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)
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 4094 Chaggett Road for a visit to the Octagon Library. A stimulating, valuable estate in which money is left for charitable purposes.

The Potomac Valley Chapter assumes the membership 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 Cliff (Blf) 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., it seems as if President J. Robert Sherwood would like to know about it. Located at 6845 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.

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 whesled 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 honey-moon 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 the older type in Prince Georges. Kea’s office designed the county’s first Negro high school in Fairmount 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 two years ago we would not like you to lose entire track of the season’s, 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 (continued on page 2)
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