

JUNE 1983



*truero
trails*

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**CLIMBING
SLOTHS**

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRURO HOMES ASSOCIATION

Sunshine Greet Swimmers at Pool Opening

A small but enthusiastic group of swimmers and sunners, mostly youngsters, turned out on Saturday, May 28, for the Truro Community Center's 1983 pool opening day. The weatherman cooperated with sunny skies, even though the temperature was cool.

The pool officially opened at 11 a.m., by which time a handful of youngsters were on hand waiting to jump in. Within the first two hours

about 50 young people and a few adults were using the pool and lounge chairs. The relatively cool weather apparently kept many others away.

Jim Baker, pool manager, of the JACO Corporation, reported that "everything went beautifully" on opening day, with no problems arising. All of the planned repairs to the pool and associated equipment were completed prior to the opening, according to Jim, as well as a number of repair and rehabilitation projects at the adjoining clubhouse and tennis gazebo.

Both the air temperature and the water temperature stood at about 70 degrees as the pool opened for its 14th season. Clouds replaced the sunshine later in the day, but that didn't spoil the fun for the Truroites who turned out. The swim and dive teams had been using the pool earlier for their practices, soon after it was refilled in mid-May.

The Truro pool was first opened in the summer of 1970. For the last several years it has been operated by the JACO Corporation under contract to the Truro Homes Association, which owns the Truro Community Center.

RACCOON CAPTURED IN TRURO IN MAY DETERMINED BY COUNTY TO BE RABID

Fairfax County officials have confirmed that a raccoon captured in Truro late last month was rabid--evidence that the rabies problem afflicting much of the county is in this community as well.

The raccoon found to be rabid was spotted by Steve Barber in an outside window well of his home at 4202 Elizabeth Lane on May 22. It exhibited the symptoms typical of rabid raccoons in this area: lethargy and moving about in daylight. Steve reported the find to Fairfax County animal control officials, who removed the raccoon. On May 24 they reported to the Barbers that the animal had been determined to be rabid.

Fairfax County has been experiencing an alarming epidemic of rabid raccoons lately, although few cases of such raccoons biting humans or pets have been recorded. County officials warn that any raccoon spotted during daylight should be presumed rabid and reported immediately to the animal control office--and that all contact with it should be avoided.

THE COVER

The little raccoon on this month's cover is not only cute, but serves as a reminder of the serious rabies threat in Truro and throughout Fairfax County (see adjoining article). This drawing is by Miriam Whitcomb, a Silver Spring artist who did the three bunnies appearing on our April 1977 cover.

FROM THE BOARD

By Marj Bridgman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MAY 1983

The Board of Directors of the Truro Homes Association met at the home of Marj Bridgman on May 9, 1983. Those present were Catherine Bergstrom, Jim LaMorte, Steve Alterman, Marj Bridgman, Preston Meynardie, Keith Thomas and Jim Baker.

The minutes of the April 1983 meeting were corrected to read "that the manager be instructed to repair or replace the upper nine clerestory windows in the clubhouse as soon as possible."

The YMCA has called again this year to ask permission to use the pool for swimming lessons for children from Wakefield Forest Elementary School. A motion that the YMCA be allowed to use the pool for this purpose was made, seconded and carried.

The new, active Social Committee co-chairpersons, Liz Post and Anne Allen, have reported the following events tentatively arranged for the community:

- A community-wide garage sale.
- An old-fashioned southern barbeque for families. (A flyer on this event will be distributed.)
- A shrimp-crab feast in August.
- A Halloween event--if anyone will come forward to chair a "happening" for the children.
- An open house tour of Christmas decorations in December.

The Social Committee would like any ideas that members have and wish to promote.

Fairfax County has done repair and maintenance work on a sewer line in the parkland. The board is looking into whose responsibility it is to repair and/or replace the plants the county had to remove to get its equipment into the work area.

Carol Snitzer will give the board an estimate for repair of the damage caused by a woman who drove over the bank on Ann Fitz Hugh Drive and into the parkland. Her insurance should cover the damage.

Recipes for the new edition of the Truro cookbook are due within the next week. Response so far has been very good. More recipes and orders can be accepted at this time.

There are still 20 unpaid 1983 TCC user fees. Fifty-seven memberships have been leased out thus far. There are nine members whose memberships have not been leased out at present. There are six outstanding 1983 THA assessments. The THA attorney will be in contact with these homeowners.

**OFFICIAL
THA
NOTICE**

The agenda for the May 19 general membership meeting will consist of reports from committee chairpersons and their plans for the forthcoming summer season.

Keith Thomas, treasurer, will chair an ad hoc committee to look into reserve funds and long range planning for the THA and TCC--how the reserve funds can be valued, replacement times, the amount of reserve funds necessary to be on hand, etc. Jim Jarrett and one other THA member will serve on the committee with Keith.

Catherine Bergstrom emphasized that the gypsy moth problem is very much in Truro. More than 100 letters were sent to Truro homeowners

by Fairfax County. Our homeowners must be made aware of the damage done by this insect, and community efforts must be undertaken. Piles of trash must be cleaned up, since this is a prime breeding place for gypsy moths. Informational flyers have been sent to Truro homeowners.

The Park Committee's cleanup day was a success. Only one park bench has yet to be repaired and stained.

Jim Baker brought in estimates for new flooring in the lower foyer of the clubhouse, and the board is exploring various options. A motion was made, seconded and carried that a new floor be installed in the downstairs hall.

The pool will be open at 1 p.m. during the period before school is out, for mothers of pre-school and kindergarten age children. This is for adults and their small children only. The pool is being drained, cleaned and refilled; this work is progressing nicely and on schedule. Electrical work on the pool lights has been completed.

New protective tips for the tables and chairs in the clubhouse will be installed on an as-needed basis to protect the finish on the floor, which has recently been refinished. The entrance bridge to the clubhouse has been completely rebuilt and stained. Carpenter ants were found in force in the building; an exterminator was called in, found their nests and fogged the building.

All committee chairpersons are advised that the treasurer, Keith Thomas, will be available at his home on Monday evenings for receiving and paying bills, providing information, etc.

The next board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on June 13 at the home of Catherine Bergstrom.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAY 1983

By Joyce Sewell

The regular spring general membership meeting of the Truro Homes Association was held on May 19, 1983, at the Truro Community Center. There were 33 members represented--10 in person and 23 by proxy--which is five short of the quorum required for voting. Information was imparted but no issues surfaced needing a vote.

President Catherine Bergstrom introduced the new treasurer, Keith Thomas, who stated that he is reserving Monday evenings to conduct THA and TCC business. Those who need reimbursement for THA and TCC expenses should note this. He also asked that anyone having a bill for him to pay note that fact on the bill itself when presenting it to him.

Anne Allen of the Social Committee briefly reviewed the planned social events for the rest of the year. She also stated that this may be the year for another of the formerly popular "Art in the Park" days.

Jim LaMorte is filling in as Park Committee chairman until someone volunteers for this position. He is arranging to employ several teenagers to mow sections of the parkland.

The status of the Truro cookbook project was reviewed by Marj Bridgman. She announced that more than the 350 recipes needed had been submitted already, and that there will be only 1,000 copies of the cookbook printed. These will be available in the fall. Almost half of them have already been spoken for. Orders can be placed with Marj or with Rosalind Richstein.

Catherine Bergstrom had more information on the gypsy moth problem. Several Truro residents will have

green boxes attached to their trees to trap moths for monitoring purposes. Others will have burlap banding to monitor. In addition, the county is asking homeowners to burlap band their own trees to count caterpillars, and to send the information to the county. Catherine Bergstrom can provide more information on this program. Catherine explained the importance of controlling our gypsy moth population before it becomes an overwhelming problem, as it has in other areas--and that we want to be able to walk in our woods without being "rained on" by the droppings of gypsy moth caterpillars.

FROM THE COMMITTEES

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Liz Post

A Day Off for Truroites

The Social Committee has declared Saturday, June 18, a "day off" for Truro families--a day for swimming, playing tennis, socializing and enjoying an old-fashioned southern family barbecue. Join your friends and neighbors on the grass outside the clubhouse from 1 to 3 p.m. for an "all-you-can-eat, pig-pickin'-style" feast, catered by American Bar-B-Que and Catering, Inc. of Lorton. (Rain date is the following Saturday, June 25, same time.)

The menu will include barbecued chicken, western style boneless beef ribs, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, corn-on-the-cob, rolls and butter, peach cobbler and iced tea. Families are encouraged to bring their own coolers stocked with their favorite beverages.

The Social Committee is underwriting \$1.85 of the cost of each ticket (\$8.80) to offer you this

all-you-can-eat treat for only \$6.95 per person. Children under 7 will be admitted free when accompanied by a paying parent or guardian. Please note that this event is for families; children 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent or other adult.

At the barbecue a drawing will be held from the first 100 reservations, and the winning family will eat free.

Check-in for the barbecue will begin at 12:45 p.m. at a reservation table on the north side of the clubhouse (near the gate by the diving boards). All persons registered for the barbecue, including those under 7, will have their right hands stamped with indelible ink and must show the stamp to be served. The barbecue will be picnic style on the grass and families are urged to bring their own blankets and lawn chairs, due to the limited number of pool chairs.

Reservation slips for the barbecue are on the bottom of the pink flyer already distributed. (Call me if you don't have one.) As the flyer indicates, the absolute deadline for your reservation slips and checks to be in to me is noon on Wednesday, June 8 (due to the provisions of our contract with the caterers). No exceptions can be made. You may give me your slips and checks, or place them in my mailbox at 4204 Ann Fitz Hugh Drive. I'll be glad to answer any questions you have regarding this event (978-3738 after 3 p.m. weekdays and anytime on weekends).

Successful Garage Sale

According to reports, the first two hours of the garage sale--before the rains came--were a smashing success. One hundred maps were passed out in the first hour and many cars and shoppers cruised the streets of Truro. Anne Allen deserves applause for her willingness to organize this event on such short notice--and for

the great job she did! Our thanks also go to those who passed out the maps and to all the "vendors." One of this year's prize purchases, I have heard, was a beautiful brass headboard.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Catherine Bergstrom

The Gypsy Moth Saga (Continued)

Happy hunting, all you tree banders! For the uninitiated, that refers to those Truroites who are involved in the gypsy moth monitoring program we've set up, in conjunction with the county, here in Truro.

Why are we monitoring, you ask, when most of you haven't even seen a caterpillar? The reasons:

- In the first few weeks after the gypsy moth caterpillars hatch in late April, they feed in the upper crown of the tree and only when they are larger do they travel down the tree trunk for a protected location during the day. They eat at night, which may be why you haven't seen them yet.

- The purpose of banding is to provide that "protected location" (in the burlap fold) so that caterpillars can be counted and killed.

- The counting (monitoring) gives a better picture of gypsy moth population levels in Fairfax County, from which egg mass surveys can be conducted in the fall and future control programs planned.

As most of you know, the monitoring program will not eliminate the gypsy moth. It's going to take a continuing effort over a period of years just to control them. That's the bad news. The good news is the

excellent cooperation people in Truro displayed in responding to our calls. In that vein, let me say "thanks" to Joe Basgall, Marj Bridgman and Bev Heinberg, who helped me contact about 50 families for the monitoring program. Thanks, also, to you "hunters."

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Swimming...By Janice Armstrong

Dates to remember:

- June 4--Referee clinic, 8 a.m. at Tuckahoe.
- June 11--Officials clinic, 8 a.m. at Annandale.
- June 12--Registration and swim suit sales, 1 p.m. at the pool--rain or shine.

Swim practice is in full swing. Please come join us at 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the pool. All swimmers from age 5 to 18 are welcome, regardless of ability. I will be at the practices each afternoon to answer questions about the program.

Parents are reminded that they are needed to help officiate the meets. Since many of our trained officials have left the team, we are sorely in need of new people to train at the clinics. The clinics are held early in the morning and last only two hours, leaving the remainder of the day free for other activities. Please call me at 978-0429 if you can possibly attend.

Those of you unable to attend the clinics will be needed on the concessions or on the social committee. Call Sue Ellen Reed at 323-6936 to volunteer for the social committee, or Collette Magoulas at 978-2834 to volunteer for the concessions.

Neighborhood Watch

By Dick Yates

This Month's Problems

In early May a large rock was thrown through a picture window on Elizabeth Lane. An exposure situation was reported near Wakefield Forest Elementary School, involving a white male in blue shorts. A gang of as many as six black males and females, working as teams of two or three, are still taking wallets from purses in shopping carts in area supermarkets. One distracts the woman shopper while the other lifts the wallet. Always carry your purse; don't leave it in the cart. Also, when at home, don't leave your purse on a table or counter downstairs near an open door or window. You could lose it in a minute.

Burglary Increase

Outside of Truro (but not very far outside) there continues to be an increase in burglaries through unlocked doors and windows. And 6-9:30 p.m. is becoming a popular time for burglars to strike in this area. Normally, midday hours on a weekday have been the most popular. Be a nosy neighbor, and encourage your neighbors to be nosy about what happens around your home. Your neighbors are your best defense. Keep doors and windows locked, even if you're just in the back yard. Make it difficult for burglars; use dead-bolt locks. The police report an increase in unsuccessful attempts to break into homes--an indication that homeowners are practicing better home security. The West Springfield police station has periodic evening home security instruction. Call me if you're interested. And did you know that sliding glass doors and windows are the most used means of forced entry? But you can do sev-

eral things to make them more secure. Call me for suggestions.

Property Identification

You should inventory your household valuables, photograph them and engrave your driver's license number on high value items, to make fencing difficult. Your library will lend you an engraver. Your inventory and photographs will aid recovery and be helpful in the event of a fire--provided that you keep the inventory someplace other than in the home.

Telephone Calls

The police ask that you call the non-emergency number, 691-2131, to report phone calls when the caller is silent or hangs up without speaking. Burglars use such calls to determine the comings and goings in a neighborhood. Police can use this information to help prevent burglaries.

Volunteers Needed

If you're new to Truro, volunteer now. I'm starting to lose some of my "regulars" due to summer moves, and need replacements now. In addition to meeting other Truroites on Watch patrol, you have the opportunity to travel every street in Truro and learn the community--while you perform a valuable service to all of us. Schedules are flexible. Join the 25% or more of Truro families who actively participate in the program. Call me at 978-8318, or Gail Safeer at 978-2441.

When You Call the Police

As a Neighborhood Watch base station operator--or private citizen--you should be aware of what happens when you call the police (or call for the rescue squad or fire depart-

ment). Phone number 911 is for emergencies only, and may be called from a home phone or pay phone without coins. It should be used only for a crime in progress or a life-threatening situation (fire or medical help). If the crime is over and you're sure there is no longer a burglar in the house, call the non-emergency number, 691-2131. Both numbers ring in the Police and Fire Operations Center and are answered by one of about 10 operators. 911 has priority for answering, but you'll seldom find any difference. Each operator has a number and will answer with that number. Jot it down, along with the time, in case you have any later questions about the handling of the call. You will hear a beep every 15 seconds, indicating the call is being recorded. This is necessary in case the caller blurts out an address of an emergency and leaves the phone. The operator can instantly play back the tape if the address was missed. The operator will ask the situation, location, your name and your telephone number. The operator may ask you to stay on the line and provide more details. If it's an emergency (you hear someone trying to force open your back door, for instance), the operator will have an officer on the way as soon as you give the situation and address. But the operator will want you to provide more information, which can be relayed to the officer enroute (where you are in the house, the location of the door being forced, whether there is anyone else in the house--any information which will enable the officer to know the layout of the home and get to you quickly). And the operator is trained to give you advice, depending on the situation. If you are reporting a suspicious vehicle, the general description of the vehicle is just as important as the license number. Is it a small or large car? What color? What make? This information will allow an offi-

cer approaching in a vehicle to spot the suspect vehicle more easily as he arrives on the scene. If you give only the license number, it can be much more difficult to spot the vehicle. When you report any situation (including calls made by the Neighborhood Watch base station) you will be asked if you wish to speak to the officer. If you want feedback on what the officer found out, ask to have him stop by your house or call you. If you aren't satisfied with the response of the police (if the officer went to the scene but didn't stop and see you or call you, for example), call back on 691-2131 right away and ask to speak to the supervisor. Don't wait until the next day.

Vacation Security

In one sentence, you and your neighbors should do everything possible to make your home look lived in while you're away.



Aerobic Artistry

Stay trim and slim this summer. Join Marge Fallon for a five-week Aerobic Dance course at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. and Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:15 a.m. Additional classes will be held at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:10 p.m.

The series of 10 one-hour sessions will begin June 27 and end July 29. The cost is \$25. For information and registration call Marge at 323-8073.

CLASSIFIED

COTTAGE FOR RENT--Nags Head, NC. Brand new, 4 BR, 2 baths, AC, DW, W and D, 3 decks + screened porch. Free pool and tennis court use. 1 min. to sound, 2 min. to ocean. \$385 weekly. John or Barbara Lane, 978-5423.

SUMMER JOB--Responsible driver needed to drive child of working parents to camp, lessons, etc., during summer months. Phone Mrs. Hirst at 354-7600 or 978-2618. This job could also be combined with 1-3 days per week of child care, if desired.

CARPPOOL to computer camp. Is anyone interested in carpooling to a computer camp offered at St. Stephen's School in Alexandria? "Introduction to Logo." 1:30-3:30 p.m., for three weeks in July. Phone Joanna Hirst at 354-7600 or 978-2618.

FOR SALE--Boys' 24" Schwinn Varsity 10-speed bicycle. Good condition. Extras: carrying rack, reflectors, speedometer. \$125. Call 323-6604 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE--21" men's 10-speed bicycle w/27" wheels, \$100. 21" women's 3-speed Schwinn w/26" wheels, \$80. Schwinn exercise bike, tension adjustment, timer, odometer, \$100. 978-3589.

CAR POOL--Ride needed for summer to Crystal City, Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call Jeff at 978-2408.

RELIABLE TEENAGER--Mother's helper needed to watch one 4½-year-old girl five hours per day June 29-August 10. Call 425-1252 after 2 p.m.

CONDO FOR RENT--At Ocean Village on Hutchinson Island, Fort Pierce, FL, 2-bedroom, 2-bath, completely fur-

nished condo, sleeps 6, first floor, screened porch, 1-minute walk to ocean. Enjoy private beach, pools, tennis, golf, racquet ball, exercise rooms, sauna, surf fishing. Elegant restaurant and planned activities, 1½ hours to Disney World. Summer rate \$300/week. Call 978-3581 or 978-2779.

TUTOR--Elementary teacher in FCPS will reinforce reading and math skills in grades 1-6. Located off Guinea Road near Braddock Road. Call 323-6704 after 5 p.m. weekdays and anytime on weekends.

AN ODE TO DAD

By Patty Bergstrom

(This poem was written by Patty when, as a sophomore at Virginia Tech, she became ill and her father drove down to get her. It's her way of saying "thanks" on Fathers Day.)

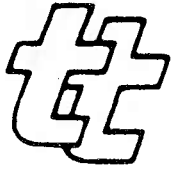
In days of old when knights were bold,
And damsels in distress,
The hero rode, his dress it showed,
His bravery no less.

I used to fear those days were gone
Up on a dusty shelf,
But not a fortnight had to pass
Before I knew this false myself.

Now, I am no saintly damsel,
And no dragon kept me hid,
But darned if Dad not been in armor
When he came the way he did.

I blew you up as you drove the horse,
A-tremblin' at the limb.
That's my Dad (a stab of pride),
No cruise control for him.

My joy, my thanks, my kingdom too,
Were yours upon arrival.
The proven knights, at the big round table,
Would nod, there is no rival.



this and that . .

At press time, Truro's Francis Alvir was busy defending his state tennis singles crown at Maury High School in Norfolk. Francis, of 8711 Pappas Way, had already won both the Northern District and Northern Region championships, and was shooting for a repeat of his state tournament victory of last year, when he beat Kevin Rotty at Groveton High School, 6-1, 6-1. Francis is a junior at W.T. Woodson High School.



Another Truro athlete, Marcelo Bravo, was also in the news recently. Marcelo, of 4308 Kenwyn Court, placed fifth in the 110-meter high hurdles at the Northern District track and field championships last month. His time was 15.3 seconds. The Woodson team took fourth place in the tournament.

TRAVELERS' NOTEBOOK



SOLITUDE VERSUS DANGER

By Dave Jones

Back in October 1981, I wrote of the pleasures and satisfactions of solitary hiking on the Appalachian Trail--mindful of the familiar admonition never to undertake a long hike or climb a mountain alone. Now along comes Colin Fletcher with a new book, The New Complete Walker, from which I eagerly lift a quote:

"But once you have discovered solitude--the gigantic, enveloping, including, renewing solitude of wild and silent places--and have learned

CALENDAR

(KEY EVENTS COMING UP)

June 13--THA Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 8822 Charles Hawkins Way.

June 18--Old-Fashioned Southern Family Barbecue, 1-3 p.m., TCC.

to put it to creative use, you are likely to accept without a second thought such small additional dangers as the solitude imposes. Naturally, you are careful....You leave broad margins of safety in everything you do...

"But if you judge safety to be the paramount consideration in life you should never, under any circumstances, go on long hikes alone. Don't take short hikes alone either--or, for that matter, go anywhere alone. And avoid at all cost such foolhardy activities as driving, falling in love, or inhaling air that is almost certainly riddled with deadly germs...

"In your wisdom you will probably live to a ripe old age. But you may discover, just before you die, that you have been dead for a long, long time."

TRURO TRAILS

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