

The Origin of Bannockburn Elementary

Although the county had purchased the school site from the Bannockburn co-op in 1951, and the school board had included the school in its proposed 1953-54 budget, it was only because of the vigilance of Bannockburn area residents and their organizations that the plans for the school were finally realized.

Early in 1954 the school board withdrew its plans for the school because the county manager and the county council had slashed the board's proposed budget, forcing the board to set up a priority list. Available school census figures gave the board the false impression that the need for a school in the Bannockburn area was less acute than in some other areas of the county.

When this disturbing news reached the community, Jack Tourin, president of the Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA), Jeanne Goldman, chairman of the education committee, and Joyce McDonald, education chairman of the Bannockburn(Heights) Citizens' Association, met with Montgomery County School Superintendent Dr. Forbes Norris. His figures on expected school enrollment showed that other areas had a more urgent need for schools than the Bannockburn area. At that time the Bannockburn children were attending the Clara Barton Elementary School in Cabin John, and the superintendent expected that the crowded conditions there would be alleviated when the Brookmont School (under construction) was completed. He assured the delegation that the Bannockburn school would be put back into the budget when the need for it was demonstrated.

In the fall of 1954 BCA's new education committee (cochairmen Jeanne and David Goldman, Irene Orkin, Milton Chase, Seymour Berlin, Melvin Brethouwer, and Stacey Brooks) learned of two important developments: the imminent construction of 135 homes on the Bannockburn tract and the overcrowding at Somerset Elementary School (near Kenwood). The committee decided to make a speedy survey of potential school enrollment in Bannockburn and neighboring communities.

Mrs. Colip, Clara Barton's principal, and Mrs. Bricker, Somerset's principal, provided school census data; concerned parents conducted a door-to-door nose-count of preschoolers; and various builders supplied figures on the number of houses they were planning to build in the area. This information gave the committee a reasonably accurate picture of what the expected enrollment at Clara Barton and Somerset would be in September of 1955 and 1956. The committee took its preliminary findings to Dr. Norris, who was by then aware of local developments and promised that the Bannockburn school would be included in the school board's 1955-56 budget.

On behalf of the civic and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) groups in the Bannockburn area a letter was sent in December 1954 to Dr. Norris, presenting a conservative analysis of the committee's findings on the school census and the impact of residential construction on school enrollment as of November 1954 (actual) and anticipated enrollment as of September 1955 and September 1956. The net result would be an excess of 100 pupils at Clara Barton and at Somerset by September 1955 and 200 excess pupils the following fall. Somerset

was already using its auditorium, its stage, its library, and a hallway to accommodate its pupils, and some were being transferred to the Radnor Elementary School. Similar overcrowding was anticipated for Clara Barton by September 1955 and even worse conditions by September 1956.

Copies of the letter to Dr. Norris were sent to the school board members, together with a covering letter informing them of the Superintendent's promise and urging them to give priority consideration to the needs of the Bannockburn area. This letter was signed by Jack Tourin, BCA president, the presidents of the Bannockburn Heights and Fairway Hills citizens' associations, a representative of Country Club Village, and the mayor of Glen Echo.

At the March 1, 1955 meeting of the Clara Barton PTA, Dr. Maxwell A. Burdette, director of research for the county schools, and school board members Helen Scharf and Lathrop Smith spoke on school problems. Dr. Burdette's figures on the growing school population were considerably lower than those of our BCA education committee, which were presented by Jeanne Goldman. As a result of this disclosure, two things happened: (1) the education committee made a resurvey of the homes under actual construction and confirmed its original figures; (2) a committee, consisting of Melvin Brethouwer, Milton Chase, and Joyce McDonald, met with Dr. Burdette, who, although sympathetic, said it was too late to change his original report to Dr. Norris. He also said that the committee's figures would be taken into account in determining the size of the school.

Later that month Edward Wenk, Jr., president of the Clara Barton PTA, lobbied for the school at the school board's capital budget hearing on behalf of Bannockburn and neighboring communities. Area residents continued to attend as many meetings as they could of the school board and county council to keep track of any actions affecting the fate of the school.

In April 1955 the schools committee of the Montgomery County Civic Federation voted to recommend deletion of the Bannockburn school from the budget. The committee had based its decision on the school board's original low figures. Sidney Orkin, our new BCA president, and Seymour Berlin, our new education committee chairman, supplied updated and more realistic figures, and the committee changed its vote in our favor.

The June 1955 issue of the Bannockburn Newsletter carried a special two-page S.O.S. (Save Our School) message from Sidney Orkin and Seymour Berlin, urging residents to write to county council members and the press and to attend the council's budget hearing on June 10. Many Bannockburners attended the hearing at the Richard Montgomery Junior High School gym in Rockville. Those who stayed long enough heard Seymour Berlin speak (after midnight) on behalf of the various local civic groups. Edward Wenk, Jr., representing local PTAs, was called upon to speak at 1:05 a.m. The county council also received a flood of letters from this area.

All these concerted efforts finally brought victory, and the council approved the Bannockburn school appropriation in the 1955-56 budget. But then there was still another setback. The engineering problems presented by the hilly and rocky school site caused Dr. Norris to start looking for an alternate site. One difficulty was the necessity of pumping water up to the school; the other was building a driveway on the steep grade from the street to the

school. So again Orkin and Berlin conferred with Dr. Norris and obtained his assurance that every effort would be made to overcome the engineering problems.

Early in September Dr. Norris informed us that the school would finally be built on the Bannockburn site. At about this time another crisis arose when the superintendent's plans were presented to the school board for approval. Two board members questioned the desirability of going ahead with the Bannockburn school when other areas appeared to have a greater need. But Orkin, Berlin, and Wenk were there and persuaded them that our information on anticipated enrollment was reliable and realistic and so convinced them to support the construction of the Bannockburn school.

In December 1955 it was expected that the school would open early in 1957. But in January 1957 the news was that the site difficulties would delay the opening until the fall.

Toward the end of 1956, while the school was under construction, the problem of districting arose. The BCA board went on record as opposing any plan that would separate the children of our community by sending them to different schools. A committee was appointed to present our views to school board officials.

On September 5, 1957 the long-awaited Bannockburn Elementary School became a reality, with 8 classrooms and an all-purpose room for 270 pupils and 10 teachers. Its first principal was Alexander Gottesman, who had been teaching at Bradley Elementary School.

As our projections of enrollment had indicated, the school was overcrowded at the time it opened, and it was necessary to use the all-purpose room (including the stage) for classroom space.

The superintendent was aware of the overcrowding and had already requested funds to build an addition of six classrooms and a kitchen. This was completed in the spring of 1963.

Sidney Orkin and Stacey Brooks

Bannockburn Artifacts

Martha Singleterry, who appears in the ground-breaking photograph, remembers finding arrowheads near the top of the cliff which was above the far end of the creek going north. These were of quartz, which underlies the Bannockburn tract. The Murras, who then lived at 7102 Wilson Lane not far from the 13th green of the golf course, found a primitive hand tool about the size of a fist. So we can imagine the Indians who were in these parts many years ago.

Area Zoning History

The Bannockburn area, now seemingly secure in its residential character, has fought off many threats to its existence in the 28 years since its conversion from a golf course to a housing development.

The first threat of high-rise apartments in the area came in 1954 with a request to rezone 20 acres opposite the Glen Echo Amusement Park to permit apartment buildings. The Bannockburn Civic Association joined with the civic groups in Mohican Hills and Wood Acres to oppose this request. It also worked with neighboring groups to prevent a 10-acre shopping center from being built at the intersection of Goldsboro Road and Massachusetts Avenue.

The most dire threat to the Bannockburn community occurred in 1957 when highway builders proposed to run Route 240 (now I-270) through lower Bannockburn. (See "The Bannockburn Civic Association.") When this threat was averted, we were safe -- for the time being.

In the early 1960's the voters elected a county council which was subservient to the interests of the builders and land developers (many of us will never forget the so-called "Diggs Council"). In a series of zoning decisions the council members overruled determined citizen opposition and zoned hundreds of acres of low-density residential land, in what had been largely a "bedroom" community for Washington, to high-rise apartments, shopping centers, and other commercial uses.

One of these rezonings would have opened the door for high-density apartment zoning along the Potomac River from Cabin John to Glen Echo. The so-called Polinger case became a cause célèbre in Bannockburn and the county and led to the establishment of the Potomac Valley League (PVL) as an umbrella group of the civic associations in this area. As citizen opposition mounted, the United States Government -- in a then unprecedented move -- entered a local zoning fight on the side of the citizens. In a series of legal battles, which resulted in landmark decisions, the citizens finally prevailed, and the Potomac shoreline was preserved from high-density development.

For the time being

Many Bannockburners enjoyed the Glen Echo Amusement Park, with its merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, and scooters, until the park's owners, the Baker Brothers, announced that they were planning to close the historic park and convert it into a shopping center-office complex. The existing zoning would have permitted 13-story-high buildings on the property and a huge commercial area. Bannockburners and other neighboring residents once more were called to battle. Petitions, letters, complaints, pickets -- all expressed public protest. Through a bit of legislative footwork, requiring an act of Congress, the Federal Government exchanged some surplus land in the District for the Glen Echo Park property. This paved the way for the park to be restored as a public asset, offering recreation, instruction, and pleasure to thousands -- including people of all ages who ride its ageless carrousel.

Willard Marriott, the hamburger king, decided to build his international headquarters at Al Marah Farm -- about a mile north of Bannockburn on River Road -- and to develop it into an office complex half the size of the Pentagon.

River Road, already full of morning rush-hour traffic, would have become clogged with thousands of additional cars. The entire residential character of the area would have changed. Once more many Bannockburn citizens became part of a zoning fight in what became one of the most sustained civic efforts in Montgomery County.

After 5 years of bitter litigation, the citizens won, and Marriott, after threatening to abandon Montgomery County, was forced to change his plans: the new Marriott headquarters is being built next to Montgomery Mall.

On one occasion the Bannockburn community was divided in its attitude toward a zoning proposal. In 1972 the National Council of Senior Citizens proposed to build a five-story-high apartment complex on the same Polinger tract in Cabin John which citizens had been successful in saving a decade earlier. Conservationists argued that, while there was a great need for senior-citizen housing, the Potomac Palisades was the wrong place to put the apartment complex. Proponents of the project argued that the urgent need for senior housing overrode all planning and environmental considerations. Several emotional meetings were held during the controversy.

Although county officials granted permission to build the complex, a series of court cases followed in which the Maryland Court of Appeals upheld the claims of the conservationists.

And now a footnote to history: the Polinger tract, the scene of decades of contention, is now being developed into townhouses under a unique developer-citizen agreement, which guarantees protection of trees along the Potomac shoreline and assures quality development.

As each zoning battle fades into history, a new problem seems to appear; a number of issues loom in the future.

The most immediate is the proposal to develop the beautiful tract at the intersection of Goldsboro and Massachusetts Avenue into a townhouse project. This matter is now in court, although a citizen-developer agreement is under consideration.

Then there is the Metropolitan Area Growth Plan, which initially proposed that Bannockburn and the surrounding area be subjected to intensive growth of undeveloped land. While the PVL has been able to get the plan amended to place Bannockburn in a "conservation" zone, the pressures may continue to permit intensive development of all the areas within the Beltway.

And now there is the question of the proposed location of a garbage dump at River and Persimmon Tree Roads. Although there is intense public opposition to

this proposal, which would bring 600 garbage trucks per day into the area, the county is under great pressure to dump its garbage somewhere.

This brief review has hardly covered all of the land-use battles in which Bannockburn area residents have been involved: the proposal to extend Massachusetts Avenue to River Road (between the two sections of Merrimack Park), the proposal to build a huge complex of high-rise buildings at Massachusetts and Westbard Avenues (where the townhouses are now); and even a proposal to completely close MacArthur Boulevard to automobile traffic. These are the issues of the past decades. As the area becomes more congested and pressures for more intensive development continue to increase, new zoning issues will undoubtedly require continued vigilance from concerned citizens.

William Green

Working for Whitman

Outstanding among my memories of life in Bannockburn is my involvement with my neighbors in the beginnings of Walt Whitman High School. Some of us had already cut our baby teeth in the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) at both the Clara Barton and Bannockburn elementary schools, as delegates to the Montgomery County PTA, and as members of the county's Curriculum Study Group. But then we faced a greater challenge: assisting in the birth of a new high school!

I remember how diligently we worked behind the scenes and on a planning committee to bring the high school into existence. Herbert Blackman, Sidney Orkin, Jeanne Goldman, and I were part of a committee representing several communities whose children would be entering this new high school. We met over the long hot summer of 1961, getting to know one another, setting up goals, and actively lobbying for a strong candidate as principal of the new school.

In those days it was unheard of in the county to try to influence the selection of a principal. But nothing ventured, nothing gained. We went ahead and did the unthinkable and were successful in getting Daryl Shaw as our principal. He proved quite willing to listen to our ideas about what kind of school we hoped to have. We tried to have the best in education for all levels of ability. In the fall of 1962 Walt Whitman opened with 10th and 11th graders and 4 classes of 9th graders who would be in the school for 4 years. Parents were troubled that, because of the school's newness, our young people would be at a disadvantage when applying for college entrance. The fears were unfounded. With the help of Mrs. Cockburn, college counselor, and the great student body of the first graduating class with its high number of National Merit Scholars, the students were accepted by all of the desired colleges. The reputation of the school was made, and Whitman was on the road to becoming one of the top high schools in the area.

Stacey Brooks

Saving the Creek

So you always thought the Battle of Bannockburn was fought exclusively in Scotland? But no, friends, it erupted right here, complete with pipers. Those pipers, however, were arrayed against us, not with us.

Perhaps this particular excerpt from local history should more properly be called "The Battle of Bannockburn Creek." For, as most of you know, our cherished brook has for many years been prone to flooding. With each serious downpour, residents owning property adjoining the creek have found their low-lying land dangerously inundated. Over the years a number of footbridges have been swept downstream, some of them irretrievably.

The problem was compounded about 25 years ago when Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc., under financial stress, sold off some of its land to private developers. At various times, these builders have sought approval from the Planning Board (Montgomery County's arm of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission) to erect houses on the land thus acquired. Especially where the wooded valley strip was concerned, such action often tended to clash developer interests against those of the owners of existing homes. These residents wanted both the creek and the park-like heights-and-valley land left in essentially their natural state, but with some protection of developed property against the intermittent flooding and erosion occasioned by severe rainstorms and heavy snow-melt. For example, several owners along Laverock and Braeburn Courts and East Halbert Road (not far from The Hook) had already, in the mid-1950's, purchased in common from the co-op the valley acreage behind their lots, to bar threatened encroachment there and to keep that land forever wild and wooded.

Perhaps the most noteworthy example of a complex problem occurred in the 1960's. The large parcel of land now known as Wilson Knolls had been sold by the co-op to a private developer. After homes were built over much of this area, there remained several acres of steep, heavily wooded land, difficult of access. Nearby residents generally regarded the property as inappropriate to housing. Adjacent homeowners were also quite perturbed at the prospect of still more erosion during construction, still more paved areas ultimately, throwing additional runoff into the stream, which was already often overburdened.

A development known as "Bannockburn Hamlet" was proposed in 1966, calling for houses to be built at the nonexistent intersection of two nonexistent segments of road formerly planned by the county: Braeburn Parkway and Massachusetts Avenue, Extended. The proposal evoked a requirement by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to enclose Bannockburn Creek in a pipe to a point estimated to be behind 6817 Laverock Court. Downstream owners were worried because the additional erosive force that would result from piping the creek would threaten their properties below the point of egress. They, as well as other individuals and community organizations, were concerned also over the threat to the creek itself. It turned out that, for a variety of reasons, no one most immediately involved in the matter, including the beleaguered builder, wanted to allow any portion of the stream to be piped.

For many of us -- perhaps most -- had been originally attracted to this place because of the woods, brook, hills, and other amenities to be found here. All of us enjoy these, and our property is enhanced in value by their presence, whether or not we directly abut the creek or the land then at issue. When this matter arose, everyone felt that simply converting the creek into a storm sewer would have tended eventually to kill off our beautiful woods, cause more erosion and flooding problems, force wildlife to emigrate, and eliminate cooling and screening effects. In general, the area would have been wrecked for the scouting and day-camp purposes to which it was being put, as well as for playing, strolling, hiking, nature study, and all other educational, recreational, and esthetic purposes.

Aware of these concerns, the Bannockburn Community Club (BCC), the Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA), and the Bannockburn Swimming Club (an owner of land adjacent to the creek), banded together with private householders to oppose the plan. Protest letters were sent to the WSSC and the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and appearances made at Planning Board hearings held in April and August 1966. The community organizations, helped by many individuals, employed an engineer to demonstrate that using the land for housing was infeasible and established the "Bannockburn Creek Fund" to cover his fee and other incidental expenses.

During that summer Acting Governor Blair Lee III, then a commissioner and the chairman of the Planning Board, was prevailed upon to walk the length of the creek. He then concluded that not only should it remain unenclosed but that the nearby land was entirely unsuitable for housing. In the Planning Board's subsequent deliberations, he and another commissioner voted this position, although the three other commissioners opted to permit the developer to introduce a modified plan. As a result of all the controversy, the plans for "Bannockburn Hamlet" were first amended to call for fewer houses and finally withdrawn. A community effort was made to induce the county to purchase the land for a park, to which use it was admirably suited. However, budgetary constraints prevented the acquisition. The land later passed into other private hands in a series of transactions. Each time, neighboring property owners resisted any substantial development. In recent years a private road leading from Selkirk Drive was built, to accommodate two houses only; one of these tracts includes most of the property formerly disputed.

While at one time there was fear locally that the WSSC might even advocate encasing the creek clear to the Potomac, actually no more has been heard from the agency's enclosure-minded pipers. Militating against such a position was the fact that this approach was reliably estimated to cost upward of a quarter of a million dollars in the mid-'60's! Who knows what it would cost today? But the problem of periodic flooding and erosion still remains. Homeowners next to the creek seem to have been frightened into silence, nevertheless continuing to be painfully aware of the vulnerability of their properties' lower reaches. Perhaps they have tacitly decided to live with the situation as the lesser of two evils -- although doubtless some method acceptable to our community could be found to tame the creek without enclosing it.

But, happily, the big Battle of Bannockburn appears to be over, and the opposing pipers in permanent retreat.

Mary-Ellen Sayre

Diminishing the Din

Twenty-five years ago and more, when the "old timers" among us first moved here, not far beyond River Road there was a small farm bordered by Wilson Lane on land that is now Honesty Way. The early-morning sounds to which some lucky residents of Bannockburn then genially awakened were cock-crowing and cow-lowing.

All that changed about a dozen years back. Startling us from slumber was the vroom-vroom-vroom of jet planes to and from National Airport, streaking by above our homes. Their late-afternoon and early-evening counterparts disrupted myriad dinner hours. Mounting wails of anguish from community members dictated a need to "do something; we can't even talk on our patio." Well, we're still working on it -- with resolutions, letters, reports, telephoning, committees, testimony at hearings. In 1978, for the first time, there is reason for optimism.

The Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) for several years relegated aircraft-noise issues chiefly to the Potomac Valley League (PVL), which comprises more than 20 riverside citizens' groups. During the 1960's Bannockburn people backed the D.C.-founded Committee Against National, some later joining Virginians for Dulles (VFD). In 1971 BCA, with nearby Maryland communities, VFD, and D.C. participants, sued the Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and 11 major airlines to require conformity with their own operating rules and to obtain damages. The U.S. District Court denied relief. Finally, in 1976, the Court of Appeals ordered FAA to study airport environmental impact and prepare a statement, which was filed in March 1978. Unhappily but not unexpectedly, what emerged was a ponderous masterpiece of obfuscation; it was broadly and searchingly criticized at subsequent FAA hearings.

A year earlier the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and FAA cosponsored meetings where vocal opponents of a proposed "scatter plan" effectively thwarted our effort to achieve fairer aircraft-noise distribution by spreading flight paths more widely. However, tighter enforcement of pilot procedures and other actions to abate and measure noise have since yielded partial relief.

These hearings, one of which BCA spokesmen attended, led to a flurry of meetings of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, which did not endorse scattering, and the PVL, which did. After its public hearing, where BCA representatives testified, the Montgomery County Council urged on FAA noise-reduction techniques, including equitable plane dispersal in flight corridors to attenuate the decibels.

Meanwhile, Congress was growing more responsive. Impelled by FAA's arrogant failure to deal adequately with the public's multitude of complaints, Maryland's Senator Charles Mathias, Jr., in March 1978 introduced S.2785, an aircraft-noise-abatement bill backed by BCA and PVL. Its companion, H.R.12512, has been put forth in the House of Representatives by our Congressman Newton Steers, with Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. cosponsors. If passed, these measures would require FAA to adopt permanent noise-abatement methods. Neither proposed law mandates an aircraft scatter plan, however. Nor does coincidentally numbered S.747, advanced by New York Senator Jacob Javits, on retrofitting older planes to reduce noise.

Some of us suspect that FAA has quietly modified routings, as it already had the power to do. Areas that had never "com-planed" of the roaring are now doing

so, while some here are aware of diminished sound. Others think differently. The budding Maryland Citizens Concerned with Aircraft Noise (MCCAN), spearheaded by our Cabin John neighbors, will push for passage of the pending bills and generally champion less plane-induced ear- and lung-pollution. At a May 1978 MCCAN meeting, representatives of BCA and many other civic organizations closed ranks with airplane-noise-abatement advocates in Congress.

Sufficient public sentiment has been aroused that some form of improved and needed congressional oversight of FAA appears likely if we keep up the pressure. Along with PVL, MCCAN, and other like-minded groups, we expect to continue the campaign for congressional remedies, our best chance for relief from the remaining din.

Mary-Ellen Sayre

The Jets in Washington, D.C. *

I am willing to bet that at least one jet
Flies over our house every minute
During the time of day when we'd like to stay
Outdoors, in the spring, and hear the birds
sing,
To breathe the fresh air, and forget the
day's care.
But when I open the door, I am met by a roar
That drowns out my voice and leaves me no
choice
But to shrink back into my house like a
scared little mouse,
And be resigned to stay in it.

Oh, it may be okay for great L.B.J.,
When he wants to talk on his terrace,
To stop the jets cold, as did Joshua
of old
With the sun and the moon. But folks
like us, soon
Find out that such deeds are not for us.

Though it hurts me to say: there is
only one way
For us folks within miles of National
To get a respite from jet overflight:
That CAB show some guts and, without
ifs or buts,
Tell all the jets: Nix! You land
out in the sticks!
Space galore out at Dulles! Such
action would lull us.
And wouldn't it be simply rational?

Udo Rall

* Reprinted from the Bannockburn Civic Association Newsletter of June 1968.

Social Concerns

In the decades of the fifties and sixties Bannockburn played its part in the growing battle for the rights of minorities and the underprivileged.

After the 1954 Supreme Court decision brought the black children of Cabin John into the previously all-white Clara Barton Elementary School, which Bannockburn children were then attending, Bannockburn parents worked hard to make the school desegregation program a success. And after Bannockburn had its own elementary school, and county officials were seeking placements for black faculty and supervisors from the segregated Negro schools, it was not surprising that Bannockburn was the first white school in the county to have a black principal. Margaret Jones was welcomed to Bannockburn in 1959 and served as principal until her retirement in June 1971.

A few years later the community's interest in civil rights focused on the nearby Glen Echo Amusement Park. At the May 12, 1960 annual meeting of the Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA), the following resolution was passed unanimously:

Be it resolved that the Bannockburn Civic Association express its deep concern over the admissions policy of the Glen Echo Amusement Park which continues to discriminate against Negroes. Our children are in an integrated school system in Montgomery County, and the human values we ourselves nurture through our schools should be encouraged in out-of-school recreation. As a near-by community, we urge the amusement park to join the ranks of public places in the capital area that are open to all.

At the same meeting the BCA expressed its concern over the Montgomery County Recreation Department's policy of excluding black children from its summer swimming program at the amusement park. A committee was appointed to protest to county officials about this policy. The very next month came the antisegregation picketing of the park described in Nancy Karro's article. (See "Picketing at Glen Echo Amusement Park.")

In 1961 a majority of Bannockburners signed a Good Neighbor Pledge, which reads, "I will welcome into my neighborhood any person of good character, regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin." In that same year the BCA delegation to the Montgomery County Civic Federation introduced a resolution prohibiting discrimination in county employment or county contracts because of race, religion, or nationality. The BCA membership voted in that same year to urge the county council to pass an ordinance prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations. It also expressed support of the newly established Human Relations Commission. Bannockburners also lobbied in 1963 against a proposal to rescind the public accommodations law. Three Bannockburners became board members of Suburban Maryland Fair Housing, Inc. when it was organized in November 1962.

But none of these various actions were as dramatic as the role Bannockburn played when it came to the aid of the beleaguered black community of Danville, Virginia. (See "Bannockburn to Danville.")

On April 16, 1967 a number of Bannockburn men and women joined a quiet picket line of about 300 county citizens in support of the striking housekeeping workers at Suburban Hospital, who wanted to form a union so that they could be protected by a collectively bargained contract. The BCA president testified on July 6, 1967 before the county council in favor of a fair housing ordinance, which was enacted, effective in August. In 1967, also, planning began for the busing of District children to the Bannockburn Elementary School. (See "The Bannockburn Open School Program.") The following year Bannockburn became deeply involved in the Poor People's March. (See the article on this subject.)

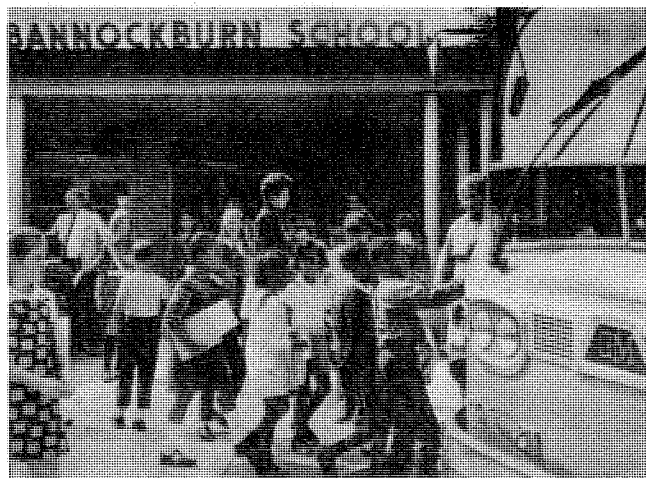
After these special efforts social action continued in a quieter atmosphere. In 1969 the BCA gave \$200 to the River Road Unitarian Church Day Care Center, and there was an extra Monday evening performance of the Bannockburn Spring Show to benefit this cause. The community also helped provide food and clothing for the Columbia Heights Community Association, which operated a community center in the Upper Cardozo area.

In the seventies Bannockburn turned its attention to such matters as saving the carrousel at the Glen Echo Amusement Park, getting the park developed as a cultural center, continuing its interest in Suburban Maryland Fair Housing, Inc., lobbying its congressional representatives to have American troops withdrawn from Vietnam, supporting the Little Falls Mall recycling center, working on various social needs with the Maryland Coalition, and supporting the Clara Barton Day Care Center.

There will always be an outlet for Bannockburn's activists.

The Editors

19 District Pupils Start Busing to Suburbs



By Harry Belinfante—The Washington Post
District children board bus for return to city after first day of classes at Bethesda's Bannockburn Elementary.

Picketing at Glen Echo Park

In the late fifties, sit-ins, a classic manifestation of the nonviolent protest movement against segregation, began in the Deep South. Along with the rest of the country Bannockburn watched with interest the spread of this movement. Then a group of youngsters, who had been trying to achieve integration in Northern Virginia, discovered the Glen Echo Amusement Park. The management of this park had withstood countless appeals to reason to end its Jim Crow practices.

Suddenly the sit-ins spearheaded by these youngsters leaped the Potomac.

On the afternoon of a beautiful sunny day in June of 1960 the news traveled like wildfire through Bannockburn: there was a sit-in at Glen Echo! A round dozen of housewives dropped clothespins and gardening rakes and hurried down to Glen Echo Park to watch the drama.

At first it looked dull. The carrousel was silent, immobile. On the backs of the heraldic creatures there were would-be riders -- three or four girls, a couple of youths, all black, looking uncertain and a bit abashed at their own daring.

Some young white mothers huddled with preschool children at one side of the carrousel entrance, patiently awaiting action. Opposite them a small gang of white youths, not locals -- our young people were all in school at that time of day -- and obviously hostile to the blacks, were watching alertly. Half-a-dozen men, some of them in the uniform of the park guards, were standing on the carrousel platform in desultory conference. Nobody seemed to know quite what should be done.

After a while one of the men approached the girls and read something to them from a mimeographed sheet. The girls listened impassively, eyes downcast. He finished and waited a moment. The girls continued to sit. He returned to the other men. There was low-voiced consultation, head shaking, nodding. We all waited.

We began to be nervously aware of the youths. They were shifting restlessly, muttering. The girls looked so meekly persistent, so young and defenseless. All at once, without prearrangement, we were on the carrousel platform, standing with the girls, between them and the youths.

Bannockburn picketing against segregation had begun.

It went on through all the long, hot summer months of that year. Every day without fail the picket line was begun at 3 p.m. by a handful of housewives, and we walked until 11 p.m. when the amusement park closed down. From two or three openers our numbers swelled throughout the evening until 20, 40, at times over 80 pickets carried their protest signs along the southern shoulder of MacArthur Boulevard and circled in the area in front of the park entrance. On Saturdays and Sundays the lines formed at 10 a.m., and sympathizers from Washington,

Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and all over Northern Virginia came to walk. Not infrequently, visitors to the amusement park, instead of crossing the picket line, joined us and carried signs. Several times mothers conducting parties of children for a day of fun gave the youngsters the exciting experience of walking a picket line instead. On one gala occasion -- probably the Fourth of July -- a massive turnout put over 800 on the picket lines.

In typical Bannockburn fashion this community effort, in spite of its spontaneity, was expertly organized, drawing on the experience of veteran labor union organizers and the legal expertise of lawyers in our midst. An informal guidance committee set the opening time of 3 p.m. along MacArthur Boulevard to catch the attention of homebound carpools. [A search of land records had revealed that certain areas at the west side and front of the park were Federal property.] Thus, by keeping to these areas, we avoided being enjoined for trespassing. To avoid creating a nuisance situation that also could have been used to enjoin us, we were drilled in the traditional pattern of picketing: 2 abreast, 10 to 15 feet apart, and keep in motion.

The picketing activity became a source of considerable community stimulation. Old friendships were rediscovered and new friendships were made as we walked and gossiped. Ties with other communities were made. And the effect on our teenagers was marked. Marching shoulder to shoulder with Mom and Pop threw many a bridge across the generation gap. Hitherto boring reminiscences of parental activity in the distressed thirties were sought for to be mined for suggestion and experience. Our youngsters organized their own steering committee and branched out, taking for their own the entrance area (to which we were still, of course, very welcome). They threw their own picket line around the still segregated Hiser theater in Bethesda, organizing themselves into relays to maintain nonstop picketing. [The theater suffered a considerable loss of business and was later sold to the KB chain, which renamed the theater the Baronet and did an excellent integrated business.]

Bannockburn's picketing activity was viewed with mixed reactions by neighboring communities. On the street west of the parking lot the American Nazi Party countermarched. This confrontation carried sufficient implicit threat for the State troopers to carefully keep the groups separated and for the Bannockburners to restrict the younger -- and presumably more inflammable -- pickets to the area at the park entrance. But minor skirmishing could not entirely be avoided, though it was kept at the verbal level.

On the other hand, from Fairway Hills on the north side of MacArthur Boulevard we drew adherents, and there were families there who kept us supplied with icy lemonade through hot, sweaty, dusty evenings. In addition, provisions from Bannockburn kitchens were provided daily. Motorists passing along MacArthur Boulevard often showed reaction, some of them tooting in approbation, some making the victory sign with their fingers, while others blared their horns in disfavor, their drivers throwing empty coke bottles at the pickets. On more than one occasion hostile drivers drove their cars at pickets who were crossing MacArthur Boulevard, forcing them to jump or run for safety: while no one was ever struck, such dangerous displays of hostility were frightening.

There was one serious episode in the shopping center parking lot, which would undoubtedly have led to violence but for the prompt action of the police. Teenage

pickets on their way home entered the darkened shopping center parking lot, intending to cross it, and were ambushed. Attackers hiding among the parked cars jumped out, knocked them down, and started beating and kicking them. The State Police cars, dispersing from duty at the park entrance, came racing, sirens howling, to the scene of the commotion. The attackers took off in their own cars, which were waiting, engines idling and girl friends at the wheel. All were apprehended.

The pickets spent the next few hours in the police station, giving their accounts and writing out depositions. Fortunately none of them was badly hurt -- a cut lip, blackened eyes, a few bruises. The attackers were brought into court, where pickets had been tried on nuisance charges. The charges against all were dismissed, but the ringleader was fined \$25 (the standard fine for the pickets) and placed upon a short probation.

/On September 1, 1960 a mimeographed flyer announced a major effort to finish the season on September 11 with a big showing of support. More than a hundred came out for that last day with a vow to be there again in April if need be. Their return as pickets proved to be unnecessary. A Washington Post story on March 15, 1961 started with the line that "Glen Echo Amusement Park will open its doors to persons of all races on March 31." Victory! True to their word, many of the pickets returned as patrons during the few years that the amusement park operated successfully as an integrated facility. It closed down in 1969./

The Park Service has since acquired Glen Echo Park, and, in cooperation with the creative energies of the area, is turning it into a thriving crafts and theatrical arts center.

Nancy Karro

Bracketed material was supplied
by Ed and Sandy Rovner.



Picketing at Glen Echo Amusement Park
Courtesy of Holgate Young

Bannockburn to Danville

Justice Department officials in Washington said they could recall no similar demonstration of white sympathy for the Negro desegregation movement anywhere in the country.

The New York Times, Sept. 7, 1963

White resistance to the Supreme Court decision of 1954 that schools be desegregated began an era of violent white opposition throughout the Southland, prevented from becoming open warfare only by the determinedly nonviolent character of the black movement. The names of cities and communities hitherto scarcely known jumped from newspaper headlines around the world and became synonyms for atrocity and police lawlessness. One of these trouble spots was Danville, Virginia.

For more than three years prior to 1963 the large black community in the city of Danville had unavailingly tried to have established a human relations committee as a medium for "dialogue between whites and blacks." The city council repeatedly rejected, by a vote of 7 to 1, a resolution calling for the formation of such a committee. In 1963 the blacks took to the streets, calling public attention to their cause by picketing and demonstrations. They were harassed by the police, arrested -- more than 300 were jailed, their leaders tried and extravagantly sentenced to as much as 10 years under the John Brown law, which had been designed to prevent agitation of slaves; and, in June, 50 demonstrators were herded by police and firemen into an alley blocked at both ends by fire trucks. High-powered hoses were turned on them, and they were so badly beaten by police that 48 of them required hospitalization. In outraged protest other sympathizers joined the demonstrations, and a Bannockburn housewife who was among the protesters was arrested and imprisoned for 11 days. Bannockburn turned its attention to Danville.

At that time, in the summer of 1963, Washington was bracing itself for what was obviously going to be an unprecedented, huge invasion in a civil rights march scheduled for August 28. Learning that the Danville protest movement was too exhausted and discouraged to participate in the march on Washington, a committee, to be called the Friends of Danville, was hastily organized in Bannockburn. In one morning \$700 was raised to hire buses to bring demonstrators from Danville north; and, the day before the March, 80 Danville blacks, ranging in age from 14 to 83, came to Bannockburn.

A hospitality program had been arranged, and a friendly delegation of hosts was on hand at the clubhouse to welcome the demonstrators. The buses were late; the Bannockburn hosts grew anxious. Fortunately, a Bannockburner, while driving her car, came upon them at the Union Arch Bridge, where they were being detained by police who were concerned about having the overweight buses travel on MacArthur Boulevard. She reassured the police that the buses had only a short distance to go and triumphantly led them to the clubhouse.

Quite a fete day had been planned. Each guest was assigned to a Bannockburn family and spent the day with that family at the swimming pool, having lunch and then dinner. In the evening in the swimming pool area there were dancing, a song-fest led by the Danville Singers, and speechmaking by whites and blacks, expressing the poignant feeling of brotherhood that was, we all knew, to find its zenith on the morrow at the Lincoln Memorial. The evening was recorded on film by a camera crew from the U. S. Information Service and later used as part of a film that was sent all over the world to show that American whites did care and were involved in the struggle for equal rights.

The next morning our guests departed, loaded with sandwiches for the day, and with the expectation that we would all meet again at the Lincoln Memorial. Realizing as we did that this would be a mighty march indeed, we still were staggered at its magnitude when we got there. Our Danville friends were lost in the vast, impenetrable hordes that had converged on Washington from all over the United States.

The next news we had of our friends was shocking. When the demonstrators returned to Danville, arriving there at 2 a.m., they found the police waiting. Some of them were arrested; others were dismissed from their jobs for taking the day off.

The Friends of Danville Committee now took on firmer character, and definite duties were undertaken. Mailing lists of liberal and union groups were used to send out information on the Danville situation and to appeal for aid, money, and volunteers. Speakers were sent to seek support at colleges and organizations. In a short time about \$7,000 was funneled to Danville to underwrite bail for arrested demonstrators and to defray defense expenses.

An immediate project was the organizing of a motorcade to Danville. Automobiles from Bannockburn were to go south to demonstrate support for the Danville black community in its battle against discrimination. On Saturday, September 7, 1963, 11 automobiles carrying between 50 and 60 persons left Bannockburn and headed south. Across the Potomac they were joined by two more cars bearing Virginia license plates.

Normally, Bannockburners tended to be rather scornful of overdramatization, but there was distinctly a thriller aura about the project of the motorcade. To begin with, it was a unique idea -- though many other communities would later copy it -- conceived to deal with circumstances themselves charged with menace and quite unpredictable. In defiant procession we proposed to enter a city that felt itself beleaguered and was manning its streets with an armed, beefed-up police force that had already shown its capacity for brutality. That we might be refused entry into the city was such a strong possibility that Mother Teresa, the Mother Superior of a small order of nuns whose convent property lay on both sides of the Virginia-North Carolina border offered us bivouac privileges on her North Carolina acres if needed.

The demonstration movement in Danville had arranged for us to rendezvous with them in Chatham, a town a few miles north of Danville. They proposed to lead us into the city in small, inconspicuous groups by back ways. In view of these precautions on the part of inhabitants of Danville, who were surely more able than we to gauge its reactions, the motorcade abandoned its original

plan of going in conspicuous formation along the Virginia highways, and the Bannockburn cars, beginning at 9 a.m., took off individually, a few minutes apart. Nevertheless, attended as we were by newspaper reporters and the trucks of a filming crew from the U. S. Information Service, which was eagerly following up the continuing story we were now affording them, we were not moving through the stream of southbound traffic as inconspicuously as we could have wished.

Chatham was reached without incident. There we formed into groups of four cars, each with a Danville guiding car, and were led by side roads into the city. We were already across the Dan River when we heard over the radio that "cars with northern license plates have not been sighted."

Bannockburn hospitality was returned with gusto. The motorcade, now in united formation and with horns blaring, swept along a rutted country road to a tumultuous welcome at the Negro country club. Fun and games, singing by the magnificent Danville Singers, and unlimited fried chicken were the order of the day. We spent the night in the homes of assigned black hosts and went with them on Sunday morning to their churches. For the afternoon, meetings with prominent white Danvillians had been set up for us, where the segregation issues were discussed. Mother Teresa and her nuns provided us all -- white Bannockburners and black Danvillians -- with a magnificent supper, after which, in an atmosphere of loving-kindness and fellowship, of encouragement and admiration, the motorcade took its departure and headed northward and home.

At the next meeting of the Danville City Council the resolution for the formation of a human relations committee was once again introduced and this time passed. Dan River Mills, very slowly at first, it is true, began amending its discriminatory employment policies. Charges against more than 300 demonstrators were eventually dismissed and the preposterously severe sentences of the leadership reduced to nominal terms. Perhaps Bannockburn activities actually had nothing to do with these events. Perhaps Danville was caught in the compelling tide of the national conscience. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that it was the show of concern from Bannockburn that shocked Danville into reassessment of its shameful public posture. Such is the expressed opinion of leaders of the black community in Danville.

Nancy Karro

Notary Public for Bannockburn

Two generations of Bannockburners have passed through my home as they brought me legal papers to notarize. Although I no longer needed the license for my job, I continued to renew it because I wanted to provide this convenience to my neighbors. In many cases this has been my only contact with them. Often they needed my services on weekends or in the evenings -- at times quite late -- and in a few cases I have gone to their homes when they were unable to come to mine because of their illness. Through the years I have notarized a number of the early deeds on Bannockburn homes and some significant papers in the lives of my neighbors.

Alice MacIntyre

The Poor People's Campaign

The Poor People's Campaign of 1968 was organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in the belief that the techniques that had been successful in the civil rights movement could focus national sympathy on the poverty problem and secure new antipoverty legislation. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had been assassinated on April 4, and Dr. Ralph Abernathy was now the leader of the antipoverty demonstration.

In late April about 3,000 poor people of all races started streaming to Washington to dramatize their needs to the Congress and the President. They came from all over the country -- on foot, by mule, by bus and train -- to a plywood and plastic "Resurrection City" quickly put together on the grassy area south of the Reflecting Pool. The permit for the encampment covered the period from May 12 to June 24.

Before the first marchers arrived, individual Bannockburners had already started working with other county groups and the SCLC, planning how to help with food, clothing, transportation, child care, and housing. At a special Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) meeting on April 10 the membership voted to support the principles of the Poor People's Campaign and to contribute \$500 to the cause. Later, however, the executive board decided that the BCA constitution precluded involvement in any matters that were not purely local. So the Bannockburners who worked in the campaign called themselves the "Bannockburn Committee for the Poor People's Campaign."

Bannockburn residents helped the campaign in many ways: by supplying plywood and plastic for the shelters to house the marchers, by doing some of the actual construction, by contributing food and money, by preparing food at local churches and serving it at Resurrection City. Bannockburn teenagers slogged through the mud of the temporary encampment, emptying garbage cans and performing other useful work. Bannockburn doctors and nurses ministered to the sick in the infirmary, giving many of the demonstrators their first experience of modern medical care. Bannockburners also arranged bus transportation for the county citizens who wished to participate in the June 19 Solidarity Day March from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial.

Despite the nearly constant rain in one of the wettest springs in memory, Resurrection City somehow survived for 6 weeks until its permit expired late in June. The rain and the mud added to the general feeling of frustration and failure. As the rains continued and mud oozed in over shoetops, tempers grew short and sanitation began to break down. Some demonstrators got a chance to get away from their depressing surroundings. Bannockburn families took in refugees, a few at a time, for a bath and a dry night's sleep. Nearly 100 of them were brought to Bannockburn for a swim and dinner on one of the rare sunny days. At the end of the demonstration, when the permit expired and Dr. Abernathy led the last of many marches to the U. S. Capitol and was arrested, Resurrection City was destroyed by the authorities. Then there were more refugees, some of whom became guests in Bannockburn for a while before leaving for home.

During the Poor People's Campaign not all the poor people stayed in the encampment. The Hispanic-Americans were accommodated at the Hawthorne School. To supply this group with its usual diet, some Bannockburn women who had lived in the Southwest or in Latin America set up a brigade of knowledgeable chili- and bean-buyers to scour Washington for suitable rations. This particular effort culminated in a weekend when 30 Bannockburn families acted as hosts for some of the Spanish-Americans participating in the march. The weekend was a brief respite from the grim confrontations they had been experiencing in Washington. With fun at the pool and a banquet at the clubhouse, fond ties were developed between Bannockburn and the West. For a few years after that weekend Bannockburn chili makers had better chili because now and then small packages of peppers would arrive from Denver -- beautiful tokens of thanks.

Although the campaign failed to influence the Congress, at least the participants learned that people in the Washington area cared about their plight.

Anne Rippey and Helen Levine

We were living in Deerfield, Illinois when Chuck met Jack Karro at a Labor Department conference. He told us about cooperative Bannockburn and showed us a copy of a play the community had put on about Nancy Karro's civil rights activities and the support which Bannockburn had given her. We were living in a junior-executive suburb of Chicago which had never heard of the word cooperative and had just undergone a rather violent human relations crisis. Bannockburn sounded like the dream community I'd longed to find all my life. It already had a cooperative nursery school, something that I had proposed in Deerfield but which was considered as radical and anti-motherhood. The Bannockburn community supported its civil rights activists; in Illinois we had experienced threatening phone calls for our civil rights activities.

A few months later we bought the "Lebergott house" on East Halbert Road, learning that no matter how long you live in Bannockburn or how much you spend for your house, it will usually keep the name of its first owner.

Bannockburn lived up to the finest expectations of our family and for years we enjoyed participation in the nursery school, sitters' club, elementary school, Scout programs, dance programs, the Bannockburn Show, the playreading group, and the swim team. We enjoyed having neighbors and friends who had immigrated to Bannockburn from all over America and such far-flung foreign lands as Israel and Nigeria.

A few years ago another job change took us to Grosse Pointe, Michigan. The change of community was startling. Our neighbors were a lot richer in money but a lot poorer in spirit. We found nothing to cooperate in at Grosse Pointe except Weight Watchers, and the Rippeys love to eat. I had a full-time unpaid job trying to keep the public schools open during a community budget battle. In six months we'd made friends with only two other families.

Once again we immigrated to Bannockburn, buying the Leib house on Crathie Lane and returning to our favorite community. We may live in Leib or Lebergott houses, but after 14 years Bannockburn has become the Rippey home.

The Rippeys

The Open School Program

Ed. Note: In this section the word "Bannockburn" standing alone refers to the Bannockburn Elementary School. The school's 1968 boundaries are described by the county's education department as follows: "The northern boundary from the 495 intersection at River Road along River Road to the south side of Marjory Lane. South-west so that both sides of Marjory Lane are in Bannockburn service area. Continue south-west, so that both sides of Benalder Drive are in Bannockburn, to MacArthur Blvd. South along MacArthur Blvd. to the south side of Tulane and Oberlin Avenues, then to the George Washington Parkway. North along the parkway to Cabin John Parkway, north to the intersection of 495 and River Road."

Part I. The Program

In the summer of 1967, programs were under way in various areas of the country to aid educationally disadvantaged inner-city children. In the Bannockburn neighborhood a few parents came up with a proposal to bring a group of about 30 Washington children to the Bannockburn Elementary School. This would serve a dual purpose: to provide at least a small group of inner-city children with the quality education available in the suburban schools and help prepare suburban children for life in a multiracial society. (The Bannockburn School had only 9 black students out of a total of 500.) It also seemed important to break the growing barriers between the city and the suburbs.

Money for such a program might be available from Federal funds, but would the community support it? During the summer a partial, informal canvass of families in the school area showed a majority in favor of the proposed program. With this much encouragement a group of parents mobilized to plan the program and made a study of other communities with integration programs. A report of this study was transmitted to the entire membership of the Bannockburn Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) in November.

On December 5, 1967 the Bannockburn PTA held a meeting, chaired by Judge Harold Greene, in the auditorium at Pyle Junior High School to explain the proposed program to parents and the community. School officials from Montgomery County and the District were there, as well as consultants from other cities. That evening it was decided to poll Bannockburn PTA members by secret ballot.

Shortly thereafter the PTA polled not only its membership but all the parents of children in the school. The results were as follows:

PTA members	--	299 in favor, 124 opposed
All parents	--	342 in favor, 185 opposed

A secret poll of Bannockburn teachers indicated that 17 out of 18 approved the project, and Principal Margaret Jones gave her full support.

With these favorable votes, detailed planning of the program began. The Meyer School at 11th and Clifton Streets, N. W. would select some 30 children volunteered by their parents. Expenses would be met by funds provided to the District by the U. S. Office of Education under Title I of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or by private funds, with no costs to be borne by Montgomery County taxpayers. Bannockburn proposed to accommodate the District children in the first three grades and have them continue on through the sixth grade, while new children would be added to the first grade each year.

A meeting was scheduled for mid-April at the Meyer School. But on April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, and Washington was wracked by widespread riots. Some Bannockburn parents had been trapped in their offices in downtown Washington by the rioting and had experienced firsthand the unleashed antiwhite feelings. The following week, as a group of us drove downtown to meet with the D. C. parents, I remember feeling apprehensive as burned-out buildings and deserted streets gave an ominous sense of reality to what had been only a television horror picture the week before.

Our car was stopped on Florida Avenue and a hostile voice asked what we were doing in the neighborhood. When we explained, the antagonism cleared, and a parking spot which had been saved for us was pointed out. In the midst of the past weeks' disruption, our school project commanded the respect and attention of the black community.

Many Meyer School parents attended this meeting to find out what the program might offer their children. Some were enthusiastic, some apprehensive about sending their children into a white school while racial antagonism was at fever pitch, some openly antagonistic, and some bitter that the program could initially accommodate only 20 to 30 children. By the end of the evening many D. C. parents had volunteered their children, and a group of parents from both communities started to plan a program together.

By May 1968 the Montgomery County School Board had unanimously approved the program. Plans were made for each child to have a Bannockburn host family who would arrange for afterschool play, field trips, and the opportunity for full participation in afterschool community programs.

By August, \$16,000 for the District children's tuition was obtained from Title I funds, and \$16,500 had been pledged by six private foundations to cover the cost of transportation and a teacher's aide (a parent from the Meyer School).

By Labor Day, host families were inviting their D. C. families to visit them. Our family had a delightful second grader as a guest and decided to include her fourth-grade brother, who was too old for the program, in our weekend get-togethers.

On September 3, 1968, 19 children (17 black, 1 Oriental, and 1 white) from the first three grades of Meyer School arrived by bus at Bannockburn Elementary School, and the program began. A voluntary contribution system was set up in

the PTA for the expenses of additional cultural activities for the children. Three teachers volunteered to stay after school to transport the D. C. children home from afterschool activities.

As the program continued, we could see that the children's judgments of each other depended on "how well they caught the ball," as one teacher phrased it, "rather than where they came from." As D. C. parents attended PTA meetings and volunteered for school activities, adults grew to value and respect one another's capabilities.

The Bannockburn library was a source of delight to the District children, who could browse for books and use "learning machines" at their own pace. My extra guest Buddy took one look at the library and decided what 11th and Clifton Streets needed. With a few donated books, some trips to secondhand bookstores, and a few pillows, this fourth-grader set up an open library in the hall of his apartment house.

Parents shared talents, time, and "show and tell" items with the children. Several teachers exchanged learning days between the two schools, sharing ideas on display, equipment, and teaching methods. Congressman Gilbert Gude arranged a congressional tour for the children, with lunch and visits to various congressional committees. Coretta Scott King sent an autographed copy of her first book to the school library, with a note of thanks to the children.

By spring the District children all scored average or higher on the Metropolitan Achievement Test, and their attendance record was 95 percent. Parents of Bannockburn children made no complaints about any adverse effects of the program.

In the second year the only dropouts were several children who had moved to other areas; additional children were enrolled. That year some problems arose. Some of the District first-graders needed extra help, which was supplied by community volunteer tutors and the D. C. teacher's aide. One or two teachers reported difficulties due to the wide spread in the children's abilities, and there was some breakdown in the host-family program. But, as the second year went by, a majority of parents in both communities felt strongly that their children were benefiting from the program.

When the third year of the program began in September 1970, a new dimension was added with the enrollment of four preschoolers from the Meyer School neighborhood in the Bannockburn Nursery School, with their mothers cooperating on a regular basis. But during this year a number of socioeconomic and political problems developed. Sentiment favoring black separatism grew stronger in the D. C. School Board, which also disapproved of the lack of reciprocal busing of suburban white students to District schools. Nor was there any firm long-term commitment from the Montgomery County Board of Education to participate in a joint venture such as a magnet school or to expand the program. In addition, District school funding problems and priorities became more acute.

In September 1971 the busing project began its fourth year. The group from the District at this time included four preschoolers and five kindergartners. But before the month was over, the negative attitude which had been growing in the D. C. School Board during the previous year climaxed in a 6 to 5

decision to withdraw Title I money from the program. The Meyer School children were sent back to the District, and the program came to an abrupt end.

The 3-year experiment was a short interval in the educational lifetime of our children, but those who participated, young and old, have lasting memories of their experience. Perhaps the value of the program is best summed up in the proposal presented at the September 3, 1967 PTA meeting, when plans for the project were first introduced, as quoted in the minutes:

Racial isolation and lack of communication between middle-class white suburban and largely Negro poor of the inner city have presented us with one of the major problems with which we and our children will have to deal. Education which perpetuates this isolation -- which does not prepare our children to deal with this problem -- cannot be the best education.

We are under no illusions that this program can work miracles. We believe that it can help to mold the attitudes and values of our children in preparing them for the world in which they will live. We believe it will be beneficial in the education and development of the District children who will attend Bannockburn.

We believe that in promoting it, the citizens of this neighborhood can make a contribution, however small, toward a recognition of our obligation as citizens of the metropolitan area of our Nation's Capital, a contribution in which we and our children can take pride.

Anne Rippey

Part II. Impact of the Program

After the Montgomery County and District boards of education approved the project, an unsuccessful suit seeking to enjoin the program was heard on October 11, 1968 in Montgomery County Circuit Court. The Montgomery Citizens' League and other plaintiffs claimed the program was unconstitutional because the payment of tuition for the bused children changed a free public school system into a private one. They also claimed that Bannockburn children were adversely affected by the program.

The league also asked the Montgomery County delegation to the Maryland legislature to introduce legislation prohibiting the transportation of non-residents into a Maryland public school. Open hearings were held, in which various individuals and 29 civic, church, and school organizations, including the Bannockburn Civic Association, testified against the proposal; two witnesses supported it. The proposal was dropped.

In 1968 Congress enacted special legislation, initiated by the House District Committee, which prohibited the D. C. School Board from using its regular funds for the program. The program thus became dependent on private foundation contributions and limited Federal Title I funds available to the District. Many Congressmen had openly expressed their fears that such a program would open the

door to widespread interjurisdictional busing. In 1970, 41 Bannockburn and 20 District parents responded by filing two suits in the United States District Court, both challenging the right of Congress to prevent a voluntary desegregation program from continuing or expanding. U. S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica dismissed both suits on November 13, 1970, stating that in his opinion the issue of race was "not involved." The D. C. and Bannockburn lawsuits were consolidated and an appeal was filed. It was argued before three judges of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on April 22, 1971. In a split decision handed down in January 1972 this court upheld the District Court. On March 8, 1972 the full U. S. Court of Appeals, by a 5-3 vote, decided to reconsider the January ruling. Reconsideration resulted in a split 4 to 4 decision (one judge abstained) on July 14, 1972. The tie vote automatically upheld the earlier adverse decision. It was decided not to appeal to the Supreme Court, since an adverse decision there would have set an undesirable nationwide precedent.

The program had considerable local and national visibility. Inquiries were received from more than 30 institutions around the nation. In response to invitations, program leaders and Bannockburn's principal spoke at least twice a month to church, PTA, Foreign Service, and other groups.

Local newspaper coverage was extensive and mostly favorable. Project leaders were interviewed on local and out-of-town TV stations. A detailed account of the project, entitled "The Bus to Bannockburn: 24 Kids Cross the Line," written by Irene Kiefer, appeared in the November 1969 issue of the Washingtonian. The program was reported by the national and international wire services and a national TV network. The New York Times reported the proposed project on page 1 of its November 16, 1967 issue and its termination in its September 26, 1971 issue. Numerous papers were written by elementary and secondary school and college students.

What good did the program do and what did it teach us? It initiated a dialogue between the inner city and the suburbs. Many PTA, civic, and church groups became more actively concerned about fostering interracial contacts. The Bannockburn program demonstrated that the parents themselves can initiate integration efforts. Those of us who took part in the program learned that a great deal of perseverance, resourcefulness, and simultaneous commitments by both parents and school administrations are needed to effect even a small change in social patterns if that change is controversial or involves deep feelings.

Jerry Freibaum *

* Bannockburn PTA president and chairman of the Open School Program. At the request of George Washington University's library an unabridged record of the program has been given to the library's Special Collection.

The People: The Pride of Bannockburn

Bureaucrats settled Bannockburn in the beginning. Before coming to Bannockburn, many of them had already become acquainted with one another in such areas as Virginia's Buckingham and Fairlington and the District's Naylor Gardens. These Federal employees formed the cooperative -- a kind of Camelot-by-the-Canal. In recent years the alphabet of occupations of residents has ranged from architect to zoning zealot.

Diverse occupations include doctors, dancers, dentists, diplomats, and decorators; lady lawyers and labor leaders. There are technical writers, speech writers, free-lance writers, labor writers, travel writers, and a ghost writer; editors, engineers, enamelors, and endless economists; social workers, statisticians, scientists, salespeople, secretaries, and psychiatrists.

Bannockburn boasts a bookkeeper, a beautician, a bureau chief, and a builder. The community claims columnists, chemists, and consultants; foreign service officers, a photographer, and a pharmacist. Experts exist in everything from laser beams to law enforcement and from nuclear nonproliferation to urban affairs. Neighbors include an alcoholism counsellor, an antique dealer, an admiral, airline employees, and administrators.

Residents run a restaurant, a private school, a liquor store, a hotline, an art gallery, a visitor center, and a child day-care center. Bannockburn teachers span students from Head Start age to college youth. There are people who are pianists, public interest lawyers, and a printmaker; researchers and real estate agents; technologists and travel agents; a librarian, a nurse, and numerous newspaper employees.

Local folks have filled the ranks and some top spots in Government agencies such as the Departments of Defense, Labor, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, and Health, Education and Welfare; the Civil Service Commission, National Cancer Institute, Federal Trade Commission, National Bureau of Standards, National Labor Relations Board, and the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Academy of Sciences, and many more. Bannockburn talent has pervaded such publications as The Washington Post, Newsday, and the National Geographic, and such organizations as the AFL/CIO, Brookings Institution, American National Red Cross, American Jewish Committee, American Veterans Committee, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

Children born in Bannockburn, the new generation, are starting their own alphabet of occupations and activities in the public and private sectors, as actress, astronomer, attorney... The imprint and impact of Bannockburn have been transmitted.

The world of work is only one indicator of the interests and talents of residents. Bannockburners believe in causes and try to cause beliefs. Irrepressible optimists, they try to improve society through service organizations. Residents swell the membership rolls of the American Civil Liberties Union,

Americans for Democratic Action, Public Citizen, Planned Parenthood, World Federalists, USA, and the League of Women Voters.

Community commitment is evidenced by intense activity to solve local, national, and international problems. Advocates advance health and food cooperatives, welfare reform, children's welfare, employment and training opportunities, conservation, and civil rights of all kinds for all people.

Local efforts have included rehabilitating houses in a neighboring black community and creating a cultural center at Glen Echo.

Generally, neighbors are on the same side in a controversy. However, Bannockburn's equilibrium has been shaken by vociferous and vocal internecine battles about nets and pets: tennis courts and canines. One group courted courts while the other refused to play ball. Some homeowners swear by dogs while others swear at dogs. There exists a loose truce.

Some parents start their activities with the co-op nursery school, Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA's), or Scouts and broaden their base as their children grow. Time is given at soup kitchens, womens' shelters, and thrift shops. Neighbors tutor the young and transport the elderly. Volunteers assist in hospitals, rehabilitation programs, libraries, and museums. Homes provide hospitality for foreign students.

Political organizations engage many people. Others labor for peace, planned parenthood, fair housing, and cuts in the defense budget. Creative energies are devoted to alumni groups, theater groups, choir groups, and numerous newsletters. Active in the arts, people present concerts, turn to acting, playwriting, or painting. There are myriad musicians and countless crafts people.

In work, volunteer, or recreational pursuits, there is acceptance of diversity, eccentricity, and creativity. There are joiners and joggers, weavers and wanderers, hikers and bikers, hobbyists and lobbyists, gardeners and game players, swimmers, sculptors, and scholars, a mountain climber, an aviator, plus practitioners of Japanese ink painting and exotic Chinese cooking.

There is freedom of spirit, which enhances the cooperative spirit, which is Bannockburn.

Winnie Bengelsdorf

When Larry went to work at the National Bureau of Standards and I went house hunting with our two children -- 3-year old Claire and 2-year old Chuck, we were attracted to Bannockburn by the nursery school, elementary school, and swimming pool. A year later Craig was born.

When Chuck and Craig were in elementary school, Larry formed two Indian Guide groups; the Bannock Tribe and the Kickapoo Tribe. Both tribes won the Indian Guide Olympics. The plaques can be seen at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Y.M.C.A. Clare, Chuck, and Craig joined the Bannockburn Swimming Team. Craig's interest in swimming led him to become a lifeguard, swim coach, and manager.

Now that our children are grown, we sometimes think we may have outgrown Bannockburn, but where else could we live with neighbors who are so cohesive as to get together to write a history of our neighborhood?

Lawrence and Devora Bennett

The Singles Life Style

As the social character of the American population has changed, so has Bannockburn increased its proportion of households headed by a single adult. Many who have been widowed or divorced have stayed in Bannockburn with their children, and other singles have moved in with their families to enjoy the community. Bannockburn also has several cooperative houses shared by groups of young adults. A quick statistical study of the 1976 Bannockburn Directory shows at least 23 percent of the entries represent single-parent or single-person homes, 14 percent female and 9 percent male.

Singles have found Bannockburners ready with all kinds of support, from chicken soup and employment advice to lessons in advanced lawnmowing and wood-chopping.

Many community activities -- play reading, the Bannockburn Show, the pool, the community parties, and Sunday pot-luck dinners -- provide single residents with activities where they can feel comfortable. The clubhouse has occasionally been used by Parents Without Partners for both meetings and parties.

Singles may have their own culture of caring and sharing, but in a cooperative community like Bannockburn it feels less like a subculture.

Anne Rippey

You Will Come Home Again

America is a mobile society. People get promoted; they move. People are assigned to other cities; they pick up and go. One in every five moves every year.

But Bannockburn is different. Yes, people get promoted. Yes, their jobs take them away from the old golf course and new community. But if they have to go, they don't go far or, if they do, they often come home again. Let us explain.

Four Bannockburn families have spent some 2 to 8 years in Paris. We wondered, "How can you keep them down on the farm once they've seen Páree?" But, like the singing commercial, they all came back -- to Bannockburn.

No longer struggling psychiatrists or dentists, three others left Bannockburn when their ships came in for (mix that metaphor) Elysian fields. But these fields were no more than two to three blocks from their old homestead. This is true of still others -- at least five -- who moved but who did not go far. They are still active members of the community. They still live within a stone's throw from the motherland.

There must be something to the spirit and hold of a community that keeps its members so close to home even after their situation has changed dramatically. All we can say is Vive la Bannockburn.

Alfred Reifman

The Tennis Court Issue

During the 1950's, when the Bannockburn community was being developed, the current intense interest in tennis did not exist, and the two courts in Cabin John sufficed for the tennis needs of the area. The two abandoned clay courts built by the Bannockburn Golf Club in its heyday, midway between the clubhouse and MacArthur Boulevard, were used for various informal play purposes by children. For a time a sandbox was in use. The courts became overgrown with vegetation, and the fence continued to disintegrate. It was obvious that, if the courts were ever again to be used for tennis, they would require extensive rehabilitation. But, more important, because of the residential development of the adjacent property, the consent and cooperation of the persons living next to the courts would also be needed. The back lines of the lots laid out on the east side of lower West Halbert Road came within a few feet of the west and south sides of the old tennis court fence.

Interest in having tennis courts within the community surfaced in 1962 and eventually led to the formation of a tennis group, but it was not until 1965 that the interest became strong enough to lead to definite action. The Bannockburn Tennis Club (BTC) was formed and by October of that year had close to 75 member families who had paid \$100 each to join. The club's lease (signed later) required that two-thirds of the members be residents of the golf course tract. Stanley Talpers was elected president. The site of the old courts was selected in preference to a possible valley site. The old courts were readily accessible and would cost \$7,500 to restore, while two new courts in the valley would have cost \$10,000 and would have been more difficult to reach.

Consultations were held with the residents of the homes adjoining the old tennis court area, who were deeply concerned about the threat to their privacy but did not want to deprive the community of courts if adequate measures could be taken to protect them against "substantial nuisance." Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc. (BCI) drew up a lease with a number of protective clauses and (after Bannockburn Community Club released the area) leased the necessary property to BTC for \$120 a year. The lease provided that adjoining owners could sue BCI if it failed to enforce the protective clauses. (One clause required BTC to "... maintain a fence high enough and sturdy enough to protect neighboring property from damage or nuisance.") But the adjoining owners were not interested in ever suing BCI and preferred the protection of a zoning exception, which BTC then applied for as being useful to everyone concerned.

A hearing on the petition for a zoning exception was held on November 10, 1965 (Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals, Case No. 1888). As summarized in a letter of November 19 from BTC's counsel to the county attorney:

....During the hearing it became apparent that there was no unanimity or consensus respecting disposition of the Petition. Several members /of the Board/ expressed the judgment that no exception was needed, and that we ought to apply for a building permit and "see what happens". Another, I believe, thought that the Board had no authority to act on the matter at all because the ordinance did not mention an exception for tennis. Another thought we needed a variance because of fence height and set back problems. At the conclusion, I was offered the choice of withdrawing the application because dismissal would preclude refileing for twelve months.

On November 12, 1965, we sought a building permit to allow us to resurface the court, and Mr. Beavers of the license department told us a permit was not required to resurface a tennis court nor to make minor repairs to the surrounding fence.

The purpose of the November 19 letter was to get advice on the legality of restoring the tennis courts. An assistant county attorney replied on January 26, 1966 stating that his office could not give legal opinions to private citizens. However, his letter contained the following statement:

3. Unless there is a lawful non-conforming use for the entire 2.387 acre tract /i.e., the ground on which the clubhouse stands, the areas before and behind it, the two former parking lots, and the old tennis court area/, a special exception would be necessary to utilize said tract for either a public or private club. In the event that a lawful non-conforming use does exist, minor repairs made to accommodate said use would be permissible /sic/ without the necessity of obtaining a special exception, variance or rezoning. However, any new construction would not be authorized.

BTC construed this statement as permission to renovate the courts. Rightly or wrongly, it considered the activities of the nursery school, day camp, and tumbling group to have been lawful nonconforming uses of BCI's property for years.

Renovation of the courts with an all-weather surface began in April. On May 27, 1966 the club was incorporated by Stanley Talpers, Herbert Blinder, and Louis Schwartz. The other directors were Clare Belman, Pitamber Devgon, Laura Jacobson, and Paul Vernier. The courts opened on June 19, 1966, but the combination of rain and a court surface prone to collecting puddles prevented actual tennis playing on quite a few days.

Once the courts were in use it soon became apparent to the adjoining residents that the nuisance aspects of tennis play were far greater than they had anticipated. Many balls went over and under the reconstructed fence. Some hit roofs and windows; others landed in patios. Not only the noise of balls struck by racquets but the shouts of players disturbed tranquility long enjoyed. A

complaint was lodged with the county zoning office, which then investigated the situation. On July 27 the chief of the division of zoning, permits, and licenses wrote to BCI, stating that tennis courts were "not a permitted use in the R-60 zone." The letter continued:

....To legally use this property for this purpose would require that a Special Exception to the Zoning Ordinance be obtained from the County Board of Appeals, Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland. The investigation also revealed that a building permit has not been issued, by the Building Division of this Department, for the above designated location.

You are, therefore, requested to make application for a Special Exception, and apply for a Building Permit within ten (10) days from your receipt of this letter, or discontinue this unauthorized use of your property immediately.

On August 10 the zoning chief informed BCI that the matter had been referred to the county attorney's office. After conferring with the county attorney's office by telephone, BTC's counsel received a letter from that office dated September 12, which included the following:

The letter from this office dated January 27th ... does not indicate that you are not required to obtain a special exception. On the contrary, it stated in paragraph three that unless you have a lawful non-conforming use, a special exception is necessary. The Tennis Club does not have a lawful non-conforming use because the non-conforming use has been abandoned through lack of use. It is considered abandoned when not used for a period of six months or more. Sec. 111-57(c), Montgomery County Code. Therefore, before the tennis court can be used it will be necessary to obtain a special exception from the Board of Appeals pursuant to Secs. 111-10 b and 111-37, Montgomery County Code 1965.

One of the prerequisites to granting a special exception is that the proposed use "will not be detrimental to the use, peaceful enjoyment, economic value, or development of surrounding properties or the general neighborhood; and will cause no objectionable noise, vibrations, fumes, odors, dust, glare or physical activity..." (Sec. 59-123, Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance.)

In his reply to the September 12 letter the club's counsel stated that the club had stopped operating the courts but that he disagreed with the county attorney's basic legal conclusion, adding:

....Various recreational and club activities had been conducted throughout the past 15 years when the first homes were built. While the tennis courts were not used for tennis, they were used for other lawful non-conforming activities.

Over the next few months the matter was under consideration by the interested parties. Then, on June 7, 1967, BTC held a meeting at the clubhouse to determine the future of the club. After listening to adjoining residents describe the acute distress they had suffered from the operation of the courts, a majority of club members voted to disband. BCI terminated the lease as of July 7.

The tennis court issue remained quiescent for a number of years. Then, in December 1975, the BCI board, in response to a resurgent interest in community courts, appointed a committee to explore the possibility of building courts somewhere in Bannockburn. The committee (Virginia Richardson, chairman, Alice MacIntyre, and Nancy Schmitt) spent about a year inspecting and discussing half a dozen potential sites, including the disputed old courts. When it became obvious that some divisions in the community were beginning to be felt, the committee prepared a questionnaire to send to the whole community to "determine the nature and extent of community support for tennis courts." (Linda Finkelshtein assisted in this survey.) The November 1976 issue of the Bannockburn Newsletter carried Virginia Richardson's letter to the editor on the tennis committee's final report. This letter reported the following breakdown of answers to the questionnaire (paraphrased):

Willingness to pay \$300 for membership in a new tennis club:

yes--29 no--27 doubtful--4

Acceptability of sites: existing courts--30; new courts on clubhouse grounds--31; swimming club property--36; upper valley--31; lower valley--18.

Willingness to proceed in the face of some opposition:

yes--25 no--28 undecided--3

The letter ended as follows:

The purpose of the questionnaire was to determine the nature and extent of community support for tennis courts in order to make a recommendation about how to proceed further with the tennis committee's work. We have concluded that even though a larger number of families than ever before are interested in this form of recreation, even though there is a preponderance of support for the community courts, we cannot overlook the sentiments of many who are unable to live with the idea of a tennis facility near their own homes and who feel that this community interest is incompatible with interests of their own. Therefore, we will look no further into the question and will conclude our work with this report.

It should be made clear that opposition to tennis courts near dwellings does not come only from the owners of those dwellings. There are those who strongly oppose the placement of courts in any location that would inflict discomfort on their neighbors.

Irene Jaworski

Growing Up in Bannockburn

Ed. Note: All young people who lived or are living in Bannockburn were invited to contribute a statement on Growing Up in Bannockburn. The following were received.

My name is Jonathan Earle (age 9) I moved to Bannockburn when I was 1 years old. I first lived in a little house at the top of Benalder dr. with my parents Jan and Richard. After my brother Geoffrey and my sister Karen came along, we had to find a bigger house but we wanted to stay in Bannockburn. Finally we found this big orange house on Brigadoon dr. The first thing we did in the new house was to paint it brown. I got used to the new house pretty fast. Almost everybody on Brigadoon has a dog so one day in March my parents brought home a dog and we named him Macdougall the Earle of Brigadoon. And he was a pure breed Shetland Sheepdog. I like Bannockburn because the people are nice, I like the pool (in the summer) and the teachers at school are nice. My parents like Bannockburn because they think the school is a good school and they like the people too.

Jonathan Earle

Growing up in Bannockburn, I was very much aware of being part of a cohesive community as opposed to merely living in a subdivision or having a Bethesda, Maryland mailing address. This sense of a special, separate unit was fostered by a number of factors.

One of these could be categorized as community activities and institutions, such as the civic association, nursery school, Brownies, clubhouse, Halloween party, and swimming pool. These were all operated and organized by the community, not by the county. The fact that my parents were active in several of these endeavors contributed to my involvement in them and hence my identification with the community.

Secondly, there was a core of friends and neighbors who lived in Bannockburn for most, if not all, of my years there. Their constant presence and the long-term friendships which developed created a feeling of stability.

Lastly, there existed a homogeneity of interests, ideas, and viewpoints among the residents, which contributed to cohesiveness. Bannockburners tended to be politically liberal, engaged in political and cultural activities and, in general, intellectually active. There was little emphasis on material possessions per se. I, as did most of my friends, grew up constantly exposed to the performing and visual arts, to political problems and issues, and to intellectual challenges.

This particular type of upbringing was clearly enriching and stimulating but, like any other, not perfect. The constant intellectual striving tended to make me and my teenage friends perhaps too serious and overworked. The homogeneity of outlook led us to be rather intolerant (without first-hand knowledge)

of other political views, other life styles, and other parts of the country. I am sure that since then my friends have come to realize, as I have, the value of other ideas and other places while still appreciating the tremendous advantages of Bannockburn.

In conclusion let me say that growing up in Bannockburn provided me with a stable and enriching environment and one which made me forever interested in a wide range of intellectual pursuits. No matter where I live I will always carry that influence with me and will choose friends and activities accordingly. Similarly, just as Bannockburn always seemed to me a physically beautiful place to live, I will only be satisfied living in aesthetic surroundings. I suppose it was the high quality of life in general which has most influenced me in setting standards for other areas and in choosing activities to pursue.

Catherine Jaworski Quinn

By the midpoint of the 20th century when I was born, the rush to the suburbs had begun. More and more families were being raised in the anonymous, the homogeneous, the shopping-center communities that surround most American cities. My parents were a part of that rush. But I was lucky because my suburb was different.

When I was nine, I discovered baseball. Every night that year, and for the next 6 years, during the summer, I would talk my brother into phoning the same group of guys. And whenever we found at least four willing players, there was a game. The rules depended on the number of players -- we needed six players to have a pitcher, ten players before a pitcher and catcher were on the same team. We always played in the same part of the valley, which was really too narrow for baseball -- third base was in foul territory. We would play until 8:45 when it got too dark to see the ball and the game would end, unless earlier in the evening the ball had been hit into the wild rose bushes in right field.

I knew my next-door neighbors personally. And I knew their next-door neighbor and their next-door neighbor and their next-door neighbor. I knew the parents; I knew the children. We children played kickball in Braeburn Place; we could play for hours without being disturbed by a car. Or we played catch with a football or baseball in the backyards. No backyard was fenced or off-limits -- the neighbors seemed to enjoy seeing us run and play across all the lawns.

My family, like many others in Bannockburn, stayed put. My parents had already lived here for 3 years when Adlai Stevenson first ran for president and still lived in the same house when Jimmy Carter was elected. Many of the children who were in Marge Weiss's 3-year-old nursery school class at the clubhouse with me in 1954 went to Bannockburn Elementary, then Pyle, and then to Whitman. Some of them are still around in Bannockburn; some, like myself, have moved elsewhere. But year after year, each year, I still manage to see and reminisce with many of my Bannockburn friends.

Lawrence Wagman

I have been a permanent resident of Bannockburn since my family moved here in 1954 when I was three. There are three images of my Bannockburn childhood which stand out.

The first image is of sledding around the green preserved area of our creek. A good beginners' slope ran from the lower corner of Laverock and West Halbert and ended past the swimming pool's parking lot. An advanced run was called "Devil's Hill" and is behind West Halbert going down a steep grade to the field before the creek. One could sled either lying face down, steering with one's hands or sitting up steering by feet while holding on to the string. This sledding must have continued with a new generation of kids.

Something which is forever gone is the two-scoops-for-a-nickel ice cream cone at High's. My neighbor Tom Zitver and I used to ride our bikes for these several times a week in the early '60's. If we lacked change we would look for discarded returnable bottles. A coke bottle fetched two cents, while High's fruit and milk bottles started at five cents. There were 10-cent, 20-cent sizes and the Holy Grail of bottle scavengers -- the 50-cent size. We never found one of the latter.

Before the George Washington Parkway was built, the Union Arch Bridge spanned an area unchanged since the Civil War. It has two doors on its side which intrigued Bannockburner Josh Wiener and myself. In 1964 we tried to pry one of these doors open, visualizing Civil War relics awaiting our archeological efforts. We utilized hammers, chisels, and even a pickax, but alas the door remained as shut as the rusted hatch on a long sunken ship.

Neil Gamson

Flowing through the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina is the beautiful Mayo River. Many local residents chuckle about this unusual name. It reminds them of a sandwich spread. But for two Bannockburners-turned-Tarheels, "Mayo" will always conjure up images of a friendly, blond-haired fifth grade teacher. Mr. Mayo and everyone else at Bannockburn Elementary, during the early '60's, including Mrs. Jones, the principal, were just one part of growing up in Bannockburn, which transplanted Bannockburners now spread from coast to coast find themselves reminded of so very often. Many of us who have, in one sense, left Bannockburn behind for new vistas, are learning that we will never really leave it at all.

It is a community that provided us with much to remember and with many wonderful, long-lasting friendships. There were the Halloween picnics with all of us at the pool parking lot in colorful costumes; the after-school meetings of Brownies, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts; watching the grown-ups act foolish and having fun at the Spring Show dress rehearsals; the heart-rending visit of our friends from Danville, Virginia, who were put up in Bannockburn homes when they came for the Civil Rights March on Washington in 1963; nursery school, day camp, dancing lessons and gym class at the clubhouse; summers spent mowing lawns,

playing cards and jacks around the pool and getting up early for team practice (but rarely winning a meet). All this and more brought us Bannockburn kids together.

We had the kind of neighborhood bond -- a sort of pride -- that the other kids at Pyle and Whitman never really understood but always envied. We still have it. To this day we find that two or more Bannockburn-raised people can't get together without that special bond surfacing as strongly as ever. We shared too much to ever forget. We shared more than a neighborhood -- we shared a community.

Our Bannockburn-ness will always be a big part of ourselves. No matter where we go, these memories will follow. For some they are reflected in the name of a Southern river. Others find them in New England, the Midwest, along the Pacific Coast, and throughout the Washington-Baltimore area. They are and will continue to be a source of joy and comfort. For this we are grateful.

Annette Zitver Green and David Green

Living in Bannockburn offers the advantages of both a small town and a large city. When you're sick, the soup will come. But despite its warmth and free sharing of community joys and sorrows, fights and fun, it's almost New England in not calling your house by your name until you've moved out -- unless you happen to be the first owners.

A few customs we've particularly enjoyed. The qvetch club at the pool. The liveliness of the conversation while eating. All the active community organizations (until we got worn out by them). The fact that your neighbors are your friends.

And the distinctive liberal atmosphere. About the time of the desegregation effort at the Glen Echo Amusement Park, Betty Dexter noticed that several of the children playing outside her window -- our daughter among them -- were marching up and down carrying branches raised aloft. "What are you doing?" she asked. "Picketing," was the answer. "These are signs." They were demonstrating for equal rights in the games.

After Werner's back operation in 1971, he could barely walk. Anne was working mornings and needed someone every day to give him a mid-morning snack and a steer toward the bathroom. A succession of neighborhood women took over the job.

We like it here.

Werner and Anne Janney

THE BANNOCKBURN GOLF CLUB

Although the history of the Bannockburn Golf Club is not an integral part of the story of this community, many residents have from time to time expressed curiosity about its origin and demise.

Sources disagree as to the club's founding date, but whether it was 1897, 1899, or 1900, it was clearly one of the early clubs in the Washington area, perhaps preceded only by the Chevy Chase Club of Chevy Chase, Maryland and the Washington Golf Club in Rosslyn, Virginia. Before acquiring their own golf course, club members played on a 9-hole course described by a 1907 source as being "between Chevy-Chase Circle and Tenleytown," which would seem to be in the District of Columbia. The same source, however, gives the club's address as Chevy Chase, Maryland.

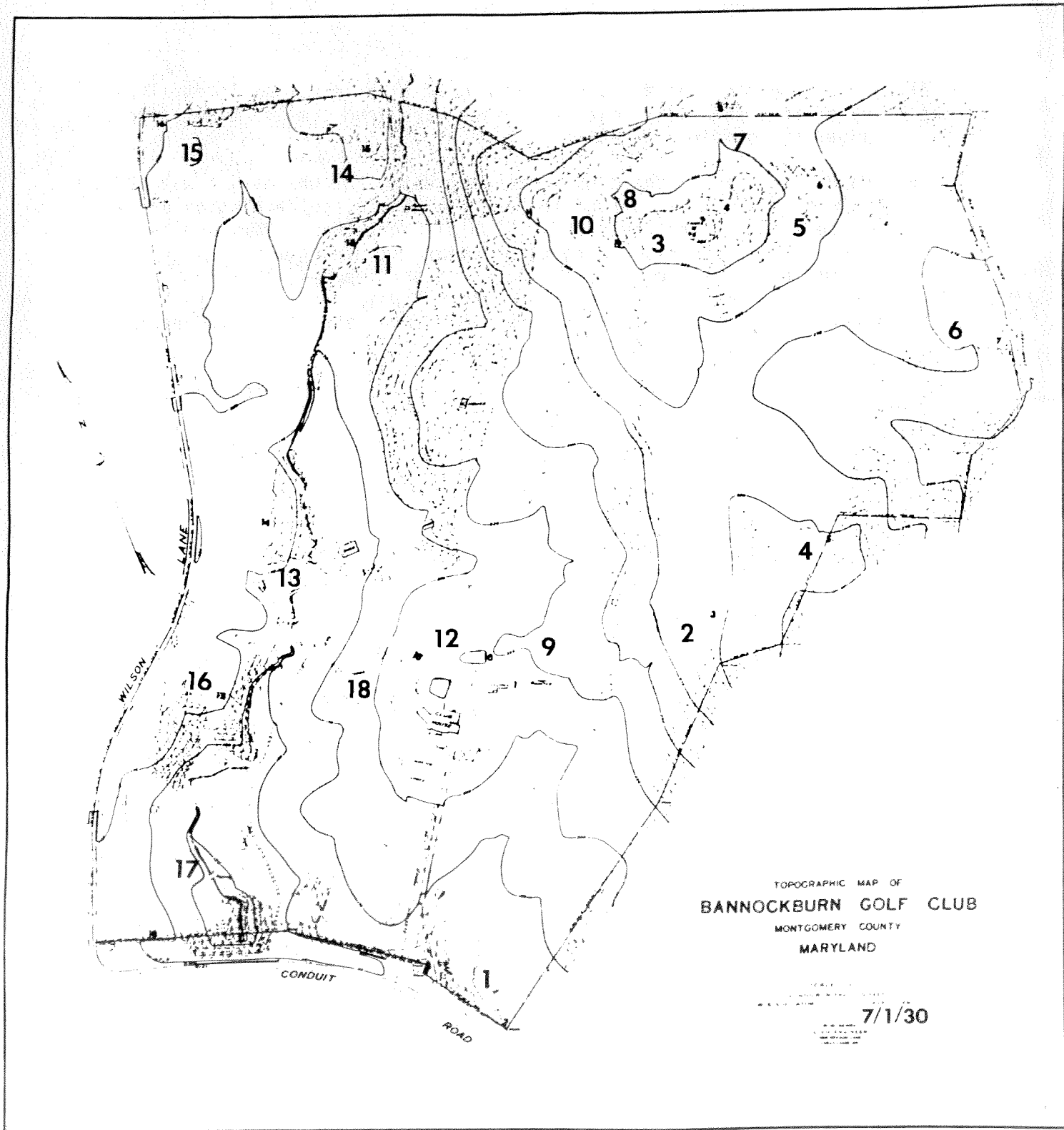
In 1910 the club was incorporated in the District of Columbia, and in 1914 it purchased a 123 2/3 acre site near Glen Echo, Maryland, from four Philadelphia investors headed by William McGeorge, Jr., a Philadelphia attorney. Maryland tax records show improvements assessed at \$4,000 in 1915, so it seems that the original two-story, hip-roofed clubhouse, which is still part of the existing structure, was already in place. The land was assessed at \$9,275 (or \$75 an acre) at that time. In 1916 an 18-hole course was under construction.

Sometime in the early 1920's the club members decided to build a more impressive clubhouse, possibly because of the competition for members resulting from the building of newer and perhaps more prestigious courses close by, such as Burning Tree, Congressional, and Kenwood. By this time, also, the club's advantage of being near a streetcar line from Washington had been reduced by the growing use of the automobile. For whatever reason, the members authorized a new clubhouse, probably by 1924, for tax records for 1926 show the improvements on the golf tract assessed at \$23,500.

In that year the club borrowed \$75,000 (which was to be repaid by July 1, 1931) by issuing 28 notes totaling that amount payable to the Trustee Corporation of America, which was wholly owned and controlled by Percy McGeorge, a Philadelphia attorney. The actual funds were advanced by clients of McGeorge or trusts of which McGeorge was trustee so that these persons acquired beneficial interests in the Bannockburn notes. In 1928 the club borrowed an additional \$50,000 from other sources, which was also repayable July 1, 1931.

Hit by the Great Depression, the club failed to pay any of the principal of the \$75,000 loan when it fell due in 1931 (as well as interest in 1930 and thereafter), but received extensions of time. The local tax collector, however, was not as forbearing. Inability to pay 1931 real estate taxes of about \$1,300 to Montgomery County triggered, first, a series of tax sales of parcels of the golf tract, then some maneuvers and law suits that could have furnished material for a novel by a Dickens or a Trollope.

Each year the club was delinquent in paying taxes the Montgomery County treasurer sold a parcel of about 25 acres of the golf course to the county



Key: The large numbers show locations of the greens,
the small numbers the locations of the tees.

commissioners. In 1936-1937, as the club had failed to redeem the parcels, they were sold either directly or indirectly to John J. Shinnors, Jr., of Norristown, Pennsylvania for the delinquent taxes, interest, and statutory costs. In this way he acquired title to the club's property, took possession of it, and operated it as a golf course or rented to others who did. Shinnors' title to the tract was, of course, impaired by the deed of trust given by the club and recorded in 1927 to secure payment of the \$75,000 loan.

Earlier, in 1936, Percy McGeorge had been adjudged incompetent to manage his affairs by a Pennsylvania court, and Robert G. Dreslin of Norristown was appointed his guardian. The following year McGeorge died and Dreslin became administrator of his estate. It seems that Dreslin or Shinnors then tried to buy up the beneficial interests of McGeorge's clients in the Bannockburn notes for very nominal amounts. This resulted in three law suits in Montgomery County Circuit Court involving Shinnors, Dreslin, the golf club, and others. They ended in the sale at public auction of the golf course tract in April 1942 to Shinnors by order of the court. His bid of \$92,000 for the tract was covered in large part by his having gotten full title to the Bannockburn notes (plus the accrued interest since 1930) as a result of negotiations with the owners of the beneficial interests during the litigation. He also acquired large allowances toward the purchase price through his purchases of the 25-acre parcels from the county commissioners for taxes, and for the taxes which he had paid from 1937 through 1942 while in possession. The sale left the golf club still owing \$62,000.

A few months later Shinnors conveyed the golf course tract, as well as an additional one-half acre of land abutting it to the north which lay within the Bannockburn Heights subdivision and which he had acquired during the litigation, to himself "and Robert G. Dreslin as co-partners" So far as is known, they continued to operate the property as a public golf course or rented it for such operation to others. During World War II, according to Malcolm MacLay, the property was leased by the U. S. Navy for recreational purposes. At any rate by 1946 it was again being operated as a golf course, on a rental basis.

On May 23, 1946 the entire tract was conveyed by Shinnors and Dreslin to Cooperators' Properties, Inc., which purchased the property on behalf of members of Group Housing Cooperative, Inc. of Washington, D. C. After Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc. was incorporated, Cooperators' Properties reconveyed the entire tract to it on December 12, 1946.

It is interesting to reflect that, if Bannockburn Golf Club had not gotten into financial difficulties during the Depression, the Bannockburn tract would probably never have been transformed into the Bannockburn community we now enjoy. It also seems unlikely that Shinnors and Dreslin would have been interested in preserving the golf course as such since the property appears to have been, for them, only a very profitable real estate investment.

Subscribers to the Trust Agreement

- KEY: (a) after a name indicates those who signed the first pledge list, March 26, 1946
 (b) after a name indicates those who signed the second pledge list
 (c) after a name indicates those who signed from April 1 to 6, 1946, inclusive

- * indicates those who purchased homes built on the golf club tract

Asay, Ivan & Elizabeth (c) *	Ingram, Robert & Alice (b)
Ashbrook, Paul & Helen (a)	Jacobs, Alex (c)
Askegaard, David H. (c)	Jacobs, Samuel & Pearl (b)
Atkin, Maurice & Flora (c)	Karpoff, Edward & Bella (c)
Avrutis, William (b)	Karro, Jacob (a) *
Baker, O. Kenneth (c)	Karro, Samuel (b)
Barrow, John & Ethel (a)	Kern, Helmuth (c)
Behre, C. Edward & Vernice (c)	Klayman, Alexander & Norma (b)
Belman, Albert (a) *	Klein, Milton & Lillian (c)
Bennett, Caroline (b)	Kronstadt, Arnold (c)
Bouma, Robert (a) *	Landergren, Grace (b)
Browne Jr., E. Wayles	Leib, Arthur & Roberta (a) *
& Virginia (c)	Levin, Gerson & Judith (c)
Chase, Milton & Charlotte (c) *	Levy, Joel & Kathryn (c)
Chenkin, Alvin (c)	Lindner, Sidney & Rebecca (c)
Cleary, Daniel & Gertrude (c)	Long, George & Veda (c)
Cohen, Victor (c)	MacIntyre, L. D. & Alice (a) *
Davis, Elmer & Arliss (a)	MacLay, Malcolm & Elinor (c) *
Dodic, David & Isola (c)	Marks, Eli & Lily (b)
Duncan, John (b) *	McDonald, William & Joyce (c)
Edgecomb, Hilda (c)	Mermin, Samuel & Lora (a)
Fearey, Kent & Agnes (a)	Metcalf, Wendell (c)
Feiler, Sidney (b)	Mitchell, Donald (c)
Fine, Nathan (b)	Moerman, Samuel & Constance (b) *
Fine, Sidney & Charlotte (c)	Mosier, Charles (b)
Friedmann, Ernestine (c) *	Nussbaum, Hans & Anne (c)
Galarzo, Ernest & Mae (c)	Oppenheimer, Jack & Mary-Ellen (a) *
Gilford, Saul & Doris (c)	Ostroff, Nathan (c)
Glutzer, Leon (c)	Pechman, Joseph (c) *
Goldman, Isidore (c)	Piore, Emanuel & Nora (b)
Goldstein, Arthur & Judith (c)	Pohlmann, Kenneth & Wilhelmina (c)
Goldwater, Mary (a)	Radcliffe, Dewey (c)
Gowell, Robert & Sylvia (b)	Rall, Udo & Doris (a) *
Gronbech, Gertrude (c)	Reeves, George & Elsie (c)
Hassmer, Elton & Janismarie (c)	Rice, John & Dorothy (c)
Herling, John & Mary Fox (a) *	Rich, Harry (c) *
Horlick, Reuben & Gertrude (c)	Robb, Carroll & Olive (b)
Horne, Maude (c)	Ross, Josephine (a)
Howenstine, E. Jay (c)	Russell, William (c)
Hufschmidt, Maynard & Elizabeth (c)	Sabghir, Aaron & Beatrice (b)

Saxe, David (a)
Schearer, Lillian (a)
Schwartz, Louis (a) *
Scrogham, John & Marie (c)
Shapiro, Nathan & Rose (c)
Sharron, Arthur (c)
Shaw, Harry & Sadie (c)
Sheridan, James & Mary (b)
Sherman, Meyer (c)
Silverman, Irwin & Fay (a)
Sissman, Louis & Louise (a)
Small, Albert & Sylvia (c) *
Steele, J. Gordon & Florence (c)
Stephany, Charlotte (a)
Stewart, Charles & Pearl (c) *
Strassburg, Bernard (c)

Swire, Joseph & Esther (a)
Tafer, John (c)
Ursell, Erich (c)
Visher, John & Rosemary (c)
Weaver, Kenneth (c)
Weaver, Leon & Helen (a) *
Weinfeld, Abraham (c)
Weiss, Abraham & Marjory (c) *
Weisz, Morris & Yetta (b) *
Weyl, Joachim & Martha (c)
Wilkins, Jerome & Harriet (b) *
Wolfsohn, Leo & Grace (b) *
Wood, Ramsay & Naomi (a) *
Woolsey, Mark (c)
Zitver, Leon (c) *
Zuessman, David & Trudy (b)

Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc. : Directors and Officers

KEY: The letters in () after the names indicate the officers of Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc. (BCI) who, under BCI's bylaws, were elected by the directors. P = president; V = vice-president; S = secretary; T = treasurer. Two letters indicate a change of position during the term. Occasionally the directors elected an assistant secretary (AS) and once an assistant treasurer (AT).

The dates at the head of each list, except August 6, 1946 February 24, 1947, and May 24, 1967, are the dates of BCI's annual membership meetings at which directors were elected. Some directors were elected for 2-year terms and others for 1-year terms, so not all directors listed under a particular date were elected at that annual meeting. Asterisks in front of names indicate partial terms.

August 6, 1946

Mary Fox Herling (P)
Jacob Karro
* L. D. MacIntyre
Udo Rall (V)
Irwin Silverman
Louis Sissman (T)
Esther Swire (S)
Morris Weisz

February 24, 1947

Milton Chase
* Daniel Cleary
Mary Fox Herling (P)
Hugh B. Johnson
* Roberta Leib
L. D. MacIntyre
Malcolm MacLay (S)
Eli Marks
Udo Rall (V)
Irwin Silverman
Louis Sissman (T)
Morris Weisz

November 21, 1947

Milton Chase
* Mary Fox Herling (P)
Hugh P. Johnson
L. D. MacIntyre (V)
Malcolm MacLay (S)
* Eli Marks
* Samuel Moerman
Udo Rall (V) (P)
* Stanley Ruttenberg
Irwin Silverman
Louis Sissman (T)
Marjory Weiss
Morris Weisz

November 16, 1948

* Ethel Barrow
* Hugh B. Johnson
Leo Kolodny
Paul Krueger
Malcolm MacLay
L. D. MacIntyre (V)
* Samuel Moerman (T)
Udo Rall
Stanley Ruttenberg
Charles Singleterry (S)
Marjory Weiss
Morris Weisz (P)

November 29, 1949

* Ivan Asay
* Arthur Gladstone
* Norman Jorgensen
Leo Kolodny
Paul Krueger (T) (P)
Arthur McDowell
* Samuel Moerman (V)
Stanley Ruttenberg
Louis Schwartz (T)
Charles Singleterry
Albert Small
Jack Tourin (S)
Morris Weisz (P)

November 28, 1950

Ellery Foster
Norman Jorgensen (S)
Stanley Lebergott (V)
Arthur McDowell (V) (P)
Ernest Olson
Kenneth Pohlmann
Louis Schwartz (P)
Albert Small
Jack Tourin (T)
William Weinfeld
Morris Weisz

November 14, 1951

* Ivan Asay
* Robert Bradley
Leon Brooks (T)
* Ellery Foster
* Philip Janus
Norman Jorgensen (S)
Donald Landay (V) (P)
* Ernest Olson (P)
* William Pincus
* Kenneth Pohlmann
* Alfred Sollins
Israel Sonenshein (V)
Donald Wagman (AS)
* William Weinfeld
Edward Wenk, Jr.

November 19, 1952

Ivan Asay
Leon Brooks (V) (P)
Fred Carr (T)
James Goding
Philip Janus (AS) (S)
* Robert Konikow
* Donald Landay (P)
* Isidore Plotkin
Melvin Pollack
Bob Ross
* Israel Sonenshein
Donald Wagman (S) (V)
Edward Wenk, Jr.

November 18, 1953

Ivan Asay (AS)
Herbert Blackman
* Fred Carr (T)
James Goding
Arthur Hirsch
Philip Janus (V)
Irene Jaworski (S)
* Jacob Karro
Melvin Pollack (T)
Bob Ross
Nathan Rubinstein
Donald Wagman (P)

November 29, 1954

Herbert Blackman (P)
Stacey Brooks
Samuel Gorlitz
* Arthur Hirsch (T)
Hans George Hirsch (S)
* Irene Jaworski (S)
Jacob Karro (V)
Roger Nelson
Bob Ross
Nathan Rubinstein (T)
Donald Wagman

November 30, 1955

Herbert Blackman (P)
Stacey Brooks
Wallace Campbell
* Harry Galblum
Samuel Gorlitz
Arthur Hirsch (S)
Hans George Hirsch (AS)
Jacob Karro (V)
Roger Nelson
* Bob Ross
Nathan Rubinstein (T)
Edith Waterston

November 27, 1956

Herbert Blackman (V)
Stacey Brooks (AS)
Wallace Campbell
Harry Galblum
Herbert Hauptman (S)
* Mary Fox Herling
* Arthur Hirsch
Hans George Hirsch
Jacob Karro (P)
Nathan Rubinstein (T)
Charles Singleterry
Edith Waterston

November 25, 1957

Stacey Brooks
Wallace Campbell
Harry Galblum
Herbert Hauptman (S)
Mary Fox Herling (T)
Hans George Hirsch
Jacob Karro (P)
Solomon Shapiro
Charles Singleterry
Pearl Stewart
Morris Weisz (V)

November 16, 1959 #

Stacey Brooks
Wallace Campbell
Harry Galblum
Herbert Hauptman (S)
Mary Fox Herling (T)
Hans George Hirsch
Jacob Karro (P)
Solomon Shapiro
Charles Singleterry
Pearl Stewart
Morris Weisz (V)

November 26, 1962 #

* Herbert Blackman
Stacey Brooks
Herbert Hauptman (S)
Mary Fox Herling (T)
Hans George Hirsch
Werner Janney
Jacob Karro (P)
Jack Rutstein
Charles Singleterry
* Pearl Stewart
Morris Weisz (V)
Harold Wool

No annual membership meeting had been held since November 25, 1957. Directors elected at that meeting and officers elected at the following board meeting continued to serve until the November 16, 1959 membership meeting. These directors were re-elected and the same officers continued to serve without further board action. No annual membership meetings were held in 1960 and 1961. The incumbent directors continued to serve until the 1962 membership meeting.

November 30, 1964 #

Herbert Blackman
Israel Cohen
Herbert Hauptman (S)
Mary Fox Herling (T)
Hans George Hirsch
Werner Janney
Jacob Karro (P)
Jack Rutstein
Charles Singleterry
Morris Weisz (V)
Harold Wool

May 24, 1967 #

Edwin Goodpaster (S)
Jerome Heffter
Mary Fox Herling (AT)
Jacob Karro
Herbert Lewis (T)
Stanley Lichtenstein
Toni Mason
Tom Noonan (P)
Charles Rippey
Mary-Ellen Sayre (V)
Isaac Stephenson

November 13, 1967 #

Alan Brody
Linda Friedland
Albert Gelderman
Herbert Lewis (T)
Stanley Lichtenstein (S)
Toni Mason
Tom Noonan (P)
Dorothy Pocinki
Joanne Philleo
Aaron Racusin
Harry Rich
Charles Rippey (V)
Galina Volkov

No membership meeting was held in 1963, or in 1965 and 1966. Directors elected at a special membership meeting on May 24, 1967 were to serve only "until the fall annual meeting." On November 13, 1967 BCI and the Bannockburn Community Club, Inc. (BCC) held a joint membership meeting at which directors were elected to serve as the directors of both organizations. Immediately after the membership meeting the newly elected directors met and elected the officers indicated on the list to serve as officers of both BCI and BCC (See Appendix VI.)

The Bannockburn Civic Association: Officers

1953-54

Pres. Jack Tourin
 1st VP. Henry Vicinus
 2nd VP. Charlotte Chase
 Treas. Betty Wagman
 Rec.Sec. Kathrine Murra
 Cor.Sec. Mildred Silverman

1954-55

Pres. Jack Tourin
 1st VP. Philip Janus
 2nd VP. Jeanne Goldman
 Treas. Dorothy Dubester
 Rec.Sec. Frances Miller
 Cor.Sec. Pearl Stewart

1955-56

Pres. Sidney Orkin
 1st VP. Hyman Bookbinder
 2nd VP. Ramsay Wood
 Treas. Edith Berlin
 Rec.Sec. Frances Miller
 Cor.Sec. Pearl Stewart

1956-57

Pres. Sidney Orkin
 1st VP. Philip Janus
 2nd VP. Seymour Berlin
 Treas. Louise Branstead
 Rec.Sec. Susan Emerson
 Cor.Sec. Rose Zeisel

1957-58

Pres. Seymour Wolfbein
 1st VP. Richard Bray
 2nd VP. W. Ray Moulden
 Treas. Velma Galblum
 Rec.Sec. Susan Emerson
 Cor.Sec. Helen Masaoka

1958-59

Pres. Seymour Wolfbein
 1st VP. Bruce Mercer
 2nd VP. Bennett Finler
 Treas. Wanda Maltz
 Rec.Sec. Dorothy Sayers
 Cor.Sec. Jean Glenn

1959-60

Pres. Morris Weisz
 1st VP. Herbert Schwartz
 2nd VP. Seymour Jablon
 Treas. Wanda Maltz
 Rec.Sec. Pauline Diamond
 Cor.Sec. Anita Ash

1960-61

Pres. Herbert Schwartz
 1st VP. Arthur McDowell
 2nd VP. George MacGillivray
 Treas. Mary Lou Munts
 Rec.Sec. Betsy Bilanow
 Cor.Sec. Tamara Green

1961-62

Pres. Arthur McDowell
 1st VP. Alex Bilanow
 2nd VP. Naomi Rovner
 Treas. Mary Lou Munts
 Rec.Sec. Dorothy Sayers
 Cor.Sec. June Schwenk

1962-63

Pres. Alex Bilanow
 1st VP. Donald Wagman
 2nd VP. William Green
 Treas. Mary Lou Munts
 Rec.Sec. June Schwenk
 Cor.Sec. Dorothy Sayers

1963-64

Pres. William Green
 1st VP. Hyman Shapiro
 2nd VP. Frank Smith
 Treas. Jack Rutstein
 Rec.Sec. Dorothy Sayers
 Cor.Sec. Anastasia Dunau

1964-65 #

Pres. William Green
 1st VP.
 2nd VP.
 Treas.
 Rec.Sec.
 Cor.Sec.

1965-66

Pres. Harold Wool
 1st VP. Sidney Howard
 2nd VP.
 Treas. John Thomas
 Sec. Elaine Gelman

1966-67

Pres. Dan Hamers
 1st VP. George MacGillivray
 2nd VP.
 Treas. John Thomas
 Sec. Ruth Richman

1967-68

Pres. Samuel Levine
 1st VP. John Thomas
 2nd VP. Allan Richardson
 Treas. Boris Levine
 Rec.Sec. Ruth Richman
 Cor.Sec. Alexander Stevenson

1968-69

Pres. Allan Richardson
 1st VP. Werner Janney
 2nd VP. Joel Darmstadter
 Treas. Boris Levine
 Rec.Sec. Winnie Bengelsdorf
 Cor.Sec. Alexander Stevenson

1969-70

Pres. Donald Wagman
 1st VP. Hyman Hoffman
 2nd VP. Winnie Bengelsdorf
 Treas. Stephen Silard
 Rec.Sec. Rita Brinley
 Cor.Sec. June Schwenk

1970-71

Pres. Alexander Stevenson
 1st VP. John Thomas
 2nd VP. Edgar Owens
 Treas. Evelyn Colburn
 Rec.Sec. Rita Brinley
 Cor.Sec. June Schwenk

1971-72

Pres. Edgar Owens
 1st VP. John Thomas
 2nd VP. Ramsay Wood
 Treas. Ralph Moore
 Rec.Sec. Anne Janney
 Cor.Sec. Mildred Silverman

1972-73

Pres. Ramsay Wood
 1st VP. Anne Janney
 2nd VP. Gloria MacGillivray
 Treas. David Weisz
 Rec.Sec. Hans Schmitt
 Cor.Sec. Mildred Silverman

1973-74

Pres. Aaron Racusin
 1st VP. David Weisz
 2nd VP. Hans Schmitt
 Treas. Saretta Zitver
 Rec.Sec. Mary Holt
 Cor.Sec. Mildred Silverman

1974-75

Pres. Sue Morris/Walter Epps
 1st VP. Walter Epps
 2nd VP. Cory Moore
 Treas. Saretta Zitver
 Rec.Sec. Mary Holt
 Cor.Sec. Asher Hyatt

1975-76

Pres. Walter Epps
 1st VP. Cory Moore
 2nd VP.
 Treas. Saretta Zitver
 Rec.Sec. Mary Holt
 Cor.Sec. Asher Hyatt

1976-77

Pres. Eunice Grier
 1st VP. Albert Belman
 2nd VP. Mary-Ellen Sayre
 Treas. Marsha Levine
 Rec.Sec. Rose Wiener
 Cor.Sec. Irene Jaworski

1977-78

Pres. Mary-Ellen Sayre
 1st VP. Arthur Gamson
 2nd VP. Fred Geldon
 Treas. Gloria MacGillivray
 Rec.Sec. Rose Wiener
 Cor.Sec. Irene Jaworski

Every effort has been made to determine the names of the officers for the year 1964-65 without success. We could not even find the names of the other board members for that year.

I Remember It Well!

Many humorous incidents happened in our search for the names of the officers of our community organizations during a period of 25 years.

Some of them who were officers reminded us of the song "I Remember It Well," for some individuals could not remember ever having served the organization, certainly not the year they were in office, and at times who was president the year they served! And this after all of those meetings they attended and the tasks required of them!

The Editors

Bannockburn Community Club, Inc.: Officers1956

Pres. Raymond Jacobson
 VPres. Roger Nelson
 Treas. Melvin Brethouwer
 Rec.Sec. Esther Delaplaine

1957

Pres. Daniel Benedict
 VPres. Raymond Jacobson
 Treas. Herbert Raskin
 Sec. Madge Confrey/Victoria Olds

1958 *

Pres.
 VPres.
 Treas.
 Sec.

1959

Pres. Leon Brooks
 VPres. Israel Cohen
 Treas. Herbert Raskin
 Sec. Juanita Cowen

1960

Pres. Leon Brooks
 VPres. Israel Cohen
 Treas. Jack Rutstein
 Asst. Treas. Herbert Raskin
 Sec. Juanita Cowen

1961 **

Pres.
 VPres.
 Treas.
 Sec.

1962

Pres. Dean Nefzger/Wilma Phillips
 VPres. Werner Janney
 Treas. Jack Rutstein
 Sec. Rosalind Raskin

1963

Pres. Wilma Phillips
 VPres. Arthur Leib
 Treas. Martin Bickford
 Sec. Werner Janney

1964

Pres. Arthur Leib
 VPres. Tamar DeFries
 Treas. Martin Bickford
 Sec. June Willenz

1965

Pres. Allan Richardson
 VPres. Herbert Raskin
 Treas. Joseph Shore
 Sec. Mary-Ellen Sayre

1966

Pres. Sol Orden
 VPres. Mary-Ellen Sayre
 Treas. Walter Benson
 Sec. Anne Janney

1967

Pres. Tom Noonan
 VPres. Mary-Ellen Sayre
 Treas. Herbert Lewis
 Sec. Edwin Goodpaster

* Records not available.

** Every effort was made to learn who served as officers for this year. The Newsletter of January 1961 stated: "...the new board...Hoagy Young, Harry Greenspan, Jeanette Rubinstein, Sophie Schulkind, Harold Wool, Melvin Pollack, and myself (Luba Dreyer). Continuing are Leon Brooks, Jack Rutstein, Aaron Racusin, Juanita Cowen, Mary Herling, and John McCabe."

Bannockburn Community Club, Inc. } Officers
Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc. }

1968 *

Pres. Tom Noonan/Charles Rippey
 VPres. Fred Weinberger
 Treas. Herbert Lewis
 Sec. Stanley Lichtenstein/Alan Brody

1969

Pres. Alan Brody
 VPres. Fred Weinberger
 Treas. Jay Esserman
 Rec.Sec. Floretta Chernin
 Cor.Sec. Aaron Racusin

1970

Pres. Floretta Chernin
 VPres. Robert Philleo
 Treas. Jay Esserman
 Rec.Sec. Aileen Brody
 Cor.Sec. Sandra Betz

1971

Pres. Aileen Brody
 VPres. Peter Stevens
 Treas. Maurice Bender/Herbert Raskin
 Rec.Sec. Susan Emerson
 Cor.Sec. Barbara Thomson

1972

Pres. Stanley Sigel
 VPres. Susan Emerson
 Treas. Charles Donnenfeld
 Rec.Sec. Joan Silard
 Cor.Sec. Barbara Thomson

1973

Pres. Jack Betz
 VPres. Pat Megregian
 Treas. Charles Donnenfeld
 Sec. Eunice Grier

1974

Pres. Herbert Raskin
 VPres. Doris Parker
 Treas. Eunice Grier
 Rec.Sec. Luba Dreyer
 Cor.Sec. Wanda Maltz

1975

Pres. Herbert Raskin
 VPres. Israel Cohen
 Treas. Betty Wagman
 Sec. Aileen Brody

1976

Pres. Russell Parker
 VPres. Israel Cohen
 Treas. Betty Wagman
 Sec. Aileen Brody

1977

Pres. Israel Cohen
 VPres. Betty Wagman
 Treas. Sol Orden
 Rec.Sec. Aileen Brody
 Cor.Sec. Shirley Dumas

1978

Pres. Eugene Granof
 VPres. Charles Donnenfeld/
 Herbert Raskin
 Treas. Saretta Zitver
 Sec. Doris Middlebrook

* See "Bannockburn Community Club, Inc." for explanation of same board for both organizations.

Others Who Have Worked on the Bannockburn Newsletter

Columnists: Community Club News: Ray Jacobson, Victoria Olds, Madeleine Sigel, Anita Greenspan, Luba Dreyer, Anita Gamson, Anne Janney, Mary-Ellen Sayre, Stanley Lichtenstein, Alan Brody, Floretta Chernin, Aileen Brody, Sandra Betz, Susan Emerson, Clare Belman, Judy Johnson.

Teen Talk: David Karro, Ellen Pechman, Ann Showalter, Jill Karro, Evin Hirsch, Janey Foster, Carolyn Wool, Barbara Wool, Catherine Jaworski, Marilyn Showalter (High Notes). Junior Jabber: Susan Sharp, Janet Karro.

Nursery School: Ruth Darmstadter, Margaret Hollander, Cory Moore.

PTA News: Charlotte Chase, Fran Weinberger, Ruth Darmstadter

Typists: Wanda Maltz, Sophia Schulkind, Mildred Silverman, Leona Levine, Mary Rodgers, Floretta Chernin, Ruth Warshaw, Mary Lee Kleinfelter, Ivy Ash, Barbara Marney, Ruth Darmstadter, Sandra Betz, Frankie Ludwigson, Barbara Shapiro, Jill Karro, Rita Brinley, Pat Ciazza, Judith Wright, Beatrice Greene.

Distribution: Edith Hauptman, Gladys Hirsch, Roberta Leib, Emma Shapiro, Helen Barkan, Elizabeth Gardner, Herbert Raskin, Pearl Hoffman, Lily Noguchi, Ruth Lieberman, Yetta Weisz, Anita Greenspan, Irene Rich, Emilie Andrew, Winona Falco, Mary Lee Klinefelter, Saretta Zitver, Luba Dreyer, Ruth Patterson, Anne Young, George MacGillivray, Norma Berkeley.

Teenagers: Jill Karro, Lewis Zwick, Julie Zwick, Margie Janney, Laurie Moore.

Original and Present Owners of Houses Built on the Bannockburn Golf Club Tract

KEY: * original owner

nonresident owner

Original Owners		Present Owners	Original Owners		Present Owners
<u>AYR LANE</u>					
6920	Schwartz, L.	*	6424	Lathrop	*
6921	O.G.Land Co. (E. & A. Cook)	*	6428	Katz, S.M.	Mednick #
			6431	Birnbaum	*
			6432	Lukens	*
			6435	Moore	Reynolds
			6436	Diamond	*
			6440	Mitchell	*
			6500	North	*
			6501	Mertz	Pelikan
			6504	Gardiner	*
			6505	Rutstein	*
			6508	Zwick	*
			6512	Stein	*
			6516	Taylor	Yohalem
			6519	Anderman	Marney
			6523	Freund	Somers #
<u>BANNOCKBURN DRIVE</u>					
6202	Kotz	Bloom, B. #			
6203	Duncan	Maier			
6204	Stern	*			
6206	Sonenshein	Stephenson #			
6207	Dubester	Pollit #			
6208	Chase	*			
6209	Richman	Wilson #			
6210	Jaworski	*			
6211	Goldman	*			
6212	Stoller	Schmitt			
6213	Orkin	Quinn			
6300	Janney	*			
6301	Hamers	*			
6302	Gough	Breggin			
6303	Nelson, R.	Naylor			
6304	Jacobson	*			
6305	Schwartz, M.	Liechty			
6306	Sharp, A.	Rosenthal			
6307	Seibert	Evans, H.			
6308	Bookbinder	*			
6309	Berlin	Willenz			
6310	Fox	Krecke			
6311	Emerson	*			
6313	Pothier	Johnston			
6314	(Bannockburn Clubhouse)				
6315	Sterling	Cook, E. & B. #			
6316	Shultz	Maybee			
6319	Bruns	Schwartz, S.			
6320	Miller, H.	Dang			
6404	Chernin	*			
6408	Mindlin	*			
6410	Berlin	Granof			
6414	Spector	*			
6418	Newman	Greene			
6422	Weinberg	Weisz, D.			
			<u>BARR ROAD</u>		
			6823	Noonan	* #
			<u>BRAEBURN COURT</u>		
			7008	Grossblatt	*
			7006	Consolazio	*
			7004	Brown, H.	Vreeland
			7002	Campbell	Shreve
			<u>BRAEBURN PLACE</u>		
			7127	Wolfsohn, L.	Wolfsohn, V.
			7125	McDowell	*
			7123	Craig	Raskin
			7121	Yaffee	Perry & Burns, R.
			7119	Small	*
			7117	Lurie	Waterston
			7115	Olson	Richardson
			7113	Bradley	*
			7111	Moerman	*
			7109	Salzman	Kellar
			7107	MacIntyre	*

Original Owners		Present Owners	Original Owners		Present Owners
<u>BRAEBURN PLACE (continued)</u>					
7105	Maclay	*	<u>CALLANDER DRIVE</u>		
7103	Janus	*	6504	Lindgren	Winestone
7020	Gold, J.	*	6505	Flynn	Philleo
7018	Weaver, L.	Vernier	6506	Wescott	Epps
7016	Weiss	*	6507	Jablon	Wine
7014	Rall	*	6508	Montrie	Heffter
7012	Lukaczer	Greenberg	6509	Gechter	Thomas
7010	Goding	*	6510	Shapiro, H.	Hammel
<u>BRIGADOON DRIVE</u>			6511	Sayers	Ruchdeschel
6601	Machta	*	6512	Mercer	Johnson
6604	Wilkins	*	6513	Markley	*
6704	Levine, B.	*	6514	Cowen	Darmstadter
6705	Moreland & Keller	Pearlman	6515	Brome	DuFault
6708	Cohen, S.	*	6516	Owens	*
6709	Schwenk	*	6520	Low	*
6711	Katz, S.M.	Kiefer	<u>CRATHIE LANE</u>		
6712	Press	Schiller	6308	Brightman	*
6716	Olshan	Wool	6309	Lindgren	Gouras
6719	Elman	*	6313	McGuiness	Finkelstein
6720	Telchin	Sobeloff	<u>DALROY LANE</u>		
6723	Tonat	*	6507	Parker	Rugh
6724	Robb	Harrison	6511	Armstrong	Lichtenstein
6727	Carlisle	Pocinki	6515	Blockwick	Ciazza
6728	Reines	*	6519	Dembny	*
6732	Greiner	*	6523	Beck	*
6736	Katinas	*	<u>EAST HALBERT ROAD</u>		
6739	Krieger	Jackson	6200	Hauptman	* #
6740	Elmer	*	6202	Pollack	*
6744	Phillips, G.	*	6203	Wenk	Wiener
6748	Nielsen	Burns, L.	6204	Jorgensen	Mansfield
6751	Greenbaum	*	6205	Foster	* #
6752	Weisbaum	*	6206	Bouma	Shore
6756	Levine, S.	*	6207	Phillips, P.	*
6759	Kittner	Hofmeister	6208	Schwartz, L.	Hubert
6760	Hardy	Earle	6209	Foss	*
6764	Dittmer	Nover	6211	Tourin	Tangri
6765	Rich	*	6213	Leib	Weil-Malherbe
6768	Sindler	*	6215	Lebergott	Kraska #
6771	Fain	DeLong	6300	Ware	*
6772	Kux	Krantz			
6775	Ruppenthal	*			
6776	Orden	*			
6779	Levin	*			
6780	Barrett	Potemken			

Original Owners	Present Owners	Original Owners	Present Owners
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EAST HALBERT ROAD (continued)

6302	Hill	RELP, 3-35, Thomas F. Belcher, Inc., General Partner #
6303	Falco	Springer
6304	Rapke	*
6305	Campbell	Whitten #
6306	Zeisel	*
6307	Clinard	Rankin
6308	Benedict	Gilloeghly
6309	Devor	Schram
6310	Sokoloff	Long
6402	Hirsch, A.	*
6403	Shipman	*
6404	Kleinfelter	Allen
6405	Sharp, S.	*
6406	Namrow	*
6407	Rubinstein	*
6409	Bickford	*
6411	Cohen, I.	*
6501	Katz, I.	*
6502	Zitver	*
6503	Podoski	Schneiderman
6504	Herling	*
6506	McCabe	* #
6507	Ash, B.	*
6508	Goure	Kimbrough
6510	Ross, B.	Cobern
6511	Ash, L.	Leader #
6512	Greenspan	*
6514	Karro	Mitrisin
6515	Barkan	*
6516	Bengelsdorf	*
6518	Romualdi	Goodpaster
6519	DiSomma	Lewis
6520	Howard	*
6521	Kennedy	Goldberg, L.
6522	Orkin	*
6523	Evans, E.	Mason
6524	Bennett	*
6525	Masaoka	Gallop #
6526	Haynes	Donvito #
6527	Shen	Kolp
6528	Lee	*
6530	Sigel	*
6532	Munts	Grier

KENHOWE DRIVE

6504	Norton	Hackner
6506	Green	*
6508	Leivick	*

6509	Risler	Gyi
6510	MacGillivray	*
6511	Welling	*
6512	Racusin	*
6513	Hirsch, H.	*
6515	Esserman	*
6516	Weaver, J.	Freiberg

LAVEROCK COURT

6800	Wilkins	Whitman
6801	Brooks	Reinhardt
6804	Zitver	Geldon
6805	Gorlitz	Moore, R.
6808	Branstead	Wright
6809	Oppenheimer	* Sayre
6812	Maltz	*
6813	Shapiro, M.	*
6816	Shapiro, S.	Eberhard
6817	Stevenson	*
6821	Bloom, M.	Exarhakis
6825	Schulkind	Lerner

LAVEROCK LANE

6505	James	Levine, L.
6509	Confrey	Axelrod

OWEN PLACE

6300	Congress	Gordon
6301	Noguchi	Warren
6302	Wenger	Gamson
6304	Landay	Betz
6306	Eden	Ross, P.
6308	Galblum	Rovner
6310	Asay	Pirtle
6312	Wood	*
6314	Umbach	Ophus
6316	Cecchini	Brodsky #

SELKIRK DRIVE

6600	Koff	*
6601	Thin	*
6604	Cook, I.	*
6605	Lieberman	*
6609	Rappaport	*
6732	Durney	*

Original Owners		Present Owners	Original Owners		Present Owners
<u>WEST HALBERT ROAD</u>			<u>WILSON LANE</u>		
6202	Murata	Atallah	7120	Cecchini	Pitsenberger
6204	Sternfeld	*	7118	Brethouwer	* Dutton
6205	Belman	*	7116	Vicinus	*
6301	Goldberg, J.	Hyatt	7114	Stewart	*
6302	Nelson, R.	Prather	7112	Pechman	*
6304	Welling	Miller, B. #	7110	Tobin	*
6305	Gessow	*	7108	Friedmann	*
6306	Hirsch, H.	Brinley	7106	Weisz, M.	* #
6309	Silverman	*	7104	Wagman	*
6313	Netterstrom	Young	7102	Murra	Seltzer
6317	Liebling	*	7100	Singleterry	Chun
6400	Colburn	*	7048	Miller, A.	*
6401	Malin	Hoffman	7044	Come	*
6402	Delaplaine	*	7040	Bailey	Nelson, B.
6403	Morris	* #	7036	Gold, W.	*
6404	Dinerstein	Dreyer	7032	Dunau	*
6405	Olds	Quick	7028	Doyle	Berman
6406	Stambler	Malmon	7024	(Changed to 7002 Braeburn Court in 1961, q.v.)	
6407	Heymann	*	7020	Goldman, D.	Martin
6408	Newton	Kabaker	7016	Solomon	Stambler
6409	Elsten	Schnabel	7012	Goldstein	*
6410	Pickett	Cox & Plaut	7008	Reifman	Mage
			7004	Blackman	*
			7000	Hoddes	*
			6926	Herz	*

Chronology

KEY: GHC -- Group Housing Cooperative, Inc.
 BCI -- Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc.
 BCA -- Bannockburn Civic Association
 BCC -- Bannockburn Community Club, Inc.

May 1944	GHC organized under sponsorship of Potomac Cooperative Federation.
April 6, 1946	Bannockburn Golf Club tract sold to Cooperators' Properties, Inc., trustee for GHC subscriber fund.
May 23, 1946	Bannockburn tract conveyed by John J. Shinnors, Jr., and Robert G. Dreslin to Cooperators' Properties, Inc. as recorded in Montgomery County land records in Liber 1024 at folio 205.
July 1946	GHC selects architects.
July 30, 1946	GHC members vote to assign GHC's option to Bannockburn site to new nonprofit co-op to be composed exclusively of future Bannockburn residents.
Aug. 5, 1946	BCI Certificate of Incorporation approved and received for record by State Tax Commission of Maryland.
Aug. 13, 1946	First BCI board meeting.
Oct. 3, 1946	Subscribers to trust agreement between GHC and Cooperators' properties approve membership application form (for joining BCI).
Oct. 22, 1946	Architects' plans displayed to BCI and GHC members.
Nov. 9, 1946	GHC applies for rezoning of portions of Bannockburn tract to Residential C (multifamily) and Commercial D.
Nov. 15, 1946	First BCI membership meeting adopts bylaws (completed November 22).
Dec. 16, 1946	Bannockburn tract conveyed by Cooperators' Properties, Inc. to BCI as recorded in Montgomery County land records in Liber 1054 at folio 39.
Dec. 18, 1946	Rezoning hearing before Montgomery County Zoning Commission.
Dec. 31, 1946	Rezoning application denied.
Jan. 20, 1947	Special BCI membership meeting votes to (1) continue rezoning efforts, (2) build single-family units if rezoning is denied, (3) meanwhile, build pilot project.
Feb. 24, 1947	Special BCI membership meeting: board members elected; priority numbers assigned by lot (for selecting house sites).
Nov. 21, 1947	Regular annual BCI membership meeting; total membership -- 188.
Feb. 1948	Mary Fox Herling resigns as BCI board president; becomes paid executive director.

May 1948 Bids sought on pilot project.

July 20, 1948 BCI bylaws amended: individual ownership; stock purchase requirement raised to 205 shares.

Aug. 1948 David Solomon, Inc. awarded contract for pilot project.

Jan. 15, 1949 Ground-breaking ceremonies for pilot project.

May 1949 Mary Fox Herling's article "The Story of Bannockburn, A Washington, D. C. Cooperative" published in The Journal of Housing.

October 1949 Pilot project residents start moving in.

April 1950 Eastern Construction Co. will build in block 4.

September 1950 Construction of Merrimack homes begins; Bannockburn Cooperative Nursery School opens for first year of operations.

1950 Sitters Club formed.

September 1951 School site sold to county; Community Arts Association starts children's classes at clubhouse; nursery school adds second group.

Spring 1952 Folk dance group starts.

October 1952 BCA is formed; sponsors first Halloween party for whole community.

November 1952 Green Park Cooperators incorporated.

May 1953 First issue of BCA Newsletter.

October 1954 Undeveloped acreage sold to Ernest Cook.

1954 BCA starts lobbying for elementary school.

April 1955 BCI sells land in Bannockburn Creek valley to Bannockburn Swimming Club.

October 1955 BCC is formed.

November 1955 First fall dance, sponsored by BCC.

February 1956 Bannockburn Creek valley property north of swimming pool sold to adjoining homeowners.

March 1956 First Bannockburn Community Directory.

May 1956 Bannockburn swimming pool opens.

July 1956 YMCA Day Camp starts at Bannockburn.

April 1957 First Spring Show

September 1957 Bannockburn Elementary School opens; nursery school adds third group.

Nov. 25, 1957 BCI bylaws amended: stockholding requirement reduced to one share.

May 1958 BCC incorporated.

Jan. 2, 1960 Last run of No. 20 -- Cabin John streetcar.

June 1960	Picketing at Glen Echo Amusement Park.
September 1962	Pyle Junior High School and Walt Whitman High School open.
August 1963	Bannockburn supports Danville civil rights movement.
Nov. 30, 1964	BCI bylaws amended: Article II (Purpose and Policy) changed.
April 1966	BCI obtains real estate tax exemption.
June 1966	Bannockburn Tennis Club opens courts south of clubhouse.
September 1966	Zoning board closes tennis courts.
October 1966	Residents successfully oppose proposal to build Bannockburn Hamlet in upper Bannockburn Creek valley.
May 24, 1967	BCI bylaws amended: boundaries for new members extended to 2 miles beyond Bannockburn tract.
June 1967	Tennis Club votes to disband.
Nov. 13, 1967	One board elected to govern both BCI and BCC.
Spring 1968	Bannockburn supports Poor People's Campaign.
September 1968	District children bused to Bannockburn Elementary School.
May 1972	First Arts and Crafts Fair
May 1976	First Yard Sale.
1976	BCI real estate tax exemption rescinded.
June 1976	Tenth edition of Bannockburn Directory.