

Virginia RECORD

DECEMBER
1957



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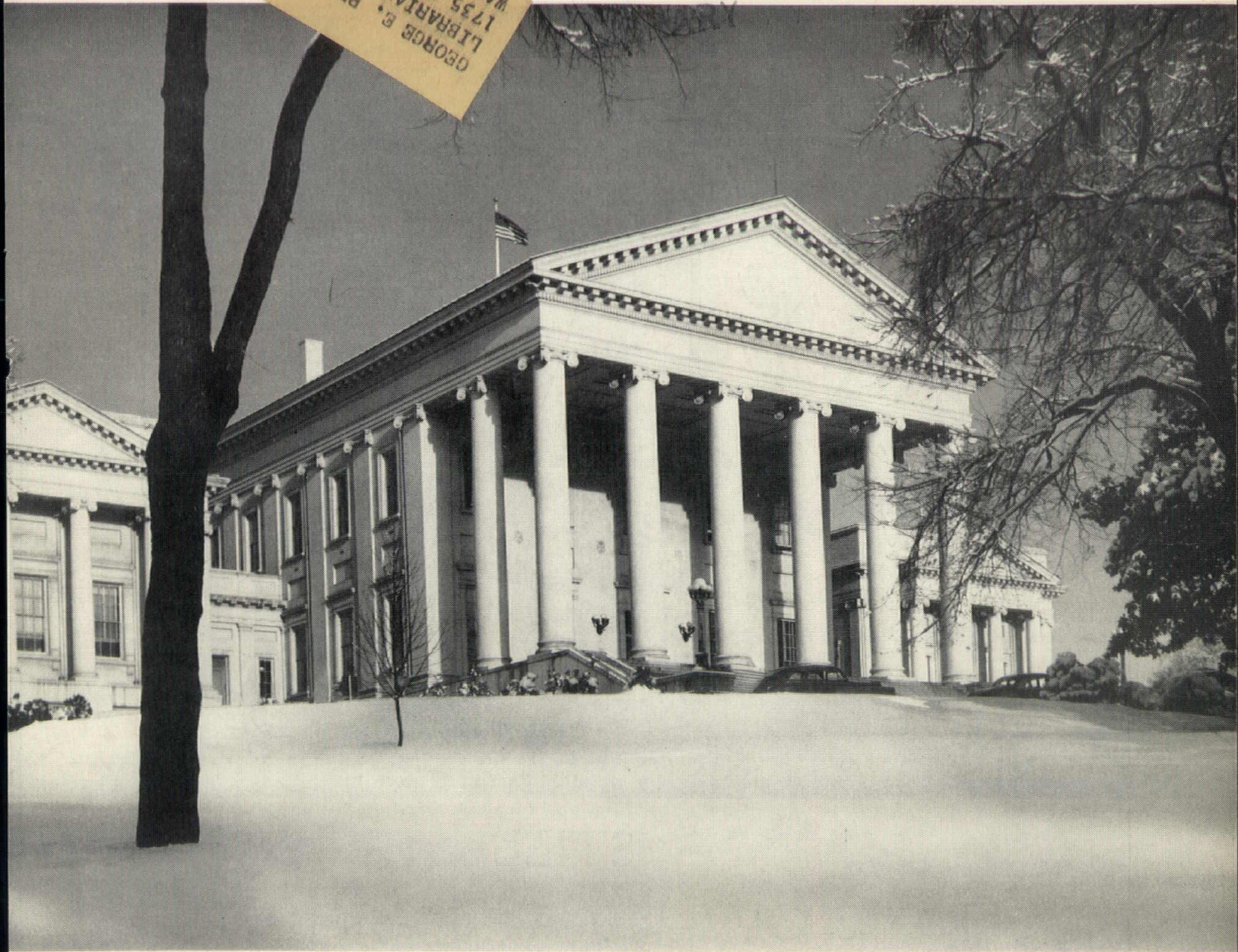
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IN THIS ISSUE . . .

★ **Virginia's J. Vaughan Gary**

★ **Blackstone at the Crossroads**

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CLIFFORD DOWDEY
Editor

DONNA Y. LAURINO
Executive Editor

ROSEWELL PAGE, JR.
Business Editor

JEAN L. GLOVER
Managing Editor

JULIA GWIN AULT
Associate Editor

R. N. ANDERSON, JR.
Architectural Editor

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DECEMBER 1957

NUMBER TWELVE

The Man Who Became Santa Claus

SOME YEARS AGO a stocky, balding, middle-aged man appeared in the offices of Miller and Rhoads in Richmond and said he wanted to be Santa Claus. He was a mild-looking man with clear blue eyes and, as he talked along with an astonishing loquacity, Mr. William Strother revealed a personal background that seemed fitted for anything else except the representation of St. Nicholas in a family store.

A native of North Carolina, born in the lean circumstances typical of Southern communities before the turn of the century, Bill Strother had made his way in the great world in the highly individualistic career of a human fly. People of the younger generation, growing up in an era when first radio and then television brought daily entertainment into their living-rooms, can scarcely imagine a time when people provided their own entertainment by such almost forgotten pastimes as reading, talking, and playing "parlor games," as they were called. Cars were few, and the home was the center of life.

Before F.H.A., G.I. bills, and E-Z Payment Plans, families dreamed, planned and saved toward owning their own houses, made modest improvements on those they occupied, and crowned their achievements with the purchase of a piano and book-case (such objects as, outside of bands and libraries, will soon be found only in the Smithsonian Institute).

In those innocent times, the regular pattern of the days was largely changeless, and change came from the outside in special events. The Sunday School picnic was such an event, the circus and the Fourth of July, and Christmas was the greatest event of the year. To people living such simple lives, a human fly was also an event.

This was not only true in the hamlets in which the North Carolina boy began his strange career. Such a metropolis as New York City welcomed the human fly, and Bill Strother drew crowds in Philadelphia and Denver, Atlanta and Los Angeles, and in the Capitol Square across from the Hotel Richmond.

As a boy, I remember standing in a crowd of a Saturday afternoon and watching the world's champion human fly scale the corner on the hotel formed by Ninth Street and the setback above the entrance. Projecting bricks there formed toeholds and handholds for the daredevil who mounted — slowly, it is true — the twelve

(Continued on page 24)



The editor's daughter, Patsy, with Bill Strother before Christmas, 1956.

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JOHNSON CITY, TENN.

SHOWN ON OUR COVER . . . Virginia's J. Vaughan Gary, distinguished representative of his native state in the Congress of the United States who shares cover honors with Virginia's familiar and beloved Capitol, this time a snow scene in keeping with the season.

CONTENTS ~

Virginia's J. Vaughan Gary.....	4
Blackstone at the Crossroads.....	7
by Julia Gwin	
Christmas . . . Christ Mass . . . Noel . . .	
Yule!	10
Virginia Business Review.....	11
by Rosewell Page, Jr.	

VIRGINIA'S

J. VAUGHAN GARY



Representative J. Vaughan Gary is shown as he leaves a committee hearing in the Capitol enroute to his office in the House Office Building.

"IF YOU ARE GOING TO HOLD DOWN Federal spending you have to hold it down where it starts, right here in the House of Representatives."

So speaks Representative J. Vaughan Gary, the energetic, dedicated, hard-working Virginia Congressman whose painstaking work in the powerful House Committee on Appropriations for the past 11 years has earned him the high esteem of the 435 Members of the House of Representatives—as proved by their votes on the bills he sponsors.

In the 10-member Virginia delegation, Gary ranks second only to the venerable Howard W. Smith, of the 8th District (see the May issue of the *Virginia Record*) in seniority. He is one of a dozen men in the Congress now in the key "originating" positions concerning Federal appropriations.

Under the Constitution, all appropriations bills originate in the House of Representatives. Under the rules of the House, they originate in the Committee on Appropriations. Furthermore, the 50-member committee, under its powerful chairman, is broken down into eleven major permanent subcommittees, each specializing in appropriations for certain Federal agencies. Virginia's Vaughan Gary has been chairman, for seven years, of the important subcommittee on Treasury and Post Office Appropriations. In addition, he is the only Representative to hold membership on 4 Appropriations Subcommittees.

Visitors to the galleries of the House tend to weigh the effectiveness of Congressmen by the frequency and flamboyance of their speeches. Veteran observers, however, know that an able Congressman in a key spot on an important committee can be many times as effective as an orator.

Vaughan Gary can be an orator on the "floor" of the House, but he makes it a rule to speak in the historic House chamber only upon the subjects within his specialized field of information. "That is the most critical audience in the world," he says. "They can tell very quickly if a man doesn't know what he's talking about."

A Gary speech on the floor of the House, therefore, is normally a polished, factual presentation of a reasoned case. There are a few occasions, however, when he thinks a fiery speech is demanded, and when the time arises he can match most Members of the House in dramatic oratory. One such occasion was the 1957 debate on the so-called "Civil Rights Bill," which Gary termed "a Civil Wrongs Bill," (a name which stuck in later publicity on the measure). In the debate on the jury trial amendment to the bill, Gary waved dramatically before the House a photostatic copy of the 13th Century, Latin-inscribed Magna Charta which has been on exhibition at Jamestown. He translated for the House the portion which first put the guarantee of jury trial in written form for Anglo-Saxon justice. "We find the stirring phase, he said, "nor condemn him but by lawful judgment of his peers!"



Representative J. Vaughan Gary presiding at a meeting of his Subcommittee on Treasury and Post Office Appropriations, makes a point on budget cutting while cross-examining an Administration witness requesting funds for his agency.

The effectiveness of the arduous hours Gary spends in the Capitol, presiding over his Appropriations Subcommittee, poring over the long pages of fine-print figures in the Federal budget, sharply cross-examining Administration witnesses (whether Democratic or Republican) has paid off in an amazing record of accomplishment. Over the past 10 years, the major multi-billion dollar bills the subcommittee has recommended, annually appropriating money for the Treasury Department and the Post Office Department, have been enacted with virtually no changes. To the contrary, most appropriations bills, by the time they run the gamut of the full House Committee on Appropriations, the House itself, the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate, and finally a House-Senate Conference Committee, undergo major amendments.

Representative Gary believes in cutting Federal budgets, but not by the "bull-in-a-china shop" method. He believes in appropriating the minimum amount which careful examination indicates is needed to carry out each proper function of the Federal Government. This takes endless research and incisive cross-examination of Administration witnesses. When the long hearings are over, and all the evidence is in, his subcommittee then hammers out the bill they will recommend.

The Members of Gary's Subcommittee, of both major
to tell the Virginia Story

parties, hold him in such high regard that their reports are usually unanimous and often very close to his own personal judgment. This means that when he takes the floor of the House of Representatives to present the annual Treasury-Post Office appropriations bill, early in each Congressional year, the Representatives who would urge more spending find it difficult to increase Gary's figures, and the others find it difficult to reduce them. Gary's persuasive argument will show that the amounts recommended are adequate; on the other hand, it is rare that a House majority will support an effort to cut the figures he recommends, because they usually represent a sizable cut already made from the budget figures requested by the Administration.

"Our biggest problem in recent years, in cutting the budget, was the fact that the Senate always increased House appropriations," Gary says. "This even led to the pun," he adds, eyes twinkling, "that the Senate is called the upper house because it always ups the House appropriations. Happily, that changed this year."

Gary reported in a radio speech on May 18, 1957, that "I bring you the best news of the year insofar as the economy drive in Washington is concerned. I have advised you earlier that the real test of economy in this Congressional session would come when we found out what the Senate would do with the cuts the House has been making in President

Eisenhower's budget. This week I am exceedingly pleased to report that the Senate is meeting the test. In voting on the first three appropriations bills for the fiscal year 1958, which were passed this week, the Senate either sustained or increased the House cut."

As a former star college athlete, Gary knows, "you can't win 'em all." Therefore, he is philosophical about losing one appropriations battle he waged this year, almost single-handed, against the Post Office Department. He still thinks that although he lost the battle, he may yet win the war.

The Post Office Department, contrary to the purpose of the Anti-Deficiency Act, spent its 1957 appropriations at a rate so rapid that funds were running low and the Department threatened to drastically curtail mail services in the final quarter of the fiscal year unless the Congress quickly appropriated supplemental funds. It was the position of Gary and a majority of his subcommittee that if postal service had to be curtailed to keep spending at the level appropriated, for the final weeks of the 1957 fiscal year (which closed on June 30), "well and good." No Administration should be allowed to flout the will of the Congress, and the purpose of the Anti-Deficiency Law which required the apportionment of an annual appropriation so that it would last through the year. A storm of protest by Post Office patrons resulted in the Gary subcommittee recommendation being overturned, and in April 141 million dollars in supplemental funds were voted to keep the postal service operating with no curtailments.

Letters of support for Gary's position poured in from patrons all over the country. Many newspaper editorials, although supporting the supplemental appropriation to prevent the disruption of postal service, criticized the Post Office Department for its handling of the matter. "The fight focused so much attention on the operations of the Department," Gary says "that I do not believe it will happen again." (Also, his sub-committee investigators are



—Press Association, Inc. Photo

J. Vaughan Gary and Speaker Sam Rayburn reenact swearing in ceremony at the House of Representatives on March 6, 1945, when Gary took office. From left to right are Representative John McCormack of Massachusetts, the Democratic Majority Leader, Gary, Rayburn and Rep. Schuyler Otis Bland of Virginia's first District, then dean of the Virginia delegation in the Congress.

presently completing a detailed inquiry into the Department's work.)

Work on the Appropriations Committee is generally considered the most arduous and time-consuming assignment in the Congress. Committee hearings are long and involved, and for this reason the Committee on Appropriations is one of the two House Committees which can meet during regular sessions of the House. Appropriations subcommittees will frequently meet from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., recessing briefly only for lunch or to go to the floor of the House when the bells ring for votes on bills under debate. In the full committee, where Gary votes on bills from other sub-committees, appropriation for all agencies of the Government, he engages in many a long and heated wrangle on budget-cutting. During busy weeks of the Congress, Gary often cannot begin the handling of mail and appointments with callers in his Congressional office in the House Office Building (connected to the Capitol by

a tunnel) until 4:30 or 5 P.M. in the afternoons.

His stamina for this busy life has been built up over many years, however, since he first went out for track at Richmond College, in 1909. "I was pretty scrawny then" he recalls, but college athletics changed all that. By 1912 when he graduated from Richmond College, he had won the best all-around athlete's medal, and he has made it a point to keep in excellent physical condition since that time.

Now 65 years old, he is an active and energetic swimmer and handball player. Even during busy sessions of the Congress, he makes it a point to find time, once or twice a week, for a vigorous game of "paddle ball"—a combination between handball and tennis, played with a large wooden paddle and a rubber ball. Gary's brisk manner, obvious muscle tone, and springy step, lead many Members of the House to estimate that he is in his early 50's.

(Continued on page 19)

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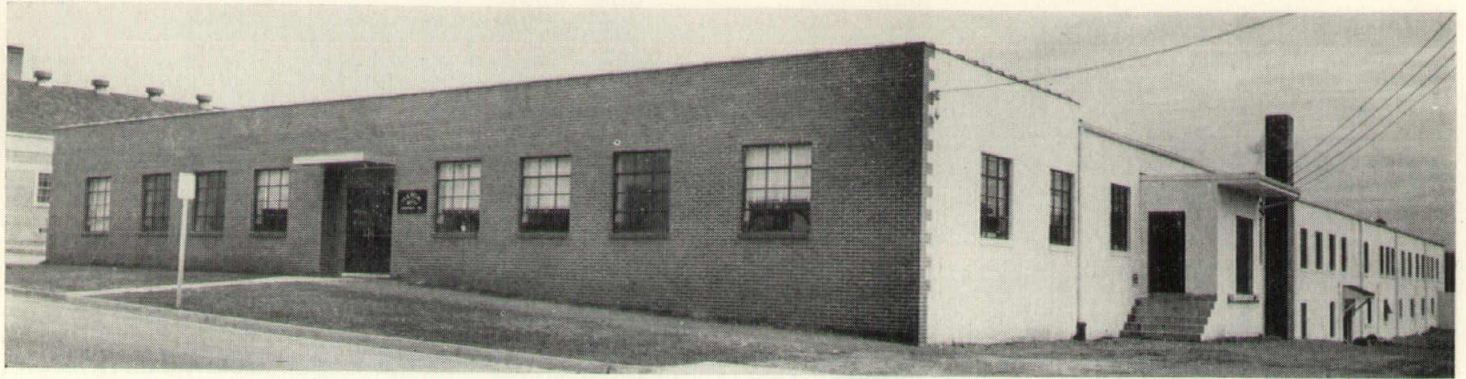
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BLACKSTONE AT THE CROSSROADS

by JULIA GWIN



—Foster Studio Photo

Harde Manufacturing Company is Blackstone's largest employer. First of five new industries to establish in Blackstone since 1954.

IF YOU want to know what makes a community tick, talk to its every day citizens, listen to them discuss local problems when they don't know an extra pair of ears are tuned in on their conversations; be alert to the overtones of pride or disappointment which color the things they say. In this way the picture will come alive, unvarnished by a recital of the things they think you should be told or that they want you to know.

I spent the better part of a week touring Blackstone, Virginia, with Town Manager, Richard David Maben, Jr. and learning about the five new industries that have settled there since the closing of Camp Pickett in 1954, as well as about other businesses which

have grown up with and helped the town progress. I spent more time talking to key people interested in the industrial development of Blackstone and still more time talking to people in department stores, restaurants, grocery stores, and across drug store counters. I listened to discussions on ways and means to bring industry to Blackstone, the importance of promoting a home grown industry to keep earnings in the town and of the kind of industry needed to provide employment for the large Negro population in the area, as well as for high school and college graduates who are now being lured away for lack of the right kind of jobs.

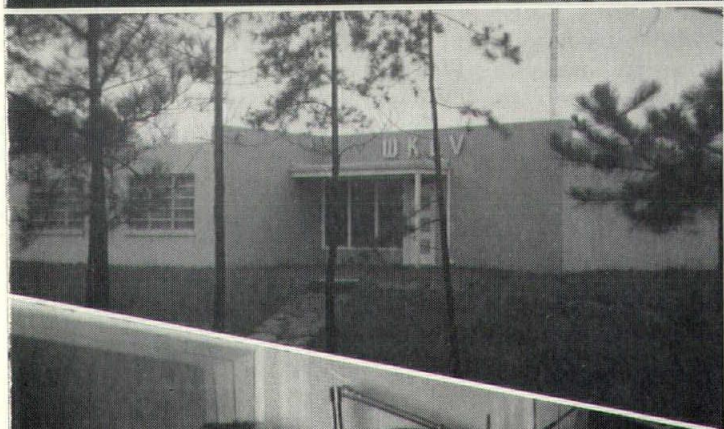
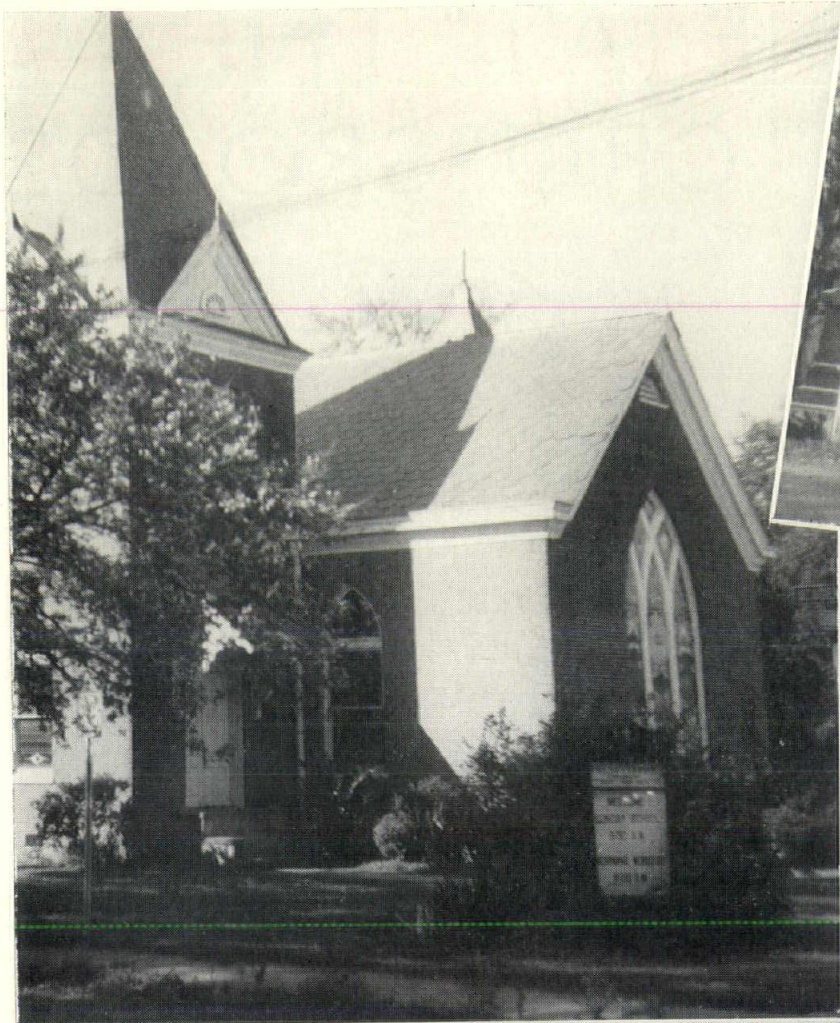
A recent survey of Nottoway County shows thirty-three excellent industrial

sites, of which sixteen are located in the Town of Blackstone.

Blackstone has an area of almost two square miles and is situated on the main line of the Norfolk and Western Railway about half way between Norfolk and Roanoke with the Port of Hampton Roads 120 miles due east. It is ideally located for industry since it also has access to three other trunk line railways—the Seaboard, the Southern and the Virginian within a radius of 18 miles over hard surfaced roads. Additionally, state highway 460, hard surfaced throughout, connects with U. S. highway 1 to Petersburg, 37 miles east, and state highway 40 connects with U. S. 1 at McKenney, 20 miles east. Richmond is 50 miles North on

Blackstone's Main Street looking north shows new highway markings along side of Paul's Restaurant, one of the better eating places. Across the street is the M & R Hotel and on the corner with the clock is the Citizens Bank & Trust Company. The National Bank is a block further up on the same side of the street.





U. S. 360.

Greyhound buses service Blackstone with connections in all directions. While the Blackstone Airport is presently leased to the Federal Government at Camp Pickett, civilian aircraft may use the field which is equipped with a full time weather station, radio facilities, and four concrete runways, each about 300 feet wide and a mile long. There are commercial airports at Lynchburg, Danville, Roanoke and Richmond.

Several regularly scheduled freight lines put most eastern markets in overnight reach for industry, while the N & W has ten scheduled freights, five in each direction, and eight passenger trains, four in each direction, daily.

Such transportation facilities, with unlimited future possibilities, and a fine labor market, place Blackstone in the enviable position to offer industry a secure and expanding future.

Development of Blackstone began with the coming of the railroad over 100 years ago. With roots firmly planted in Revolutionary days, Blackstone was incorporated in 1888. It is now the second largest community in Southside Virginia with an estimated population of over 4,000. It has the Town Manager form of government with the 7-man council, the mayor and the manager elected simultaneously for two year periods. William I. Moncure, local attorney, is starting on his seventh 2-year term as mayor.

R. D. Maben, Jr. has been town manager since 1943. A native of Nottoway County, he tells you of the 27 miles of streets in Blackstone, 25 of which are paved with asphalt and crushed stone and about 22% of them are curbed. He estimates that his street department will rebuild, resurface or extensively repair at least 25% of these streets within the next five years, subject to approval of council. They plan to build a new fire house, install a 300,000 gallon elevated steel water tank, with 12 inch and 10 inch booster lines. They are trying to get a second class insurance rating instead of third as at present, as this means a reduction of from 20% to 25% in insurance rates.

Blackstone has a sewage disposal



BLACKSTONE TOWN OFFICIALS AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1957. Left to right: 1st row: H. S. Robertson, President; Hugh Yelverton, Jr.; W. J. Moncure, Mayor; Mrs. Evelyn L. Powell; W. P. Bagwell, Jr., Town Attorney; R. W. Buntin, Town Clerk; 2nd row: R. D. Maben, Jr., Town Manager; W. W. Borum; L. F. T. Coleman; R. B. Hardy, Jr.; and J. D. Coleburn.

plant and sewer systems available for domestic, industrial and commercial use; a refuse disposal dump with daily collections in the business districts and twice weekly in residence; electric and water systems are municipally owned which helps keep the town solvent. Their bonded debt is \$5,000 with surplus reserves totaling \$195,000 for future capital outlay.

Water is purchased wholesale from the Federally owned system at Camp Pickett. They have a maximum capacity of 475,000 gallons daily, more than 100,000 gallons per day of which is available for industrial expansion with service connections both within and without the corporate limits on a mutually satisfactory basis.

Digging a little deeper into the Blackstone problem, we learn that work was started on Camp Pickett the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed. The

camp was opened in June of 1942, closed in 1946, reopened in 1948, closed in 1949, reopened in 1950 and closed for the last time . . . they sincerely hope . . . in June of 1954.

The people of Blackstone readily admit that for many the Camp was a life saver, pulling them out of the red into the black permanently. But during the Pickett days incomes fluctuated as much as 40%. No one knew where they stood; it was a constant boom-bust-boom period. When it was over, Blackstone put its collective shoulder to the wheel and without outside help devised means to prevent this ever happening again. Pickett is now used as a mobilization base and for paratroop training.

Town Manager Maben stresses that Blackstone progress is the co-ordinated effort of many civic-minded people working toward a common goal. Early in 1954, the Junior Chamber of Commerce formed a committee of five to organize an industrial committee. These five: a retail furniture man, a radio station operator, a druggist who is also in the real estate business, an attorney, and a father and son team, part owners in a department store, canvassed the town for signatures to a non-binding pledge for contributions. A first meeting was held in March of 1954, and in May of 1954 Blackstone Industrial Development, Inc. was incorporated.

(Continued on page 13)

Lower left corner, John Mac Williams of Blackstone's 5000 watt radio station WKLV, talks to thousands of farm folk scattered through Central and Southside Virginia and North Carolina. Mac is an authority on early American folk music, including modern day hill-billy. Also shown is an exterior shot of the radio station. Upper left, Blackstone Presbyterian Church. Upper right, a view of the Lake View Cemetery. Center right, Elmer T. Clay and his father, W. T. Clay, check eggs in one of their incubators at Clay's Hatchery, one of the Southside's largest hatcheries. Lower right, the Clays show our associate editor, Julia Gwin Ault, the fine points of selecting baby chicks.

IT IS "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT," floating out from tiny cross-roads churches and high vaulted cathedrals . . . from jam-packed stores with their hurrying crowds . . . from caroling street singers and the tinkling music box beneath the shining tree.

It is sleighbells along a snowy country road, and on crowded street corners, the noisy "cling-clang" of the bells beside Salvation Army kettles. It is the shouts of "Merry Christmas" and the giggles of hidden surprises . . . the raucous traffic noises above the strains of "O Little Town of Bethelhem" coming from loud speakers along the way. It is stockings hung by the chimney, and tiny forms tucked into their beds while "visions of sugar plums dance through their heads."

It is the fragrance of evergreens in the market-places . . . candle-lit windows . . . the magic of shining Christmas trees and Holly-wreathed doors swinging wide in welcome.

It is ribbon-decked gifts and stacks of Christmas cards . . . sacred, whimsical and "personalized." It is turkey with all of its trimmings to high-light the Christmas feast and mince pie and plum pudding to bring it to a contented close.

It is chimes at midnight on Christmas Eve, ringing out over a hushed and waiting city . . . when the machinery of business has ground to a halt and the clamor of a weary world is stilled.

In many tongues, with many customs, around the whole Christian world it is *CHRISTMAS*, because . . . *a child was born*.

High over the Manger where he was born, the "Star of Bethelhem" marked the place of his birth. To the listening ear came the sound of the Angel choir "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth Peace, Good Will Toward Men," and Wise Men, journeying from afar, laid their offering at the infant's feet: *Gold*, denoting faith triumphant over adversity; *Frankincense*, denoting consecrated power, and *Myrrh*, the sorrow that was to befall him, and charity to all mankind.

As shepherds watched their flocks by night, the first Christmas day began to dawn.

The tiny babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes was the world's first Christmas "Gift" . . . because "God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son."

On that first Christmas Day 'tis said that the cattle in the fields and sheep in

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Christmas

Christ Mass . . .

Noel . . . Yule!

their stalls fell to their knees and trees burst into bloom.

Not until about 400 a.d. was Christmas observed on December 25, established by the early Christians of Rome to replace for Christians the pagan festivities held at this time around the winter solstice or Saturnalia. Before this time Christians had observed January 6th, (Jesus's baptism) as the high point of the Christian year.

The word "Christmas" was first used in England about 1038, derived from the Mass held on Christ's birthday . . . Christes Maesse, or *Christ Mass*, and gradually run together over the years. From France come "Noel" signifying news of Christ's birth and "Yuletide" comes from the ancient Goths and Anglo Saxons meaning the turn of the year (wheel). Before and after the Christian era "Yuletide" in the northern countries of Europe meant the time the harvest was in, the cattle counted, and if there was not enough grain to feed all of the cattle throughout the long winter months some must be killed, thus beginning a period of feasting.

The earliest carols come to us from sunny Italy through St. Francis about the year 1223 A.D. with the Franciscan monks carrying them to England the following year. Following these came the merry English ones, none more beloved than "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen," while from the hills of Austria, in 1818, came the beloved "Silent Night."

Just as a star shone over the Manger in Bethlehem, so today a star shines atop every gleaming christmas tree whether on the mammoth and shining tree at Rockefeller Center, the Nation's tree on the White House "Elipse" or a tiny one on a bedside table.

The tree itself, symbol of Christmas, is as old as the hills and comes to us

from Germany as late as 1841 with the marriage of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria.

Christmas Candles are legendary, not only to light the Christ Child and His Mother, but as a symbol of Eternal Light, just as is the Yule Log, which we get from Merry England. A legend surrounding it is that it drives away the devil and makes him powerless to do mischief in the house that year. A ritual surrounds its lighting . . . wine must be poured over it when it is brought into the house and it must be kept lighted throughout the Christmas season, all the Christmas candles lighted from it, and a piece stored away for the next Christmas season. Ash was the favorite wood for the "Yule log" for an ancient and beautiful story is told that the infant Jesus was first bathed beside the warmth of an ashen fagot.

Evergreens, so freely used in early pagan festivities are a Christian symbol of Eternal Life . . . Laurel and Bay being symbolic of triumph and Holly with its bright red berries symbolic of the crown the new-born Babe was destined to wear. A Holly legend, however, declared that if it was hung at windows or doors that house would be immune from the "spells" of witches.

Of course no Christmas would be complete without the gentleman in red, with the white whiskers and twinkling eyes, who so embodies the spirit of "Goodwill toward Men" and can manage the smallest chimneys and the highest walls.

And once again, as myriads of candles are lighted and stars gleam, there comes to a waiting world the message old, but ever new . . . "It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old . . ." Glory to God in the Highest . . . a Son is born . . . it is *CHRISTMAS*.



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3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

(Signed) Donna M. Laurino, Business Manager. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1957.

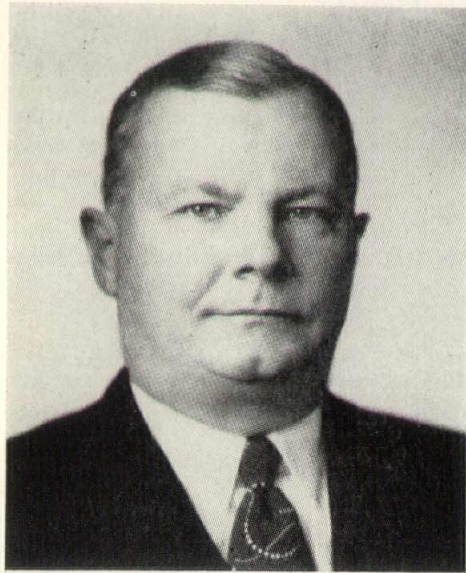
Hill C. Mallory, Jr., Notary Public. (My commission expires Sept. 13, 1960.)

VIRGINIA BUSINESS REVIEW

by

ROSEWELL PAGE, JR.

The Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce announced recently the location in that city of a manufacturing concern to fabricate transformers for elec-



General James A. Anderson

The announcement of the retirement of General James A. Anderson as Virginia's highway commissioner on December 31 of this year is an event which will affect the Commonwealth greatly. The General has been highway commissioner since 1941 and Virginia has never in its history had a public servant more dedicated to her welfare.

A distinguished member of the Virginia General Assembly recently had this to say about him: "I always have had the feeling that General Anderson is a man of highest integrity who tolerates nothing that is not absolutely open and above board in all his dealings. His every action will stand foursquare under the white light of public scrutiny."

Under Anderson's jurisdiction great progress has been made in Virginia's highway system. Few if any states of the Union have as much mileage of improved road built at less cost per mile and all paid for.

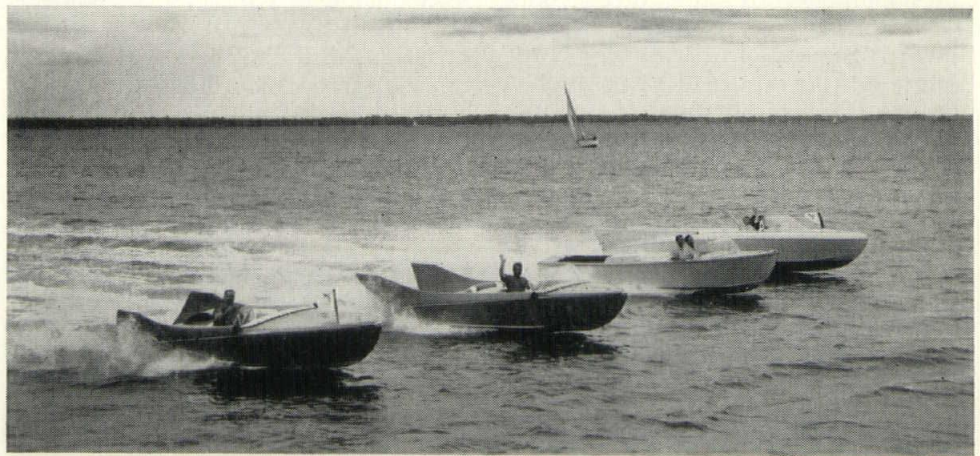
tronic industries in the Virginia area and also to serve as a wholesale electronic parts stocking distributor. The concern, a branch of New England Transformer Co., will be set up under a new name, according to Robert W. Steers, who will serve as manager.

With the exception of four key employees, workers will be hired from the Lynchburg area. The firm moved from Lynn, Mass., where a branch plant is being shut down. The move from Lynn was motivated in part by the fact that General Electric's rectifier department was moved from the River Works Plant there to Lynchburg.

NAMES IN THE NEWS . . .

C. Spear, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, divisional sales manager for Curtis Industries, Inc., announces the appointment of Joseph D. Scott, Jr., of Roanoke, as the Shenandoah Valley Field representative for Curtis, one of the world's largest manufacturers and distributors of keys, key cutting machinery and automatic replacement parts. . . . John B. Trent, Jr., director of industrial relations and personnel director of Lindsey-Robinson and Co., Inc., Roanoke, has been named to the new position of administrative assistant to the

president of the company, C. Grattan Lindsey, Jr. . . . Robert B. Pamplin, a native of Dinwiddie County, has been elected president of the \$200 million Georgia-Pacific Corporation in Portland, Oregon, which he joined after graduating from V.P.I. in 1927. He will supervise the duties of more than 8,000 employees at 21 plants, 49 distribution warehouses and worldwide sales offices. . . . John S. Alfried, president National Bank of Commerce, Norfolk, has been elected as one of the 12 members of the Federal Advisory Council to the Federal Reserve Bank Board. Mr. Alfried is the third Virginian to obtain this high position, the other two being George Keesee who held the post in 1914-15 and John M. Miller, another Richmond banker of great distinction, who held it from 1923-1925. . . . Dr. Ennion S. Williams, vice president and medical director of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, has been elected vice-president of the association of Life Insurance Medical Directors of America. . . . Clarence N. Harris, of Norfolk, has been appointed manager of the Richmond district of the Texas Co., succeeding the late H. J. Rhodes who was in charge of the oil company's sales in eastern Virginia before his death recently. . . .



NEWTON ANCARROW of Richmond, founder of Ancarrow Marine, Inc., announces that the company is moving its boat manufacturing operations from Egg Harbor, N. J., to Richmond, and plans to start turning out at least one craft a day. About 40 persons will be employed at the plant. Of these only about ten veteran boatmen will move from New Jersey. The rest will be recruited from Richmond and vicinity. The company's new location

comprises about 16,000 square feet of space in three former warehouses at 1723-31 Summit Avenue.

The firm's specialty is a 25-foot, 600-horsepower boat called the "Aquilifer." This boat can make 60 miles per hour on the water. The company will hit the 1958 market with three smaller crafts added to its fleet, viz., the "Praetorian," a 19-foot sports speedster; the "Patriot," a 19-foot runabout, and the 20-foot open deck utility, the "Gladiator."

Charles E. Mervine, Jr., director of personnel for the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad Company, has been elected assistant secretary and assistant treasurer of the company succeeding Lawrence T. Oliver, who has gone with the Atlantic Coastline. . . . Lawrence B. Cann, Jr., division engineer of the RF&P, has been appointed chief engineer of the railroad company. . . . Horace A. Gray, who has been chairman of the board of Virginia Folding Box Company, which has recently been acquired by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper through an exchange of 155,000 shares of West Virginia common stock for all the folding box firm, will continue as a director of the subsidiary, and Lewis G. Chewning will continue as president and director. Later the firm will become a division of West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. . . . Neil E. Wessells, district manager for Peoples Service Drug Stores, announced that the new store, just opened for business in the new Southside Plaza Shopping Center at McGuire Circle, is the ninth in the Richmond area or the Washington based drug chain. A. W. Haraway, former manager for the Peoples store at Cowardin Avenue and Hull Street, will be manager of the Southside Plaza operation. . . . W. W. Walker is store manager for the G. C. Murphy Company's variety store in the Southside Plaza. This outlet is the third in the Murphy chain in Richmond. The chain includes 316 stores in 15 states and the District of Columbia. . . . C. Edward Storck, Jr., will direct the Richmond operation of the MacLea Lumber Co. of Baltimore, recently come to town to serve the retail lumber trade as well as manufacturers and industrial accounts throughout Virginia. Assisting Storck will be Herbert C. Beaver, Richmond warehouse superintendent. Harper C. Hershberger and H. I. Hawthorne, Jr., will be sales representatives for MacLea in the Richmond area. . . . Robert T. Marsh, Jr., president of the First & Merchants National Bank of Richmond, announces that his bank will establish a new branch on the southeast corner of Eighth and Broad Streets. The move will give First & Merchants its first office in the downtown retail area and will be its ninth location in Richmond, plus a facility in the Pentagon Building near Washington, D. C. . . . John Crosthwaite, Jr., of Harlan, Ky., succeeds J. C. Boston, of Big Stone Gap, as manager of the Big Stone Gap district of Old Dominion Power Company. This is a cross switch, as Boston goes to Harlan in Crosthwaite's place.

Crosthwaite will be under the supervision of A. O. Umstead, general manager of Old Dominion Power Company. . . . Roy E. McDaniel, Esso manager of Virginia, announced that Robert Herman Parks has been appointed commercial accounts representative for the Esso Standard Oil Co. in Virginia. He succeeds C. Douglas Diggs, of Staunton, who retires at the beginning of 1958 after more than 30 years of service. . . . M. V. O'Neill, staff supervisor of public relations for the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company of Virginia, notifies us that Willard Phaup Milby, Jr., of Richmond, has been promoted to supervising accountant in Disbursements Accounting, as announced by G. D. Mattox, auditor of Disbursements for C&P's Accounting Department. . . . Charles S. Rockwell, who from 1952 until his promotion this year managed Sperry-Rand's Naval Industrial Reserve aircraft plant in Bristol, has been named president of two divisions of Sperry-Rand Corporation, the Ford Instrument Co., and the Sperry Farragut Co. divisions. . . . J. W. Averill has assumed his duties as manager of the Peoples Finance Service of Lexington. He came to Lexington from Vinton where he was assistant vice-president of the Vinton branch of the Mountain Trust Bank of Roanoke. . . . I. W. Park, president of the Wythe County National Bank, announces that the board of directors has called a meeting of the shareholders for November 6 to vote upon an increase in the bank's capital account. . . . Irvin I. Held, of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co., Richmond, has been succeeded as president of the Richmond Chapter, American Society of Chartered Life Underwriters, by Douglas W. Dodd, district manager for the Life Insurance Company of Virginia. . . . Erle T. Rucker, former manager of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway's eastern region here, has been appointed manager of the line's northern region with headquarters in Detroit. . . . S. H. Pulliam, of Richmond, has been named C & O's manager of

station service and freight claim prevention at Huntington, W. Va. . . .

James R. Gregory, president of High's of Richmond, Inc., announces that the ice cream plant will be moved from 2200 West Broad Street to the former Kraft Foods Co. building at 1401 Sherwood Ave. The move is expected to be completed by February 15, 1958. The firm hopes to continue its sales office at the Broad St. location.

Farmers in Virginia were using \$83,-729,000 in credit obtained from banks as of January 1, 1957. This was the largest amount for all lenders.

The American Bankers Association reported that this included non-real estate loans, consisting of operating and production loans totalling \$45,-112,000 and real estate loans amounting to \$38,617,000. In addition, the banks held on the first of the year \$1,106,000 of Commodity Credit Corporation paper in connection with the farm price-support program.



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- NOMINAL
CHARGE

G. LEONARD MARLER

MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE

3105 GROVE AVENUE RICHMOND, VA.

EL 8-9459

Blackstone at the Crossroads

(Continued from page 9)



Virginia Methodist Assembly Center (formerly Blackstone College for Girls).

Shortly after this meeting, Clive N. Marks, president of Harde Manufacturing Company, was passing through Blackstone and stopped for lunch at a local restaurant.

"I wanted a site in Virginia," he explained. "Even on my initial contact I

liked the people and what I saw and knew this was the place I'd been looking for."

These manufacturers of boys wear opened a pilot plant three years ago and conducted a 10-month training period to be sure their decision was

right. They then built a 20,000 foot square building, still planning to put three or four plants in the Richmond area. But by the time they were ready to expand they decided to keep their operation in Blackstone entirely, due to the quality of its people and the co-operation they received. Twenty-eight thousand feet was added to the building which is completely air-conditioned and fire proof. They have music piped into the plant, a cafeteria area, coffee breaks and an excellent safety program. Erected by Blackstone Industrial Development, Inc., Harde Manufacturing Company will one day own the building on a lease-purchase basis.

Harde employs 250 local people. In another few months there will be 300. This will also jump their present annual payroll of \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 due to increases for new employees and those now in training. This is a sizable contribution to the economy of Blackstone.

Blackstone's newest industry, The Woodhaven Furniture Company of which W. G. Shumate, Jr. is president, started the manufacture of upholstered living room furniture the first

(Continued on next page)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

Dear Sirs:

I enclose my check for one year's subscription to the *Record*. If you have back numbers, I should like very much to have the subscription start with the August issue, as I am eager to get parts I and II of Mr. Dowdey's editorial, "Deadly Parallel." I wish he would have reprints struck off so that we could distribute them far and wide.

Very truly yours,
Mrs. Thomas P. Abernethy
West Lawn,
University of Virginia
Charlottesville

Dear Mr. Dowdey:

We have read with much interest your editorials "The Deadly Parallel—Parts I and II." We feel that these editorials are so well written and informative that we would like to place them in the hands of our principals, board members and other key people. We are assuming that you will receive sufficient requests for copies to demand a reprint of the three parts and would like to know the cost of fifty copies of a reprint of the complete editorial.

Very sincerely yours,
Harry R. Elmore
Division Superintendent
Pittsylvania County Schools

Dear Sir:

I have read with a great deal of interest and appreciation the first two issues of your editorial "The Deadly Parallel."

Don't you believe that it would be highly proper to send complimentary copies to the President, Attorney General and members of the Supreme Court? It might show them the error of their ways.

Yours very truly,
B. S. Gillespie
Big Stone Gap, Va.

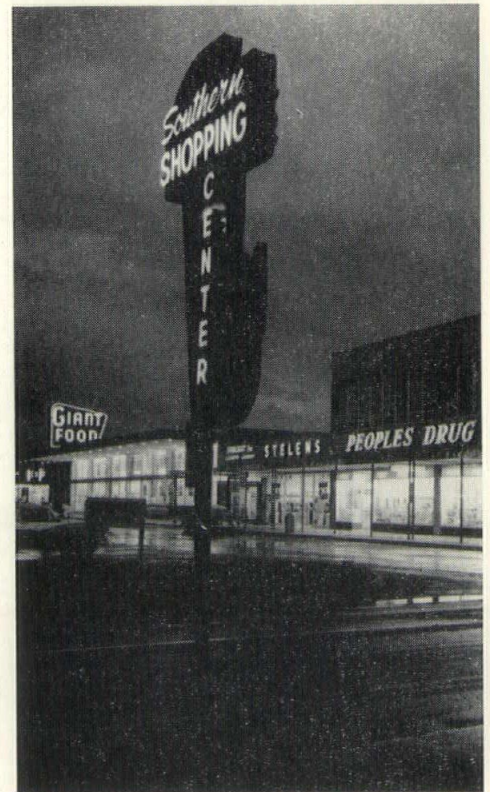
Dear Mr. Dowdey:

Mrs. Ault will soon be by to collect an advertisement that we tentatively promised her for a Fall issue. I want you to know why she won't get it.

I feel that the advocacy of defiance of law is a policy dangerous to our country and state and I cannot support either a publication or politician that so advocates.

I cannot support the premise that provides the title for your recent series of feature editorials and I don't care to support the intemperate and openly contemptuous references to all officials with whom you chance to disagree.

Yours very truly,
R. E. Lee
Charlottesville, Va.



ED. NOTE:

We are sorry for the omission of the architects' name in giving the credits with the Southern Shopping Center article in the November issue of the *VIRGINIA RECORD*. Lublin, McGaughy & Associates were the architects for this project.

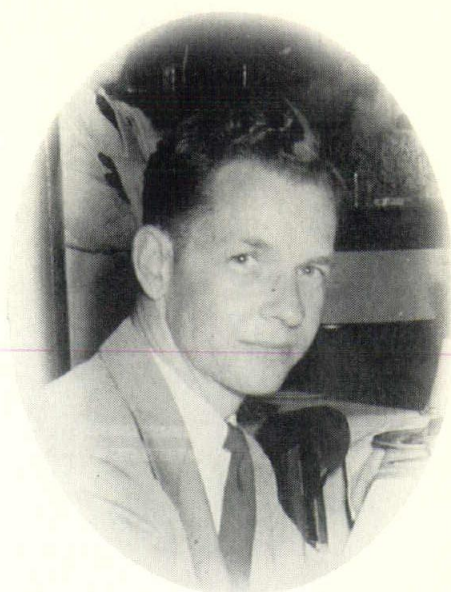
part of December. Started in 1945 by W. G. Shumate, Sr. in Montvale, Virginia, the plant location moved to Blackstone after the building was destroyed by fire in June 1957. They have a normal output of 25 to 30 pieces of better quality furniture daily, and they employ 30 people.

Blackstone's premier industry is home owned and has grown up around the county's chief industry — agriculture. The internationally known firm of Joseph E. Beach Tobacco Company was started in 1907 by the father of

John H. Beach, the present president and treasurer. They are primarily interested in dark-fired and bright tobacco which they export mainly to Scandinavian countries and the continent of Europe. Among their customers are such firms as the Swedish Tobacco Monopoly, the Austrian Tobacco Monopoly, the Italian Tobacco Monopoly and several independent Norwegian firms.

From their six Blackstone warehouses Joseph E. Beach Tobacco Company exports all over the world tobacco which has been purchased in Virginia. For this job they employ, over a nine months period, 45 to 50 people, mostly Negroes, and about 14 off-season workers. They hold contracts with the Commodity Credit Corporation for the storing of all surplus of dark-fired Virginia tobacco for the entire state with the present holdings at approximately ten million pounds.

Joseph E. Beach and Company is the parent company of the General Tobacco Packers Corporation and the W. E. Sawyer Tobacco Company, Inc.



John H. Beach, president and treasurer of Joseph H. Beach Tobacco Company, is the son of the founder of Blackstone's premier industry.

Hamner-Hardin Funeral Home

Ambulance Service

Phone 138

BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

Elliott Manufacturing Company

Manufacturers of Wood Specialties

BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

Peebles

MOST FOR YOUR MONEY

BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

Fairfax Hall Food Products

Distributed by

Barrow Grocery Company, Inc.

BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

formerly of Petersburg, now of Blackstone.

The second largest employer in Blackstone is the Velvet Textile Company. This concern was moved from Connecticut by President Charles Carlo early in 1955 because of good labor-management relations in the community. In a most interesting operation, they weave unfinished velvet from raw rayon employing some 80 local men and women in the operation. They turn out around 25,000 yards weekly now but they have a capacity of at least 40,000 yards weekly. Material is sent north for finishing and dying. The Velvet Textile Company is completely home owned with father, mother and son holding all stock and serving as officers. Here again the story was the same:

"We like the town and we find it gives us everything we want," said Frank Carlo, the son.

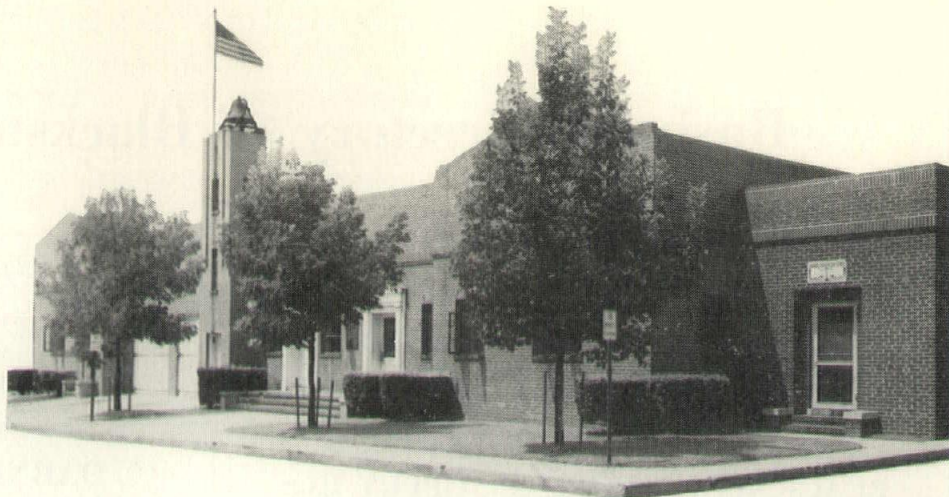
Today dairying, poultry and livestock are increasing rapidly in importance as a source of income in the Blackstone area. Milk sales have more than doubled in the county in the last 10 years and dairying is now the second largest source of farm income, tobacco is first, providing slightly more than 30% of all sales. To serve these interests, the Southside Cooperative Milk Producers Association was formed in 1949. This 8-county association has found Blackstone more central for channeling the milk of its 90 members through to Norfolk. Milk is hauled in tank trucks mainly to save members transportation costs . . . about \$8,400 per month not including savings in cost of farm operations.

Blackstone citizens believe that the community could best support an industry using hardwoods, a tool manufacturing industry and/or some type of industry using farm and dairy products. Already there are two such businesses in the town which might be expanded to embrace the latter. One is the Blackstone Canning Company which started the canning of the best chicken Brunswick stew on the market in 1954. They could eventually include canned vegetables or even frozen products in their output. Now owned by the Barrow Grocery Company, they employ about 12 people.

The other is Clay's Hatchery. Started in 1947 with the hatching of 200 baby chicks on his farm, Elmer T. Clay moved into his present quarters in 1950 and was then hatching about 15,000 baby chicks weekly. Now, seven years later, they are hatching 70,000 chicks weekly. With a total rated capacity of 400,000 they will hatch approximately three million baby chicks yearly through the addition of a 30 x 80 incubator room to their present building.

Ten years ago there wasn't a broiler house in Nottoway County that would accomodate 1,000 chicks. So it is evident that Clay's Hatchery is an economic asset in Blackstone since his eggs are purchased from local flock holders and his chicks are placed with broiler growers within a radius of 125 miles of Blackstone. Additionally, he is working with local county agents on a 4-H Club program to foster interest in poultry growing among future Nottoway County citizens.

Elliott Manufacturing Company, of which F. L. Elliott is president, is an-



—Fry Photo
Town Municipal Building housing the Town Manager's office, Mayor's Court Room, Louis Spencer Epes Library, the Blackstone Volunteer Fire Department, Police Headquarters and the local jail.

other of the new Blackstone industries utilizing community assets. Started in 1956, they make tobacco hogshead staves from local pine lumber, also framing for furniture. They employ from 12 to 20 local people.

Blackstone is the home of The Transport Corporation with terminals in Richmond and Danville, Virginia; Durham, Winston-Salem and Rocky Mount, N. C., Elkridge, Maryland, and Lexington, Kentucky, and seasonal tobacco terminals throughout the South. Started in 1931 with college graduates as truck drivers because of the depression, these men have grown up with the company and, all Blackstonians, hold executive jobs in the various terminals. Their office is in Blackstone and their president, W. G. Epes lives there. Transport Corporation operates about 100 trucks. The

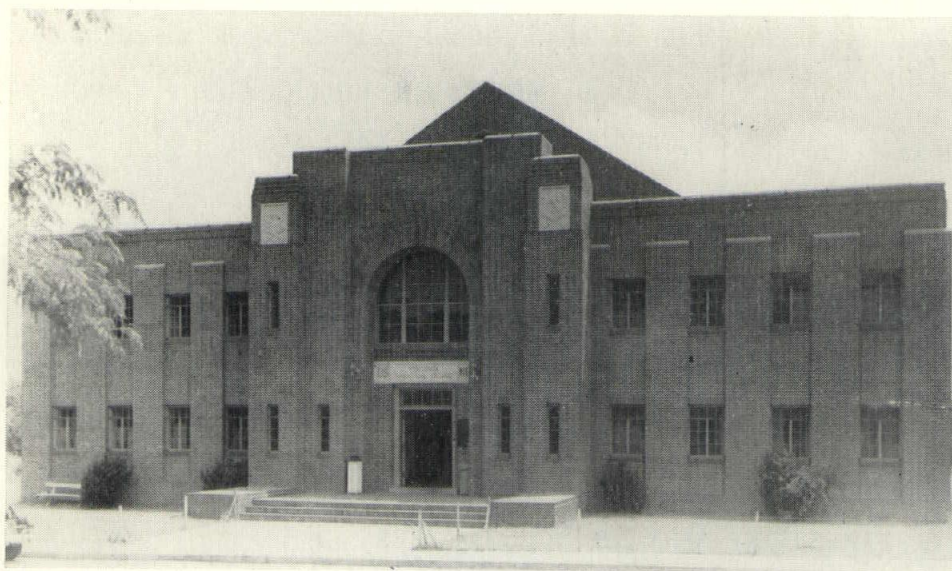
major portion of their hauling is with tobacco from Florida to Pennsylvania and out through Kentucky. In Blackstone they do all of the trucking for Joseph E. Beach and Company.

Garrett, Moon and Pool, Inc., are local highway contractors with a statewide reputation. Started in 1938, they manufacture ready-mixed concrete and septic tanks; Blackstone Guano Company has been manufacturing fertilizer in Blackstone since 1884.

There are other things which make this Southside Virginia town a fine place for industry and a good place to live. It has good schools and churches, two hotels . . . the Colonial Trail and the M & R and several fine motels, one of which, Allen's, in the corporate limits, has modern cabins as well as rooms. There is a volunteer fire department with three municipally owned fire trucks, one of them radio equipped, with 30 officers and men headed by O. H. Bowman, Jr. who has been chief for four years. They are members of the Virginia State Firemen's Association and the Southside Virginia Volunteer Firemen's Association, the latter composed of a group of 36 towns always on call to answer the needs of member towns. Mr. Bowman says the co-operation between his department and citizens of Blackstone is top level which accounts for the excellence of coordination and equipment.

An 8-man police force administers law and order in the community. They have regular night beats and two radio equipped cruisers on call at all times.

An unusually beautiful cemetery is the pride of Mr. Maben and the townspeople. Recently purchased acreage attests to the foresightedness of the town officials with regard to future needs. Azaleas and camellias abound



—Fry Photo

BLACKSTONE'S NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY BUILT IN 1934.

Business Directory of Blackstone, Virginia

ALLEN'S

**TOURIST HOME
AND MOTEL**

Phone 142 :-: 206 N. Main St :-: Blackstone, Va.

COLONIAL TRAIL HOTEL
205 CHURCH STREET
Rt. 460 West of Business Section
Overnight and Weekly Rates
BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

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Coal—Fuel Oil—Feed—Seed—Grinding & Mixing

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DABNEY CHEVROLET, INC.

Your Chevrolet and Oldsmobile

Dealer in Blackstone

North Main Street

FARMERS HARDWARE AND SUPPLY COMPANY, INC.

North High Street

Phone 343

MONCURE'S INSURANCE AGENCY

GENERAL INSURANCE

Phone 78

216 South Main St.

WILLIAMS DEPARTMENT STORE, INC.

Respected for Quality Since 1919

106 NORTH MAIN STREET

PHONE 35

RALCO STORES, INC.

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WORK CLOTHES

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Highest Quality, Best Service

Appliances, Housewares and Everything Electrical

PHONE 200

**STOKES-WILLIAMS HARDWARE
CO., Inc.**

The Peoples Hardware

Over 50 Years in the Same Block: Still Owned by
the Founding Families —

PHONE 44

SPENCER DRUG CO.

The REXALL Store

PHONE 48

EPES SUPPLY COMPANY

PHONE 22

120 W. BROAD STREET

KEROSENE — GAS — FUEL OIL — RECAPPING

GOODYEAR, FIRESTONE AND U.S. ROYAL TIRES

throughout the grounds and in November an additional 24 red, white and pink camellias were planted along Memorial Drive, the entry to the cemetery.

The Blackstone Courier-Record is a weekly newspaper devoted to local happenings; radio station WKLW, a 5,000 watt station, has recently moved to new quarters the equal of any in towns many times larger than Blackstone. Nearby is Bellefonte Lake Park and the area boasts other private parks and a state park.

The pride of Blackstone is its municipally owned armory which houses a National Guard unit, and two recreation centers with supervised programs of varied activities . . . one for whites and one for Negroes. These buildings were built by the government to take care of military personnel during the war. When Pickett closed the centers were sold to the town for \$17,000 (cost of replacement would be about \$390,000) and when Pickett later reopened Blackstone rented them to the USO for a dollar a year . . . good business because the government did much repairing and redecorating during their tenure as tenants.

Blackstone has two nursing homes . . . The Maple Lawn Nursing Home

and the Southside Nursing Home. They draw patients from a large surrounding area and are always full. A community health center has a nurse in daily attendance and clinics weekly.

In 1892 the Blackstone Female Insti-

tute opened its doors and until 1950 was a fine and flourishing establishment. Meantime the name was changed to Blackstone College. In 1950 it was closed because of the opening of Pickett. Since 1956 it has been operated as the

Harde Manufacturing Company

Manufacturers of Boys Wear

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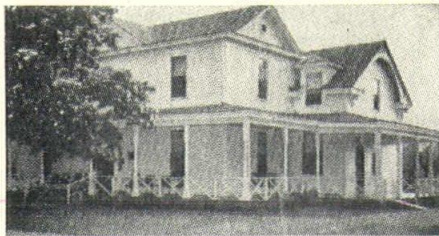
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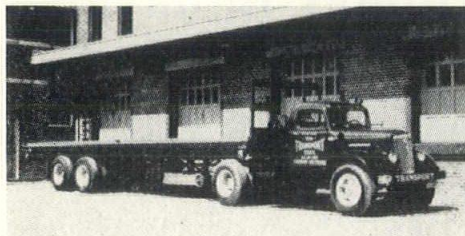
Refined—Quiet

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

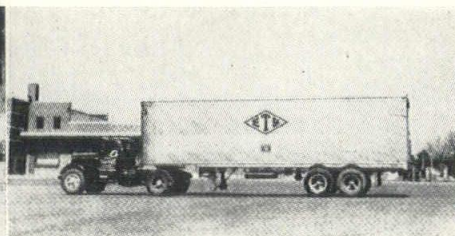
200 Brunswick Avenue

BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

"Born in Blackstone—Growing with Blackstone"



Modern platform trailer used to transport leaf tobacco, machinery, steel and many other general commodities.



Modern van used to transport cigarettes, manufactured tobacco and general commodities.

THE TRANSPORT CORPORATION

— and —

THE EPES TRANSPORT SYSTEM

(VAN DIVISION)

Home Office: Blackstone, Virginia

Virginia Terminals: Richmond and Danville

OTHER TERMINALS: Durham, N. C., Winston-Salem, N. C., Rocky Mount, N. C., Elkridge, Md., and Lexington, Ky.

Virginia Methodist Assembly Center. Readily accessible from every part of the state it has been used for all manner of conferences and retreats. Between January 12th and October 27th of this year 41 different groups held meetings there including two by Alcoholics Anonymous, several by Baptists and Methodist groups, one by the Masons and one by the Virginia Conference TV, Radio and Film Commission. During Pickett days it was operated as a housing unit for families of military personnel and on one occasion there were 169 families with 101 children making a total of 435 people in the building. The college has forty well-landscaped acres. There is a fine gymnasium, a swimming pool and an auditorium, all fireproof buildings. There is talk and some hope that it may again be opened as a girl's college.

Blackstone is adequately served by two banks, the Citizens Bank & Trust Company, established in 1873, and the First National Bank, which in August of 1958 will celebrate 50 years of service to the community.

The Citizens Bank and Trust Company, of which J. A. Booker is president, has total assets of \$3,054,282.58 and a surplus of \$150,000.00. The First National Bank has total resources of \$3,500,000.00 and a \$240,000 surplus. Dr. J. P. Irby is president with R. Archer Hardy vice-president and cashier. At 95, Mr. J. S. Robertson, a retired merchant, is the oldest member of the Board, having served continuously since organization.

Blackstone is at the crossroads but you can be sure they will take the right turn. The town officials, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the civic-minded people of the community will see to this. They welcome diversified industry to expand the present economy and they have available sites that offer superior facilities for industrial development. The Blackstone Industrial Development, Inc. offers guidance and cooperation in assisting industry to locate and can guarantee adequate housing facilities incident to industrial growth.

Its relatively mild climate — frost free from about April 14th to October 20th — infrequent snows, and temperatures that average from about 39 degrees in January to 79 in July, make Blackstone an ideally comfortable place to live.

Blackstone at the crossroads is diligently working to regain its peak population of 10,000, developed, from a sound and forward looking economy.

J. Vaughan Gary

(Continued from page 6)

"This is a mistake which pleases me greatly," he says.

In the early days of the "Marshall Plan" and the "Voice of America," Gary, then a relative newcomer on the House Appropriations Committee in the late 1940's, gained much national prominence as an advocate of aid to allies abroad. He believes that the program's spending in the last several years has gotten out of hand, however. He was therefore instrumental in bringing about Congressional cuts, in the billion-dollar class, in President Eisenhower's appropriations requests for foreign aid. "There is a sound basis for such a program in preventing the spread of Communism, in building a global defense, in helping new nations to develop independently of aggression, and in the development of the new American markets overseas," he explains. "However, there is a limitation to it, and we must constantly fight against waste in the program."

Gary firmly believes that without the program, Europe would by now have fallen to the Communists. From 1948 to 1952, he was Chairman of the special House Subcommittee on Foreign Aid Appropriations, and he traveled extensively in Europe and the Far East investigating the use of American funds abroad. "There is nothing like being on the scene of the spending to get the facts," he says.

This being "on the scene" took him all the way to a forward artillery observation post during the fighting in Korea.

Gary supported the foreign aid program because he felt it was "in the national interest." He adds that, because Virginia is an exporting and "foreign-trade" state, putting Europe back on its feet to purchase tobacco and coal and other exports, particularly added prosperity to Virginia at the same time it helped America and increased the security of the free world.

In 1951, Representative Smith, "dean" of the Virginia delegation, took the House floor to compliment Gary's work in leading the Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill through the House to passage that year. "His handling of the bill on the floor was a brilliant performance," Representative Smith told the Members of the House.

When the Republican majority took over the House in 1953 the special Foreign Aid Subcommittee chairmanship went to a Republican, and Gary became the ranking minority member. Then, with the return of the Democratic Congress in 1955, the foreign aid

subcommittee was made permanent, and Gary was given his choice of the chairmanship of the new subcommittee on Foreign Operations Appropriations, or the Treasury-Post Office Subcommittee (which he had also headed from 1948 to 1952). Gary chose the latter chairmanship, but has continued to serve as the senior majority member of the new foreign operations subcommittee.

Gary's application to his committee duties does not diminish his attentiveness to the overall issues in the Congress, however. He is proud to hold one of the highest voting participation records of any member of the House. In the past five years, he missed only 3 roll call votes out of 396, for a

participation record of 99.2%. For two years, he was one of only eleven of the 435 House Members to be present and voting 100% of the times the roll was called.

Gary's independence and courage on public issues is one of the characteristics for which he is most widely known. Although President Eisenhower swept the Third Congressional District by a whopping majority in 1952, and was at the zenith of this popularity in the following two years, Gary was prompt to oppose the Eisenhower Administration on a number of proposals. These included the St. Lawrence Seaway, Statehood for Hawaii, subsidies to air lines, health insurance, packing the Tariff Commission, spending for

Citizens Bank and Trust Company

*Service with safety
'since 1873'*

BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

Garrett, Moon & Pool, Inc.

Contractors

READY-MIX CONCRETE

SEPTIC TANKS

P. O. Box 112

Phone 884

BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

BLACKSTONE HOTEL

FORMERLY M & R HOTEL

In the heart of downtown Blackstone

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Special Weekly Rates

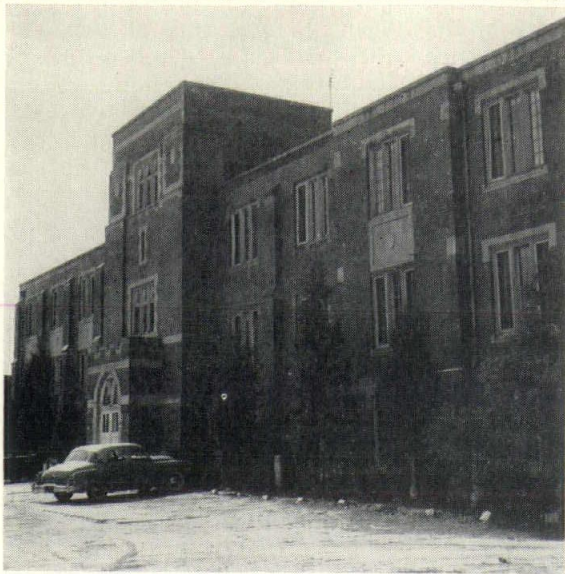
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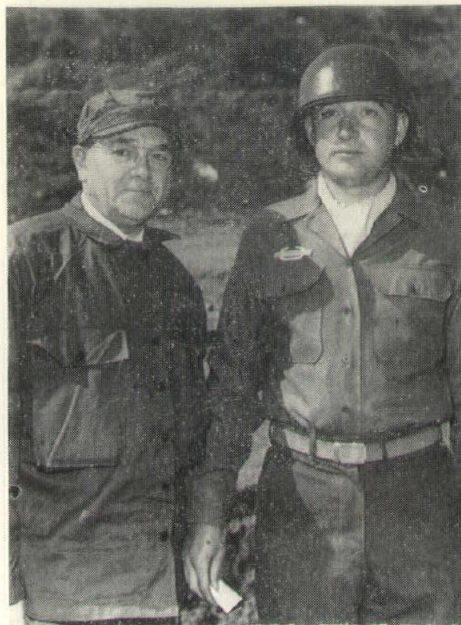
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

domestic purposes with an unbalanced budget, and unnecessarily increasing the national debt by tax reductions voted in 1954. However, after his belief in the necessity of an adequate foreign aid program inspired him to support the first Eisenhower foreign aid program in 1953, President Eisenhower wrote him a letter expressing personal appreciation for Gary's efforts in rallying Democratic support to the program.

This was the letter which Gary laughingly refers to as the "Dear Vaughan letter," which Third District Republicans found difficult to counter when they ran Republican candidates against Gary (with Eisenhower's endorsement) in 1954 and 1956.

This independence is bi-partisan. At the height of President Truman's unpopularity in Virginia, Gary was one of only 45 Members of the House to support the Truman veto of a sweeping pension bill. (He is proud that most of the Virginia delegation in Congress at that time voted the same way, because he cherishes political freedom as a Virginia characteristic.)

Gary is a great believer in the future of Virginia industry and has worked hard in the Congress for measures to



Representative Gary toured the American Defense Line near the 38th Parallel in Korea while the fighting was still continuing in early 1952. Representative Gary is here shown with a Virginia soldier, Pfc. Dewey C. Stanley of Clintwood, whom he met near a forward observation post.

permit the industrial growth to which he believes the Commonwealth is en-

titled. His high rank on the House Appropriations Committee had a direct effect, in the opinion of seasoned observers, on the appropriation, in 1955 and 1956, of \$157,000 for the completion of the U. S. Corps of Engineers study on the feasibility of deepening the James River channel to 35 feet. This is a vital first step in any major Federal river channel improvement, and is exceedingly difficult to accomplish. Gary is confident that the investigation will prove his contention that the James River channel project will more than pay for itself in economic productivity. He believes the James River Valley has everything — the supply of fresh water, the land and air transportation facilities, the working force, the materials, the climate — for a major industrial expansion. "The ready availability of bulk raw materials in deep-draft ships would complete the picture," he says.

The Third District Congressman believes the people should know about the activities of their elected Representatives, and when Congress is in session Gary makes a weekly radio broadcast, on "public service" time provided by WRVA, summarizing legislative actions and setting forth his votes and views.

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The program is widely heard throughout the State, and brings in letters from other Congressional Districts and even from other States.

Julian Vaughan Gary was born February 25, 1892, in Richmond, Virginia, the eldest son of five children of T. Jack Gary and Mary Vaughan Gary. He was educated in the public schools of Richmond, and worked his way

through Richmond College, graduating in 1912.

I did a lot of things to earn money during my school and college years," Gary recollects. "I have shelled peas in the Old Seventh Street Market at two cents a quart, I sold Bibles, and I have been a soda-jerk, to name a few jobs I held."

In Richmond College he served as Editor of the literary magazine, *The Messenger*, as Captain of the Track Team and Manager of the Football Team, and he received the All-Around Athlete's Medal. Following graduation, he did not have the financial resources to go directly to law school, and therefore he taught for a year at Blackstone Academy for Boys. He returned to Richmond in the fall of 1915 to enter the T. C. Williams School of Law, from which he graduated in 1915.

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—Photo by Miss Edyth Carter Beveridge

Picture of J. Vaughan Gary taken by a Richmond photographer for a magazine cover when the Congressman was about 12 years of age. He frequently posed for the photographer who was a friend of his family.

While in law school he coached the track team at John Marshall High School, from which he had graduated a few years before when it was known as Richmond High School.

Gary opened his law practice in Richmond promptly upon graduation, but soon thereafter was appointed Assistant Counsel of the Virginia State Tax Board. With the United States' involvement in World War I, he went to Washington as Secretary of the National Agricultural Advisory Committee, and later entered Army service.

Returning to Richmond when the war was over, he served as a Claims Examiner for the Virginia Industrial Commission, from which position he was appointed counsel and Executive Assistant of the Virginia State Tax Board.

He reentered the practice of law in the middle 1920's, in partnership with Judge Oscar L. Shewmake, and except for a brief period of service in Washington as Executive Secretary of the National Committee on Inheritance Taxation, he has since maintained his law practice in Richmond, with Judge Shewmake.

Gary's first bid for elective political office was launched in a manner actually rare in American politics — *a genuine draft*.

It was while the future Congressman was busy in Washington with his inheritance taxation assignment that the late Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, the Pulitzer prize historian and revered editor of the Richmond New Leader, wrote editorials urging the Richmond public to convince Gary to be a candidate for the House of Delegates of the 1926 Virginia General Assembly. The response was most gratifying to the rising young lawyer, and although he was still working in Washington at the time he announced his candidacy, when he returned to Richmond and the votes were counted, he had won his first election and was started on a distinguished political career.

"I made up for that draft when I ran for Congress in 1945" Gary says. "Then, completely unlike most candidates who offer for election, I an-

nounced that I was running for Congress although absolutely no one had suggested it to me!" He was elected.

Gary's understanding of public issues is based upon a broad experience. He served four terms in the House of Delegates, from 1926 to 1934. He has been Chairman of the Virginia Post-War Veterans Employment Committee, President of the Richmond Tuberculosis Association, and President of the Richmond Stadium. Rising in his profession, he became President of the Richmond Bar Association.

As a State legislator, in depression days, Gary was applauded by organized labor for his sponsorship of legislation to increase workmen's compensation benefits and a bill to require contractors building state highways to pay labor and mechanics at the rate of wages prevailing in the locality. He originated much penal reform legislation, and is particularly proud of the bills which created the State Farm for Misdemeanants and the State Farm for Women. He was patron of the first bills which authorized Virginia educational institutions, local governments and slum clearance programs to benefit from Federal legislation.

Because of his experience as a corporation lawyer and his understanding of tax issues, business and businessmen, he was elected President of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce in 1944.

It was in March of 1945, after the late Dave E. Satterfield, Jr. (Gary's close personal and political friend for many years) resigned from Congress that Gary first ran for Congress and won the Third District seat in a special

election. Although he has since been opposed nine times, either in Democratic primaries or general elections, he has been returned to Congress with increasing majorities.

Education is one of Gary's primary interests, and he is presently a member of the Board of Trustees of Fork Union

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- At the present time, the nursery proper consists of 375 acres, with the total acreage of growing nursery stock well over 300. This large acreage enables Laird's to always supply fresh, locally grown nursery stock of the finest quality, as well as maintain the widest variety of plants to be offered in this section of the State.
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Military Academy, of the University of Richmond, and of the U. S. Coast Guard Academy. His alma mater, the University of Richmond, bestowed on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1954. He is a past master of his Masonic Lodge and a Deacon in the Baptist Church, where he has taught Sunday School for 40 years.

The Richmond Congressman is married to the former Eunice Croswell of Gloucester, Virginia, and they reside at 18 Maxwell Road in Richmond. Their two children — Mrs. Carolyn Gary Hugo and J. Vaughan Gary, Jr., are presently in New York, where Carolyn is married to the actor Laurence Hugo, and Vaughan, Jr., is doing graduate work at Columbia University. Hugo is well remembered in Virginia for his portrayal of Thomas Jefferson in one of the earlier productions of the *Common Glory* at Williamsburg.

Gary has two grandchildren, ages 10 and 6. They presently live on Long Island, but the Third District Congressman says "that's in body only." In spirit, he says, they're here in Virginia. "They're Virginians, they're Democrats, and I'm trying to show them how to cut their budgets."

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Man Who Became Santa Claus

(Continued from page 3)

stories of the building, and then swung himself out parallel to the street as he moved with incredible grace over the cornice jutting out from the roof.

In Denver once, having scaled the walls, he climbed to a high metal ball that decorated the court-house roof, and there he was balanced on one foot when the noon bell began to ring, and the vibrations nearly shook him loose. He had pictures from cities all over the country, showing him balancing on one arm high above the crowds, and there was no question that he had been a bona fide national celebrity. But all this seemed remote from the transition of a retired high-climbing acrobat into a Santa Claus. Yet, as Bill Strother conceived it, the transition was wholly natural and his new role would provide a service for children as his former roles had for adults.

In retiring with the human fly championship, Strother had recognized that the era was passing in which his performance brought thrills to home-bodies, and he felt very deeply that much was lost with the more innocent times. At bottom, it was a loss of the innocence itself. Life had been made so easy for people that everything was taken for granted. Most serious of all to the formerly poor country boy, Christmas had become taken for granted.

As a person who had worked with crowds all his life, Strother was sensitive to the climate of a psychology characterized by "gimme." After retiring as a human fly, he had worked with a dog in an act in large stores during the Christmas season, and he was particularly impressed with the absence of the spirit of giving to others. It must be admitted that, as he would expiate on this theme, he seemed somewhat over sentimental and, indeed, a little too treacly to be true.

However, to accompany his sermon, he had worked out a technique of presenting his spirit of Santa Claus to children that possessed the potential of making him the most realistic and appealing Santa Claus ever imagined. Miller and Rhoads gave him the opportunity. As they said in the Hollywood area where Strother then made his home, he was "only terrific." He

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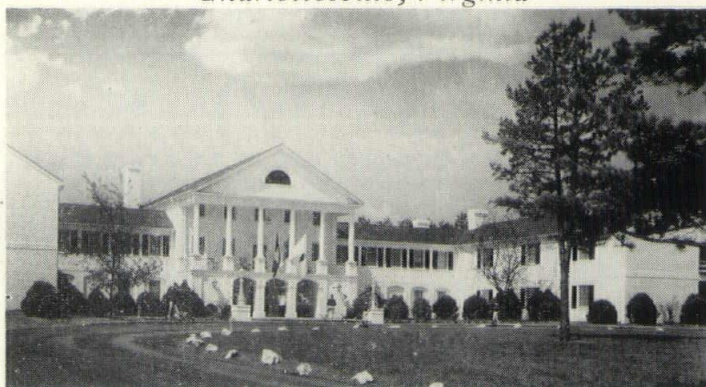
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was so wonderful that he had to be seen to be believed, and parents were eager to take their children in order that they might see him themselves.

The cynical were inclined to credit his success as Santa Claus to his elaborate make-up (originally designed by Max Factor) and to the props he evolved. Santa Claus was approached by way of a snow-queen, who asked the child his name, age and sundry questions. She repeated the answers in a throat-microphone which Bill, in his chair surrounded by wrapped presents, picked up by a hidden receiving gadget. Thus, as each child reached him, Santa Claus addressed him by name and spoke familiarly of his background. It is true that this performance gave a complete illusion to children, but Bill insisted that the illusion was necessary only as a means of communicating his message of "giving."

Now William Strother is dead. Now that he will not be seen in action ever again, it becomes evident that he was right: that his message gave as much to children as the illusion he gave of being Santa Claus. For, in a strange fashion, Bill *became* Santa Claus. It became his sole purpose in life, really a dedication, to convey the giving spirit of Christmas — not only during the holiday season, but all the year round.

A great art teacher, Robert Henri, once instructed his students on the necessity of the inner conviction on the image he wished to convey through canvas. In effect, he said that what was in the heart of the artist at the moment that he committed himself to his creation, that was what (assuming technique) would be communicated to the public. What Bill Strother had in his heart was a belief in the spirit of Santa Claus.

As he enriched the lives of thousands of children with this belief, so these troublous times could be enriched by us all by recapturing the spirit of a more innocent age when to give was accorded to be more blessed than to receive. Probably poor Bill was a little far-fetched in believing that the spirit of Santa Claus should exist all year round; it would be, however, a shining monument in the flat and increasingly gray sameness of our times if the spirit prevailed only in the season.

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