Poker Pals are Ole-Boy Powerhouse in Clifton

By Lee Hockstader

Wassieron Prest Start witer

Lee Ruck is being modest.

"I don't know how many people
are interested in Lee Ruck and nine
other guys getting together to play
Two-toed Peter Thursday nights,"
Two-toed Pete, indeed. More
than dimeante poker is at stake
when President Ruck and the nine
rank-and-file members of the Clifton Gentlemen's Club gather on
alternate Thursdays.

In the tiny town of Clifton, with
its 68 houses and 208 residents
sausaged into a half-square mile in
western Fairfax County, the CGC is
the neares! thing to the Powers
That Be the town has.

METROPOLITAN LIFE

CLIFTON GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

CLIFTON GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

Closed to new entrants, the CGG
includes two of the six members of
the Clifton Town Council, the chairman of the town's planning commission and the chief building inspector
for Fairfax County, Ruck himself is
a former Town Council member.
Another member's wife six on the
Town Council. But, explains CGC
town Council and the Council member,
Another member's wife six on the
Town Council. But, explains CGC
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Town Council. But, explains CGC
Town Council.
To a man, CGC members dismiss
suggestions that they wield real
power in Clifton, despite the array
of officialdom represented. Very litthe public basiness goes on in Clifton, they hissist. In fact, they say,
the subject of Clifton despite they were
come up much. Proclaims Ruck
with proud humility: "We have virtually no purpose as such."
Ruck underplays CGC's function.
The club's undertakings are two
two councils and pullantiropy, with
the conceded for the council mancing
the latter.

Four years as o, the group (which

fold: chili and philanthropy, with proceeds from the former financing the latter.

Four years ago, the group (which was not then incorporated) was host of a chili cook-off, inspired by Ruck and the late Earl Lee, a Clifton entrepreneur and owner of the Clifton general store who was the club's founding president. Both Ruck and Lee were chili lovers.

They called it a statewide competition. Seven people showed up. The winner was William M. Arnold, a CGC member who was rearred in Texas and whose nichamen is Waco Willie. It was not a serious endeavor.

or. Since then, the annual cook-off



has blossomed under Ruck's stew-

has blossomed under Ruck's stewardship, and CGC members say this
it's the biggest annual chili competition on the East Const.

Last month, the CGC gave the
Fifth Annual Virginia Chili Cook-Off
at the Fairfax Fair and nearly 60
chili cookers from all over the state
entered the contest. From entrance
feces, sales of beer, soft drinks and
souvenirs, CGC made 88,000.

Part of the money will go to establish a second CGC-sponsored
atthetic scholarship at George Mason
university. The first, statted a
year ago from last year's chili cook
for proceeds, pays a George Mason
atthete's \$1,000 unition. The goal not
permanently.

The club has given several bunfred dollars to Welf Trap Farm
Park and plans to pay for a gazebo
in the Clifton town park later this
year.

The town of Clifton levies no tax

year. The town of Clifton levies no tax

LIZABETH 2

SUPERLINER ONE WAY.

SUPERSONIC THE OTHER.

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contributions from civic organiza-

tions."

The gentlemen all tend to speak in mock deprecation of their club, and all acknowledge that the Clifton Women's Club, which has operated most of this century, is the more

entrenched organization of the two. Ruck calls treasurer Dygve "chief official gofer and keeper of what-ever records we have." Responded Dygve (who calls Ruck a "publicity buff"): "We don't have any records. We burn everything."



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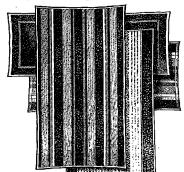


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