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THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE AT SANDY SPRING, MARYLAND

Edwin Bateman Morris, Sr.

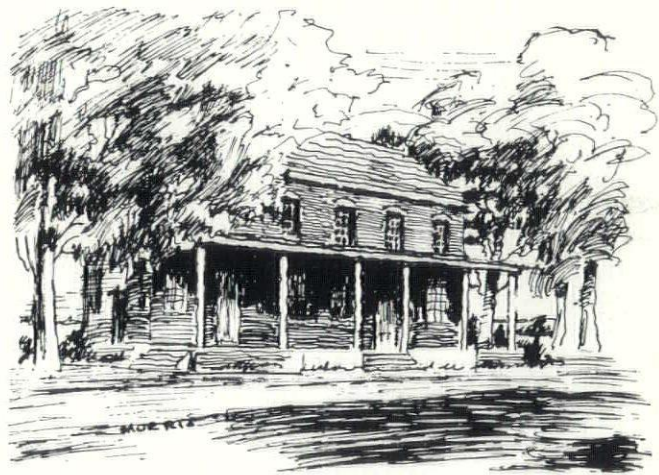
The present Friends' Meeting House at Sandy Spring, Maryland, was built in 1817, replacing an earlier structure, which had burned down. The Sandy Spring meeting place in the earlier days was known as the Indian Spring Meeting House. In 1843 it was given its present title. The land on which the structure stands was acquired by gift in 1703, being part of the curiously called Bear Bacon tract. In early days the land tracts were called by strange names like Clean Drinking, Shepherds Hard Fortune, Poverty Plains and so on, for the most part being discouraging names a present-day real estate man would not consider good selling talk.

The present building was built with funds raised by personal subscription. One of these subscribers, a successful Quaker gentleman named Philip E. Thomas, was one of the founders of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and, when you eat in a B & O dining car, you will see his name inscribed upon the blue and white china. This public-spirited gentleman also subscribed the first \$25,000 for the Washington Monument in Baltimore.

Another subscriber to the meeting-house was John Thomas, who attended the meeting with regularity every Sunday and Wednesday, or, as the Friends express it, every First Day and Fourth Day. The story is related that on a certain Fourth Day he was ill and could not go but that his horse, in the spirit of regularity and piety, went alone. While there is obviously no documentary evidence to support this, the Friends, renowned for veracity, firmly believe in this legend.

An early member of the Meeting was James Brooke descendant of the early Lord of the Manor, Robert Brooke. James Brooke, marrying the Quaker Deborah Snowden, had thereupon joined the Meeting. He was an expert hunter and used dogs that were descendants of the dogs Robert Brooke had brought over with him in coming from England. There is the story that James Brooke met a panther in the woods, at which he fired his

last bullet, missing. The enraged panther thereupon killed the dogs and charged Brooke. But Brooke, quick-witted, pulled a button from his coat, rammed it down the muzzle of his gun and fired just in time, killing the animal.



There is the quotation, in a sense related to one of our important modern problems, from the old mammy who acted as cook in one of the Sandy Spring houses. Hearing the dining-room clock and the kitchen clock striking the hour in unison, she remarked, "Now I calls that racial equality."

There used to be in the Meeting House before the installation of central heat two quaint flat-topped stoves, one of which is now in the Smithsonian, upon which, before the meeting, bricks were placed to become hot. These the Friends would take from the stoves upon entering and carry them to their places, putting them in position to warm their feet.

The Meeting House, amid its pleasant grove of trees, is a beautiful, picturesque place and, in the silence of the meeting, the rustling of the trees and the songs of the wood-thrush and the others make the building comforting and relaxing.

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MEETINGS

First Monday of Every Month
at 12 o'clock noon

NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, December 2
Monday, January 6

Stone House Inn, Silver Spring

WE BOB WITH THE CORK

The pleasure of our lunch with Jack Watson's Producers' Councilers in Washington was still fresh in mind when a representative Potomac Valley delegation journeyed, on November 5, to enjoy dinner with Eli Reinhart, Jr.'s Councilers in Baltimore. As the hosting progressed, it was a case of moving from Pittsburg Plate Glass Co.'s Twindow to see how far cork has come along since the Armstrong Cork Co. decided the product had unusual building uses and was not just so much stuff to be dug out of the neck of a bottle.

Pictured here, as at Baltimore, are examples of Potomac Valleyers bobbing around the Belvedere Hotel.



Baltimore Producers Council President Eli Reinhart, Jr. Gets An Attentive Ear from President Ted Englehardt.



Clif White, John d'Epagnier, Jim Thomen, and Chuck Soule' on tour to the Armstrong Products Exhibits.

DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET!

Committees are meeting and working, we all know — but when, where and wot happens is too often a secret from the concerned membership. President Ted Englehardt says "p-l-e-a-s-e, committee chairmen, write and turn in at least a summary report about each of your meetings." This is not only for the information of the President and Executive Committee, but so reports of your work and news will be printed here and in the newspapers.

To this P. R. Chairman, Ben Elliott, pointedly adds, "We can print and release news only from what you tell us." Note in this issue references to what Milt Prassas', Van Donnally's and Jack Samperton's committees are accomplishing. How about your committee?

THE 1957-1958 COMPETITION

Now, not on a frantic under-the-wire spring entry time, is when you should be planning your submissions for the biennial competition and exhibition. Categories will be on a broader base, industrious Chairman Jack Samperton, of the Exhibitions and Competitions Committee, announces. Schools, for example, may be in a separate bracket and not in competition with churches and other public buildings. Your chances to win will be much greater.

The required material and mounts will be the same. Watch for the 1957-1958 exhibition program to be issued by Jack's committee early next month. Submissions must be in during the first week in May. Awards will be made at the usual banquet following the exhibition to be held at the new Indian Spring Country Club, Thursday, June 5, 1958.

CLIF WHITE DOES P. R. JOB

No better public relations job was ever done for architects than that by Director White last month when, representing the chapter, Clif served on a Montgomery Blair High School, Rotary Club and P.T.A. arranged panel to answer questions of students in the architectural and engineering drafting classes. Enthused by Clif's handling and the students' interest, the instructor, Mr. Rhodes, wants other question and answer sessions on architecture during the year. Other members ready to spend an evening helping drafting classes in this way will please notify Ben Elliott. It is hoped the idea of such sessions will spread to similar classes in other Prince Georges and Montgomery County high schools.

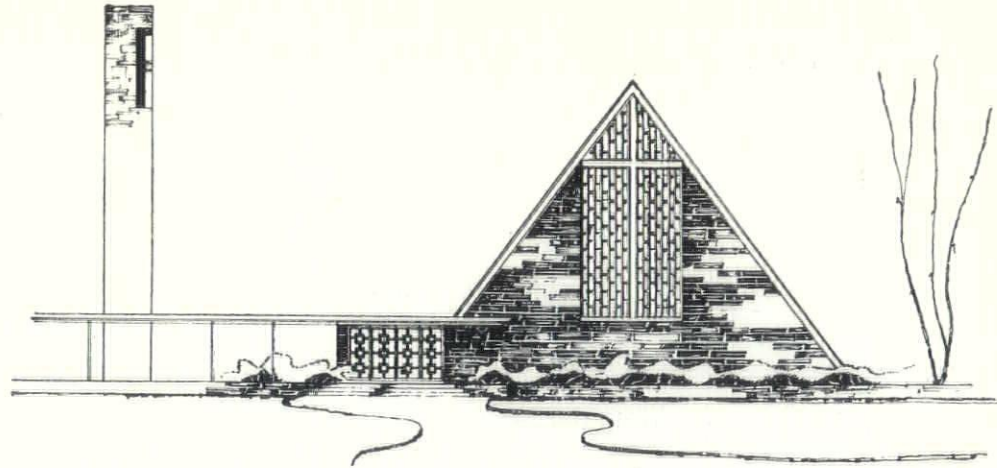
WHERE TO SEE V.I.P.'S

Want to rub shoulders and clink glasses with county and other V.I.P.'S? One of the best places is the office of Johannes & Murray on the occasion of the firm's annual Christmas party. Joe or Lee will tell you the date and your chance of crashing the event.

MORRIS ANNUAL DINNER

Chapter members in good standing (and perhaps a few temporary delinquents) will be looking forward to receiving invitations to the Olney Inn dinner arranged each year by Edwin B. (Eddie) Morris. The date — January 15.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, which can trace its history back to 1874, now serving the Wheaton Parish, will go very modern in this original building designed for its two-acre Aspen Hill Road site by Clifton B. White. The architect's creative plans greatly helped the Parish accomplish its successful Building Crusade.



A Veteran Crew-Cut, Dean of Maryland

Architects—Our Director Clif White

NO MAN really likes to be called a veteran member of his profession. With the reference there is the hint of his not being able to keep up with the crew-cuts which our Director Clifton B. White certainly does. Never yet has he used the elevator or, at less than a trot, taken the stairs to his office in the Bryan Building, one of the many modern structures he has designed. Instead of whittling sticks as an oldster might do, Clif relaxes from his boards by carving or building intricate models of every kind.



Clifton B. White (With Model Cannon)

Yet, we must not only call this master architect a veteran but the Dean among architects locating their offices in Suburban Maryland. Hi-Fidelity Paul H. Kea moved his office to College Park in 1933, but White had located his office the year before in the then lonesome-for-other-developments building at 7906 Georgia Avenue.

As he was before other architects in visualizing the growth to come here, so the perennially young Clif was ahead of the times in setting building styles which recently became popular. One of his many fine residences was the granddaddy of ramblers — 110 feet across the front and 175 feet deep — the award-winning Sidney Graves home built in 1933 on Foxhall Road.

Our new director was born in Knoxville, Tennessee and raised in Richmond and Norfolk, Va. a background which, like that of Ted Englehardt, gave

him an absorbing interest in Civil War history. Like Ted and other members, he is an active member of the Washington Civil War Round Table.

Architecturally bound as a talented draftsman, Clif sought associations in Washington from whom he could learn the most. He spent six years with George N. Ray and four with John Whelan. Meanwhile, he studied at night schools and was active in the Washington Architectural Club.

For a happy married life, he church-aisled to the altar in 1929 with Virginia Hergesheimer, of the District, and for a life-long union blessed by two daughters. Elizabeth is now the wife of Lt. Dallas Lane Wallace, a Navy submarine officer stationed in Honolulu. Ann is in her first year at Stratford College in Danville, Va. World War II interrupted the good life of the Whites in Silver Spring while Clif served three years on a Board with the U. S. Army Engineering Corps in the Camouflage Division. The war over, he resumed his practice and many professional, civic, social and business organization activities. The architect was active in the architectural groups which preceded the formation of the Potomac Valley Chapter, is a past-president of the local Rotary Club and has been a director of the Board of Trade.

Regularly, through the years, White designs have won the highest architectural awards. His building for Wheeler, Inc., 4800 Wisconsin Ave., N. W., was a first prize winner in a Washington Chapter and Board of Trade competition. A recent first prize winner in the 1955-56 Potomac Valley-Silver Spring Board of Trade-Prince Georges Chamber of Commerce competitions was his design and plans for Gustin Gardens' Williamsburg residence-type store, which also won first prize in 1955 as the finest business improvement on Rockville Pike. Known for unexpected residence designs, his public and commercial buildings have been equally unusual and have varied from such buildings as the Eastman Kodak processing plant in the District and East-West Motors, Inc. in Silver Spring, to conventional and modern church structures.

The Durable Dean's crew-cut doesn't recede at the temples by so much as a hair. Clif has even been going to high school again (See Page 2). This time it is because of what he architecturally knows, and also because he is one of the men who never wants to get separated from boys wanting to work and learn.

PRACTICE COMMITTEE AT WORK

MILT PRASSAS' Office Practice Committee, bolstered by volunteers for work, have been giving A.I.A. Document No. 71.3 a real examination. Joining the original year's committee of Van Donnally, Vi Prassas, Bill Blocker and Len Slagle, have been Tim Quinlan, Jack Cohen and others to form a group of seminar size. The hard-working committee has definitely concluded the Document covers too much territory. Milt says the group's study will continue at its monthly meetings.

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