

CLIFTON HOUSE JAN 7 1956

ONE OF THE VERY OLD HOUSES of Montgomery County is "Clifton," which is located on the Colesville road near Ashton, and was built shortly after 1742. It is of an interesting architectural design, having a gambrel roof, yet not in the Dutch Colonial manner in which the gambrel appeared

upon houses longer than their width. The "Clifton" gambrel roof, however, covers the nearly square main portion of the house, lending to it a stateliness and an easy touch of informality.

The brick of which the walls are built are somewhat over three inches high, resulting in a pleasant wall pattern. Ed Donn, who went to view the house ten years ago, was greatly interested in these brick because of their unusual size.

There has always been the legend, in the case of these old houses, that the brick had been brought over from England as ship ballast. Donn did not lean strongly toward that theory. He was certain that the eighteen-mile portage through forest and over rough terrain would have prevented any great quantity of bricks from being thus transported. His opinion was that expert brickmakers made their way to America, and with the fine native clays were soon able to produce bricks of the excellent quality of those at "Clifton."

"Clifton" is a Thomas family house. In the early 1700's John Thomas was fortunate enough to marry Elizabeth Snowden, daughter of Richard



JAN 7 1956

Snowden, who owned many thousand acres in the vicinity, called Snowden's Manor. John Thomas had a grandson William, who married Martha Patrick, called, as an abbreviation of her last name, "Patty." They lived in beautiful "Cherry Grove," not too far from "Clifton." "Cherry Grove" is now owned and occupied by Washington Architect George H. Riggs.

William and Martha Thomas eventually had a grand-daughter, Martha Patrick Thomas, also called Patty. This Patty Thomas became Patty Thomas Farquhar, having a daughter, Faith, who married Edwin Bateman Morris, Sr. and had a son Edwin Bateman Morris, Jr., both architects.

Clifton is a fine house. It has a stair of a most complicated and sumptuous plan, with turns and dividings, in a once-you-slip-you-go-down-all-the-way spirit. The great three-fireplace chimney occupies a position between dining-room, living room and library; and is a big potential producer of B. T. U.'s.

Not too many historic houses of this period exist in Maryland, and it is a large responsibility, which many individuals accept, to maintain them. The present owner of "Clifton," William John Thomas, is doing a good service to the community in preserving the house.

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MEETINGS

First Monday of Every Month at 12 o'clock noon

NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 7 Stone House Inn, Silver Spring

LETTERS

Architectural Record

Thank you so much for the copy of your new chapter bulletin. It is a fine-looking job, and I want to congratulate you. As for my talk at Hershey, I must confess that I spoke only a kind of prompter's outline, and thus I am afraid I cannot be of any help. Let me assure you that I am very much flattered to be asked and that I hope your next request of me will be something that I can be helpful about.

Cordially, John Knox Shear Editor-in-Chief, Architectural Record

American Institute of Architects (Chicago Chapter)

We have been receiving your newsy little publication flying the banner of the "Potomac Valley Architect."

We should like to congratulate you on this effort and tell you that it is a pleasure to receive it and to read it. The best of luck for your future efforts.

Cordially yours, Samuel A. Lichtmann President, Chicago Chapter

Assembly Look Out-Here Comes Kea!

The Maryland State Assembly, if feeling all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to architecture are in order, in its next session may get a jolt at any time. Our director Paul Kea, veteran Prince Georges architect, with the finest residences and buildings of his design all over the land-scape to prove it, is chairman of the Chapter's Legislative Committee. Paul's eyes, which have never seen a wool shutter, are on the session coming up. First move already made by chairman Paul has been a meeting with the cor-responding committee in Baltimore. What goes on the affected public, the interested press and, naturally, the representatives and senators will know in due course—if necessary, illustrated by pictures which Paul can draw to the last detail.

How About Some Hungarians?

The A.I.A., National Office in the Octogon House (did you read "A House With a Charmed Life," Satevepost, Nov. 24th issue?) wants to know which of you will accept foreign architects in your office. Call or write Ted Morris, Jr. There might to well as elsewhere, There might be a few right fresh out of Budapest as

TENNESSEE TED, COTTON PICKIN' BURSAR

A BUILDING of any kind or description, or a home, designed by Ted Englehardt seems always to be conspicuously a permanent improvement.

Of these times as an Englehardt-designed and engineered project must be, whatever impractical or actually wild ideas a client may have, from this architect's boards a structure goes up to keep its good looks.

This is the pleasant conviction any competent architectural judge will have after making even a partial part of the

long tour which would be required to view the great va-riety of jobs accomplished by our treasurer in the Washington Metropolitan area fine residences, a number of buildings at the University of Maryland, churches (as, for example, the Kensington example, the Kensington Baptist), schools (such as the one at Darnestown, where the architect more than showed the officials how school construction costs could be deeply cut without sacrificing structural excellence, appearance or future efficiency, ex-pansion or maintenance), shopping centers (like Whea-ton Manor and Kensington Parkway), a bank, very dif-ferent office buildings (such as Silver Spring's Gist Building where he has his office) and even in the case of a



TED ENGLEHARDT

fire house for the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department No. 2.

The assorted buildings somehow reflect the good, dependable character of the cheerful gentleman you see pictured here—a man who wears as well as he looks, a fellow who will be the first to show up to help and remain a friend of a friend in any kind of trouble.

As odd as it may seem to those who know artists, or think they do, here is one believing it to be a good, even necessarv idea, for the most talented architect, or an organization of architects, to have money in the bank. Because of treasurer Ted, young chapter though it is, Potomac Valley is on respected terms in financial circles and en-tirely unacquainted with the usurious loan sharks. As a matter of fact, our exchequer keeps the chapter's deposits in such shape that he is in position to look the most fishy-eyed banker right smack in his orbs and ask "How about some interest on our account?" Outside of the chapter, important business, professional, civic and social organiza-Rotary look to this steady architect to keep their plans and projects on a worthwhile and accomplishable level

It is remotely possible these practical, protective qualities of the treasurer are possessed because he hails from Tennessee about whose people one hears a lot too much (to suit them) about a general condition of barefootedness. In any case, Ted saw no sense in getting sore feet chasing around the country looking for a bride. She (Mary Ziegler) was right there in Chattanooga, as he was, wearing iris and clicking her smart, high-heeled kicks around the mar-ble floors of the Chickamauga Trust Co. as secretary to its president. So began a happy marital partnership, now in its 32nd year. The two chips off the fine Volunteer State block, Ted, Jr. and Dan, now both mechanical engineers, were also born and shod in Tennessee.

Ted Englehardt's early training began in 1913 in a Chattanooga architect's office. He took engineering courses at the University of Tennessee but has been in an architect's office of some kind ever since. Accounting for his keen insight in project planning are the years he spent as planning engineer and secretary of the planinng commission in

SCHEICK JANUARY MEETING SPEAKER

The Chapter's on-the-ball Program Committee wants our always good attendance at meetings to be even better in 1957. We should start off with a packed Stone House luncheon meeting room January 7 when, Chairman Stan Arthur announces, William H. Scheick, Executive Director, Building Research Advisory Board of the National Academy of Science, will be the guest speaker. In his well-known interesting fashion, Mr. Scheick will deal with subjects of New Year's interest to local architects.

WELL LAID TILE

Eddie Morris, and all those from the Tile Manufacturers Association of America, who helped stage the banquet for the Potomac Valley members and their ladies at the Willard Hotel Dec. 10, are to be gratefully credited with hosting a feast and entertainment which made all heralded holiday events many of us had to drink our way through seem like much more common clay, or the artificial substitutes.

The really-enjoyed-by-all social event seemed, in fact, to have been designed to give us a good taste of what some similar festivities can be like during A.I.A.'s 100th Anniversary Convention, with Potomac Valley playing an important role in them. Leon Chatelain, Jr. was there—our own member, of course, but as national president and, it developed, as quite an authority on a bride's appropriate bedtime wear. So, too, was Grosvenor Chapman, president of the Washington Chapter to host the Centennial meeting who, from his head table seat, must have been thinking about reconsulting Ron Senseman, the P.V. leader and Dana Johannes about using more of the lively Maryland convention help obviously abundantly available throughout the Willard's banquet room. Ted Morris, Assistant to A.I.A.'s Executive Director, bobbing pleasantly around among all merry groups, could have registered careful mental notes in the same convention conection.

Eddie Morris was at his toastmastering best which, when Eddie is at a banquet's helm, takes care of the speeches no one wants to hear and which were not made. Two redvested reindeer, Stan Arthur and this sheet's editor, were flashily on hand to prevent the ladies' gowns from completely monopolizing the banquet's tile-like colorful decor.

A scroll bearing the signatures of everyone present was prayerfully dispatched to Al Rinaudot to show how much he was missed and to wish his speedy recovery.

Congressional Shopping Center

This \$10 million project is under way, and after the skillful use of several extra shipments of pens, pencils and drawing paper to the Bethesda offices of Rinaudot & Coupard than where it couldn't be in better or more experienced architectural hand. A rolled-up-sleeved Chapter member in this office, and working on the huge Congressional project, among others, we know Al would like us to say, is "J.B." Murph Murphy.

his native city. In 1933, Mary, Ted, with their two boys, caught the "Chattanooga Choo Choo" for Washington where, for a number of years, Ted was associate architect in the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department.

The Englehardts have recently taken over the charming house at 116 Revere Place, Silver Spring.

The Chapter's cashkeeper does not work all the time. Guests at the Englehardt home find an aproned Ted turns out the fanciest servings of spaghetti and chicken cachitori of any chef around. Think some of the \$64,000 contestants are pretty smart? If you do, you'll get a deflating look from the Englehardt sons. "Ask Dad, they'll say, "when, where and by what branch of service was the last shot fired in the Civil War. Ask him how many union and how many confederate soldiers had been killed." Ted, you see, in his relaxations, has become an authority on the North's war against the Tennessee Volunteers and all points South.

CHAPTER NOTES

Three Members in New Offices

Jack Samperton and Clark Harmon, each maintaining his individual practice, are moved and associated in their new offices at 8108 Woodmont Drive, Bethesda. Jack and Clark last month scored nice Washington Post-Times Herald publicity for their associated designing of the new Indian Spring Country Club to be ready in Silver Spring next summer.

Coupard Shells Out to Ted

A welcomed new member is Don Coupard of Rinaudot & Coupard, Bethesda.

No Hospital for Silver Spring-But What a Clinic!

While Montgomery County voters were X-ing out a proposal for a Silver Spring hospital as submitted, that community and the entire county was getting the privately built \$325,000 Silver Spring Medical Building on the corner of Georgia Avenue and Plyers Mill Road. The Chapter member at the drawing board for this little-short-of-anarchitectural-triumph in clinic construction, as carried out by Southern Engineering Corporation, was Jack C. Cohen. The aluminum, panelized window wall beauty of Jack's design is stopping traffic at the two-acre, landscaped site with plenty of parking space and, more importantly, patients without end. The patients are happy on finding so many of their favorite medical and dental specialists in one 30 suite split-level building, and with only an easy half flight of stairs taking them to any doctor or laboratory. Pictures of the medical building, and some of Jack have made Washington dailies, the Silver Spring papers while the completed project has also been the subject of WGAY and other radio newscasts. Nice feather in a wellworn A.I.A. hat!

Wheaton Getting Architectural Lift

The presence of Bartley & Gates in Wheaton is helping that community not a little bit. Jack and Byron have on their boards a \$100,000 "Capri" Restaurant building whose dining and banquet rooms next year may be the talk of the entire Washington area. Meanwhile, the Wheaton Bowling Alley building, which these active chapter members designed, is due for a whopping addition—24 more alleys, a restaurant, meeting rooms. You'll hear much more about this and other projects on the constantly busy boards of this architectural team.

Homes For Christmas-and Every Day

After having his shingle up for less than two years, Hal Esten is getting his share of industrial and commercial projects. But Hal is among the members always glad to welcome the couple waiting to see demonstrated how the architect can really save them money while designing the custom home of their dreams. The Silver Spring architect has several on his boards now which will make lovely picture Christmas cards next year with or without snow on their roofs.

Doctor, Get Another Sling Ready

It is no wonder that the imperturbable Jack Stann, with the fame of having designed the fabulous Washington Motel (which put his good drawing arm in a sling for awhile) under his belt, should be getting visits at his Rockville office from other hotel and motel operators. Newest job of the kind on the President of the Rockville Board of Trade's boards is a big (Hart's) motel for Clinton, Md. Lina keep the linament handy.

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