



# THE VILLAGE CRIER

*Newsletter of the*

## ANNAPOLIS VILLAGERS



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1996

### *APRIL 13, 1996 - BUS TRIP*

#### ***THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTORS EXPO SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY***

The Annapolis Villagers and The Black Eyed Susan 56ers are planning a joint one day bus excursion to the International Collectors Expo in Secaucus, NJ on April 13. See Carol Dietz's article on page 9 on what to expect at Secaucus. The cost is \$30.00 per person and includes the bus fare and admission to the Expo.

Payment is due now and no later than the March 12, Villagers meeting. Each club will have 24 seats available for their members. After the first 24 reservations are paid to The Annapolis Villagers, all others will be put on a waiting list.

Previously, over 30 Villagers have expressed an interest in this trip. If you are interested in this trip, send in payments as soon as possible. Seating on the bus will be assigned on a first paid basis. Payments for reservations that cannot be accepted will be returned.

The bus will leave the Annapolis Mall area promptly at 6:00 a. m. It will arrive at the Park & Ride, Baltimore Beltway and Route 70 (Exit 16) at 6:45 a.m. and leave promptly at 7:00 a.m., for arrival at Secaucus at 11:00 a.m. On the return trip there will be a stop at the Christiana Mall in Delaware for free time. The return bus will arrive at the Baltimore Park & Ride at 9:15 p.m. and at Annapolis at 10:00 p.m. **\*\* Important note: the bus will leave at the times noted. Due to time considerations, the bus will not wait for late arrivals at either stop. **There will be no refunds to anyone who misses the bus.**** Members of both clubs may board or exit at either Annapolis or Baltimore. Please indicate preference when making payment.

Make checks payable to The Annapolis Villagers and mail to:

Mr. Bill Murphy  
876 Shore Acres Road  
Arnold, MD 21012

### *MARCH MEMBERS MEETING*

The next members meeting of The Annapolis Villagers will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 1995, 7:00 p.m. at The American Legion, Post 175, Manahattan Beach Road, Severna Park, MD 21146. Directions are on Page 8.

#### *AGENDA*

We are proud to present a video about Dept. 56 that Ms. Lit Town, Judith Price, graciously lent the club. The video will only be shown at the meeting and then it must be returned to Dept. 56.

Pat Ehrenreich will give a presentation on the Snow Village Ice Palace, inspired by the St. Paul Minnesota Winter Carnivals. A video on the St. Paul Winter Carnival will be shown and there will be photographs of past Ice Palaces. See related articles on page 5 -7.

#### 1996 DEALER EVENTS

D56 announced they will be participating in National Collectors month again in 1996. Dealer open houses will be Nov 7 - 11. In 1995, the "Homes for the Holidays" promotional kit was the Dickens Village "Start a Tradition" Set. D56 will announce details for this year's promotional kit on May 18 with the mid year introductions.

**THE PREZ SEZ'**  
**BY BILL MURPHY**

Now that the holidays are behind us, I hope everyone had time to spend with their loved ones and shore up their collections. It took a blizzard to cancel the Villager's House Tour in the Lanham area. I sincerely hope that our Lanham members will be able to arrange a tour next year. I wish to thank Pat and John Ehrenreich for once again having the Villagers over to their home after the January meeting to view their displays and sample home made goodies.

Lynne and I still intend to host an Open House for members to view our operating layout featuring Lionel Trains from the 1950's. Leave it to business demands to keep me from completing the task. The time now looks like we will be ready within the next few weeks. We will let everyone know and we look forward to members coming to our home.

The club membership has now reached 80 people and we are still growing! Due to the increasing number of members attending meetings, we have made arrangements to use the Banquet Hall in the American Legion Post 175 for our meetings. The larger hall is in the rear of the building. It has a separate, outside entrance from the left side of the parking lot with fewer steps. It provides accommodations for both non-smokers and smokers.

John Ogle and I recently made a donation of \$100 to the American Legion, Post 175, for allowing us to use the facilities at no charge. The Post graciously accepted the donation.

We hope that members enjoy the presentations at the March meeting. I would also like to hear from the members, both old and new, by phone or mail, of any activity or special activity you would like the Villagers to have. As you are aware, we are trying many new activities and more are in the works. Watch for upcoming news in The Village Crier.

For anyone wishing copies of the membership roster and/or the most recently revised By-Laws, they will be available at the March meeting.

See you at the meeting, *Bill Murphy*

♥**VALENTINE RAFFLE WINNER**♥  
**BY JOHN OGLE**

The lucky winner of our Valentine Raffle was Theresa Wilborn, In lieu of the dinner, flowers and candy, Theresa happily chose the alternate gift of \$200.00

Bernice Smith sold the winning ticket. It was Bill and Lynne

Murphy who were the come from behind lucky winners of The Sir John Falstaff Inn for selling the most tickets. The Murphy's sold 351 tickets! Bernice Smith and Carole Dietz were not far behind the Murphy's in ticket sales. Thanks to everyone who sold and bought tickets for this club fund raiser.

<b>H</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP CARDS</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>FOR VILLAGERS</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>BY PAT FISHER</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>R</b>	<i>We now have official membership cards for all members. Cards will be distributed at our March 12 meeting to all members in attendance. Those unable to attend will receive their cards at a later date.</i>	<b>R</b>
<b>Y</b>		<b>Y</b>
<b>E</b>		<b>E</b>
<b>!</b>		<b>!</b>

**OH, WHAT A NIGHT!**

On Friday, February 9, The Annapolis Villagers gathered at American Legion, Post 175, for a Pot Luck Dinner. It was a welcome respite from the winter doldrums.

Members bought a delicious assortment of main dishes and desserts while The Annapolis Villagers provided an Open Bar for the first hour. It was an enjoyable evening.

Sharri Ogle was the lucky winner of the door prize -- the Heritage Village Train Set. Mike Klutz won the 50-50 of \$37.

Many thanks go to Pete and Trudi Baer and Bill and Lynne Murphy for organizing another successful event for the Villagers.

**D56 Trivia:** Where is the jail in Christmas in the City?  
**Answer on page 10**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome recent new members :  
 Stella and Julius Angelucci  
 and the return of former members:  
 Barbara and Tom Dickey

**THIS OLD VILLAGE**  
**BY BOB VILLAGER**

The Village Crier is proud to present our newest feature columnist--Bob Villager. In case you have not heard about Bob, he is a collector and working on a book called "This Old Village." He is trying to get it published, but publishing houses have not been breaking down his door because they don't believe there are that many people as crazy about village as Bob is. (*Editors Note: "What do they know?"*) While some of Bob's comments and/or ideas may seem a little far fetched, we do hope you enjoy Bob's column.

**Dear Bob:** Our cat, "Sweetie Poo" loves to walk in our villages. While she has not broken anything yet, we want to know what we can do to stop her. Please help! Catlovin' Collector

**Dear Catlovin':** Obviously, Sweetie Poo is playing "Catzilla" to annoy you. There is one sure fire way to stop Sweetie Poo but it depends on how attached you and the family are to her. If finding a new home (with non collectors, of course) for Sweetie Poo is not an option, we are here to help.

In lieu of drastic measures, these ideas came from America on Line collectors:

Janet told us that she talked to her cats. She told them that they should not be walking around the villages. It worked but she is not sure why. She suspects that since she bought quite a few more houses and accessories, there is less room for her cats to walk around in the village. She would prefer to believe that her cats actually listened and obeyed her. (We don't think so but we can all appreciate wanting to believe it.)

Lisa suggested applying a layer of aluminum foil around the village and covering it with snow. It seems that some cats, including hers, do not like walking on aluminum foil.

Karen constructs a twig style garland and builds it up around the edges of her village display to discourage "Sylvia and Madeline" from "walking" through the village. She also found that when she added a skirt around her display table, the cats loved to camp out under the "tent" rather than in the village.

Lynne's cat loved to sunbathe in her village displayed in the window. For 1995, she moved her display. To her amazement, she found that with no sun her cat no longer bothered to sunbathe in the village.

**Dear Bob:** Help my wife is mad at me! I tried to make snow with left over styrofoam in her food chopper. I don't know why she was upset, the food chopper still works even if the

color of the bowl is no longer clear. Styrofoam Wizard.

**Dear Wiz:** I don't know what your wife is calling you these days but may I call you Wiz? D56 has just the product to keep you in your wife's good graces. Very soon you will find D56's own Snow Machine to gently and softly drop snow over your village at your dealers for the marriage-saving price of \$85.00. The Snow Machine uses another new D56's product, "Fresh Fallen Snow" ,at \$4.00 a bag. (According to D56, "Real Plastic Snow" cannot be used with the Snow Machine.) The dimensions of the Snow Machine are 38.5" X 9" X 5.5." It is powered by 4 AA batteries. If you are like me, that does not sound like it will cover my whole village so I will be looking for ways to motorize the Snow Machine to "glide" across my village display.

D56 also says the "New Fallen Snow" is recyclable but I have not heard if they will be introducing a companion "snow remover?" Any ideas, fellow collectors?

By the way, D56 is coming out with lots of new trim items to make village decorators happy. In addition to lots of new trees, here is a list of some of the new items to add in to your village.

<b>Village Clock Tower</b>	<b>\$32.50</b>
<b>Up and Away Animated Sleigh</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Let it Snow Sign</b>	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>Pink Flamingos, set of 4</b>	<b>\$ 7.50</b>
<b>Flexible Sisal Hedge, set of 3</b>	<b>\$ 7.50</b>
<b>Split Rail Fence, set of 4</b>	<b>\$12.50</b>
<b>Twig Snow Fence</b>	<b>\$ 6.00</b>
<b>Election Yard Signs, set of 6</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Hybrid Landscape, set of 33</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Brick Town Square</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Cobblestone Town Square</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Revolving Tree</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Snowcapped Trees, set of 2</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>
<b>Frosted Fir Tree, set of 4</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Cedar Forest, set of 3</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Ponderosa Pines, set of 3</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Arctic Pines, set of 3</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>
<b>Village Spotlight, set of 2</b>	<b>\$ 7.00</b>
<b>Snowy Evergreen Trees,</b>	
<b>set of 6 small</b>	<b>\$ 8.50</b>
<b>set of 6, medium</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>set of 5, large</b>	<b>\$32.50</b>
<b>Snowy Scotch Pines, set of 3</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Autumn Trees, set of 3</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>
<b>Fallen Leaves, 3 oz. bag</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>
<b>Wagon Wheel Pine Grove</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>
<b>Village Pine Point Pond</b>	<b>\$37.50</b>
<b>Village Double Pine Tree</b>	<b>\$13.50</b>

For collectors who keep their villages up year round and would like it to change with the seasons, there are accessories to delight you: The Village Pine Point Pond has greenery around the pond and leaves in the "water". The green trees and fallen leaves will definitely give your village an autumn look. Dealers that have seen the pond call it a winner! There are also autumn trees and leaves to spread around your village display. New England Village is a real standout with the autumn accessories.

Another item that will definitely shed more light on your village display is the spotlight. It runs on batteries but you can use the Brite Lites adapter. It is a must have for buildings like the Ice Palace, Art Museum, any of the churches. The possibilities are endless.

*Ed. Note: Bob welcomes questions and display tips. Due to his busy schedule, he cannot respond personally. You are encouraged to submit your questions and ideas to:*

Bob Villager  
 c/o The Village Crier  
 304 Gordon Avenue  
 Severna Park, MD 21146-4319

### **SNOWBUNNIES TURNING OUR THOUGHTS TO SPRING**

With the recent snowless balmy days, collectors have been getting out to visit their favorite dealers. While waiting patiently for the new introductions or adding current pieces to their favorite villages, they found a welcome surprise--SNOWBUNNIES have arrived at many dealers. Collectors were delighted by beautiful Snowbunny displays in green grassy woodland settings at many dealers, a welcome respite from our unusually snowy winter. This is only the second year for Snowbunnies and none have been retired. In addition to the newest Snowbunnies, D56 introduced three lighted woodland wagons.

With the Christmas holidays behind us, Snowbunnies are a sure way of welcoming the much anticipated spring. If you have never decorated for Spring or Easter, start a new tradition. In addition to woodland settings, one or more Snowbunnies and/or lighted wagons can be displayed in baskets, vignettes or under an Easter Tree. The non-D56 trees, along with ornaments, are available at dealers and craft shops.)

**Here is a list of the Snowbunnies:**

"I've Got A Surprise"	\$15.00
"Oops, I Dropped One"	\$16.00
"A Tisket, A Tasket"	\$15.00
"I'll Paint the Top"	\$30.00
"Surprise! It's Me!"	\$25.00
"Tra-La-La"	\$37.50

"Help Me Hide the Eggs"	\$25.00
"Easter Delivery"	\$27.50
"Let's do the Bunny-Hop"	\$32.50
"A Tisket, A Tasket" Waterglobe	\$12.50
"Rub-a-Dub-Dub, 3 Bunnies in a Tub"	\$32.00
"Shrubs-in a Tub", set of 4	\$12.50
"Shrubs-in-a Tub" Triple	\$10.00
"Shrubs-in-a-Tub" Tall, set of 2	\$ 9.00
"I'll Love you Forever"	\$16.00
"Don't Get Lost"	\$32.50
"Goosey, Goosey and Gander"	\$30.00
"Wishing You a Happy Easter"	\$32.50
"It's Working...We're Going Faster"	\$32.00
"I'm Teeter, Your Totter"	\$30.00
"I'll Color the Easter Egg", dated 1996	\$20.00
"You Better Watch Out or I'll Catch You"	\$17.00
"My Woodland Wagon by Turtle Creek"	\$32.50
"My Woodland Wagon, Parked in Robin's Nest Thicket"	\$35.00
"My Woodland Wagon, at Dragonfly Hollow"	\$32.50
"Look What I've Got" Waterglobe/Music Box	\$25.00
"Let's Pay in the Meadow" Waterglobe/Music Box	\$25.00

### **THE RUMOR MILL**

**Have you heard...**D56 is coming out with their own D56 credit card for house purchases. We wonder if it will be called "The D56 Home Equity Card?"

**Have you heard...**D56 could have a major announcement in May??? Could it be Mid-Year retirements or possibly the retirement of a whole village?

**Have you heard....**Mattel Corp. expressed an interest in buying D56? If this ever came to pass, will there be a "Barbie's Home Town" village?

#### **ATTENTION ALL NORTH POLE COLLECTORS! ? A QUESTION ?**

Take a close look at the Elfin Forge and Assembly Shop...notice the prominence of what appears to be a gold iron "S."

Could the "S" be the beginning of new set of buildings to spell out S A N T A????

## **WHERE DID D56 GET THE IDEA FOR THE ICE PALACE?**

*Vento, Promotional Specialist for the St. Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation for sharing the video, photos and history of the Carnival..)*

When D56 announced that there would be a SV Ice Palace, some collectors asked "Why an Ice Palace?" D56 did not have to go far for the idea of the Ice Palace. The idea literally comes from the company's own back yard - The St. Paul Winter Carnival. The headquarters for Dept 56 is located in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, a suburb of the twin cities: Minneapolis and St. Paul. Since 1886, The Winter Carnival, complete with a King, Queen and Court have been a tradition in St. Paul based on a beautiful legend.

The Snow Carnival is held the fourth weekend in January through the first Sunday in February. The first St. Paul Carnival was held in 1886. There have been 53 carnivals since then and has been an annual event since 1949. Festivities include a royal coronation of Boreas Rex and the Queen of Snows. To start off the Winter Carnival, there is the Grande Day Parade and King Boreas proclaims it a winter wonderland. King Boreas, the Queen and the court reign supreme during ice carving and snow sculpting competitions, a community gathering, celebrations of neighborhood cultures and many other family oriented events. There are also sports and recreational events such as snow volleyball, softball on ice, golf in the snow and especially for the children a "Frosty Fingers Kite Fly."

On the first Saturday of February, the Torchlight Parade is held. The mortal enemy of King Boreas and his followers, Vulcanus Rex, the King of Fire and his Krewe dethrone King Boreas. Temperatures can begin to rise and Spring is not far away. To celebrate the victory, Winter Carnival go'ers, young and old, join in for the Vulcan Victory Dance.

Ice Palaces are very special at the St. Paul Winter Carnival. Due to unpredictable weather conditions, cost and other economic factors, an Ice Palace is not constructed every year. While an Ice Palace was not built for the 1996 Carnival, it did feature a "Super Ice Slide." The last two Ice Palaces in recent years were 1986 and 1992. In 1986, a 128 foot Ice Palace was built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Winter Carnival. In 1992, the largest Ice Palace to date was built to coincide with the Super Bowl XXVI played in nearby Minneapolis. The 1992 Ice Palace was 16 stories tall. It took 30,000 blocks of ice to build and weighed 15 million pounds. Since 1886, all of the Ice Palaces are individually spectacular architectural wonders in their own right.

The Saint Paul Winter Carnival has grown from a local winter event to hosting over one million visitors annually. For the Annapolis Villagers at the March meeting we will have a video on the Winter Carnival and pictures of past Ice Palaces from 1886 through 1992. One may even resemble the new Dept56 Ice Palace coming soon to a store near you.

*(Ed note: The Village Crier would like to thank Ms. Karen*

## *THE ST. PAUL WINTER CARNIVAL LEGEND*

A long, long time ago, Astralos, the god of Starlight and Eos, the goddess of the Rosey-Fingered Morn, were wed. The union was blessed with five sons, Boreas, Titan, Euros, Zephyrus, and Notos. The eldest, Boreas, was granted the title of King of the Winds and assigned to each brother a permanent grant of great force and power. To Titan was assigned the blustery North Wind. To Euros was granted control of the irresponsible East Wind. To Zephyrus was given custody of the bountiful West Wind. To Notos was presented the balmy South Wind. The brothers cavorted gaily over land and sea.

Boreas, while on his extensive travels, came upon a winter paradise known as Minnesota. He paused to behold the enchanting beauty of a magnificent group of sloping hills in whose embrace nestled a very beautiful city.

Boreas whistled in sheer ecstasy,  
"Historic Saint Paul and her seven hills! An ideal place.  
I will make Saint Paul the capital of all my domains.  
It will henceforth be emblazoned to the world as the winter playground in the realm of Boreas."

Meanwhile, Vulcanus, the god of Fire, and implacable enemy of Boreas, crackled in defiant disdain.

"By the great sword of Mars,  
I will temper the blusterings of Boreas with the heat and roar of my forces."  
He was tireless in his bitter resistance to all the festivities of Boreas.

Undaunted, Boreas proclaimed a celebration in the spirit of gay Carnival.  
"So be it!" shouted Boreas. There will be a Carnival in old Saint Paul!"  
Boreas selected a Prime Minister to coordinate the preparations in all the Principalities, Provinces and Royal houses within the Realm of Saint Paul.

And so, for ten glorious days there was a Carnival and joyous celebration in Saint Paul --feasting, dancing and frolic reigned over by Boreas and Queen of Snows, the fairest maiden in the realm, along with the four Winds, who were each accompanied by a lovely Princess from the realm of Boreas. Klondike Kate, a lady of song and merriment, added her sassy but enchanting voice to the festivities by singing songs of desire and sentiment.

On the 10th day of the celebration,  
Vulcanus Rex and his Krewe stormed the Ice Palace and confronted the King's Guard.  
Upon the good counsel of his Queen,  
Boreas bade farewell to the people of his winter capital in the interest of peace and goodwill and returned to dwell among the gods of Olympus.  
Boreas and his Court look forward to the time when summer's warmth would once again relinquish its hold on the realm and the frosty atmosphere of the winter would prevail.

**SNOW VILLAGE ICE PALACE--  
MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE**

When is a Snow Village introduction not just a Snow Village introduction? Whether Dept 56 planned it or not, the Ice Palace, a 1996 introduction, for Snow Village may find its way into other D56 collections.

Most interesting of all is that the Ice Palace is NOT shiny porcelain like the Snow Village pieces. It is painted to appear as sugar-frosted white. For many years, collectors of Heritage Village have interchanged pieces in the various villages but it was hard to do so with SV because of the shiny glossy finish versus the flat finish of the other villages. Dealers are agreeing with the Crier--the SV Ice Palace can also be displayed attractively with North Pole, Snowbabies or

Miniature Snowbabies. And, if you don't have any of these collections, it can be strikingly beautiful in a vignette displayed with its accessories.

Here is more "architectural" information about the SV Ice Palace: Santa is carved in ice on the gables. It actually is two pieces that sit on top of each other and each piece has a light. Bob Villager, our display expert who already suggested using the spotlights with the Ice Palace also, suggests trying different color lights to produce a fantastic effect. The Ice Palace also has a separate entrance gate and great accessories.

The Crier's sources also tell us that at a "cool" \$95, the Ice Palace is expected to be a "hot" seller for D56.

**THE PRIZE CORNER**

**HERE ARE THE WINNERS AT THE JANUARY MEETING AND THE DONORS**

PRIZE	WINNER	DONOR
1 Yr. Subscription to "The Village Chronicle Magazine	Jeannette Grebowsky	Peter and Jeanne George, Publishers of "The Village Chronicle
Dickens Village Accessory, "The Old Man and The Sea"	Donald Smith	The Country Cottage, Severna Park, MD
January issue of "The Village Chronicle"	Peter Baer	Peter and Jeanne George
Goodie Bag	Pat Ehrenreich	The Annapolis Villagers
Goodie Bag	Charles Rapp	The Annapolis Villagers
50-50 Raffle	Glenn Cauvin	Glen won \$16.00

**We appreciate the support of those who donate our prizes. We encourage members to let donors know that they are members of The Annapolis Villager and support them as well.**

**THE VILLAGE CHRONICLE  
UNVEILS ITS HOME PAGE**

The Crier received a press release from Peter George, publisher of The Village Chronicle. January 2, 1996, Cranston, RI. The release states in part:

"... *The Village Chronicle*, The Magazine for Department 56 Collectors™, recently established a "Home Page" on the Internet's World Wide Web. This page presents ...the opportunity to learn more about the publication. ...inform non-collectors of the fascinating collectibility of Department 56 villages. Included on the home page is a sampling of The Village Chronicle's articles and "Tip of the Week." It will offer suggestions for display making, storing pieces, buying and selling on the secondary market, and a variety of other

ideas that collectors will appreciate. Subscription information is also available including direct e-mail access. The Internet address for the Village Chronicle's home page is <http://www.villagechronicle.com...>"

**DEPARTMENT 56 ON-LINE**  
**BY JOHN EHRENREICH**

If you have a computer and subscribe to one of the network services, you can now enjoy your collection on-line. Prodigy, Delphi and America Online have bulletin boards for the Department 56 collector. The bulletin boards offer another avenue to enjoy our collection. Instructions for accessing the D56 board on each of the networks:

***Prodigy***

- ▶ sign on to Prodigy
- ▶ click on "jumpword"
- ▶ type "Collecting 2 BB" than enter
- ▶ click on "choose a topic"
- ▶ click on "Dept 56" and enter
- ▶ click on "begin reading notes"
- ▶ double click on any subject you wish to read

***America On-Line***

- ▶ sign on to AOL
- ▶ go to "main menu"
- ▶ click on "clubs and interests"
- ▶ scroll to "the Exchange" - double click
- ▶ click on "collectors corner" icon
- ▶ double click on "glass / porcelain collectors board"
- ▶ click on "browse folders" icon
- ▶ scroll to "Dept 56" - double click
- ▶ double click the subject you would like to read

***Delphi***

- ▶ sign on to Delphi
- ▶ from the main menu, at the prompt, type GO CUS 61 which brings you to the main menu of the D56 forum
- ▶ Unlike the others, the Delphi board is strictly text oriented and may take getting used to.

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***THE VILLAGE EXCHANGE  
CEASES PUBLICATION***

Last year at the 1994 Mid Atlantic Village Gathering in Williamsburg, Jack Skeels, Publisher of The Village Exchange announced that he was ceasing publication in March 1996.

For those of you who do not know Jack, aside from his great job as Master of Ceremonies at Williamsburg, he has been a great friend to D56 collectors. For a number of years, The Village Exchange was a collectors first introduction to information about collecting D56 and a comforting knowledge that there were lots of others collecting D56. While Jack is retiring The Village Exchange, he is not retiring from his role as Master of Ceremonies. He will be at PA5-6000. If you are going to Lancaster and have never met Jack, take the time to say hello. He is delightful and a storehouse of information .

Jack published an informative newsletter for a number of years. Because so many collectors would like to see The Village Exchange continue, he is looking into passing the reins on to someone else. In any event D56 collectors owe a debt of gratitude to Jack, and we wish him well in his retirement as publisher of The Village Exchange.

***SAM'S CLUB UNAUTHORIZED SALES  
RESOLVED***

The Crier recently asked Dept. 56's Customer Service Department for an update on the sale of Dept. 56 lighted houses at Sam's Clubs around the country. According to D56, the matter has been resolved. The source of the supplier of D56 to Sam's has been identified. Suit was filed and as a result, there will no longer be unauthorized sales of D56 to the British market. Sam's Club remains an unauthorized dealer and D56 lighted houses will not be sold at Sam's.

***D56 DROPS 50 DEALERS***

It has also been widely reported that Dept. 56 recently dropped 50 dealers across the country for selling lighted houses on sale and for other violations of their contracts with D56.

In making both announcements, D56 assured collectors that they are aggressively pursuing all avenues to maintain the value of their collections.



***BLACK EYED SUSAN 56ERS INVITE  
ANNAPOLIS VILLAGERS TO MEETING***

The Black Eyed Susan 56ers have invited Annapolis Villagers to attend their next meeting, Sunday March 10 at 2:00 p.m., at the Howard Co. Library. Guest speakers will be L & H Miniatures of Pennsylvania. L & H produces a line of characters and accessories that go well with the villages of D56. After a presentation, they will have items available for sale.

Annapolis Villagers are planning to invite L and H to a fall meeting. If you would like to meet them now and see their line of products, do attend the Black Eyed Susan's meeting.

Directions :

I-97 or Rt. 2 North to 695 South to Rt.70W (exit 16). Follow 70W and take the 29 South exit for Ellicott City. Exit off of 29E at Rt. 40West. Follow Rt.40 West through 2 lights, beyond the 2nd light turn left at Plum Tree Lane. Follow Plum Tree Lane to the end and turn right on Frederick Road. The Library is almost immediately on your left. ***For more info call, Anne Graff, (410) 461-6941.***

***NATIONAL COLLECTOR'S EXPO  
SECAUCUS 1994  
by Carole Dietz***

If you would like to know what to expect at the National Collectors Expo in April in Secaucus, Carol Dietz shared some memories of the 1994 Expo with The Crier.

Going to Secaucus was great fun. We caught the bus very early. It was a 4 hour trip and games were played, with prizes won and refreshments served.

We arrived in Secaucus and went directly into the convention center where the Collector's Expo was held. I was amazed at all of the collectibles there. There were displays of Ashton Drake Dolls, Lilliput Lane, Disney, Enesco, and of course, Department 56. If you collect it, it was there.

Dept. 56 had wonderful displays, along with the real "Black Van". Snowbaby pins were given out, also posters and license plates. We were constantly grabbing for something and loving every minute of it. There were seminars to attend and artists signing their special event piece.

You could not purchase any item unless it was a special event piece. The Dreamsicle display allowed you to sign

up to join their club, which I did for my daughter-in-law. Even though you cannot purchase items other than the special event piece, there were many interesting things to do and see.

We broke for lunch and went back in to continue to look and learn. It was a very large crowd, the largest I've ever seen at any gathering. We were all very tired at the end of the day. On the way back home, a movie was played for all to relax by. The International Collectors Expo in Secaucus is held every other year. The 1994 Expo was great fun and, of course, going with your fellow collectors is always a pleasant experience. We are looking forward to the trip again in April, 1996.

***LATE BREAKING NEWS!  
1996 LIGHTED HOUSES ARRIVING  
IN STORES***

*February 26, 1996:* The Crier learned that some of D56's new 1996 introductions are arriving in stores--DV Grapes Inn, Bank, Wrenbury Shops, SV Pisa Pizza, SV Garage, NP Elfin Forge, Disney Park Silversmith and Tinkerbell's Treasures to name a few. No store had everything that is available. It appears that stores are getting a few different pieces each. This may be Dept. 56's way of sharing the wealth.

Call your dealer to find out if they have begun to receive their 1996 introductions.

## CALENDAR

*Let us know about dealer events, swap & sells and open houses, etc and we will list them here.*

- Mar. 10** L & H Miniatures at Black Eyed Susan 56ers meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- Mar. 12** Annapolis Villagers Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 15-17** North Carolina Gathering, Raleigh, NC. For info, call Jackie Norris (910) 822-5434.
- Mar. 17** Swap and Sell, Russ Country Gardens. 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. at Winfield Fire Hall. For info call Tom Russ (410)875-2385 or 1-800-371-2385.
- Apr. 11-14** Secaucus Collectors Expo -- see related articles in this issue.
- Apr. 16** The Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 26-28** PA5-6000 Gathering, Lancaster, PA. For info, call Greg Roth (717) 653-0369.
- May 14** Annapolis Villagers Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 18** D56 Mid-year Announcements
- Sept. 7-8** Bachman's Village Gathering, Minn., MN For info. call Bachman's, 1-800-4-BLOOMS
- Oct. 5** Golden Goose's Open House, Occoquan, VA
- Nov. 7-11** D56's 1996 "Home for the Holidays" dealer events. Look for more info in future editions of The Village Crier.
- Dec. 6** Retirement Day

## DIRECTIONS TO MAR. 12 MEETING

From Rt. 50, take Rt. 2 North Exit. Follow Rt. 2 North (Ritchie Highway) through Arnold. After the traffic light at Rt. 2 and College Parkway, the next light is Jones Station Road. On your right, you will see an Amoco Gas Station and a Crown Gas Station on the opposite corners.

At the intersection of Rt. 2 North and Jones Station Road, turn right onto Jones Station Road and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Road which is between the Crown Gas Station and the wooded area with the Manhattan Beach Community and American Legion Post 175 signs. Follow Manhattan Beach Road approximately two tenths of a mile and make a left into the parking lot of American Legion Post 175. The entrance to the banquet room is to the left side of the parking lot in the rear.

From Route 2 South (Ritchie Highway) At Jones Station Road, make a left and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Road. Proceed as above.

## FROM THE EDITOR

We had a lot of news to fit into this edition of The Village Crier. We hope that you enjoy it all and we look forward to seeing you at the March 12 meeting.

*Pat Ehrenreich*

Deadline of May Village Crier is April 20. Please mail your items of interest so that they are received prior to April 20.

The Village Crier  
c/o Patricia Ehrenreich, Editor  
304 Gordon Avenue  
Severna Park, MD 21146

\*\*\*\***TRIVIA QUESTION ANSWER:** Yes, CIC has a jail. It is located in the rear of City Hall.