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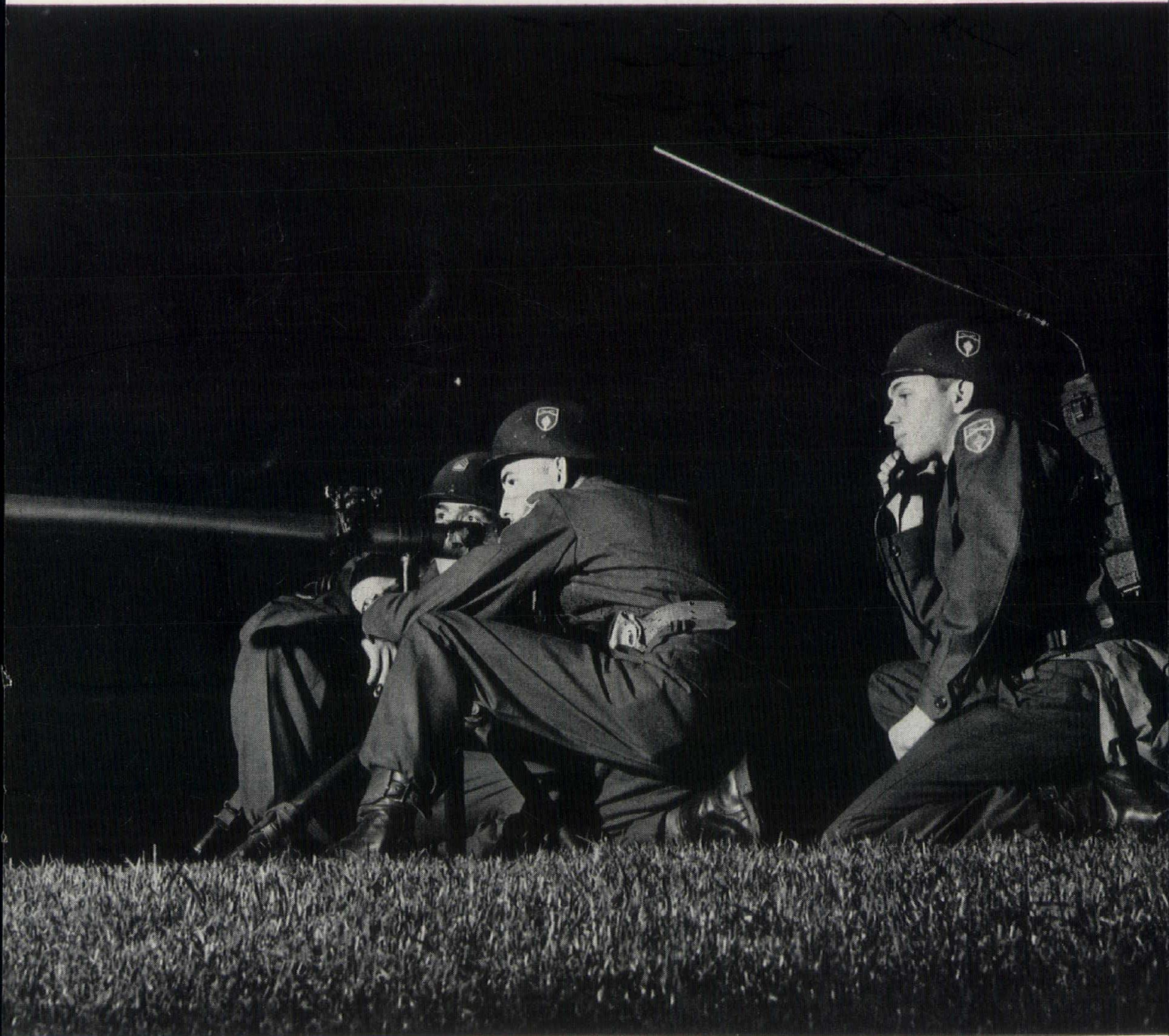
Virginia RECORD

JULY
1956

AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF PUBLICATION
ARCHITECTS
FOUNDED 1878

JUL 31 1956

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001
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THE MILITIA OF THE COMMONWEALTH: THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD

By VIRGINIA WALLER DAVIS

GEORGE MASON'S ISLAND

VIRGINIA BUSINESS REVIEW

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Published Monthly At The State Capital
By Virginia Publishers Wing, Inc.

EDITORIAL OFFICES:
303 West Main Street
Phones 7-2722—7-6717

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Please address all mail to:

VIRGINIA RECORD, P. O. Drawer 2-Y, Richmond 5, Va.

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VOLUME LXXVIII

JULY 1956

NUMBER SEVEN

A Trip to Rosewell

IN THE LAST issue of VIRGINIA RECORD, we mentioned the dereliction of the state in regard to the preservation of its physical past. That specifically concerned Hanover County. Since then I have taken a trip to the remains of the mansion—called by Waterman the greatest in the American colonies—which the Pages built on the York in Gloucester County. There were perhaps more beautiful houses in Virginia, if it came to an argument, but, according to all authorities, none was so magnificent and impressive as Rosewell.

In the early eighteenth century, Virginia's plantation-class had thoroughly established themselves in wealth and power, and—looking to their models in the British country gentry—the new colonial aristocrats turned to building mansions which symbolized their position as had the feudal lords built castles. Probably an impetus had been given the rich planters by Spotswood's elaboration and adornment of the new governor's house in Williamsburg, whose expenses were so large that the complaining House of Burgesses called it "The Palace." In any event, in a 20-year period after the completion of the Palace there occurred a rash of building great houses unequalled in any American colony.

Until recently the legend existed which made each planter his own architect. This is manifestly absurd, or so much would not have been made of Jefferson in the following generation for his architectural talents. The wealthy colonials owned books, with plates, published by English architects much

as our "home-building" magazines are published today. The assumption is that plantation families formed from these books a general concept of their desire, and brought in professionals—called "master workmen"—to work out the details. These unknown architects would be a good Ph.D. thesis for some student on Virginia, but, in the absence of such a thesis, we know only that such men of special training, skill and imagination did live in the period, beginning roughly 1725, when the first of the great houses were built.

These poor fellows of talent were called in to build monuments of pride, what today we would call "conspicuous consumption." The consumption was so conspicuous at Rosewell that two generations of the Mann Pages were impoverished in building it. The house later went out of the family, and nothing exists today except three-and-one-half roofless walls enclosing the vine-covered debris of fallen brick. Yet, those barren walls, posted with signs of BEWARE FALLING BRICKS, evoke more hauntingly the grandeur of eighteenth-century Virginia than almost anything I have seen.

From Richmond, you drive down to Williamsburg and that lovely highway to Yorktown, and then across the new bridge built over the wide York River. Some seven miles beyond Gloucester Point, if you are very alert, you will find a totally unhelpful state-marker at a vacated store bearing in dim letters the words White Marsh. You must there stop and inquire of the attendants at a nearby garage, who will give you the directions in a deep-dish country

accent. The directions are very complicated. I remember that the courteous young man with the molasses accent said that when we reached a fork, with "a lot of what-all" on a tree pointing in one direction, we should go to the other. This thing we did, between fields of young-planted corn and old woods, thick with creeper and wild grape, until we landed on a fine expanse of the York River at the home of a pleasant farmer-lady who lived in a cottage called (rightly) "Salt Air." This good woman re-directed us back toward the "what-all" signs, and pointed out that we must take a trail below that.

We found the trail, which was a euphemism, and persevered between more woods and cornfields—thick with birds of all kind, and one stately pheasant—until we entered a slumbrous thicket of honey-suckle, creepers crawling up live-oak and magnolia. There, turning the car into the brush, we saw the ghostly columns of the Rosewell ruins arising behind the green screen.

I remember that we—a doctor and a musician and I—had been joking a lot as we rolled in and out of the road's pits back and forth from "Salt Air," and that all at once nobody could say a word. The ruins were too awesome.

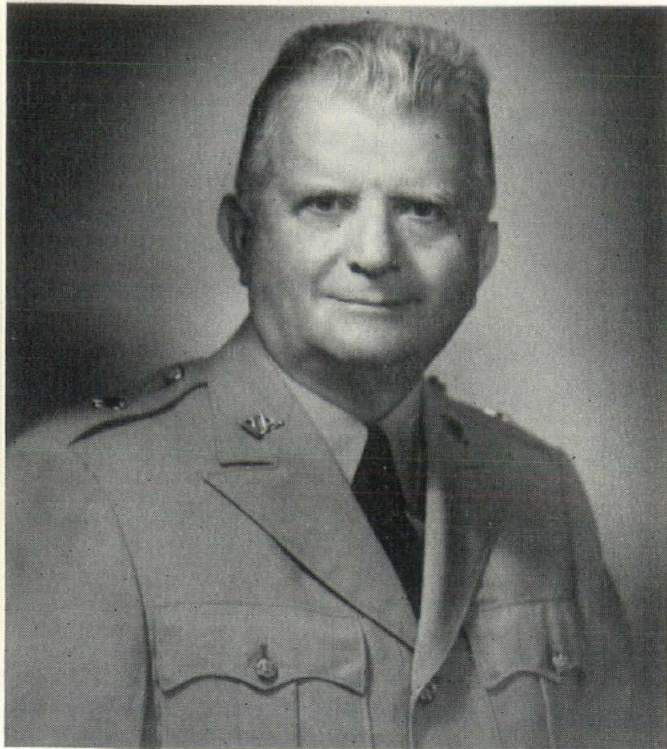
We moved single-file through the ankle-deep vines and under the brush, shooting pictures from all angles, as a means of establishing our own identity in terms of this lost grandeur, until we reached the back. There one-half of the four-story wall had fallen, with a pile of bricks on what 200 years before had been an entrance porch, and we could stare into the massiveness of the interior. Trees as well as vines grew up
(Continued on page 22)

COVER NOTE:

Richmond Grays man 57-mm rifle in Capitol Square as guardsmen mobilize. (National Guard Photo)

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(Foster Studio)

Brigadier General Sheppard Crump, Adjutant General of Virginia.

By VIRGINIA WALLER DAVIS

"FIGHTING against our enemies, whomsoever." That, in a nutshell, is the story of the Virginia Militia. A story that began to unfold when the earliest pioneers first "hit the beach" at Jamestown in 1607, and was rolling at full speed when the descendants of those men were the first to "hit the beach" at Normandy, on "D-Day" 338 years later.

In the mind's eye the militia picture might be long lines of marching men, the glint of sunshine on bayonets at "present arms," the dancing plumes atop dress helmets, the rumble of heavy artillery, the "ack-ack" of Anti Aircraft guns, or the spine tingling music of the bands. But it is also of the buckskin-clad militia of the earliest days of the young nation, on the alert for Indian attack . . . the flash of the bright uniforms of the "Colonials" and the blue of the Revolutionary soldier. It is the militiaman called to arms for the War of 1812 . . . off to Mexico in 1846. It is the long lines of men in gray in the War Between the States, and in blue or khaki in the Spanish American, Mexican Border and World Wars I and II. It is of the jaunty "overseas caps" and mud-spattered "battle fatigues" . . . for Virginia's military tradition was begun when troops established the first outposts in the new nation to be, where for generations the frontier militiaman kept his holstered pistol strapped to his plow handle, and his musket his constant companion. Other Virginia militiamen have continued that "on the alert" in all wars of the State and nation, and, in times of peace, have remained "on the alert" for any emergency, riots, disasters or threats of violence.

For the past 40 years (1916) this militia of Virginia has operated under the name Virginia National Guard. For nearly a century and a quarter before that time it was called the Virginia Volunteers, but in the earliest days of the

The Militia of the Commonwealth:

The Virginia National Guard

(Editor's note: The information for this article was obtained from official records and manuscripts assembled in the office of the Adjutant General by Colonel H. W. Holt, Assistant Adjutant General [Air], and from other records in the State and Congressional Libraries.)

militia each man served under the command of the "commander" of the various plantations, or the commander of his county, who was a Colonel or Major, commissioned by the Governor.

Units of today's Virginia National Guard trace their lineage back to the Colonial Militia, and to the illustrious "Virginia Regiment" which had such famous commanding officers as George Washington and Patrick Henry. Composed of militia from many Virginia counties, its history tells the Virginia story, from the mountains to the sea.

What is the Virginia National Guard today? Its manpower is close to 8,000 strong with more than 100 separate units composing its 20-odd organizations with headquarters in 40-odd different areas of the Commonwealth.

Regardless of occupations or responsibilities, the members of the Virginia National Guard drill once each week and, for many of its members, the annual summer encampments, of 15 days each, means the sacrifice of vacations. In times of peace it is not so easy to pay strict attention to military duty but on drill nights those lights flick on in armories across the Commonwealth, regardless of weather or weariness.

These men are trained by Officers of the Regular Army, detailed to Virginia as instructors and advisers. Uniforms and equipment are provided by the Federal Government and members are paid from Federal funds.

The overall direction of all matters pertaining to the Virginia National Guard is the responsibility of the Adjutant General of Virginia who heads the Division of Military Affairs.

The title "Adjutant General" is an ancient and honorable one having first been established in 1728 when Major Abraham Nicholas was appointed by the Royal Governor, "to be Adjutant to all his Majesty's Militia both Horse and Foot within this Colony and Dominion of Virginia." (Council Journal.

The first appointment was brought about by the quite obvious need for some uniform method of training, rather than the casual "exercising on holy days" by the plantation and county commanders. The Governor informed the Council that he had studied a plan through which the militia might be most useful and "had prepared a form of exercise as well for the foot as the horse" but it was necessary to have some person to train and instruct them "so as being once disciplined in one uniform method of exercise they shall be

more useful when there shall be occasion to call together the troops of several counties for the defence of the Country . . ."

"Major" Nicholas, having won the approval of members of the Council, became "Adjutant General" Nicholas and was charged " . . . carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of Adjutant by doing and performing all and all manner of things thereunto belonging; particularly by taking care that all the Militia both horse and foot as well officers and soldiers, within all and every county of this Colony and Dominion of Virginia be taught the use of the Firelock, Firing in Platoons, Marching and Counter Marching, and all other things that Officers and Soldiers ought to know and do. . . ." All county officers were also ordered to appoint a time and place for the members of their companies to receive instruction in the new uniform military training and organization, and, as a parting directive to the newly appointed Adjutant General, the Royal Governor charged him with following orders and directions which from time to time he would receive from "his Majesty, myself, or any of the Commanding Officers in the several counties and to act upon all occasions according to the Rules and Discipline of War."

He must have conducted himself in a manner pleasing to the "powers that be" for upon his death in 1738 they noted the success of his operations and voted to continue the office. His successor was Captain Isham Randolph, who represented Goochland County in the House of Burgesses and, upon his death, two members of the Washington family were his successors: Lawrence Wash-

ington in 1742 and George Washington in 1752. By the time the latter succeeded to the title, however, the job had grown so big and the militia so numerous that it was decided to divide the Colony of Virginia into four parts with four Adjutants General: George Washington for the Southern District; George Muse for the "Middle Neck"; William Fitzhugh for the Northern Neck and Thomas Bentley for the Frontier District, with Washington transferring to his beloved "Northern Neck" when Fitzhugh moved from the colony.

Virginia's Adjutant General today is Brigadier General Sheppard Crump, Henrico County native and former

Assistant Adjutant General, who was appointed last February to succeed the late Samuel Gardner Waller, Adjutant General of Virginia for the past 24 years.

There is little, if anything, about "the Guard" that General Crump does not know since he joined the Richmond Blues in 1903 at the age of 21 and has stepped right along from private, to Sergeant in the Mexican border affair, and on up through the ranks, and overseas service in 1918, until being named Lt. Colonel in 1922. Four years later he became U. S. Property and Disbursing Officer in the office of the Adjutant General, and continued in this job until named Assistant Adjutant General in 1941.

The Governor of Virginia is, as always, Commander-in-Chief of the Virginia National Guard and may summon them to active duty whenever the occasion demands.

Today's Militia . . . Virginia National Guard . . . has, since 1933, been a part



Photo at top of page: members of the 149th Bomb Squadron, Richmond unit of the Virginia Air National Guard are shown before taking off for two weeks of Summer training at Hancock Field, Syracuse, New York. Reviewing flight plans beside a B-26 bomber at Byrd Field, Richmond, are (left to right) Staff Sergeant R. E. Evans, Staff Sergeant S. A. Crostic, Airman First Class R. W. Muncy and First Lieutenant Stuart E. Tompkins. (Photo, Richmond Newspapers, Inc.) Left: two Virginia sergeants guard an approach to their bivouac area with a rifle and light machine gun at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Penna. during the summer encampment of the 29th Infantry Division. Left to right are Sfc. Edgar L. Vest of Christiansburg, and Sfc. Edward Wilson Reves of Radford. Both guardsmen are members of Company C. 116th Infantry Regiment.





Virginia National Guardsmen prepare for battle practice under the Confederate flag. Members of the Fredericksburg Tank Company of the National Guard, in summer training at Indian-town Gap, Pa., are (left to right) Sergeant Sam Bandy and Lieutenant Alvin Bandy, brothers, and Sergeants Charles W. McLeod, Richard Haynes and John Lee. (U.S. Army Photograph)

of the National Guard of the United States, created in that year. As such it is a reserve component of the Army of the United States, governed by rules and regulations prescribed by the Departments of the Army and the Air Force. All units and officers of the Virginia National Guard are recognized and accredited by the War Department and all members take a dual oath of allegiance as members of both the National Guard of Virginia and that of the United States. In the event of war they are almost automatically inducted into active Federal service.

In the Virginia National Guard today there are an array of units of Infantry, Artillery, Anti Aircraft, Engineers, Ordnance and Signal, plus Bands and Air Force.

GUARD'S MAJOR COMPONENTS

The major components of the Guard are the 29th Division (Virginia Part), the 176th Regimental Combat Team and the 107th Anti Aircraft Artillery Brigade.

The 29th Division (Virginia Part), with headquarters in Norfolk, includes the 116th Infantry, with headquarters in Staunton; the 111th Field Artillery, with headquarters in Norfolk; the 227th Field Artillery with headquarters in Covington and the 129th Anti Aircraft Artillery with headquarters in Portsmouth plus smaller units: the 29th Signal Company (Norfolk) and the 29th Reconnaissance Company (Berryville). The 116th Infantry has units in

Staunton, Roanoke, Blacksburg, Lexington, Bedford, Martinsville, Radford, Gate City, Lynchburg, South Boston, Farmville, Winchester, Charlottesville and Harrisonburg. All units of the 111th are in Norfolk and the 227th has units in Covington, Lynchburg and Clifton Forge. Units of the 129th are in Portsmouth, Suffolk, Franklin and Onancock.

The component parts of the 176th Regimental Combat Team are the 176th Infantry with units in Richmond, Powhatan, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, Hopewell, Blackstone, Emporia and West Point; the 442nd Field Artillery Battalion with all units in Richmond plus the 189th Engineer Combat Company (Fredericksburg) and the 3647th Ordnance Company (Richmond).

The 107th AAA Brigade has the following Battalions: 418th (Chatham) with units in Salem, Rocky Mount, Chatham, and Alta Vista; 710th (Newport News) with units in Newport News, Hampton and Williamsburg; 125th with all units in Alexandria; 615th (South Norfolk) with units in South Norfolk, Smithfield, and Virginia Beach, plus the following smaller units: 107th Brigade Headquarters Battery (Sandston), 224th Group Headquarters Battery (Glen Allen), 213th AAA Detachment (Sandston), 177th AAA Detachment (Manassas), 151st Signal Detachment (South Norfolk), 152nd Signal Detachment (Newport News), 377th Signal Detachment (Alexandria), 412th Ordnance Detachment

(Alexandria) and 413th Ordnance Detachment (South Norfolk).

In addition to the above groupings, the city of Danville is headquarters for the 560th Field Artillery Battalion composed of Headquarters Battery, Service Battery and A Battery, all located in Danville.

The 149th Bombardment Squadron of the Air National Guard of Virginia is composed of approximately 375 Airmen and 50-odd officers and is based at Byrd Field, Richmond.

INCLUDES TWO BANDS

Since no military group would be complete without the music of the bands, the Guard is proud to include two among its units. These are the 90th Army Band of Roanoke and the 221st Army Band of Petersburg.

The 176th and 116th Infantry Regiments trace their lineage to the illustrious "Virginia Regiment" while the 116th also proudly bears the soubriquet of "Stonewall Brigade" for valor at a later day.

According to official records (recognized and approved by the War Department), the earliest predecessor to the 176th Regiment was organized in 1652 as the Charles City-Henrico Counties Regiment of Militia, but this Militia, along with the militia from other Virginia counties formed a united front in "The Virginia Regiment" in the year 1754. This Regiment was, in turn, expanded in 1758 to form two Regiments, the First Infantry, commanded by George Washington and the Second Infantry commanded by William Byrd. The Second Regiment was soon mustered out but the Virginia Regiment was destined to be organized and reorganized many times. In 1774, as the Dunmore Brigade, it was commanded by General Andrew Lewis and, reconstituted as the "1st Virginia" in 1775, it was commanded by Colonel Patrick Henry, and transferred to the Continental Army in 1776.

The names and numerals designating the many different organizations composing the old Militia and present day Virginia National Guard have been changed so continually through the years that to trace even one of the older units is a job to make spots dance before the eyes. The traditions, however, have remained the same and the history of each group is a story in itself.

There is the official record in 1628 of Lt. Thomas Osborne being appointed Captain in command of "the College" and "Neck of Land" plantations, Colony of Virginia, and in 1632

the "commanders" of all plantations were not only ordered to exercise their men but also to take an exact muster of all their possessions . . . cattle, hogs, goats, gardens, houses and equipment, and "if they shall make default to be censured by the Governor and Council."

There is the interesting record in 1645 of the Militia being ordered by the Council to proceed to the falls of the Appomattox River, under the command of Major Peter Jones, and, for the protection of the settlers, to establish a fort there at the present site of Petersburg, and a graphic description, 20-odd years later (1666) of the military districts of Virginia, "... as ye country is divided in 19 counties so it is into 4 provinces . . ." and every county seemed not only to have a regiment but also a troop of horse, plus "... a captain of ye fort by commission from ye King and a Captain of ye Guard by commission from ye Governor, as all ye other officers are . . ."

Laws governing the Militia have been made, revised, countermanded and remade since the earliest years but in 1792 the "Militia Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia" together with the Acts of Congress of the U. S. were published and became the Military bible "more effectually to provide for the national defense by establishing an uniform militia throughout the United States, and for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, sup-

press insurrections and repel invasions." This was "the Militia Act" of 1792 and all men between 18 and 45 were members of the militia and Virginia's Infantry was organized into four divisions, 21 brigades and 126 regiments. State finances did not permit extensive training but the larger communities supported well drilled small units, and in 1794 the Virginia Volunteers was organized and became an all important factor in the life of the Commonwealth. The name was not changed until 1916 when one of the many "new" Defense Acts was passed, but after 1903 all state militia came under Federal inspection and supervision for the purpose of uniformity in training and quicker and more effective mobilization in event of an emergency.

COLORFUL NAMES

Units of the Virginia National Guard have, through the years, had many colorful names: Fairfax Militia, Monticello Guards, Culpeper Minute Men, Bath Rifles, Spotswood Guards, Grimes Battery, Huntington Guards, Hoge Tyler Rifles and many, many more plus all of the illustrious companies of "Blues," "Grays," and Howitzers.

Virginia's Militia has served in all wars, beginning with the French and Indian and continuing until the present day and many units may carry proof of this proud record on their "Campaign Streamers."

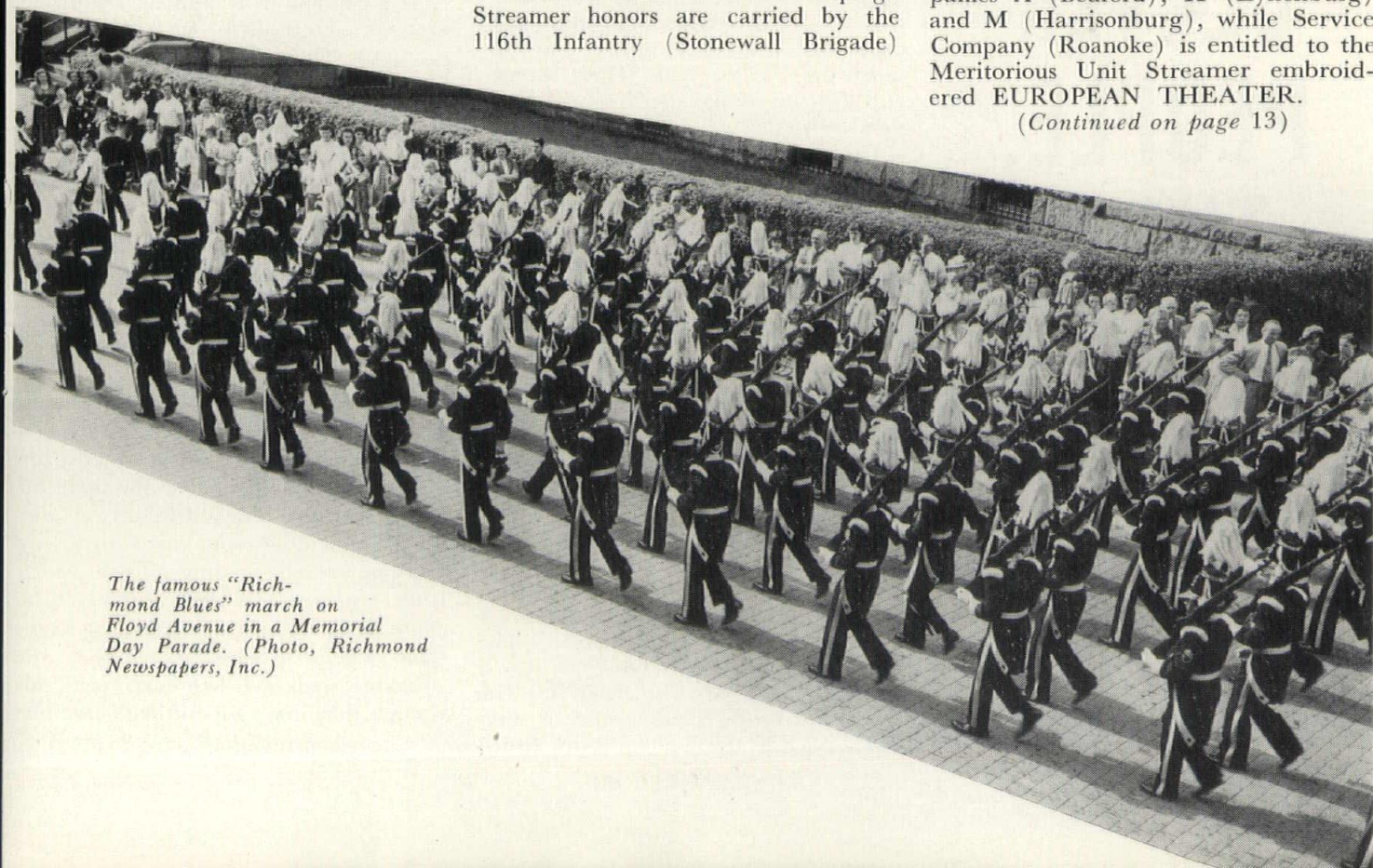
The most numerous of all Campaign Streamer honors are carried by the 116th Infantry (Stonewall Brigade)

originally organized in 1742 as the Augusta County Regiment of Militia, commanded by Colonel James Patton, and which became a part of the earliest "Virginia Regiment." Today, with headquarters in Staunton and commanded by Colonel Archibald A. Sproul, it carries the following Campaign Streamers: **Revolutionary War**—Virginia, 1775, Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Yorktown, South Carolina, 1780-81, North Carolina, 1781; **War of 1812**—Maryland, 1814; **War Between the States**—Virginia, 1861, 1862, 1863—First and Second Manassas, Valley, Peninsula, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, Maryland, 1864, Shenandoah, Petersburg, Appomattox; **World War I**—Alsace, Meuse-Argonne; **World War II**—Normandy (with arrowhead) Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe.

The Decorations won by this Regiment include: Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered **N o r m a n d y** Beachhead and Streamer in the colors of the French Croix de Guerre, with palm, embroidered **B e a c h e s** of Normandy. In addition to these, the Distinguished Unit Streamer embroidered **V I R E**, and Streamer in the colors of the Croix de Guerre, with silver-gilt star, embroidered **V I R E**, were won by Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Roanoke), Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion (Lynchburg) and Companies A (Bedford), H (Lynchburg) and M (Harrisonburg), while Service Company (Roanoke) is entitled to the Meritorious Unit Streamer embroidered **EUROPEAN THEATER**.

(Continued on page 13)

The famous "Richmond Blues" march on Floyd Avenue in a Memorial Day Parade. (Photo, Richmond Newspapers, Inc.)



CLEVER PEOPLE, THESE CHINESE

by
FREDERICK RUSSELL

(Mr. Russell submitted this article to VIRGINIA RECORD shortly before his untimely death in Richmond some weeks ago. For pictures, he was waiting for Emma Yorke Chonge's Chinese garden to bloom in August; but we feel you'll enjoy the article, pictures or not.)

THE CAPITAL of the Old Dominion seems an incongruous place for Orientals to settle. Yet Richmond is home to some 150 Chinese residents and about 50 Chinese children, according to Jimmy Woo, who for two years was Secretary of the Chinese Merchants Association and each Christmas Eve appears as one of the Wise Men in the pageant at the Carillon.

The Chinese in Richmond are comparatively recent arrivals. The first to settle here a little more than 70 years ago was Yet Sing Woo. He came over from the province of Wan Chow in China and started a laundry. He would be more than 90 if he were alive today.

The first Chinese family settled in Richmond 50 years ago, another Woo with his wife, a son and a daughter. They also went into the laundry business. Woos were predominant in Richmond until 20 years ago.

The Chinese in Richmond never have grouped together, as in San Francisco and New York, into what might be considered even vaguely a Chinatown. They are scattered all over the city. Thirty of them own laundries, six restaurants. Four have their own homes. Most of the others live in or above their places of business.

Richmond's oldest Chinese resident today is Fook Woo. He will be 77 his next birthday, the sixteenth day in the sixth month of the Chinese year. The Chinese calendar is calculated on the lunar instead of the solar year, which has a thirteenth month every third year. This makes their anniversaries fall upon the same day rather than the same date every year. Their months and days are designated by number instead of name.

Fook Woo was born in San Francisco and taken by his parents to China when he was four. When he returned, he thinks he was 22. He came to Richmond to start a laundry. He recently left with his third son, Ling, for a visit to Hong Kong.

Chinese men came over alone at first. They worked long and hard years before they could bring their wives and families from China. Conditions were far different when Fook Woo was a young man. He did not have the opportunity for schooling which has benefited his four sons since. His first son, Cleo, went to V. P. I., but succumbed to the laundry business when he decided to marry. His second son is an architectural draftsman with Baskervill & Son, Hankins & Anderson. The fourth, Hong, is studying to be a pharmacist at Medical College. The four Woo brothers are proud of their war service in the United States Army.

Laundry was washed by hand and pressed with flatirons until about 1912. Men wore detached collars, which increased hand labor. When Jimmy Woo came to Richmond from Canton by way of San Francisco after the First World War, his cousin Charlie Woo had one of the first steam pressing machines. Modern equipment has shortened considerably the old 12 to 15 hours' working days endured in Chinese laundries. Within the past 17 years, only six Chinese laundries in Richmond have closed and those were due mostly to landlords wanting the buildings or the shortage of help.

Laundryman Cleo Woo offers an interesting theory as to why so many Chinese men have gone into that business. Not, he says, because they are particularly adept at it. They originally considered it women's work. The first Chinese in this country were laborers on the railroad in the west facing daily the perilous choice of being killed by Indians or robbed by Mexicans. Also in those days, laundry was loaded on ships, taken away to be washed and often not returned for six months. Woo thinks that the first Chinamen took to doing laundry not only as a less hazardous job, but also as an accommodation to get back clean clothes quicker.

Chinese laundrymen today are happy in their work. They are their own bosses, the business is theirs. And as Cleo Woo points out, "If business isn't good, you don't fire yourself."

The Chinese in Richmond are proud of their countrymen's accomplishments in many fields. Charlie Woo's son, a graduate of V.P.I., is with the Navy Department in Washington. Another Chinese man works for the State Highway Department here and a Chinese girl from Richmond teaches high school in Winchester.

Emma Yorke Chonge, wife of the laundryman, raises Chinese vegetables on her eight-acre farm in Chesterfield County. Born in Minnesota and educated in China, Mrs. Chonge has lived in Richmond 14 years. She started her Chinese garden six years ago with seeds imported from China by a brother in San Francisco. Her Chinese watermelon puzzle American friends seeing them for the first time. They are sort of like squash, resemble pumpkins with a fuzz and powdered coating. They weigh from ten to 20 pounds and can't be eaten raw, but are cooked as a vegetable or used in soup.

Edible pods are like early peas, although they don't fill out like peas. The

(Continued on page 23)



North elevation of Mansion House, taken about 1905. (Courtesy, Library of Congress)

George Mason's Island

by MOLLIE SOMERVILLE

I SEE IN A late Alexandria newspaper, notice of . . . [the] projected bridge over the Potomac River, opposite, or nearly opposite, to George Town." Those words might have been written today; actually they occur in a letter dated 1792 from George Mason, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (the basis of Jefferson's Declaration of Independence) and father of the Federal Bill of Rights. The letter was to his son, John.

So a connecting link between Virginia and Washington just north of the Lincoln Memorial, though a current project, is not a new idea. Apparently L'Enfant, the Capital's noted planner, had given it thought, as Mason's last letter written to his son continues: "You should take care to be fully prepared in time with a true plan and representation of the situation of the place as connected with both George Town and the federal city. And I think it would be of great importance if by writing to Mr. L'Enfant you could procure his opinion, with his reasons, in favor of a bridge at the Island, not letting the George Town people know that you make any such application."

The island referred to was Mason's Island, now also known as Theodore Roosevelt Island. Roughly triangular in shape, and containing about 75 acres, it lies close to the Virginia shore and the George Washington Memorial Highway, and about 200 yards from Georgetown, which is on the northerly bank of the Potomac. The attractive island has a colorful history.

The early history of the island abounds in legends of Indian villages, Spanish explorers and English adventurers. It has been known by various other names — Anacostian, Analostan

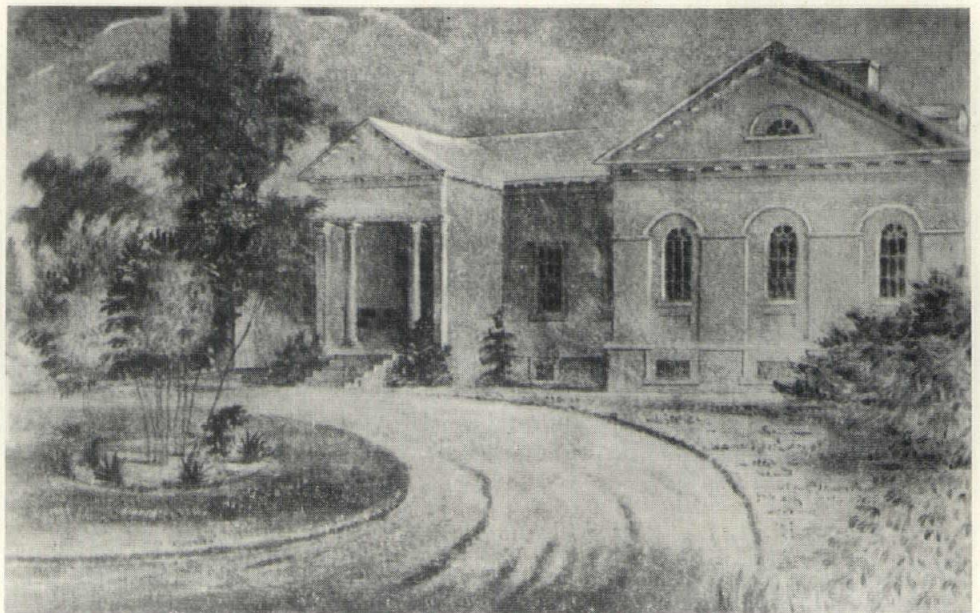
(both of which are corruptions of the name of the Necostins, one of the Indian tribes in this locality), My Lord's Island, in honor of Lord Baltimore, and Barbadoes, so called by a seafaring former owner. George Mason of Gunston Hall inherited the island from his father, who had acquired it in 1717. During the 125 years it was owned by the Mason family, the island was known as Mason's Island.

George Mason of Gunston Hall was the fourth of that name in Virginia, his great-grandfather having left England after Cromwell's defeat. The founder of the family in the New World obtained a patent of Virginia land in March 1655 "for the transportation of eighteen persons into this

colony," — 50 acres for each one brought over at "Captain Mason's" expense. This tract of 900 acres extended northward "to the falls of the great river Pawtomake, above the Necostin's towne." In 1684 the Virginia Assembly asked Captain Mason to provide a boat to transport soldiers and officers over the Occoquan River.

When George Mason of Gunston Hall inherited both the original grant of land (greatly increased by succeeding generations) and the ferry still in use at Occoquan, the boy was ten years old. His father drowned while crossing the Potomac in a sailboat. George's younger brother was sent to England to study law, but George received little

(Continued on page 19)



Mansion House on Mason's Island. Copy of sketch loaned by Mrs. Cooper Dawson, John O. Brostrup, photographer. (Courtesy, Library of Congress)

VIRGINIA BUSINESS REVIEW

By WILLIAM BIEN

Business Editor, *The Richmond News Leader*

THE STORY of the month in Virginia has to do with food—and with two of the nation's largest concerns in the business of supplying same.

Therein is a confusing situation. Both companies have the same name. Both announced plans last month for major expansion programs into Virginia.

One is the Food Fair of Philadelphia. The other is Food Fair Super Markets of Washington, a division of the Grand Union Company.

Both made announcements that indicate a head-on battle for supremacy to come. Both will move into central Virginia with half-a-dozen or more supermarkets of the most modern design.

For Food Fair of Philadelphia, this will be the first bid for the Virginia food dollar.

Food Fair of Washington, on the other hand, already has five stores in northern Virginia.

* * *

Banking-by-air has not yet been perfected, but the Bank of Virginia and Eastern Air Lines have combined forces to offer something new in bank-airline ticket service.

Here's how it operates:

A passenger makes his reservation with Eastern. Then he simply goes or sends to the nearest neighborhood office of the bank in outlying sections of Richmond. The exchange teller issues the ticket and receives payment for it.

If the passenger wishes, the cost can be charged to his checking account.

* * *

Plans for immediate construction of a 2,100,000-bushel grain export elevator in Norfolk were announced by Cargill, Inc., one of the nation's largest grain-handling firms.

John H. MacMillan, Jr., president of the company, said the Norfolk elevator will begin operation by the end of the year and will almost double the port city's grain exporting capacity.

Addison Douglass, southeastern regional manager for Cargill, will then move his headquarters from Baltimore to Norfolk. About 50 persons will be employed.

Cargill's only other elevator in Virginia is at Richmond.

* * *

Virginia's newest life insurance company—First Colony Life of Lynchburg—named two executives this month.

Dr. Charles W. Whitmore, a native of Salem and practitioner in dermatology in Lynchburg, was named medical director.

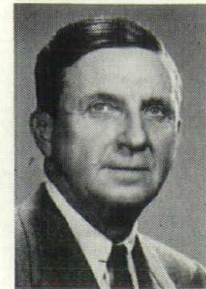
Cecil K. Cress, a native of Lynchburg formerly with the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, was appointed general agent.

* * *

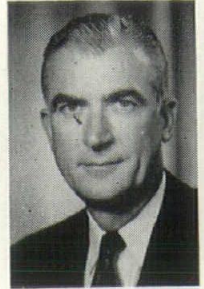
Boyd A. Propert, former sales executive with General Electric Company, has been named enrollment department manager for the Virginia Hospital Service Association (Blue Cross) and Virginia Medical Service Association (Blue Shield).

During the past year, he has been on the faculty of the University of Richmond's School of Business Administration.

* * *



G. F. COCKE



E. H. OULD

C. Francis Cocke has announced his retirement as president of The First National Exchange Bank of Roanoke and the election of E. H. Ould as president of the bank and its chief executive officer.

Mr. Cocke will continue as chairman of the board of directors and as a member of the Executive and Trust Committees of the board. These actions were taken by the board of directors of the bank at a recent meeting.

Mr. Cocke has had a long and distinguished career as a lawyer and banker. Graduated from the University of Virginia in 1908 with an A.B. degree, he subsequently attended the University Law School. He was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 1910, and began his law practice in Roanoke where he later became the senior member of the law firm of Cocke, Hazlegrove and Shackelford.

He first became identified with banking in 1927, when upon the death of his father, Lucian H. Cocke, he was elected to succeed him as a director and inactive vice-president of The First National Exchange Bank. In 1937, he was elected executive vice president and became an active officer of the bank. Upon the death of J. Tyler Meadows, in 1938 the board of directors elected Mr. Cocke to serve as president succeeding Mr. Meadows.

Mr. Cocke, through the years, has been active in the Virginia Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association, serving at various times as member of the board of directors, vice-president and president of the Virginia Bankers Association. Serving in many capacities in the American Bankers Association, he became its president in 1951, the third Virginian to achieve the highest honor bestowed by banking.

Other activities include work in the



C. Fair Brooks, president of Brooks Transportation Company, Inc., inquires about the new Air-bank ticket service inaugurated June 1 by The Bank of Virginia and Eastern Air Lines. Temple W. Broaddus (left), vice president and in charge of the bank at 2900 West Broad Street, Richmond, looks on with Thomas A. Sheehan (second from left) Richmond Traffic and Sales Manager for Eastern Air Lines, Inc. Mrs. Eleanor W. Scarborough, exchange teller for the bank, explains how she can issue tickets for Eastern to Mr. Brooks and even debit the cost to his checking account. (Dementi Studio)

U. S. Savings Bond Division of the Treasury Department, director of Peoples Federal Savings and Loan Association of Roanoke, the Virginia Iron Coal & Coke Company, the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia and Lawyers Title Insurance Corporation. He has long been a member of the board of trustees of Hollins College, becoming president of the board in 1938. He is a trustee of the Roanoke Memorial Hospital Association, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and has many other civic and religious interests.

Mr. Ould, the new president, is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and the Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.

He became associated with the bank in 1936, becoming assistant vice-president in 1938. He was elected vice-president in 1940, and was named executive vice-president in 1949. Mr. Ould was elected to the board of directors of the bank in 1950.

He is a past president of the Roanoke Clearing House Association and, in the Virginia Bankers Association, served as a member of the Trust School Faculty of the Virginia Bankers Conference.

Since 1954 he has served as American Bankers Association vice-president for Virginia.

Outside the field of banking, Mr. Ould is a director of the Times-World Corporation and a member of the board of trustees of Roanoke College. He was recently appointed to the Board of Visitors of Virginia Military Institute.

His civic activities include past president and director of the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of Finance Committee, Roanoke Chapter, American Red Cross; past director Blue Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America. He served as a member of Roanoke City Charter Study Commission, and is now a member of the board of directors of the Young Men's Christian Association; and a member of the board of directors of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra.

* * *

Thomas L. Preston, a native of Richmond and former attorney with the Chesapeake and Ohio and the Seaboard Air Line railroads, has been named vice-president and general counsel of the Association of American Railroads in charge of the law department.

Another Virginian—Harry J. Breithaupt, a native of Salem—was named a general attorney in the AAR law department.

* * *

to tell the Virginia Story



(Harris & Ewing)

S. F. MERRIAM

Samuel F. Merriam, Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. executive, has retired from active service to end a 43-year career in the Bell System.

Merriam, one-time general traffic manager for the C&P in Richmond, has been assistant vice-president in Washington since 1945.

* * *

Virginia Electric and Power Company, which has been making a regular thing of it lately, announced another expansion program to meet demand for electricity last month.

This one consists of two 150,000 kilowatt generating units—at Yorktown and Portsmouth—that will cost \$43,000,000.

Vepco also named an associate general counsel—George D. Gibson—and assistant general counsel—T. Justin Moore, Jr.—at a meeting of directors late last month.

The electric utility made other news within the past month when the national Public Utilities Advertising Association awarded Vepco first prize in its annual competition for two types of advertising. The awards were received for Vepco at a special ceremony by G. Fred Cook, Jr., director of public relations; James N. Cargill, president of Cargill & Wilson, Vepco's advertising agency; Tom D. Fulford, Vepco vice-president in charge of sales, and C. E. Anderson, Director of residential and commercial sales.

* * *

A native Virginian—D. Woodson Ramsey, Jr.—has been named coordinator of world-wide marketing activities for Esso Standard Oil Company.

Ramsey is a native of Sydnorsville in Franklin County who has been with Esso since his graduation from Roanoke College in 1928.

* * *

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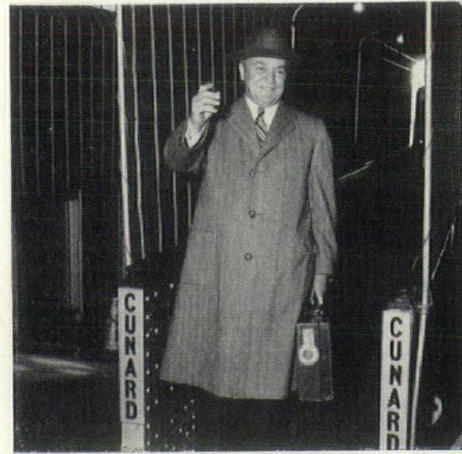
crete technicians is to assist engineers and architects with concrete design or construction problems.

The educational literature and the many drawings of typical concrete uses which the Association distributes widely in the United States and Canada, are intended to be helpful in obtaining the maximum service concrete can render. All drawings of typical designs carry a notation that final working drawings should be prepared and approved by qualified engineers or architects.

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(Photo by Serating)

NEW YORK—Returning from a London business trip, T. Coleman Andrews, former Federal Tax Chief, and now Board Chairman and President of American Fidelity & Casualty Co., disembarks from the Queen Mary. Mr. Andrews, whose recent *American Weekly* article, "Let's Get Rid of the Income Tax," stirred much public interest, was greeted by a host of New York newsmen and queried on his views.

Diggs and Beadles Seed Company, Inc.—one of the oldest in Richmond—announced a major expansion program this month.

The main office in downtown Richmond was closed and moved to the growing west end of Virginia's capital city. Both suburban stores began building additions.

Arthur S. Beck, Jr., president, also announced the election of Gilbert L. Miles, formerly landscape superintendent of the State Capitol, as vice-president, and appointment of Clarence W. Davidson as assistant to the president.

* * *

H. E. Stevens of Fredericksburg has been named chairman of the Richmond Section, American Society for Quality Control. He is quality control director of the American Viscose Company's Sylvania Division.

Other officers named for the next chapter year are:

J. R. Thomen, of the duPont Company, Richmond, vice-chairman; Dr. H. E. Robbins, of Allied Chemical and Dye Corp., Hopewell, secretary, and D. P. Long, of Reynolds Metals Co., Richmond, treasurer.

* * *

B. E. Ball, Mayor of Norton, Virginia, for the past eight years, became acting president of the League of Virginia Municipalities on May 15th, following the resignation of Ira Willard, City Manager of Alexandria, who is moving to Florida. Mr. Ball is a long time employee of the Norfolk and Western Railroad having been with them for 39 years.

THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD

(Continued from page 7)



The 125th AAA Battalion (Alexandria unit) man a 120 mm gun at Bethany Beach, Fla.

The 116th is the Regiment whose forebears in the War Between the States became a part of the 1st Brigade, Army of the Shenandoah, commanded by General Thomas J. Jackson, which, on the field of First Manassas won for itself and commander the historic name "Stonewall."

This was more recently a component part of the 29th Division in World War II and, with elements of the 111th Field Artillery, was the first organization to cross the English Channel and spearheaded the invasion of Normandy.

Of their actions the **Richmond Times-Dispatch** said editorially, "The 116th Virginia Infantry, formerly of the Virginia National Guard, has written a record of imperishable glory in Normandy. Not only did it break the German beach defenses at one of the most heavily fortified and most strongly

held points of all, but it took St. Lo last week. The extraordinary citation given the regiment by General Omar Bradley . . . does not take account of St. Lo's fall which Don Whitehead, of the Associated Press, described as climaxing 'eight days of the hardest fighting American troops have yet encountered on the Continent.'" The 116th, which then included Guardsmen from Charlottesville, Staunton, Martinsville, Lynchburg, South Boston, Chase City, Emporia, Farmville and Bedford, were praised by General Bradley for their "superlative courage and indomitable behaviour on D-Day in the face of exploding mines, withering German fire, violent seas and other obstacles. They were given a crucially important role and discharged it nobly, albeit at a terrific cost in casualties. . ."

Battle honors for the 176th (formerly First Infantry) include not only

nine major engagements of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, ten major engagements in the War Between the States and the Alsace and Meuse Argonne offensives in World War I, but also participation in the Mexican War of 1846; and, in 1948, at a formal parade held at Camp Pendleton, Virginia Beach, a Regimental Battle Streamer was presented to it by Col. Prior-Palmer, D.S.O. of the British Embassy in Washington, for participation in battles and campaigns as far back as 1648.

"FIRST INFANTRY"

This lineal descendant of the earliest colonial militia was designated as the 183rd Infantry in 1929 when, at the request of its Regimental Commander, the late Colonel J. Fulmer Bright, the War Department, by special order signed by the Secretary of War gave permission for it to assume the name "First Infantry," the order being made effective on the birthday of the original commander, George Washington. Although today designated as the 176th this Regiment may still, if it so desires, write, after its numeral, "formerly First Infantry."

In 1791, after many reorganizations, this Regiment had no less a person than John Marshall as its commanding officer.

Today the 176th Regiment is commanded by Colonel Arnold W. Ellis who is also commanding officer of the 176th Regimental Combat Team, of which it is a part. Composed largely of Richmond units it includes that famous command "the Richmond Blues."

It was not all "beer and skittles" for the members of that early Virginia

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Regiment and, to boot, the records tell that each man had to "provide himself with suit of good blue cloth and the coat to be faced and cuffed with scarlet and trimmed with silver; a scarlet waistcoat with silver lace; blue breeches and a silver laced hat, if to be had, for Camp or Garrison duty. . . ."

The War Department awards Coats of Arms to military units, in strict heraldic succession in keeping with their present and past services. The 176th's is a shield of blue denoting Infantry, with gray cross bars commemorating service with the Confederate States Armies; the Fleur-de-lis, service in France in World War I; the red cross for Revolutionary War service and the arrow across the top for service in Indian campaigns. The motto is "Liberty or Death."

"Ever Forward" is the motto of the 116th, whose Coat-of-Arms is similar, and for the 111th Field Artillery the motto is "Never Unprepared." The latter's shield is red denoting Artillery, two vertical stripes suggesting the Battle Streamer for the War of 1812, a blue cross edged with white for Confederate service and a gold fleur-de-lis for service in France. These are but a few of many awarded to units of the Virginia National Guard and of which

they are very proud.

In 1916-17 units of the Virginia National Guard took part in the Mexican Border affair and at the outbreak of World War I contributed officers and men to every branch of the service, while the established Infantry V.N.G. Regiments (1st-2nd and 4th) were assembled in the 116th Regiment of the 29th Division and the Virginia Artillery Regiment became the Field Artillery of the 29th. Other components of the Virginia National Guard served as special troops with the 42nd Division. At the close of World War I the First Virginia Infantry and the 116th Infantry were reorganized and formed a part of the 29th Division composed of troops from Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia and Pennsylvania.

Re-inducted into Federal service for World War II, the First Infantry was redesignated 176th, seeing service in this country and supplying replacements for the armies of the Continent and the Pacific area. The 116th was again a part of the 29th Division and the story of its activities, that of the 111th Field Artillery, and other units and individual members of "the Guard," are now among the brightest pages of the history of that war.

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Members of Company K, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, unload a recoilless rifle from a trailer during summer training at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Penna. Left to right are Sfc. Robert D. Coe, Sgt. Thomas M. Burroughs, Cpl. Charles A. Garrison and Sgt. Charles B. Johnson, all of Charlottesville.

It is safe to say that to try to untangle the many names and numerals which have been held or are now being held, by various Guard units that more than likely, somewhere along the line the history flows back to "the Virginia Regiment" . . . the old "First" or "Second" Infantry . . . the 176th . . . 116th . . . 111th or 29th Division. They, with their many component parts, embody the military history of the Commonwealth.

In Petersburg, where in 1645 militia under Major Peter Jones established a fort for the protection of the settlers, a company of foot soldiers marched to fight under General Winfield Scott in the War of 1812 and win for themselves praise from the President of the United States for their military bearing and jaunty "Cockades" . . . and for their city the enduring name "Cockade City." Here, later on, was formed the Petersburg "Grays" and today there are two units: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion (176th) and Company G (176th).

ALEXANDRIA UNITS

In Alexandria, where the Fairfax Militia flourished as early as 1693 and units marched out under Washington in the French and Indian War, there are today five different units of Anti Aircraft Artillery, including Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (125th AAA Battalion) and Batteries A, B, C and D plus the 412th Ordnance De-

to tell the Virginia Story

tachment and the 377th Signal Detachment, Radar Maintenance Unit.

Charlottesville's unit of Militia today (Co. K, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry) traces its lineage directly to the militia company formed in 1745 soon after the formation of Albemarle County and has, for many a long day been colorful designated as the Monticello Guards.

In the Williamsburg area, where in 1628 Lt. Osborne was busily in command of "the College" and "Neck of Land" plantation's militia, there is now Battery C, (710th AAA Battalion); and in Winchester, where militia marched forth to participate in the French and Indian War and in 1775 there was organized the "Captain Daniel Morgan's Riflemen," there are now located the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry and Company I of the same.

What story would be complete without mention of the pride and joy of Virginians, the Richmond Light Infantry Blues, about which volumes have been written and which, identified by its plumed headgear and brilliant dress uniforms, pauses each year on the 10th of May to observe the anniversary of its organization on that day in 1789 and to look back over a proud history of service since that date.

Spin the wheel around the Commonwealth and there can be found in every section "sparkling segments of a wondrous whole" composing the militia of

the Commonwealth . . . the descendants of those justly famous Norfolk Light Artillery Blues originally organized in 1828, now part of the 111th; Portsmouth's Grimes Battery, organized in 1809 as a part of the Portsmouth Light Artillery which played such prominent parts in the Battle of Craney Island, War of 1812 and War Between the States; Harrisonburg's Rockingham Rifles and Spotswood Guard and the militia which marched from Harrisonburg for "Dunmore's Indian War;" Martinsville's militia, descended from western Virginia units in the Revolutionary War; Lynchburg's old "Home Guards," organized in 1859 and Farmville's in 1853; the valiant members of the Huntington Rifles of Newport News; the historic Richmond Howitzer Battalion, organized in 1859; the descendants of the Danville Grays organized in 1856, while in Washington's boyhood home of Fredericksburg the militia is descended from an early battery of Artillery organized in 1811 for action in the War of 1812. The history of this battery is shared by Lexington for it was reorganized there at a much later date and became known as the "Rockbridge Artillery," a great favorite of General "Stonewall" Jackson's who assisted in their organization and

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CO. I NOTTOWAY GRAYS, 1893

CO. I merged with Co. C, Farmville, 1898, Spanish American War

CO. F reorganized prior to World War I, 1916

CO. F 183rd. INF., 1919

CO. F FIRST VIRGINIA INFANTRY, 1929

CO. F 176th INF. VANG., Feb. 3rd, 1941, entered World War II Service

CO. F 176th INF. VANG., reorganized May 8, 1947

THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

training. Neither time nor space are sufficient to name them all, but individually their valorous deeds are recorded and each has Virginia's undying thanks.

In 1940, when it was expected that the entire Virginia National Guard would be inducted into Federal service for World War II, the Governor ordered the organization of a State Militia to have the status of an auxiliary organization to the National Guard of Virginia, and to perform within the Commonwealth the duties ordinarily performed by the Guard. At first named the Virginia Protective Force, this name was changed to Virginia State Guard in 1942 and this force, consisting of 13 battalions and 54 Infantry companies was commanded by the late Brigadier General E. E. Goodwyn of Emporia and served throughout the war. In addition to this auxiliary force, there was also formed the

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FT. DEFIANCE, VA.



Sgt. Robert F. Paulsen, right, of the 29th Signal Company, 29th Infantry Division, issues a rifle to Pvt. Robert A. Austin during a surprise alert of Norfolk National Guardsmen to determine how quickly they could report for duty after being called.

Virginia Reserve Militia, worthy descendants of the "Minute Men" of colonial days and their green uniforms reminiscent of those worn by their forebears. This group was formed from the sportsmen of the State who, already armed, were on the alert for sabotage and internal trouble.

Virginia from time to time has had auxiliary naval units of her militia and among the most colorful of these groups was the "Oyster Navy," constituted as the 1st Battalion Virginia Naval Militia in April, 1917, and serving throughout the war with a total of 24 small ships and launches in operation. In 1921, through the efforts of the late George Cole Scott, the naval militia became a part of the newly formed U. S. Naval Reserve and flourished over a period of years, being given high rating with other Naval Reserve divisions in the U. S. It was not reactivated after the second World War.

VANG

Virginia's Air National Guard, activated June 21, 1947, with but 40 pilots, has now a contingent of more than 400 officers and men, operating 15 tactical aircraft and two non-tactical and is under the command of Major William Haymes.

The problem of lack of armories, which has plagued State military authorities almost since the beginning of time, is now on the way to being overcome with 31 permanent armories in operation in 28 cities, 16 interim facilities in use and an active building program under way.

The Virginia National Guard summer training program will take them to Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (Pa.), Fort Knox (Ky.), Fort Miles, Bethany Beach (Del.) and Hancock Field, Syracuse (N. Y.), while Selective Service Sections will train in Richmond.

The State Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Virginia National Guard, Col. William G. Wharton commanding, are based at the Howitzers Armory in Richmond and offices of the Adjutant General, the Division of Military Affairs, and all matters pertaining thereto are in the State Office

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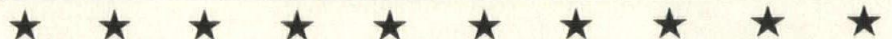
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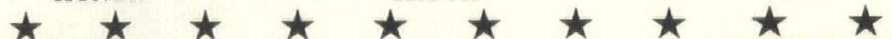
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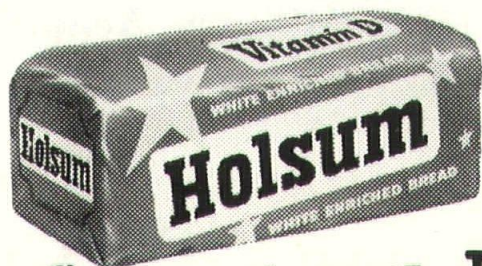
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Building in a busy corner of Capitol Square. The Adjutant General's staff includes the following: Col. H. W. Holt (U.S.A. Ret.), Assistant Adjutant General (Air); Col. Paul M. Booth, U. S. Property and Fiscal Officer for Virginia; Colonel B. H. Baylor, Military Accounts Executive; Lt. Col. T. J. B. Lohr, Military Storekeeper; Lt. Col. H. S. Price, State Maintenance Officer and Major R. Y. Naill, Superintendent, State Military Reservation.

"A well regulated militia is necessary to the security of a free state," so wrote the founding fathers. Virginia's "well regulated militia," with Campaign Streamers bespeaking their service in all wars from Indian invasions to the present day, is "on the alert" to fight "... against our enemies, whomsoever ...," as the Militia story, begun in 1607, rolls on.



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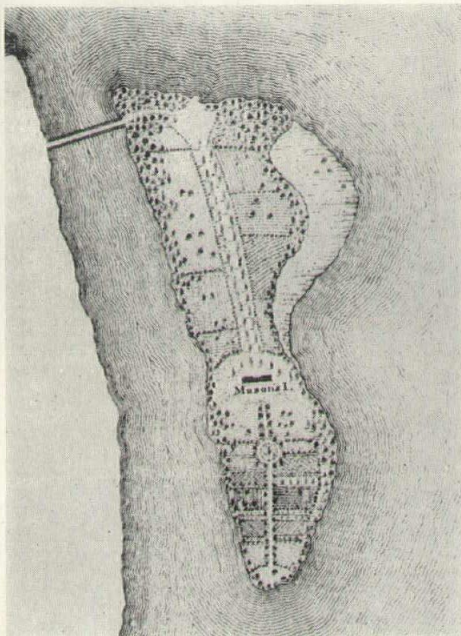
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GEORGE MASON'S ISLAND

(Continued from page 9)



Mason's Island from the map of the City of Washington by Robert King, 1803. (Courtesy, Library of Congress)

or no formal education in the present sense of the word. This lack did not deter him from achieving first rank in his knowledge of constitutional law and the rights of man.

In 1746 George Mason reached his majority and began adding more land to the estates he had inherited, which extended from Fredericksburg to the Great Falls of the Potomac. And as the Occoquan ferry continued to be a lucrative source of income, he secured a license in 1748 to establish another ferry, this one at his island between Virginia and Georgetown, then a thriving seaport. For 100 years George Mason, and later his son John, operated their ferry at Mason's Island.

John had been a partner in a tobacco concern in Bordeaux, France, as a young man, but poor health forced him to return to America. He engaged in business in Georgetown, and became president of a bank and owner of an iron foundry there. President Jefferson appointed him a Brigadier General in the District of Columbia Militia.

General Mason built a summer mansion on the highest spot on the island, a rise of 50 feet above the water. No doubt General Mason's sojourn abroad influenced his style in architecture, since his plans called for a house in the classical style, said to be the first residence of this style in America. Built of brick, it commanded a view of the Potomac River and the Capitol and the

"President's House," as the White House was called previous to the War of 1812.

A description of the island estate was written by David B. Warden, who came from abroad and visited General and Mrs. Mason in 1811. After crossing the Potomac in "a flat boat, of rude construction, impelled by oar," he wrote, "we walked to the mansion-house under a delicious shade. The blossoms of the cherry, apple, and peach trees, of the hawthorn and aromatic shrubs, filled the air with their fragrance . . . The garden, the sides of which are washed by the waters of the river, is ornamented with a variety of trees and shrubs, and, in the midst, there is a lawn covered with a beautiful verdure . . . The walled south side has white cottages for servants.

"In July, Mrs. Mason gave a rural dance to the friends and acquaintances of her son, at the eve of his departure for France," Mr. Warden continued. "The young people danced on the lawn . . . illuminated by lamps . . . and the bright light of the moon . . . The refreshing breezes of the Potomac, and the gentle murmuring of the water against the rocks, the warbling of birds, and the mournful aspect of weeping willows, inspire a thousand various sensations."

JAMES MASON BORN ON ISLAND

It is said that General and Mrs. Mason's most famous son, James Murray Mason, was born on Mason's Island. This son studied law at William and Mary College and spent a short time in the law office of Mr. Benjamin Watkins Leigh of Richmond. James Mason moved to the valley in 1820 and established a law practice at Winchester. He was elected to Congress and represented his Winchester district there. Later, he was serving his fourteenth year in the United States Senate when Virginia seceded from the Union. The Confederate government sent Commissioner Mason to England on a diplomatic mission in 1861. After the war he lived in Canada until President Andrew Johnson pardoned the leaders of the Confederacy. When James Mason returned to Virginia, he found that his home, "Selma," on the outskirts of Winchester, had been burned by Sheridan. He died in Alexandria, within sight of his birthplace.

James Mason and his eight brothers and sisters were spending the summer on Mason's Island with their parents when Mr. Warden visited them. General and Mrs. Mason's tenth and last child was apparently born later. This son, Joel Barlow Mason, was killed at

the battle of Manassas.

But that happy summer of 1811, the keenly observant Mr. Warden noted the minutest details of the island, and even the creatures in the air and under the water—from the humming bird who feigned death like an opossum and thus escaped from a lady's hand to the terrapin's nest containing 19 eggs that he and General Mason found about 30 feet from shore.

The visitor recorded the more prosaic aspects of the island, too, and observed that the soil "was excellent for farming." By means of a hydraulic machine, the water was raised from the river and conducted by pipes to every part of the island. General Mason cultivated a yellow cotton, the seeds of which he thought had probably been brought from China or India. Also, "a species of maize, the leaf of which is a deep purple colour and employed in dyemaking."

Thus in addition to the leisurely enjoyment which their island plantation afforded General and Mrs. Mason, it supplied the physical needs of their guests and of their large family and other dependents.

Mrs. Mason consistently won cash prizes for her entries in the fairs held in Georgetown: "for the best piece of cotton cloth, suitable for pantaloons or small clothes . . . for the best piece of hempen or flaxen table linen . . . for the best piece of fulled and dressed woolen cloth." At the fair held in 1811, "the handsomest sheep shewn on the

(Continued on page 21)

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Do you know of anyone that possibly might have a file of old copies that they would like to dispose of where they would be used to good advantage or someone liking to sell past files? If not,— do you have any rates for older issues? We would greatly appreciate any help you could give us.

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Mrs. F. F. Ashenhurst, Librarian
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Gentlemen:

We were very pleased to read your article on Winchester in your April issue of *Virginia Record*.

Please forward at your earliest convenience, 12 copies of the April issue of *Virginia Record*.

With kindest regards, I remain

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GEORGE MASON'S ISLAND

(Continued from page 19)



Pontoon bridge across the Potomac to the Island, taken in June, 1865. (Courtesy, Library of Congress)

occasion was General John Mason's quarter-blooded Merino ewe."

General Mason must have possessed considerable knowledge of intensive farming to have achieved such excellent results on less than 100 acres.

He also concentrated on improving the approach to his island. George Washington, traveling from Philadelphia in June 1796, at the close of the last Congressional session held there, crossed on Mason's Ferry from Georgetown to Virginia on his way to Mount Vernon and retirement. When the Government moved to the Federal City, General Mason's ferry acquired new importance, and in 1807 Congress authorized a causeway to be built connecting Mason's Island with the Virginia shore. Now travelers could reach the island from the Virginia mainland by the causeway and then take the ferry to Georgetown and the new city of Washington. It was thought, too, that by thus damming the river, the channel on the Georgetown side of the island would be deepened and navigation improved. The proposed bridge about which George Mason had written his son John had not materialized.

LEFT ISLAND IN 1834

Perhaps this difficulty in reaching their island home discouraged the Masons, or perhaps the mosquitoes which the swampy areas bred were intolerable, or perhaps hard times and finances were the cause; whatever the reason, the Masons left the island in 1834.

The date marks the beginning of public use of the island. That year a balloon ascension took place there; and

to tell the Virginia Story

an amphitheatre seating between six and seven thousand people was built for this event. Some time later groups of young men, patterning themselves on knights of old, met on the island for jousting tournaments.

These tournaments were a popular amusement and for a time it was thought that they might eventually become a national sport, preferable to fox hunting. They had many of the features of the fox hunt and at the same time enlisted the deep interest of the ladies, who formed an essential element of the sport.

Mounted on spirited horses, long

lances in their hands, the knights charged toward their objective—a ring, two or three inches in diameter, suspended on a hook high enough to allow the riders to pass under it. They strove to spear the ring and carry it off. Three tilts, as the attempts were called, were allowed each knight. And the knight who speared the ring the most often had the honor of choosing the Queen of Love and Beauty. A court of princesses was also chosen, and a throne for the queen was erected in the ballroom. Dancing ended the day's events.

BECOMES MEMORIAL PARK

Mason's Island changed owners many times after General Mason and his family left there until, in 1931, the Theodore Roosevelt Association purchased it as a memorial park. During these hundred years that had elapsed since the Masons lived there, the mansion, neglected and at the mercy of wind and water, crumbled slowly away. The visitor will find nothing to remind him of the lovely plantation house where General and Mrs. Mason entertained so lavishly, or of the famous gardens where the socially prominent met.

Today once again the island's history is of interest, as plans are discussed for a bridge or a tunnel across the Potomac at this point. Whatever form this new link between Virginia and Washington may take, the story of Mason's Island a few hundred feet from the Lincoln Memorial belongs to every American.



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A TRIP TO ROSEWELL

(Continued from page 3)

from where the basement had been, but nothing obstructed the chimney-lines of what had been 16 fireplaces. On the top of the empty walls the chimneys, with their superlative masonry, teetered as if about to complete the desolation.

Again to quote Waterman, he said, "this is the finest brickwork extant in America." And to quote one of my friends, he said, looking at the imported Italian capstones, "You can see why the Pages went broke building this."

You don't want to be caught there at night, and you do not want to leave. We moved back to the car and took a long, last study. We all agreed that, as a ruins enshrouded in the thick vines, Rosewell evoked more than it would have by restoration.

This is in no way to negate the wonder of the restoration at Williamsburg, where we had lunched well at Chowning's Tavern. It is to say that ruins have their place, as in Italy and Greece, and we must preserve these ruins. From the ruins, we were deeply moved, but deeply fearful that they too would pass.

As my musician friend said, "What is Virginia going to do about *this*?"

Clifford Dowdery

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CLEVER PEOPLE, THESE CHINESE

(Continued from page 8)

Chinese eat the pods too. Mrs. Chong also raises Boston pears or bitter melons, a vegetable which hangs on vines like little pears. Chinese okra grows 15 to 20 inches long and Chinese beans grow two to two and a half feet long, sturdier and with greener leaves than American beans.

All Chinese men and most Chinese women return to China for visits periodically and return even more conscious of their better life here after they see the chaos, poverty and starvation there.

Most of the Chinese in Richmond are Baptists and their eyes twinkle at the mention of Miss Lillie Thacker, who started teaching Sunday School back in 1902 when they still wore native costumes and queues and each had an individual teacher. At that time there were only ten or 12 Chinese children in attendance. Dr. Samuel Klopton organized the first class for Chinese children at the Clay Street Chapel in 1890.

The Chinese are an exceptionally healthy race. They seldom are sick and hold their age amazingly well. Only the very old have wrinkles. During the past 25 years, Richmond has lost only 16 Chinese. Some of them died on vacation in China, the others are buried at Oakwood or Riverview Cemeteries.

Every Chinese man has three names, which often leads to occidental confusion. There is the name his mother gives him, the name his teacher gives him if he goes to school in China, hoping that he will live up to it and give it significance, and the name he takes when he is married, which may be chosen by a relative or any older friend with his approval. These married names are recorded and filed on slabs in temples in China and generations can be traced by them.

A Chinese man does not come of

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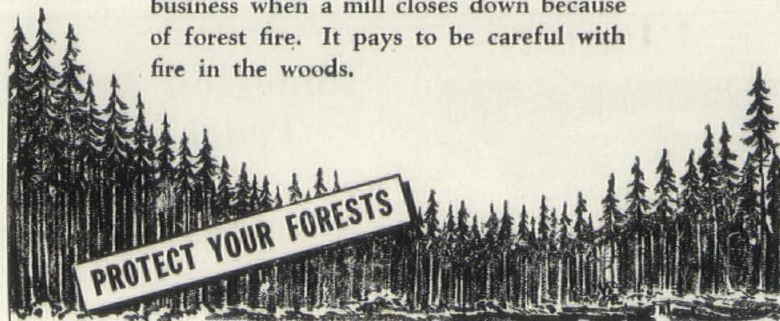
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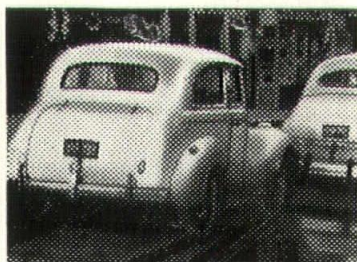
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age until he is married. This leaves bachelors in the same generation with children—and accounts for the respect and courtesy all Chinese children show toward their elders. A Chinese child's unmarried uncle is his "first grandfather" and his grandmother is an "ancestor." As Cleo Woo points out, "You wouldn't dare be disrespectful to a relative with awesome prefixes like those."

The Chinese New Year, which comes in February, is still traditionally the most important event in their lives. It is a day when all outstanding debts are paid, a day when they all look forward to a new start, a change of fortune, a day of sincere hope for better things for themselves and their friends.

~

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MENTAL HEALTH

TWENTY YEARS ago the chance of being hospitalized for a severe mental illness during a lifetime was one in 20. Today it is nearly one in ten. More than ten million Americans—one in every 16—are now suffering from some form of mental disorder. About three-fourths of a million of these are in the care of mental hospitals—14,000 in Virginia alone. Mental illnesses account for more than half the number of patients in all hospitals for all diseases in the entire country. Moreover, some two and one-half million men, women, and children have been treated for some mental disorder in the past year. It is estimated that another six million patients have serious mental and emotional illnesses that are responsible for physical illness that requires treatment at general hospitals.

Facilities for treatment of these mental disorders are pitifully inadequate. Little more than half the necessary beds for good treatment in mental hospitals are available. The American Psychiatric Association inspected 124 mental hospitals and could approve only eight and conditionally approve only 31 others.

In the forefront of the battle against diseased minds is the National Association for Mental Health, represented in this state by the Virginia Association for Mental Health. The Virginia and National Associations are still receiving memberships and funds from their annual campaign conducted in May. The Virginia Association needs mass support for its two-pronged attack consisting of education and service.

Educational projects include such programs as courses on mental illnesses and preparation for sound marriages among young people; post graduate teacher training on mental hygiene in the classroom; training courses for police in recognition and handling of abnormal persons; seminars for ministers in counseling; education for retirement; enlightenment of the public on mental illnesses that the stigma may be removed; and education toward development of sound mental health.

The other phase of the Virginia Association's attack on mental illnesses is service to the victims. State hospitals are understaffed and overcrowded in a field of medicine where the degree and quality of treatment strikingly control periods of recovery and re-commitments to institutions.

The Virginia Association seeks to enlighten the public on the urgency of the problem that it may give the legislators the support it needs to provide adequate treatment programs.

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Another service is the Association's concentrated efforts to establish vital programs of volunteer aid in state hospitals. Only two of the six state hospitals now have such organized programs.

Another service project of the Association is the establishment of strategically located service centers. These centers assist returnees from mental hospitals and aid victims' families through counseling and orientation to understand problems of rehabilitation. This need is underscored by the fact that of every

100 commitments to state mental hospitals, 40 are re-commitments.

The generally unrecognized vastness of the mental illness toll places on all of us the responsibility of supporting the National and Virginia Association for Mental Health. We need these organizations and they need our support if we are to be mentally as well as physically healthy people.

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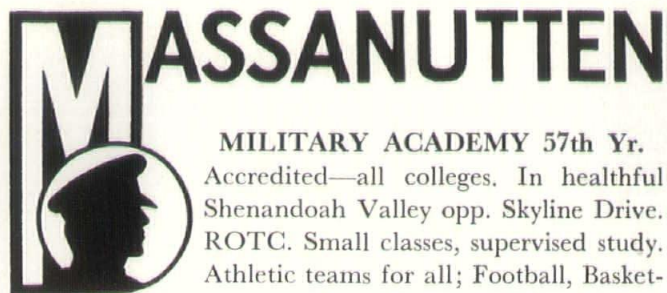
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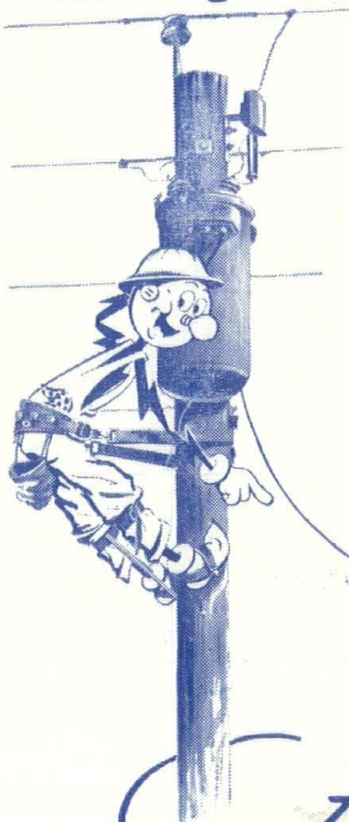
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