



POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

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April 1, 1957

QUIET, PLEASE!

Your editor sat in one of the chairs in the nook of the Octagon library drawn for this page by our Secretary, Andrew H. MacIntire and was quiet—very humbly so.

The atmosphere of the historical headquarters is such as to remove hats and, with them, any halos being inappropriately worn by any A.I.A. member in spite of his privilege in having the free run of the great house. Nowhere in the Octagon is the atmosphere more present than among the nearly eight thousand volumes of its library, which should attract visits by most architects attending the 100th Anniversary A.I.A. Convention next month.

An unusual advantage—one not always fully realized—a member of Potomac Valley Chapter has is the convenience of this growing, practical library for the A.I.A. members' exclusive use. Here you may reasonably expect to find any recent book on architecture published in the United States—just show your card and the book is yours for reference or to borrow. There is a large collection of old and rare books and quite a selection of foreign books, these being generally for reference in the library.

Since even those who practice and live by the library's door sill seem not always to be awake to this invaluable facility, some information would seem to be timely. It is for all members and should be supported by all members beyond the library funds which can be allotted by the Octagon operation. To date, and in observing the Centennial, our young chapter has contributed \$150 for new books. Other chapters and individuals will find this a splendid way to establish a Memorial and make a good investment in the profession's future.

Greeting and helping you at the library is a pleasant, trained staff headed by George E. Pettengill, who has served the Institute as librarian for six years. He was with the public library system in Reading, Pa., and immediately prior to the A.I.A. appointment, he was Assistant Librarian of Franklin Institute, Philadelphia. Curator Pettengill's first and primary objective was to make the sanctuary a practical, useful, working library containing all current material. Under his direction the architects' retreat has developed rapidly in the attainment of this goal. Being now an exceptional collection, the Octagon Library may become the finest collection of American Architectural books, pamphlets and periodicals, but utility will remain Librarian Pettengill's practical objective.

It was for this reason that Potomac Valley Chapter, in making its first library donation, relied on the Librarian's suggestions as to which books might best carry the chapter's bookplate. As a result our gift is providing ten or more volumes, some of them being quite expensive and representing (turn to page 2)



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MEETINGS

First Monday of Every Month
at 12 o'clock noon

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 1
Stone House Inn, Silver Spring

QUIET PLEASE

(continued from page 1)

an outstanding source addition. Mr. Pettengill does not wish to restrict any chapter's donation. It may wish, for example, to provide volumes in a particular field but, in such cases, the Librarian's suggestions will be practically helpful.

The chapter delegate to the Centennial will find a visit to the Octagon Library a stimulating, valuable experience. He and his fellow members will want to become active users and to see their chapters, as book-plated donors, become warm friends of the serious-minded professional's favorite Washington reference-loaded retreat.

DIRECTOR PAUL HOLDS KEY

(continued from page 3)

1949 until the first of this year the long, light-as-day drafting room of this leading architectural firm on Baltimore Avenue has designed 57 of the most modern schools in Frederick and Prince Georges Counties.

To go back to our hobby theme, we know that when historian Paul has plans for a school on his drawing boards, he sees more than a projection for a building—he sees students whom he hopes will learn what made America. Grace Kea can join Paul in his historical meandering, but she has often been a war, civic and social service widow. During World War II, Paul gave more than 4500 hours as Chief of Public Works, Office of Civil Defense and efficiently directing the defense activities of 1100 men. He was also Chairman of the County's Fuel Rationing Board which handled more than 19,000 cases. This chapter director was president of the former Maryland Society of Architects; president of the Prince Georges Chamber of Commerce; director, Hyattsville Professional and Business Men's Association; charter member, Hyattsville Lions Club. He is a member of the Board of Trustees, First Baptist Church of Hyattsville and of the Board of Trustees of the

Prince Georges Foundation, a most interesting activity serving estates in which money is left for charitable purposes.

A county activity often requires a building and, when, as usual, Paul Kea has a hand in its design, some distinguished ghost from Colonial times may seem to guide the architect's pen—hence Prince George's County Service Building was done in true Colonial style.

There's more, a lot more to the Kea story, certainly as to his architectural career, but with this teaser you should be moved to invite yourself out to 4004 Clagett Road some Sunday afternoon. Like azaleas? Paul has a thousand to show you. He'll also show you something you never before have seen—a fine orchard growing in a cement tennis court. No one was using the court so the ingenious architect (and farmer) cut big circles in the cement and successfully planted eight varieties of trees including figs.

And there's a little favor you (including the Ford Motor Co.) might work on for Paul. This esteemed member of the Antique Automobile Club of America would like to locate a 1913 Ford. The model is the first car he ever owned.

REESE ASKS FOR 2 COUNTY ARCHITECTS

As this issue of the "Potomac Valley Architect" was going to press, first public hearings were begun on County Manager Melvin L. Reese's budget request for \$52.8 million for fiscal 1957-58. The request includes a proposal to set up, under a \$164,000 budget, a Buildings and Grounds Division headed by an architect to prepare plans for small buildings and to supervise construction of other county buildings.

At the same time, Manager Reese has recommended that the School Board appoint still another County Architect who would work in conjunction with the architect heading the proposed new Buildings and Grounds Division.

The Potomac Valley Chapter assumes the members of the County Council will want all information that will be helpful to them in making a decision on these vitally important proposals.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

OUR VEEP, Ben Elliott, in representing the chapter and making the awards for the "Welcome to Silver Spring" sign contest sponsored last month by the Silver Spring Junior Chamber of Commerce was pleased to find the winner to be a young lady using a speed ball pen like her daddy.

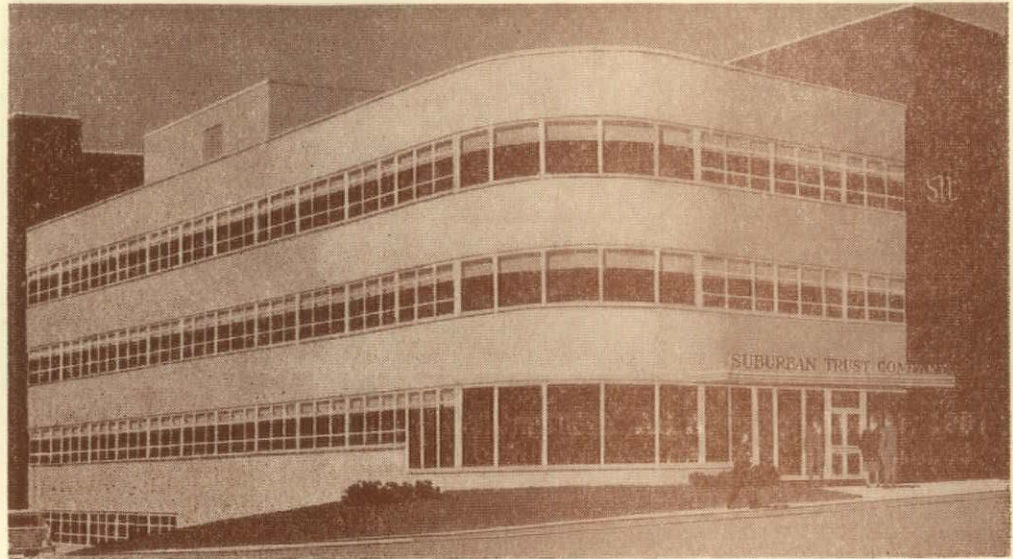
She was Ann White, daughter of Clifton (Clif) B. White, and, for her design, Ben had the privilege of handing her the first prize check of \$50 provided by the Silver Spring Shopping Center, Inc. At the same time, he awarded the second prize of \$10 from the chapter to Marcel DePersig, student at John Carroll High School.

V.P. Elliott felt right at home at the "Jaycee" ceremonies conducted at the Villa Rosa Restaurant because he was a charter member of the organization and served as its treasurer and member of the Board of Directors. He found occasion to express the chapter's interest in all such community activities and to outline the plans of the A.I.A. in the observance of its Centennial here next month.

DIRECTOR DANA B. JOHANNES, GET WELL!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE members at their meeting March 26 were lonesome without "Joe," his pipe, usual good story, and his invaluable comment on legislation affecting the profession they spent their luncheon time in writing the Director, temporarily confined in Suburban Hospital. Joe has always complained we do not say enough in this publication about his inseparable and equally talented partner, Loren (Lee) Murray. The immense value of such a teamed partnership demonstrates itself at such a time. With all discomforts Joe has great comfort in knowing anything and everything at the Johannes & Murray shop will go forward as usual.

IF BANK PEOPLE anywhere are happier about their working conditions than are the several hundred in this Paul Kea Associates designed and award-winning Administration Building of Suburban Trust Co., pleased President J. Robert Sherwood would like to know about it. Located at 6045 New Hampshire Avenue, the smart, modern \$1 million building was designed by the Prince Georges architectural firm to provide executive offices and centralized bookkeeping, proof, transit, personnel and accounting departments for the \$111.4 million—15 office banking institution.



DIRECTOR PAUL KEA HOLDS KEY TO ALL OF THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE

Last of a Series on Officers and Directors

LOOK INTO a man's home life, civic and social activities and his hobbies and you will know a lot more about how he will take care of your work than through references or any examination of his professional or business accomplishments.

The way he lives, the responsibilities he assumes to help others and his community reveal his character—the fine grain and the nature of the man, if he has it. To prove the point this reporter never expects to find a better example than today's Potomac Valley personality.



PAUL H. KEA

He is that distinguished Welshman whose ancestors from Wales first hit the beach in this country in 1650 at Jamestown Island, Virginia and who, never in his life, has welshed on anything or anybody. He is that native Virginian whose feet have kept right on the ground since they first felt the good earth in Surry County. Director Kea likes to think of that farm and Virginia background, the active interest it gave him in America's history and his first architectural work which was in the designing of smoke houses and peanut factories.

Mrs. Kea, the Grace Ferguson that was,

Paul's good partner at home and girl Friday in the office, is grateful for a similar background, her Virginia farm birthplace being in Pittsylvania County near Danville. That Grace and Paul should get together, have a honeymoon in 1920, which included a stop (and anniversary visits since) at the Old Jefferson Hotel, Richmond, seems a matter of destiny. So, too, the blessed presence of attractive daughter Mildred who, while being Supervisor of Nurses at Stuart Circle Hospital, Richmond, never fails in person, at least once every two weeks, to pass her picture in the study, on her way to occupy her room in the family home on three and one-half beautifully landscaped acres on Clagett Road, College Heights Estates, Hyattsville. Now here is a home, than which we have never seen one lovelier or more comfortable, and if you are missing the

great enjoyment of visits there it is your own fault because the Keas hold open house every Sunday afternoon for their friends. We entered the manor (we were about to say plantation) one afternoon, and even with the hostess absent, every room seemed to be expecting company. We also wanted to plop down everywhere to hear good music which, through Paul's elaborate Hi Fi system, pipes the music into every nook and cranny of the great house.

We would not want to picture Grace and Paul Kea as not being without normal marital differences. For example, Grace does enjoy good music and, up to a point, some of the Hi Fi sending which all but put orchestras and vocalists right into any rooms, including the baths and basement. But Paul would like it 24 hours a day whereas Grace can stand a few hours less music while visiting or pouring tea.

Then there is the matter of our Director Paul's itchy feet. At any and every opportunity they cause him to hop into his Lincoln to take off for historical places all over the East Coast. Here again Grace shares her husband's interest in the old. She may put up an argument about something that happened in 1621 and she could do with some days less touring and more time on Clagett Road. But, with little resistance, she does go along. If you follow them you will find them disappear at destination. While you may be looking over the commercialized knick-knacks at the souvenir shop, Grace and Paul will be browsing in the nearest historical society. Paul's active membership in eastern historical societies are many. Beginning with the Virginia State Historical Society, he has a card for such societies throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida and, naturally, representing memberships in the Maryland Historical Society and Historic Annapolis. He also spends time with the Antique Automobile Club of America and the National Capitol Antique Automobile Club.

Now we would not like you to lose entire track of the seasoned, imaginative Architect Kea's architectural progress from his smoke house and peanut factory era, or since he studied architecture under private tutors in Norfolk and Newport News in which vicinity he practiced until 1927, when he moved to Maryland opening an office in LaPlata, or since he opened an office in College Park in 1933 making his move to Hyattsville in the same year.

We could write endlessly about the accomplishments of Kea, and by Paul H. Kea Associates (it being the director's nature to emphasize the credit he wants given to his associates) in just one field of architectural endeavor—Schools. The school designed for Landover Hills in 1950 represented the first departure from school buildings of the older type in Prince Georges. Kea's office designed the county's first Negro high school in Fairmont Heights. The \$2 million Suitland High School and the \$1.5 million Marlow Heights Junior High and the saw-tooth type school for Langley Park are among Kea schools which have attracted national attention among educators. From only

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