



The Village Voice

Vol. 6, No. 11 -

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

- February 11, 1997

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Indian Springs Village Town Hall
Tuesday, February 18, 1997 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions
- III. Citizens' Forum
- IV. Doug Jennings, Director
Indian Springs School

Editor's Notes

The Village Voice is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The mission of this newsletter is to foster a spirit of community and co-operation. It is the vehicle for reporting the monthly deliberations of the mayor and the council in town council meetings; additionally it provides these officials and other villagers a means of communicating--it is a "voice." Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor to: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (988-0896), as well as information and/or suggestions for the "Where Are the Children?" and "Villager Profile" columns. Address information about weddings, births, deaths, new residents and other appropriate news items to Bee Little, Managing Editor, 867 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9988). Questions about circulation should be addressed to Councilwoman Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9205).

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the March, 1997 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, March 4th. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. *The Village Voice* welcomes signed letters to the editor; they will be published if space permits. Letters may be edited for length and other considerations; however, the meaning will be preserved. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles, unless otherwise indicated. Any opinions the editor expresses are her own and should not be attributed to the mayor or the council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

The donors who subsidize printing expenses
ISV aluminum can recyclers for their support
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, Johnson - Rast & Hays for production

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By Gene Weingarten, Mayor

We have within our Indian Springs Village town limits an institution that is known all over the world -- Indian Springs School. Its reputation is well deserved. Indian Springs students, both past and present, have achieved the very highest honors and accomplishments. Wherever you travel, when you mention that you live in Indian Springs, invariably someone says, "Isn't that where that school is?"

I received a communication from Marcy Jefferson, Director of Development at Indian Springs School. The letter seemed to personify what the school stands for. So that you might share in the message, it is presented in this column.

Please visit with us at our next town council meeting on February 18th at 7:00 p.m. and participate in a very important presentation regarding the following.

Indian Springs School Planning for New Building

Indian Springs School continually strives to improve and to develop programs and facilities that provide superior educational opportunities for its students. Accordingly, the Board of Governors endorsed the plan to construct a Town Hall -- a building and a concept that reflect the community spirit of Indian Springs School. The 32,000 sq. ft. structure will include a concert hall with a capacity of 550, a theater with flexible seating up to 300, a college guidance and technology center, a student lounge and open gallery space suitable for art display. Building costs of \$4.9 million also include renovation of the original dining hall built in 1952.

This project will strengthen the community within Indian Springs School, provide facilities for an outstanding choral and theater program and expand substantially the cultural opportunities for the community outside Indian Springs School. With the tremendous growth in southern Jefferson and northern Shelby counties, the community has changed, and with the Town Hall, Indian Springs School is in a position to embrace that change and develop programs that will be available to a broader community.

To date, gifts and pledges during this early phase of the fund-raising campaign have reached \$2.2 million. The public announcement and groundbreaking is anticipated this April and construction is expected to be completed in twelve months.

You may learn more about this project and see the building plans on February 18 during a presentation by Doug Jennings, Director of Indian Springs School, at the ISV town meeting.

Where Are the Children?

On the Way to Stardom

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

One of those fortunate people who knew at an early age what vocation she wanted to pursue, Carrie Sweet, 19, is already launched into an acting career. The daughter of Douglas and Jacqui Sweet, 2555 Willow Brook Circle, Carrie premiered Wednesday, January 8, on CMT (Country Music Television), Marcus Cable. Carrie is also a freshman at Auburn University where she is majoring in Theater.

The willowy, brown-eyed Carrie has an acting part in the video, "Genuine Rednecks," with singer David Lee Murphy. Filmed in Nashville, the video is shown two or three times a day on CMT, and will be picked up by TNN (The Nashville Network) on Marcus and Shelby Cable.

According to her mother, Carrie became interested in modeling and acting while an 8th grader at Riverchase. Realizing the seriousness of this ambition, her parents took her to Hilton Head, South Carolina, to a modeling and talent convention. In competition there she met agents and managers, who evidently were so impressed with her performances that she had five call-backs from this one convention. Prior to the 9th grade Carrie studied that summer in New York. All through Chelsea High School she had parts in plays, such as the leading role of Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*. Other productions in which she starred included *The Mad Woman of Chaillot*, *The Gift of the Magi*, *The Lottery*, and *Faugh*. She was president of the Drama Club and active in sports -- soccer, cheerleading, baton twirling, swimming and diving.

Carrie has also studied at the Screen Actors Workshop, Los Angeles, participated in the Children's Theater at Birmingham-Southern, and is experienced in modeling. Recently she auditioned for *Clueless*, *Escape from L.A.*, and *Cybil*, among other TV productions. Thankfully she did not win a part in *Cybil*, thought by her mother to be unsuitable for her. Mrs. Sweet explained that if you get two call-backs from an audition, you are sent a second script. If you get as far as the casting director you are sent another script or told the scenario, and asked to act it out. All of this is done by video.

Carrie has five agents -- in San Saba, Texas, near Austin, in Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta, and Decatur -- who constantly read scripts, notify Carrie, and FAX to her those in which she may have an interest. Cognizant of her aspirations, her professors at Auburn are very cooperative in excusing her from classes and allowing her to make up the work missed.

Carrie and her parents made visitations at UCLA, New York University in Manhattan, Florida State, and the University of South Florida, Tampa, among others, but a visit with members of the Theater Department on "War Eagle Day" persuaded her to choose the university closer to home, much to the delight of her family.

The Sweets have lived in Willow Brook for four years, having moved there from Inverness. Jacqui is the technology coordinator for Inverness Elementary School and Doug is a mechani-

cal engineer for Nash Engineering Co. Carrie's brother, also Doug, exhibits musical talent. A 9th grader at Chelsea High School, he is a drummer in the concert, jazz, and marching bands -- another member of this ISV family we may one day see on entertainment screens.

Library To Break Ground in May

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Officials hope to break ground in May for the North Shelby County Library, with construction expected to take at least one year. The new facility will be four times larger than the present one on Highway 280 and will offer many new services. A separate children's reading and activity room is planned, with young adult and adult fiction, reference, and periodicals sections. Two meeting rooms with a kitchen will be available for community groups and special events.

Technology will play a big role in the new services. A multimedia section will have Internet access, satellite downlinking, and state-of-the-art research capabilities. A child assigned a report on dinosaurs, for example, will be able to access from his or her personal computer the library's periodicals, references, and other research tools needed for the report, without having to leave home.

At issue now is raising the \$2.4 million needed to build the "library of the future" in our own Indian Springs. The good news is that 25 percent of that figure has been raised by internal groups, such as the Holiday Tour of Homes '96 so heartily supported by Villagers and sponsored by the Friends of the Library organization.

Senator Bill Armistead, R-Columbiana, presented a \$3,500 check from Governor Fob James on the recent official campaign opening date, and James Stephens, president of EBSCO Industries pledged \$250,000 from his company. In appreciation for this large donation the NSC Library will designate the conference center as the EBSCO Conference Center. To assist individuals to participate in fund-raising efforts, a pledge payment period of three to five years has been established. "Planned giving" is available for larger contributions, which can include gifts other than cash, such as securities or property.

The amount of the goal equals approximately \$100 for each of the 25,000 residents in the library's district, which includes Heatherwood, Inverness, Lake Purdy, Shoal Creek, Greystone (now in Hoover), and Meadowbrook, as well as ISV. The official campaign to raise funds will run through April. For more information you may call Ron Livingston, campaign manager, at 980-5512.

OLV To Have Fashion Show

The Our Lady of the Valley Ladies Guild is sponsoring a spring fashion show. "A Girl's Night Out" will feature fashions from Casual Corner, August Max, and Petite Sophisticate. The show is Thursday, February 27, at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Parish Center. Tickets are \$12 per person and include a dinner of lasagna, salad and garlic bread. Call Kathy Andre at 995-2410 for tickets or more information.

Town Council Highlights

January 21, 1997

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 1997 in the Indian Springs Village Town Hall. Mayor Gene Weingarten presided over the meeting with council members Herb Robins, Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, Art Johnson, and Stewart Dudley present.

The minutes of the December meeting was adopted as written. Town Clerk Paul Stephens reported the revenues for the month were: beer taxes, \$881; building permits, \$720; and road fund, \$756. The balance in the general fund was \$11,457 and the balance in the road fund was \$45,692.

Mayor Weingarten appointed Councilman Gary Dennis as chairman of the ISV Grounds Committee. Councilman Dennis then appointed Brian Stauss, Patty Weems, Winston Bontwell, and Councilman Herb Robins as committee members. The purpose of the committee will be to devise and prioritize a long-term plan for utilization of the three acres that the town hall is situated on.

Mayor Weingarten announced the resignation of Hub Harrington as town attorney and the appointment of Russ Allison as the new town attorney.

Village Personals

By Patricia Crapet, Town Council Place # 2

Oh, Happy Day!

February 7th was a most happy day for Councilman Gary Dennis and glowing wife, Sharon. The blessed arrival of the newest member of the Dennis clan, daughter Jessie Morgan Dennis, occurred at 8:45 p.m. after a laborious 12 hours. The not so diminutive Jessie weighed in more like Evander Holyfield at 8 pounds, 12 ounces, with a length of 21 1/2 inches. Both mother and daughter are doing fine and will be home from St. Vincent's Hospital in plenty of time to enjoy a Happy Valentine's Day. Dad Gary was seen shopping for earplugs at the local Wal-Mart!

Congratulations!

Alan Gaskins of Willow Ridge Drive will represent Oak Mountain Middle School at the Shelby County Spelling Bee in February. Alan is the son of Tommy and Rita Gaskins. Congratulations and good luck!

In Sympathy

Deepest sympathy goes to the family of Alexander J. Gravelle, age 83, a resident of Homestead. Mr. Gravelle passed away on Saturday, January 11. A native of Ontario, Canada, and a member of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church, Mr. Gravelle was a veteran of WW II, was with the Alabama Public Service Commission for 16 years and retired from Red Wing Carriers as General Manager. Survivors include wife, Frances V. Gravelle; sons, John A. Gravelle, Lincolnton, Ga., and Jack T. Gravelle, Safety Harbor, Fla.; daughters Janice Cordar, Birmingham, and Jo Ann Welch, Pelham; stepchildren, Mickie Baxter, Birmingham and Victor Robinson, Lawrenceville, Ga.

Shelby County Historical Society

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

A crowd of about 70 members and guests heard Mrs. Jeanne Bartolich of Brierfield give a talk concerning Shelby County burial sites of Revolutionary War soldiers on Sunday afternoon, February 2, at the Archives and Museum Building, Columbiana. The speaker is Regent of Shelby County's chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Dr. Tom O. Caldwell, Secretary of the Shelby County Historical Society, explained that 18 names of Revolutionary War soldiers are known to the local DAR. It seems that after Creek Indian uprisings and the Battle of New Orleans, War of 1812, some members of the General Andrew Jackson's Tennessee militia decided to take the "Indian path" home. Some got as far as the confluence of three creeks, including Shoal Creek, between Brierfield and Montevallo. They liked the region so well they decided to stay. Some veterans continued on to Tennessee, but returned with wives, children, parents, and in some cases, grandparents. Some of these ancestors had fought in the Revolutionary War.

The burial sites are known of six of the 18 Revolutionary War veterans: John Mahan, Smith-Mahan Cemetery, Brierfield; David Lindsay, Maylene; James Butler, Jones-Bailey Cemetery near Dargin Crossroads on Old Highway 31; William Jennings, Harpersville, William Hughes, Old Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery, Wilsonville; and John Wallace, Bibb County.

Dr. Caldwell said the historical society has received names of other Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Shelby County in response to an announcement made at the meeting that information concerning the 18 and any other Revolutionary War soldiers would be welcomed.

The next meeting will be on a date near Confederate Memorial Day. The meeting will be a memorial service held at the Confederate Cemetery, Shelby Springs.

Legislative Reception Is Attended

Councilman Art Johnson attended the North Shelby Chamber of Commerce Legislative Reception on January 20 at the Holiday Inn Express in Pelham. All nine Shelby County Legislative members attended: Senators Bill Armistead, Charles Davidson, and Jabo Waggoner; Representatives Johnny Curry, Al Knight, Mike Hill, Charels Smith, Jim Carnes, and Mark Gaines. Each was presented a list of 18 issues that affect North Shelby County businesses and residents.

Next Recycling Is February 19

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The next aluminum can collection is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 p.m. For easy identification of your recycling, please place your bagged aluminum cans on the other side of your driveway from Thursday morning's trash pick-up. Also please use white or clear plastic bags with the top tied with a knot.

In January four trucks manned by volunteers Sharon Durbin, Jackie and Art Johnson, Patty and Bill Weems, Cappy Potter, and Margie and Herb Robins collected 198 pounds of cans. Once again many thanks to Mike Rutherford for the use of his pickup. Special accolades to all the recycling participants, and thank you again for your continued support of ISV. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and entrances to Homestead.

Adopt-a-Mile Is February 22

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The January 25th litter walk was attended by Jim Boyett and Art Johnson. Indian Springs Village is able to perform functions by utilizing volunteers for fixing potholes, keeping town records, enforcing zoning, writing and distributing *The Village Voice*, recycling programs, and cleaning up litter along roadways. This volunteer effort is the primary reason ISV is able to avoid raising property taxes. ISV currently collects NO taxes.

Though ISV has proven that the town can succeed through this volunteer effort, we must work to continue its success. Over a hundred years ago, this concept manifested itself with the old fashioned "barn raising." First imagine everybody in the community coming together and building a barn in one day; and then imagine only two or three families trying to build the same barn. I believe building a town is a lot like building a barn. Working together for the common good, we have unlimited potential. I strongly believe that citizen responsibility is a key ingredient of an effective and resourceful local democracy. Each citizen is a stakeholder in our town. If apathy and self-interest prevail, our barn may as well have been built of rotted wood. With your help the town can continue to succeed. Please contact us to volunteer your time, energy, and expertise for the betterment of YOUR community.

Weather permitting, the next litter walk will be held on Saturday, February 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the ISV Town Hall on Cahaba Valley Road. Please, won't you help? Call me at 988-3217 if you have any questions.

What's in a Name?

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

"Would you please spell that?" requested the young *Birmingham Post-Herald* photographer to Bee Little, when she was asked her first name.

"Y-s-a-b-e-l-i-t-a," came the reply. To a chorus of "What?" Bee explained that as the first-born daughter she was named Ysabelita (ISabeLEta), a custom that has spanned four generations since the naming of the first Ysabelita in her family.

The occasion was a picture-taking of Patricia Crapet, Bee, and your editor at the town hall to use with a story about Indian Springs Village by *Post-Herald* reporter Amy Baldwin. While the photographer was getting acquainted with the meeting room and trying to get us to relax, Bee told us about her illustrious great-great-grandfather, General Edward Albert Lever, "soldier of fortune," journalist, editor, and author. While a foreign correspondent in Central and South America he wrote *Ysabelita, or A Visit to the Land of the Mayas*. The writing of this book corresponded with the birth of his first daughter, who was named Ysabelita.

So intrigued were we with Bee's unusual name, we suggested she would be a good subject for a Villager Profile column and requested additional information. Our *Village Voice* managing editor and chairman of the Cookbook Committee, wife of Harry, mother of Jack and Davis, is an interesting person in her own right. In 1992 Bee was selected as the most outstanding female from her 1983 graduating class at Auburn University, representing her class in the Celebration of the Centennial of the Admission of Women to Auburn University. Bee is also very modest. Instead of touting her own accomplishments, she sent documentation concerning General Lever, whose obituary, at age 74, reads like an adventure tale.

Born on Staten Island and the son of a State Supreme Court justice, Edward A. Lever was of distinguished ancestry that can be traced to Earl Godwin, father of Harold, the Saxon King of England. No slouch himself, General Lever held important posts in various parts of the world and was a commissioned officer several times. General Lever married a New Orleans belle, a descendant of one of the noble families of France.

After serving as captain in the Union Army (remember, he was from New York), he attained the rank of general in the armies of Honduras, New Mexico, and Guatemala. He participated in the War of the Intervention against Maximilian, having been a member of the military guard of honor that escorted the Emperor to his death. (Maximilian's sword is still in the possession of a member of Bee's family.) He was decorated for bravery by several armies.

General Lever contributed widely to the most representative periodicals of the USA and other countries, edited at least three publications, and authored several books. He authored four ghost stories which he claimed actually happened to him during his many travels. (Is he the source of Bee's talent?) He wrote and spoke Spanish fluently and traveled to almost every habitable part of the planet. And, to top it all off, he had been captured as a youth by Head Hunters and escaped miraculously.

The three of us had talked earlier with the *Post-Herald* reporter at her request. We gave her the story of ISV, pointed out that the town hall was a renovated 100-year-old home, etc. But just as we became immersed in the interesting details of Bee's ancestry instead of Bee's present life, Ms. Baldwin evidently found *The Village Voice* and "village people" a more fascinating focus than our recent history. And "Village people not Pelhamites" was a catchy headline to the article which appeared January 23. Village People? Isn't that a rock group very popular in the '70's and still around? We usually refer to our citizens as "Villagers." Had a name for residents been mentioned, we would have said most residents probably prefer an emphasis on "Indian Springs", as the area has been designated for decades.