson. Photographs by Peter Somerville**

## PARTY DVD AVAILABLE

Those who attended Glen Echo's July 18 Centennial Proclamation Party probably noticed resident Peter Somerville racing around with a video camera in front of his face. The result of all this activity is a 35-minute DVD that captures all the events of that gala party and, it seems, all the participants--in living color.

I've seen the film and can testify that it is imaginatively shot and beautifully edited. Peter has made a copy available for the town archives, but he is willing to make duplicates for one and all for \$5 apiece.

You can contact him at 301-320-8129, somervp@comcast.net, or at 49 Wellesley Circle.

## WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

"Everyone is so friendly!" is the assessment of Glen Echo from **Doug Pyle** and **Alexandra Freeman**, who moved to 6101 Harvard Ave. in June from Chicago with **Nicholas**, 17 months, along with **Jake**, a nine-year-old "mutt," and **Oscar**, a six-year-old cat.

Alexandra, who grew up in Somerset and attended B-CC High School, was happy to move back to this area when Doug was offered a job in D.C. as finance officer for the international program of the American Red Cross. Alexandra, a pediatrician specializing in infectious diseases, was hired by NIH, which made the Glen Echo location a very convenient spot for both of them.

Doug is a native of Boston and got his MBA at Yale University. His career has mostly been with international and non-profit organizations. Alexandra attended Georgetown University Medical School and did her residency at Yale. At NIH she combines care of HIV patients with research.

Both of them enjoy hiking and had their wedding ceremony in 2000 on Sugarloaf Mountain at the Strong Mansion. They are also keen on kayaking, and both would like to join a book group.

A hearty welcome to the family!

## LEARN MORE ABOUT GLEN ECHO PARK AND CLARA BARTON HOUSE IN AUGUST

Glen Echo's year-long Centennial series of events continues this month with talks about the histories of Glen Echo Park and the Clara Barton house at the town hall on Sunday, August 15, from 3:00-5:00 p.m..

The talks, to be illustrated with historic slides and artifacts, will be given by representatives of the National Park Service.

Everyone interested in learning more about the exciting past of these important elements of Glen Echo is encouraged to attend and ask questions. Refreshments will be served.

The event is being sponsored by the town Centennial Committee.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 16—8:00 p.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall  
Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda




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## AROUND TOWN

**Michael Bobbitt** of Wellesley Circle directed Adventure Theatre's exciting July production, "The Near-Sighted Knight and the Far-Sighted Dragon." Since Michael is a choreographer, among other talents, the show incorporated much dancing and tumbling as well as singing and was a great success...

**Tom Helf** of Oxford Rd. "came out of retirement" last month to play a couple of gigs with his old band, Cravin' Dogs. Drummer Tom and the group were at the City Hall Concert Pavilion in Old Town Gaithersburg on July 9 and in the Penn Concert Series on July 17, opening for national acts Galactic and Nappy Roots.

**Brockie Stevenson** of Yale Ave. will be the featured artist in the First Floor Galleries of the Mansion at Strathmore from Sept. 4-November 6. Opening night, Sept. 10, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. will also be a celebration of Brockie's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday and all townspeople are invited. Strathmore Mansion is located at 10701 Rockville Pike in N. Bethesda, adjacent to the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station.

Brockie's paintings hang in the American Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Phillips Collection, and private collections. His silk screen prints are in private collections including those of a number of Glen Echo residents

**Lockhouse 8** on the C&O Canal, which is being converted into a Learning Center by the Potomac Conservancy, is now open for visiting on weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., staffed by volunteer "lockkeepers." The lockhouse is still being reconstructed by volunteer workers but visitors can see the two lower rooms where the lockkeeper and his family lived. There are displays showing lock operations and how the structure is being rebuilt, as well as information about birds, wildflowers, trees and canal history.

The new owners of the **Sycamore Store** on MacArthur Blvd. are planning to convert the 1919 building into an office for their architectural remodeling business and to retain the "Sycamore Store" sign. Dean Brenneman and Peter Pagenstecher are also in the process of nominating the former store for historic designation...

The proposal by the town council to amend the town ordinances to provide for **permit parking** is no longer active due to resident opposition...

## KIDS OF GLEN ECHO

By Frank Powers

The children of Glen Echo make this a vibrant, ever-fascinating place to live. Knowing that our daughter Cindy will soon be leaving for college makes it all the more poignant for us, having vicariously enjoyed the thrills she's experienced caring for so many of our little neighbors.

Maybe that's why there's an extra urge to pay attention to the countless dramas of Glen Echo's other juveniles, the ones we see nearly every morning in our backyard around our bird feeders.

Juvenile Ruby-throated Hummingbirds finally showed up (July 18 & 20), with their streaked throats and crisp feathers. You can tell they're kids by their awkward physical movements combined with an uncaring, almost brazen behavior. Twice, one came within feet of me, sizing me up, exploring this new phenomenon before returning to his feeder.

The adult male is generally around to chase the adult females and kids away. He usually perches in a nearby tree. Sometime in early August, he'll begin his long migration down to Mexico or Costa Rica, flying straight over the Gulf of Mexico. He's already putting on weight for the trip.

The Hummer Mom, who builds the nest, broods, feeds and raises the kids all by herself, won't be leaving until mid-September with the children. Guess she has to recover from child-rearing first, then she'll store up energy for her long journey.

Most parent-juvenile interactions of other birds are marked by much more gender cooperation. Two families of Red-bellied Woodpeckers are tended carefully by both male and female adults. Adult male Northern Cardinals can be seen feeding juveniles of their species as much as the females. A pair of Blue Jay parents had to work hard feeding three of their juveniles. Same with the Carolina Chickadees, Common Grackles, Tufted Titmouse and Downy Woodpeckers.

By the end of August, many of the "kids" will be gone. Kind of sad, like Cindy leaving, too.



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## GLEN ECHO PARK MUCH IN THE NEWS

By David Chitwood

Glen Echo Park Site Manager Karen Pittleman described to the town council last month some of the media attention that Glen Echo Park had received recently. The *Washington Post* featured a June 29 article about the 1960 protests about segregation of the Park and the efforts of to integrate the Park. One of the protestors was Gwendolyn Britt, who is now a state senator. The Park has audio tapes of Park management in 1960 telling people to leave. (The tapes were made by WWDC reporter Sam Smith and are on-line at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/mmedia/metro/062804-10s.htm> )

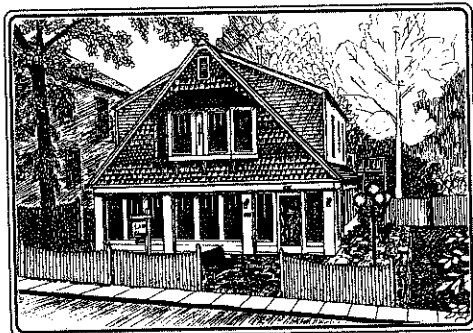
In addition, the July 2 CBS Evening News briefly featured the Park to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Bill.

Ms. Pittleman added that the *Montgomery Gazette* recently wrote a piece on the new Ballroom Café, which opened June 3. The CBS Evening News also visited to record a piece on the carousel.

Councilmember Long added that CBS News had also prepared an unaired piece on the puppet theatre

Ms. Pittleman added that she visited the Massachusetts birthplace of Clara Barton during her vacation. The birthplace is on property owned and operated by the Unitarian Universalist Church as a camp for diabetic children.

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## CABIN JOHN DISPLAYS FIVE HISTORY PANELS AT CENTER

The Cabin John community on July 21 unveiled five large historical panels which have been hung in the corridor of the community center in the former Clara Barton Elementary School. The panels, which were financed with a \$2,000 grant from the Montgomery County Historical Society, will be on view permanently, and the public is invited to peruse them.

Perhaps the most striking is the enlarged advertisement from the *Washington Times* of Aug. 3, 1903 which portrays "Cabin John Bridge: Favorite Resort of the Washington Public." It claims to offer "More Amusements Than Any Other Resort."

The amusements it was offering were, in fact, located adjacent to the Cabin John Hotel, which sat above Cabin John Creek on the far side of the bridge. Featured was a \$30,000 Scenic Railway owned by G.A. Dentzel. This early roller coaster offered a ride that was "thrilling but perfectly safe," the ad promised.

Also to be enjoyed was a Dentzel Merry-Go-Round, an Amusement Palace, the Palm Garden Summer Theater with Motion Pictures, a popcorn pagoda, candy booth with fresh taffy, and fireworks. Best of all "no objectionable characters" were allowed on the grounds.

Another panel, "How Cabin John Got Its Name," delves into the three most popular theories: from a hermit known as "John of the Cabin," from a pirate named John, and from Capt. John Smith. These three scenarios were later humorously acted out for the audience by local performers.

Former County Executive Neal Potter, now 89 years old, spoke of attending the old Glen Echo School on Wilson Lane and later the Cabin John Elementary School. His parents bought a nearby farm in 1920.

Historian Richard Cook and collector Reed Martin displayed old photographs, books, and other memorabilia.

--Carlotta Anderson

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*Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 50 characters or fewer. Display ads: \$4 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to the editor at 38 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

## RESIDENT RAISING AIDS FUNDS BY RUNNING MARATHON

Michael Bobbitt, who is in training for the Marine Corps Marathon on Oct. 31, says his new best friends are "Ben-Gay, Advil, and ice packs." In a grueling six month training period he will be logging over 500 miles of running, and recently ran from Georgetown to his Wellesley Circle house and back.

He made this arduous commitment as part of the National Aids Marathon Training Program, which raises money for the Whitman Walker Clinic, the leading provider of AIDS services in the D.C. area.

Michael has committed himself to raising \$5,000 for the program. He is eager to receive support from townspeople in the form of donations to the program. His runner number is #dc-2993 and donations may be made by visiting the program's web site at [www.aidsmarathon.com](http://www.aidsmarathon.com). If you have any questions, call him at 301-229-7939 or 202-251-4209.

### FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

June 2004

AquaGuard Waterproofing (hall basement/furnace)	\$3,460.00
Daryll Victor Construction (hall roof/cupola repair)	\$595.00
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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

July 12

A request for nine Saturday uses of the town hall by a Scottish dance group was denied because Saturdays are often requested by town residents...

The town council was informed by Michael Brintnall of his intent to remove a tulip poplar that is crowding out some other trees on their property. Town ordinances require home owners to notify the town of their intention to cut down large trees..

Councilmember Long stated that Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park Superintendent Doug Faris died July 9, after a three-year struggle with cancer. She stated that he was the best superintendent in the history of the park. The town will make a donation of \$100 to the C&O Canal Association in his memory...

--David Chitwood

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### FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

The following activities booked at the town hall are free for town residents:

Monday, Aug. 16, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, Aug. 15, 3:00-5:00 p.m.—CENTENNIAL LECTURES—Histories of Glen Echo Park and the Clara Barton House.

Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. English Country Dance. Live music. No experience or partner needed.

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