THE ONE-DAY WHITE HOUSE—BROOKEVILLE, MD. by Edwin Bateman Morris, Sr.

When the British entered Washington on August 25th, 1814, President Madison and his wife Dolly were at dinner at the White House. Without delay Dolly arose from the table, cut the portrait of Washington from its frame, stuffed her silver teaspoons into her reticule and started at once on her flight to Virginia. Madison made a hasty collection of the most important papers on his desk. Horses were provided for him and his companions and the party rode north on the Brookeville road at what was described as the "terrific speed of eight miles an hour."

They arrived late at night at Brookeville, a small town founded in 1794 by a Richard Thomas, who built a grist mill there, naming the town for his wife Deborah Brooke. Madison and his party went to the house of Caleb Bentley, who ran the Brookeville general store. Thus for twenty-four hours, the Bentley house became the White House and Brookeville the capital of the United States.

There hangs on the wall of the Bentley house—or did until recently—the following letter written by Madison to Dolly:

"My dearest—

Finding that our army had left Montgomery Court House, we pushed on to this place, with a view to joining it, or proceed to the city as further information might prescribe. I have just received a line from Colonel Monroe saying the enemy were out of Washington and on the retreat to their ships, and advising our immediate return to Washington. We shall accordingly set out thither immediately. You will all of course take the same resolution. . . .

Truly yours
James Madison"

This was a very dismal time for the nation. A contemporary writer said "It is not likely that Washington will ever again be the capital of our country." But he reckoned without knowledge of the courage of our nation. Madison returned at once to Washington and resumed duties. It is a fine architectural idea and pleasant to think about—that he resumed residence and duties in the Octagon.
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE . . .

by Ben Elliott

The Potomac Valley Chapter is now a full two years old. In our second year the importance of a regular monthly bulletin was realized and it was promptly made a reality. It has been an accomplishment of which we are justly proud. Many bouquets are tossed to those who through their efforts have made this paper not only possible but very successful.

In our second volume we are not deviating too much from the format of last year—but we hope that various Chapter members will contribute articles on subjects interesting to those of the tee-square and triangle group, as well as to our other readers. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that the P.V.A. (Potomac Valley Architect) is not only a house organ, but it is our chief public relations media. The continued success of this bulletin depends on contributions by our members in the form of editorials, items on business and news about the people who make up the Chapter. The subscriptions of our advertisers will contribute articles on subjects interesting to those of the tee-square and triangle group, as well as to our other readers. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the fact that the P.V.A. (Potomac Valley Architect) is not only a house organ, but it is our chief public relations media. The continued success of this bulletin depends on contributions by our members in the form of editorials, items on business and news about the people who make up the Chapter. The subscriptions of our advertisers make it possible to edit, publish and mail the P.V.A. Later this year, if finances and subject matter permit, it is planned to increase the size of the P.V.A., at least for one or more issues.

For the future—many Chapters and State Societies publish truly professional magazines containing a multitude of pictures and articles. This is made possible by advertisements of national manufacturers and, as a result, these organizations are able to retain a full time public relations executive director. We can not jump to this—it takes time—more members than we now have and a great deal more work and enthusiasm. Each year should show a growth in quality and size and only through the chapter members efforts can these be achieved.

Montgomery School Advisory Committee

Montgomery County, by a resolution of its Board of Education which asked the appointment of a committee of A.I.A. architects to serve as counsel, is in position to have one of the most forward-looking, efficient and economical school building programs of any area in the United States.

The Board addressed its request not only to the Potomac Valley Chapter, which has A.I.A. jurisdiction in Montgomery, but also to the Metropolitan-Washington Chapter. As a result an outstanding joint committee with three leading architects from each chapter has been appointed. Ronald S. Senseman, Dana B. Johannes and Paul H. Kea represent Potomac Valley: John W. McLeod, William M. Denton and Joseph Miller complete the council as representatives from Metropolitan Washington.

The six member architectural group will advise the Board on criteria for selecting architects, what the Board can expect in the way of architectural services, the architect’s part in site selection and the establishment of building standards for schools.

Potomac Valley has long made its advisory service available to the School Board. The success of the present, permanent plan will come through a follow-through from the Boards resolution and the constant use of the exceptional committee as ready to function.

Rinaudot Reappointed As State Examiner

Alfred (Al) M. Rinaudot, one of the Chapter's most prominent nationally popular members, has been reappointed by Governor McKeldin to serve a five year term on the Maryland Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects. Al was first appointed to serve on the important Board in January, 1956 to fill the unexpired term of a deceased member. The Bethesda member heads the architectural firm of Rinaudot and Coupard.

Quinlan With Slagle

Leon Slagle is pleased to announce the appointment of Timothy J. Quinlan as junior partner in the firm of F. Leonard Slagle and Associates, 4630 Montgomery Ave., Bethesda.

Paul H. Kea, David Shaw & Associates

Too late for our last issue was Director Kea’s announcement that our treasurer, Dave Shaw, is now a partner in the Hyattsville firm whose name is changed as above.

Ballard Joins Esten

Coming from Satterlee & Smith, and with a background of experience with other leading District architectural firms, Warren Ballard is joined in partnership with Harold (Hal) L. Esten at 8055 - 13th Street, Silver Spring.

Elliott And MacIntire

To give its new partner Andy MacIntire more elbow room, and because of expanding business, this firm has taken enlarged offices in the Citizens Savings & Loan Building, Silver Spring.

Designing Draftsman

The architect was interviewing an applicant for a job as junior draftsman. He remarked, "You want a very substantial salary for a man with little experience."

"Well," the applicant replied, "The work is so much harder when one knows so little about it."
1957-58 COMMITTEES

President Ted Englehardt has announced the appointment of the following 1957-58 committees. At the same time, the President has urged every member to consider the committee work to be done and to volunteer his service for any committee whose work is of particular interest to him.


FINANCE AND BUDGET. Chairman: James T. Thomen, 2209 L Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., ME 8-8478.


MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE. Chairman: John E. Moore, 8555 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, Md., OL 2-5700. Members: Dennis W. Madden, 3510 Rhode Island Ave., Mt. Rainier, Md., WA 7-1200; Theodore R. Cromar, 8226 Fenton St., Silver Spring, Md., JU 7-8054.


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