

Published by The GLENCARLYN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION





# Remembered: The First 100Years

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The Glencarlyn Citizens Association
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# Foreword

In 1888, Glencarlyn began taking on its modern shape as a quiet, tree-lined neighborhood. It was the first planned residential community in the county and was offered to "all men and women of moderate means who received stated salaries." Three hundred eighty-four lots were offered at \$100 apiece.

Things have changed a little since then, but the cooperative spirit of the neighborhood has remained to become a source of pride for old and new residents alike.

In the century since the Glencarlyn neighborhood was launched as a cooperative by Samuel S. Burdett, a former Missouri congressman, and his partner George Curtis, generations have come and gone. But the sense of neighborliness has persisted.

Today's residents wanted to commemorate that century which makes Glencarlyn the oldest neigborhood association in the area, and possibly in the country. This book is a result of that wish by contemporary Glencarlynites to recognize those of the past 100 years in a document that they and future neighbors could read and appreciate. The book project began with the notion of updating and enhancing a reflection on the neighborhood written by one of its earliest residents, Hadassah Backus. In a series of discussions at the Glencarlyn Citizens Association monthly meetings, however, the idea grew. As Barney Parrella, who coordinated the project's early stages put it, "it was a chance to document many things into a publication that will continue into posterity."

Key to the compilation effort was the living historical record in the memories and memorabilia of long-time residents. This record was taped by neighborhood young people and other interested residents who interviewed those living sources. Historic documents and photos were gathered and owners of historic homes were asked to write brief histories of their dwellings. The county historical society was approached for additional material.

This book is the result of efforts by many Glencarlyn neighbors who believe that the life which has been established here in the past century is something special that deserves to be remembered in the historical record, as well as lived out daily.

> The Editors Spring 1994

# The Glencarlyn Story

Early History

The first people to set foot in what became, generations later, the Glencarlyn neighborhood, were quite likely a band of hunters from one of several small villages of Algonquin-speaking Indians who came into the area thousands of years before Europeans sailed up the Potomac and changed the order of things forever.

These Indians may have been a band of Necostins—that's the name the English settlers gave them after apparently having some difficulty understanding what the bands called themselves in their own language.

They hunted in a forest which provided plenty of deer, bear, turkey, squirrel, small birds and other game for their diet as well as for clothing and various needs. There were wild berries and plants which the people gathered and brought back to their villages. Streams which would later be called Long Branch and Four Mile Run provided a steady

supply of good water and fish, and the Potomac was a source of clams and other food.

There were few Indians in all of Tidewater, Virginia, at the time: 9,000 by some counts living on either shore of the Chesapeake and on both banks of the Potomac in the early 17th century. The largest village in the immediate region numbered perhaps 300 people—less than one-third the current population of Glencarlyn.

Some of those early residents of Northern Virginia may also have passed through what is now Glencarlyn to work the old stone quarry at the present intersection of Four Mile Run and Patrick Henry Drives. Near the Moses Ball Spring on the hill overlooking Long Branch from the north, tiny serrated dart points called Lecroy points have been found. These relics, dating back 8500 years, were used for spearheads. Some scholars believe they may even have been poisoned.

Ultimately, pressure from invading tribes, clashes with an ever-growing number of English settlers and the steady conversion of hunting grounds to farms and plantations forced the Indians to move on. The Necostins, it is believed, eventually merged with Conestogas from Delaware and Pennsylvania who had settled on an island downstream in the Potomac. According to C.B. Rose, Jr. in the book, *The Indians of Arlington*, "By 1697 there were no longer any Indians in what was to become Arlington County."



Moses Ball Spring

### The Ball Family

Forty-five years later, the future Glencarlyn neighborhood had its first English resident—John Ball, yeoman farmer. Ball received his right to settle 166 acres of land from the English nobleman, Lord Fairfax.

Compared to the lives of the lords and land speculators who managed to acquire vast acreages in the New World, John Ball's life was lean. A list of the possessions in his log cabin home included: an old hat, a coat and jacket, a pair of britches and shoes. He had three beds—wooden frames and rope "springs" —two tables, and some earthenware. The Ball family farm implements and livestock included a plough and hoes, four cows, a horse, pigs and other animals. For entertainment and enlightenment there were

a parcel of books and a fiddle among the family possessions.

The 18th century Ball family lived the spare and hardworking life of most of the farmer-residents of what would become Arlington County. Ball also operated one of the many grist mills for grinding wheat and corn to flour and meal. His mill was located on Four Mile Run near Lubber Run.

Unlike most of the houses of its era which have long since been torn down, or just crumbled with time, portions of the log home the Balls lived in remain in the house on Third Street near the intersection with Kensington. The original clapboard roof has been conserved as well as a section of the log wall. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

In 1748 Moses Ball. perhaps a cousin, was granted 91 acres, which included the current site of Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital. His parcel abutted land extending to Four Mile Run which became the property of George Washington. In 1785, Moses was among local landowners asked to join Washington in tracing the boundaries of property in the area. Moses' son, John, later served under George Washington as an ensign in the 6th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line.



"On the spot where this monument now stands at the juncture of Four Mile Run and the upper reach of Long Branch in Glencarlyn Park, stood a great oak tree bearing a survey mark which was put there by General Washington." A spokesman for the Arlington Historical Society said the tree was rotting when a section of it was removed and placed in the Glencarlyn library. (Photo taken in 1918)

The Ball-Carlin House as it appeared circa 1900. The log cabin was built by John Ball. According to early records, the clapboard additions were made after the Carlins bought the bouse in 1772.

### The Carlins

John Ball died in 1766 and in 1772 his estate was sold to William Carlin, one of Washington's tailors, who had moved in from Alexandria. Carlin's family was represented in the community which eventually took the Carlin family name—slightly modified—for more than 100 years.

At the beginning of the Civil War, the Glencarlyn area lay outside the "Arlington Line" of federal fortifications and was included in what became—in a statewide vote on May 23, 1861,— secessionist Virgina.

From August until October, 1861, Confederate forces occupied and fortified high ground approximately at the current intersection of North Manchester St. and Wilson Blvd. That fall the Confederates withdrew to Fairfax Court House and the federals occupied the site.

About seven years after the war ended, John E. F. Carlin, William's descendant, turned the family property into a popular picnic spot and resort for Washingtonians and Alexandrians, who came by train, disembarking at the station established at Carlin Springs by the Alexandria, Loudon and Hampshire Railway Company.

The resort included the two springs which had become known as the Carlin Springs. Resorters could buy ice cream and beer, take a dip in the swimming hole where Lubber and Four Mile Runs meet, or waltz in the dance pavilion.

In the mid-1870s, the Carlin Springs achieved even greater prominence when the rumor arose that there were rich deposits of gold there. But the gold rush apparently never developed and there were no recorded miners seeking the briefly fabled mineral wealth.

### Burdett and the Beginning Of the Neighborhood

In 1887, the property which had been inhabited by Indians, then English settlers and their descendants for hundreds of years, changed hands again. This time, it was a former Missouri Congressman and Commissioner of the U.S. General Land Office, Sam-

uel S. Burdett, who, with his partner William W. Curtis, bought 132 acres in the Carlin Springs neigborhood. The following year, Burdett founded the Carlin Springs Cooperative Association, one of the first planned cooperative residential communities in the country.

Over the years, "General" Burdett,



S. S. Burdett

who served during the Civil War and was later made Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, played a respected and influential role in the development of the new community. The association noted his passing with the following resolution, dated June 26, 1915:

Whereas death has taken from us General Samuel S. Burdett, the first president of the association and one of the founders of the village, one whose brilliant career made his name familiar far beyond the little circle of friends and neighbors among whom he chose to dwell, therefore be it

Resolved that in the death of our distinguished fellow citizen this community has suffered a grievous and permanent loss. His place will not and cannot be filled. Be it further

Resolved, that each one of us has lost a true friend.

General Burdett's old white mansion still stands on the northeast corner of South 3rd and Kensington Streets—a living link with Glencarlyn's beginnings.



The railroad station at Carlin Springs, circa 1900

# Glencarlyn's Roots Are Planted:

The Carlin Springs Cooperative Association Is Formed

After more than 100 years of holding the 132 acres which were part of the plot known as John Ball's patents, the descendants of William Carlin-tailor to George Washington-sold their property to the partnership of Gen. Samuel S. Burdett and William W. Curtis. The price paid for the parcel of land on the Northern Virginia high ground over the Potomac River was \$8,000,

launching a real estate venture—aiming at government workers and others in the District of Columbia. By June that year, they had formed the Carlin Springs Syndicate and were inviting "All men and women of moderate means" to invest \$100 in their residential subdivision. Three-hundred-sixty

> The undersigned are the sole owners of the Carlin Springs property, now being placed on market by

> Messrs Baxter & MacGowan and Matthew Trimble, and we guarantee a perfect title to all lots to be sold

> in accordance with the circular issued by them;

also a perfect title to the syndicate for all lands

not included in the platted portion of the property.

We also confirm their statement as to the building of

two additional cottages, and hereby agree to build the

same and deed them to the syndicate as proposed in

W. W. CURTIS.

S. S. BURDETT.

OF CURTIS & BURDETT,

025 F Street N. W

shares were offered. For their investment-to be paid off in "easy installments" of \$10 a month-buyers would get "not less than 6,000 square feet of ground."

A year later, in 1888, with 230 of the original 360 lots sold, the Carlin Springs Syndicate was retired and the Carlin Springs Cooperative Association was formed. This was a stock company made up of new owners attracted across the river by the Curtis and Burdett sales effort. The cooperative held stock worth \$18,000 divided into 360 shares worth \$50 each. Sam Burdett took the post of treasurer; William Curtis died shortly after the association was legally incorporated on June 4, 1888,

The new association offered home loans to prospective residents and kept a

### CO-OPERATION.

TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF MODERATE MEANS,

WHO RECEIVE STATED SALARIES.

We wish to lay before you a novel method by which you can invest a small amount of money, and, at once, not only receive full value for the money invested, but obtain an equal interest in the sale and disposal of other valuable property.

The property known as

### CARLIN SPRINGS

has been placed in our hands, to be disposed of in the following liberal manner:

A SYNDICATE will be formed, which will be composed of 360 shares, each share representing a vote. The par value of these shares will be \$100.00, payments to be made as follows: First payment, \$10 00, and thereafter nine monthly payments of \$10,00 each Any person desiring so to do may take two or more shares.

### WHAT YOU WILL GET FOR YOUR MONEY.

As soon as the syndicate is complete, and four payments of \$10.00 per share are made, a bond for a perfect title will be given for a building lot at Carlin Springs,

and the deal was closed April 3, 1887. Burdett and Curtis lost no time in

THUE 9, 1887-

want circular.

First two pages of the Carlin Springs Syndicate's promotional brochure, published June 1887

	-1/- 5hs
· Carlins' · Pall	· Association.
CAPITAL STOCK, \$2,500 250	
Certify, That & B. Stock	ting-
Eleven fully pa	id-up shares of the Capital Stock
The Carlins' Hall A	
y on the books of the Association, in	
der of this Cortificate with an assig	ament endorsed thereon.
Witness the Seal of the Association and	t the Signatures of the President, Secretary
Treasurer, at Carlins, Alexandria Co., Va.,	May 292 1894
COUNTERLY MED MO	
The state of the s	AmBackes Pros
	CAPITAL STOCK, \$2,500 250 Certify, That & B. Stock Eleven fully pa The Carlins' Hall A by on the books of the Association, in, dor of this Cortificate with an assign

Certificate of Stock in The Carlins' Hall Association, sold May 29, 1894

maintenance and improvement fund. Prospective owners were advised that there was a cooperative plan for the development of the community. By 1891 the community had its streets laid out and 13 acres had been set aside for parkland on the south side of Four Mile Run. The park had grown to 30 acres by 1923 when the Cooperative Association was formally dissolved.

### The Carlins' Hall Association

While the Cooperative Association was the founding organization of the new community, a number of other citizen groups played important roles in its history. Significant among these was the Carlins' Hall Association, a stock corporation of lot owners responsible for the erection of Arlington County's first community hall in 1892.

Located on South 4th Street, the building

was originally called "Curtis Hall" after the community's co-founder. Over the years it became known as Carlin Hall and served as a church, library, schoolhouse, dance hall, theater and all purpose meeting site. The



Curtis Hall, 1918

Cooperative Association purchased the hall in 1896. From 1923 to 1953 the community leased the building to the County.

### The Village Improvement Association

On February 22, 1893, General Burdett and other residents of what was then known as the Village of Carlin Springs gathered in Curtis Hall to form a new organization, the Carlin Springs Village Improvement Association.

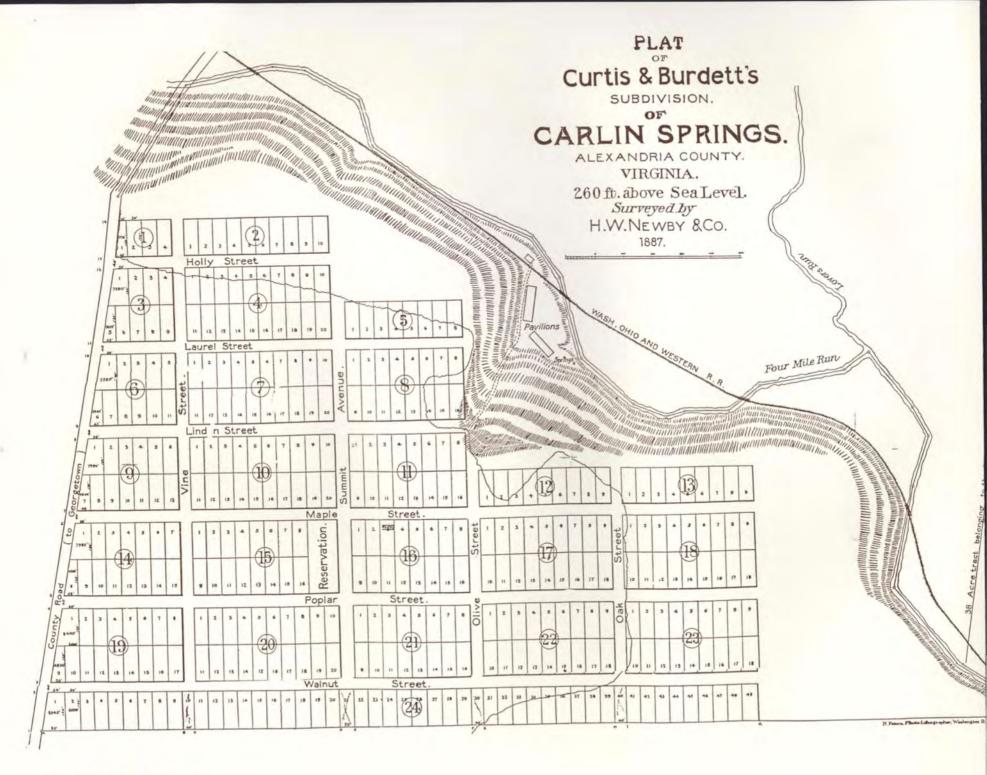
The association's aim, as set forth in its constitution, was to "improve and ornament the streets of Carlin Springs by planting and cultivating trees, constructing, clearing and repairing sidewalks and doing such other work as shall tend to beautify and adorn the village, or shall conduce in any way to the benefit or prosperity of the village."

Clearly the residents felt there was need for improvement, calling on the association to demolish old buildings that had fallen into disrepair and harbored "tramps [who] are dangerous to unprotected ladies." They also wanted a school in the village and resolved to press area school authorities and the Virginia State Superintendent of Schools for one.

By September 1896, the association's School Committee could report that efforts in the educational field had borne fruit. It said that a teacher and a schoolroom had been secured and that the school district agreed to pay \$35 a month for school expenses.

### The Schools of Carlin Springs

In Carlin Springs' early days, despite repeated efforts by its citizens, there was no school building. Classes were held in the homes of residents with the School Board





Glencarlyn School, 1907

paying the teacher's salary and the parents furnishing the books. In the early 1900s a school house was built at the east end of Fourth Street. Some of the parents were not too happy with this location but the children loved it. One of its former students remembers the fun they had swinging on the big old hickory tree and serenading their young teacher and her beau from the cupola.

A deteriorating foundation caused this building to be dismantled in the early 1920s. It was re-erected on the corner of South Fourth and Lexington Streets and used as a club house. The school was then located in Curtis Hall (later called Carlin Hall).

### The Community Acquires a New Name

By 1896, Carlin Springs had acquired a new name, the one it bears today—Glencarlyn. The village association made it formal by renaming itself in response to a request from the Postal Service for a oneword name. General Burdett offered the resolution to amend the village constitution and at the July 1896 meeting the resolution

was adopted. The "i" was changed to "y" for aesthetic reasons and the Village Improvement Association of Glencarlyn was born.

At that same meeting, the association's Ornithological Committee, formed to promote the well-being of local songbirds, was pleased to report "the destruction of quite a number of the pests known as English Sparrows and the protection of the wrens" which were so appreciated as "incessant destroyers of worms and insects."

Over the next several years, the association explored issues of transportation, street improvements, garbage disposal, better maintenance of the Southern Railroad right-of-way passing through the village and other matters of local interest and concern. The last record in the handwritten minutes of this association was made on February 9, 1918.



Rural Glencarlyn, circa 1918

### The Glencarlyn Citizens Association

It is not clear how or when the Village Improvement Association became the Glencarlyn Citizens Association. According to Arlington historian, Nan Netherton, "There



County Road (now called Carlin Springs Road) circa 1885.

have been so many citizens' organizations and special land and trust arrangements in the almost 100 years of Glencarlyn's existence that trying to straighten everything out would give a lawyer nightmares." It is safe to say, however, that the aims of the Village Improvement Association became the focus for a strong and involved citizenry that continues in what is now the Glencarlyn Citizens Association.

As indicated by those minutes which survive, the GCA met infrequently during the years between World War I and II. A new constitution and bylaws were adopted in the fall of 1946 and the citizens became involved in efforts to upgrade the one-room, fourgrade school house. By 1950, Glencarlyn Elementary School had been established on Carlin Springs Road where Kenmore Middle School now stands. In 1955 the present

elementary school was built at 737 South Carlin Springs Road.

Another goal of the association was an expanded library facility. When General Burdett died in 1914, he left a special fund and his own private library to establish a public library for the residents of Glencarlyn. The only community library facilities prior to that consisted of books given by friends or bought with donations. These were kept in Carlin Hall and were available only when the hall happened to be open.

The fund that General Burdett left provided for a stucco library building that was completed in 1923. When the library joined the county system in 1936, the building and the Burdett fund of approximately \$17,000 conveyed with the land. In 1963 a new one-story brick structure was opened on the same site where the

stucco library had been built 40 years before.

### Glencarlyn Park

As time went by, Glencarlyn's citizens became concerned about protecting the parkland which helped form their pleasant "landlocked peninsula" and in 1923 proposed to the county that it take over the preservation of the property. The county turned the offer down.



Glencarlyn Park

Twelve years later, the property was offered to the state, which agreed to take title to the parkland. According to the agreement, the acreage was to be "used for parkland in perpetuity." In 1943, Arlington County decided to take control of the land under the same stipulation.

When the owners of adjoining land off 5th Street South, between South Jefferson and South Illinois Streets, decided to sell to a developer in 1970, 86 citizens of Glencarlyn got together and raised \$17,000 in 48 hours. This land was held by the Glencarlyn Citizens



Bridge crossing Long Branch at Carlin Springs Road near present site of Glencarlyn Elementary School. This was a pedestrian bridge; cars forded the stream. circa 1952



Long Branch Nature Center in Glencarlyn Park

Recreation Partnership until the county bought it in 1971.

Glencarlyn citizens also organized to improve their park in 1968, when the Moses Ball Spring near Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital was threatened by hospital expansion and by the Arlington County Transportation Department. Citizens and environmentalists saved the spring by working out a land exchange.

With the purchase of six acres and a home from William and Mae Hickman in the 1960s, the county was able to develop Long Branch Nature Center, a facility dedicated to understanding and preserving the natural environment.

By 1985 Glencarlyn Park consisted of 97 acres acquired by the county in 32 separate transactions. In addition to the Nature Center, the park provides picnicing and shelter facilities, a playground, and hiking trails. It is traversed by the W&OD bicycle trail, a paved

route maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. This trail follows the old railroad right-of-way and runs from Shirlington west to Purcellville.

### Neighborhood Conservation

In 1977, as part of an ongoing effort by Arlington County to preserve and upgrade older single-family home

neighborhoods, the Glencarlyn Citizens Association developed a neighborhood conservation plan which covered everything from preservation of the historical springs to recommending a quieter air conditioner for neighboring Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital.

That study noted the variety of activities Glencarlyn has developed over the years which have given its residents a deep pride in their neighborhood. It listed the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at St. John's Episcopal Church at 5th and Lexington Streets, summertime community sports events such as volley ball and softball. The study also noted the traditional Glencarlyn Day in June which starts off the summer with a pancake breakfast in the park, a puppet show, a costume parade, home tour and a host of other activities. These are enjoyed not only by Glencarlynites but by people from around the area.

The conservation study noted the "desirability of our village atmosphere and the satisfaction of our rich past." The "quiet, residential community of single-family homes" has developed a "fierce community pride" rooted in Glencarlyn's heritage of more than 100 years.

### Village View

Published regularly since October 1952, Glencarlyn's newsletter, now called the Village View, has been a valuable tool for fostering a sense of community and pride of neighborhood. According to Arlington historian, Nan Netherton, "Few other communities in the area have been able to provide this kind of newsletter continuity, uniting their residents with a constant flow of information and encouragement."

### The Garden Club

Among Glencarlyn's many communityminded groups was the Garden Club, which contributed to the beautification of the neighborhood for many years. Along with the GCA, the group helped to maintain the former entrance to Glencarlyn at S. Lexington Street and Arlington Boulevard, mowing the grass and planting azaleas and daffodils in the "triangle." Plantings were also placed around Carlin Hall, the Nature Center and Glencarlyn school. When the new libary was erected, the Garden Club helped to make a patio behind it. Members of the Club also worked with the County's Beautification Committee to replace expired maple trees with Bradford pear trees on South Third Street between Kensington and Illinois and on South Kensington. Disbanded in 1990 due to decreasing numbers and increasing age,



Among its many neighborhood projects was this effort by the Garden Club to fix up the entrance to Glencarlyn. Working with a community Girl Scout Troop, the Club planted flowers and shrubbery around the bus shelter which was erected by the Glencarlyn Citizens Association. The bus shelter was located on Arlington Boulevard at Lexington Street. (Daily Sun photo, 1953).

the Club hoped to use its remaining funds for a memorial in the Bon Air Memorial Rose Garden.

### Glencarlyn's Centennial

Glencarlyn marked its first one hundred years of history with a year-long Centennial celebration. Beginning in June of 1987—one hundred years after properties were first offered for sale and promoted as a suburban Washington neighborhood—and continuing through June of 1988, the community shared its heritage through social events and historical projects.

The 1987 and 1988 annual Glencarlyn Days were especially significant. In 1987,

residents, dressed in the style of the 1880s, held a pancake breakfast in the park; a parade through neighborhood streets led by the Kenmore Ir. High School marching band: and an ice cream social, fun fair, square dance, and commemorative puppet show on the grounds of Carlin Hall, T-shirts and stationery were sold, and activities for all ages abounded. Highlighting the 1987 Glencarlyn Day activities was a keynote address by

former President Grover Cleveland (rendered by a modern-day orator). The day's events were attended by Arlington County dignitaries.

Throughout the Centennial celebration Glencarlynites joined together on other projects: a poster contest for children, an archival exhibition at the Library, concerts, house tours, a Centennial quilt, a gift quilt for the Ball-Sellers house, Halloween storytelling, a special slide presentation entitled "Reflections of Glencarlyn," and a detailed oral history project. Arlington County's extensive restoration of Carlin Hall was also undertaken during the centennial, preserving this landmark and focal point of the

community for future generations. Finally, the concept of this publication, *Glencarlyn Remembered*, sprang from the year's activities.



Glencarlyn Quilt. A Celebration in fabric of selected images representing Glencarlyn's 100-year history, this quilt now bangs in the Glencarlyn library. It was presented to the Glencarlyn Citizen's Association on June 4, 1988. The quilt was pieced and quilted by the following members of the community under the guidance of Betty Fleming and Judy Funderburk: Florence Backus, Electra Blood, Nancy Davis, Ginny Farris, Josette Ferguson, Anita Martineau, Jane Pergl, Peggy O'Connell, Barbara Olivere, Trudi Olivetti, Marilyn Ross, Monique Robertson, Liz Stehm, Betty Vertiz, Diane Voss, Susie Wilboft, and Pam Wroten.

Some images include: the Glencarlyn 100th Anniversary Logo; the Burdette House, Old St. John's Church, the Old Library Building, and Carlin Hall.

# Celebrating the Century

Glencarlyn Day June 6, 1987







Celebrating their centennial in period costumes, Glencarlynites gathered in front of the library for an historic photo, June 6, 1987 (above). At left, Grover Cleveland (aka Barney Parrella), Cecil King, and Uncle Sam (Jim Olivetti) pause for a shot in front of Carlin Hall. The day's activities included a parade, led by the Kenmore marching band, and an old-fashion fun fair with ice cream social and square dancing.

photos on pages 11 and 12 by Gerald Martineau







### Address of President Grover Cleveland\* on the Occasion of the Centennial of Glencarlyn

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, Distinguished Officials and Guests, Residents of Glencarlyn and Fellow Americans:

It is my distinct and exceptional bonor to be a part of this celebration of the 100th anniversary of Glencarlyn. I take particular personal pride in being with you on this momentous occasion because I, Grover Cleveland, served as your President during the formative years of your community in 1887 and 1888.

The year 1887, and the period of history during which Glencarlyn was founded, was an important milestone on the road of progress. We should not forget that in 1887, the first electric streetcar was built in the city of Richmond, right here in Virginia. In that same year, I led the National celebration of the 100th anniversary of the United States Constitution; I understand the 200th anniversary is now underway.

Just the year before, in 1886, I dedicated that inspirational gift from the people of France to the people of America, the Statue of Liberty. And the year after, in 1888, Veterans of the Civil War from both the North and the South joined together to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Of course, of greatest significance to you, the citizens of Glencarlyn, was the founding of your community. Although a few families lived in these woods before 1887, it was not until General Burdett, who lived in that house across the way, and his partner Mr. Curtis, made these lands available for homes that Glencarlyn began to develop.

Allow me a personal note in this regard. I distinctly remember reading the advertisements for Glencarlyn property back in 1887, and I recall seriously considering whether I should buy some land and build a bome out here. Summers downtown at the White House were extremely uncomfortable (we didn't have airconditioning back then), and many of my friends bought property outside Washington to escape the summer heat. Property in Glencarlyn was very affordable at that time: A \$10 down payment would reserve a lot priced at \$100.

Unfortunately, even though I was President at that time, I was, well, a little short of money. I had just gotten married, and with the expense of our honeymoon and redecorating the White House and ... well, suffice it to say that we missed the chance to become Glencarlynites. But I am most gratified to be an honorary Glencarlynite on this occasion.

As you celebrate today the 100th birthday of your community, I would like to leave you with this thought:

The present is the period when the future pauses for a short while before becoming the past.

So, today, as you celebrate your past, look to the future—your own and that of your community.

Thank you very much.

-\*delivered by Grover Cleveland (Barney Parrella), June 6, 1987

# Recollections of A Native-Born Glencarlynite

by Hadassah Backus

These are the recorded memories of a long-time resident of Glencarlyn, Hadassah Backus. Hadassah was born June 12, 1888 and lived at 5500 South Fifth St. until 1957 when she moved next door to 5514 South Fifth. These memoirs were recorded in 1952.

My mother was a city woman, born and raised in Georgetown, D.C. My father was a country boy, born and raised in Vermont.

Our place in Glencarlyn was chosen because the oak trees and the brook down the hill reminded Dad of his home in the Green Mountains. The family moved to Carlin Springs, as the place was then called, in the fall of 1887 living in the "Old Mansion House" at Third and Kensington Streets until our house was built. The nearest neighbors were a quarter of a mile away. There were no telephones and the nearest doctor was several miles distant. When a doctor was needed someone went for him on horseback to Falls Church or to Barcroft, and he came back by horseback with his supplies in a saddle bag or by horse and buggy. He carried his medicines with him for there was no way to get a prescription filled. Only a serious emergency called for a doctor's visit. Home remedies were used for minor injuries and ailments. Turpentine and arnica were used for cuts. Ouch!

Dad worked in Washington. There was a train into town in the morning and one back in the evening with no way of communicating with home during the day. There were three children, the oldest only four years of age. Aunt Mandy, a typical old colored mammy looked after them and helped with the housework and cooking. Water was drawn up by chain and bucket from the well which was about thirty feet from the house. The kitchen, since torn down, was made of logs put together with wooden pegs and chinked plaster. A great fireplace was at the east end. The diningroom was also of logs. That part of the house was over a hundred years old. The living

room with bed rooms above it was of more recent construction. The wind came through the cracks in the floor and lifted the carpet several feet. The children made a game of standing against the wall, then jumping on the carpet to flatten it out.

The stories of what happened in the "Old House" were repeated so often that I was sure I remembered them even though I was not yet born. For that reason I shall include some of them in my recollections.

The inside walls of the house had been whitewashed so often that when my folks began to clean they scraped off about a four-inch layer with a hoe. Rats and mice had made the place their home for years. One day when Mother had to go to Washington, Aunt Mandy unpacked the china and set it up on shelves built around the pantry walls. That night the rats sent most of it crashing to the floor. A black and tan terrier was brought in and proved to be a great help in getting rid of the pests.

There was a blizzard in March 1888. Train service was disrupted and when Dad left home in the morning there was no telling when he would get back.

When the weather turned warm, Aunt Mandy would give the children bread and milk seating them on a big stone from George Washington's mill which in former years had stood on Four Mile Run. Remnants of the old millrace can still be seen at the east end of the park near the railroad track. The bread had to be made at home. Flour and sugar were bought by the barrel.

One evening after dark the folks heard someone groaning. A man came to the door in great suffering. He had taken poison (corrosive sublimate) H<sub>3</sub>CL<sub>2</sub> down at the

Springs. When the pain started he decided he did not want to die after all, so made for the only light he could see. Dad was a graduate of medicine and knew what to do. Milk and eggs in generous doses were administered as an emetic. Aunt Mandy finally said, "T'aint no more milk." Fortunately the patient had taken enough by then to save his life. He "borrowed" some money from Dad and went on his way. Next morning Aunt Mandy had the children as usual on the mill stone feeding them bread and milk. "Why Aunt Mandy!" exclaimed Dad, "I thought you told me there was no more milk!" "Now Mr. Backus," retorted Aunt Mandy, "You didn't think I was going to let that poor white trash spoil all my children's milk, did you?"

Our house at Fifth and Illinois Streets was completed by the end of May, 1888 and the family moved into it the first of June. I was born the twelfth in the "parlor" where a

bed had been set up to eliminate climbing stairs. It should have made a lady of me but . . . . I turned out to be a delicate child and the doctor's orders were to let me run wild. The kitchen range was fine when we children came in with cold or wet feet. Mother lined us up with our feet in the oven. When our feet were warm and dry, out we would go again.

Two lots soon proved too small for a man from a Vermont home, so Dad purchased a section of the Finnecey tract to the south. Later he purchased land on either side of his home where there was danger of undesirable neighbors moving in. So our home place grew. Lots then sold for from \$100 to \$150.

Four children made a steady milk supply necessary so father bought a cow. At breakfast time a quart of cream stood at either end of the table to be eaten with oatmeal or some other kind of cereal. Mother skimmed

the milk by rolling the cream around a big spoon. When milking time came in the evening we rushed to the barn with our mugs for a drink of warm milk.

When I was four years old we had new neighbors next door. The Schaaff family moved into the Hoff House (since burned) at Fifth and Jefferson Streets. There were

two boys and a girl with ages ranging about the same as the Backus'. Blake came along a year or two later.

### The Brook

My earliest recollections include trips to the brook back of the house. We had no ice and no way of getting any. Milk and other perishables were kept on the cellar floor. When mother churned she took cream, churn, and other utensils to the spring near the brook. There was enough skimmed milk to give some to the chickens and to take some to the neighbors for cooking. Often after a thunder storm we feasted on bonny clabber eaten with cream, sugar and vanilla.

The brook was often our playground as we grew older. In the summer we put on our bathing suits, and with lunch packed by Mother, would start off soon after breakfast. Orders were (and orders were obeyed technically at least) wading only until an hour after lunch. A police whistle told us when to eat and later when to go bathing. In the meantime we explored, fished, caught crayfish, built dams, and performed great engineering feats. Of course if anyone fell in accidentally on a hot day it was not counted as disobedience. It is surprising how slippery rocks were some days. Once we came home beaming, each with a white duck under his arm. Mother had a time convincing us that we had no right to them.

As neighbors built in the village, other children sometimes joined us, and picnics were frequent. The mothers often came too and a good time was had by all.

One summer day when I was about twelve years old, I went to the brook by myself to read and wade. Soon there were



Backus house at 5500 Fifth Street South, circa 1900

noises, quite different from the usual ones, which sent me home in a hurry. That night cowboys from a wild west show near Alexandria were asked to come to Bailey's X-Roads to rope an elephant which had escaped from an amusement park on the Potomac River. He had followed the brook and that is what I had heard. Suppose I had *seen* him!

### **Amusements**

None of the village folk had money to spend on expensive toys, tricycles and such. We played in a group often making up our own games and concocting our own toys. Hoops were discarded rims of wagon wheels from the black-smith shop at Fifth Road and Leesburg Pike. Hours were spent making kites or bows and arrows and there was great rivalry over who could make the best. Sparrows were such a pest that one summer the boys collected their eggs. These were given to girl friends who blew them out and made necklaces of the shells. Fox and hounds took us miles through the woods which grew on all sides except the west. On the west was the Torrison farm, a favorite haunt, Mr. Torrison was long suffering and let us play in the barns, watch the pigs, gather chestnuts in the fall or grapes and apples in season.

"Wild horses" was one of our inventions. A player was not caught until butt by his enemy. Struggles to escape before being butt proved hard on captives' clothes. Our parents finally combined and put a stop to the game. We learned "prisoner's base" at school and spent many evenings playing it. Our favorite playground was in an open field between Second and Third Streets in front of the Schaaff's house. Charades was a favorite for less strenuous play and hop scotch another.

Our yard with its oaks was the best place for I-spy. When we became older this was changed to Double I-Spy, a boy and a girl hiding together. Boys and girls played in a group most of the time. My city-bred mother was shocked one evening to find the girls playing football.

About once a month there was a sociable at the Hall. Cakes and lemonade were contributed by ladies in the village. There were games for young and old: Farmer in the Dell, There Came a Duke a Riding, Going to Jerusalem, etc. When the young began to get sleepy the grown folks would dance: the waltz, two-step, Virginia Reel, or lancers (The old-time square dance). Mother and Mrs. Walter Jones usually played the piano for dancing or "Going to Jerusalem."

There was a fire-works display at the



The James L. Schaaff home at 5729 Second Street South

Hall on the Fourth of July. Resources were pooled and fireworks were bought for all.

Sometimes we would go to a tournament. Rings were suspended on crosspieces attached to posts set along a course. The starter would announce "The Knight of Bailey's Cross Roads" or "The Knight of Annandale," etc. A young chap on a plow horse or boney nag would fix his lance and at the signal "Charge, Sir Knight!" would gallop down the course trying to catch the rings on the point of his weapon. The knight getting the most rings during the tournament had the right to crown the queen of love and beauty at the dance in the evening. They danced square dances usually on a temporary platform built for the occasion. A fiddler played and called the numbers. "Swing your partners," "Saschayaaa," etc. Sometimes a girl was sent spinning all the way across the platform to be caught by a knight on the other side.

Of course the children had tournaments too. Not having horses, our knights had to gallop on foot, but they had fun. The only time I was crowned queen, the crown was made of thistle blossoms!

In the winter there were taffy pulls. Such a sticky time as we had! There were also games of Five Hundred, Hearts and Casino. When we reached the teens, the Jolly Fifteen Club was organized. The club met once a month in different homes for games, fun and refreshments.

Soon we were old enough to dance and the name was changed to the Merry Bell Club. For a while we would scrape together only enough money to rent the Hall and my mother and Mrs. Walter Jones played the piano for us. After a while there were dues and Sandy was hired to play. Sandy was a long-fingered colored man who fairly made the piano talk. A room had to be found for him for the night as there was no way for him to get back to Washington. Aunt Mimie Roberts on Carlin Springs Road near Fifth Street would sometimes take him. Uncle Josh in Bon Air had a spare room. Sometimes Sandy went there.

There was always excitement among the girls as to what boy was taking whom to the next dance. Once I was flattered to have a friend come racing down the track when I stepped off the train, to ask me to go to the next dance. "That's good," he said when his invitation was accepted. "You are the third girl I have asked."

One year the boys made a canvas canoe and I was the first girl to be asked to go canoeing, but dreams of popularity fled when they said, "Wear your bathing suit. We asked you because you can swim."

When we went to Washington to a dance the girls had to carry their slippers, as walking shoes were needed for the one and one-half mile hike to and from Veitch Summit where we took the trolley. There was also a walk across the old Aqueduct Bridge to the Pennsylvania Avenue cars. The last trolley left at 12:30 for home and of course that "last" dance always made us late. The boys would race ahead to ask the conductor to hold the car and the remainder of the crowd straggled across the bridge in the order of their lung capacity. That car was supposed to go only as far as Lacey another mile down the track from Veitch. Sometimes the motorman would take pity on us and carry us on to Veitch Summit.

We had picnics in the summer, and in



Glencarlyn tennis court on the northwest corner of Illinois and Fifth Street South. Seated left to right: Hadassah Backus, Florence Backus-Doe, and perhaps Peggy Backus. Circa 1950

about the year 1900 we began to play tennis. Tennis and picnics were often combined on holidays with an impromptu dance in the evening.

Several times in the summer there was a straw ride. A farm wagon and team were rented and the crowd would make themselves comfortable, more or less, with emphasis on the less, on the hay on the floor of the wagon. The horses jogged along the dirt roads, always in the moonlight, to some previously arranged spot where refreshments were served. Songs livened the trip and even the horses seemed to enjoy the music.

There were often long hikes across the country. Sometimes a stick was thrown into the air and the hike started in the direction in which it pointed.

When a group gathered we almost always sang. The front steps of the Schaaff house at 5729 Second Street were a favorite gathering place in the summer. When the boys and girls began to go to various colleges, we learned the songs of each school. When they came home for holidays, the crowd would gather around someone's piano for a "sing."

There was skating and coasting in the winter when the weather was propitious. A pond

on Four Mile Run would be used for skating until the ice was cut up, then the crowd moved on to the next pond. One of our number was pigeon-toed and when his feet ran together he would sit down so hard he cracked the ice. He had to wait until the crowd moved on before he could use a pond. The County Hill from First Place to the railroad was fine for coasting. There were no automobiles and only an occasional horsedrawn vehicle. The only danger was at the curves and the abutments to the bridge, when sleds attained a high speed. One day a small boy left his sled at the curve and made an imprint of his head and two hands on the bank like this-\* O \*.

We swam in the pond at the Springs in summer. The first swim was an exploratory one to see what the spring freshets had done to the pool. Sometimes the water was seven or eight feet deep. The bank made a good place to dive from and some summers there was a spring board. One year a snake lived in the pool. It was quite exciting to get into deep water and have his head pop up in front of you. The boys would try to catch him by diving from the bank. Strange to say, they always "just missed him." Chigger bites and cuts looked pretty bad sometimes after a swim but polluted water was never mentioned. We had our fun and lived to reminisce about it. Before going home we stopped in front of the spring and threw the ice-cold water over each other.

Once or twice during the year we gave a play or a musical in the Curtis Hall. Rehearsals were always fun for the actors if not for the director.

The Glen by the springs had been used for picnics for many years. Sometimes the villages gave a picnic there. Sheets were drawn from tree to tree to make dressing rooms and the children and some of the adults went swimming "one hour after lunch."

The grown folks had their social activities too. The ladies gave luncheons and vied with one another for culinary honors. They also called regularly upon each other. There was a Eucchre Club, the Muslit Club (musical and literary), quite exclusive, and the Whist Club. Much of the village business was conducted at the meetings of the latter and the members frequently gave money to pay for some improvement or entertainment.

For a number of years, one of the annual events was a pound party for Aunt Henny. She was an ex-slave who lived down by the milldam near Barcroft. She had been in my mother's family at one time and regaled us with tales of "going to Heaven." She told of seeing my grandparents and other



Picnic in the Glen

members of the family long since dead. "But you, Miss Connie," she would say sadly to my mother, "You with your card playing and dancing will neber git thar."

### **Watermelon Parties**

Once a year the Schaaffs gave the young people a watermelon party. This usually began sedately with everyone having a generous slice of melon. Then someone would shoot a seed at someone else and . . . . When it was time to go home almost everyone

would have had his or her face washed with a rind, and seeds were everywhere. Mr. and Mrs. Schaaff were generous and long-suffering folk.

### Santa Claus

Santa Claus vistited us even in the early days. Christmas mornings my father would take us walking in the woods and we would find where Santa had left candy in hollow trees and stumps, and of course he filled our stockings. One Christmas he must have slipped when going down the Schaaff's chimney for in the ashes was an imprint showing where he had sat down.

### Marketing

There was a store in Glencarlyn, when I was a child, run by a member of an old Virginia family. When asked to deliver groceries to us they sent word that they were not dealing with any damn-Yankees. Their son and the son of a Union Captain who lived in the village fought the Civil War over again every time they met.

Mr. Sutton of Ballston drove a grocery wagon over once a week. My mother had to give an order for a week's supplies for a family of six. If she forgot anything or miscalculated, we could walk to a store at Bailey's X-Roads or to Barcroft or to Ballston for it. Once when there was a heavy snow storm which made roads impassible, Mr. Sutton put supplies in saddle bags and came on horseback because he was afraid his customers would run out of provisions.

A favorite walk was down the mill race to the Barcroft Mill on Columbia Pike where it crosses Four Mile Run. Here we bought water-ground meal. It was fun to watch the



The first store in Glencarlyn was run by Ed Hall. William "Pop" Besley took it over in 1912. The store took up half of the lower level of the house. It was located at Carlin Springs Road and Third Street until 1918. Besley reopened a small store on Fourth Street in 1921.

mill wheel and the mill stones turned by water. Before going home there was a visit to the store across the railroad tracks to get rock candy, crystallized sugar on a string. Chewing gum was in large white sticks.

Meat was purchased from Mr. Frugerson's wagon. He came twice a week. It took some time to wait on each customer because he stuttered badly. The ladies considered him fresh and had a great time comparing notes on him.

### Coal

The neighbors clubbed together in the fall and ordered a carload of coal from Alexandria. It was delivered and left on the switch

at the station. A team was hired to deliver it to the various houses. This method saved a long hard haul by horse and wagon over rough, muddy roads.

### Wild Dogs

There was a taboo on feeding stray dogs at home, so as a child I would filch stale bread or pancakes and feed them on the way to school. There were usually several trailing me by the time the school yard was reached. In the end a pack of wild dogs was roaming the woods and many startling tales were circulated about their depradations. The leader was a female, part shepherd dog, wise and cunning. She had a white cross on her chest and six toes on each foot. Truly a witch dog. Her puppies were usually born in caves dug under upturned stumps or in a clay bank. After one litter, which I found and showed my father, had mysteriously disappeared I told no one of my discoveries and the dogs multiplied. One dog, Gretchen, was sent to Camp Alger where report had it, she was adopted by a company as a mascot. My conscience bothered me because she trusted only me and I was the one elected to put her on the train.

One moonlit night a dog hunt was organized by a man living next to where Bill Backus now lives [5432 South 5th Street]. They were going to *get* that female. It was an anxious time when the men filed past the tennis court across the road from our house, but no one saw the dog which was flattened out on the court, well camouflaged by the shadows cast by the oak trees. When the hunters were well into the woods she gave birth to a litter of puppies under the hunter's porch. They were well hidden however

before the disgruntled men returned. Do dogs have a sense of humor or do they not? After war was declared upon the dogs they gradually disappeared and there were no more thrilling discoveries of puppies in the woods.

### Fires and Storms

Glencarlyn has had a few bad storms and fires. There was a real hurricane about 1898. Great trees were uprooted and roofs blown off houses. Mr. Mitchell's windmill [at 5516 Fourth Street South] was completely demolished. Our house was full of white sand and there was a delightful odor which we were sure was from orange blossoms. My father dressed, it being about 2:00 a.m., and made the rounds of the village. No one had been hurt. Our yard was full of fallen oak trees, lying in all directions. For several years the Backuses gave corn and weinie roasts in the fall, stumps being used for fuel. It was a



Old mill wheel, possibly from Four Mile Run mill

clever way to get the boys to work at the stumps.

The Olcott's house [at 5608 First Street South] burned on Easter Monday, April 16, 1900, with practically a total loss of all their possessions. The Perkin's house on the southeast corner of Fifth and Jefferson Streets burned in 1906, and also the Fawsett house east of it. There was a high wind and only the combined efforts of the neighbors saved what is now the Hawley house and our shed and barn. None of the Backuses was home. There was no fire department to call upon for help in the early days. Dr. Hester's garage and the back of the house caught fire one Fourth of July about 1919. The place [at 5627 Third Street South] is now owned by Mr. Benn. Again the neighbors pitched in. While some fought the fire, others took out the contents of the house. When the fire department finally arrived the fire was out so the firemen took the furniture and other things back into the house. The maid was there and told them where things belonged. The Hesters were away on a trip. The first they knew about the fire was the fact that when they went to drive into their garage there wasn't any.

There was a small hurricane about the middle of the 1920's. It blew down a magnificent white oak which grew near the south end of Lexington Street, and took several more of our oaks. It then rose and again swooped down near Arlington Hall laying low a field of pines.

### School

The Village Improvement Association approached the County School Board as early as 1892 requesting a school for the village.



King/Hilder bouse at Third and Illinois Streets, site of early school.

This area was then called Alexandria County. School was becoming a serious problem. My elder brother was nine years old and had never been to school except for lessons given him at home. The School Board proved unresponsive so the neighbors joined forces and paid Mrs. William King to teach in her home at Third and Illinois Streets, now the Hilder residence In a short time there were fourteen or fifteen children from six to twelve years of age and graded from the first to the sixth or seventh grades. The School Board was persuaded to pay a teacher \$25 a month in 1894 if the village furnished a schoolroom. This amount was raised to \$35 in 1899. The next school was in the log-cabin part of the "Old House." It was heated by a drum stove which meant that some children were too warm, others too cold. Hot bricks helped to keep feet warm. One day gas collected in the stove and blew off the lid. The teacher thought some of the boys were up to tricks and we were severely lectured. It was fun to

stand in the huge fireplace opposite the stove and look up the chimney to see stars in the daytime. When spring came, or fall days made the out-of-doors irresistible, the children would ask to go to the well for a drink or to go to the outside toilet. Most of the time they drank from a dipper in a water bucket filled in the morning and at noon.

No materials were furnished by the County; books, paper, pencils, pens and ink were furnished by the parents. Once in a while an examination was sent by the School Board with one sheet of paper for each pupil. Such a scramble there was at such times to find pens that would write. Sometimes a match had to be applied to remove surplus ink from a pen or a point had to be carefully bent so it could be used. Woe to the child who blotted or spoiled his paper! Our spelling examination had the word "asparagus." In spite of the teacher's extra careful pronunciation, every child spelled it "sparrow grass." Once in a great while the school was visited by the School Superintendent. One superintendent gave us a talk beginning as follows: "Children, your parents send you to school for to git an eddication."

During the war with Spain, the teacher held classes down on the bank by the rail-road in warm weather so the children could see the soldier trains going to and from Camp Alger which was located near Dunloring. The soldiers threw us buttons from their uniforms and pieces of hardtack (army rations) with their names and addresses written on them.

I remember a schoolroom in a house on the southwest corner of Lexington and First Streets. A man was the teacher, a funny little round, squatty man with a bald head and a goatee which stuck straight out from his chin when he became irritated. Sometimes he would take two boys and knock their heads together. One day when there was a knock at the door just as he had two boys in position for his act he gave us an excellent demonstration of a lightning change. His goatee came down and his face was wreathed in smiles as he invited the mother of one of the boys in. He had difficulty with my name and pre-fixed "Hey, He, Hi, Ho or Hu" to the Dassah. The children began to call me Strawdassah. This teacher must have been studying public speaking, for he practiced elocution mornings before the children were called into the schoolroom. Most of us thought him crazy. Backus digestion was often aided by the family's youngest member imitating the teacher. Dad and Mother did not think they should encourage her but their faces would slip in spite of their efforts to look severe. Several years after this teacher left us I saw him on the stage at an entertainment in Colonial Beach, declaiming, "You would not expect one of my age, to speak in public on the stage," and his "Excelsior" rings in my ears still.

The School Board built a school in the woods at the east end of Fourth Street in 1906. It was supposed to serve both Barcroft and Glencarlyn. The Carlin Springs Cooperative Association gave the ground for it. Parents were reluctant to send their small children to such a lonely spot so it was not used after about 1916. The school was moved to the Hall about 1920, and was held there until the new school was completed in 1953. The County used the building free of charge.

The County Schools were inadequate for pupils in the upper grades and many parents



School days at Carlin Hall, circa 1933

sent their children to the Washington Public Schools. They walked to Veitch, a mile and a half away, where they took a trolley car to Rosslyn. For a long time there were no cars across the old Aqueduct Bridge which was then the only one at Rosslyn so they walked across to Georgetown. Sometimes the smaller children had a hard time walking against the wind which swept down the Potomac Gorge and flattened them against the railing of the bridge.

Teachers evidently bore down hard on the "three R's" in those days for members of our group entered such colleges as Harvard, Cornell, Michigan, Hamilton, Simmons, Mount Holyoke and others where they made as good records as do children from our more elaborate schools these days.

### Coxey's Army

Coxey's Army invaded Washington in 1894. Many tramps and vagrants had filtered into the ranks of laboring men who marched to the city to get legislation to help them. Residents in isolated communities like Carlin Springs, as the village was then called, did not feel safe. A troop of cavalry from Fort Myer was detailed to the vicinity and camped on Third Street where Mr. Kale's house [Ed: now the Shepherd home at 5527 Third Street South) now stands. The captain was a good man with a family of his own. He would call Lewis Schaaff and others into his tent to hear them read or to talk to them. The school was then in Major King's house at Third and Illinois Streets, so most of the pupils became



1970 view of 5527 Third Street South, site of 1894 calvary encampment, and bome of John T. Shepherd family.

acquainted with the soldiers. Our family had plenty of milk at the time and my mother sent fresh milk to the men. Later a stray from Coxey's Army came to father for work. He slept in the hay shed and was truly a handy man around the place until an "itching" foot took him away.

### The Club House

The Glencarlyn Athletic Association was organized in the early 1920's. The members, boys of the village, were enthusiastic and made great and elaborate plans for a club house. Mr. Catlett Davis was the director. Permission was obtained to use the material from the deserted school house in the woods. It was falling to pieces anyway. The club house was built at Fourth and Lexington Streets, west of St. John's Chapel. The boys were supposed to do most of the work. The project was abandoned in 1925 before it was

finished, finally being purchased by Carl Schulze. He planned a two-apartment building but ran into difficulties and the place has been boarded up for a long time. [Ed: it was eventually vandalized and burned, then condemned by the County and torn down. Victorian-style bouses were built on the site in the 1980s.]

### **Curtis Hall**

The Hall, now known as the old school, was probably the first community house in Arlington County. Shares were sold and an Association formed. The Hall was built in 1892. It served for Sunday School and Church on Sundays before the Chapel was built. Pews donated by my Uncle's church were used during services. Our fox terrier went up in the balcony one Sunday and vied with the preacher for attention. One day a cat jumped for bugs from the piano. My dog knew when

Sunday came and would meet us at the Hall door instead of being shut up in the house as we planned it. When he thought a sermon too long he would yawn audibly and one day at a minister's "Fourthly" he jumped out of the window. There were no screens and in summer there were many bugs and beetles in attendance. The boys would sit on the back seat and see who could squash the most bugs on the soles of his shoes.



The Chapel, circa 1950, on the site of present-day St. John's Episcopal Church

Between bees, bugs, dogs, and cats, there was never a dull moment in church.

The Hall was used as a meeting place for the Village Improvement Society, entertainments, dances, or any village activity on week nights. My brothers acted as janitors for a long time, being paid fifty cents a month, later increased to one dollar. When we had a dance the "pulpit" was put into the small room at the west end of the building. The pews were arranged along the walls for seats. Dances closed promptly at twelve midnight on Saturdays. By church time the place was cleaned and the pulpit arranged for service. The east end of the room was used as the stage for plays and the pulpit was the nucleus of the stage.

### The Bible Class

There was an active and well-attended Bible Class under the direction of Irvin



Clubbouse on the southwest corner of Fourth and Lexington Streets

Wood, one of the seminary students, in 1921 and 1922. We met Sunday evenings in the Chapel and the boys tried to out-sing the girls with hymns from the old Mission Hymnals. They bore down hard on "Work for the Night is Coming," "Throw Out the Life Line," etc.

Projects were undertaken to raise money to pay for a bell tower and a bell for the Chapel. The girls met at our house to sew for a bazaar and the boys met to pester the girls. The boys were finally set to braiding rags from our attic. They made several fine rugs which were sold at the bazaar. Another time the class gave a play which was pronounced a great success.

As stated under the heading "Chapel," the tower was finished in 1922. The bell was donated by the Falls Church parish and is the one still used in 1952.

### The Girls' Friendly Society

The Girls' Friendly Society was organized by Miss Margaret Olcott, now Mrs. Charles W. Stetson. They had regular meetings and in addition gave parties, bake sales, bazaars, etc., went on hikes, and several times went to stay overnight at Hayfield where the Olcotts had part-interest in a farm house. The Girls' Friendly Society gave some of the brasses for the altar in the Chapel.

### Glencarlyn Station

From earliest days the Carlin Springs Village Improvement Society fought to have and to keep a railroad station at the foot of Kensington Street. There was just a shed for a long time, but a good looking station was finally built and a telegraph operator installed. Forty or fifty neighbors met in the morning



in the old days to wait for the 8:00 o'clock train. As it was often late a sociable time ensued. Neighbors were better acquainted and knew much of each other's problems as a result.

As the train came around the bend, Mr. Schaaff picked up his large market basket which was carried back and forth every day, and Mr. Seaton could be seen sprinting out of the woods while Miss Katherine Plant came stepping carefully from tie to tie down the middle of the track with the engine tooting behind her.

When many passengers left the steam road for the trolley at Veitch, the railroad company took away the telegraph operator. One night the station mysteriously caught fire and burned just after a freight train had passed.

The steam road was electrified about 1910 but was not dependable so many commuters continued to walk to Veitch. As an old colored man said, "They electrocuted the steam road."

### Roads

Early recollections include memories of a fight to get the county to give more attention to our roads. When the frost went out of the ground in the spring, many of them were impassable. Pictures of Carlin Springs Road might well have been taken in a ploughed field. When automobiles first came into use, Model T Fords mostly out here, the driver picked the most likely-looking rut and hoped for the best. Passengers usually got out and helped to push a car when it was stuck.

When my brother moved here in the

spring of 1921 his wife would drive while he and I pushed, sometimes as far as from Illinois to Kensington Street. On Sundays and holidays we would go out with hoes and shovels to work on the worst spots. One year my sister and I paid to have gravel dumped to fill a hole at Fifth and Lexington Streets. We also dumped our coal ashes in the road to fill up holes.

The roads in the village were formally turned over to the county in 1936. Old residents were truly thankful when material to give a bottom to the mud was finally put in. New neighbors thought us old "moss backs" to be satisfied with the awful roads they found! Were we? I never saw any of them pushing their cars up the road.

### The Tennis Court

A man who boarded at our house about 1900 hired a road scraper and made a tennis court on the lot north of our house. My father later bought the lot so that no one could destroy the court.

It was never too hot to play tennis in the summer. If no one else came my sister and I played singles. Most of our days were spent on the court during vacations. In the evening the youngsters had to give over to the folks who worked during the day. The court was busy from morning until dark.

It fell into disuse at the time of the First World War. Fred Hilder and Fritz Kienast finally became interested. They fixed it up and there was soon a number of good players. A tennis club was organized.

Tournaments were arranged, matches with other communities were played and the court was a general meeting place for the young people. And for old people too, for neighbors



View from Arlington Boulevard south on Carlin Springs Road, November 1950

would drift over in the evenings and on holidays to watch the players or just to visit.\*

### The Ping Pong Club

The tennis crowd met at our house every other week for table tennis and bridge or other games when the tennis season was over. They called themselves the Ping Pong Club. There were no regular dues and no rules. One of the girls took charge of the refreshments each meeting, and everyone who came paid ten cents to defray costs.

### History\*\*

The area and vicinity of Carlin Springs were probably first crossed by white men

<sup>\*</sup>A silver winner's cup was awarded the champion player of the year, with successive names engraved on it. It is still in the possession of the Backus family.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Stetson and Mrs. W.H. Olcott were of great assistance in collecting facts and dates of this history. The old notes of the Carlin Springs Village Improvement Association and notes of the Carlin Springs Cooperative Association were also used.

about 1680, when Indians were the only inhabitants. There was a sprinkling of settlers by 1735. They made clearings and built cabins in the forest. Lord Fairfax held the land and in 1742 John Ball obtained a grant for it, paying a quit rent of one shilling sterling for every fifty acres. The survey of the grant mentioned a large white oak which grew near the junction of Four Mile Run and Long Branch. It is a section of this oak which is now in the Burdett Library.

John Ball made his home on the tract and an adjoining tract was granted to Moses



Glencarlyn residents Asbley Taylor and James Robinson pose near the section of the oak tree that bears George Washington's survey mark, on display in the Glencarlyn library.

Ball in 1748. He built in 1755. The Balls cleared the land and planted tobacco. Later corn and wheat were raised.

The first road was parallel to Fifth Street and about fifty feet south of it. It connected Leesburg Pike with an old mill which stood on Four Mile Run near its junction with Lubber Run.

When John Ball died in 1766 his will directed that his land be sold. William Carlin became the owner in 1772 paying 100 pounds for 166 acres, one-third of which was claimed by Elizabeth Ball as her dower interest. Shortly before his death in 1820 William Carlin made a deed of gift of 38 acres to Mary A. and Ann C. Carlin, two infant daughters of his son Wesley Carlin. Mary received 18 acres north of Four Mile run. She lived in an old house with dormer windows, lately restored, at the top of the hill on Carlin Springs Road. Miss Mary died in 1905 and was the last person to be buried in the cemetery south of the library.

Wesley and James Harvey Carlin, sons of William lived on parts of their father's land. William Carlin's will directed that the land be divided into small parcels for sale and the proceeds be divided between the heirs. The part which is now Glencarlyn was purchased by James Harvey Carlin at \$9.25 an acre. There were 94 acres. On this plot was the Old Mansion House occupied by Andrew and Ann Carlin. Tradition has it that George Washington stopped there when he went to visit Carlin the Tailor. [Ed.: the Old Mansion House is now known as the Ball-Sellers House at 5630 Third Street South.]

The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company, later taken over by the Southern Railroad Company, made a station on the



Miss Mary Carlin, who lived to be 100, and "Uncle Josh" La Vaughn in bome belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Lane, circa 1890

Carlin property, and John E.F. Carlin who lived in Washington made a picnic and excursion resort in the Glen near the station. He bricked in the two springs, built a dance pavilion and an ice cream and restaurant pavilion to accommodate 250 guests. There was also a small bar north of the railroad and a tournament course at the top of the hill near what is now First Street. The bar was closed when the grounds were rented to Sunday Schools or churches.

Andrew Carlin died in 1885 and in 1887 when Curtis and Burdett purchased the land, Ann moved to her cousin's house west of Carlin Springs Road and North of the present site of the Glencarlyn School. The family burying ground was not included in the tract purchased by Curtis and Burdett and is still the property of the Carlin family. The purchase price of the 94 acres was \$8,000.

Carlin Springs was the first subdivision in the County planned in advance of sales. The first families were those government clerks and other persons of some education. Each of the first buyers received a share in the Carlin Springs Cooperative Association for every lot purchased. Among the early purchasers were W.M. Backus, W.H. Olcott, W.P. Jones, A. Mason, E.B. Stocking, J.H. Laughlin, Henry B. Hedrick, W.M. King, S.W. Stockbridge and J.L. Schaaff.



Carlin family beadstone in cemetery south of Glencarlyn library

## The Carlin Springs Cooperative Association

The Association was formed in 1888. There was a capital stock of \$18,000 divided into 360 shares with a par value of \$50 each. Its purpose was to improve and acquire land at or near Carlin Springs, to lay out parks, gardens and streets, and to build houses, outhouses, and hotels.

It was also planned to build telegraph and telephone lines and to establish and operate coach lines for the profit and benefit of stockholders. The latter projects were never realized.

The assets of the Association were the Old Mansion House, 74 acres of undeveloped land, and \$2,000 paid in by Curtis and Burdett. The 38-acre tract north of the railroad was also given to the Association which sold it to John B. Henderson, a senator from one of the western states, in 1894. He built a large house on the northern end of the property and kept the woodland along Lubber Run untouched. The \$3,750 realized from this sale was added to the assets of the Association. Expenditures were made from time to time for taxes, to plant and trim trees, to clear streets, to put in drainage and grading, and for the upkeep of the Mansion House, etc. There was also a fund from which home builders could borrow money at low interest rates.

Thirteen acres of woodland between Four Mile Run and the plateau were set aside and dedicated as a park for the use of landowners in 1891. A deed was prepared naming W.M. Backus as trustee in 1898.

The Old Mansion House, now owned by Wm. Powell, was sold to Mrs. Irene O. Young, a teacher in Western High School of Washington, D.C., in 1911 for \$800.

The Association was dissolved in 1923. Jas. L. Schaaff was appointed Park Trustee by the circuit court after the death of Dr. Backus.

The Park Lands were taxed for a number of years. Money was raised for taxes by public subscription. The area was turned over to the State in 1936, and the county began to operate it about 1945.

### The Pavilions

John E. F. Carlin built two large pavilions in the Glen about 1872. One was for dancing and one for eating, the latter across the little ravine which runs through the Glen. They were rented for picnics and dances to parties from Washington, Alexandria and nearby settlements. It was a popular excursion point until the Potomac River excursion boats and trolley lines offered other entertainment. The Carlin Springs Improvement Association voted to have these pavilions torn down in 1893 "because they harbour tramps, are dangerous to unprotected ladies and repulsive to persons of refined taste seeking quiet homes, and because they are in bad condition." Old Washington residents still speak of having been there on Sunday School picnics.

### The First Library

The first village library was called the Young People's Library Association. Books were kept in cases in Curtis Hall.

The book plates were printed by a member of the Association who did not consult the other members with regard to their form or wording. They read:

> "Young People's Library Association Carlin's" (Books like friends were made to use not to abuse)

There were no funds. Books were given by friends (made to use) or bought with money given for that purpose. Bound copies of Chatter Box, and St. Nicholas were read until worn out. There were the Elsie books, Rollo books, etc. Someone with the key to the cases dispensed the books after church or when the Hall was opened for other purposes.

A few of the books are now in the Burdett Library.

### The Village Improvement Association

The Village Improvement Association was organized April 10, 1893. It was active until the First World War. It has operated under the original name and as the Citizens Association off and on since and has been instrumental in getting benefits and improvements for the village and in giving Glencarlyn an identity among other subdivisions in the county.

### The Glencarlyn Post Office

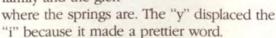
The first post offices in the villages were placed in rooms in private houses with the lady of the house as post mistress. The post mistress was paid the money from the cash receipts of the office. The Village Improvement Society appropriated money in 1909 to bring the sum to \$60 a quarter. This soon depleted the treasury of the Association and payments had to be stopped.

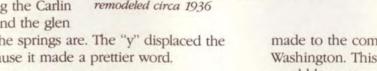
The mail was carried to and from trains for a long time by Wilson Masterson who did the job most faithfully. Mr. Tracey Walworth took over the post office about 1918 and put up a small building on Fourth Street between Kensington and Lexington Streets where the Daniels house now stands. He carried the

mail to the train also

The office was finally put into the store where it is at present. It is called a branch office since the county offices were consolidated.

The name of the village was changed to Glencarlyn in 1896 at the request of the Post Office Department. The idea was to eliminate two-word names. "Glencarlyn" was chosen as representing the Carlin family and the glen





### **Telephones**

The Village Improvement Association began working to get a telephone connection to Washington in 1895. Dr. Talbot, who lived this side of Falls Church offered the use of his line if the village would run a line to connect with it, but the committee on telephones wanted to try for direct communications.

A letter was sent to the Secretary of War in 1896 asking permission to run a line across the Aqueduct Bridge, since replaced by the Key Bridge. The reply was that the telephone company already had a line across the bridge, and that application should be



Harrison bome on the southeast corner of First and Kensington Streets before it was remodeled circa 1936

made to the company for a connection with Washington. This meant that our connection would have to go through Falls Church. This was accomplished some time between 1896 and 1908. A pay telephone was installed in the entrance hall of Mr. B.M. Harrison's house at First and Kensington Streets. The Harrison boys delivered messages which came for neighbors.

A letter from Mr. M.E. Church of Falls Church in 1908 asked that something be done about the excessive number of phones on their lines. From this it may be assumed that by that time other phones had been installed in the village.

### Electricity

Glencarlyn was without electricity until

1921. When the Virginia Public Service Company, now the Virginia Electric and Power Co., was approached on the subject of service, they agreed to supply electricity if we would pay for the line and furnish poles. Poles were supplied from the Park then owned by the Carlin Springs Cooperative Association. They were the chestnut trees which had shortly before been killed by the blight. Each customer paid \$100 and was supposed to receive a refund for each new subscriber. It finally worked out that the original subscribers were left "holding the bag" when the Company "signed off."

### Sidewalks

The village had sidewalks two feet wide made of boards in 1893, when there were many pedestrians and few riders. Bees and wasps and yellow-jackets often built their nests under the boards. It was not uncommon for the fellow walking in the rear of a group to arrive at his destination with several stings. In addition to that drawback, the boards often warped and came loose so that anyone in the rear was liable to be swatted by a board which had someone's weight on the other end of it. The walks were built and maintained by the Village Improvement Association.

### The Chapel

Theological students from the Seminary four and a half miles away, held services in private homes, or in warm weather in one of the old pavilions, in the early days of the Village. After the Hall was built services were held there. Efforts to raise money to build a chapel went on for a number of years. Plays

and entertainments were given in the Hall and donations and subscriptions were made. During the summer ice cream was sold on Saturday evenings in the grove of white oaks east of Mr. Walter Jones' house. The house has since been moved and the trees cut down to clear the way for Lee Boulevard, which now runs through the spot. It no doubt was a surprise to the house to find itself facing north instead of south, as it now does. Mrs. Jones took the responsibility for ordering the ice cream, and the girls of the village served and did their best to stimulate sales. No offer of a treat was ever turned down. After we had eaten to capacity a wellto-do bachelor boarding at our house would come along and treat the crowd. Whew!

With the money on hand and the help of the Church Building Fund Commission the Chapel was finally built in 1910. The pews were moved from the Hall and a furnace (paid for by special donations) was installed. Mrs. Walter Jones played the organ for years and my mother led the choir.

There was an active and enthusiastic Bible Class in 1921, led by Irvine Wood, one of the seminary students. Money was raised and donated for the bell tower. When the question of a bell came up it was voted that I find one. The younger set called me the "Rev. H" after I received letters from manufacturers and dealers addressing me in that way. The church at Falls Church finally donated their old bell when they bought a new one. It is still in use this 1952. The stained glass window was put in by Mrs. Jones and her daugher-in-law, Mrs. William Mason. The cross and brasses were given by the Girls' Friendly Society. Herbert Barnell, one of our students obtained the present

altar from a church in the north which was getting a new one.

The Baptismal Font is one given by Queen Ann to Christ Church of St. Michael's Parish, Claiborne, Maryland. It is thought to have been brought from England in 1708 by the Rev. Henry Nichols of Jesus College, Oxford, when he assumed the rectorship.

The Chapel has been well served by the theological students from the Virginia Seminary. Its members have had the privilege of being associated with a succession of splendid young men.

# General Burdett and the Burdett Library

General Burdett was our most distinguished neighbor. He was in partnership with my uncle, Wallace Curtis, when the village was first subdivided. He had come from England when a boy and became a successful lawyer when a man. He had served in the Union Army during the Civil War and later was the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. The General had traveled more than the average citizen at that time and was a man of wide experience. His home on the northeast corner across from the library was the most pretentious in the village. His wife, a niece, a parrot, and a dog made up his family. He had a large horse, Moses, which was pastured in the block east of the library. When General Burdett died in England in 1914 he left his personal library and money to build and maintain a library for Glencarlyn. My father was named in his will as trustee without bond. My father died in 1916 before the library was built and the court named my brother Curtis as his successor. Curtis refused to build during the war years when materials were scarce and expensive, and the village rocked with criticism and arguments pro and con. The building was finally put up in 1923. Miss Mary Stocking took charge of cataloging the books, and in 1924 it was open to the citizens with Miss Mae Schaaff acting as librarian. It is now operated in cooperation with the Arlington County Library and is at present a thriving institution under the direction of Mrs. Mabel Milton. In some months of 1951 it had a circulation of over 5,000 books.

### **Major King**

Major and Mrs. King moved to Glencarlyn about 1891. He worked for the Department of Agriculture and was helpful in telling neighbors when to sow grass seed, what their soil needed, what crops to plant, etc. He loved to try experiments and kept the neighbors interested in their development. One spring he figured that a turkey could hatch out many more chickens than a hen. He borrowed a turkey and set about three dozen eggs. The turkey did not take kindly to setting and had to be tied on the nest. Major King decided one day to let her take some exercise, so he turned her loose whereupon she spread her tail, stretched her neck and began "Gobble, gobble, gobble." The Major never lived down trying to make a turkey gobbler set.

He liked children and I have many happy memories of play houses he made for me in the woods and of the horse and buggy drives he treated me to when I was small.

One of Major King's ambitions was to live to be a hundred. He missed by only a few months, dying in his 99th year.

# Mrs. Jarboe, The Rices, and the Reynolds

These folks are descendants of the Finneceys, the original settlers of the land west and south of Glencarlyn. The Finneceys settled on a strip of land which lay between two surveys and acquired title to it.

Mrs. Jarboe's mother was one of the three Finnecey sisters. Each built a cabin on a knoll near a spring. One of the cabins stood near what is now Fifth Street and the south end of Kensington Street, one was near the house where W.A. Backus lives at the foot of Illinois Street, and one was on the hill beyond the Jarboe's present home. Mrs. Jarboe was born in the middle one. Her father, Mr. Hyde was an Englishman who fought in the civil war. When he married her mother she was a widow with four sons.

### **Aunt Mimie and Uncle Wash Roberts**

Aunt Mimie and Uncle Wash Roberts were a colored couple who lived on Carlin Springs Road just south of what is now Fifth Road. They kept pigs, chickens, etc., and had a garden. Aunt Mimie did much of her cooking out-of-doors in the summer. She used a large iron kettle which she hung over the fire. Uncle Wash worked for General Burdett. Aunt Mimi did washing for the ladies in the village. Her mother, Aunt Vinie, lived with her for a long time until she married a third or fourth husband and moved to Barcroft.

Uncle Wash was bitten by his own dog and died of hydrophobia about 1914. His death made people afraid to have dogs and there were practically none in the village for several years.

After Uncle Wash died, Aunt Mimi was very lonesome so she married Blair. Blair stuttered and no doubt she had the first, last, and middle words of any arguments.

She called everyone "Honey" or "Darling." "Now Honey, you don't mind me calling you Honey, do you?" or "Well Darling, you don't mind Aunt Mimi calling you Darling, do you?"

### Wilson Masterson

Wilson Masterson was a village institution during the early 1900's. He was a colored man about forty years of age. He carried the mail and did odd jobs around the village. House work was his favorite kind and he was in great demand by the house wives. Asked if he could bring in some wood or cut some kindling he would say, "I have to clean for Mrs. Jones tomorrow. Next day I go to Mrs. Young. Then I promised Mrs. King I'd scrub her kitchen," and so on.

Wilson lived with his wife, Fanny, in a shack on a corner of our place down the hill from the Jarboe place. Fanny was several years older than he and kept a tight rein on her husband. She hired out as a cook and was a hard worker. She had many superstitions. One day Wilson came to get a cup of cream. Fanny had run a nail into her foot.

"Cream isn't good for that", my mother told him. "Take this arnica."

"She ain't going to put it on her foot," replied Wilson. "You see, she's been Hoodooed. She soaks the nail in the cream and hangs it over the door. That breaks the Hoodoo."

Fanny asked me one spring if I was going to get up to see the sun shout Easter morning. To be sure I waked up, she climbed the hill just before sunrise and threw pebbles at my window. When I told her later

in the day that I had not been able to see or hear anything unusual, she said, "You have to look at the sun for a long time and after a while it begins to jump up and down. That is when it is shouting."

Fanny told Wilson if he married again after she died she would haunt him. Several years after her death he announced he was going to risk it. He said to my sister after he brought his bride home, "Miss Connie, you ain't seen my wife yet. Yon she goes. She's a short chunky gal just like you is."

The wife, Mary, was known as a man woman. She went into the woods and cut wood along with the men. She drank heavily and Wilson was afraid of her. Once in a while he would come and ask us to call the sheriff to come take her to jail. Then he would relent and pay a fine to get her home again. Mary finally persuaded him to move to Washington where he was killed by a truck while working as a street-sweeper.

### **Smallpox**

Cooper and his wife, Lilly, moved into the shack after Wilson left. One day when we stepped off the train my father was told that Cooper had the smallpox. Sure enough! He was quarantined. The Health Department had food brought every day which was left at the top of the hill. Cooper had been in our house the night before the visit of the health officer so father vaccinated the whole family. After the quarantine was lifted, Cooper told us, "You know I breaks out with that rash every spring. But if they wanted to feed me it suited me fine. I don't like to work *nohow*."

Cooper was often seen after dark carrying a feed sack over his shoulder. The boys teased him about stealing chickens. Asked if he liked eggs, he replied, "When eggs is cheap I kin eat a dozen a day. But when eggs is high I don't eat nary a one, lessen they ain't my own." We thought that might explain why we were not getting as many eggs as we should from our flock of Plymouth Rock chickens.

### Lee Boulevard

Major Johnson, a promoter, began to hold meetings about Lee Boulevard [ed.: now Arlington Boulevard] about 1925 or 1926. He was so enthusiastic that he aroused the interest of the village. He foretold that thousands of cars would be using the road in a few

years, at which some persons were much amused. Some folks gave contributions to the Major to defray his expenses.

He finally managed to have the State appropriate funds for a 300-foot right of way between Memorial Bridge and Lee Highway. The plan was to have a divided highway with parking in the middle. The citizens voted to give a right of way through the Park. Mr. W.P. Jones' house was moved to its present position on First Place and Lexington Street. Mr. King's cottage, formerly owned by Mr. E.B. Stocking, was torn down. A grove of beautiful white oaks was sacrificed. The Major's dream came true. The Boulevard was opened for travel about 1935 or 1936.



The Stocking cottage was located on present-day Arlington Boulevard.

# Recollections of a Non-Native-Born Glencarlynite

by Florence C. Backus

This article was originally published in Volume 8 Number 4 of *The Arlington Historical Magazine*. It has been adapted by the Glencarlyn Citizens Association with the permission of the Arlington Historical Society, Inc.

When I first met Bill Backus, more formally named William Alden Backus, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, I immediately envisioned him living, because he came from Virginia, in a stately white mansion with dignified columns set on a spacious rolling lawn. Later, when I visited his family in Glencarlyn, I found the rolling lawns but instead of the stately mansion there was a modest rustic ranch house. The architecture was far from the traditional white pillars. Set back from Fifth Street South and conveniently numbered 5432, it was unusual because it had been built from two little houses.

In addition to this unexpected architecture there was another surprise—a tennis court owned by Bill's aunts, Hadassah and Constance Backus. This was across Fifth Street South on the northwest corner of South Illinois and Fifth Streets, and was open to those willing to work as well as play on it. For years interested neighbors and friends laboriously rolled the court and even lined it with a do-it-yourself contraption. The squeaky creak of the big heavy roller was one of the telltale sounds of early spring. The roller also was owned by Bill's aunts, but was used by any would-be player as part of his or her contribution to keeping the court playable.

Marriage to Bill in 1941 and a wartime assignment in Washington, D.C. brought us to the D.C. area. Since finding suitable housing in the area was almost impossible, Bill's mother generously offered to let us live with her and her daughter Peggy as long as necessary. I remember being surprised, when we moved into Glencarlyn, to find a real old-time country store. This was a small wooden building on the western end of Fourth Street South, run by Pop Besley. Old-timers liked to

sit around the pot-bellied stove trading yarns by the light of kerosense lamps. Another store, which stood where the 7-11 store is now, on Carlin Springs Road, was run by Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd. The Post Office was in this store, and the mailing address at that time, was just "Glencarlyn." Mr. Shepherd went twice a day at 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to pick up the mail bag from the train. He then sorted it and put it in the proper boxes. No home delivery then!

Mr. MacDonald, a later proprietor of the store, still lives at 5610 Fourth Street South. Besides being gentle and kindly, he acted as a community conscience, not permitting children to buy cigarettes. He would not even sell them matches without a note from their parents.

A serious health threat to Mr. MacDonald brought a new storekeeper, Mr. Hamilton, who had no such scruples. The citizens' association finally involved itself in the fight against the sale of pornographic materials in the store, which was especially objectionable because the store was so close to Kenmore Junior High School. The association's action was effective and the one-man local store was replaced by the 7-11 convenience store.

### **Education in Glencarlyn**

School was first held in the Hilder home, then in a building near Glencarlyn Park, before moving into the present Carlin Hall. However, some parents felt that Virginia schools were not as advanced as those in the District of Columbia and arranged to have their children enrolled at Western High School instead of Washington-Lee. Bill's mother shared this viewpoint, becoming a teacher herself in Washington, as well as

enrolling her children there.

When our son, Billy, was ready for school, Carlin Hall was still the place for grades one through six. The school superintendent, Mr. Kemp, a man of modest education and little vision, vowed that the population surge, which had begun after World War II, was only temporary and therefore, it would be foolish to build new schools.

Fortunately, the new citizens were education oriented. They banded together to form the Citizens for School Improvement Association. Partly as a result of their pressure and political success, an ambitious far-seeing school board was elected. Glencarlyn was the location of one of the several new schools built—at South Carlin Springs Road between Third and Second Streets.

Excitedly the pupils of Carlin Hall marched up Fourth Street to their new school. Within only a few years this school was enlarged and was renamed Kenmore Junior High School. Glencarlyn Elementary School was built farther south on Carlin Springs Road and still serves area children.

### Thrills and Chills

Early in my married life I discovered that I was expected to be able to walk across the railroad trestle where it crossed Lubber Run about thirty feet above the ground and water. I did learn to do it, but still had a scary time one night as Bill's sister, Peggy, and I returned from a show in town and had to hike home from the bus stop in Arlington Forest, walking the trestle at 11:30 p.m.!

Our boys, too, became trestle walkers, and also found another source of thrills. They discovered a sturdy old cable securely attached to a big old oak tree which leaned out over Four Mile Run. Launching themselves from the high bank and clinging to the cable as it swung high and far over the creek gave them a real thrill.

### Fording the Creek

One of Glencarlyn's most distinctive claims to fame used to be fording Long Branch. Where Carlin Springs Road now crosses the creek near Glencarlyn School the road used to dip down and go through the water before ascending the hill on the other side. There was a foot bridge for pedestrians, but during storms and their high-water aftermath fording the creek by automobile was a daring and exciting endeavor.

### The Incredible Eagles

Glencarlyn made Life magazine around

1943 with the incident of The Great Stone Eagles. Apparently the resident of the large corner house at South Lexington Street and Arlington Boulevard had attended a government auction and facetiously bid on a pair of thirty foot stone eagles. These had been commissioned for a government project, possibly Memorial Bridge, but had been rejected by the Fine Arts Commission. With no other bidders, he suddenly found himself the surprised and dismayed owner of two imposing stone eagles, legally bound to take them home!

He did manage to get them moved to his backyard, where they were clearly visible to startled drivers on Arlington Boulevard. Eventually the family wished to move and the over-whelming sculptures had to be put to the hammer. They will be long remembered in Glencarlyn's growing collection of stories.



Railroad trestle over Long Branch Creek in Glencarlyn Park, site of present-day bicycle path

### **History Preserved**

At the junction of Long Branch and Four Mile Run still stands a marker showing the location of a tree that George Washington used as a survey tree. A section of the tree itself, is in the Glencarlyn Library. The marker had a hard life, however. The swift waters of the two streams during a storm tended to lift it off its pedestal, and vandals repeatedly defaced it. Finally, the D.A.R. was instrumental in having it firmly set on its pedestal with a high picket fence around it. Miss Constance Backus spoke at the dedication, hoping the boys and girls of Arlington would value the historical significance of this spot.

### **Opportunities for Sports**

Several inviting pools lured the young and not-so-young to the stream. One, near the rocks of the old Carlin Springs, was especially popular, although within it was reputed to lurk a giant snapping turtle.

A small waterfall, near the present Nature Center, formed a pool that provided a refreshing, cool dip on hot summer days. Then, too, there was always the challenge of dam building, and the pleasure of watching the water skippers, or catching some of the little fish. Spring brought the cheerful sound of the peepers, and the search for tadpoles was on!

Winter sports opportunities were no less inviting. The steep slope of the ravine above the present Nature Center challenged sledders to ride to the bottom without ending up in the blackberry bushes, or on an especially slick day, in the stream. A longer and more exciting sled ride was through the park from the South Jefferson Street entrance at Third Street. On one day when the sledding path had treacherously iced over,



During World War II a Glencarlynite found bimself the surprised owner of a twenty-foot pair of stone eagles when he made a facetious bid at a government auction. The birds ended up in his yard at South Lexington Street and Arlington Boulevard until they were finally broken up and hauled away . . . but not before the story appeared in the pages of Life magazine.

my son, David, came walking down South Illinois Street with blood streaming down his face from a cut on his forehead. As I was treating him his younger brother, Alan, came in as white as a sheet. Recognizing the symptoms of possible internal bleeding, I summoned an ambulance which took Alan to the hospital where it was learned that he had a ruptured spleen. He had crashed into a pole

picnic stove at the bottom of the hill. Several others were injured on that slope that same day, which made the parents realize that the weather and slope conditions should be carefully checked before permission was given for sledding.

### **Holiday Times**

Christmas has always been a favorite

season in Glencarlyn. My first remembrance dates back to the time when St. John's Chapel still stood picturesquely on the corner of Fourth and South Lexington Streets. A tall evergreen in front of the chapel was just right for the community Christmas lights. Standing on top of our old station wagon to string the lights was always part of the thrill of the season for Bill and our boys.

As neighbors gathered around the tree singing carols, candy was given out by Santa Claus from the steps of the chapel. Santa was delightedly and delightfully impersonated by Mr. Adler, a well-known Jewish engraver. Mr. Adler was married but childless. He was a well-known figure as he walked through the community with his long white hair flowing behind him, and a distinguished-looking cane clicking in front of him. Children came flocking to see him because he could mysteriously pluck quarters or candy from behind their ears. He insisted on paying for all the candy distributed at Christmas and made the holiday a highlight for young and old.

At one time, residents dropped their trees in the field next to Kenmore for a Twelfth Night tree burning ceremony. A king and queen were chosen, but the Fire Department discouraged such festivities. Another time, lights were put on the tree in front of Carlin Hall, but vandals stole many of them and this practice was stopped. However, new Christmas traditions are being introduced as new residents apply their creativity and ideas to old customs.

So the Village continues to develop its own traditions, stories, even characters. One can hope that with this rich heritage, "The more things change, the more they are the same."

### DAUGHTERS of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION Thomas Nelson Chapter

April, 1962

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON MARKER IN GLEN CARLYN PARK

At the junction of Four Mile Run and Long Branch stands the monument errected in 1914 by the D.A.R., represented by Mrs. Walworth and the Glen Carlyn Citizens Association, bearing the inscription: "On this spot stood an Oak Tree bearing a survey mark made by George Washington, which became a monumental survey mark named in many deeds."

The spot deserves a marker for three original patents meet in the middle of Four Mile Run at the mouth of Long Branch. North of the Run is the Lubber Run tract patented to Major John Colville on February 4, 1731. On the south side of the Run, this point is the beginning of John Ball's 166 acre tract, and the same point is beginning of Moses Ball's patent. In 1755 John Colville caused another survey to be made of his tract, a copy of which is recorded in the oldest book of surveys at Fairfax Courthouse. G.W. West was the surveyor and Moses Ball was one of the chain carriers.

Washington retained his zest for surveying throughout his life. He never employed another to survey his lands when it was practicable for him to do it himself. His four surveys of his Four Mile Run land were all made when he was upwards of fifty. They were evidently labors of love and the diaries show he took congenial friends along with him.

In 1954, a 7th grade class in Wakefield School made a study of their vicinity, and a boy told them about the monument in Glen Carlyn Park, up the railroad tracks, fallen to pieces and scattered near the stream. They learned that it had once been a monument standing on the very root of a White Oak Tree on which George Washington had cut a mark for his land surveying around here in 1748. Another girl remembered seeing a part of a tree trunk in the Glen Carlyn Library with a brass plate on it. Sure enough, this was a part of the very White Oak which had served Washington as a landmark, now holding the Library dictionary. It still holds it in that same Library.

Thomas Nelson Chapter DAR was contacted and Helen Crist, acting as chairman, arranged with Arlington County Recreation Department and with their help a chain link fence was built around the restored marker and a plaque was placed on the fence telling about it in 1954.

With the help of the students of Wakefield School, the Girl Scouts, the DAR, and Miss Constance Backus, trustee of Glen Carlyn Library, who remembers when the tree stood there, and Mrs. Charles W. Stetson, trustee of the Library and scholar of local history, was dedicated this new marker "in honor of George Washington, whose father died when he was about the age of the school children in the 7th grade who had to help earn a living, who worked as a surveyor for Lord Fairfax, the owner of this land, and who stood on this very spot to cut a sign that this tree was a landmark for him."

A Bronze or Brass Plaque, bearing the same inscription as the former one, will replace the time worn plaque on which the writing is barely decipherable, and will be placed on the steel fence in the early Spring by Thomas Nelson Chapter DAR.

-Reconstructed from a flyer appearing in Glencarlyn History, Vol. I, Glencarlyn Branch, Arlington County Library

# Glencarlyn's Early Stores

by Betty Harrison Geris

Mrs. Geris was born in Glencarlyn on November 3, 1923. She lived on the corner of Third and Carlin Springs Road until she was five years old, when the family moved to First Street. Mrs. Geris now lives at 5505 Fourth Street South. My grandfather, William Isaac Besley, born February 11, 1878, attended high school in Falls Church. Upon graduation, he opened a grocery store in Sleepy Hollow, Seven Corners area. On March 25, 1912, Mr. Besley, called "Pap" by all who knew him, made a down payment of \$25 on one acre of land on Carlin Springs Road between Third and Fourth Streets. The lot included a house with a store on the premises. The stable, sheds and all store fixtures were also included in this purchase from Ed Hall.

Pap moved to Glencarlyn with his wife Lucy and their seven-year-old daughter, Mary Jane, who will be remembered as Mrs. John M. Harrison. A license for selling retail merchandise and tobacco was issued to Pap on May 1, 1912. Three more children, George Wilmer, Richard Carlin and Alice (B. Smith) were born here.

Around 1918 business in the family home became difficult and Pap closed the

store and took to raising rabbits. During this period, a Mr. Myers built a store at the site of the present 7-Eleven. In 1921 Pap again yearned for a grocery store and built one on his property at Fourth and Carlin Springs Road. He operated the store from 1921 to 1952. It was a typical country store—a pot belly stove for the old timers and village characters to sit around, light by kerosene lamps, penny candies, bins with

bulk cookies and crackers to be weighed and bagged, a coal oil pump for dispensing kerosene, etc. Many a family survived because of Pap's generous credit and Christian love. He lived by the Bible and it was always open on the side board, where he could read it every night. Students who came over from Virginia Seminary loved to talk with him. Pap died at home July 19, 1965.

Many remember my Grandmother Lucy. For many years she raised chickens and families purchased eggs and fresh-killed hens from her. At times she made ice cream—the best I ever tasted. I used to pull the container around on a wagon from which I sold the ice cream by the dish. In later years many people bought her quilts. Patch work and maple-leaf patterns were considered her best. Classes of school children came to see her work. She passed away in October 1977 at which time the home place was sold. ■



The Besley store on Fourth Street South was operational from 1921 to 1952.

# The General Burdett House

by Wilhelmine Burch Gibboney

Mrs. Gibboney lived in the Burdett house at 5627 Third Street South from 1934 to 1940 and shares here her recollections of the house and neighborhood during that period.

We had the great pleasure (and accompanying difficulties) of living from 1934 to 1940 in the house that General Samuel S. Burdett built in 1888. As Hadassah Backus told it, the big white Burdett house was thought to be "the most pretentious" of all that were built in those early days. The ladies vied for invitations to tea in order to see inside.

For his home, the General chose the highest lot, which became the northeast corner of South Third and Kensington Streets. Railed porches were across the front, all the way down the west side except for a bay window break. A railed porch was also on the northeast end of the house at the kitchen exit.

Inside the stained glass door at the front of the house, a large hall opened to a long drawing room on the left and a large dining room at the end. A library-living room with fireplace and sliding doors opened from the drawing and dining rooms. A big kitchen had a butler's pantry and "cold pantry." Beautiful polished oak woodwork was used throughout the house.

The hall with winding staircase and stained glass window led to the second floor where there was one very large bedroom with its own dressing room, two more large bedrooms, one small bedroom and a bathroom. At the end of the hall on the left, an extremely steep walled stairway came up from the kitchen, while on the right another stairway led up to the completely floored attic. In a room above the bathroom there was a curiosity—a big metal water reservoir, probably used for the water pump before Glencarlyn obtained electricity. The house roof was made of copper, painted red.

The house was set on a firm stone foun-

dation with concrete basement floors under every part of it. The ceilings were very high, the windows long and by 1934 the windows were in need of carpentry. There was a big bin of hard coal in the basement but the furnace had been converted to what was undoubtedly the *first* and *most inefficient* oil furnace ever built. Our first winter No. 1 oil was only 6 cents a gallon but our January bill was \$66, twice our rent, so we learned to close radiators and doors in unused rooms and resort to every means of keeping warm.

There was a so-called "engine house" at the rear of the big house, down below steep concrete steps, where the water well and pump were enclosed. We were told to keep a lighted lantern on the pump during freezing weather. In February 1935 we had 16 inches of snow in two snowfalls and buses could not get to Glencarlyn. We had to walk down Carlin Springs Road and up the Ballston Hill to meet the bus coming from Wilson Boulevard.

The County began laying water and sewer pipes soon after we arrived, leaving muddy streets. No one was forced to hook up, however, and our owner did not do so. We had our indoor well, and our three acres with unused meadow allowed sewage to drain downhill a long way to Four Mile Run. Many homes still had outdoor wells and "outhouses," which the County sent trucks to service. Glencarlyn in the early depression days was like a rural area although its residents were commuting to the city of Washington, D.C. Back in 1890 the woods had been set aside as a "woodlot" for necessary firewood but as the heating method changed to oil, the responsibility for the woods became a burden to the Citizens Association and it offered the land to the State.



At the Burdett house, the grounds were heaven to me and our two little girls, having come down from New York City apartments. Set on three acres, the lawn ran downhill from the house to a big black walnut tree and a fenced-off horse lot which bordered Jefferson and Third Streets. Jefferson did not extend north of Third, so there was only a grown-over foot path between us and our neighbors, the Kales. The lawn had been maintained by the Hester's and we continued the care with help from the Burton family of Bailey's Crossroads.

The Kales were our closest neighbors on the East (the present Shepherd house) with only gardens between us. The parents and daughter Norma had moved to Glencarlyn at the beginning of the depression when they could buy the rambling structure for "a song." Born in England, they had lived in cold houses with no basement, furnace, or plumbing; now retired, they just wanted to enjoy the woods, the birds and the flowers. The parents seemed elderly to me; Norma taught school in Washington. They said a snake was in the house when they bought it.

A recluse had put together this oddlooking place, one room after another in a row very close to the fenced woods. The parts joined at slightly

lower or higher levels so you had to step up or down to enter another room. The Kales lived modestly but were enthusiastic about all cultural events in Washington.

All along our Third Street fence there was a three-foot border of perennials such as primulas, iris, peonies, lilies and mums that I enjoyed rejuvenating. At the bottom of the lawn and along the north fence there were hardy daisies, sweet rocket, etc. There were big boxwoods, crepe myrtle, other shrubs and flowering trees too. Behind the house were asparagus beds, herbs and many fruit trees. We kept the car in what was probably an old barn where the most beautiful wisteria grew until it lifted off the roof.

Long pieces of the old board walk, built in 1893, were rotting outside the fence on the Kensington Street side of the house, and the property went north all the way to what is now the extension of South Second Street. It ended at Kensington Street at that time. We

had the fun of salvaging pieces of the old boards for the fireplace.

The friendliness and kindness of Glencarlynites warmed us from the start. Mrs. Powell, across the street (in what is now the Ball-Sellers House), welcomed us to the house "where Washington slept" and baked goodies for us. Constance Backus taught me about Virginia wildflowers and native trees and shrubs. She and her sister Hadassah invited us to join the Tennis Club. Margaret Backus—mother of Bill, David and Peggy—helped me to adjust from city life to a rural suburb.

I became leader of Girl Scout Brownies, chairman of the PTA, secretary of the Citizens Association, and representative of the Burdett Library in the successful endeavor to build a large Arlington central library in Clarendon. Whenever possible we enjoyed the woods, the springs, the railroad track with three exciting trestles, Four Mile Run down to the merger with Long Branch, the "Little Falls" on Four Mile where the old grist mill had been, the DAR monument, as well as the groves of mountain laurel, the trailing arbutus and other wildflowers growing throughout the woods at that time.

Our leaders and friends of the thirties included the Powells, Mrs. Boyd in the big yellow house behind the Powells on Fourth Street, the Schaffs—John, Mae and Blake—on Second Street (Mae was the librarian in the Burdett Library), the Hedricks and Olcotts at the end of First Street, the Fords, the Stetsons (where Doctors Hospital is today), the Kings, the Shepherds with their General Store and Post Office, Pauline Wybert, long-time teacher of the one-room, four-grade school, and our closest and dearest friends the Kales.

# Remembering Glencarlyn

Excerpts from Oral Histories

The Glencarlyn Oral History Project was begun during the summer of 1987 by a team of amateur interviewers who were organized and trained by Gloria Johnson. It is one component of an on-going County-wide effort, shared by several historic-minded communities, to record reminiscences of long-time Arlington residents. This type of informal history has an intimate and immediate quality not found in history books or articles. The memories of each citizen are a unique contribution to the larger historical picture.

The oral histories of Arlington and other Northern Virginia communities are kept at the Virginia Room of the Arlington County Public Library. The Virginia Room is organized and administered by Sara Collins, who helped us to get our project off the ground. The collection includes the interview tapes and their transcriptions, copies of which are available at the Glencarlyn branch.

The Glencarlyn project consists of twelve interviews and includes the following participants: Cecil King, John Schulze, Mrs. John Benn and her daughter, Patricia Emberg, (interviewed by Spencer Burton), John and Mildred Shepherd, Clyde Shepherd, (interviewed by Missy Levy and Barbara Parrella), Betty Geris (interviewed by Elsa Olivetti), Florence Backus-Doe (interviewed by Joshua Davis), Parmely Daniels, Louise Jones, Betty Masi, and Miriam Masi Scull (interviewed by Stuart Davis). Excerpts from these interviews are presented here. Also included are excerpts from a group interview conducted by Sara Collins.

-Trudi Olivetti

### Oral History Participants and Periods of Residence in Glencarlyn:

### Florence Backus-Doe

5432 Fifth Street South 1942 to Present

### Alice Benn

5627 Third Street South 1945 to 1993

### **Parmely Daniels**

5719 Third Street South 1951 to 1990

### **Betty Geris**

5505 Fourth Street South 1923 to present

### **Betty Harrison**

5521 Third Street South 1937 to present

### **Louise Jones**

5817 Fifth Street South 1950 to present

### Cecil King

401 Jefferson Street South 1954 to present

### Elizabeth Masi

1928-1945

### Clarence McDonald

5610 Fourth Street South 1945 to 1990

### Alva Rice

5941 Fourth Street South 1914 to present

#### John Schulze

5720 Fifth Street South 1931 to 1991

### Miriam Scull

1928-1945

### Clyde Shepherd

300 Jefferson Street South 1922 to 1992

### John and Mildred Shepherd

5527 Third Street South 1957-present

## Parmely Daniels

**Parmely Daniels**: Well, while I was waiting for the family's arrival to move into the place, I came out to examine the community and see the house again. I discovered over in the school building they were having a Citizens Association meeting.

**S. Davis**: That was over at what's now Carlin Hall?

**Daniels**: Yes. Anyhow I found the meeting, walked in on it, and the chairman—very nice looking fellow—called to me and said, "We're glad to see you here, but I don't know your name." He introduced himself and so on. It was Bill Backus, who died in 1972.

S. Davis: That was Florence's busband?

**Daniels**: Yes. He got my story. I was involved in the community right away. Before the meeting was over I was elected vice-president of the Citizens Association, and I served with Bill Backus in 1951 and 1952.

**S. Davis**: Can you tell me a little about what the organization was like at the time? Were there monthly meetings like there are now?

**Daniels**: Exactly the same—carried on in the same pattern. My wife was later president of it and established the morning breakfast that they still have.

**S. Davis**: Pancake breakfast on Glencarlyn Day?

**Daniels**: Yes, and she was able in those good days to get merchants in the area to furnish food free, and the collection was made by putting a dish down for people to drop dimes and quarters in if they wanted to help pay the expenses and even add to the profits of the organization. That didn't last too many years, but the pancake breakfast still goes on.

**S. Davis**: So would that have been the very first Glencarlyn Day?

Daniels: I'm not sure whether it was the first Glencarlyn Day, but it was the first time they had a Glencarlyn Day breakfast in the park and baby parade and various things that went on. My older son who had a very good T-Model Ford would bring it around on that day and take children for a ride around the village—that kind of thing. That T-Model Ford, by the way, is still in good operation. It's kept out at my farm and is one of the nice family possessions.

**S. Davis**: The graveyard part of the library property—was that given to the county?

Daniels: That is still a problem, I believe. We wanted to make a sort of recreational area or park or place where people could come and have a picnic lunch—a little public property there for use. It had been a grave-yard back in the early days. The stones had all been moved, many of them lost altogether. Nobody had, for certain, any idea where the graves were or how many there were. They had the names of only a few of them but no contact with relatives of any of those people. So they got in a terrible bind over what they could do about the cemetery



Parmely Daniels

if they were going to build a park over it. They moved all the stones to the side of the yard and so they cultivated the grass there, but nobody seemed to want to walk over it so it's never become a park . . . . We don't know how many graves there are or exactly where they are.

**S. Davis**: You mentioned when you purchased this house there was quite a bit of work to be done, and you have made some improvements since then. Is it difficult to keep up the Italian style as it was originally built?

**Daniels**: It was so much fun, I hate to call it difficult, but it was, yes. With help from various sources here in the community, I got Italian materials and Italian advice and maintained the spirit of the place. That chimney was on the outside of the building. That

room out here—which is as comfortable as any place—looks out on the garden. It has two lovely arched windows like the arch of the house and two lovely arched doors which were imported. With the help of my sons, I put in the bookcases and desk and so on. It is our personal work . . . . The city water system came in much before I did. The outside well was no longer needed so we turned the area into an herb garden and fishpond. We have drinks out there in the summertime.

My biggest venture, from my point of view, was when I decided to retire and get into something I wanted to do. I put together my science and art careers in analyzing the mathematical capabilities of a textile loom. What is it capable of doing; how do you use it? To create beautiful textiles—that's the art side. And I decided that's what I wanted to do as a retirement business . . . It took me several years of considerable work and expense. I had to get looms. I had to get a library—reference stuff . . . In the course of 20 years I've not only done very successful work in designing textiles to be produced by mills but I've had roughly 180 students.

**S. Davis**: To sum up, is there something about Glencarlyn that gets neighbors to know each other more?

Daniels: Oh yes, there's a very fine community spirit here. I think you begin to feel it when people are speaking to each other in a friendly way - I mean we don't have to become good friends, but we'll help one another. You're having trouble, I'll help. I'm having snow trouble, they'll help. I wave to cars going by when I'm out here and I don't even know who I'm waving at. They wave back.

Editors note: Mr. Daniels died in 1990.

## John Schulze

**Spencer Burton**: How about transportation?

John Schulze: Carlin Springs Road was gravel all the way from Wilson Boulevard to Glencarlyn. There was nothing but a cowpath to Columbia Pike. You had to drive careful to keep from hitting trees because it was nothing but a dirt road.

**Burton**: You were saying something about bus service?

Schulze: At one time they used to have to walk from Ballston out here. The only other transportation you had was the railroad and the rail line along the Run to Alexandria or Bluemont Junction. And then there was the trolley car that came out of Georgetown and came up Bluemont Junction right to the mountains. You could get off at Bon Air and walk down the hill and then up another. That I did quite often. Otherwise, you depended on your individual motors.

**Burton**: How about schools? What was over where Kenmore is now?

**Schulze**: Nothing but a field. One house sat there. And the only school they had was this building over here next to the library.

**Burton**: What do you consider, aside from the buildings, the most notable change in Glencarlyn? **Schulze**: I guess fixing the streets up, the curbs, gutters, and lamps. The lamp posts—some people don't like them. I think they're okay. More light.

Editor's note: Mr. Schulze died in 1991

## Florence Backus-Doe

**Josh Davis**: This house looks pretty nice. Is there any historical significance in it?

Florence Backus-Doe: This is one of the most well-known perhaps of the historical houses because it was two houses originally. The part that we're in now isn't as old as the other part in the dining room. The part in the dining room is over a hundred years old. This one is only, I guess, about eighty years old. My father-in-law and mother-in-law. when they moved here, had one of the houses moved so they were closer together. Then they built the intervening area, the breezeway. They enclosed it and put a staircase in it, moved the kitchen from the back porch and put it in the part that was built in that intervening area, raised the roof on the second floor and made it into a nice playroom for the family. So this is quite an historic house.

**J. Davis**: A park. Glencarlyn is named for a park. The park is pretty big and interesting. Was it the same size then? What was it like?

Backus-Doe: The park is one of those things that have been a basis of continuity. We didn't, of course, have bicycle paths then. We had a little sort of playground from the apartments on Columbia Pike. That was about the only play equipment. The marker on the George Washington survey tree had a hard time at the juncture of Four Mile Run and Long Branch because it was continually knocked down, either by some wandering boys or girls, perhaps, or by the water when it rushed down. Eventually the D.A.R. managed to have a fence put around the marker, a chain fence which kept people out. They also set it on a cement base which kept the survey marker from getting knocked over by the water. . . . I suspect not too many people really know too much of the background of the Nature Center, Mr. and Mrs. Hickman and their three or four children lived in the house which formed the basis for the Nature Cen-



The Hickman bome



Florence Backus-Doe

ter. She was a very pioneer-type woman, a rugged individualist made famous because they called her the Bird Lady. Anybody who had any wounded birds would take them to Mrs. Hickman to mend. Then it spread from birds to squirrels and anything else that happened to fall out of a tree or be wounded. She had quite a menagerie of her own down there. That's why she took a dim view of cats coming down. She would even keep a little shotgun behind the door ready to peg away at any stray cats that might endanger the birds which she released as they started to heal. When she sold out to the County, for a modest sum, I wonder if she foresaw the great use it would have. They adapted the house with the extra wing for the movies.

Incidentally, in front of the house is a fairly large pool which was formed by the configuration of the rocks there . . . . Just a little bit further down the brook behind my property was a very nice waterfall. Those were the days before air conditioning so repairing to the brook and either sitting in it or splashing around was the only form of heat relief most of us had. That was a popular spot. That and rock-hopping. One of the favorite pastimes of my boys was building dams with rocks to try to stop the water. Not very successful usually.

**J. Davis**: Were they (the roads) paved or were they dirt?

Backus-Doe: That's a good question. When I came, it wasn't any great problem to get into Glencarlyn. But my husband came when he was about nine years old. Then it was a major project to get into Glencarlyn because it was so muddy. The family story is that as they were trying to drive up the street to the house, the car got so mired they had to get the neighbors to help push them out. One of the stories is that even though these people worked six days a week, they spent the seventh day or the holidays doing things like repairing the streets because the County did not help much that way. The community really did their own thing to improve the situation. . . . To get to Columbia Pike going across Long Branch, there was no bridge arrangement at all. The cars went splashing through the creek . . . . So if the creek was high, you had a major project getting across. Even more dangerous was the section of Carlin Springs Road going under Route 50. This was a special threat when icy. My husband had a scar on his cheek gained in an auto accident at that point.

# **Betty Geris**

Elsa Olivetti: What did you do in your free time when you didn't have to go to school?

Betty Geris: What did I do in my free time? Well, if you really want to know, back then most children had to work harder than children do nowadays. It seemed like I was always doing things for my grandmother and grandfather, who lived in a house on Carlin Springs Road at Third Street. They didn't have running water and indoor plumbing and Grandmother had the only washing machine in the family. In my spare time and in the summer I was up there all the time helping her. She did the wash for all the family and all the water had to be pumped at the well, and brought to the washing machine. Then the washing machine had to be emptied bucket by bucket and the water carried out, so that kept me busy. We poured the waste water under the grape arbor. It seemed like I always had something to do. Other than that I guess, we rode bicycles. We played in the woods a lot because they were safe then. I loved the woods.

**Olivetti**: What other things were different in the neighborhood then?

**Geris**: Well, it's just that there were only a few houses here and there. Basically it hasn't changed much except that my grandfather had the first store in Glencarlyn right in his house. The lower half of the house was a



Betty Geris

store. Then when his family got bigger, he built the store that was at Carlin Springs and 4th Street. That little store is gone now and I miss it. I can remember it had kerosene pumps in it and big candy canes and cookies, not in boxes but in cases. You'd lift up the glass front and take up the cookies to be weighed. Later, where the Seven-Eleven is, another store opened and eventually it had a Post Office. That was one of my chores, to go to the Post Office and pick up the mail. You could go out and sleigh ride and didn't have to worry about cars coming.. They were few and far between. It wasn't unusual to see somebody's cow roaming around because it got out. Some horses always ran around like wild when they would get loose. People like my grandmother had chickens and sold eggs.

She sold the fresh chickens. We even raised chickens at our house. Of course, that's against the law now in Arlington.

# Louise Jones

**S. Davis**: You became a co-editor of the Village View?

Louise Jones: Yes, I believe it was in the mid-sixties. Louise Daniels was an experienced newswoman and she would get the information together and I would make a stencil. Then I would take it over to the sheltered workshop which was near Hechts Parkington store and they would run it off. Then one of the boys in the neighborhood would deliver it around to the residences.

**S. Davis**: Just one boy at that time who did the neighborhood?

**Jones**: I'm sure there must have been more than one boy. The one that I know of was the Judkins' son. I used to take the copies over to Mrs. Judkins and her son would distribute them around.

**S. Davis**: Do you remember how many copies were run off then? I think there's about four hundred and fifty now.

**Jones**: I think we had about three hundred copies then. That wouldn't be enough now. Quite a few houses have been built since.



Louise Jones

**S. Davis**: There have been a few new buildings in the neighborhood. You live right near the church?

Jones: Yes, when I first moved here, of course, the church was not built. There was a nice little white chapel which stood on the corner of Fourth and Lexington Streets. it was serviced, I believe, by students from the theological seminary. Every Christmas season, the Glencarlyn Citizens Association would sponsor a party for all the children in the neighborhood. We would have a Santa Claus and carol singing and the children would be given candy.

**S. Davis**: And that would take place in the chapel or at the chapel?

**Jones**: On the grounds. There was a big tree over in front of the chapel and every year Bill Backus used to put lights on it. He was a very public-spirited citizen. I'm sure you've heard of Bill Backus.

S. Davis: Yes. How large was the chapel?

**Jones**: It was quite small. I don't know what the seating capacity was, maybe fifty people. But it was nice, very nice.

S. Davis: When was the church built?

Jones: I believe in the late fifties.

**S. Davis**: Mrs. Jones, could you tell us about the fire that occurred at the corner of Fourth and Lexington?

**Jones**: Well, that was the night that the building that belongs to Carl Schulze went up in flames. It was a cold, wet night in the spring.

**S. Davis**: About what year was that, do you remember?

Jones: I can't remember the year. I think it might have been around 1970, '71 or '72. It was in the early seventies, I believe. I heard all the sirens and the fire engines and I got up to see what was going on. My house was brightly lighted from the reflection of the flames in the burning building. Of course all the fire equipment in Arlington was over there. I remember the tall ladder and the big spray of water that they were pouring into the house to put out the fire. It went on for a long time and it was really quite frightening. I'm sure that if it had not been a wet, cold. rainy night, the flames might have spread and really done a lot of damage in Glencarlyn. Fortunately the weather was with us. I believe that's what prevented real disaster.

# Cecil King

**Spencer Burton**: Back in those times (the early fifties), Carlin Springs Road was not paved yet. Was that true of the roads in Glencarlyn?

Cecil King: These were hard surface roads generally speaking. They were nothing like we have now. I think it was probably gravel or something for the most part. Carlin Springs Road had a hard surface but it was not paved like it is today. It was hard surface going down towards Columbia Pike. There were two fords that you went through on Carlin Springs Road. You had a gravel surface as you went through the ford. One ford was down by Doctor's Hospital and one ford was back up by the other side of Route 50.

**Burton**: You said that you've attended St. John's Church pretty much since you've gotten here. How is St. John's different?

King: It was a much smaller church then; because when we moved here, the present building hadn't been built. There was just a little white frame building, and, a couple of years later on, when the new building was put up, there was a problem getting rid of the little white building. We tried every way in the world to get rid of it. We didn't want to just tear it down. We thought it could be torn down by experts and put up somewhere else instead of just taking it down for lumber. We didn't get any offers from people who wanted to take it away, so finally I wrote to

Hardin and Weaver (WMAL Radio). They were as popular then as they are now, if not more so, and I used to write to them from time to time. I would write what I thought was a funny letter and they would read it on the air and make jokes about it and that sort of thing. So I wrote to them and told them that the men of St. John's were thinking about burning the old church down unless somebody came and took it away. If they didn't want the men of St. John's to be arrested for arson, they better get us somebody to take the church away. (You know, kidding around). At that time, Charlie Hensley was junior warden at the church. In the letter I wrote to Hardin and Weaver. I said if you get any takers, tell them to call Charlie. I gave them his number. I wasn't sure they were going to do anything about it, but the next morning at six o'clock when they came on, they just started making fun and laughing it up and telling the listeners they saw these guys sulking around with cans of kerosene in the Glencarlyn neighborhood. Unless somebody did something with the church, we'd have a big problem. You know how they laugh it up. About six-thirty or a quarter of seven, my phone rang and it was Charlie Hensley. He said, "What in the hell have you done to me? I can't even go to work because my phone keeps ringing." People are calling up about St. John's Church. It turned out that Hardin and Weaver got a great response. One of the people who called was a member of a church called the Church of the Brethren, out in the boonies somewhere. They said they'd like to take it down and put it back up again out in the valley. They came and got it. And that's what happened to the church.



Cecil King

**J. Davis**: Carlin Springs, the springs themselves, were there ever really springs there?

**King**: Yeah, that's very factual. There have been, over the years, several times where a spring would just all of a sudden come up out of nowhere. One or two times, a spring came up down there on Carlin Springs Road and then not too long ago, five or six years ago, one of them came up in our basement right in this house. This didn't help us out an awful lot. Had to get a lot of excavation work and a sump pump and everything else.

J. Davis: Where is that (the spring)?

**King**: It's sort of towards Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital, down catty corner that way. You can see it from the hospital. There's a little marker there; a little spring comes up out of the ground.

**Burton**: It really doesn't do much. Then there's one down at the end of Jefferson Street where it makes that turn. You go down that little walkway that used to be a big sled run; there's one right there. If you go over the bridge on that little creek, there's one there too.

**King**: Our kids used to go down to drink out of those springs. That would really upset Mrs. King. "Don't you'all ever drink from one of those springs. No telling what they have in them."

# Clyde Shepherd

**Interviewer:** How long have you been living here?

Clyde Shepherd: I moved here in 1922 with my parents, along with my younger brother. My mother and father are deceased now. We lived at 5909 1st Street, right at Carlin Springs Road. That is where I was actually raised.

**Interviewer:** How has life changed from when you were little?

Shepherd: Well, back when I was very young, of course, the roads out here were dirt. We're talking about fifty or fifty-five years ago. We did have electricity, but there was no sewer and there was no water out here in those days. Everybody had wells and we had to go out back to get water. That was the main difference, I guess. Also, we had only about eighteen or twenty houses here in those days—that was one or two houses to each block which meant that we had many more trees—a lot of fruit trees.

**Interviewer:** In the places that are standing now, such as Carlin Hall, the schools, and the Seven-Eleven, what were there before now?

**Shepherd:** Up where the Seven-Eleven is today, that's where my Dad had a little general store. Right back of the Seven-Eleven he had a big house where we were actually raised. The store and the tile house occupied the place where the Seven-Eleven is now. Carlin Hall was the grade school. There were six rows of chairs in there. Each row represented a grade. You started on the south side of the building with the first grade, then to the second grade; and, if you were lucky, six years later you were up to the sixth grade. But back in those days, you see, there was no junior high school in Arlington County, and no elementary schools in Glencarlyn other than the one in Carlin Hall. There were other elementary schools in Arlington, but only one high school which was Washington-Lee High, over on Stafford Street in North Arlington. Once they got out of elementary school, everyone had to go to

W-L. where they had the seventh and eighth grades and high school.

**Interviewer:** The general store you just mentioned—is that where people would go to get most of their supplies?

**Shepherd:** Mostly to there or to Mr. Besley's, the other little general store. These stores were open from eight in the morning until ten at night and were closed on Sundays.

**Interviewer:** What did people of all ages do for recreation: adults, little kids, and teenagers?

Shepherd: The girls had their organization known as the "Girls' Friendly." They met once a week and I think it was Friday night. I forget exactly what ages, maybe twelve to seventeen, or something like that. It was always headed by a lady such as Haddassah Backus who was the one lady that I can remember who was very prominent in the "Girls Friendly." The boys, all of us teenagers, had a little organization known as the "Knights of Glencarlyn." We would meet on Friday nights and on occasions go off on hikes and even stay overnight, sometimes two nights.

**Interviewer:** Did the adults have a meeting, or something, once a month, or a carnival maybe once a year?

**Shepherd:** No. Actually I don't remember too many get-togethers other than the men after supper. Down by Dad's store there would be anywhere from eight to as many as twelve or thirteen who would gather to exchange stories—and even around the potbellied stove in the winter months. This was

at both stores—Mr. Besley's, also. That's what everyone did Mondays through Saturdays. As I said, I can't remember many meetings, probably because people weren't really that civic minded in those days or they didn't have the time. It was hard enough to make a living, I guess.

I will say this: back when I was growing up, everyone knew everyone, it seemed. They knew where they were from, how many animals they had in the house and everyone knew everything about each other. If you didn't get the latest news, you'd go down to the store and you would find that everyone would come down there every evening, and you could catch up on what was going on.

**Interviewer:** What did the kids do in the wintertime? Did you sleigh ride like we do now?

Shepherd: Yes, in the wintertime that's exactly what we did. We stayed on the Glen Carlin hill down there where the Seven-Eleven is now; we called that the County Hill. Of course, when I was very young a car would come by only about every fifteen minutes. The trick was to go down the hill and then catch onto the back of the bus to go back up. It was a very dangerous thing we did. We were on our bellies on the sleigh and we'd catch onto the back of the bus when he had to slow down at tracks, and he'd pull us up. Then we'd slide down again and wait for the next car. That's one thing we did all winter long.

Sometimes we'd build a big fire up on top of the hill where we had a big old barrel. There was wood everywhere. It seems as if there were more severe snows when I was a kid—snow all winter long.

## Elizabeth Masi and Miriam Masi Scull

**S. Davis:** I understand that you both moved into Glencarlyn around 1928, into a house now owned by the Gosborns. Could you tell us about that?

**Elizabeth (Betty) Masi:** We bought the big house now known as the Goshorn's house. At the time of purchase, this house was located a few hundred feet directly north of its present position. It faced south instead of north.

**S. Davis:** It's now at Arlington Blvd. and South Lexington- a big white house.

Masi: Right. When Arlington Blvd. was built in 1931, our house sat squarely in its path. So while it was being moved to its present location and turned around, our family was temporarily relocated to a house in the woods near Carlin Springs Road, just north of Route 50. This house no longer stands. The people in charge of the house-moving operation assumed that the big frame house was just that-a big frame house. But when the foundations were bared, it was discovered that the house was brick half way up, covered with frame, so instead of being hauled around by a truck, they had to put it on a winching system which entailed the use of one mule pulling in a circle and logs being moved from front to back as the house inched forward. After Arlington Blvd. was

completed, the distance from the Hildebrand house down to the bridge over the old Washington and Dominion Railroad tracks made a wonderful place for sleigh riding in the winter. There was no traffic in those days. Arlington Forest was just being developed.

**S. Davis:** You went to school in what is now Carlin Hall. Can you tell us what it was like to go to school then?

Masi: Well, I attended the first four grades—four years of grade school at what is now Carlin Hall. It was probably typical of one-room school houses except for the fact that the girls' bathroom was inside and the boys had to go outside, regardless of the weather. This situation was changed shortly after we started attending school there. We had one teacher for all six grades. It was pretty crowded. The year I attended fifth grade, the County moved the fifth and sixth grades to Matthew Maury School on Wilson Blvd.

**S. Davis:** What was it like having one teacher for all six grades?

Miriam Masi Scull: We managed fine. Kids didn't act up in those days. They were not so sophisticated. They went to school to learn, and when you were in school you more or less behaved yourself. So there was no problem. If the teacher was trying to teach the 4th grade something, she made sure that the other grades had something to keep them occupied. They were studying or doing writing lessons. One class didn't disturb the others. After all-there weren't that many kids.

**S. Davis:** How many kids were there in each grade?

Scull: I can't imagine that there were more

than eight in the lower grades, maybe not more than six; and, as I say, there were only 2 each in the 5th and 6th grades.

**Masi:** They had the desks in rows—a row to a grade.

S. Davis: And what did you do at recess?

**Scull:** We played jump rope, dodge ball, prisoners' base, and whatever some of those funny games were. The boys used to go across the street and play baseball in a field.

**S. Davis:** Did boys and girls play any games together or did they always play separately?

Masi: It seems to me we used to play dodge ball a lot—boys and girls, both.

**Scull:** Well, that didn't last long because the boys were out to kill us. So they usually played by themselves. After all, from Jefferson Street to Columbia Pike was our playground, and to the east, practically to Pershing Drive. It was all woods. We played all the time in the woods. We knew practically every tree.

**Masi:** Kids played in the woods a lot. It was safe.

**Scull:** There weren't any paths we didn't know. We cracked hickory nuts for hours, and we went on picnics.

Masi: We would build houses in the woods and pretend we were camping out.

**S. Davis:** Did you go down by the creek very much?

Scull: Oh! Lordy, yes!

**Masi:** We had a little swimming hole and a big swimming hole.

**Scull:** The boys went in the big swimming hole.

Masi: Half the time they didn't wear any clothes.

S. Davis: Where was the big swimming bole?

**Scull:** It was up on the other side. Do you know where the springs used to be down there in the park?

S. Davis: Yes, at the foot of Second Street.

Scull: Are the springs still there?

**S. Davis:** The springs are still there, but I don't see any water coming out.

Scull: They used to be bricked up.

S. Davis: They are bricked up.

**Scull:** We drank water out of those springs all the time. It was just super. We drank water out of those springs more than we did from the ones down at the place they call the park, now—down where the railroad tracks were.

**S. Davis:** Nobody ever worried about the springs being contaminated?

**Masi:** Well, they weren't contaminated in those days, believe me.

**S. Davis:** Did you both go to the library very much when you were young?

Masi: I practically lived there.

**Scull:** Yes, I did too—but for different reasons. Betty went to read, and I went to play—to get out of the house.

Masi: Well, I had my share of playing too.

Scull: For a small library, they had a lot of



Carlin Springs

books. Very diversified. Fortunately, they had a great, big book of synopses of all kinds of things. That's where I used to get my book reports.

**S. Davis:** That was the big meeting place for people in the neighborhood?

**Masi:** Yes. The young people kind of gathered there—on a summer evening, you know. It was pretty, and they had a big porch.

**S. Davis:** The people used to sit on the porch and read and talk?

**Scull:** No. There weren't any chairs or anything. It was just a porch of solid stucco. And what you would normally call a railing was not really a railing—just solid brick and stucco. If it got too hot in the library in the summer you would go outside. There weren't any lights or anything, and in those days not even street lights.

S. Davis: What was the clubbouse?

**Scull:** That was just the two-story building at the southwest corner of Fourth and Lexington. The first floor was kind of divided up into 3, maybe 4 rooms. At one time somebody lived there—rented it. The upstairs was just like a loft and the owner, Carl Schulze, let us young people use it occasionally for parties, Halloween parties mostly.

Masi: And dances. We dressed up for those dances.

**S. Davis:** Now, could you go over to the club house about anytime? Did Mr. Schulze leave it open?

**Masi:** No, we never went to parties unless Carl was in on it.

**S. Davis:** Were there any clubs or organizations in the neighborhood that kids belonged to?

**Scull:** The girls belonged to the Girls' Friendly Society which was sponsored by the Episcopal Church. We were always having parties, and things, but they were in somebody's house.

Masi: We used to go on camping trips with the Girls' Friendly, once in a while up to Winchester to some old farmhouse. And the Backus' were always having parties for the young people—we'd play records and dance. In the wintertime we invariably had gingerbread and cocoa refreshments, and in the summer time it was punch and cookies. It never changed, but we enjoyed ourselves. We always had a good time. There might by anywhere from 5 to 10 couples, all in our early teens.

# John and Mildred Shepherd

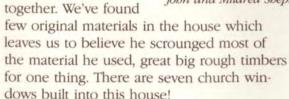
Interviewer: How did you find your house?

Mildred Sheperd: Having been transferred from the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, we weren't getting anywhere finding a house by ourselves, so John wrote out a little blurb which we sent to about 70 real estate agents. It specified the general area we wanted, and that we'd like to have a place that we could work on. We heard later that many of the agents contacted one another asking, "Did you get one?" We finally received two answers, and one of them led us to this Glencarlyn house. The realtor described it as being "very different," "very interesting." After our first look, we drove around the block just to come back and see if it was for real. It looked like something out of a fairy tale gingerbread house, so we drove down to the office and put a contract on it.

We were only the third owners. The seller, a Mr. Kale, was ninety-six, and had survived his entire family. One day he just decided to leave. He left his breakfast halfeaten, put on his hat, took his cane and joined his friends in the car—never to return.

Interviewer: I was just wondering because I beard a story that the first owner had several nervous breakdowns, and that with every episode, he would build another room—that's why the house was so long.

John Shepherd: That would be Mr. Walworth, who was a medical student at George Washington University. I can certainly believe it, because during the remodeling when we would remove a wall covering and expose the basic structure, we would marvel at the evidence of his absolute genius, particularly in how things were designed and how he put things



Mildred Shepherd: Gothic-type and of stained glass. I think the windows are what give this place character. That room was unused when we came. It was just used for a tool room. There was nothing in there. Mr. Walworth really liked to pour cement and make bricks. He made all his own bricks and he made a place down in the glade, like a little arch.

**John Shepherd:** Little stone arch. You see absolute unquestioned evidence of real genius lurking in some of the things that he designed. Another feature that was very interesting when we first came here was the fully



John and Mildred Shepherd

operational pump and well right outside the front door. The well and the little pump house are still there.

When we came here in 1957, there was only one house on Third Street between Jefferson and Kensington. That was General Burdett's house, where Mrs. Benn lives now. Like Mrs. Shepherd said, the rest of the block was just a pasture. It was just like a farm. That's where Rosie, the pony, used to run—from Jefferson to Kensington, from Third to Second.

One of the very interesting things that we've been so privileged to enjoy here in Glencarlyn is the fact that we live only three feet from the boundary of Glencarlyn Park. Our north property line is only three feet from the boundary of Glencarlyn Park. When this house was built, there were no zoning regulations that said you had to build your house 80 feet from the property line or

something like that. We've been able over the years to literally study nature out our kitchen window. We've been able to see and observe raccoons. We've been able to watch two different kinds of foxes that have come up to the window. We've had turtles. We've had chipmunks. We've had squirrels. We've had possums. How many birds have we recorded out in the park? Thirty-five varieties. The one sad thing that we've noticed in the last couple of years is that the number of raccoon families has fallen.

Mrs. Hickman was a very well-known and accomplished woman who contributed an awful lot to this community. She lived in the house that has now been built into the Nature Center. It was originally called the Hickman House. The county acquired her house through some kind of real estate transaction and turned it into the nature center. That goes back to the late sixties, before the hospital or doctors' offices were built. Before that, Mrs. Hickman ran a hospital for wild animals. People would bring her birds, raccoons, and you name it. Kids would find these little birds that had fallen out of a nest. or find a sick little raccoon or something like that, and they'd take these animals to Mrs. Hickman. She was gifted. She knew how to take care of them and the place was just full of native animal life.

# Alice Benn and Her Daughter, Patricia Emberg

**Spencer Burton:** What can you remember being distinct landmarks that have changed over the years?

**Alice Benn:** Just the library. Everybody gathered over there. They used to have the most wonderful books.

**Patricia Emberg:** You used to be their favorite customer, Mom.

Benn: Yes, I used to go often.

Emberg: She would read ten books a week.

**Benn:** I can remember the library over there. That seemed to be the focal point of the whole village.

**Burton:** In staying here all these years, what are your fondest memories of Glencarlyn?

**Benn:** Roaming down through the woods. We had a million trees.

**Burton:** How much of this land did you own in the area?

Benn: A whole block.

**Burton:** I heard stories that you owned the area up at what is now called Skyline.

**Emberg:** The airport. Approximately one hundred acres over where Washington-Vir-



Alice Benn

ginia airport was. Her husband used to own and run that.

**Burton:** *Did you spend a lot of time up at the airport?* 

Benn: Yes, I did. I used to do paperwork.

**Emberg:** She used to go on the airplanes with Mr. Benn. In fact, they have a picture of her with him on an airplane.

Burton: The airport was where Skyline is.

**Benn:** Yes, where Skyline is now. That was the airport.

**Burton:** Getting back to the airport, did it serve the same purpose that National Airport serves now?

**Benn:** It was used for pleasure flying. And they did some training there. I do not know whether the military did some training there or not. It served a lot of Congressmen and people like that.

**Burton:** What else do you remember about this place?

**Benn:** The neighborhood kids climbed our wire fences. We had a pony in our barn, and they had a habit of opening the doors and turning her loose. She would run and we had to get everybody to help catch her. There was more excitement over that pony! Her name was "Rosie."

Editor's note: Mrs. Benn died in 1993.

Betty Harrison Geris, Betty Ochsler Harrison, Florence Backus-Doe, Alva Rice, Clyde Shepherd, Clarence McDonald

Sara Collins: April 28, 1987. Review of Glencarlyn Scrapbooks. This is Sara Collins, Arlington County Library. We are meeting in Florence Backus's house on, if I'm correct, the 28th of April, in the afternoon. Our purpose here today is to preview the Glencarlyn scrapbooks before they are presented back to the Glencarlyn Library. They've been at the Central Library's archives project being restored for the last couple years. On the 18th of May, they'll be formally presented back to Glencarlyn Library for the use of people in the community. Our purpose today is to be able to provide the library with a tape so that people who come into the library to look at the scrapbooks will have a little more information than just the pictures and the captions and the script that's contained in the notebooks.

**Betty Harrison Geris:** . . . my name is really Mary. Everybody calls me Betty.

S. Collins: Where is it you live then?

**B. Geris:** Right now I Live at 5505 South 4th Street. I've always lived in Glencarlyn. I was born here, in the little house on 3rd Street, right on the corner of Carlin Springs Road. Shall I say what year?



Left to right: Betty Harrison, Alva Rice, John McDonald, Clyde Shepherd, Gloria Johnson and Sara Collins

S. Collins: Sure.

**B. Geris:** November 3, 1923. The story goes that anybody who was going down Carlin Springs Road towards the train station to get a car into the city could see my daddy crying his eyes out while I was being born. So we lived there for five years, and we moved down on 1st Street to what was known as the Pinowet House. I can't think of the number of it-5600 block. We were there for about five years. Across the street, going up Kensington Street, my father's parents owned the block, all the way up and halfway down. So my grandmother gave Daddy his share of the property at that time and my parents built a little house on 1st Street at 5620. They're both deceased now.

Betty Harrison: Her (Betty Geris') father and my husband were brothers. My husband was born in the house she's talking about at 1st and Kensington (103 S. Kensington), and when we got married, we lived in Maryland for a while. Then we remodeled the old house and lived there. Pictures of it are in this book somewhere. We lived there until 1951 or 1952, when we built where we are now on South 3rd Street. As Betty said, her grandparents had that whole block and there weren't very many houses down there then. That was during the War when houses were needed. We had a Victory Garden and two other people had the money, so they talked my husband into putting houses on our Victory Garden. That went on and on, so Glencarlyn was built up. This was at a time when we never realized it would grow. There's not a lot left now, is there? One or two maybe, but not very many.

**S. Collins:** But you've lived here most of your married life then.

**B. Harrison:** Yes. From 1937 on. I raised my two children here. They went to the one-room school. We sold Christmas trees on the corner of Arlington Boulevard for a quarter. Can you believe that?

**S. Collins:** And now here is Alva Rice, who, I understand, has lived here all her life.

Alva Rice: All my life. As far as I know, I am the oldest living Glencarlynite still here. I was born in the house right next to the one I live in now, 5931 S. 4th Street. I am now at 5941 S. 4th Street, the very last house on the street. It's a dead end. I was born there in 1914. My father is originally from Glencarlyn. He built the house in which I was born in 1908 or 1909 when he was a mere lad of some sixteen years. When he married my mother, they lived there for about a year, and then they went to Dayton, Ohio . . . When they came back in 1919, they built the house in which I am now living. I have lived here all the years except those years when I was away teaching.

**S. Collins:** What were the names of your parents?

**A. Rice:** James and Stella Rice. And I went to the little one-room school up here from the first to the sixth grade, and I attended St. John's Church from the time I was seven. So I'm an old timer.

**B. Geris:** . . . my mother, Mary Besley Harrison, moved here with her parents when she was about seven years old. Her grandfather, William Isaac Besley, was born in Falls Church in 1878 and in March 1912, he

bought a house that has since been demolished. It was at 305 S. Carlin Springs Road. He had a store at that house for several years and then the family increased with three more children. There were a few characters in Glencarlyn at the time who were a little rowdy. He felt he couldn't have a store in the same house where he was raising his family, so he gave up the store and started raising rabbits. He did that for three years, but in 1921 he was raring to have a store again. So he built one on his property at 4th Street and Carlin Springs Road.

**A. Rice:** I can remember going in that store. It was in the front of the house, and there was a high counter that I could hardly reach over. Mama would send me down there for a loaf of bread or something. I can remember that as well as if it were just yesterday.

**S. Collins:** Now, Clyde Shepherd . . . I understand you have lived here all your life.

Clyde Shepherd: I moved here in 1922 from Charlottesville, Virginia. I was just two years old, so I really don't remember that. I can remember when I was about five years old. My dad and mother bought the other store down the street from the Beslev's store. Mr. Besley was on the corner of 4th and Carlin Springs, and my dad's place was at the corner of 1st and Carlin Springs Road. My father added on a couple of rooms in the back and that's where we lived. I grew up there. I went to the same school that Alva was referring to, up here at Carlin Hall. We had six rows of chairs (at Carlin Hall). each row represented a class. You started on the south side of the building ... that was the first grade and, if you were lucky, six years

later you were on the north side in the sixth row. You then graduated from elementary school.

Clarence McDonald: . . . In about 1940 or 1941, the Shepherds got tired of the store. The oldest people retired. Vernon had the store for a year, then he got tired of it. So we bought the . . . business. We ran it there from 1949 to 1953. We've lived here ever since.

**B. Harrison:** This (picture) is the old club house that was torn down. Here's the cemetery that's now up there at the corner of the library. Elsie McNeely belonged to the D.A.R., and she had something to do with getting this restored and fixed up a little bit, but I don't know what shape it's in now.

**S. Collins:** (They are looking at pictures.) Tell me about the old clubbouse there. What was that?

**C. Shepherd:** It was a meeting place and dance hall.

**A. Rice:** Originally, it was owned by the Glencarlyn Baseball Club. They would hold these dances and they would have movies to pay for the upkeep.

**C. Shepherd:** They sold it to Carl Schulze, I believe, around 1930.

**B. Geris:** He wanted to make apartments out of it . . . but the county wouldn't allow it. He said, well, it would just sit there.

C. Shepherd: He lived in Glencarlyn ever since I can remember. He has a brother . . . up on 5th Street, John Schulze. John lives near the church and Carl lived down on the corner of 1st and Carlin Springs Road. The very corner house. He and his mother.

**S. Collins:** There is Curtis Hall. Later it was Glencarlyn School. Do you know when it changed names?

**B. Harrison.** It used to be the town hall. They had schools scattered all around here, but then they took the Carlin Hall and made it the one-room school.

**A. Rice.** It's got a fence around it now. They didn't have that when we were going there.

B. Geris: When I went, . . . and this would be in the thirties, it was four grades and then after the fourth grade, a bus picked us up and took us to Matthew Maury over on Wilson Boulevard. From there, we went to Washington-Lee High School. We didn't have a junior high. There were three of us girls from Glencarlyn. We had to walk from Glencarlyn to Washington-Lee School and back every day.

**S. Collins:** This (picture) is the old school in the woods. This is the old frame school in the woods. It was used before Carlin Hall School.

**B. Geris:** . . . Mama was seven years old when she came here and she went there so that was about 1912.

**A. Rice:** I think it had started toward . . . the close of the century because Papa went there . . .

S. Collins: I talked to Nelson Reeves, who had hoped to be here today. Since he isn't, I'll just report on what he told me. He went to that school, walked over from his farm after milking cows in the morning. He went there for eight grades. It was where the Nature Cen-

ter is now. There were 35 kids in that class. Served Barcroft and Glencarlyn communities. It was a two-story frame building and the upstairs was never a classroom, he said. It was always a play room. His teacher was Eleanor Perkins, who married a Backus. Then later, he had Margaret Alcott as a teacher. The school had a pot-bellied stove, and whoever was first in the morning fixed the fire. He said, he used to get up at four to milk the cows and get breakfast before he got to school.

... I understand that they met in various homes including the Ball-Sellers house in one of the wings that's gone ... for a few years before they built this school in the woods.

**B. Geris:** I guess it was built there because it was a halfway point between Barcroft and Glencarlyn. But I loved seeing that picture of what Mama always called the school in the woods. Aunt Stella taught there, and that's all I could find out.

**A. Rice:** I've been by it many times with Aunt Nellie . . . (She) used to take a bunch of us kids down close to the railroad tracks, down toward the Mill Run. We could see it then.

S. Collins: I understand, too, there was some objection when they built it in the woods. Parents didn't like the idea of their building a school down there. Then they closed it, I guess it was not long after Nelson was there, because it was in poor shape. They moved the building off the foundations and moved it up here and someone had a private school in it for a while.

# Glencarlyn Landmarks

When Curtis and Burdett established Carlin Springs in 1887, there was only one house, now known as the Ball-Sellers house, a portion of which was built in the mid-18th century, and another two-story addition built in 1880.

When the subdivision was expanded in 1890, there were five houses on Laurel Street (now First)—Sims, Morrell, Harrison, Olcott and Hedrick; four on Maple (Third)—Laughlin, Burdett, Carlin and B.T. Janney; one on Poplar (Fourth)—M.C. Mitchell; and four on Walnut (Fifth)—Jones, Ramsdell, Chew and Oliver King.

The following pages contain a brief sketch of some of these houses as well as a few built toward the end of the last century, with accompanying photographs. Some public buildings are included also.



photo by Gerald Martineau

# The Ball-Sellers House 5620 Third Street South

This house is believed to be the oldest house standing in Arlington. Built about the year 1750 by John Ball, the original house consisted of one room with a loft and a leanto room. In 1880, an addition was attached to make the complete structure that we see today. The Ball-Sellers House is owned by the Arlington Historical Society and is on the Virginia Landmarks Register as well as the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1742, John Ball obtained a grant of 166 acres from Lord Fairfax. The house was built here 8 years later. John Ball farmed the land. An inventory he made in 1766 lets us know that sheep, cows, pigs and geese roamed his land.

After John Ball's death, the land and house were sold in 1772 to William Carlin,

tailor to George Washington. It stayed in his family over 100 years. In 1887, the family sold 95 acres to William Curtis and Samuel Burdett who formed the Carlin Springs Cooperative Association and sold off the land in 384 small lots. This is the present subdivision of Glencarlyn.

Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Block 16 were sold to Irene Young, a Washington school teacher. The Ball cabin and adjacent Carlin house were on

Lots 3 and 4. In 1920, the property was purchased by William Powell who lived in the house for 49 years. He left the property to his niece, Marian Sellers, who gave lots 3 and 4 with the Ball House to the Arlington Historical Society in 1975. At that time the house was named for the first and last owners.

The floors, chair rails, front door and the door into the lean-to are from the 18th century. The latch on the lean-to door is an excellent example of early hardware. The three "view spaces" installed by the Arlington Historical Society show the log construction with mud daubing fill. The most notable feature still visible is the original clapboard roof—seen only from inside the house. It was left in place when John Ball put a new roof over the entire house at the time he added the lean-to room.

This house is a rare remaining example of a typical early American dwelling.

## Carlin Family Cemetery 300 South Kensington Street

In 1742, John Ball was granted 166 acres in this area and in 1748 his brother, Moses, was granted 91 adjoining acres, now the site of Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital. John died in 1766 and was probably buried on his land, possibly the present Carlin burial lot. His estate was sold to William Carlin, who was one of George Washington's tailors.

William Carlin, who died in 1820, directed in his will "a decent and plain interment in my own burying ground." Though there is no tombstone over his grave, he was certainly buried in the family burying lot adjoining the village library. The lot still belongs to the Carlin family.

Andrew W.F. Carlin died in December 1885. He devised his interest in the "old homestead estate" to his sister Ann E.A. who died in 1892. Her will directed the erection of tombstones over the graves of her brother, Andrew, and her uncle, Isaac P. Skidmore and his wife. The inscriptions in the graveyard are "Isaac P. Skidmore, died May 1, 1883 in the 78th year of his age"; "Andrew W.F. Carlin, died Dec. 28, 1885 in the 54th year of his age"; "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth, wife of John Dyer, died July 18. 1869." There are other stones without inscriptions. Other bodies known to be interred in the family plot are James Harvey Carlin, son of William, who died about 1846: Lititia Carlin, his wife; Ann E.A. Carlin; and Margetta Carlin, wife of William H.F. Carlin. It



Corner of Carlin family cemetery

is probable that the wives of the first William Carlin and his predeceased children are buried there.

Miss Mary A. Carlin, grand-daughter of William Carlin, died in 1905. She was the last person to be buried in the cemetery.

As the years passed and the heirs moved from the area, the neglected cemetery became overgrown with poison ivy, honeysuckle and weeds. In the 1950's, the Citizens Association urged the county to help them clear out this jungle of wild growth. The

weeds and spindly trees were removed; the few remaining tombstones (which had been upheaved by root and frost action from their original places) were placed in one corner of the cemetery; and grass was sown. Arlington County maintains the grounds.

## Carlin Hall 5711 Fourth Street South

Carlin Hall, also known as the Glencarlyn Recreation Center, stands on land that was originally purchased in 1772 by William Carlin, who immigrated to Alexandria in the 1760's from England. He became a tailor to George Washington.

Carlin Hall was built in 1892 and has served the community as a social center, church, school and public library. Church services were held here using a movable platform as a pulpit until construction of St. John's Chapel in 1910. Entertainment and activities of all kinds were held here for the purpose of raising building funds for the chapel.

In the early 1920's, when the mushrooming Glencarlyn community found itself without a public meeting place in which it could discuss vexing neighborhood problems, Carlin Hall came into being as the community meeting place. However, it was almost immediately pressed into classroom service; the feeling was that a school was



needed much more. The area residents authorized the transfer of Curtis Hall, as it came to be called, to the school board for a public school in 1923, provided that "it be available free of charge to the citizens of Glencarlyn for any legal purposes which said community heretofore used it for." They also asked that sidewalks, outhouses and a furnace be added. Six grades were taught in that one room and the main courses were reading, arithmetic, spelling and history. A new school was built for Glencarlyn in 1950 (at the site where Kenmore Middle School now stands), but Carlin Hall continued to be used for school storage. In early 1953, the citizens reminded the Arlington School Board of its promise to turn it back to the community, in its original condition, when no longer needed. The building was

renovated for \$3,000 and subsequently deeded back to what was then known as the Carlin Hall Association.

Its life was threatened in 1958. Due to the aging condition of the building, residents were faced with selling it or raising funds for renovation. Renovations won out with funds being raised by the community.

Free labor was provided by the residents. In 1962, Carlin Hall changed hands again when the Association transferred it to Arlington



Carlin Hall

County for use as a recreation center. For a few months, however, it served as a temporary public library while the new Glencarlyn library was being built. When the County reduced funding in 1977 due to budget shortages, the community again took over the use and management of the building under a "perpetual" contract with the County, which neither party can break. The County continued to pay upkeep and utilities except for telephone bills and insurance. It is currently being used as a play school as well as by community groups for various activities and meetings.

## Glencarlyn Library 300 South Kensington Street

The origins of the Glencarlyn Library lie in a collection of books housed in the Glencarlyn Community Town Hall (Carlin Hall), built in 1892. It was operated by the Young People's Library Association and the books were kept in cases at the west end of the hall.

The history of the present library begins when Samuel S. Burdett, before his death in 1914, made provision in his will for the building of a public library at a cost of not more than \$3,000. "It was to be used also as a "place of deposit" for the books which he bequeathed. (His personal library is still located in the Glencarlyn Branch Library in a special section. It includes his extensive scrap books, Bibles, reference books, and many

fine volumes of history, science and literature.)

Dr. W.M. Backus was named trustee of the library funds, but when he died before the library could be built, his son Curtis was appointed in his stead. World War I was going on. Materials and labor were hard to come by. Curtis Backus refused to start the building during hostilities, thus arousing considerable controversy in the village. The building of the library was finally begun in January 1922 and was finished by the middle of that year. It was built by Edgar Bailey for \$6,900, considerably more than the amount specified in the Burdett will. The additional money was raised by the sale of lots whose values had risen from \$120 to \$1,000 or more. Furniture was installed and the Burdett books moved from storage in the Backus

attic. New books and magazines were bought. The library opened in the fall of 1923. According to Miss May Schaaf, the first librarian, some of the books on the shelves had been in the old Town Hall Library. "They were mostly children's books," she said. "They were worn out or weeded out."

Miss Schaaf presided over the library from 1923 through July 1945. Ten librarians have followed Miss Schaaf. Beverly Petersiel served from 1967 through 1990. Eileen McMurrer is the current librarian.

In the early days, the library was open only three afternoons and three evenings a week. As with other libraries, volunteers helped to expand the hours of service. The Burdett Library joined the county library system in 1936. For a number of years, the county operated the library and rented the

building from its Board of Trustees, On April 12, 1959, Miss Constance Backus and Mrs. Charles Stetson. the current trustees, presented to the County the deed to the library building, together with a fund of \$16,834.49. Today, the Glencarlyn Branch Library is a part of the Arlington County Library system.



Samuel S. Burdett library

The old building was razed, and ground was broken for the current building in October 1962. Its cost was \$116,282 for 4,000 square feet of space. The Trustee funds were used for added features—a reading terrace, a locked case for General Burdett's book collection, a window seat for story hours, and a browsing area for adults. A marble circulation desk and special furniture and shelving were added. The new library was dedicated on June 16, 1963.

## St. John's Episcopal Church 415 South Lexington Street

When Glencarlyn was established in 1887, about twenty families were concerned that there were no religious services. They contacted the Virginia Theological Seminary and a mission was established. Students from the Seminary conducted Sunday School and the church services. Several places substituted for the non-existent church. A picnic pavilion in the park was used in pleasant weather, the old Mansion House at Third and Kensington Streets, and other private homes were used in cold weather. Services were held in Carlin Hall after it was built in 1892.

In 1909, two lots were donated by Curtis and Burdett, the founders of the village, and fund raising for a church began. The American Church Building Fund Commission contributed \$300, entertainments of all kinds



St. John's, 415 South Lexington Street

were given in the hall to raise money, ice cream was sold on Saturday nights in summer and members of the congregation made pledges. The trustees felt that there were enough funds to begin the building.

In 1910, A.J. Porter erected the building which was ready for use in the latter part of the year.

Now began the task of equipping the building for services. The pews and a small organ were moved from Carlin Hall. Proceeds from entertainments and ice cream sales were used to buy a stained glass window. Kerosene lamps were installed in brackets along the side walls for lighting., not to be replaced by electricity until 1921. A bell tower was added in 1921 also. The Episcopal Church members in Falls Church donated

their old bell. An altar, cross, Communion chalice and paten were acquired by various church groups such as the Bible class, and the St. Agnes Guild.

Improvements and replacements were accomplished through the years. A new altar was donated by St. Paul's Church in Nantucket, Massachusetts in 1931; the pews were

refinished in 1945. A baptismal font was procured in 1946.

Plans for a new building were begun shortly after the first chapel came into service. The resulting new fund was used to buy two lots on Fifth Street where the new building stands. These were purchased in a tax sale in 1947 for \$1200 and the new fund was depleted.

In 1953, the Seminary gave up the Glencarlyn mission. The Rev. Innis L. Jenkins was called as Priest-in-Charge in 1954. A Building Committee was appointed in 1955 and an architect, Mr. William M. Haussmann, was engaged. Building of the present church was begun in April 1956.

Rev. Jenkins left in December 1956; Dr. Robert O. Kevin from the Seminary helped

out until June 1957. At this time, the Rev. H. Coleman McGehee, Jr., was assigned as Deacon-in-Charge. The present church was dedicated on October 25, 1957.

In January 1958, four lots were purchased in front of the church on Lexington and Fifth Streets, and the south wing was added in 1960.

Eight rectors followed the Rev. McGehee, Jr. The eighth, and current rector, is Rev. Anna Jones Stribling who came to the parish in 1989.

## Glencarlyn Post Offices

(From speech given before Arlington Historical Society May 8, 1957 by the late G. Forbes Simpson, former Arlington Postmaster.)

In the late 1800s, Arlington had five post offices, one being the "Carlin" Post Office, established February 16, 1889. "Carlin" Station was changed to "Glen Carlin" on April 9, 1896. The name of the village was changed to "Glencarlyn" in July 1896 at the request of the Post Office Department with the idea of eliminating two-word names. A Postmistress was put in charge. Among former postmasters in Arlington County was one Jeannie L. Ramsdell at Glencarlyn in 1902. Miss Ramsdell was the great grandmother of Monroe G. Chew, III, former Assistant Superintendent of Mails in Arlington. The last Glencarlyn Postmistress was L. Irene Shepherd on Sep-

tember 28, 1923. Interesting to note is that both the Chew and Shepherd families are still residents of Glencarlyn and the nearby area.

All of the above "contract" stations were merged into the Arlington County Post Office on July 1, 1936. By way of explanation, the discontinuance of the Post Office in Glencarlyn means only the use of the postmark "Glencarlyn." The station remained open for mailing, stamps, money orders, etc., for many years.

## **Early Grocery Stores**

Glencarlyn's first grocery store was run by Edward Hall (date not known) at Carlin Springs Road and Third Street. On March 25, 1912, Mr. Hall accepted a \$25 deposit and sold his one acre of land with the existing house, the store and all its fixtures to Mr. William Isaac Besley. Mr. Besley moved to Glencarlyn with his wife, Lucy, and seven year old daughter, Mary Jane. Three more children, George Wilmer, Richard Carlin, and Alice, were born into the family after the move.

The store was operated by Mr. Besley from May 1, 1912, when he received his license as a retail merchant, until 1952 when he retired. The only interruption in store ownership occurred in 1918 when Mr. Besley ran into business difficulties and closed the store for a three-year period. This time was spent raising rabbits at his residence.

However, the desire to own a store again caused him to build one on his property at Fourth Street and Carlin Springs Road in 1921. For the next thirty years it was operated as a typical country store, heated by a pot belly stove, lighted by kerosene lamps, and selling penny candy, bulk cookies and crackers, kerosene, etc. Generous credit made the store owner a popular business man, and his place of business was a gathering place for local people as well as many Virginia Seminary students.

Another store, located at 23 South Carlin Springs Road, was built by Mr. Fred Claeys. Mr. Claeys, a native of Belgium, built many houses in Glencarlyn. The store he built was owned and operated by Mr. John Myers who



Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shepherd in front of their store in 1940.

later sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shepherd. After some years, the Shepherds rented it to Mr. Clarence MacDonald who operated it. Later, it was rented to Mr. Robert Hamilton. The Post Office was located in this building before it was closed.

In 1962, the store and a house behind it, plus the three lots were sold. The buildings were razed, and the 7-Eleven and Crossroads Cleaners moved into the present day building.

## The General Samuel S. Burdett House 5627 Third Street South

Co-founder of the Carlin Springs Cooperative, General Samuel S. Burdett built his house on the corner of Maple and Summit Avenues, now known as 5627 Third Street South, at the intersection of South Kensington Street. The house was constructed in the late 1880's as a weekend retreat from his home in Washington, D.C. He was known as General because, after the Civil War, he was made Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. General Burdett was a lawyer, widely traveled, and an extensive reader who thoroughly enjoyed the serene setting of Carlin Springs. Upon his death in 1914, he left a parcel of land and three thousand dollars to build a library. He also left instructions that his books be put into this library and established a trust of two



Burdett House, 5627 Third Street South

thousand dollars to maintain it.

The house itself, a three-story Victorian, has eleven rooms, five wood-burning stoves (now fireplaces), and an impressive oversized staircase leading from the entrance of the house to the bedroom level. The house also has a small staircase leading up from the kitchen, which was typical of homes built during that time. The main living and dining rooms have ceilings ten feet high and are separated by eight-foot high sliding pocket doors that allow the rooms to be opened up for entertaining. Until the house was renovated in the early 1970's, there was a well house just outside the back porch and a large carriage house with four livestock stalls.

After General Burdett's death, the house became the property of the Hester family, who lived there until the early 1930's. After the death of Dr. Hester, his widow rented the house to the Burch family, who lived there from 1934 to 1940.

In 1941, Mr. John D. Benn, Sr. purchased the house and repaired it so that he was able to move his parents, James and Virginia, there to be closer to him. They had a cow and some chickens that were kept on the property. Mr. John Benn bought a Chincoteague pony for his children. The pony, named Rosie, was kept at the home he established for his parents as it was only a short walk from his own family's home in Arlington Forest. During World War II, James and Virginia rented rooms to women in military service. After the death of his parents, Mr. Benn's family, his wife Alice, daughter Patricia and sons John and William moved into the house. In 1966, the house was deteriorating to the point that it was decided to build a brick house next door. The family planned to move into the brick house and tear down the old house. Mrs. Alice Benn had other ideas and insisted that the house be

restored so that she could move back into it. The restoration was completed in 1973. Mrs. Alice Benn moved back in and resided there until her death on January 6, 1993.

### Backus House 5432 Fifth Street South

This unusual house was built from two small cottages. William Mansfield Backus, who lived at 5500 Fifth Street, had them built for his two sons, Curtis Beall Backus and William Alden Backus. The two-story cottage on the east was probably built around 1890 after the family had moved into the big house next door. The steep-roofed, long cottage to the west was probably not built until 1906.

After William Alden Backus married Margaret Plant, also of the village, they bought the other cottage from Curtis Backus and moved into the property in 1915. Together they designed a plan to make the cottages one house. In 1925, they had one of the two houses moved closer to the other and constructed an entry hall, kitchen, staircase, upper hallway and bathroom in the space between the two cottages-thus joining two cottages into one house.



Backus House, 5432 Fifth Street South

They added two bedrooms by raising the southern section of the roof of the western section.

Here they raised William Alden Backus II, David, and Peggy. After her husband died in 1928. Margaret Backus continued to live in the house with the children until 1942 when William II (Bill) married Florence Crabb. Margaret moved to Vermont and Bill and Florence purchased the house and grounds from her.

The third generation to live in the house were the three sons of Bill and Florence: William Alden Backus III. David and Alan. Bill died in 1972 and in 1990. Florence married Frank Doe, a former resident of the village, and a past president of the Glencarlyn Citizens Association. They have remodeled the house, extending the kitchen and upstairs.

A reminder of past history is seen on the porch which contains a coffee table made out of an old stone mill wheel which originally came from the mill on Four Mile Run.

## Backus-Koeppen House 5500 Fifth Street South

The house, originally built for Dr. William Backus in 1887-1888, remained in the Backus family until 1959 when his daughters, Constance and Hadassah, moved into a new brick house at 5514 Fifth Street South. It was

sold to the Watkins family at that time. The Watkins updated the kitchen and added the downstairs bathroom

In 1963, the Terrys bought the house, and when their voungest daughter won a Chincoteague pony, they built the small barn in the backvard. One pony led to three horses and the "upper meadow" was turned into a jumping ring

for the horses. The Terrys were "outdoor people" and planted most of the beautiful azaleas on the property.

In 1971, the Terrys needed funds to purchase a larger property and wanted to sell the lot in the upper meadow to a developer. The Glencarlyn citizens wanted to maintain the meadow as a recreational area for the children so they rallied together to purchase the property. The neighbors contributed amounts of \$100 each and bought the property from the Terrys. Later, Arlington County was able to purchase this property from the citizens and the funds were returned to the Glencarlyn purchasers.

The house was occupied for a short time by the Marvin family with their six children. The fifth owners, Dick and Barbara Koeppen, moved there in June of 1972 with their sons, Mark and Douglas. They lived there until 1993 when the house was sold to Sal Sclafani and Rita Coch.



Backus-Koeppen House, 5500 Fifth Street South

## Eastlawn 301 South Kensington Street

Eastlawn was built originally on the site of Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital. In 1959, the house was moved to the place now occupied by the office building for doctors near the hospital. The next move was to the corner of South Kensington and Third Streets in 1976.

The original portion of the house was built in 1868 by Henry Howard Young upon his return from service in the Confederate Army. Later, he built a larger house, called Spring Hill, on the property and Eastlawn became the "summer house." (Spring Hill was purchased by Mr. Charles Stetson in



Eastlawn's moving day, 1976



Eastlawn today.

1918.) In 1899. Howard Young's daughter, Amelia Triplett Young Wilbirt, married and moved into Eastlawn. At that time, the parlor and master bedroom portion were added. After Mrs. Wilbirt's death, Eastlawn passed to her daughter. Margaret Boyd. Margaret married a neighbor, Francis C. Stetson, in 1931 and in 1935, took up residence in the remodeled Eastlawn.

Upon the death of Charles W. Stetson in 1958, Spring Hill and the surrounding property were sold to build Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital. Spring Hill was destroyed but Eastlawn was saved by cutting it in half and moving it to a lower portion of the property near Carlin Springs Road. During this restoration, a foyer, modeled after Mount Vernon,

was added. In 1966, under threat of condemnation by Arlington County, the land and house were sold to Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital.

In 1975, the hospital administrators decided to build an office building on the property and offered the home to Mrs. Stetson, provided she move it to another location. So the house was moved in June 1976, this time in one piece, to its present site on Kensington Street where significant restoration took place.

Mrs. Stetson died in June 1983. This is now the home of Robert and Bernadette Shannon.

# The Gables 6 South Kensington Street

Known as The Gables, this home is considered a community landmark due to its unique architecture. It was honored with a square in the Glencarlyn Centennial Quilt depicting its likeness. That quilt now hangs in the Glencarlyn Library.

Built in the 1800's, it is believed that the first owners were Captain W.C. Pennywitt and his wife Anna F. Pennywitt. As an early resident of Carlin Springs, as the neighborhood was then called, Captain Pennywitt served as the president of the Carlin Springs

Community Improvement Association. After the death of Captain Pennywitt, Mrs Pennywitt moved to 5629 First Street South (later the Lewis house). Following the death of General Burdett's wife, Mrs. Pennywitt worked as General Burdett's housekeeper.

In 1920, Sam Ford and his family purchased The Gables from Anna Pennywitt. Over the years, some of the original property was subdivided and sold. The Ford family children attended the original Glencarlyn School.

Dr. William Richard VanDersal, his wife Helen

Ann VanDersal and their family bought The Gables in 1952. Through the years, the VanDersal family grew to include five daughters-Mary, Jeannie, Helen Dianne, June Ellen, and Margot. Dr. VanDersal and his wife were actively involved in the horticultural advancement of their property as well as that of the immediate community and the adjoining park land. Dr. VanDersal wrote several books, including The Successful Supervisor in Government and Business, Ornamental American Shrubs, and Why Does Your Garden Grow? Facts of Plant Life. Helen and William VanDersal's efforts at The Gables resulted in a botanical wonderland. Their nurturing produced winding pathways throughout the property skirting extraordinary beds of azaleas, magnolias and many exotic plantings.



The Gables, 6 South Kensington Street

In 1980, Richard Gilbert Illch, Diane Herbst Illch and their children, Dawn Michelle and Joel Christopher, acquired The Gables and continued the enhancement and beautification of the grounds as well as the ongoing restoration of the house itself. Although the outside well no longer features a gazebo-like covering, the well itself now nourishes one of the largest Dawn Redwood trees in Northern Virginia.

From the front porch, one can see an expanded Route 50 which has replaced the rustic trolley tracks that once brought visitors into the area. However, Mother Nature has maintained a foothold in the wooded park land adjoining this property. A careful observer will note the presence of many different species of wildlife, birdlife and reptiles.

### Hedrick House 5602 First Street South

Shortly after Glencarlyn was established, Henry Benjamin Hedrick built a small house at No. 1 Laurel Street, now 5602 First Street South. His sister, Alice Hedrick Olcott, built a house next door. Henry was treasurer of the Glencarlyn Improvement Society in 1893. He lived in this house with his wife Hannah until the house burned in 1900, after which they moved back to the District of Columbia.

In 1926, their son, Benjamin Mace Hedrick, who was born in the original house in 1897, returned with his wife, Ann. Together they built a house from a Sears, Roebuck and Co, precut kit shipped in by rail. Their twins, Sherwood and Betty, were born here in 1927. While her children were young, Mrs. Hedrick carried cobble stones in her apron from the creek, and built an eight foot high retaining wall on the east side and back property line.

The house has been expanded and bricked over, and has housed various members of the Hedrick family throughout the years. It is now home to the fourth and fifth generations, Sherwood's son Brian, his wife Mary and their son, Jason.

In 1951-52, Ann, now Mrs. Cox, had Second Street cut through from Kensington Street to Jefferson Street, and a house built on the back part of the property. This was her home until her death in 1978, and continues to be the home for her daughter, Betty and her husband, Oscar Vertiz.

In 1987, Oscar's daughter, Virginia, had



The Hedrick House (1), which no longer stands, and the original Olcott House circa 1898.

a house built next door on the last empty lot on the 5600 block of Second Street, where she continues to live with her daughter, Carrie Gouskos.

Jones-Boyd House 5740 Arlington Boulevard

This was the second home in the area built and occupied by Mr. Walter Jones. It originally stood in the path of Arlington Boulevard, and was moved to its present site in 1933. The man who contracted to move it nearly went bankrupt. He failed to realize that under the wooden siding stood a wall of solid brick.

At the time of this move, the house

faced south and had the entrance and a large wrap-around porch on that side. After the move, the house and porch faced north.



Jones-Boyd House, 5740 Arlington Boulevard

In later years, it was the home of Mrs. Lucy Dambekalns and her aunt, followed by the Karl Rucht family (Mr. Rucht was director of the Arlington Symphony Orchestra). In 1976, it was owned by the Andrew M. Keller family. Elmer and Leslie Goshorn purchased it early in 1980, did a complete renovation, and took occupancy in August of that year.

Leslie Goshorn recollects that at the time of the renovation, they noted that an upstairs rear bathroom had not been used in some time. Upon inspection, they found the likely reason; bees, complete with honeycombs, in the outside walls. When fellow Glencarlynite John Shepherd heard about it, he offered to remove them. He climbed on the rear porch roof to reach the area and cleaned it out, complete with honey. They also found evidence of fire damage in the kitchen area, blackened boards traced up the back stairway to the roof. An elderly nearby resident told them that he recalled there had been a grease fire on Thanksgiving years ago.

According to folklore, after the move

from the Arlington Boulevard path, some children supposedly found steps from the house left behind beside the highway. Also noted was the fact that Arlington Boulevard was at one time called the County Road to Georgetown. Betty Harrison, a long-time Glencarlyn resident, told Leslie Goshorn she recalled going to teas on the front porch.

The Goshorns sold the house in May 1988 to the current owners, Hayden Boyd and Margot Leydic Boyd.

### King-Hilder House 5501 Third Street South

This lovely, three-story Victorian style house was built by Major William King, who came to Glencarlyn in 1891. Sometime between 1891 and 1914, the first school in Glencarlyn began when Mrs. King used the living room of her home to teach "village" children. In 1914, Stewart Hilder rented (and later

King-Hilder House, 5501 Third Street South

purchased) the house from Major King, who moved to Ballston. Mr. Hilder, a patent draftsman/attorney, and his wife had three boys and one daughter when they came to Glencarlyn. Their youngest son was born in Glencarlyn.

In the twenties, Mr. Hilder added a kitchen off the rear of the original kitchen (now a dining room). Beside the kitchen was a small anteroom which housed the hand water pump which came up through the floor. The well still exists and is used for lawn watering and car washing. A "central heating system" was installed in the cellar using the open chimney flues to the second level as "ducts" to heat the upper floors. This duct system is still used today!

Mrs. Hilder ran the Glencarlyn Post Office for a while. Business took place from the west window of a closet on the first level.

She would open that window to dispense mail to the residents of Glencarlyn.

In 1971, Dick and Karen Purvis purchased the house. They enclosed the kitchen, anteroom and screened porches to make a large, modern country kitchen. They also added a rear deck and central air conditioning.

In 1975, Jim and Linda Hutchinson purchased the house and continued its restoration/ renovation by screening the rear deck, adding skylights to the family room, and redecorating the house in period style.

The fifth and current owners, Phil and Liz White, moved

into the house in June 1987 with their three sons, Brad, Todd and Robbie. Phil and Liz look forward to the continued restoration and maintenance of this lovely home which is so much a part of historic Glencarlyn.

## McMahon-Daniels House 5719 Third Street South

About 1922, an Italian noble lady and her Irish lawyer husband known as "Mac" McMahon started building to her definite Italian taste and his manual craftsmanship, with some help from friends and neighbors. The house was livable but incomplete when Mac died, and the widow and her protective dogs moved away, leaving building materials still on the property. This included stone frieze and columns and marble slabs—all unused.

A young artist couple of quite different taste owned the place for six months in 1950-1951. They sold it to Parmely and Louise Daniels in April 1951. The Daniels took loving interest in the Mediterranean architecture, finishes and atmosphere. They proceeded to enlarge and finish the house and property in the spirit in which it was started. The upstairs extension, the enclosed side porch, the garden wall, the studio and the grape arbor are among their improvements. The coal furnace gave way to



McMahon-Daniels House, 5719 Third Street South

a more modern basement, but the Mediterranean atmosphere has been preserved.

The installation of a public water supply allowed the area of the cistern and septic tank to be converted to an herb garden beside a goldfish and water lily pool. Authorities called in at this time found that the unworkable hardpan line across the back yard was part of an early Indian trail going to Carlin Springs.

Parmely C. Daniels passed away in October 1989, his wife Louise in 1980. Their elder son "Pete" (Parmely M.) died in 1983.

The current residents are Richard Mott and Deborah Short.

## Mitchell House 5516 Fourth Street South

This house was built in 1888 by Mr. M.C. Mitchell, one of the first to buy lots in the newly subdivided neighborhood of Glencarlyn. His city address at that time was 3108 M Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C.

The original house consisted of two rooms downstairs and two upstairs, with an open porch around all four sides. The original front of the house faced Fifth Street, the front door being what is now the

doorway between the dining room and the kitchen area. The present dining room was the principal room of the house, and the room currently used as a study was the kitchen. Directly over these two rooms were two bedrooms.

The property also included several small sheds, barns, paddocks and a large windmill. The windmill was demolished in the severe hurricane of 1898. The minutes of the January 1894 meeting of the Village Improvement Association of Carlin Springs note that a 225-foot cobblestone sidewalk had been built in the front of the property. The cotes on the property were the source of squab supplied on occasion to the White House.

One of the Mitchell daughters married Nixon Brewer and they continued to live on the old homestead, where they raised their family. During their early years in the house, it was extensively renovated, electricity and inside plumbing were installed and a wing added to the back (now the front) of the house facing Fourth Street. The porches were removed or enclosed to form the present kitchen area, the first floor bathroom, and to enlarge the room now used as a study. Mrs. Brewer lived here until a gas explosion in 1949 claimed her life. The disaster was so intense that it also caused the death of her livestock quartered in the back yard.

In 1951, the house was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Wallace, who raised their family there. They added the sun room and garage in 1971, as well as other landscaping touches. The present owners, Cheryl and Barney Parella, acquired the property in March of 1983 where they live with their daughter Barbara and son Mark.



Mitchell House, 5516 Fourth Street South

### Olcott House 5608 First Street South

In approximately 1888, W. Harry Olcott and his wife, Alice Hedrick Olcott, purchased a lot in the Curtis and Burdett subdivision of Carlin Springs (known as Glencarlyn). They were perhaps the second or third family to purchase a lot in the area and build a

home to be used during the hot summer months.

Mr. Olcott, an accountant with the U.S. Census Bureau, resided with his family in Georgetown during the winter months and "came to the woods" during the summer months. Their home was completed in 1890. One early afternoon in April of 1900, the oil stove in the kitchen caught fire, and the house burned to the ground. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

A new home was constructed on the original foundation and was completed in October of 1900 just in time for the arrival of the sixth child in the family. The children's names were: Harry Ernest (born during W. Harry Olcott's first marriage), Ella Mindwell, Jennie Louise, Alice Griswold, Margaret Thompson and John Hedrick, the youngest

who was born in the newly constructed home.

One daughter, Margaret Thompson Olcott, was a pioneer in the community and became one of the outstanding leaders in the development of the library. She was a leader in other civic organizations, which later became strongholds in the "Village." She married Charles W. Stetson, also a prominent citizen of the Glencarlyn community. Margaret Olcott Stetson died in 1982.

The home at 5608 First Street South was left to Margaret at the time of her father's death and remained hers until her niece, Mary Olcott Greiner, daughter of John Hedrick Olcott, and her husband, William Edward Greiner, purchased it in February 1979. The Greiners occupy the home with their two youngest children, Elizabeth Anne Greiner and Mary Denise Semple. Alice Olcott Bentley, the third of the five children born to W. Harry and Alice Olcott, lived with the Greiners for a few years until her advancing age required care in a nursing home. She died in October 1988.



Olcott House, 5608 First Street South

## Parham-Boster House 5433 Third Street South

This house was built in 1894 as a summer cottage for a Mrs. Parham. The original frame structure consisted of four rooms and a central chimney with three fireplaces (two of which remain in working order). Additions, generally in keeping with the basic Victorian design, have greatly enlarged the living area.

The house has had five owners. Ms. C.E. Childs acquired the house from the original owner and retained it until her death in 1958. She electrified the house and installed indoor plumbing.

The property was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Dale Crowley in 1958. They added conveniences such as city water and a furnace (unnecessarily losing one fireplace for a flue). They restored the grounds, finished the upstairs, installed the living room fireplace mantel from a Georgetown mansion, and constructed the archway between the living room and what is now the entrance room (formerly a sleeping porch).

The home was later purchased by Louise and Sid Gerbich in the mid-sixties. The present owners, M.J. and Ron Boster, who had been living next door, purchased the property in 1979.

The home has nine-foot ceilings, the original random-width pine floors, and pocket doors. It also has a working well which was dug in earlier days. The well taps the same groundwater aquifer that feeds Carlin Spring. It is located directly behind the property.



Parham-Boster House, 5433 Third Street South

## Shepherd House 5527 Third Street South

If ever a house and its owners understood each other, it is the John T. Shepherds and the place they call "Wuthering Depths." The building of the house was begun eighty years ago by a quiet young man with a passion for arched church windows, angles and poured concrete. He used all of these in great profusion. He seemed to dislike a square as much as he loved an angle, and he used concrete the way a baker uses dough. There is no place where the roof line could be pitched that it is not. There is no room limited to four sides when it might have five, seven or even eight.

Captain and Mrs. John T. Shepherd (Mildred) bought the house and its surround-

ing half acre in 1957. Captain Shepherd is an aeronautical engineer, a Naval Academy graduate with a Master's degree from California Tech. Milly (Mildred) is a musician also active in the real estate business. They both love to remodel houses, doing all the work with their own hands. This was their fourth remodeling. Their children were interested spectators.

When the Shepherds couldn't find a place they wanted to buy, they sent a letter to seventy real estate firms. An answer offered the house at 5527 Third Street South. "We took one look at this unbelievable Mother Goose house and were afraid that if we shut our eyes it would disappear," Mrs. Shepherd explained. "There were thousands of jonquils in bloom in the yard." "Shep" Shepherd added, "We saw the violets and an out-size cardinal flying around. That did it." There is some feeling that the upstairs church window also helped make the decision to buy.

As a rule, the Shepherds don't let just anybody see the octagonal tool room with the poured concrete fireplace and the stained glass window that is lighted from the outside instead of the inside. Only those with the right vibrations are trusted to understand the hideout closet upstairs with three windows and a door that overhangs the woods and isn't big enough for anything.

The fact that there are six outside doors,

most of which don't lead anywhere, is easily accepted by the Shepherds. They can be counted on for so much. For instance, Shep boasts that they have the only house around where snow never gathers on the roof. That's because the heat goes right on through!

The 150 year old door with the hand-fashioned brass lock is noteworthy. One of the former owners of the house was from Saratoga, New York and admired this very door which at the time was on the home of a friend. "If you ever get tired of that door, let me know," he said one day in an offhand way. Years went by and a letter with a New York postmark arrived saying that the door was his for the hauling. By that time, there was no place to put it except at the porch entrance with the graceful fan window interrupting the screen overhead. But the Shepherds moved the door and it became an impressive entrance to the house.

The surrounding half acre is sheer joy. All the owners seem to have been devoted gardeners, and the yard is a treasure of magnolias and forest-size black and white oaks.

## Schaaf House 5729 Second Street South

The big two and a half story house at 5729 Second Street South was built in 1880 by Mr. James Schaaf before the subdivision. His children, May, John and Blake were



The Shepherd House, 5527 Third Street South

brought up in this house which is fondly mentioned in Hadassah Backus' "Recollections of a Native-Born Glencarlynite" as a popular gathering place for the village young people. John was a gentle, mild-mannered fellow always willing to help people. Miss May was Glencarlyn's first librarian. Blake was equally essential as the Village's "handy-man." He built the house on the corner of Second Street South and South Lexington in the late 1940s.

The second owner of the James Schaaf house was a Mr. King who owned a 5 & 10 store in Arlington. Mr. King also kept a pony and had a shed for it which is still on the property.

The third owner was a Mr. Gibson who was a prominent lawyer. The Sheridans bought the house in 1958 and lived in it with



The Schaaf House, 5729 Second Street South

with their big family until 1991 when they sold it to their daughter, Janet and her husband Eric Zveare. The Sheridans have built a similar Victorian house next door at 5727. It is an echo of the much-lived-in Schaaf house.

## Mrs. Worth's School 500 South Jefferson Street

This private school, located at the southwest corner of Fifth and Jefferson Streets, was established by Mrs. Cora Worth. There were kindergarten and first grade classes, and many children from Glencarlyn were pupils here. For many years, Mrs. Emma Heinecke



Mrs. Worth's School, 500 South Jefferson Street

taught the kindergarten classes. A special annual event was the May Day celebration. Mrs. Worth retired from teaching and the school was closed in 1963.

The house originally had its entrance on the Fifth Street side of the corner lot. After a serious fire, and during damage repairs, the entrance was changed to Jefferson Street. Before becoming a school, the house was a private home occupied by the Perkins family, and later the Richard Mally family. Other early residents were the Kienast family. The home is currently occupied by the Willard and Judy Lee family. They have converted one of the old school rooms added to the house in the 1940's into a bright, cheerful family sunroom.



May Day at Mrs. Worth's School.

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\*\* On file in the Virginia Room of the Arlington County Library System.

<sup>\*</sup> Part of the Glencarlyn Community archival collection at the Glencarlyn Branch Library

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1887	Samuel S. Burdett
1914	C. A. Backus
1914	F. D. Hester
1921	W. W. Harrison
1943 (rea	ctivated) Sam Harrison
1952-54	Wm. M. Backus
1954-56	Frank E. Doe*
1956-58	Ellis Packer
1958-60	Louise Daniels
1960-61	Ellis Packer
1961-62	John Benn
1962-63	Raymond S. Bye
1963-64	Harold T. Lingard
1964-65	C. Robert Mangum
1965-66	Ronald Thring
1966-67	Frank Piovia
1967-68	Robert K. Salyers
1968-69	Robert Nagle
1969-70	John Carter*
1970-71	Pete Daniels
1971-72	Rocco Santilli
1972-74	Kent Goering
1974-76	Sally Boss
1976-78	Phil White*
1978-79	James Morrison
1979-80	Barney Parrella*
1980-81	Peter Olivere*
1981-82	Stuart Davis*
1982-83	Sandy Keyes
1983-85	John Dennis
1985-86	Barbara Olivere*
1986-88	Cecil King*
1988-89	Peter Olivere*
1989-90	Ann Cohen*
1990-92	Richard Benn*
1992-93	Ruth Mangum
1993-94	Carter Magill*

<sup>\*</sup>Still reside in Glencarlyn

