



POTOMAC VALLEY
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June 1, 1957



Photos by Roland Haley & Robt. M. Cairns

1. Mrs. Charles B. Soule as Martha Washington; Mrs. John S. Sullivan as Harriet Lane and Mrs. F. Leonard Slagle as Grace Coolidge were the hit of the Centennial Convention's International Luncheon's fashion show. 2. The Chapter's Convention work won an approving smile from Regional Director J. Roy Carroll. 3. International Luncheon Chairman Mrs. John S. Samperton welcomes Mrs. Nixon. 4. Chapter Presidents Senseman and Duane and Convention Vice Chairman Soule with Mrs. Nixon. 5. Potomac Valley groups such as this enjoyed getting together often in its suite at the Shoreham.

**POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER OF MARYLAND
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CHARLES B. SOULÉ, Chm., Public Relations Committee
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Skippers Dana Johannes and Leon Brown made it good sailing on the convention cruise to Mt. Vernon. Here are a few of the 1800 enjoying the trip. 1. A V.I.P. group including President Senseman, Commissioner C. A. Lane, National President Chatelain and Washington Chapter's President Duane. 2. Water, water everywhere but John d'Epagnier and John Moore could find nothing on the boat except sarsaparilla and such. 3. Convention tub thumpers Andy MacIntire and Don Drayer with Mrs. MacIntire. 4. Light-footed Ted Englehardt is drumming up dances with Mrs. Slagle and Mrs. Senseman. It was o.k. with Len. He wanted to go visiting anyway. 5. Eddie Morris stayed put on the boat's stern where he could visit with a host of architectural friends from throughout the nation.

Photos by Robt. M. Cairns.

MEETINGS

First Monday of Every Month
at 12 o'clock noon

NEXT MEETING

Monday, June 3
Stone House Inn, Silver Spring

NEXT ISSUE SEPTEMBER 1

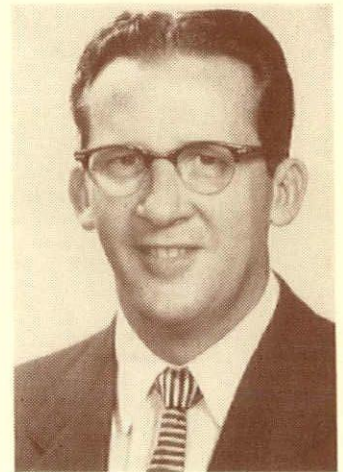
As a 10-issues-a-year periodical, the Potomac Valley Architect will suspend publication during July and August. Keep in touch with us about your summer activities for a newsy issue on September 1.

COMFORTABLE SHOES TO FILL

With the Chapter's June election, Ron Senseman will have headed the Maryland group of A.I.A. architects for three terms—once during its Division of the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter status—and for two successive terms since the granting of an A.I.A. Chapter charter.

He has given the chapter the leadership and healthy take-off a new organization unit needs but seldom finds. Organizers and the hardest of workers, while being invaluable, often do not make the best officers. Ron was the best of exceptions as all members know. Through all the years the present members may be active, they will gratefully remember the inspiring administratorship — we might almost say indispensable generalship, he has provided during the chapter's tender and membership-building years.

Having won many of the highest awards of the profession and the respect and friendship of architects everywhere, Ron Senseman's character, gentlemanly qualities and helpfulness have brought him the love of all those knowing him best and who so greatly benefit from his association and leadership.



Ronald S. Senseman

Such a leader has inspired loyalty and had ready workers because of his own excellent example. He has kept everything rolling by making considered suggestions, not by being a boss and giving orders. The Chapter, and all his office and its help could do for it, came first.

In the same efficient, productive manner Ron has appointed interested, competent chairmen and then kept his nose out of their activities. And so executive and chapter meetings heard no bickering, saw great attendance and heard to-the-point reports of work done. To keep things relaxed, Ron usually had a funny story or, if he didn't, Eddie Morris was called on.

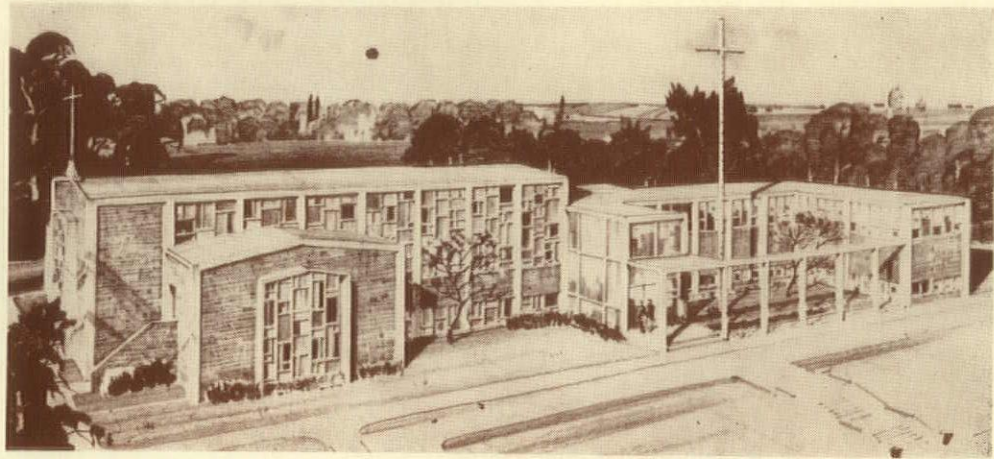
There is only one way to reward a President like Ron Senseman—that is by maintaining a growing organization which will always be one of the most active and responsible chapters in A.I.A.

The shoes being left by Ron are big. But they are well broken in and comfortable. They need only to be kept well laced, shined and pointed in the same direction.

ELECTION MEETING JUNE 3

The committee to nominate candidates for the Chapter's 1957-1958 officers and directors includes Paul H. Kea, Stanley H. Arthur and James T. Thomen. It will make its report at the June 3 election meeting.

The \$350,000 Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Woodacres from the imaginative, contemporary design of Milton J. Prassas & Associates is a traffic stopper on Massachusetts Avenue while receiving interested national attention from church officials. It is being built with ranch rock and has a textural block pattern inside. A 60 ft. cross takes the place of a steeple. It will contain a heat-pump, the only such heating and air-conditioning equipment to be installed in a church in this area.



TWO WELCOME RESERVATIONS FOR EVERY CHAPTER AFFAIR—VI AND MILT PRASSAS

This being spring, when fancies turn where they do, it is a good time to look in on the delightful and inseparable team of Vi and Milt Prassas.

There is also the fact this is the last issue of the P. V. A. before fall and, in our series of Chapter profiles, we could not choose a member or members providing a more pleas-



Milton J. and Viola L. Prassas

ant note on which to recess. Then, too, we are always carrying a nice mental picture of the always-on-time Prassas team, as present at every meeting and many Executive Committee meetings and of the grand reception job Vi and Milt did at the convention. They are of the ever reliable and two-heads-are-better-than-one stuff out of which an outstanding Chapter is made. We know they, of course with others, will carry on and that as we take up this publication work in September, Vi and Milt, charmingly and dependably, will be right as we left them in June. (Gardening and fruit trees being among their joint hobbies, we do intend, as you should, too, to drop over to their beautiful Massachusetts Avenue spot for the joy of their company and to pick up some of their plum, cherry, apple, peach and pear surplus.)

Since Milton J. Prassas & Associates in 1945 started its practice in this area, \$50 million of work has gone across the boards of Milt, the architect and engineer, native of Chicago, a "Boilermaker" from Purdue who completed post graduate work at the Armour Institute of Technology, the Art Institute of Chicago and George Washington University and the boards of Vi, the architectural designer. She, who was Viola Snider, a corn fed gal from Iowa, graduate of Drake University and Southeastern University with an LL.B. degree too and a member of the Bar. Vi was a government legal examiner and investigator with aptitudes and training possibly never before applied to exhausting best architectural possibilities. A secret of her marital success could be (it is not admitted) that she investigated Milt before she married him.

As the firm designed one big apartment project after another along Connecticut Avenue beginning with projects like the Saxony and Cromwell, and including the \$4 million 4600 luxury elevator apartment building and the \$3.6 million Riverview Village garden apartment project for the Navy at Indian Head, Md., there has been another invaluable 10-year associate. He is Ed Wilcox who, like Milt, is an engineer as well as an architect. Greeting clients at the office occupying 2,000 sq. ft. of space in the Prassas home-office establishment at 5915 Massachusetts Avenue, is Ed's pin-up wife, the lovely Ann. Bringing regular joy to the carefree set-up are the regular visits of daughter Marilyn. Guarding the entire situation, with a tail wag if he approves of you, is the well-washed and combed cocker spaniel, Prince.

Yes, there have been many magnificent and architecturally significant projects on the Prassas drawing boards—residences, churches, schools, varied government projects. On the firm's boards and/or under construction now are the \$750,000 Ft. McNair Housing project, a processing plant for Safeway Stores, the \$1.35 million Walter Reed Housing project and office-warehouse facilities for the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. Meanwhile, Milt, in addition to A.I.A., manages to be active in A.C.I.; A.S.C.E.; Washington Board of Trade; Assn. of Civil Engineers; Retired Officers Assn., U. S. Navy; Conduit Road Fire Dept. as Vice President and Director; High Point Citizens Association and the Lutheran Laymen's Fellowship as President. His main interest, he prints boldly on all information forms, is his wife. With Vi he shares a number of interests and hobbies—studying the history of architecture, tennis, horseback riding, bridge, poker, chess.

So this reporter is sure—the interesting lesson to be learned from the Prassas duo is their way of life. They started with the worst possible break. As a regular Navy officer in World War II, Milt was seized with an incapacitating and sometimes fatal disease. With a year of hospitalization and a fighting desire to live and work with Vi, and with her faith and help, he licked it. Then as now, they make it a point just not to have any interests that they can't fully share together. Members are indeed grateful one prime interest of the Prassases is the Potomac Valley Chapter.

BEST LUCK BEN AND ANDY

Secretary Andrew H. MacIntire has joined VP Benjamin P. Elliott to form the corporate architectural firm of Elliott & MacIntire.

WATCH THE FORD GO BY

That red Thunderbird that passed you was wheeled by Jack Cohen.

JOHN (JACK) H. SULLIVAN, husband of the pretty model, has moved his office to 332 E. Montgomery Ave., Rockville. PO 2-6106.

JOHANNES & MURRAY is rearranging and remodeling its offices at 855 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring.

NEW DIRECTORY

Be sure the Secretary now has your correct address and phone number. A new directory will be published immediately after election.

CONVENTION CAPSULES

"If the cubic space of homes continues to shrink, it won't be long before the newlyweds will be feeling like Alice in Wonderland who could contain herself only by sticking one arm out of the window and a foot up the chimney . . . the lack of privacy, the lack of any place to get away from the pressure of world events, and the family clamor, is the greatest single deficiency in American living." Edward A. Weeks, Jr. Editor the Atlantic Monthly, Centennial speaker.

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