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# Gary Ditto's Newsletter

DECEMBER 1996

## Neighbors for Over Half a Century

"There were no streets when we moved here, just dirt roads and wooden sidewalks," says Mrs. Crossette from her settee.

"There was no community," adds Mrs. Cleveland sitting beside her, "You would get stuck in your own yard with mud."

Since 1936, these women have lived side by side in two of the first houses built in Chevy Chase View.

Thinking together, they recall the name of the man who first showed them around Chevy Chase View. "It was Mr. Martin, wasn't it?" asks Mrs. Crossette.

"He had the whole block," agrees Mrs. Cleveland. "Martin was the one telling us we were going to have sewers, we were going to have streets. We didn't have electricity then..."

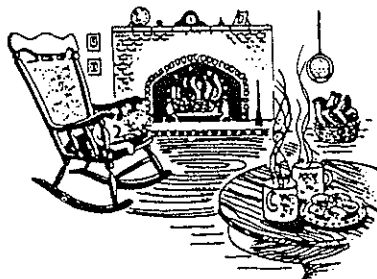
"You didn't have water!" Mrs. Crossette interrupts. "You had to get it from the people in back of you..."

"At first..."

"At first, yes."

"When you were building your house."

When I remark on how they finish each other's sentences, they both laugh. "That's what comes from living next door for sixty years," says Mrs. Cleveland.



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Flipping through her photo album, Mrs. Crossette finds a picture of the two couples when they were new neighbors. It is a group shot taken at a hot dog roast at the Clevelands' house. "See the newspaper on the floor there? They hadn't finished the floor. They were living in the house while building it." In the photograph we see the two ladies trying to hide their pregnant bellies behind their husbands, who are acting silly and holding little dolls up to the camera.

Another of the square black and white snapshots portrays the entire postal district of Chevy Chase View — six mailboxes on the corner of Summit and Saul. The ladies recall their daily trips to check the mail and the long walks into Kensington to take their children to school. The dirt road they once walked along has since become the wide, well-paved street we are familiar with today.

Twenty-five houses line the lane now, but when the women first arrived there was only one other house in sight. Mrs. Crossette's husband, George, one of the early members of the Chevy Chase View Council, was instrumental in the development of that road. He worked to get the W.P.A. grants used to build the first proper roads.

When she first arrived in town, Mrs. Cleveland thought that church might be the place to meet other Kensington residents. "The first church I went to, the Methodist Church, had seven people at the service. So next I tried the Presbyterians and there were nine in that congregation, and then I went to the Baptist Church and there were eighteen people there and there wasn't anywhere left to go. And then three new young ministers came and all of a sudden we had 400 members."

The women found other ways to socialize. "My husband was a reserve officer and had to go away one weekend a month, and I had a friend whose husband drove a bus. She would come to keep me company as I had a baby," explains Mrs. Cleveland. "That's how the Sewing Club started, as she was a Kensington girl and knew lots of girls. We all brought whatever we wanted to work on but finally we didn't work at all, we just talked. And joked, lots of jokes...." "And always ate," Mrs. Crossette reminds her, "refreshments were very important."

Mrs. Crossette also started one of the first Brownie and Girl Scout troops in Chevy Chase View. S'mores haven't changed, she reckons, referring to the graham cracker, chocolate, and marshmallow combination that is still popular at Girl Scout cookouts.

Over the past sixty years, Mrs. Crossette's garden has become a mosaic of azaleas. Like a soft mountain range along the borders of the yard and circling the large ash tree, they continue to bloom.

Green thumbs seem to be the rule for the Chevy Chase View community of today. The old trees provide a lush backdrop for the flowering plants that the locals cultivate in abundance.

Today there are joggers beating the same path that Mrs. Crossette and Mrs. Cleveland once walked down to get the mail. A Porsche sits in a driveway where once sat an Edsel. The azaleas, however, are perennial and return each year the same in the garden of Mrs. Crossette and her neighborhood, Mrs. Cleveland.

— Kendra Fanconi

*(A future issue will bring more of their reminiscences about Chevy Chase View.)*

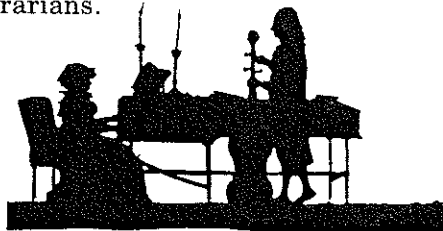
## Music in the Library

Have you seen the new piano at the Kensington Park Library?

"It's a beauty," comments head Librarian Keith Fleeman, adding that the community is extremely grateful for this wonderful and generous gift. Donated by St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Kensington, the piano was restored at no charge by Schaeffer's Piano of Rockville.

The library staff is planning lots of musical events — piano and otherwise — and celebrated the piano's arrival with a Saturday of music.

If you are a musician and would like to perform, you are invited to become part of the Music in the Library series. Please talk to Vera Ramaty or any of the librarians.



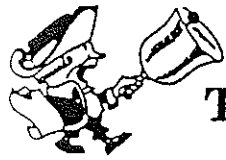
## Coming in Future Issues.....

More Kensington reminiscences, from **Virginia Guest**, longtime Rock Creek Hills resident, teacher, and community volunteer;

**Esther Mizell, Pat Bellamy, and Jack and Jackie Jones**, who spent a morning with Mab Cantril sharing their reminiscences of Kensington in the 1940's; and other longtime Kensington area residents.

Also, some history of the "other" Kensington, in England, from one of our writers, Kendra Fanconi, who is now in Wales.

*Gary Ditto's newsletter welcomes ideas and news items from community members. Its writers and editors are from Kensington Communications. Laura Kramer and Ilene Sheris helped with this issue.*



# Town Crier

**At the Kensington Park Library**

**Wed., Dec. 18 at 7 p.m., ages 3 & up.**  
**Tales from Everywhere** with storyteller Barbara McClayton.

**Thurs., Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m., all ages.** **Films:** The Most Wonderful Egg in the World and more.

**Thurs., Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., adults.** **Free Blood Pressure Screening.** A registered nurse will read and record your blood pressure. Third Thursday of each month. Drop in.

**Sat., Dec. 28 at 10:30 a.m., all ages.** Saturday Morning Read-Aloud. New selections and old favorites.

**At the Levine School of Music 's Kensington Center at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 10401 Armory Ave.**  
**Sunday, Dec. 15** from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Holiday Concert . Choral performances at 1 p.m. Low Brass Ensemble, Wind Trio, String Ensemble, String Orchestra, and Chamber Ensemble at 3 p.m. Free and open to the public. Please bring a non-perishable food donation.

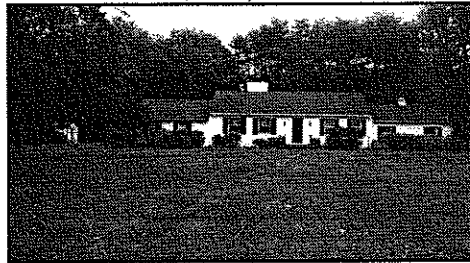
**Join the Celebration!** Handel's Messiah Sing-Along. **Sunday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m.** at the Washington D.C. Stake Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10000 Stoneybrook Drive, Kensington. Gary Clawson, conductor, with instrumentalists and soloists. Free & open to the public.

**Town of Kensington T-shirts and mugs** are available —the proceeds benefit the Kensington Community Events Committee. A great gift idea! Call Jenny Smith at 946-3804.

**Toys for Tots.** Long and Foster's Hampden Square office is a drop-off site for Toys for Tots from December 1st through 21st. Please donate new, unwrapped toys to this gift drive. Bring them to the Long and Foster office on the first floor at 4800 Montgomery Lane in Bethesda. Parking is available in the parking garage on Hampden Lane.

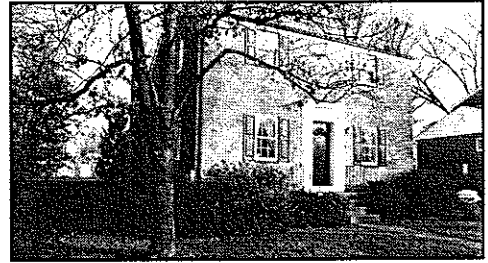
**Sunday Help Wanted**  
Gary Ditto needs help with open houses on Sunday afternoons. If you are interested, please call 215-6834.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$450,000**



10041 Counselman Road, Potomac  
Wonderful Setting. 4 BR Rambler Located on Over 52,000 Square Feet. Minutes to Potomac Village.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$299,000**



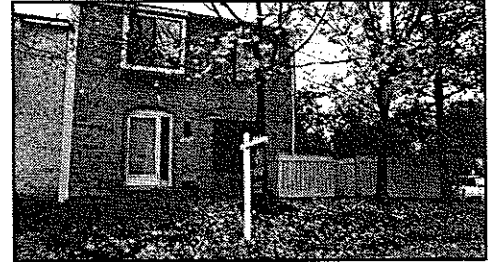
4421 Puller Drive, Kensington.  
Updated 4 BR Colonial. Master BR Suite Addn, New Kit w/ Adj Fam Rm, 1st Fl Den, Lg Scr Por, Refin Hdwds, More.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$299,000**



4513 Edgefield Road, Kensington.  
Parkwood. 3 BR Colonial, Lots of Charm. See-Thru FP from LR & Den, Lg Pvt Fenced Back Yeard, 3rd Fl Ofc, Hrdwds ++

**FOR SALE**  
**\$99,900**



10151 Ridgeline Drive, Gaithersburg  
Updated 3 BR Townhouse, Now Like New. Compl Updtd Kit, 2 New Bathrms, Freshly Painted, Patio. Great Opportunity.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$129,500**



9132 Bobwhite Circle, Gaithersburg.  
Large 4 BR Townhouse with Office/Den on 1st Floor, TS Kit, LR w/ FP, 5 miles to Metro, Close to Everything.

**UNDER CONTRACT**



409 Mansfield Road, Silver Spring  
3 BR Colonial. 1st Floor Den, Private Yard & Deck, 3 BR.

**SOLD**  
**\$302,500**



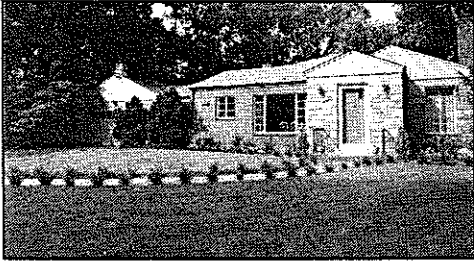
9618 Hillridge Drive, Kensington  
Rock Creek Hills.  
New Kit, 4 BR, 2 FPs, 2-Car Gar.

**SOLD**  
**\$235,700**



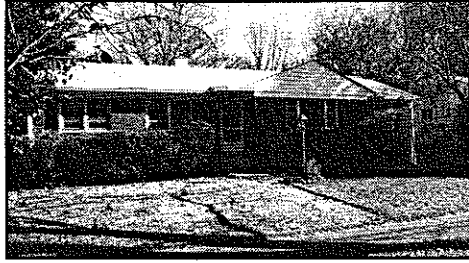
9100 Bulls Run Parkway, Bethesda.  
Huge 5 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial in Wyngate. Many Updated Features.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$329,000**



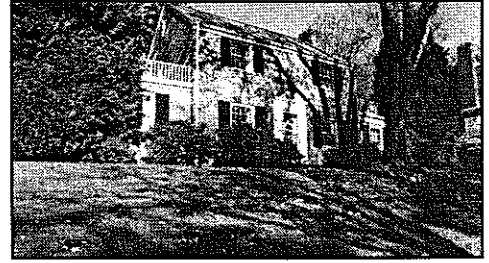
9604 Glencrest Lane, Kensington  
Rock Creek Hills. Private Wooded Setting  
on Cul de Sac. 3 BR, 2 FP's, Updtd Kit,  
Walk Out LL, Lg RR, 2-Car Garage.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$215,000**



4509 Westbrook Lane, Kensington.  
One of the Larger Ramblers in Parkwood.  
Fabulous Screened-in Porch & Deck Area.  
4 BR, New Roof, and More.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$299,000**



4517 Edgefield Road, Kensington.  
3 BR Colonial in Parkwood. 1st Fl Den  
w/ Full Bath, 3rd Flr Sewing/Playroom,  
LR w/FP, Scr Prch, Huge Lower Level.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$499,000**



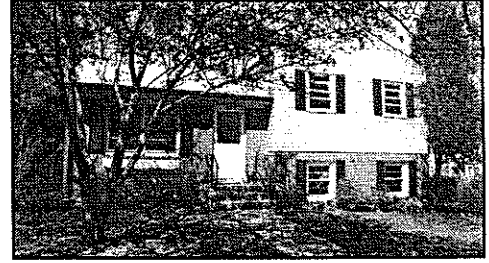
10320 Fawcett St., Old Town Kensington.  
Wonderful Old Victorian Restored w/ Orig.  
Character Still There. Updtd Kit, Bkfst  
Rm. LR w/FP, 5 BR, Office. Must See!

**FOR SALE**  
**\$199,500**



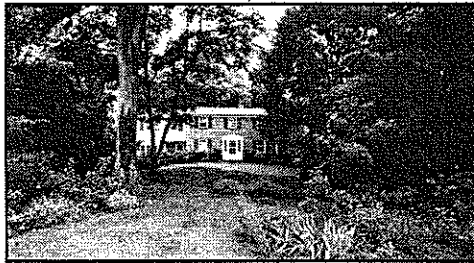
11218 Dewey Road, Kensington.  
Outstanding 4 BR Bi-Level Home. Kit  
Redone w/ Oak Cabinets. Backs to Rock  
Creek Park. A Very Comfortable Home.

**FOR SALE**  
**\$159,900**



3901 Morrell Court, Kensington  
Tree-Lined Cul de Sac. Wonderfully  
Maint. 3 BR Split. Hrdwds, CAC, RR.

**SOLD**  
**\$360,000**



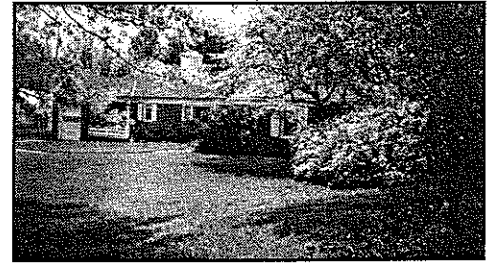
9624 Old Spring Road, Kensington.  
Rock Creek Hills. Beautiful House & Lot.  
New TS Kit, Many Upds/Improvements.

**UNDER CONTRACT**



10106 Wildwood Road, Kensington.  
Beautifully Maintained 2 BR Rambler  
in Parkwood w/ Lg Private Back Yard.

**SOLD**  
**\$262,000**



3608 Saul Road, Kensington  
Rock Creek Hills. 3 BR Rambler on Lg.  
Lot. Close to Everything.

*Each of the homes pictured in this newsletter  
is a Gary Ditto listing.*

**GARY H. DITTO, G.R.I.**  
4800 Montgomery Lane  
Suite 150  
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