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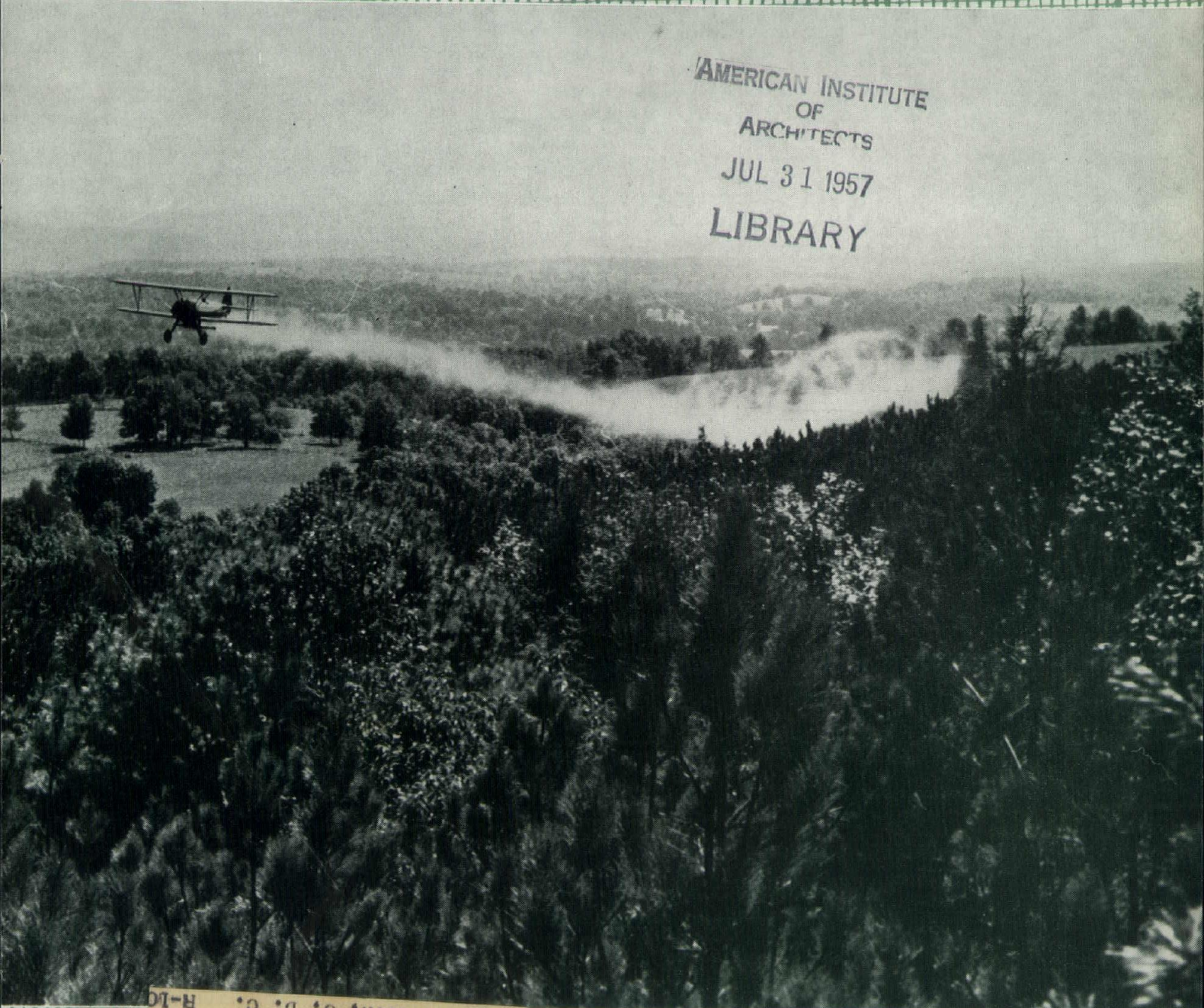
Virginia RECORD

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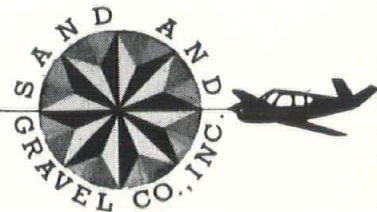
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VOLUME LXXIX JULY 1957 NUMBER SEVEN

The Glorious Fourth?

AMONG THE MYTHS that constitute the vague outline which, inaccurately and incompletely, passes for American history, none is more the subject of misunderstanding than the Fourth of July. Sometimes called "the Glorious Fourth," this holiday has become meaningless even as a celebration.

In the days when men worked long hours six days a week, an idle summer day was in itself an event, spent innocently in fishing or picnics, or simply in luxuriating in the idleness. Stump-speakers and politicians harangued crowds with purple phrases that called up the glories of the American tradition, bellowing safe clichés about liberty and freedom, and introducing a style of mob appeal known as "Fourth of July oratory."

Now the free day more often than not means merely a longer weekend, celebrated chiefly by obituary statisticians who compute the fatal accidents on the highways, and the Fourth of July orators are relics of a vanished American scene, like watering-troughs for horses and bicycles built for two. But the memory of the oratorical outbursts lingers on in the mental climate, a miasma of bombastic generalities on patriotism.

In these generalities, there is a picture of an old man and a young boy, laying fife and drum and marching fearlessly in "the spirit of '76." This picture of July 4th, 1776, suggests a spontaneous swell of the spirit of independence in freedom-loving people who, on that great day, united to overthrow the British tyrant and establish equality for all forever.

As July 4th actually happened, "the

Spirit of 1776" would be truly pictured by a group of bored, irritated, hot gentlemen, whose nerves were worn to a frazzle by months of wrangling over efforts to reach a decision, and who had finally agreed on a document that pleased some, displeased others, and which the majority accepted in a spirit of doubtful compromise in order that they could go home.

This happened in the State House of Philadelphia, where Continental Conventions from the 13 colonies had been holding ill-tempered and unsatisfactory sessions off and on for two years. The purpose of the sessions was to resolve the Colonial difficulties with England. Resolution was complicated by the fact that the 13 separate colonies had 13 different types of grievances against the Home Government, and the only tenuous union between the colonies was that each did have some grievance. Between the colonies of different sections there was no love lost; in some cases the hatred was open and naked, and in all cases the rivalries and jealousies produced conflicts and horse-trades motivated by frank self-interest.

Of "equality" not one word had been said, and the notion of establishing a country independent of England had been cherished by only a handful of extremists whom the conservatives, the vast majority, regarded as radicals. The majority in the delegations from Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania, fought to evolve a compromise with England by which their interests would be protected within the single empire. Among the Virginians in particular a plan was advanced which, anticipating the present British Commonwealth of

Nations, would have established the Colonies in political equality with England in the empire.

As it happened, the British government of the time was ruled by outstandingly obtuse and short-sighted men who, pooh-poohing ideas about political equals, committed themselves simply to a belief that their might constituted right. Except for the stupid refusal of the government to consider the compromises offered by leading Colonials, there is no question that secession from the Crown could not have been achieved by the radicals in opposition to the influential men of property.

In Virginia, with the most distinguished and powerful delegation in the colonies, the radicals were helped by the British Colonial governor who, fleeing Williamsburg, made war on the very people who were trying to hold Virginia in the empire. It was Dunmore's freeing of slaves and setting them against their masters, his destruction of property and suspension of legal government, that caused the Virginia conservatives to abandon hope of compromise. Finally, then, it was Dunmore's menace to men of property which swung the controlling bloc in Virginia to a somewhat reluctant support of the extremists — *this*, and not any surging passion for freedom.

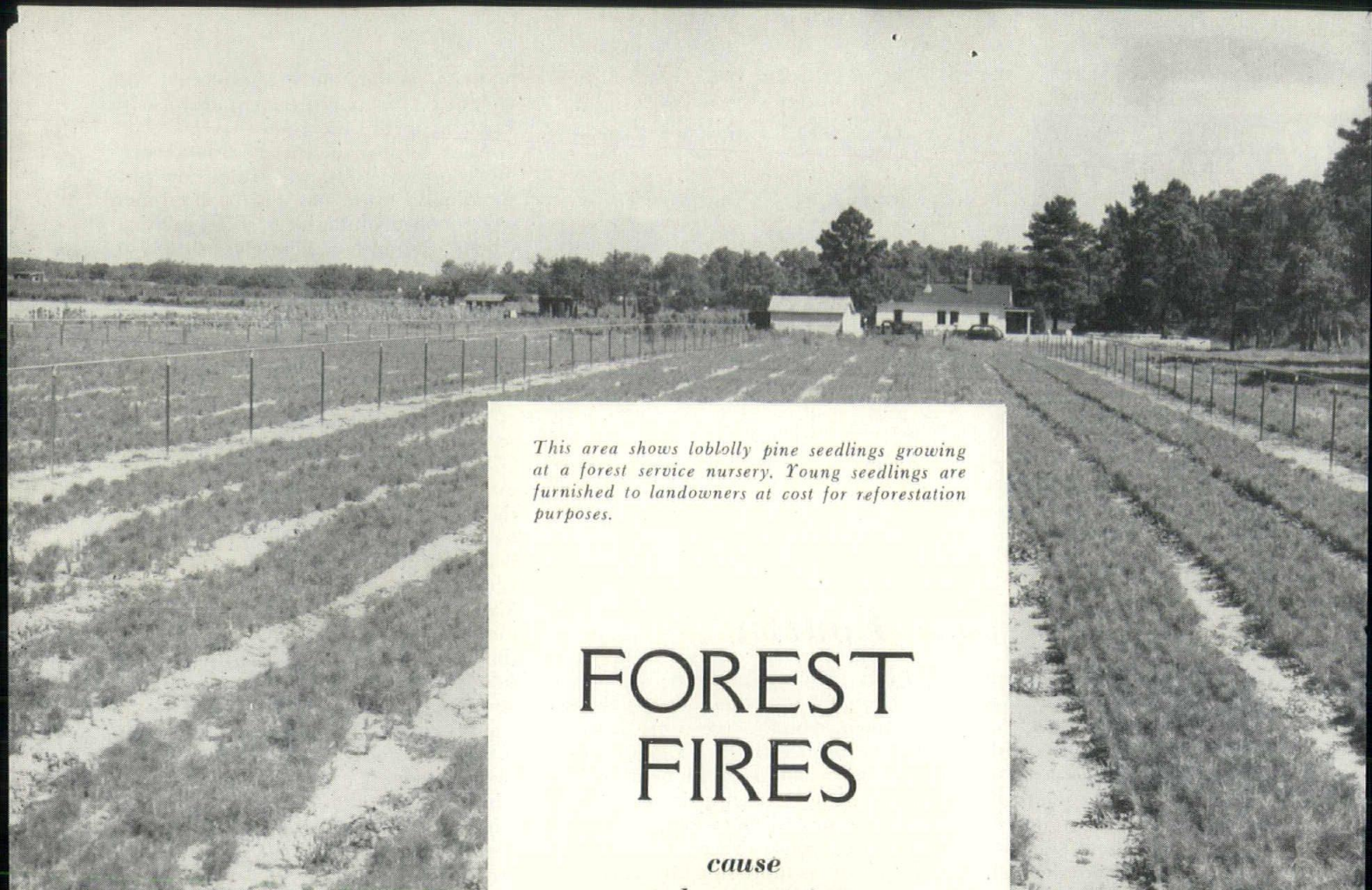
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COVER NOTE

The effectiveness of fertilizing farm lands is now being tested, and hope is high that this will be one of the best tools in the race to meet the increasing demands for wood. A Stearman biplane makes the first known aerial application of mixed fertilizer to forest land. 400 pounds of 12-12-12 per acre were applied to this 28-year-old, 11-acre stand of red pine. Ordinarily used for crop dusting, the plane broadcast the fertilizer for less than two cents a pound. This pioneer aerial application was a joint project of Rutgers University and Allied Chemical & Dye Corporation. See story on page 16.

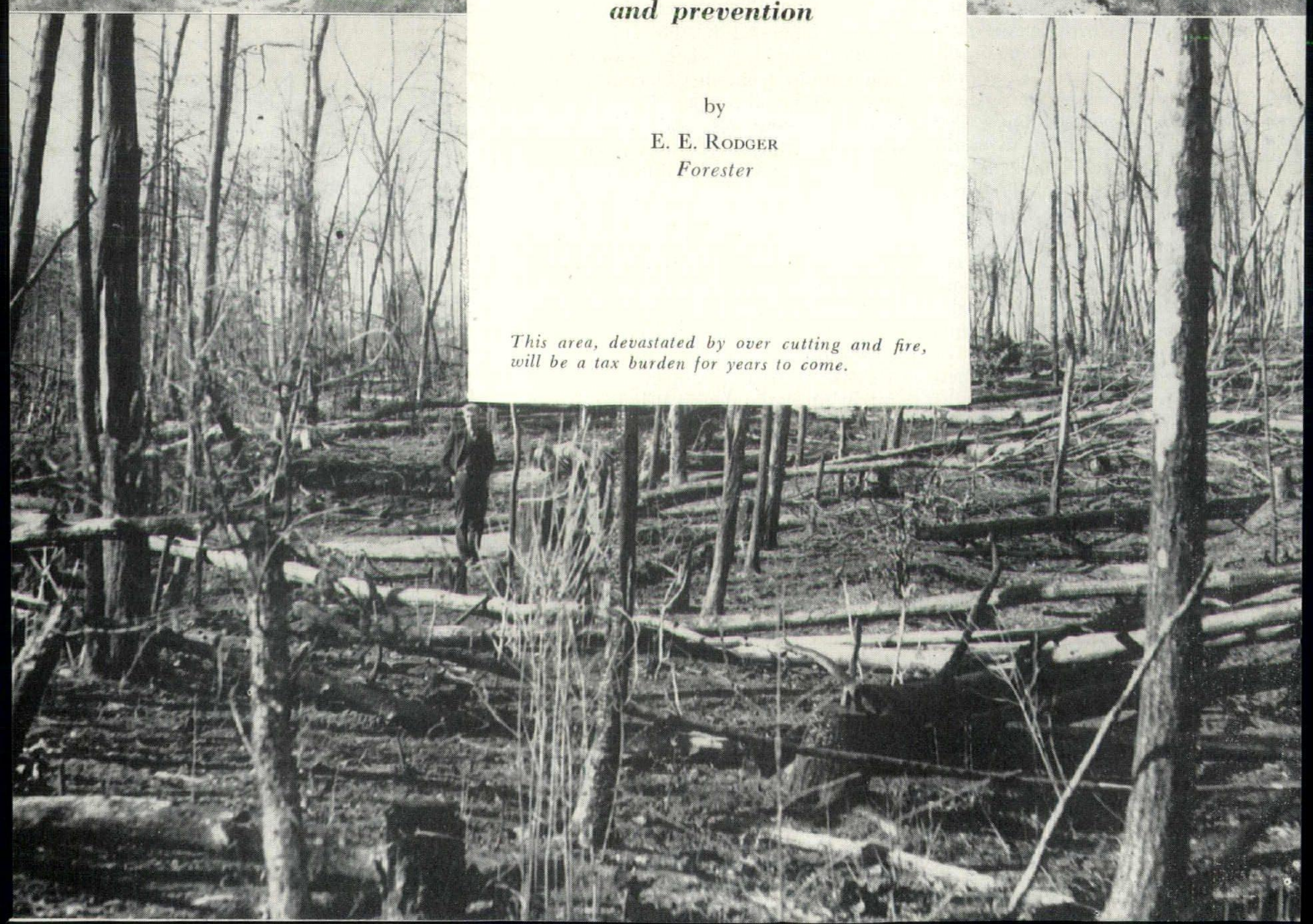


This area shows loblolly pine seedlings growing at a forest service nursery. Young seedlings are furnished to landowners at cost for reforestation purposes.

FOREST FIRES

*cause
and prevention*

by
E. E. RODGER
Forester



This area, devastated by over cutting and fire, will be a tax burden for years to come.

A CARELESSLY TOSSED cigarette can be as destructive as an atom bomb. A rash statement — not in the least. Experienced fire research people have records of forest fires which literally exploded over thousands of acres.

Let's take a moment to thumb through the old reports of the more spectacular fires which ravaged our country's forest lands.

Remember the Chicago fire? Not too long ago one of the TV networks carried an excellent portrayal of the disaster. But, are we aware of the Peshtigo fire which started the same day, back in 1871, and burned over 1,280,000 acres of Wisconsin's forests? The area burned is insignificant to the loss of life. Fifteen hundred people were killed — five times as many as in the great Chicago fire.

Then there was the Cloquet fire of 1918, about the time the Nation was celebrating the end of World War I. Cloquet, Minnesota, a thriving saw-mill town of 12,000 people, was gutted and left in ashes. Four hundred people perished in this fire, and timber land and property estimated at \$30,000,000 went up in smoke.

For younger readers — ever hear of the Tillamook fire in Oregon? That was in 1933 and the loss was calculated at a staggering \$350,000,000. How did it start? Sparks created from the friction of a steel logging cable sliding around a tree. One bucket of water could have prevented the whole thing.

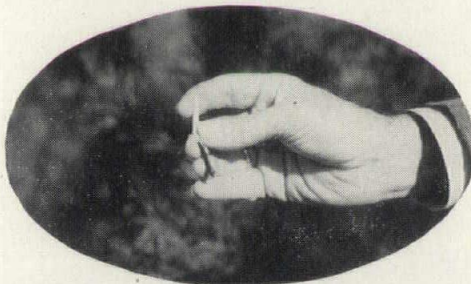
The white pine forests of Maine have

had their troubles too. The Miramicki fire of October 1825 swept over 3,000,000 acres and took its toll of 160 human lives. More recently, to be exact the 122nd anniversary of the Miramicki fire, Maine and its sister states were declared a disaster area by the President of the United States. For ten days forest fires ran wild — the toll: 16 lives and thousands requiring hospitalization, almost 200,000 acres burned, schools, homes, hospitals, churches, farms and businesses were wiped out. Damage to property ran into the millions. The cause of all this — human carelessness.

Has Virginia been immune to such tragic forest fires? Unfortunately, NO.

The mountains, rolling country, the Piedmont and Tidewater's piney woods have all been involved in tragic fire problems.

In 1952, after months of rainfall deficit, the dry fall woods began to send up wisps of smoke. Now these



Breaking matches is a practice constantly promoted for the furtherance of forest conservation.



Blood hounds are used for forest fire investigation.

fires didn't just start of their own accord — they were caused by human beings. Some by carelessness; others were set with malicious intent. The major damage occurred in Virginia's southwest corner. Weary fire fighters, during the several weeks of serious trouble, had constructed fire lines along the Cumberland Mountains from Cumberland Gap to Pound. Have you ever been on the handle of a bush axe or fire rake, miles from food or water, with smoke-filled lungs, eyes smarting from smoke irritation, hands blistered and desperately trying to "Stop That Fire?" Hundreds upon hundreds of volunteers rallied round the trained Division Foresters to establish fire lines that would hold. With careful planning and sheer determination the lines finally held and the "war" was over. What was the loss? Over 100,000 acres of forest land, one human life; damage to the watershed or wildlife is almost incalculable.

Any big fire in the flat country? Many have ravaged the piney woods over the years. One that comes to mind is the Sussex burn. This is a good one to discuss since it points out how easily a fire can start and how fast it can spread. Briefly, this is the way it happened: A woods worker cooking his noon meal in a little logger's shanty, had to step outside to get some more fire wood. The stove overheated, set



One out of five wage earners works for forest products industry—let's not put this man out of work.

the shanty on fire and before the woods worker could do anything about the fire it had escaped to the forest. Since he was alone at the time, his co-workers having gone into town for the day, he was almost helpless to stop the rapidly spreading fire. In the meantime, the lookout watchman miles away spotted the fire from his perch high in the air. He immediately called the District Forester, and within a short time fire fighting crews were rolling to the scene. It was 7:00 that evening before the foresters and their men had the fire

under control. In its desire to destroy, the fire had turned 13,000 acres of pine forest into a monument to man's carelessness with fire. Three major highways were crossed in the flash of an eye. All this in less than 6 hours. Fortunately, no lives or homes were lost.

And so it goes, year after year thousands of fires burning thousands of acres of valuable property, and why?

It's all so unnecessary. Just a little care while burning brush or trash would reduce Virginia's fire loss by one-third. If smokers would only re-

member to break their matches, crush their cigarettes and pipe ashes, another 33% improvement could be made. The remaining one-third of the fire problem pertains to such causes as children playing with matches, power saws back firing, warming and picnic fires, and dozens of careless practices. About 1 percent of the fires in the Old Dominion are caused by incendiarists. Why anyone would intentionally set fire to another man's property is difficult to understand — but it is being done.

Although the Division of Forestry is charged with the responsibility of suppressing the fires, the job doesn't end there. Careful investigation must be made and if sufficient evidence is obtained, the suspect is brought to court. The Division has an enviable forest fire law enforcement record. For the past five years, between 40 and 50 percent of all forest fires occurring in Virginia have been collected on. What does this mean? Well, the forest laws require that the person or persons responsible for letting a fire escape intentionally or unintentionally, are liable for the cost of suppressing the fire. The costs range from several dollars to thousands of dollars. This is a civil action. If one of the forest laws has been violated at the same time a criminal action is also taken.

The early legislators, recognizing the need for forest protection by law, drew up and passed the majority of our forest fire laws before 1920. The laws were so well worded that only minor changes and additions have been made over the years.

It might be of interest to mention several forest laws for the information of the readers. It is the thinking of the State Forester that the better informed the public is on the forest laws and the sound reasoning behind such laws, the less chance there is of having the informed person violate said laws.

Unlawful to:

1. Maliciously set fire to woods or grass — penitentiary sentence 1 to 3 years.
2. Intentionally set fire to woods or grass — \$500 fine.
3. Leave an open-air fire unattended — \$100 fine.
4. Set fire of any type during March 1 through May 15 before 4:00 P.M. if within 300 feet of woods — \$100 fine.
5. Refuse to assist in fighting forest fire if an able-bodied man between 18 and 50 years of age — \$100 fine.
6. Throw lighted cigarette, matches, paper, fire works, etc. from a vehicle — \$100 fine.

In all cases the person responsible for letting a fire escape is also responsible



Thousands of acres went up in smoke during the early 30's in the Dismal Swamp. Note that in this picture nothing is left standing.



An aerial view of a forest fire in the Dismal Swamp.

or the costs of fighting the fire. These are just a few of the laws in brief; space will not permit going into detail. One can readily see that the laws are basically good common sense and fair.

To you readers interested in history, here follows a copy of a forest law passed in 1802:

**BURNING THE WOODS
HAULING SEINES REGULATED
C. 253₁**

An Act to Prevent the Burning of the Woods

(Passed January 16, 1802)
A.D. 1802
A.R.C. 26

Preamble

1. WHEREAS it has been represented to this General Assembly, that great injuries have been sustained by individuals, from the practice of setting the woods on fire within this Commonwealth:

*Punishment for setting fire to woods
This act not to extend to certain counties*

2. For remedy whereof, BE IT ENACTED, That, if any person or persons shall set the woods on fire, unless by accident, or in any manner concerned therein, every such person shall pay a fine of thirty dollars for every such offense, to be recovered in any court of record within this Commonwealth, by any person who will sue for the same, one-half thereof to the use of the informer, and the other to the use of the county where in the offense was committed, to be applied towards lessening the levy; and if any such person be an infant under the age of eighteen, the said fine may be covered in like manner of his parent, guardian, or master; and, if any such person be a free negro or mulatto, and unable to pay the said fine, he shall receive thirty lashes by order of any justice of the peace. This act shall not extend to the counties of Nansemond, Southampton and Isle of Wight.

Commencement

3. This act shall commence and be in force, from and after the first day of March next.

Up to now we have mentioned big fires, damage, a few fire causes and several laws. For those readers living in an apartment in the city with little personal contact with Virginia's wood-land — does any of this apply to you? Of course, it does. Even if you have little to no opportunity to work or walk in the woods — the forests are important.

Let's look inside your apartment. Look at your home and you're mighty proud

tell the Virginia Story



Forest protection laws are posted for all to see. Heeding them would prevent many such scenes as that above.

of it. It's attractive and livable — and — what's helped to make it so? Wood, in all its forms. Wood from the very forests that perhaps are blazing in some distant county.

Some of your furniture is solid wood, handsomely designed and finished. Some is veneer, beautifully grained and matched. The sounding board of your piano — the piano itself is wood assembled with infinite care to give you an instrument of distinction.

Other things in your home — rayon fabric, artificial sponges, photographic film, pencils, paper, handles on your pots and pans, and even some of the medicine on the shelf, had their beginning in the forest.

Yes, we all depend on one another and the forests are deeply woven into our pattern of life.

Forestry is business—Big Business—in Virginia. Over 20%, 1 out of every 5, wage earners in the Old Dominion work for the forest products industry. That in itself should be sufficient to encourage all of us to help protect the forests.

There is no conclusion to the forestry story — advancements are being made every day in discovering new uses for wood. Forests are a renewable resource and past mistakes in destructive cutting and burning can be remedied if we put our shoulder to the wheel and strive for

No Forest Fires

Good Timberland Harvesting Practices

More Trees Planted

Protection from Forest Insects and Diseases

to KEEP VIRGINIA GREEN.

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**PREVENT
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TAPPAHANNOCK, VIRGINIA

HISTORY IN A CAPSULE

by

VIRGINIA WALLER DAVIS



Artist's conception of the first meeting of the first legislative assembly in the new world, at Jamestown, July 30 1619. Governor Yeardley presiding.

A MAN DIED of the heat . . . another was ordered to have his ears nailed to the Pillory . . . and twenty-odd men sat throughout six days of blistering heat, in a little wooden church, with plumed hats squarely upon their heads, as the first session of the first freely elected Legislative Assembly in the New World met at Jamestown, three-hundred and thirty-eight years ago.

They passed America's first Labor law . . . America's first Census law . . . refused to recognize two duly elected members of their body . . . promised reduction in taxes "as much as may be," and meted out punishment for drunkards, gamblers, swearers and overindulgence in dress.

While battling flies and mosquitoes, which they called "long-tailed gnats," they also approved measures for the regulation of trade and planting, fixed the price of tobacco, made cattle-killing unlawful except with the Governor's permission, commanded all to attend church services, looked to the education of Indians, ruled that no maid might marry without permission of parents, master, magistrate or minister and . . . with an eye to the future . . . ordered every man to plant Mulberry trees for 7 years, or "be subject to the censure of the Governor and Counsel."

All was a-bustle at an early hour in the colony at Jamestown on Friday, the 30th of July, 1619, for *twenty-two men, the first to be freely elected in America* . . . chosen by voice vote during the month of June . . . were converging upon it for an indefinite stay. By boat, horse-back and carriage they journeyed thither from their "cities" and Hundreds along the rivers there being four of the former in active existence and seven "Hundreds." Each elective district became a Borough with two "Burgesses" from each, thus furnishing representation for all members of the English race then in America.

Knocking off the dust of travel, and giving plumed hats a refreshing shake, they assembled in front of the church and fell upon one another's necks in joyful reunion as news of home, new babies, and the health of crops was exchanged, with much back-slapping and stewing over the heat.

History's hour arrived when, at the appointed time, the Colony's Governor, Sir George Yeardley, Captain-General of Virginia resplendent in silken and velvet attire and accompanied by liveried body guards armed with Halberds, marched into the Church with all the pomp and ceremony the young Colony could muster. He was followed by the six members of the Council of State, appointed by him and composing



Growing tobacco in the streets of Jamestown, Virginia, 1620, as pictured by a contemporary artist.

the "Upper House," representing the interests of the Colony as a whole, plus the Crown and royal government. Next came the officers of the Colony and finally, with the dignity becoming their rank and importance, the elected Burgesses, representatives of the people, marching two by two.

"Forasmuch as men's affaires doe little prosper where God's service is neglected, all the Burgesses took their place in the quire till a prayer was said by Mr. Bucke, the Minister, that it would please God to guide and sanctifie all our proceedings to his owne glory, and the good of this plantation."

Then, with the Governor seated in state in the Chancel, flanked by the Councillors and Officers of the Colony, the Burgesses "were intreated to retire themselves into the body of the Church, which being done, before they were duly admitted, they were called to order by name, so every man (none staggering at it) took the oath of Supremacy and entered the Assembly" . . . from James City and Charles City, the City of Henricus and "Kiccowtan" (Elizabeth City) . . . from Smith's Hundred, Flowerdieu Hundred and Martin's Hundred . . . from Argall's Gift, Martin-Brandon and the plantations of Captains Lawne and Ward.

Thus with prayer, and a solemn oath of allegiance, the body of men that set the legislative pattern for the Congress of the United States . . . all State Legislatures and foreign nations as well . . . was convened and ready for action . . . hats on heads, according to ancient English custom.

Eager citizens clustered about the door and squeezed into every corner of the little Church with its hard cedar pews while great were the number of heads at the "fair, broad windows" as everyone strove to see and hear what fellow colonists might be about to do.

They had not long to wait. Hardly were the preliminaries over before some of the Burgesses rose to challenge the right of membership of two elected representatives from Martin-Brandon, claiming that a clause made in the patent to Capt. John Martin exempted his plantation from colonial authority. If this be true, said they, no representatives were eligible. Excitement and temperatures soared during the lengthy debate . . . the two Burgesses were denied their seat . . . the "Lower House shrank to twenty" and the work proceeded.

On August 1st Burgess Walter Shelly from Smith's Hundred became America's first "legislative casualty," succumbing to the fearful heat "which caused the alteration of the healthes of divers present."

The remaining ones dissolved into committees, and re-assembled for action . . . heard complaints and prescribed punishments . . . to a servant accused of treachery "stand four days with his ears nailed to the Pillory, and daily public whippings . . . for drunkenness, everything from public reprimand by Governor or Minister to "lie in bolts" in the house of the provost marshal, or if an officer "deprived of rank." Making sure there was a record of every human

(Continued on page 15)

VIRGINIA BUSINESS REVIEW



by ROSEWELL PAGE, JR.

IN MAY 1957 non-farm employment in the metropolitan Richmond area stood at 165,700, the second highest month on record and next to December 1956 when the record-breaking figure of 167,500 was reached. The May figure surpassed that of April by 600 and the total for May 1956 by 6,100.

The Virginia Department of Highways has announced the retirement of Harold J. Neale, state highway department landscape engineer. The resignation of Mr. Neale, who has held the position since it was created in 1930, was effective July 1st. He is succeeded by Raymond L. Nicar, formerly associate landscape engineer, and Mr. Nicar has, in turn, been succeeded in that capacity by Robert E. Greene. Mr. Greene until this month has been landscape supervisor for the Fredericksburg District.

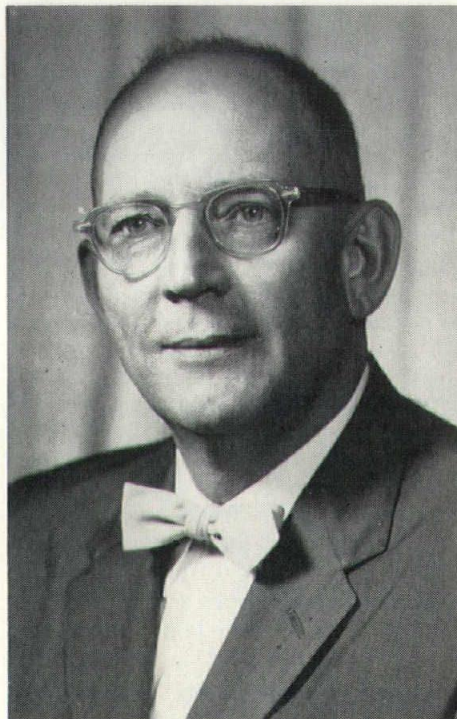
Mr. Neale's retirement will be greatly regretted by the many citizens of Virginia who gloried in his efforts to help "Keep Virginia Green." He has been the vigorous exponent of the Anti-Litterbug Campaign. He is widely known for his work with the Highway Department with relation to highway zoning, roadside development and the regulation of outside advertising. Working closely with garden clubs and like organizations, he has stimulated great interest in highway landscaping and beautification.

W. T. Rice, president of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad has been named president of

the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. Wirt P. Marks, general counsel for the R. F. & P. has been chosen to succeed Mr. Rice as president. Another R. F. & P. promotion is the selection by the directors of Stuart Shumate for vice president and general superintendent of the road.



—Foster Studio Photo
John R. Houck, president of Houck, Greene Steel Company.



—Foster Studio Photo
Richard D. Greene, Vice President of Houck, Greene Steel Company.

IN THE NEWS . . . **Blake T. Newton, Jr.**, president of the Shenandoah Life Insurance Company, Roanoke, has accepted the Virginia chairmanship of the Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report. . . . **Shirley T. Holland**, executive vice president of the Farmers Bank at Windsor, was elected president of the Virginia Bankers Association at its recent meeting at Hot Springs and **Robert T. Marsh, Jr.**, president of First and Merchants National Bank, Richmond, was elected first vice-president of the association. . . . **C. M. Flintoff**, of Suffolk, has been named president of the Virginia Association of Insurance Agents at their Roanoke meeting succeeding **Giles M. Robertson**, of Richmond. . . . **Richard H. Bagby**, of the Richmond firm of realtors, Pollard and Bagby, has been designated a Certified Property Manager (CPM) by the Institute of Real Estate Management. He is one of only 33 in the nation to receive this honor. . . . Virginia Military Institute at Lexington awarded its Diploma of Distinguished Merit—the first honor of its type ever given by V.M.I.—to **John C. Hagan, Jr.**, Richmond financier and head of the investment firm of Mason-Hagan, Inc. . . . **L. E. Brett, Jr.**, secondary roads planning engineer for the Virginia Department of Highways has been promoted to resident engineer of Accomack and Northampton counties. His successor in the secondary roads division is **Garland H. Roberts**, assistant resident engineer at Saluda since 1954. . . . **Douglas E. McCall**, bulk plant supervisor at Norton for Esso Standard Oil Company, has been promoted to Dealer Sales Representative for the Norton area. . . . **Claud K. Kirkland**, Abingdon District Manager for Appalachian Electric and Power Company announces the following A. E. P. C. promotions: **Joe E. Collins**, who has served in the Abingdon area as Residential and Rural Sales Supervisor, will go to the engineering department as electrical engineer; **Forrest Bocoek** will come from the Welch District to replace Mr. Collins; **C. M. Wagner, Jr.** will be promoted to Residential and Rural Sales Supervisor in the Welch District and **James E. Prater** has been promoted to Heating and Building Sales Representative at Abingdon. . . . **John M. Parsons** of Greenville, Tennessee is to be the plant superintendent for the new \$2,750,000 plant of the Stanley Furniture Company at Bassett and **H. E. Barnes** is the new superintendent of the present plant at Stanley with **G. R. Holtzclaw** to be the general superintendent at both plants. . . . **John R. Houck**, former sales manager, and

Richard D. Greene, former chief engineer for Richmond Steel Company, have joined together to form a new structural and reinforcing steel fabrication plant under the name of Houck, Greene Steel Company. Mr. Houck is president and Mr. Greene vice president of the new firm which will begin operation on a two and a half acre site leased from the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad at Dabney Road just outside the Richmond city limits. . . . Replacing Mr. Houck at Richmond Steel Company is Fred Cornell who comes from Salem to Richmond to join Richmond Steel. . . . L. R. Warriner, former Bristol City Engineer, is the new vice president and general manager of Concrete Pre-Stressed Corporation of that city according to Robert Morrison, city manager of Bristol. . . . C. M. Francis has succeeded W. Davis Dimmitt as the new president of Lambert's Point Docks, Inc. at Norfolk. The company operates the Norfolk and Western Railway's merchandise piers and warehouses at Lambert's Point and, under lease, the N. & W. Pier at Sewell's Point. . . . P. B. Walker of the Norfolk firm of the same name was elected president of the Tidewater Sales Representatives Association at the recent annual meeting. . . . A. L. Farrier of Giles County was elected president of the Association of Municipal Court Judges at the final session of the 23rd annual convention. . . . Harold H. Garner, Jr. has been named cashier of the new Springfield Bank according to Edward R. Carr, president. . . . Edgar Greever has been appointed treasurer of Tazewell County to succeed V. O. George, Jr. who has associated with Tazewell Farm Bureau, Inc. Judge V. L. Sexton, Jr. announced the appointment. . . . Carl Lindberg, general manager of WPIK, Alexandria, and Milton B. "Mickey" Henson, manager of WREL, Lexington, were elected president and vice president respectively of the Virginia Association of Broadcasters at the convention of the association held recently in Richmond. . . . E. N. Wilkinson, director of public activities for Camp Division of Union Bag-Camp Paper Company, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. . . . Stewart P. Hicks, vice president and manager of the Peoples National Bank and Trust Company of Lynchburg has resigned his position there to become vice president of the Culpeper National Bank. . . . Richard F. Maxwell, assistant to the president of Reynolds Metals Company, has been named chairman of the World Trade Conference to be

tell the Virginia Story



—Photo by TV & Motion Picture Productions, Inc.

GOVERNOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL DEDICATE NEW SOLITE PLANT

Governor Luther H. Hodges (left) of North Carolina and Attorney General J. Lindsey Almond, Jr. (right) of Virginia cut the ribbon opening the new Solite plant at Leaksville Junction, Virginia as John W. Roberts, president of the Southern Lightweight Aggregate Corporation looks on. The ribbon on the platform was exactly on the North Carolina-Virginia state line which runs through the plant. It served as an expression of the cooperative spirit in industrial development shown between the two states. The Solite plant and its operation is the only one of its kind that lies partially in each state.

Immediately following the dedicatory addresses, guests toured the new offices and plant.

held in Roanoke in October under the sponsorship of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce. . . . Carter Loomer, J. P. Minton, Jr., and B. B. Winnall, all of Smithfield, have become associated with the Richmond Engineering Company, fabricators of metal tanks, pressure vessels, steel plate and stainless, copper and aluminum alloys. . . . G. South Dunn, public relations director for Appalachian Electric Power Company in Roanoke has announced two promotions in his department with J. A. Palmer, editor of the company's publication, "The Illuminator", going to the public relations department in New York City of the Service Corporation of American Gas and Electric Company, parent company of Appalachian, and C. R. Lovegrove, former assistant editor moving up to "Illuminator" editor. . . . Republic Lumber and Building Supply Company, Richmond, has opened an affiliate company in Lynchburg, according to Harold L.

Hughes, Republic's general sales manager, and will bring Curtis G. Cheatham from the Waynesboro affiliate to manage the Lynchburg outlet while Edwin F. Powell, sales supervisor for the Richmond office will take over Cheatham's former duties in Waynesboro.

Esso Standard Oil has announced the second reduction in less than two months in prices of home heating oil, kerosene and diesel fuel oil says Roy E. McDaniel, manager of the Virginia-West Virginia Division of Esso.

The Farmers Bank of Dinwiddie has a major improvement and addition project under way which is estimated to cost more than \$60,000.

Prices have been good in an early series of feeder cattle sales according to K. C. Williamson, associate animal husbandman at V.P.I. with the six spring sales averaging \$25.00 per cwt. for 3,331 head sold. This is a net of

(Continued on page 17)

*It ended the career of a
great artist and handicapped
the work of a Confederate genius.*

THAT FATEFUL EXPLOSION

of
February 13,
1862

by

G. WATSON JAMES, JR.

IT IS NOT an overstatement to record that in the year 1862 inhabitants of the Capital of the Confederacy were not used to explosions, or could not hear those which belched grape and canister from Confederate and Federal guns.

But this explosion antedated those reverberating through the City in the summer of 1862, when the Federal forces with their cry "On to Richmond" pounded the eastern defences of the Capital.

It was heard by a few persons, but it was not of the character to which they would be accustomed in the days ahead. This one snuffed out the life of a brilliant artist-sculptor who in the latter profession was of incalculable value to the Confederacy and to an ordnance genius with whom he was associated in a vital defense project.

The artist-sculptor was William James Hubard, and the ordnance expert, Captain John Mercer Brooke, inventor of the famous artillery piece that bore his name. Both had offered their services to the Confederate cause; Brooke resigning from the old Navy at the outbreak of hostilities; Hubard, too old for active service, but of more valuable service with his training as a sculptor.

The day of the tragedy was February 13, 1862. The site a foundry and studio in a field, close to the home of the artist situated on what is today the corner of Park Avenue and Shafer Street. The structure in the field, far removed from the populated section of the city and built by Hubard, served two purposes — a studio to paint in and a foundry to mould parts for the gun Captain Brooke was constructing, as well as filling shells for the Parrot guns.

There are two accounts of the explosion and its aftermath: One found in the *Richmond Daily Examiner* of February 15, 1862, the other dictated to the writer by the late Mrs. William B. Lightfoot, when he was preparing a biographical note on the artist for "Virginia Historical Portraiture" of which he was editorial and technical advisor. Because Mrs. Lightfoot's family was intimately associated with Hubard's career in Virginia, as it was with the writer's family (he was taught from

infancy to call her "Aunt Emmy") and also the fact that Mrs. Lightfoot's father, Judge W. W. Crump, was sent for immediately after the explosion — her account of the tragedy is a more intimate version.

But first we turn to the columns of the (Richmond) *Daily Examiner* of Feb. 15, 1862 for the news account headed, "Serious Accident Explosion."

"Many of our citizens are aware that Mr. Hubard, the portrait painter, has for some months passed, variously engaged in the service of the Confederate Government and in addition to other work he has been employed in the filling of shells for the Parrot guns where the powder is dried by a moderate heat before being put into the shell. The laboratory is on the outskirts of the City, and the residence of Mr. Hubard is directly opposite. On the evening of the 13th instant (Thursday) the attention of persons in that vicinity was attracted by an explosion in the direction of the foundry, and shortly afterwards Mr. Hubard was observed to stagger across the street, towards his dwelling and sink fainting upon the steps. On examination it was found that he had suffered severely from an accident, the source of which was readily conjectured. The wounded man was removed to his room and Dr. Gibson sent for, who after examination found that his left hand had been badly torn, with some slight wounds about the face. He complained much of two severe wounds in the leg, portions of the shells having gone to the bone.

"Mr. Hubard had a number of bombs arranged upon the floor, and powder lying upon a stone in which was a very small amount of fire — not by any means sufficient to ignite the powder. A portion of the fuse, however, was fired and communicated to one of the bombs which instantly exploded taking effects as above described. After Mr. Hubard had left the house two of the remaining bombs exploded. Dr. Gibson removed the injured portions of the hand, parts of the fingers and thumbs, and yesterday the suffered was more composed.

"The cause of the explosion was well learned, traced to Mr. Hubard's smoking

(Continued on page 14)



PORTRAIT OF JOHN QUARLES JAMES, OF RICHMOND, AND ALFRED JAMES BY WILLIAM JAMES HUBARD

The boy in the Eton jacket is John Quarles James; the infant, Alfred James, grandfather, and great uncle respectively of the author of this article. Long a treasured portrait in the James family it recently was sold to an art collector.

That Fateful Explosion—continued from page 12

a cigar, some of the fire of which was communicated to the powder. Experience is a dear school, but some persons will learn in no other way."

In contrast to the news story above, we have Mrs. Lightfoot's account of what happened on that fateful day.

"William James Hubard came from England before the War Between the States. On reaching Gloucester County, Virginia, he painted several portraits of the Tabb family, and married my mother's first cousin, Miss Maria Mason Tabb. He moved to Richmond and had a home on what is now the corner of Park Avenue and Shafer Streets.

"In those days that part of the city was all bare fields, and no other persons lived near that I know of. Across the road from his home in the middle of a field he built a studio where he did a good deal of painting. He assisted Captain John Mercer Brooke in constructing the famous Brooke gun, many of which were used by the Confederate forces. Tradition has it that the first gun of this type was mounted on the ironclad 'Virginia.' Later Hubard was casting shells for this gun

when one of them exploded. He was fearfully burned and all the contents of his studio destroyed. His son, William, was the first person to reach the scene on hearing the explosion. He carried his father to the house where he died in a short while, on Feb. 17, 1862. Someone immediately brought the news to my parents (Judge and Mrs. William W. Crump), and they went out to minister to the bereaved family.

"Hubard's property was confiscated by the United States Government after the war closed and his wife and two children returned to Gloucester. He is buried in Hollywood Cemetary, Richmond, Virginia."

A brief review of the career of William James Hubard and his contributions to art in America, abroad, and particularly in Virginia make the tragedy of his death more poignant.

The painter and sculptor, was born in Warwick, England, in 1810. When a lad he associated himself with a Mr. Smith who offered him the opportunity of travel and study. At fourteen years of age, he visited Edin-

burgh and Glasgow where he painted landscapes and cut silhouettes. While a resident of the latter city he was presented with a silver palette inscribed "William James Hubard, By Admirers of his Genius in Glasgow, Scotland." Still under contract with his art preceptor he visited Germany, France and Italy and later at nineteen years of age, landed in America. Here he was forsaken by his traveling companion and heartless exploiter, after the proceeds of the young artist's work had amounted to \$10,000. Hubard was left penniless, but not long. He was soon able to provide for himself through his silhouettes and paintings. At this juncture he came under the protection of Sully and others who induced him to return to Europe for further study in painting and sculpture. On his return to the United States he opened a studio in Philadelphia.

Hubard came to Virginia in the spring of 1836 and established residence in Gloucester County, where he bought a home opposite the old Ordinary near the Courthouse. His talents won him a place in the best society, but



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strange to relate did not dispel the Tabb family's opposition to his marriage to Maria Mason Tabb. However love at last triumphed.

Shortly after his marriage, Hubard made a second trip to Europe where he studied in the life schools in Paris and Rome. He was a personal friend of the American sculptors, Powers and Greenough, and had his studio near theirs. Hubard has the further distinction of being the only man permitted to make a copy of the Houdon statue of Washington that is in the rotunda at the State Capitol in Richmond. When the legislature gave permission for this work a large foundry was erected near Richmond, and six copies in bronze were cast. The plaster copy of the statue by Hubard is now in the rotunda of the Capitol at Washington. Among other portraits of well-known men painted by Hubard are those of Daniel Webster, Ole Bull, the illustrious Norwegian violinist, Henry Clay, J. C. Calhoun, Andrew Jackson, and John Marshall. Following his move to Richmond in the late 1840's he painted more than seventy portraits, executed creative painting and drawings. Incidentally, the late Mann S. Valentine, Jr., commissioned the artist to paint nine members of his family. The museum which bears the name of Hubard's art patron is a treasure-trove of the artist's work as well as notes on his career.

As to the other *dramatis personae* in his story, Captain John Mercer Brooke, his career is as fascinating as it is dramatic, and his influence on naval armament is still felt today.

In a brochure entitled "In Memoriam" printed after his death at Lexington, Virginia, Dec. 14, 1906, where he was Emeritus Professor of Physics and Astronomy at VMI, we found these notes on his life (some quoted—others interpreted).

He was born in Tampa, Florida, December 18, 1826, the son of a Virginian, George M. Brooke, Brevet-Major General of the United States Army, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Seminole War. His mother was Lucy Thomas, of Duxbury, Massachusetts.

In 1841 John Mercer Brooke at the age of 14 was appointed a midshipman and reported to Admiral Farragut. When 19 he entered the Naval Academy and graduated two years later. He served with the Hydrographic party and from 1851 to 1853 was stationed at the Naval observatory. At the outbreak of the War Between the States he resigned from the Navy and offered

his services to the Confederacy.

The Brochure records that: "As Chief Ordnance Officer of the CS Navy, his inventive genius was of inestimable value. With limited means and appliances his work was far-reaching, indeed, epoch-making, in Naval construction.

"His design for the manufacture of cast-iron cannon, strengthened by wrought-iron jackets, plan of rifling, and discovery of the utility of air space, made the 'Brooke' gun a valuable addition to the ordnance of that period. Secretary Mallory is said to have stated that much of the success of the Confederate Navy was due to Brooke's ordnance. Brooke's plans for the construction of an iron-clad war vessel with submergers and extended ends were adopted in the reconstruction of the US ship 'Merrimac.' This vessel, as the 'Virginia' by her memorable battles in Hampton Roads, revolutionized naval architecture.

"He was awarded medals and decorations by foreign governments, and in 1860 was presented by King William of Prussia the gold medal of the Berlin Academy."

We also learn from the brochure that Captain Brooke was an associate of Mathew Fontaine Maury and that,

"Wyville Thomason F.R.S., FGS, etc., says, 'All the more recent contrivances for deep-sea sounding have been to a great extent modifications of Brooke's ingenious apparatus retaining its fundamental principle; the detachment of the weight and bringing up in its stead samples of the bottom. This invention of Brooke made accurate the work of Maury and others.'"

Whether or not the explosion was caused by the artist-sculptor's cigar, or by other means, cannot definitely be determined—nor need it be. It is of no moment when we read the dramatic story of the collaboration between these two geniuses; so vital to the success of the war. This we know: in that field west of the Richmond of 1862 on Feb. 13, 1862 was cut short the career of a genius of the brush and chisel at fifty-five, and that the Confederate Government's outstanding ordnance officer at forty-six years of age was deprived of a critically needed assistant.

Had it not been for that explosion, what we wonder might have been the greater achievements of Brooke and Hubard; achievements that would have merited chapters in the history of the "Lost Cause?"

History in a Capsule

(Continued from page 9)

being in the Colony they enacted Census laws (1) for every householder to report for himself, his servants and any visitors beneath his roof and the business of all concerned and length of stay (2) every Minister to report all christenings, burials and marriages. A fine of 40 shillings on the householder for failure to comply and censure for the Minister by Governor and Counsel.

Making sure there would be no parliamentary slip they saw to it that John Pory, Secretary was appointed Speaker of the Assembly, having been a member of the House of Commons, and his official records are available today.

For their resolution promising tax relief they won the hearts of all, and caused sadness over their "Labor Law," commanding any man living in idleness to work under a master appointed by the Court, serving him for wages "until he shewe apparent signes of amendment."

Human nature being the same then as now, they adjourned as soon as possible, (with apologies for their haste "because of the heat") leaving the Assembly officers to get matters in order, but first voting them "rewards" of tobacco to be paid by all "males over 16." With this parting acknowledgment for service rendered they departed for their homes on August 4th, not to meet again until the following March.

Having laid the foundation stone of self government in America, the members of the *first Legislative Assembly in any English Colony in the world* went back to work.



Boy's Forestry Camp

The twelfth annual Boys' Forestry Camp was held June 24 through June 29. State Forester George W. Dean stated that 100 boys attended camp this year and carried back to their communities a wealth of knowledge learned from the forestry courses taught.

Instruction was given in forest fire control, cruising, marking and estimating timber, area surveying, tree planting, tree identification, game management and timber harvesting and processing.

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Both red pines shown above are 25 years old. The tree at right received a single application of fertilizer when it was 11 years old. The tree at left received no fertilizer. Wood volume in the larger tree is almost twice that of the smaller.

THIS YEAR EVERY AMERICAN will use about 80 cubic feet of wood or wood products in the form of lumber, paper, telephone poles, fence posts, and a thousand other uses. That's a total of 12 billion cubic feet a year. By 1999, at current rates of use, we'll need over 20 billion cubic feet a year.

Increasing production to make up the wood deficit can be accomplished in several ways. The already advanced studies of insect and disease control can be intensified. We can utilize more efficiently the trees we cut. Stocking, planting, and forest improvement measures can be speeded up. And existing and future forest lands can be made more productive.

One method showing a great deal of promise towards increasing woodlands' production is fertilizing. Commercial woodland owners are looking with a great deal of interest on forest

fertilization work being carried out both in this country and abroad.

Dr. Takeo Shibamoto, Professor of Forestry at Tokyo University, says, "By following in the footsteps of the kind of management hitherto customary, the average growth will undoubtedly remain low . . . the old and crude idea of cutting (solely) the natural growth has to be completely eliminated and the cultivation of forest trees has to be placed to the greatest extent possible on a commercial agricultural basis . . . A system of forest management based on the application of fertilizers must be set up."

Sparked by a tight wood supply problem, West German studies in forest fertilization showed that fertilizer can increase nursery yields 100 to 400 per cent and forest tree yields 150 to 250 per cent.

In this country, Dr. Stanley Gessel,

at the University of Washington, reports that 100 pounds of nitrogen applied per acre to 10- to 35-year-old fir trees almost doubled the wood volume.

Application of fertilizers to woodlands will probably be done by airplane in the United States. Of course, the higher the fertilizer analysis, the greater the planes' payload and the greater the area covered per trip. In this regard, the high nitrogen analyses (urea, ammonium nitrate, etc.) will probably be in demand. Commercial applicators are already experienced in airplane insecticide spraying. So, there will be no dearth of qualified pilots or equipment to drop fertilizer on forests, a safer operation than airplane pest spraying.

Will air fertilization pay off? Or conversely, will costs be prohibitive? "No," say Allied Chemical & Dye Corp. research people, who have pioneered forest fertilization studies in this country. In experiments carried on in New Jersey, Allied applied 400 pounds per acre of 12-12-12 plant food at a spreading cost of about 1½ cents per pound. Professor D. P. White, at Michigan State College agrees with Allied. White says that a \$9 to \$13 cost of putting 200 pounds of plant food on an acre of trees "compares very favorably with upwards of \$30 an acre for thinning." (Fertilization replaces conventional thinning operations by rapidly closing the forest canopy, thereby choking off growth of inferior trees.)

Conifers (pines, spruces, firs, etc.) constitute the majority of planted tree acreages. They produce the greatest volume in the shortest time. Foresters say that, with proper fertilization growing time of conifers can be cut by 25 per cent (a faster capital turnover) OR that wood volume can be increased 40 to 65 per cent in the usual growing period.

Other advantages of tree feeding which show promise are those of increased seed production and stronger resistance to insect and disease depredations.

However, all's not sweetness and light in the matter of forest fertilization. Even with promising advantages, the idea's too young yet to really tell. Crown Zellerbach Corp., a leading paper company, says that final and conclusive results are five to ten years away. There's a lot to be learned yet.

One thing is sure, though. We must be able to meet the demand for 20 billion cubic feet of wood a year in 1999. And fertilization of forest land may prove to be one of the best tools to meet that end . . . and then some.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Dowdey:

As a regular reader of *The Virginia Record*, I wish to commend the manner in which Mr. Rosewell Page is handling the Business Review feature.

His coverage is comprehensive, his comments are pertinent and unbiased, and his style is succinct.

With best wishes to you and *The Record*.

Sincerely,
R. B. Lancaster
The Life Insurance
Company of Virginia



Business Review

(Continued from page 11)

lightly over \$440,000 to Virginia farmers.

Bristol Steel and Iron Works is under contract to supply a million dollars worth of structural steel for the Clinchfield Coal Company's Moss Mine No. 3 preparation plant. The plant, when completed, will supply the bulk of coal for Appalachian Electric Power Company's Clinch River Plant according to Clinchfield's president, Robert Hughes.

The Board of Directors of Hollins College recently awarded a contract for construction of a new chapel to H. A. Lucas and Sons, low bidders among four Roanoke firms. Base bid was \$473,400 exclusive of furnishings, organs, bells and landscape. Ground will be broken within two weeks for the new campus structure designed by Roanoke architects, Frantz and Addkinson.

A bill to allow construction of a bridge across Assoteague Channel and

a road through the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge to Atlantic Coast beaches, introduced by Rep. Robeson (D. Va.) and supported by the Department of the Interior, was signed by President Eisenhower on June 17th.

Just 34 years ago Virginia highway users began paying a tax on gasoline. Vehicle owners now pay about 31 times as much yearly as in that first full year.

This was pointed out by Claiborne D. Gregory, Executive Secretary of the Virginia Petroleum Industries Committee, who recalled that the Virginia gasoline tax started at 3 cents a gallon, brought in \$3,198,000 its first year. The federal gas tax was added in 1932.

Now, he said, the Virginia tax, at 6 cents a gallon, is expected to net \$66.5 million* in 1957, and the 3-cent federal tax will swell the total to \$98.3 million.

Gregory noted these combined gas taxes, which Virginia highway users now pay bring 31 times as much total revenue per year as the original 3-cent tax, although there are only 5.6 times as many Virginia vehicles as in 1923.

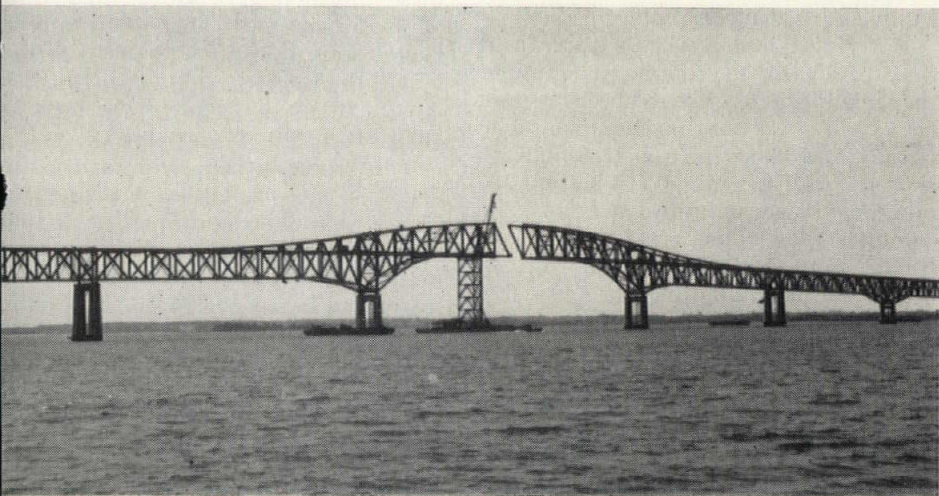
Gregory said the \$66.5 million Virginia will collect this year in gasoline tax alone compares with \$64.5 million collected from all State taxes as recently as 1944.



The Glorious Fourth?

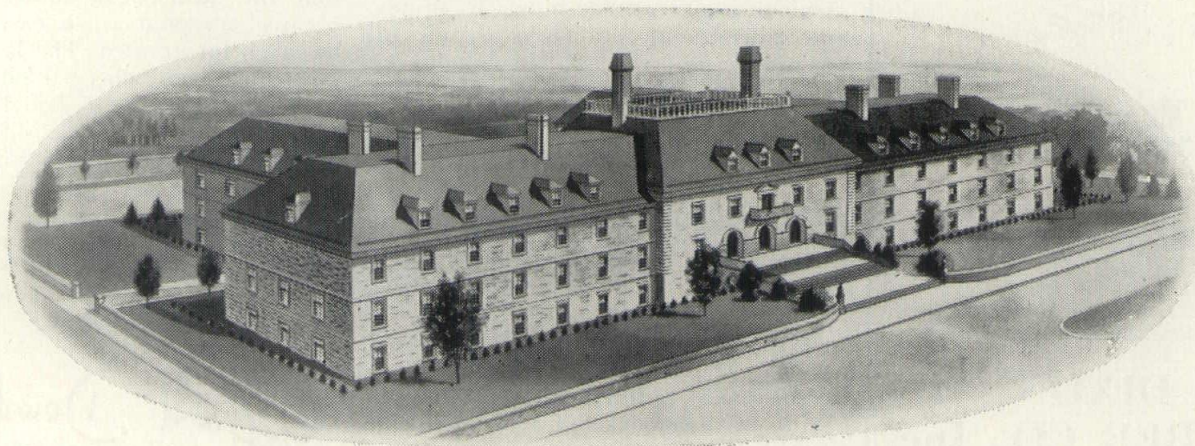
(Continued from page 3)

The Virginia Revolutionary Convention met in May, 1776, in much the same spirit that the Virginia Secession Convention met in 1861: they met to decide to sever the bonds of union with



This picture, which ran in the June issue of *The Virginia Record*, was erroneously captioned the George P. Coleman Memorial Bridge. We are indeed sorry, for the above bridge is the Rappahannock River Bridge.

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a nation which seemed hostile to their interests. On May 15, 1776, the Virginia Convention formalized its declaration of independence with a Declaration of Rights, written largely by liberal-minded George Mason, and it was this document (not the later Declaration of Independence) that first introduced the rights of man as a principal of government. The convention then instructed its delegates in Philadelphia to declare for Colonial independence, as the only means of resolving its difficulties with the home government, and to form an alliance with the other colonies.

But in Philadelphia the Continental Convention was run, in a fashion familiar to us today, by committees, and first a committee must be formed to draft the declaration. The committee, after some politicking, chose young Thomas Jefferson for the writing, over his fellow-Virginian, Richard Henry Lee, an older man with a much longer record for distinguished services in revolutionary activities. Though the powerful Lee clan regarded this as an affront, and felt very bitterly about it, Jefferson was the better writer, probably the best in America at the time.

What has been largely forgotten is that Jefferson, with the committee, was drafting a declaration which set forth the colonial grievances and plans of operation for the joint secession movement. The preamble, with Jefferson's felicitous writing, served as an attention-catcher for the body of the dull declaration — what a professional writer calls "a hook," to capture the

reader's interest. It was in this introduction, or prologue, that Jefferson wrote those ambiguous lines about all men having been created equal, which sounded so challenging to a people who were daring to assert political equality with the home government. Essentially Jefferson was defying the divine right of kings and proclaiming the political equality of colonials, and this was understood by his contemporaries.

The Declaration was neither written nor presented to the Convention on the 4th of July. It was read by Benjamin Harrison, of Berkeley, some days before, and lay on the table until the committees got around to it. It was on the Fourth of July that all the compromises between the rival sections had been resolved, all the phases that offended any members had been deleted, and the most reluctant of the rebels had been persuaded to sign a document which formally declared the Colonies freed of England.

But, it should never be presumed that this day of the signing inaugurated the revolutionary war. The war had been going on for a year then. The British and Americans had fought in Boston, and George Washington, appointed commander-in-chief of the colonial armies one year before the Declaration, had besieged the British in Boston and caused Howe to evacuate the city.

In Virginia, which was on the outside of the mainstream when most American history was written, equally epochal events had happened, though they have been largely neglected by the myths. The royal governor had been chased out, committees of safety ran the colony, the strategic port of Norfolk had been captured by the British and re-captured by Virginia troops by the first of January, 1776.

In brief, the Declaration of Independence started nothing; it simply recognized and formalized a state of war then in existence. Its announcement attracted less attention than the news of a routine bill passed today in some congressional committee.

Quite unlike the dramatized "Spirit of '76," the declaration did not inaugurate a rush of patriots dedicated to freedom and death to the foreign tyrant. From the declaration to the end of the Revolutionary War, patriots stayed away in droves. The ignorant people understood little of what was going on; farmers and speculators fattened their pockets by selling to the British; and a large percentage of the people remained either openly loyal to England or indifferent to the whole affair. Without George Washington,

the poorly supported revolutionary movement would have collapsed under its own apathy.

Americans, however, seem to respond more to gaudy generalities than to the facts about their past, and only a few years were needed for citizens to believe in their fierce spirit of independence, their hatred of tyranny, and to rewrite the tawdry episodes of the Revolution into a pageant of patriotism. The high climactic moment became the Glorious Fourth, when that crowd of jaded, resentful, confused colonial representatives affixed their signature to a document which most of them regarded very dubiously.

That even the fake glories have now lost their crowd appeal is, however, significant and perhaps frightening change. It indicates that Americans have ceased to be stirred by empty generalities about their traditions. Since these glorified generalities formed the only thread that linked the present generations, however tenuously, to the past, it follows that contemporary Americans as a people have been cut adrift from their heritage.

The crowds who prefer to risk their necks on the public highways in preference to sweltering through some high flown bombast can not be reproached for their preference, though their safety might be suspected for the nature of the alternative they have chosen. But it should serve to remind responsible citizens that by relying on the historical distortions of the past, we have produced a nation who are removed from the perpetuity of traditions as if they had evolved out of a vacuum. Everyone knows what happens to any organic plant that is cut off from its roots.

"Freedom" and "democracy" and "equality" became such cheap words that the struggle to found a nation became accepted as an easy thing, to be taken for granted. The late Stephen Vincent Benet once titled a story "Freedom Is a Dear Bought Thing." It was and it is. If our citizens were properly taught to understand the past, and to appreciate the heritage which they ignore, we might anticipate a future of our people recapturing values to perpetuate, instead of, now, demonstrating how long a rootless people can survive.

Clifford Dowley

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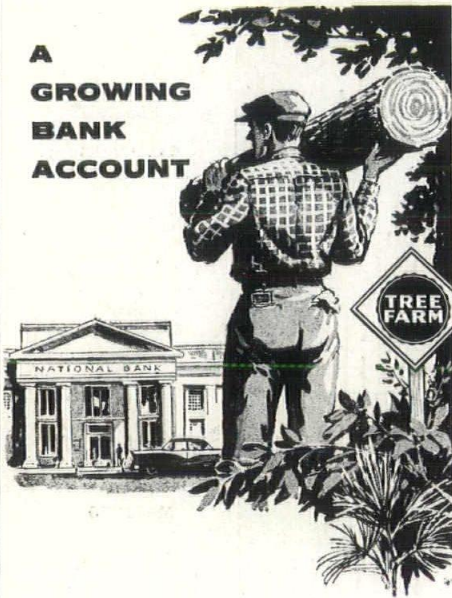


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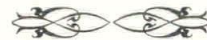
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