



POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF
ARCHITECTS

RES

February 1, 1959

Official Publication, Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, AIA

Vol. 3, No. 6

GOVERNMENT AGENCY MOVES DEFENDED

LIBRARY

(ED. NOTE: That the Washington National Pike along that stretch of road between Rockville and the Atomic Energy Commission at Germantown will someday be a showcase of garden-type industry and attractive government agencies of distinctive architectural design has long been the dream of many planners. The Bureau of Standards is currently making preparations for an \$80 million move midway along this strip of highway. Recently the press has been giving a critical look at the move of the AEC to the Germantown area and questioning the wisdom of further dispersal of government agencies to areas now rural in character. In this article, Benjamin P. Elliott, AIA, a chapter member, raises points in favor of such moves.)

A recent series of articles in one of the Washington newspapers has written off the AEC location at Germantown as a "white elephant." The staff reporter presented one side of this move—certainly the side of condemnation is more newsworthy than the good reasons for such a move.

One of the chief objections—"TRAVEL TIME"—is voiced by those having longer distances to travel, but officials and reporters alike should consider that the greater metropolitan area of Washington sprawls within a twenty-mile radius, and any location would cause travel fatigue for a certain number of employees. It is not uncommon for a New Yorker to drive 45 miles to work or travel on a commuter train from Connecticut, leaving home at 6:40 and getting back home after 8 p.m. Consider those employees at Martin Aircraft in Baltimore who drive from Ellicott City, the same distance from Georgetown to AEC—or white collar workers who drive from Frederick, Mt. Airy, etc., to the Pentagon—or Edward Smith, who drives from Chantilly, Virginia, to Silver Spring five days a week.

This travel time to AEC is no worse than hundreds of other business locations. We can't locate all the business places next door, nor can all businesses or Federal agencies locate within a square mile of downtown Washington.

As some see it, the AEC building in Germantown illustrated good foresight. Any change would bring about personnel shifts, and the AEC personnel director himself believes that

the recruitment of new employees eventually will be in easier in Germantown than in Washington where AEC had to compete with other agencies.

There is no question but what there is some merit in the argument that at the present time there is a certain travel time hardship in some cases where employees working at AEC still live in Southern Maryland or Virginia. But even in these cases the excess travel time to work does not exceed that of the average downtown commuter from the Washington suburbs by more than twenty minutes to half an hour.

Let us consider again the foresight in the AEC move and project ourselves two or three years into the future. With the Washington-National Pike completed into the heart of Washington and its southern leg completed across the Cabin John bridge (construction scheduled for next year), the Virginia and Southeast Washington and Maryland commuter will find himself at his desk thirty minutes from the time he leaves home and he will have had no traffic to fight once he's on the "dream" highway.

Other Government agencies and business organizations are sure to locate in Montgomery County, but the growth will be dependent upon the completion of circumferential highways and main arteries in and out of Washington.

From the standpoint of traffic in and out of Washington—no longer the quiet village of the twenties, but a metropolis—there should be at least a dozen high-speed arteries feeding out into the Maryland counties. Take a look at

the system of roads in Virginia once you are across the river! The Washington metropolitan area needs a new concept in mass transportation—something faster than the ride from Constitution Avenue to Georgia and Alaska Avenues, which recently took nearly an hour and a half. Both Government agencies and private industrial plants will continue a rather lonely existence in semi-rural Maryland until some of these roads are completed.

But it is just such moves as that of the AEC and the Bureau of Standards which will give impetus to a modern well planned development of the area. The so-called Metro concept of Greater Washington recognizes that the capital city should not be confined to the District of Columbia. Why then are we critical of a bold and imaginative move to put such agencies as AEC and the Bureau of Standards in the beautiful Maryland countryside which has been described by reputable planners as "the planner's dream", simply because there is plenty of open space and an opportunity to make a "show case" development of the area which is the northwest gateway to the Nation's Capital.

With such an opportunity for a well-planned governmental and light industrial complex, however, the county and the state have a responsibility of their own. Applications for the rezoning of land in the area should be given thorough investigation. Community services should be readily available and long range plans for water and sewer needs provided. Public transportation facilities should be encouraged and housing needs recognized for the employees of these agencies.

Whether the dispersal theory of government agencies has become outmoded with the advent of the H-bomb, let us not lose sight of the advantages of a modern, well-planned Greater Washington Area. A little time and patience is probably in order until we see what foresight went into the move of these agencies out of the congested downtown area.

POTOMAC VALLEY CHAPTER
OF MARYLAND

American Institute of Architects

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHARLES B. SOULE, President
STANLEY H. ARTHUR, Vice President
MILTON J. PRASSAS, Secretary
JACK C. COHEN, Treasurer
JAMES T. THOMEN, Director
CLIFFORD B. WHITE, Director
TED ENGLEHARDT, Director

Potomac Valley Architect

Benjamin P. Elliott, Chmn., Pub. Rel. Comm.
8485 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Md.
JU. 9-2546

Don Burke, Public Relations Counsel
15 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, Md.
GA. 4-9300

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

12 Noon, February 2, 1959

Stone House Inn

Four Corners, Silver Spring, Md.

March Meeting — March 2, 1959

Chapter Members Get New
Projects Underway

A new Montgomery County Branch Library in the Sumner area at Massachusetts and Westband Aves., is now under construction, according to John Murphy, AIA, Montgomery County Architect. John S. Samperton, AIA, a chapter member, is the architect for the job which is being built by Duncan Construction Co., Inc. with a low bid of \$119,000.

The library is of two-level, contemporary design, residential in character with about 11,000 square feet of floor space. It will be about half the size of the Silver Spring Library and about twice the size of the Bethesda Library. There was a ground breaking ceremony in Rockville last week signaling the start of an Army Reserve Corps Training Center which Ben Elliott and Andy MacIntire are doing for the Corps of Army Engineers. The site of the center which will house the activities of some 1,000 reservists, is a four-acre tract on the Norbeck Road abutting the Rockville Cemetery. The \$450,000, facility which is expected to take ten months for completion, will consist of a 211 x 48 foot two-story main section with two smaller one-story wings.

A \$10 million recreation and apartment center area is being planned for the Annandale-Falls Church section of Northern Virginia. Our Secretary, Milt Prassas, and his associates have been retained to develop the land use plan and design the entire project.

Plans call for a huge roller skating rink, 48 bowling alleys, and a big recreation building to be among the first units built. Later some 300 apartments and a large shopping center will follow.

Senseman To Lead AIA
Round-the-World Trek

Our much traveled fellow chapter member, Ron Senseman, will have a complete repertoire of travel tales when we see him in April. He will have been 'round the world as leader of the annual architects' trek.

Leon Chatelain, Jr., F.A.I.A., who was originally scheduled to lead the group, has asked Ron to take over for the trip which will begin from New York on February 13. Arrangements have been made for special receptions and tours with members of the Architectural Societies of the many different countries of the world that will be visited.

If for any reason you wish to get in touch with Ron during the next few weeks, here are some of the highlights of his tour. On February 13, the group will lunch in New York and then board an airliner for sunny Spain. Romantic Madrid will be the headquarters from February 14 through 17 with much sightseeing of the architectural showplaces of Iberia and meetings with the Superior Council of the College of Architects of Spain.

Rome, Italy, will get a thorough going over between February 18 and 21 with receptions and meeting at the Grand Hotel and visits with Italian colleagues of the "Consiglio Nazionale Degli Architetti" who will show off the modern buildings of Rome as well as the glorious buildings of the past.

In Athens between February 22 and 24 the group will visit the Acropolis, the Temple of Jupiter, the Royal Palace, the Arch of Hadrian, the Parthenon, Socrates' Temple and the world famous Benaki Museum. Again the group will meet with their Greek fellows of the National Architects.

The famed Shepherd's Hotel in Cairo will be their headquarters during their stay in Egypt between February 25 and March 1 and we will probably have a picture of Ron on a camel as a result of visits to King Tut's Tomb, the Pyramids, the Sphinx, the Mosque of Mohammed Aly, the Citadel and the Bazaars. A side trip to Luxor and the Valley of the Kings and Thebes is also scheduled, with a return to Cairo and receptions with Egyptian architects.

Mysterious India will be the next stop and the period between March 2 and March 12 will be taken up with visits to Bombay, Delhi, Agra, Calcutta and Darjeeling. From here we are bound to get a shot of Ron on an elephant in front of the Taj Mahal.

Bangkok, Thailand, will roll out the red carpet on March 12 and 13 with receptions and visits to the Royal Palace grounds, the Emerald Buddha, Temple of Dawn and the Golden Cheddi.

March 14 through 17 will be spent in Hong Kong with a complete schedule of sightseeing planned throughout the famed British Colony. Japanese architects will host the group on March 18 through 27 during which time trips

Members Get Insurance Tips
In Committee Seminar

All members who attended the Office Practice Committee's Insurance seminar on January 20 report it to be one of the most informative sessions on the all-important question of insurance conducted to date.

Chairman Ted Cromar arranged a most interesting agenda through the co-operation of the Independent Insurance Agents Association of Montgomery-Prince Georges Counties with four experienced agents present to lead the discussion.

The types of insurance coverage discussed at the meeting were:

- Architects' Professional Liability Insurance
- General Liability
- Comprehensive Personal Liability
- Valuable Papers and Records Policies
- Office Contents — Special Form
- Extra Expense Insurance
- Leasehold Interest Insurance
- Workmen's Compensation and Employers' Liability
- Accident and Health Insurance
- Coverage for your own building included:
 - Fire Extended Coverage, Vandalism and Malicious Mischief, Elevator, Boiler and Machinery, Plate Glass, Sprinkler Leakage, Water Damage, Rental Value, Signs

The need for individual consultation with a reliable insurance agent to determine your own needs and exposures was emphasized. Coming in for a great deal of discussion was the question of the need for Professional Liability Insurance. The topic was most timely in view of recent court cases where architects have been held legally responsible even where failure of materials was concerned. The liability insurance covers alleged "negligent act, error or omission in the course of professional duties". It was also pointed out that the cost of arbitration is covered by this type of policy.

will be made to Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara and Nikko. Visits to the Imperial Palace, the Diet Building and the Sanctuary of Confucius are planned plus quartering in the Imperial Hotel. Here a two-day respite is planned to allow the group to rest up or go it alone in the sightseeing department.

On March 27 the trek group will set foot on American soil for the first time in many weeks when their plane lands in sunny Hawaii for a three-day stay and receptions with the Hawaiian chapter members. Here we should get a picture of Ron being wreathed by Hawaiian beauties.

As the sun sinks slowly in the blue Pacific the trek members will disembark from their plane in San Francisco on March 31, bid fond farewells and head out for the drab reality back home.

Chin up, Ron. We know you will bear up under it. Bon voyage.

County Service Depot Plans Let

Montgomery County is centralizing its automotive maintenance and service operation in the Rockville area.

Philip Mason, AIA, a chapter member, is hard at work on drawings for a large depot building which will be the center of all the County automotive maintenance. Some 400 vehicles now in service for the County, ranging from passenger cars to heavy graders and loaders of the County Road Division, will check in at the building which will be located on the site of the old County poor farm on Seven Locks Road near Falls Road, overlooking the Washington National Pike (Rt. 240) on the southern boundary of the City of Rockville.

The building will house service bays for cars and trucks, include paint facilities, steam cleaning and wash equipment and provide vehicle radio repairs, auto parts, and service shops for all requirements of the County motor vehicular fleet.

The plant, according to John Blake Murphy, AIA, County Architect, will be operated under the supervision of the Montgomery County Department of Public Works. A modern jail or "detention facility" is also planned for the 12-acre County-owned tract.

Heat Pump Use Lauded

In a recent article in the magazine, *ELECTRICAL SOUTH*, our chapter secretary describes the successful use of heat pumps in Washington area churches.

Writing in the November issue of the publication, Milt Prassas cites the satisfactory experience of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church in West Bethesda and the plans for heat pump installation in three other churches now under construction.

Some of the advantages which Milt sees are: (1) efficiency of added space due to the elimination of large boiler equipment, (2) savings brought about by the absence of fire protective wall, etc., in the heating area and (3) initial savings on capital investment since heating capacity for future expansion need not be included in the primary structure.

Potomac Valley Chapter Publishes By-Laws

Secretary Milt Prassas has come up with a handsome job of putting our Chapter By-Laws between two covers. Just out is a 37-page, pink-bound, plastic-ringed booklet which contains all of the By-Laws and the Articles of Incorporation.

The thoroughness of our chapter's organization is demonstrated by the many sections and sub-sections covering the chapter's activities, members' rights and privileges, etc.

NEW HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Fresh off the press is a new edition of the Handbook of Architectural Practice. Edited by Clinton H. Cowgill, it is completely revised and dressed up in a new, attractive format.

Contents and the arrangement of material are the results of a survey of the Office Practice Committee which determined the wishes of architects and teachers. Copies are available from AIA at \$8.00 per copy with 25 percent discount on orders of five or more. When you get yours, Clinton Cowgill at Institute headquarters would appreciate any and all comments.

SPEX SCHOOL SCHEDULE SET

Think you can stump a qualified panel of experts on construction spex? Frederick Tilp, AIA, program chairman for the Spex School—Construction Specifications Institute—invites all architects, spec writers, engineers, contractors, and students to come to the following Institute meetings and try to stump the panel on these subjects:

February 17—Earthwork and Soils

March 17—General Conditions of the AIA

April 23—Modular Coordination

May 19—Millwork, Doors, Preservatives

June 16—Glazing, Caulking, Weatherstripping

The meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. and are held in the National Housing Center, 1625 L Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

VIRGINIAN ANNOUNCES REVIEW COURSE

The University of Virginia's Northern Virginia Center announces a review course geared toward Virginia registration beginning April 20, 1959. Approximately 30 meetings will be held on Monday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. at the University College at Bailey's Crossroads. Subjects covered include fundamentals of structural engineering with special emphasis on wood, steel, reinforced concrete and masonry design problems—beams, trusses, columns, etc. Also, brief lectures on selection and use of materials, electrical and mechanical equipment, history of architecture, administration and supervision. Minimum enrollment 14. Fee \$40.00.

ATTENTION, LADIES

For a number of years wives of California architects have been nurturing their husbands' interests and otherwise contributing to the advancement of architecture through their Women's Architectural League. They have been doing a great job for the profession and seem to have a lot of fun doing it.

If you would like to know just what they do and how they do it, get a copy of the AIA Document of the Month which is entitled "Who? — Why? — When? — Where?", a pamphlet published by the W.A.L. of the Southern California Chapter, describing their organization and its purpose.

HERE and ELSEWHERE

REGIONAL CONFERENCE SETS MARCH MEETING DATES

The Greenbriar Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, will be the scene of the Regional Conference of the Middle Atlantic District on March 13th and 14th, 1959.

Hosts for the meeting with the theme "Architects in the New World of Science" will be the Virginia and West Virginia Chapters. Speakers from California, New York and Pennsylvania will head up a program which will also take into consideration the many activities available in the handsome surroundings of the Greenbriar.

Members planning to attend are urged to make early reservations with John D. Owen, 612 First Colony Life Building, Lynchburg, Virginia.

OHIO COURTS ENFORCE REGISTRATION LAW

As a result of the joint co-operation of the Ohio State Board of Examiners, the Architects Society of Ohio, the Eastern Ohio and Cincinnati Chapters, and members of the Dayton Chapter, the Ohio courts have acted affirmatively in restraining unregistered individuals from the practice of architecture.

Of interest is the court's language in the conviction of a Reading, Ohio individual who had prepared plans for a church. In the opinion the judge wrote:

"The law involved in this case is an exercise of what we call the police power of the State which allows the legislature to pass legislation and to make regulations in the interest of the public health, safety and morals. The practice of architecture is a very responsible profession. The laws requiring certain qualifications as to persons practicing architecture, especially in connection with the designing of assembly halls and meeting places, are intended to protect the public."

"Regardless of the ability of the defendant to draw plans and supervise the construction of buildings, he was practicing architecture without having a certificate as a registered architect, and it must be concluded that he is guilty of the unlawful practice of architecture as charged."

MANY THANKS, EDDIE

The officers and directors of the Potomac Valley Chapter wish to express the deep appreciation of the chapter members and their wives for the delightful evening we had last Wednesday at Olney Inn with Eddie Morris and his charming wife.

A fine dinner, the presence of so many chapter members with their brides and, above all, Eddie's sparkling wit, all combined to make the evening one we will long remember. Many thanks, Eddie.

GENERAL  ELECTRIC
 **WEATHERTRON**
 ALL-ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP
 THE CUSHWA BRICK AND
 BUILDING SUPPLY CO.
 TU 2-1000 HU 3-6574

James A. Cassidy Co., Inc.
 Building Products
 Modernfold Doors
 8th and Lawrence Sts., N.E.
 HU 3-8300

James H. Carr, Inc.
 Prefabricated Structural Timber,
 Glulam, Trussed Rafters, Trusses
 2138 P St., N.W., Washington, D.C.
 AD 4-7979

ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE

Tecfab, Inc.

Precast structural insulating panels and window wall systems. Plastic Mosaic and tile facings.

Beltsville, Md. WE 5-3116

BUILDING EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

The Hampshire Corporation

Acoustical Tile, Plastering, Flooring Partitions, Roof Deck

4626 Annapolis Rd., Bladensburg UN 4-0300

National Brick & Supply Co., Inc.

High Pressure Block
 High Pressure Concrete Brick
 Dox Floor Plank, Terra Cotta

Washington 11, D. C. TU 2-1700

Mount Vernon Clay Products Co.

800 Hamlin St., N. E., Washington 17, D. C.
 DE 2-6267

The Washington Brick Company

Modular Masonry Materials

6th and Decatur Sts., N.E., Wash. TU 2-3200

United Clay Products Company

Alwintite Windows & Doors, Bricks, Carrier Air Conditioners, Johns-Manville, and Bryant
 931 Investment Bldg., Wash. DI 7-7087

FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT

Klon Row

Sanymetal & Wels Toilet Partitions

5220 Watson St., Wash. EM 3-5640

Schatz Kitchen Equipment, Inc.

Washington's Oldest Mfr. of Kitchen Equipment for Restaurants and Schools

5011 Minn. Ave., N.E., Wash 27, D. C.
 SP 3-5500

Baird Seating Company

Designers and Distributors of Furniture for Churches, Schools and Public Buildings.

Baltimore 23, Md.
 Washington Phone: ME 8-2521

GENERAL

Cupples Products Corp.

Commercial and Residential Aluminum Windows
 Cupples Curtain Walls

1024 Dupont Circle Bldg. AD 4-3583

Builders Hardware Corp.

Architectural Hardware Consultants—
 Builders, Finishing Hardware
 4908 St. Elmo Ave., Bethesda, Md. OL 6-6800

Phil Dieterich

Manufacturers Representative—Aluminum Windows, Sliding Glass Doors, Curtain Walls
 7727 Old Chester Rd., Beth., Md. OL 4-7227

Fries, Beall & Sharp Company

Representative of Sargent & Co.
 734 10th St., N.W., Wash. EX 3-1100

D. A. Hubbard Co.

Aetna Steel Products Corp.: Grant Pulley and Hardware, Panelfab Aluminum Doors, Frames, Insulated Panels
 4709 Montgomery La., Beth., Md. OL 2-8425
 EM 5-2747

Hope's Windows, Inc.

The Finest in Metal Windows
 1820 No. Nash St., Arlington, Va. JA 5-8919

Floyd E. Koontz

Pella — Wood Folding Doors & Windows
 Miami Medicine Cabinets & Mirrors
 3250 K St. N. W., Wash. D. C. FE 3-2900

Rose Brothers Co.

For Roofing & Sheet Metal Work—Serving the Washington-Metropolitan Area since 1892—
 Office and Plant—
 19th St. & Ft. Meyer Dr., Arlington JA 2-1223

The Shade Shop

Sun Valley Sliding Glass Doors
 Folding doors of all types
 Venetian Blinds, Window Shades
 2214-16 M St., N.W., Wash., D.C. FE 7-1200

T. M. Woodall, Inc.

Plastering and Acoustical Treatment
 JU 9-3811

GENERAL CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS

Peregoy Construction Company

Masonry Contractors
 10215 Woodmoor Circle, Silver Spring, Md.
 JU 9-2698

Altimont Bros. Inc.

4929 Bethesda Avenue, Bethesda 14, Md.
 OL 2-1700

E. A. Baker Company, Inc.

Builders
 6480 Sligo Mill Rd., Takoma Park JU 5-8564

Wärthen & Ward

General Contractors
 10410 Montgomery Ave., Kensington, Md.,
 Lockwood 5-1186

Demory Brothers

General Building Contractors
 Gaithersburg, Md. Gaith. 1066

Marvin J. Duncan and Co.

General Contractors
 10315 Kensington Pkwy, Kens., Md. LO 4-7075

Hill and Kimmel, Inc.

General Contractors
 1103 Wayne Ave., Silver Spring, Md.
 JU 5-3911

Muth Brothers, Builders

4859 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, Md. OL 2-5113

LANDSCAPING

Gustin Gardens, Inc.

Architectural Landscaping
 Expertly Accomplished
 Rockville Pike & Old Georgetown Rd. WH 6-5600

MASONRY

A. Myron Cowell, Inc.

Masonry Contractor JU 9-4580
 8416 Ramsey Ave., Silver Spring JU 9-3340

PAINT

Cunningham Paint Company

Distributors: PVA Muraltone in 175 Colors for All Interior and Exterior Masonry Walls.
 1236 - 20th St., N. W. ME 8-2670

W. R. Winslow Co.

Distributors for: Benjamin Moore, Samuel Cabot, and National Gypsum, Winslows' Products
 922 New York Ave., N.W., Wash. NA 8-8610

PLUMBING & HEATING

American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp.

Specifications for Plumbing and Heating
 8641 Celesville Rd., Silver Spring JU 7-6600

Crane Co.

Manufacturers and Wholesalers of Plumbing, Heating, Kitchens, Pipe, Valves, Fittings
 10700 Hanna St., Beltsville, Md. WE 5-4600

G. Leonard Daymude & Co., Inc.

Mechanical Contractors

BLUEPRINTS & REPRODUCTION

Cooper Trent

Your authorized K & E distributor
 Complete Reproduction Services
 4703 Hampden La., Bethesda, Md. OL 6-85

Leet-Melbrook, Inc.

Blueprints, Architectural Photos, Drafting Supplies
 950 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring JU 9-8

Mohican Engineering Services

882 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring JU 5-1

SPECIAL SERVICES

Joseph P. Sullivan

Estimating and Cost Analysis on Government and Private Projects
 6323 Luzon Ave., N. W., Wash., D. C.
 RA 3-1

Tile Mfgs. Assn. of America

Edwin B. Morris
 1604 K St., N.W., Wash. NA 8-3

Mickelson's

Prints and Paintings
 Fine Picture Framing
 709 G St., N. W., Wash., D. C. NA 8-1

Foundation Test Service, Inc.

Foundation Investigations, Test Borings, Soil Testing, Auger Probe Borings, Rock Drilling
 James J. Schnabel, Gen. Mgr.
 1605 Kennedy Pl., N.W., Wash. RA 6-6

STEEL JOISTS

C. R. Coxeter and Company

Maromber Steel Products
 8115 Fenton St., Silver Spring, Md. JU 9-2

TILE

O. R. Armstrong

T. S. Ceramic Tile Co., The Sparta Ceramic Co., RS Curtain Wall Panels
 2742 S. Buchanan St., Arlington 6, Va.
 KI 9-0

The Mosaic Tile Co. of Virginia

Tile Manufacturer
 Warehouse and Showroom
 607 S. Ball St., Arlington, Va.
 OT 4-5553 OT 4-

Standard Art, Marble & Tile Co.

Scagliola, Marble, Mosaic, Terrazzo, Tile, Ceramic, Slate
 117 D St., N.W., Wash. NA 8-