

news

# Washington re-enactor hangs up wig after 12 years

**The Associated Press**  
**PHILADELPHIA** — When James Gallagher looks in the mirror Christmas morning, the father of his country stares back.

For the last 12 years, Gallagher has donned a George Washington costume and led scores of "troops" in the annual Christmas Day re-enactment of Washington's 1776 Delaware River crossing, a turning point in the Revolutionary War.

Today will be the 76-year-old man's last Christmas crossing.

"I decided I would slow down, and the easiest way to slow down would be to give up the crossing," said Gallagher, a World War II veteran and retired systems consultant from Newtown Square.

His dedication and class in portraying the nation's first president will make him difficult to replace, said Ann Hawkes Hutton, founder of the Washington Crossing

Foundation.

"He has the dignity that Washington had. ... He just has a certain air of quiet leadership ability," she said.

Every Christmas morning, Gallagher puts on a ruffled white shirt, pale yellow britches and waistcoat, slips into a blue regimental jacket and blue cape and straps on a sword. As the finishing touch to his 40-pound costume, Gallagher lowers a white wig topped by a black hat onto his head.

The likeness to Washington stuns even Gallagher, and continually startles toll takers along his route to the re-enactment at Washington Crossing, Pa.

"They always address me as General or General Washington or George," Gallagher said.

The re-enactments began in 1952, when actor St. John Terrell and a small band of friends took a boat onto the Delaware to commemorate the Dec. 25, 1776, crossing.

On that day, Washington was able to navigate the ice-clogged river in darkness and surprise British troops camped at Trenton, N.J. About 1,000 Hessian mercenaries on the British side were captured and 100 were wounded or killed. Washington's force suffered only 10 casualties.

Thousands have returned to watch and hundreds have made the crossing nearly every year. Last year, 8,000 people watched more than 100 people travel across the river.

The event begins with participants marching up the river bank in period costume listening to Gallagher recite, "These are the times that try men's souls," from Thomas Paine's "American Crisis."

"I think sometimes he really believes that if we don't cross, the Hessians will in fact thrive in Trenton and we'll lose the war," said U.S. Rep. James Greenwood, who has participated in the re-

enactment for 16 years.

Gallagher is the third George Washington. He replaced Jack Kelly, brother of Princess Grace of Monaco after Kelly died in 1985. Kelly followed Terrell, who played Washington for 25 years.

The jockeying has already begun for Gallagher's high-profile job. Sorting among the dozens in competition is an ordeal Hutton does not relish.

She hopes to find someone who doesn't just want the prestige of the role, but someone who wants to educate children and to stay after the crossing to sign autographs, as Gallagher does.

Gallagher makes more than 30 appearances as the first president each year at parades and schools. When the U.S. Postal Service held a celebration on the day they issued a Washington stamp, it was Gallagher who delivered the main address at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.



Associated Press

James Gallagher, of Newtown Square, Pa., walks past an encouraging sign as he portrays George Washington during the 44th re-enactment of the crossing of the Delaware River by General Washington and his troops at Washington's Crossing Park, N.J., Dec. 25, 1993. For the last 12 years Gallagher has donned a George Washington costume and led scores of "troops" in the yearly Christmas day re-enactment of Washington's Delaware River crossing.

## around the nation

### Militia members are released on bond

**CLEVELAND** — After 2 1/2 months in jail, two men accused of selling explosives to a West Virginia militia group have been released on bond.

Senior U.S. District Judge John Manos set bail Tuesday at \$50,000 each for James M. Johnson and Imam A. Lewis. Each must wear electronic bracelets that allow federal officials to monitor their movements until their trials in Wheeling, W.Va., which are scheduled for August.

A federal magistrate had ordered Johnson, 48, and Lewis, 26, both of the Cleveland area, held without bail after their arrests on Oct. 11.

Federal prosecutors accused them of selling 1,000 potentially deadly explosives to militia members accused of plotting to blow up the FBI Superfund records center in Clarkstown, W.Va.

Defense attorneys argued that Johnson and Lewis be released because neither had criminal records; they were not accused of participating in the bomb plot and the explosives were mere fireworks.

In setting bail, Manos said it was difficult for him to determine the seriousness of the charges.

### Man arrested for 'cyber dating' minor

**NEW YORK** — A man expecting to embrace a 13-year-old girl he met through a computer online service and courted via cyberspace for four months instead walked into the arms of undercover detectives.

James Barrows, 55, of Madison, Conn., was charged with promoting an obscene sexual performance by a child, obscenity and giving indecent material to a minor.

"This case should serve as a warning to adults who would prey upon children that they will pay a heavy price for such conduct in this jurisdiction," District Attorney Charles J. Hynes said Tuesday.

Barrows drove about 100 miles from his central Connecticut home Monday, prepared to meet what he believed was a 13-year-old Brooklyn girl he courted via America Online, investigators said.

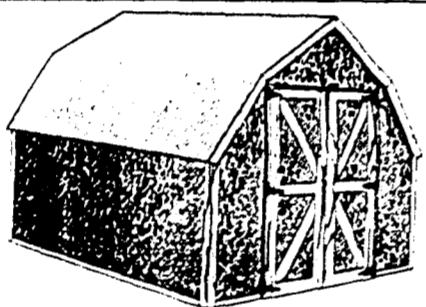
But the girl turned out to be waiting detectives. They arrested Barrows when he arrived for the first meeting with the girl.

Associated Press

# Sutherlands

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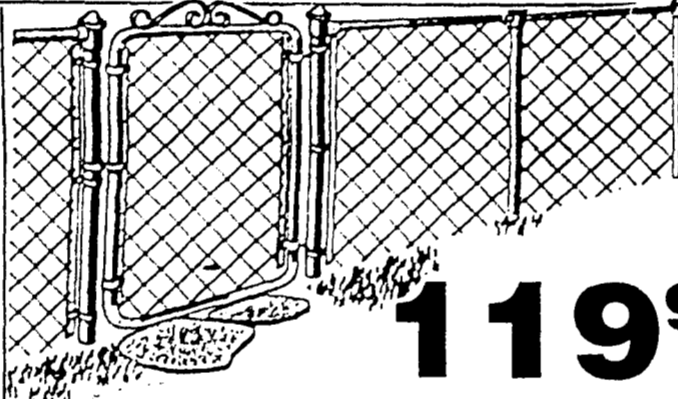
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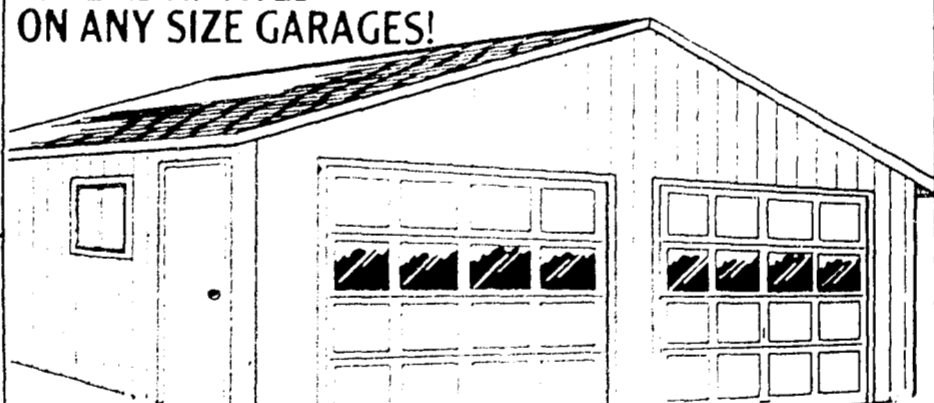
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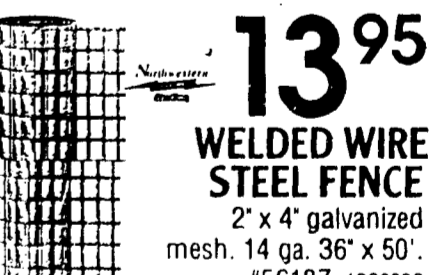
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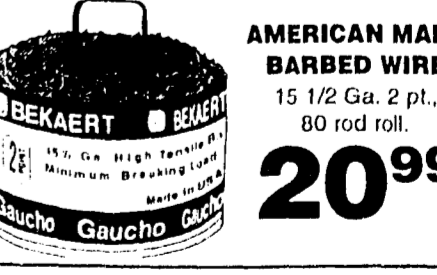
### WOOD PRIVACY FENCES

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PREMIUM CEDAR DOG EAR BOARD 1"x6"-6' 15024	<b>189</b>
CCA TREATED RAIL 2"x4"-8'	<b>229</b>
CCA TREATED POST 4"x4"-7'	<b>489</b>



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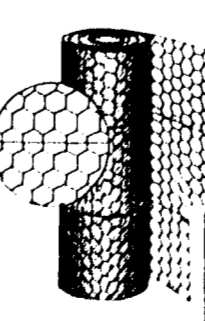
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