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Address All Mail to: VIRGINIA RECORD

P. O. Drawer 2-Y, Richmond, Va. 23205 "Second-class postage paid at Richmond, Va."

tative articles and features on statewide and local industries. business, governmental and civic organizations, they are in no other respect responsible for the contents hereof.

Vol. 91-No. 1

1 year \$3-2 years \$5-Per Copy \$1.00

JANUARY 1969

New Year-Without a Resolution

WITH A NEW YEAR and a new administration in Washington we have all read, beyond the point of the ability to absorb analyses and appraisals and predictions, countless appraisals and predictions and those analyses which usually go over all the old surface points to arrive at new platitudes. Occasionally, all too rarely, some observer of the scene will have an insight that goes to the heart of the matter. James Reston had such an insight when he wrote in the late fall that the out-going president, who had failed by practicing the outworn mechanics of politics, offered the unique spectacle of a chief executive who had become obsolete during the six years of his administration. By implication Nixon, of whom Reston is no admirer, was a master of the same mechanical techniques, which would seem to indicate that he was obsolete before he took office.

Then, the ebullient Norman Mailer, in an "Open Letter to Richard Nixon" in Newsweek Magazine, wrote, "Since it is obvious that you are still full of belief in the power of the techno-structure to solve the problems of society, one anticipates your Administration with heavy foreboding. Yet . . . let us hope . . ." that you can . . . "move in ways unforeseen by any of your critics or supporters. If you are on the one hand a believer in the techno-structure, you are on the other a conservative, you believe or pretend to believe in the immanence of God, the nourishment of tradition, and the sanctity of nature. The technological society which you now begin to administer proceeds to destroy all three at a rate far greater than the worst Communism of your nightmares; you, like every other American, must look into the eye of a dilemma no smaller than the agony of the twentieth century." In proclaiming the need of "revolutionary approaches to particular problems and the delicate restoration of tradition within other kinds of crisis," Norman Mailer gives Mr. Nixon the benefit at least of hoping him capable of bringing more to office than the obsolete mechanics of politics.

In this, the novelist brings in a national news medium the nature of the problems in contrast to those pundits who themselves balance and evaluate all the old details of the machinery as if nothing had changed since Johnson first brought his methods and panaceas-by-spending to a nation desperately needing the vision to which Mailer exhorts the new president. Having myself no reliable guide to what might be expected of Mr. Nixon in addressing himself to "a dilemma no smaller than the agony of the twentieth century," I can only join Norman Mailer in hoping that he will reveal qualities of the mind commensurate with the emergency; although, like Norman Mailer, I've as yet seen no evidence that he plans to bring to his administration anything more than his own tool-kit for repairing the machinery of the techno-structure as it now exists.

Somewhere during the years when the label, "The Great Society," became an embarrassment to a people whose greatness seemed to belong in the past, there was also an avoidance of that old sentiment (Continued on page 73)

IN THIS ISSUE

In these trying times, when everyone seems bent on not "getting involved," we want to start the year with a tribute to a group of men who are always involved.

Involved with our land, our homes, our families, our very lives. Involved, often at great personal sacrifice. Involved, knowing that each time the call sounds they are putting their own lives on the line.

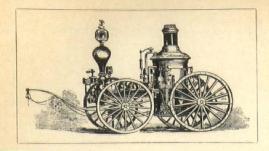
The men of the Virginia State Firemen's Association deserve the gratitude and support of every Virginian.

We Salute Them!

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ON OUR COVER:

Wallace Hicks is the current president of the VSFA. He also wrote the feature article on the Association beginning on page 6. The Association Emblem pictured makes use of the Maltese Cross. For more on this symbol see page 35.



THE VIRGINIA STATE



(Photo courtesy of Oren Roanoke Corp.)

FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1886 - 1968

by

WALLACE HICKS

President VSFA-'68-'69

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Commonwealth of Virginia, for the session of 1895-1896, approved on February 14, 1896, an Act titled, "An Act to Incorporate the Virginia State Firemen's Association."

Like all good things, there must be a beginning, and the Virginia State Firemen's Association had its beginning on December 3, 1886, when the VSFA was organized in Portsmouth, and elected as the first President Chief A. L. Fuqua of Richmond. Also like many other good things, the first records of the VSFA were either lost or perhaps were never written up, and it is for this reason that we cannot know much of the early beginning of the VSFA.

Fire Department organizations were not something new, and we are told in our history that some of our most prominent Americans were interested in and were members of Fire Departments. Benjamin Franklin organized the first Volunteer Fire Company in Philadelphia in 1736, and in our own State of Virginia, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Company was organized in Alexandria in 1774. We know that in 1775, George Washington presented the Friendship Fire Company with a hand pumping engine which he is supposed to have purchased in Philadelphia. The original engine was housed for a time in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Druid Hill Fire Department Museum, and a replica of this old hand pump was displayed in Alexandria.

The original engine has now been returned to Alexandria and is supposed to be one of the most historic

relics in Virginia. There are also two other pieces of equipment here, a hose reel made in the 17th century and a hand pump engine which was made in 1849. Other equipment used by Washington and others in the 17th and 18th centuries is also on display in the building.

George Washington not only presented the pump but on occasions actually fought fire. At one time he was on his way to Philadelphia, and there was a fire in Alexandria. He stopped his own carriage and helped to work the hand pump for this fire.

There are other fire stations in the State of Virginia which have old pumps. There is an old fire engine on display in Salem, and the Hampton Fire Company has an old pump which was purchased in 1884. Some few years ago, the Firemen at the Station painted this old pumper, replaced the gaskets, and were surprised to find that the old pump could still shoot a stream of water several feet in the air.

This was a definite improvement over the old fire bucket brigade, when the good citizens of the community lined up and passed a bucket of water to the fire. Needless to say, having passed through so many hands, by the time the bucket of water got to where it could be thrown on the fire, not much of the water was left in the bucket.

The fire service has undergone quite a progressive, continuous drive since the days of the old bucket brigade. After the brigade, came the hand pumps, which in those days were indeed an improvement over the bucket brigade system. The old Hose Reel then came into being, and from there, equipment was improved until today when we have the most modern and efficient equipment money can buy. Aerial ladders and snorkles are in use in many of our larger cities.

Speaking of reels, one of the contests of the VSFA used to be the reel races, and there was quite a to-do over this. Many of the Fire Companies sent people to the Conventions just to participate in the reel races. Back in the late 30's, there was some effort to introduce other types of contests, and this met with much criticism and opposition from some of the older companies who could not see anything but the reel races.

In 1932, contests other than the reel race were started, including the First-Aid Contest. There have been some changes in these contests, but the same old ones are used today for the enjoyment and interest of our Firemen. Some of the contests which are held today consist of the one-man hose, the 4-man hose, the 4-man ladder, the 6-man ladder, the motor contest-hose, the motor contest-chemical, the dressing contest and the first-aid contest.

The last reel races were held in 1941 as far as our records can tell, and during the years from 1942 to 1945 at the request of Governor Price, the VSFA did not hold a full-scale convention because of the war and interests of defense. Instead, only a business meeting was allowed. The rest of the convention activities such as the contests, dances, parties, etc., were curtailed and were resumed again in 1946.



FIGHTING THE 1967 BLAZE AT RICHMOND HOTELS, INC., LAUNDRY AND WAREHOUSE

The Fire Companies have been organized by citizens of the community who see the dire necessity for fire protection in their areas. Fire Companies have sprung up all through the Commonwealth, and present a picture of different types of construction, equipment, etc.

These Fire Stations were built with many and varied designs. Some of them had very fancy Fire Department figures and shields on top of the buildings, and a few of those are preserved today. It is interesting to note that one or two of our companies, realizing that their horses which they used to pull their equipment, might slip on bricks, etc., had their floors built with wooden bricks or wooden blocks. One of these stations is in existence today, and one can see the wooden bricks at the Fire Headquarters in Staunton. Another station which used to have the wooden bricks was the Hampton Company, but these bricks were destroyed when the Station moved to its new quarters. The writer of this article has several of these wooden bricks in his collection.

There are some companies who operate from a shed containing one piece of equipment. Others house their one truck in someone's automobile garage, and of course in other municipalities there are very beautifully con-

structed, fully equipped, modern, upto-date houses equipped with the finest fire engines which can be bought. Experience has shown us, however, that sometimes some of the salesmen for fire equipment have not always been considerate of the locality in which they were selling equipment. Sometimes, a very expensive piece of equipment has been sold to a small coinmunity where the full use of the truck could not be had because of the lack of adequate water facilities. At times, it would have been more feasible to have bought a tank truck than a 500gallon pumper.

How do these Firemen get this equipment? In many of our small communities, the Firemen themselves purchase this equipment through various methods: door-to-door soliciting, game parties, barbeques, entertainment, various types of sales, etc. When such a piece of equipment is purchased, the Firemen in the station are just as proud of it as they would be of a newborn baby.

In many instances, the Firemen have to fight to buy a piece of equipment, and then fight to keep it. Because of conditions, they are not supplemented financially by their governing bodies. In some instances, after the equipment is purchased, the municipalities will pay for maintenance,

repair, etc., and permit the Firemen to maintain control over it.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

In practically all areas of the State, Fire Companies have gotten together in a mutual-assistance program whereby one company can call in neighboring companies if it needs assistance. This has been one of the finest and best moves that the Firemen can make, and there have been some wonderful examples of this mutual agreement within our Commonwealth.

Usually the Department heads will get together in a conference and draw up proposed plans to be put into effect if necessary. An example of this would be: A big fire breaks out in a city in such proportions that it is necessary for that city's company to call for help. This call goes through official channels and equipment from the outlying districts or neighbors is brought in under the command of the Chief where the fire occurred. This planning has definitely paid dividends, and one of the finest examples of this known to me is when there was a plane crash in the Buckroe Area of Hampton on June 20, 1966. The word was passed along, and all of the companies in the City of Hampton, as well as the outlying districts of Langley Air Force

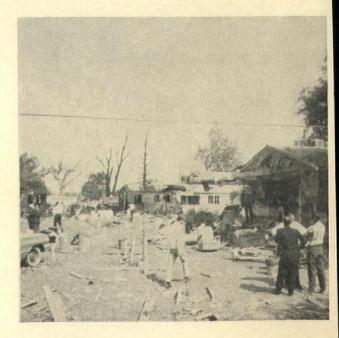




MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

The scenes on this page show the aftermath of an airplane crash in the Buckroe area of Hampton in 1966. Work done during this emergency demonstrated the effectiveness of planned mutual aid and cooperation of the entire Peninsula Area.





PAGE EIGHT VIRGINIA RECORD Founded 1878

Base, Fort Monroe, and even as far as Williamsburg, sent in equipment and ambulances as was requested.

It was so well coordinated that after it was over the officials wondered how this had been accomplished with such efficiency. Not only did the Fire Departments get into the act, but the government installations and telephone companies were brought into the picture. It is my understanding that the telephone companies ran special wires and had a direct wire to the Pentagon. The local Hospitals called in their emergency disaster crews and as a result of all of this wonderful cooperation there were very few injuries, and these were mostly from Firemen stepping on nails, etc.

Another good example of mutual aid was the Esso Storage Fire in Newport News, in April 1958, The neighboring communities sent in equipment to Newport News, and although this fire lasted several days it was confined to the Tank Form of the Esso Storage Company. This fire did about \$1,000,000 damage.

How do the Firemen know when there is a fire? This is a very simple question, but yet a very vital one. Back in Colonial days, the towns had a Fire Warder who would walk through the streets at night for the purpose of arousing the citizens in case of a fire. The Fire Warder was authorized in 1772 by the Council in Williamsburg, and the Warders were to have the care of the fire engine and be ready in case of accidents by fire, to give their assistance toward extinguishing the same. Today we find in some of our areas various types of alarm systems. One of the older ones which many have seen is a ring of steel made out of a railroad track tire or some other heavy material suspended on a cross bar. When it was necessary to turn on the alarm, someone would run out and hit the ring with a hammer or mallet or whatever might be handy. Another alarm system was the fire bell which usually hung in a tower or in a special place so that it could be rung in case of fire. In some places, a steam whistle was used, and this usually was in a place where steam was available through some manufacturing firm who would allow the whistle to be installed. From that, we went to the present-day sirens which now may be purchased, and which are used by practically all Companies. Some places still use the zone areas and have one blast for Zone I, two blasts for Zone II, etc., to give the firemen some idea where the fire might be. Another system known to us

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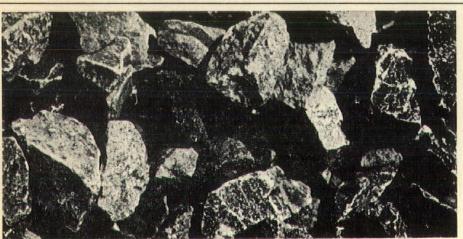
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is having the firemen summonsed by telephones. One person will receive the call, and he in turn will call someone else. This system was slow but effective. There is also a telephone system set up whereby several firemen can be called at one time. For instance, if there were a fire in a certain district and they wanted the firemen in that district only, a telephone system has been set up and if the alarm is turned in only the telephones in that particular area would ring.

Many of the Firemen have personal monitors in their cars or in their homes, and they receive fire calls from a central alarm station. This has been a very effective program since many of the volunteers can be alerted by the monitor when, for instance in the winter, the windows are down and the houses are tightly shut up and they would be unable to hear the siren or the alarm bell. However, if the alarm comes over the monitor they are able to answer the call.

These modern innovations are far removed from the Town Fire Warder who would sight a fire and alarm the citizens with his shrill voice during the night.

RESCUE SQUADS

Rescue Squads within Fire Departments are becoming commonplace in our Commonwealth. Many of the Fire Departments require that Members of their Rescue Squads also be members of the Fire Company. Usually these ambulances are controlled by the First Aid Units. These men give of their time to work accidents, emergency calls, etc., and have become a most important part of the activities of a city. In some places, there are contributions made through the local government toward these ambulances and other places these funds are obtained through solicitations. The First Aid Squads take great pride in their work, and these boys spend many hours taking classes in order to get their advanced First Aid cards. There have been, up to this last session of the Legislature, no special requirements for an ambulance crew, but at the last session certain rules and regulations were put down not only governing the crew of the ambulances but also providing certain requirements before an ambulance could be used. At any rate, a permit has to be obtained before an individual can be qualified to work as a part of an ambulance crew. Also, the ambulance has to have a certain

amount of equipment before it will be permitted to be used.

An Advisory Committee of nine members has been appointed by the Governor to assist the State Board of Health in developing standards concerning the use of ambulances and their crews. Also, another thing which has been done by this last Legislature was to pass what is known as the Good Samaritan Law. This affords some protection to a First Aid Worker on an ambulance which may render aid. This Law does not prevent a lawsuit from being filed against an individual if something should happen, but as we understand it, it must be proven that the individual was negligent or derelict in his duty before the claim can be collected.

These men who work these ambulances attend Seminars and Classes and keep up with changes and advanced practices in order to render the best service possible to people who need assistance. All of this service, however, is not emergency. Many times people take advantage of these ambulances and the crews for transportation purposes when a taxi or other means of transportation would have served their purpose. Lots of times these ambulances receive a call for an emergency, then go to a person's door to have the person who is supposed to be so very ill walk out of the house with their handbag and ask to be carried to the hospital.

There are some emergency calls, however, which require all the skill that is known. This is especially true in pregnancy cases where the baby has to be delivered before they can get to the hospital. These boys have studied and have taken classes on this and do a most excellent job.

Each year at the State Convention, there is held a First Aid Contest. The First Aid participants consider this to be the most important contest which is held. Usually the results are so very close that there is almost no way to tell or decide a winner, and sometimes there is a difference of only one or two points between the winner and the other teams.

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Virginia State Firemen's Association Declaration of Principles

The people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, having viewed the wanton destruction of property, and unnecessary loss of life due to the ravages of fire, have banded themselves together in a common cause to combat this dreadful menace and establish a motto "FOR THE PEOPLE'S GOOD" created and organized a Volunteer and Veterans Volunteer Fire Association, known as the Virginia State Firemen's Association to which end we as individuals as well as fire companies and departments pledge to ourselves, the people of the great Commonwealth and in the interest of the public good to promote the welfare of education for the prevention of fires and the saving of human life in cooperation with our association of Rescue Squads which all firemen have the honor to respect and admire through their untiring efforts and motto, "SAVE A LIFE."

OBJECTS

The objects and principles of this Association shall be to form a better understanding and organization among the firemen of Virginia.

To establish unity of action, harmony and good will.

To provide pecuniary support and relief to disabled firemen and their families who have become disabled in their duties for the people's good.

To promote and assist in the organization of fire companies and departments in communities where adequate fire protection and assistance is needed.

To create fraternal fellowship and cultivate the education of First Aid throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

To assist and encourage the formation of Ladies' Auxiliary units to the Fire companies and departments, believing that such a noble gesture will encourage the interest of the families of firemen.

To establish a Memorial Roll and attend such services as necessary to pay tribute to our departed firemen.

To compile statistics relative to practical working of various systems necessary for the foundation of safety.

To encourage the formation and creation of State-wide fire schools and colleges, and study in general the everlasting changes always necessary in perfecting fire apparatus and equipment.

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Telephone 345-8866 ROANOKE • VIRGINIA 2677 Roanoke Ave., S.W., 24004 P. O. Box 762 of the house or business which was insured. When an alarm was sounded and the Firemen came to the scene and saw the Insurance Sign on the burning building, they would usually do their best to put out the fire, knowing that they would probably be reimbursed by the Insurance Company. Believe it or not, we are told that in many cases, Firemen answering the alarms where they found no fire marks would sometimes leave the building to burn. Some of these Fire Marks may be seen today, especially on some of the buildings in the New York area.

Another reason why these Fire Marks were used was to notify any arsonists who would want to burn down a building that the owner of the property would probably be reimbursed for his loss since he had insurance. Because of this, there was no reason for the arsonist to try to ruin the individual maliciously.

"THE VIRGINIA FIREMAN"

At the Convention held in Alexandria on August 10, 1932, the following resolution was adopted by the Association: Resolved that the Executive Committee investigate the feasibility of publishing a monthly magazine known as the *Virginia Fireman*.

Be it further resolved that the said Committee report this at the 1933 Convention.

On October 27, 1935, H. T. Smith, a member of the Staunton Fire Company, was present at the Convention, and entered an agreement with the VSFA to print the Virginia Fireman. At this time, it was stated that all money over and above the cost of printing by Mr. Smith would be turned over to the Treasurer of the VSFA. The subscription price would be 50¢ a year. At this time, it was also requested that the VSFA have some person appointed from each locality to send information to Mr. Smith for publication.

At the Convention held in Charlottesville in August, 1937, Mr. Smith, Publisher of the Virginia Fireman, was given the opportunity to explain the reason why the magazine had not been published in the preceding six months. Mr. Smith stated that this was due to the lack of news and articles, but he did inform the Committee that the magazine would be published each month in the future. The Secretary was instructed to furnish Mr. Smith with a copy of the minutes of this

meeting for publication in the Virginia Fireman.

In October, 1937, the Executive Committee was offered a proposition from another concern to publish the Virginia State Firemen's Magazine. In August 1938, there was some further discussion with the publisher of the so-called Virginia Firemen, but no official contract had been entered into by the Executive Committee. We do have information that several issues were published but the writer has never had the privilege of seeing one of them.

In March, 1956, having been so approved and directed by the Executive Committee of the VSFA, Volume One, Number One, of a new Virginia Fireman came into existence. This was in the form of a newspaper rather than a magazine, and measures approximately 11¼" x 17". The VSFA chose Edward F. Ware as editor, and he has been responsible for this newspaper since then.

At the present time, this paper is published quarterly, and there has recently been a recommendation that the paper be published every two months so that we could have more news and keep our Firemen informed of what is going on in the state.

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

The volunteer firemen are the unsung heroes of any community where there is a volunteer fire department; these are the men that are not thought of until an emergency happens and then if something happens they are criticized; they in many instances buy their own equipment and maintain it, not for themselves but for their neighbors and they render their service to all citizens regardless of race, color, creed or social standing and without thoughts of remuneration either financial or otherwise.

They risk their lives everytime the alarm is sounded. They leave their homes in the freezing cold winter nights or the hot summer nights to help their friends or unknown persons. Because of their volunteer services they save the taxpayers millions of dollars each year as well as having some weight in having insurance rates reduced.

They fight fires because they want to, not for praise but as a part of their civic duty and interest. They get a thrill being members of a fire department and they have many exciting experiences—some dangerous—some heartbreaking. They are proud of their

uniforms and they hold their heads high as they march in the parades that show off their department and equipment. They would rather prevent a fire than fight one. They do not expect pay for the clothing and shoes that they may ruin in fighting fires for someone else and they are anxious and eager to respond to any and all alarms that they hear.

They help organize rescue units in order to render even more service to victims of wrecks and other emergencies. They go to schools to study and learn better ways to fight fires—they give their vacation time in order to attend conventions and schools to benefit not themselves but all other folks.

Many of our volunteer firemen have made the supreme sacrifice and have given their lives while fighting fires or answering fire calls. Many are injured at fires but they seem to come back stronger. The volunteer firemen are a swell group of men who should get more recognition and who should be backed in their efforts in getting laws passed that will benefit the public and add to the efficiency of the operation and maintainance of their fire departments.

These men are interested in the protection and preservation of our natural resources both material and human. Where can one find a more democratic, unselfish and dedicated citizen? A volunteer fireman is to me a good example of what we want in a good American.

There is some thinking in the Fire Service that the Volunteer Fire Departments in the State of Virginia are fast fading out of the picture, and certainly in the urban areas this is true. There are many reasons for this, some being that the volunteers somewhat lose interest when the areas become so big that the municipalities have employed paid firemen to be assured of having enough men to fight a fire. Some of the Volunteer Departments, when they have their elections, rather than electing the man who has the ability to serve as a fire fighting official, will elect a man because he is a good guy. These elections usually turn into popularity contests. When the chips are down, these men are not always as well trained and do not always have the knowledge which they should have for fire fighting. This is not criticism, because most of these men have to work for a living, and cannot devote full time to the Fire Service. We do know that there are many meetings,

(Please turn to page 17)

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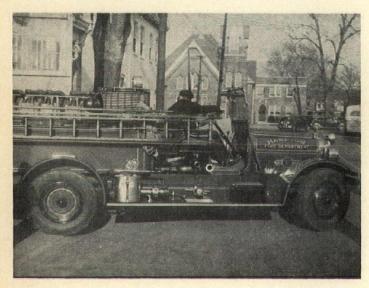


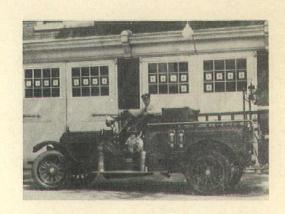
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Fire Equipment of Years Ago...











PAGE FOURTEEN



VIRGINIA RECORD

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At left, C850 Ford, 750 GPM Pumper with 750 Gal. Tank and twin electric booster reels, now in service, and above, John Bean 500 GPM, pumper tanker with 860 gal. tank. (Jack L. Slagle Fire Equipment Co., Inc.)



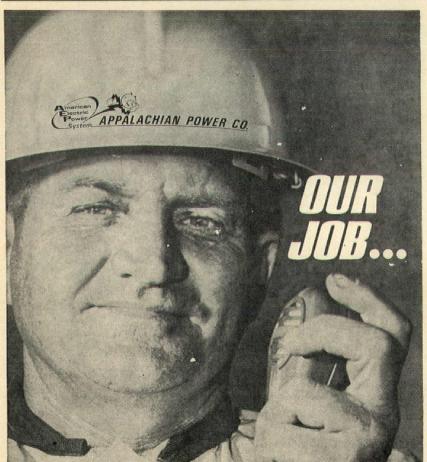
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We are a citizen of each community we serve and take an active part in its affairs. Like any other citizen, we want our neighbors to think well of us. Besides, it makes good business-sense. We can only prosper as the community prospers so we help it to thrive in every way we can.

Such is our job as we see it. We are trying to do it well and to do it better all the time.





(Dressler Photo)

(from page 13)

conferences, and seminars within the areas where the local Fire Department officials do not make their appearance or take advantage of such educational activities. Then, too, in an area which is rapidly developing and going through a population explosion, the entire community changes, and the Fire House which was once a core of activity is somewhat placed in a secondary position. Then again, in some cases, the municipalities own and maintain the Fire Equipment, and the Volunteer Officials lose some interest because the equipment is not completely under their supervision and control. There is a very definite lack of training in many of our Departments, and in some cases the Training Sessions are very little more than a get-together perhaps once a month for some of the Firemen. Again, this is not criticism, but seems to be the result of present-day expansion programs.

In some of the rural areas, however, it is still possible to find all of the citizens Fire Department conscious, and to belong to a Volunteer Fire Department is the thing to do. Most Departments have their own rules and regulations concerning the Membership and requirements for Meetings, Fires, and Drills, but they are reluctant to enforce these rules. In many

cases, because they have known the individual for so long, they seem to hestitate to enforce these rules and regulations. It must be said that these Fire Department are most Democratic as far as their Membership is concerned. Many of them have no line of distinction as far as class of employment is concerned. They have lawyers, doctors, teachers, office workers, plant and industrial workers and members from just about every type of employment that is known. It is interesting also to know that many times neighboring Departments vie for attention and have friendly arguments among themselves, each thinking and stating that their Department is the very best. However, in case of a fire or disaster, these same Departments will work and cooperate together as one. This makes for interest and good competition, and it is much security to the areas where these Departments are found. Fire Departments or firemen in general do not usually command very much thinking on the part of the public. They accept them. Many of the good citizens are not at all familiar with the equipment or the men and actually never even think about the Fire Company until a house is on fire and then some of them do not even know how to get in touch with their Fire Company. In other words, the Fire Department is almost an unknown part of the city until something happens, and some of this indifference can certainly be traced back to the Fire Department itself. These Firemen fight fire for many reasons, but they are interested as citizens in helping their fellow men regardless of their standing in the community, and we know that they do not receive the thanks that they should receive.

Lots of funny stories are told about the enthusiasm of the Volunteer Firemen, and some of the boo-boos which they have pulled. We are reminded of one Company whose uniform consisted of blue pants, white shirt, white gloves and black shoes, but they had one of the older members who always appeared ready to march in the parade with not a white shirt but a blue one. Another instance is told of a Fire Company who had a member getting along in age who at one of the fires one night helped to lay a line of hose, but it became necessary to break the line and this older man connected the hose up. However, when the water was turned on, it was found that he had not connected it to the main line but had made a beautiful circle, having connected the male and female connections of the same piece of hose.

Another story is told of one company which had an old steamer which was drawn by mechanized truck. It was customary to leave the steamer in the house, and when the alarm came in, the person in charge would build a

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

There have been, ever since the formation of the VSFA, efforts to get the Virginia Legislature to pass laws benefiting the Fire Departments of the state. A Legislative Committee has been appointed for the purpose of presenting to the General Assembly any laws pertaining to Firemen, and they have been successful in many instances.

One of the greatest battles which they have had was an effort to have the Commonwealth of Virginia tax Insurance Companies, with the money from this tax being used for the benefit of VSFA's Firemen's Relief Fund. After several years of legal maneuvering, this bill was finally declared unconstitutional.

Another Bill required the building of a dike around storage tanks for gasoline fuel oil, etc. The Association also helped to get the law passed controlling fireworks.

The VSFA has sponsored or helped secure favorable legislative action on the following:

Legalized red lights for the private automobiles of volunteer firemen.

Legalized sirens for the private automobiles of the top three officers of volunteer fire companies.

State law making it unlawful to run over fire hose.

Exemption of volunteer fire companies from assessment of real and personal property.

Granting fire officials police powers at the scene of fires.

Toll free passage of fire equipment on state-operated toll bridges.

Insurance Plan for members of VSFA.

Establishment of an official Dogwood Day for Firemen's Relief.

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fire in the old steamer and get on the truck and head for the fire. We are told that one time during a bad fire this old gentleman very efficiently lit the fire in the steamer, got things going, got on the truck and headed to the fire, but was very much surprised when he got there to find that the steamer was not with him. Someone in the house had pulled out the pin which connects the steamer to the truck and it was left in the house smoking up everything from the fire that had been built.

There was another instance where we know of a man who wanted to get into a Fire Company pretty bad, and was really interested, and was finally accepted for membership. Just to pull his leg, some of the Firemen were telling him about the use of equipment, etc., and told him that he would be responsible for seeing that the fire plug was in proper place if and when he answered an alarm. Not having the faintest idea what was going on, he was told that they had ordered a special Portable Fire Plug for him. It was not until after the first one or two fires that he began to realize what a joke had been played on him.

Among other things which have happened which we can laugh at now is the friendly rivalry between some of the Companies. We know of one instance where a Company went to answer a Fire Alarm in another Company's territory. After realizing that it was not their district, the Company proceeded to fight the fire anyway until the other Company arrived. However, there were some very harsh words exchanged between the two. Company B was fussing because Company A had come into their territory, so Company A in the usual fire language told them where they could go and just removed their ladders from the building and put them back on their truck. Company B, of course, then had to ladder the building for themselves.

It is not easy for a Fireman to crawl out of his warm bed in the winter, knowing he is going out to answer an alarm, not knowing where the fire might be or the danger he might find and not even knowing whether or not he is going to come back alive.

All Firemen are subjected to much danger and many hazards in their line of work. There is always danger of parts of buildings falling, of being cut by glass, and, we have known instances where firemen have been shot. There was also one instance, some time ago, where a tree was on fire, and a limb

fell on the fireman and killed him. There is always danger of fire trucks colliding with someone who does not hear the siren, and there have been instances where fire trucks have run into each other.

One of the benefits offered by the VSFA is an Insurance Plan. In August, 1957, an agreement was made whereby such a plan was put into effect. It is now growing by leaps and bounds, and the plan has proven to be very satisfactory. However, it pays only death benefits, but it has been a great help to the families of firemen who have died.

As of October 14, 1967, our records show that we had 59 Departments, taking advantage of the Insurance, with 808 Members covered for \$1,-185,000 worth of Insurance.

Fire Companies control their own membership. Some of them have what they call Junior Firemen or Apprentice Firemen, and they are taken into the Company at the age of 15 or 16, depending on the Company. These boys are trained in fire fighting, and through their interest the Fire Company builds up its membership.

The Virginia State Firemen's Association has long been urging and promoting the Fire Training Program among the Firemen of the state. Much progress has been made along these lines, and at the present time there are local Training Schools and also state-sponsored Training Schools with qualified instructors who are certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Most of these schools teach firefighting by actual experience in firefighting, and the results have been very rewarding. The VSFA realizes that regardless of how much a man knows, he can always learn more, which attendance at these schools has proven.

There have been most excellent schools in Norfolk, Williamsburg, South Boston, and in many other locations. The State Association has very active training committees with representation by L. H. Osborne of South Boston and J. H. Clements of Arlington. The State Fire Chief's Association also appoints two members, and these four (4) members select a member at large. This committee is responsible for encouraging Fire Training in the State. They also approve or disapprove applications for Fire Schools. They screen the applicants for the Fire Instructor's Training School and have many other duties pertaining to Fire Training. The Commonwealth of Virginia supervises the itinerant fire instructors who go all over the state



5-alarm blaze at McIntyre Implement Company, Richmond.

#### FIREFIGHTERS ON THE JOB

1967 fire at E. H. Armentrout Lumber Yard, Richmond.



JANUARY 1969

PAGE NINETEEN



#### GRIM TASK

Clay A. Easterly (now retired Martinsville fire chief) studies investigation report of a smoking in bed fatality. One of many such tragic scenes is shown below.



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VIRGINIA RECORD

teaching and training Firemen in the various schools. A Fire Instructor's School is scheduled in Blacksburg this month where new men will be trained so that they can go out in the field and teach in Fire Schools in the various local Departments. If these people are qualified, they will be so recognized by the Commonwealth and their services will be demanded by recognized and approved Fire Schools.

#### FIRE PREVENTION

The State Association and each of its member Companies are very much interested in the Fire Prevention Program. During Fire Prevention Week most of the Fire Companies have public demonstrations, movies, inspections of public buildings, schools, homes, etc., and sometime during the week a Mammoth Parade is held showing all types of equipment and having all types of floats with a Fire Prevention theme. Unfortunately this Fire Prevention Program is usually emphasized only one week in a year. We really should make Fire Prevention Week each week of the year rather than the week of the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, October 8, 1871.

Fire Prevention pays off. Many of the Departments and Companies now have Inspectors and these people do a marvelous job. These are found mostly in the paid Companies where fire inspection has become a profession. This really has paid off in the elimination of fire hazards through an educational program and through routine inspections. Fire Prevention Programs in some instances have stressed the necessity for home fire drills. The occupants are advised what to do in case there is a fire in their home. They are taught, depending on where the fire occurs, of course, what they can do and how they can get out of their rooms, windows or doors, and this in itself will save many lives.

Just a few months ago, this paid dividends for one of the Hampton Fire Company members when a rug caught fire in his home. Having gone through this home fire drill, although he was almost overcome by the smoke, he and his family made their exit through the window in a bedroom, and it resulted in all of them being saved. Had this not been the case and had they attempted to go out of the front or back door, the chances are that they would have been asphyxiated.

Many of the Fire Departments in the State today make a study and try to prevent losses from a fire in which

there is smoke and water damage, etc. Many of the Companies today have a Salvage Crew whose business it is to try to prevent damage to property other than from fire. In years past, water and smoke in many cases actually did more damage than the fire, so these crews go into a building and if there is a necessity place all the furniture in one part of a room, take the rugs off the floors and then all of the furniture, rugs and lamps, etc., are covered with a salvage cover which is usually made of canvas. These covers also can be used as gutters to take the water out of a room. They also have a machine very similar to a vacuum cleaner, which they can use for taking up any excess water which might have come through the ceilings or gotten onto the floor. Most of the firemen call these water vacs. We feel that it is beneficial for each Department to have one.

When a house is filled with smoke, we also have fans which can be used for pulling the smoke out of the building. Some Departments also have what we call a deodorizer with which they can go through a house which has been smoked up. They turn on the deodorizer which expells a sort of perfume-like odor and absorbs the smoke smell. In this way, the odor of smoke is removed from clothes, beds, etc. In some companies, sawdust is employed to absorb the water from a floor, and sawdust can also be used to form small dams to guide the water in a direction where it will do less damage.

(Please turn the page)

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PLEASANT DUTIES AS WELL

Clay A. Easterly and assistants, J. Lloyd Gregory and Frank Hairfield discuss new head-quarters construction with a local citizen. And below, Chief Easterly takes part in a ground breaking ceremony for the recently completed Martinsville Fire Department Headquarters Station, as fire department personnel look on.



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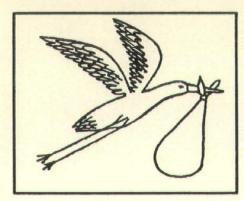
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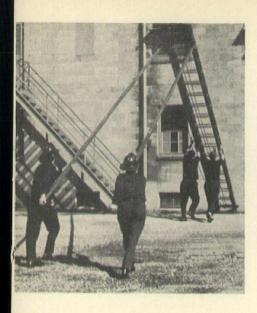


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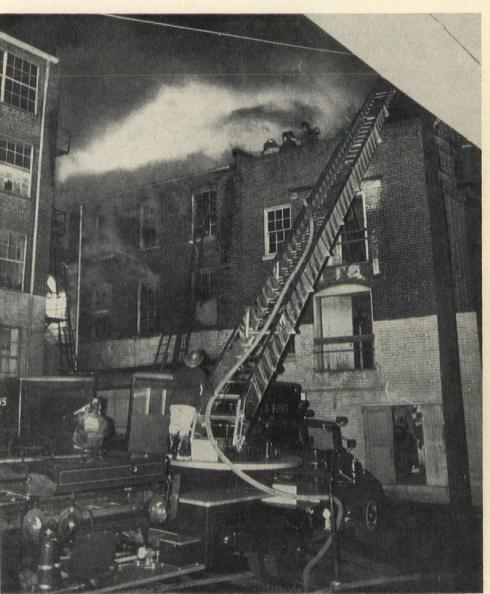




TRAINING, AS ABOVE,
IS VITAL WHEN FACED
WITH THE "REAL
THING" AS SHOWN AT
RIGHT AND BELOW.



to tell the Virginia Story



JANUARY 1969

PAGE TWENTY-THREE



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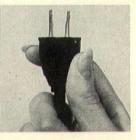
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dential rates three times in the last five years. In fact, electricity actually costs less than it did in 1941. (That's when sirloin steak sold for 19c a pound.)

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So, if your electric bill is a little higher, you are using a lot more electricity. Because it costs a lot less.

**Vepco** 

#### STATE FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION OF VIRGINIA

No histories concerning the Fire Service in Virginia could be complete without the Fire Chiefs' Association of Virginia, which was organized on October 20, 1928, for the purpose of bringing the Chiefs into closer contact and thereby permit more general cooperation between the Fire Departments within the state. It was believed that through better cooperation, it would be possible to encourage the enactment of laws benefiting and safeguarding firemen and property owners. The Association was also organized for the promotion of fire prevention, protection, extinguishment and the attendant reduction of insurance

At that first meeting, Richard S. Baughan, Chief of the Norfolk Fire Department, was elected President, F. C. Jesser of Covington was elected Vice President, and J. B. Gordon of Newport News was elected Secretary.

Also at this meeting, the standardization of hose threads throughout the State was brought up as well as the organization of a State Firemen's School. The subject of protecting the Firemen throughout the State by a tax or assessment on insurance premiums was brought up together with a model arson law. The matter of hose threads was brought before the Virginia League of Municipalities in October, 1929.

On August 27, 1930, the Second Annual Convention was held in Phoebus. The following Officers were unanimously re-elected: R. S. Baughan, President; F. C. Jesser, Vice-President; and J. B. Gordon, Secretary and Treasurer. The subject of standardization of hose threads was again taken up as well as the model arson law. A model arson law was presented in the Legislature, but it failed to pass. During this year, the Firemen's Relief Bill was also brought before the Legislature, but was voted down.

In 1931, the third Annual Convention was held in Winchester on August 12, 13, and 14. Due to the death of Chief J. B. Gordon on August 11, Chief E. H. Rouse of Orange, was elected secretary and treasurer of the Association. At this time it was found that many cities throughout the state had standardized on their hose threads.

The State Fire Chief's Association in conjunction with the Virginia State



ALL TYPES OF FIREFIGHTING CHALLENGES OCCUR, AS IN THESE PHOTOS OF AIRCRAFT FIRE. (OFFICIAL AIR FORCE PHOTOS RELEASED BY LANGLEY A.F. BASE, HAMPTON.)



JANUARY 1969

PAGE TWENTY-FIVE

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Firemen's Association managed to get the Firemen's Relief Bill before the Legislature again in 1932. This bill finally was passed after a hard-fought battle, with firemen from all over the state contributing to the cause in addition to the State Fire Chiefs' Association. On March 26, 1932, the Arson Law was passed. This bill had the support of the State Fire Chiefs' Association for several years and it was due to the activities of the Association that it was finally passed.

At the Winchester convention the Executive and Legislative Committees were combined and the following were named to serve for the year 1931-32: R. A. Foster, Norfolk Naval Yard, Chairman; F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge, and Thomas J. Sheehan,

Hampton.

Possibly the best known fireman in the State of Virginia during his time was Chief F. H. Wheeler of Clifton Forge who was elected President of the Virginia State Firemen's Association on August 9, 1932, and served seven years until August 9, 1939. Chief Wheeler was more than a fireman, he was an institution in himself. He knew everyone and loved everyone and they in return loved and respected him. Chief Wheeler died on December 27, 1967, but his memory will forever be in the hearts and minds of all of those connected with the Fire Service in the Commonwealth of Virginia. There just never will be another person like Chief Wheeler.

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#### MEMBERSHIP

Article 1, Section 2, Constitution—Any fire department, or company, of the State of Virginia in active service, and officers of the same, which presents its rolls of membership in good standing from the Foreman, the President, or Chief of the department or company, after having received the majority vote of the Executive Committee, shall be entitled to membership in this association upon payment of such dues as may be prescribed.

Article 1, Section 1, By-Laws—Application for membership in this Association shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty cents (50¢) for each member on the books of the company or department making the application. Same to be forwarded to State Association Secretary, signed by the Secretary of the company or department or its President or Chief. Companies or departments making application must consist of at least ten (10) members.

Section 2A—Twenty-five  $(25\phi)$  cents of each fifty  $(50\phi)$  collected as dues on membership shall be used for a yearly subscription to the "Virginia Fireman," the newspaper published by this Association.

In the Virginia State Firemen's Association, membership is by Company rather than by individual membership, although there are some associate memberships available to those who are interested in firefighting. At the present time, there are approximately 11,000 members from about 285 departments in the Virginia State Firemen's Association.

The State Association encourages area Firemen's Associations as it is felt that the strength of the State Association depends on these area groups. Each of these Associations elects its own officers and carries on its own program, and at the State Convention, they usually make themselves known. They have a great affect on the elections, and definitely add strength to the State Association by their interest in their local associations.

Some of these local Associations are: The Rappahannock Volunteer Firemen's Association; The Southside Virginia Volunteer Firemen's Association; The Southwest Virginia Firemen's Association; The Firemen's Association of Tidewater Virginia and Northern Virginia Firemen's Association.

There are many other Fire Associations throughout the State, many of them being formed by the entire county where the Fire Departments are located. Some of these are: Accomack and Northampton Counties; The Hanover County Association; Augusta County; Frederick County; Fairfax County and Arlington County.

#### LADIES' AUXILIARY

There has also been organized in connection with the VSFA the Ladies' Auxiliary of the VSFA. The moral support which is given by these ladies has been outstanding. The Ladies' Auxiliary has its own officers and conducts its own business. They have begun what they call the "Love" Gift for the Firemen who are injured in the line of duty or who become ill. A token check is sent to them by the Ladies' Auxiliary. This money is gotten in various ways. They hold what they call a "Dogwood Day," at which time they sell Dogwood Buttons, and this money is used for the fund. Another project is held at each VSFA Convention, at which time the Ladies'

Auxiliary plants a Dogwood tree in memory of those Firemen who have died. They hold a service at the tree, which is most impressive. The Ladies' Auxiliary also assists the Chaplain of the VSFA in a Memorial Service, and this has become one of the highlights of the VSFA. As far as we know, the first Memorial Service to be held was in Winchester, in 1931, and as far as the records show, a Memorial Service has been held each year since that time.

It is interesting to know that one of the problems of our Memorial Service today is to find a Church large enough in which to hold the Service. Firemen who have come to the Convention principally to enjoy themselves take time out to come to the Service to pay their respects to those of their brothers who have passed on.

There have been many times when the Churches have been filled to capacity, with the Firemen and ladies standing out in the vestibules, around the sides of the Church, and up in the balconies. The Service usually lasts about an hour, and it is most effective in the way it is conducted.

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December 3, 1886 June 15, 1887 June 20, 1888 June 5, 1889 June 4, 1890 June 3, 1891 October 5, 1892 October 5, 1892 June 7, 1893 June 6, 1894 July 17, 1895 July 7, 1896 July 7, 1897 September 28, 1898 September 27, 1899 September 26, 1900

September ..., 19 August 20, 1902 August 19, 1903 August 17, 1904

August 16, 1905 August 22, August 28, 1907 August 26, 1908 August 25, 1909 August 23, 1910 August 23, 1911

August 28, 1912 August 27, 1913 August 26, 1914 August 25, 1915 August 23, 1916

August 22, 1917 August 28, 1918 August 27, 1919 August 25, 1920

August 24, 1921 August 23, 1922 August 22, 1923 August 20, 1924 August 26, 1925 Organized at Portsmouth, President elected-Chief A. L. Fuqua, Richmond

Richmond
Richmond, President elected—Chief J. C. Knepp, Roanoke
Roanoke, President elected—Chief T. Keville, Norfolk
Norfolk, President elected—Chief J. C. Creighton, Alexandria
Alexandria, President elected—Chief N. F. Reid, Danville
Danville, President elected Chief T. J. Williams, Charlottesville
Charlottesville, President elected Chief Thos. Kivlighan, Staunton
Staunton, President elected Chief W. T. Robinson, Portsmouth
Portsmouth, President elected Chief J. R. Saum, Harrisonburg
Harrisonburg, President elected Chief W. J. Weymouth, Hampton
Hampton, President elected Chief W. K. Stow, Jr., Newport News
Newport News, President elected Chief J. H. Redwood, Richmond
Richmond, President elected Chief J. H. Redwood, Richmond
Richmond, President elected Chief J. J. Kilgalen, Staunton
Staunton, President elected Chief Emmett Deans, Portsmouth Richmond, President elected Chief J. J. Kilgalen, Staunton Staunton, President elected Chief Emmett Deans, Portsmouth Portsmouth, President elected Chief N. F. Reid, Danville Danville, President elected Chief J. H. Trimyer, Alexandria Alexandria, President elected Chief J. R. Saum, Harrisonburg Harrisonburg, President elected Chief J. H. Redwood, Richmond Richmond, President elected Chief W. K. Stow, Newport News Newport News, President elected O. B. Roller, Harrisonburg Harrisonburg, President elected Chief W. J. Weymouth, Hampton Hampton, President elected Chief J. R. N. Curtin, Alexandria Alexandria, President elected Chief J. P. Fraley, Newport News Newport News, President elected Chief L. E. Lookabill, Roanoke Newport News, President elected Chief L. E. Lookabill, Roanoke Roanoke, President elected Chief H. H. Barlow, Staunton Staunton, President elected Chief W. R. Walker, Portsmouth Portsmouth, President elected Chief F. C. Jesser, Covington Covington, President elected Chief W. A. Braithwate, Harrisonburg Harrisonburg, President elected Chief C. E. Banes, Pulaski Pulaski, President elected Chief Eugene Hurley, Suffolk Suffolk, President elected Chief Fillmore Tyson, Hopewell Charlottesville, President elected Chief K. W. Ogden, Alexandria Alexandria, President elected Chief R. A. Agnor, Lexington Lexington, President elected Chief R. A. Agnor, Lexington
Hampton, President elected Chief F. W. Darling, Hampton
Fredericksburg, President elected Chief J. C. Chichester, Fredericks-Harrisonburg, President elected Chief E. J. Lamb, Harrisonburg Newport News, President elected Chief J. D. Bohlken, Newport News

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Covington, President elected Chief F. C. Jesser, Covington Alexandria, President elected Chief J. M. Duncan, Jr., Alexandria Ocean View, President elected Chief J. M. Duncan, Jr., Alexandria Lexington, President elected Chief C. C. Mugler, Phoebus Phoebus, President elected Chief C. E. Wood, Lexington Winchester, President elected Chief F. W. Forney, Winchester Alexandria, President elected Chief F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge Harrisonburg, President elected Chief F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge Suffolk, President elected Chief F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge August 25, 1926 August 23, 1927 August 22, 1928 August 28, 1929 August 27, 1930 August 12, 1931 August 9, 1932 August 8, 1933 August 7, 1934 August 13, 1935 August 11, 1936 Suffolk, President elected Chief F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge Clifton Forge, President elected Chief F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge Charlottesville, President elected Chief F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge Charlottesville, President elected Chief F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge Luray, President elected Chief F. H. Wheeler, Clifton Forge Cape Charles, President elected Chief E. H. Dabney, Staunton August 10, 1937 August 10, 1938 August 9, 1939 August 14, 1940 August 13, 1941 Bristol, President elected Chief E. H. Dabney, Staunton
Staunton, President elected Chief Chas. H. Page, Charlottesville
Luray, President elected Chief Chas. H. Page, Charlottesville
Charlottesville, President elected Chief J. G. Crenshaw, Wythe Dis-August 12, 1942 August 11, 1943 trict, Hampton August 9, 1944 Harrisonburg, President elected Chief J. G. Crenshaw, Wythe District, Hampton August 8, 1945 Roanoke, President elected Chief J. G. Crenshaw, Wythe District, Hampton Bristol, President elected Chief L. A. Ballard, Salem Newport News, President elected Chief L. A. Ballard, Salem Salem, President elected Henry L. Scott, Alexandria August 14, 1946 August 12, 1947 August 11, 1948 August 17, 1949 August 9, 1950 August 8, 1951 August 13, 1952 Farmville, President elected Henry L. Scott, Alexandria Norfolk, President elected J. J. Charles, Newport News Luray, President elected J. J. Charles, Newport News Charlottesville, President elected J. Everett Will, Luray August 12, 1953 Phoebus, President elected J. Everett Will, Luray Danville, President elected Charles E. Carlton, West Point Staunton, President elected Charles E. Carlton, West Point August 10, 1954 August 10, 1955 Hampton, President elected B. R. Faudree, Covington
Covington, President elected B. R. Faudree, Covington
Alexandria, President elected H. A. Dugan, Alexandria
Virginia Beach, President elected H. A. Dugan, Alexandria
Colonial Beach, President elected Ed. F. Ware, Sr., Hampton Augsut 15, 1956 August 14, 1957 August 13, 1958 August 12, 1959 August 8, 1960 August 9, 1961 August 15, 1962 Harrisonburg, President elected Ed. F. Ware, Sr., Hampton Charlottesville, President elected G. L. Chandler, Staunton Phoebus, President elected G. L. Chandler, Staunton Phoebus, President elected G. L. Chandler, Staunton Staunton, President elected J. L. Monroe, Sr., Clifton Forge Lynchburg, President elected J. L. Monroe, Sr., Clifton Forge Buckroe Beach, President elected John F. Hager, Arlington August 14, 1963 August 15, 1964 August 11, 1965 August 10, 1966

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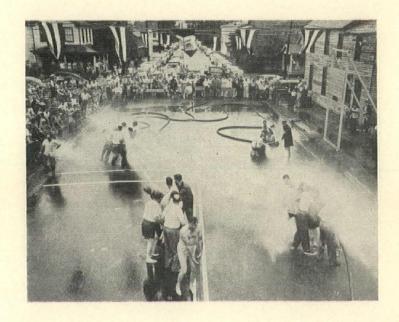
Above, contest team in action. At right and below, fun at convention.

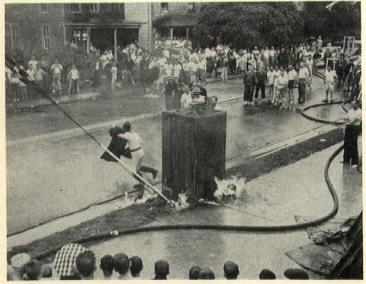
# ITS NOT ALWAYS WORK

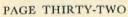
SOMETIMES THERE'S

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#### TYPICAL FUND RAISING PROJECT

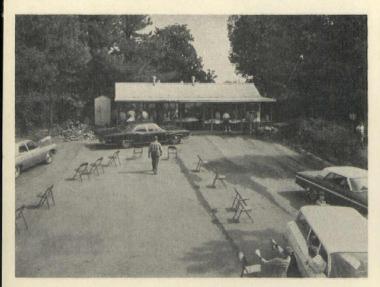
#### Forest View VFD Holds A Fund-Raising Stew



STEW TIME—Forest View Volunteer Fireman Dennis O'Neil stirs a pot of stew in preparation for the company's annual fall Brunswick stew sale October 12. The department, located in northern Chesterfield County, derives funds for its services from two annual stew sales, sale of county automobile tags and a fund-drive.



REPORTING IN—Treasurer Collis W. Hall reports his ticket sales to Fire Chief J. E. Ward, seated. Awaiting their turn to report are A. Y. Ruffin, A. H. Lancaster, C. E. Hall, H. L. Barker and N. L. Logan. The company, formed in 1950, has 42 members and three pumpers—a 750 gpm and two 500-gpm pumpers.



PICK-UP TIME—Motorists drive past the stew shelter at the rear of the department's parking area to pick up their orders. Officers of the department are John F. Kunze, president; John Hines, 1st vice president; C. W. Hall, treasurer; J. F. Jackson, secretary; J. E. Ward, chief; C. W. Toney Jr., assistant chief; C. H. Hall and John S. Hines, captains; R. O. Clark; E. E. Kellam, John Kunze and N. L. Logan, lieutenants; A. H. Lancaster, C. H. Schutte, I. O. Hall and D. L. Walton, engineers; and C. L. Martin, radioman.



TAKING A BREAK—Members of the Ladies Auxiliary take a break from their work. A paid stew-maker supervises the preparation of the stew but most of the work is done by the firemen and auxiliary members. The latter remain on hand all day to help with the stew and to sell the home-made confections offered during the bake-sale. Seated here are Mrs. J. E. Ward, left, Mrs. J. S. Hines and Mrs. C. W. Toney Jr. Standing are Mrs. C. W. Hall, left, Mrs. N. L. Logan, Mrs. C. O. Snead and Mrs. J. F. Kunze.

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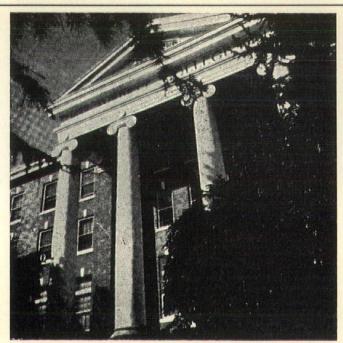
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When a courageous band of Crusaders from Malta, known as the Knights of St. John, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land, they encouraged a new weapon unknown to European warriors. It was a simple, but horrible, device of war; it wrought excruciating pain and agonizing death upon the brave fighters for the Cross.

The Saracens' weapon was fire!

As the Crusaders advanced on the walls of the city they were struck by glass bombs, containing naphtha. When they became saturated with the highly inflammable liquid, the Saracens hurled a flaming tree into their midst.

Hundreds of the Knights were burned alive. Others risked their lives to save their brothers in arms from dying painful, fiery deaths.

Thus these men became our first firemen, and the first of a long list of courageous firefighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow Crusaders who awarded each hero a badge of honor; a cross similar to the one firemen wear today.

The Maltese Cross is your symbol of protection. It means that the fireman who wears this cross is willing to lay down his life for you, just as Crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago.

The Maltese Cross is a fireman's badge of honor, signifying that he works in courage . . . a ladder-rung away from death.

(From the News Letter of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.)

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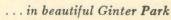
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Pays \$75.00 each week when your wife is hospitalized

Pays \$50.00 each week when each eligible child is hospitalized

Pays \$350 each week if you and your wife are injured and hospitalized at the same

For a Modest Premium of \$7.95 each Month after the first month!

Under the All Family Plan, coverage commences as of the effective date of policy for the married dependent children (including future children attaining and over three months of age) residing in the household of the insured for accidental injury. Coverage for new sickn tion, commences after thirty days. Maternity benefits are covered ten (10) months after policy of the married dependent children attaining and over three months of age).

# PLAN 2. HUSBAND AND WIFE PLAN Pays \$7,500 Maximum Aggregate of Benefits

Pays you \$100.00 each week when hospitalized Pays you \$75.00 a week when your wife is hospitalized

Pays \$350.00 a week when you and your wife are injured and hospitalized at the sa For a Modest Premium of \$5.95 each month after the first month!

This plan is designed for the couple who either have no children or whose children are ind where.

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THIS OFFER EXPIRES MIDNIGHT, FEBRUARY 28, 1969! DO NOT DELAY! FILL OUT AND MAIL ENROLLMENT FORM TODAY WITH \$1.00 TO:

COLONIAL LIFE & CASUALTY COMPANY OF VIRGINIA, INC. 110 NORTH MALL, WILLOW LAWN, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230

#### THE COLONIAL HOSPITAL PLAN

|                                                                                             | THE C             | OLOI III          | IOSI II ML           | LEXIN                   |                                         |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| APPLICANT'S NAME                                                                            | First             |                   |                      | DATE OF BIRTH:          | AGE                                     | SEX         |
| (Please Print)                                                                              |                   | Middle Initial    |                      | Month<br>Day            |                                         | Male        |
| ADDRESS                                                                                     |                   |                   |                      | Year                    |                                         | Committee   |
| No. and Street                                                                              | City              | State             | Code                 | Year                    |                                         | Female      |
| IMPORTANT: THIS                                                                             | ENROLLMENT FOR    | MUST BE MAILE     | D NO LATER THAN      | MIDNIGHT OF: FEBRUA     | RY 28, 196                              | 59          |
| SELECT PLAN DESIRED<br>(Check One Only)                                                     | IF                | ALL FAMILY OF     | HUSBAND-WIF          | E PLAN IS DESIRED,      | GIVE                                    |             |
| (Check One Only)                                                                            | FO:               | LOWING INFO       | RMATION ON W         | VIFE:                   |                                         |             |
| ☐ I All Family Plan ☐ II Husband-Wife Plan ☐ III One-Parent Family Pla ☐ IV Individual Plan | Nan               | ne:               |                      |                         | Middle                                  | Int.        |
| ☐ III One-Parent Family Pla                                                                 | n Wif             | e's Date          |                      |                         |                                         |             |
| ☐ IV Individual Plan                                                                        | Of                | Birth:            |                      | _ Month Day             |                                         | Year        |
| Do you have other insul                                                                     | rance with this   | Companyr Y        | es No                |                         |                                         |             |
| If "Yes", give policy nu                                                                    |                   |                   |                      |                         |                                         |             |
| I have enclosed my first mo                                                                 | Colonial Hospital | \$1.00 and hereb  | by apply to the Co   | OLONIAL LIFE & CA       | SUALTY                                  | COMPANY     |
| in force until actually issued.                                                             | Coloniai Hospitai | Folicy and Flan   | thereunder as se     | elected above. I unders | tand the                                | roncy is no |
| The Undersigned certifies that                                                              | t he has read, o  | r had read to hi  | m, the completed     | enrollment form and     | that he                                 | understand  |
| that any false statement or i                                                               | nisrepresentation | herein may resul  | t in loss of coverag | e under this policy.    |                                         |             |
| In my absence, I constitute<br>stead to vote as my proxy at                                 | and appoint the   | president of the  | Company my as        | gent and attorney for   | me, in n                                | ny name an  |
| will be returned to me. This                                                                | proxy is good ur  | til revoked. Anni | al Meeting 12        | Noon Second Tuesda      | v. Januar                               | ry, at Hom  |
| Office, Richmond, Virginia.                                                                 |                   |                   |                      |                         | , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , | ,,          |

DATE SIGNED

Applicant's Signature (SIGN—DO NOT PRINT)

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO COLONIAL LIFE & CASUALTY COMPANY OF VIRGINIA, INC.

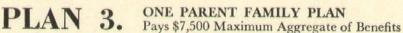
# HOSPITAL POLICY CTLY TO YOU.

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cancelled unless renewal is the same form number.







Pays you \$100.00 a week when hospitalized Pays you \$50.00 a week when each eligible child is hospitalized For a Modest Premium of \$5.95 each month after the first month

This plan is designed for the family where there are dependent children with only one parent. Coverage extends to the parent and all unmarried children\* (not to include any future children) residing in the household of the insured. \*Between the ages of 3 months and 21 years.

INDIVIDUAL PLAN

Pays \$5,000 Maximum Aggregate Benefits

Pays you \$100.00 each week when you are hospitalized For a Modest Premium of \$3.50 per month after first month

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#### BENEFITS UNDER ALL PLANS ARE PRORATED DAILY

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d living else-

wife and un-

er 21 yrs. of

g hospitaliza-

#### AND THERE ARE INCREASING BENEFITS TOO:

addition to the maximum (Aggregate of Benefits) provided in your policy, there added to your maximum the amount of each premium paid as long as your policy mains in force! Therefore, according to the plan you select, you begin with up to \$10,000, \$7,500, or \$5,000. These amounts are increased as premiums are paid.

#### FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PLAN

atever plan and coverage you choose, benefits commence on the day you enter the hospital. (Nursing home, valescent or self-care units and federal hospitals are excluded.) And your payments continue for the total iod—as often as you're hospitalized—until the aggregate total of your benefits are exhausted. ident coverage begins immediately. (For new illnesses, there is a 30-day waiting period. All pre-existing ditions are covered after the policy has been in force for 24 months.) Of course, there are some exceptions. gnancy or its complications except in the All-Family Plan—acts of war, mental disorders, drug or alcoholic letion, or conditions covered by Workman's Compensation or Employer's liability laws.

Long Protection. As long as your monthly payments are paid, your insurance is in force. Colonial Life not cancel your individual policy unless all policies carrying the number of your plan are dropped or the kimum (Aggregate) of benefits has been paid (The company does, of course, reserve the right to provide increases in premiums on all policies of the same form number.)

your cash the way you see fit. Benefits are paid by Colonial directly to you for your own personal use.

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Fathers have money necessary for babysitters when mother is hospitalized.

Families have the security of extra money to meet those unexpected bills in time of need.

E WHOLE THING IS UP TO YOU—To be eligible for these benefits you must make the choice. Colonial kes you your own agent. You choose the plan you want, you file your own claims, you choose how to use the efits you choose. You are never bothered by an agent. (Of course, our entire home office staff of insurance erts stand ready to help you with any questions or problems.)

ce we do not maintain an expensive staff of field agents, we are able to pass on these savings to you in the n of low, low premiums.

or any reason you are not satisfied with your policy, you may return it within ten days and your money be refunded—NO QUESTIONS ASKED!

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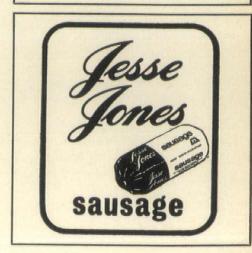
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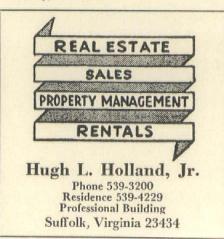
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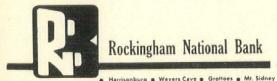
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From out of the Past . . .

# A TEEN-AGE STUDENT'S NOTES ON METALURGY

A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE MANUFACTURE OF MUNITIONS FOR THE CONFEDERACY

 $B_y$  G. WATSON JAMES, JR.

It is a little notebook. On it's pages are recorded metalurgical formalae and notes that nearly a century ago constituted one of the most vital contributions to the manufacture of munitions for the Confederacy.

As far as it is known today, it is the only document of it's nature in existence and of such value that a photostatic copy has been made by the archives division of the Virginia State Library.

The notes were made by a lad in his teens whose secret service work was cited by General Isaac M. St. Johns, chief of the Confederate Nitre and Mining Bureau. In order to evaluate the service this teen-age boy rendered, an insight to what were the functions of the St. Johns' bureau is in order.

The Confederate Ordinance Department was set up by Josiah Gorgas, a West Pointer who, like St. Johns, resigned from the old army to throw in his fortunes with the Confederacy. Gorgas, in expanding his bureau, needed a separate corps to handle the procuring of ores, minerals and to extract nitre from caves, etc. (The droppings of bats were one source of nitre supply.)

He chose General St. Johns to head a sub-military unit rather than employ salaried agents who would not be subject to court martial. The Confederate Congress on April 11, 1862 passed "An act for the organization of a corps of officers for the working of nitre caves and establishing nitre beds," which in essence, was what Gorgas had planned.

Shortly thereafter the lad, G. Watson James, destined to become my father, who kept the notebook, left

Washington College on suspension of classes and although under military age, enlisted in Henley's Battalion Troops for Local Defense, afterwards designated as the Third Regiment Troops for Local Defense.

His company was Company G, known as the "boy company," so designated by General Custis Lee in a letter from the General to Mrs. Jefferson Davis, and printed in her book on the life of her husband.

Young James was with his command in most, if not all, of the important operations around Richmond, in which it participated, including the engagement at Hicks' farm Glenburnie) in which Dahlgren was defeated, his raiders dispersed and the Confederate capital saved from sack.

#### Assigned to Important Duty

Meantime, on the strength of a voluntary and unsolicited letter, written by Professor John L. Campbell, of Washington College, to General St. John, the General had young James put at his service for detail in the bureau as required, on account of his proficiency in geology and mineralogy and metalurgy, and assigned him, when on detail, to the "iron yard," corner of Seventh and Canal streets. as an "iron inspector." He, James, was familiar with most of the ore deposits then developed in the state, and the character of metal they should produce, and in subsequent smelting and manipulations. As inspector, his duty was to grade the iron as it came into the yard and depots, and allot it to the uses for which it was best fitted.

In addition, however, he was "unofficially" on the "personal and confidential" staff of General St. Johns, and was frequently despatched on "secret" missions connected with the paucity of bureau supplies. Two of these missions, especially, involved a good deal of hazard; one to the Carrol copper mines and another to Liberty Furnace, from which, with a cavalry escort furnished by Colonel (later governor) Charles T. O'Ferrall, he "ran out" practically from under the nose of the enemy a heavy stock of iron, which was much needed by the government for a particular purpose, owning to the particular quality.

There were crises in the ordinance and ammunition situation which had to be kept wholly within the breast of the bureau, the higher military authorities and the ordinance department. General St. John's reason for sending a "lad," as he termed him, on such a mission was, in addition to trusting him to hold his tongue, as he told General Lawton in his office one day, no one would "suspect one so young," or his objective.

But back to the little notebook. Most of the notes and metalurgical data were written in ink that has somehow withstood the passing of the years. On other pages the data is inscribed on blue Confederate paper and pasted to the sheets. Then on several pages are notes written in pencil. Alas, some of the words are scarcely legible.

Two of such pages lie before mc. The data covers an experiment for making shells, and is illustrative of the often poverty of metals capable of withstanding high explosives.

Here is the dramatic story of the experiment, as much as could be deciphered from the faded penciled data:



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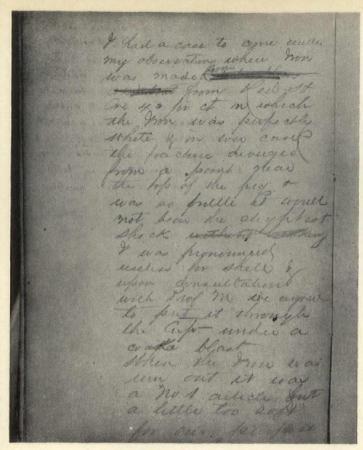
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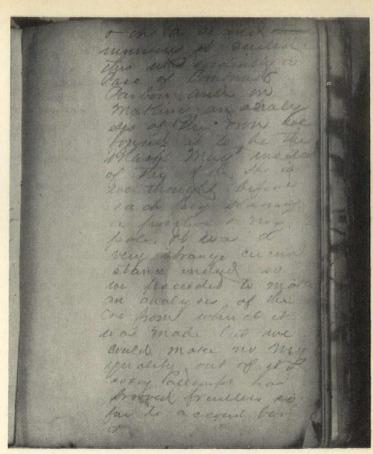
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The notes were almost destroyed by fire in 1918. Note the charred edges of the pages above.

"I had a case under observation where Iron was made . . .? from Red St. ore 43 per ct in which the Iron was perfectly white, and in every case the fracture diverged from a point near the top of the pig & was so brittle it would not bear the slightest shock. & was pronounced useless for shell and upon consultation with Professor M. we agreed to put it through the cup (cupola?) under a coke blast. When the iron was run out it was a No. 1 article but a little too soft for our purpose, & on a second running it suited? This was evidently a Case of Combined carbon(?) and in making an analysis of the Iron we found it to be the Black May t (?) instead of the Red . . . as we thought before each pig showing a positive & negative (?) pole. It was a very strange

circumstance indeed so we proceeded to make an analysis of the ore from whence it was made but we could make no neg (negative?) quality out of it, and every attempt has proved fruitless so far to account for it."

Doubtless this was one of many tragic, unsuccessful experiments made by my father and others who devotedly struggled to get *multum* and *pavo* and extract enough munitions material to combat the unlimited supply of the Federal forces.

The above experimental data are but a tithe of the scope of notes which cover the building and operation of coke furnaces, innumerable personal formulae which reveal exhaustive analysis of geological formations; various ores which had been analyzed as to their chemical constituents, and while the technical nomenclature is different in the light of today's advanced research, the data will afford a fascinating study for the modern inorganic chemist.

Apropos of this, an authority in that field who reviewed the notes for the writer, pointed out with respect to building and operation of coke furnaces as covered in the notebook that in the light of today's operation they were "as crude as an ox-cart." But what a powerful ox-cart they were in solving the manufacture of munitions for the Confederacy.

As to the "iron yard" to which my father was assigned when not on special duty for the bureau or serving with his regiment, it was evidently "the Ordinance Store" on the east side of Seventh Street between Cary

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and Canal, as detailed in An Official Guide of the Confederate Government from 1861 to 1865 at Richmond. According to the same directory, it was close to "the laboratory on Brown Island," The Artillery workshops on Seventh Street, south of Canal, and the Artillery Store with an office on Seventh Street.

How vividly I recall today my father's description of that terrain with particular reference to the "Ironyard" where various scraps of metal and ores were identified and consigned to classified bins. Scraps of exploded Federal shells and "duds" had been collected on battlefields. The duds had to be deactivated and the explosive contents saved. It was oft times a dangerous salvage operation.

I remember one tragic incident related by my father which had to do with a slave. The slave was propelling a load of salvage material in a pushcart operated on an improvised track. Luckily my father glanced at the man, who had stopped to rest, and was pounding a "dud" on one wheel of the cart. My father yelled to him, but not in time. There was a terrific explosion. The cart and its operator were blown into bits. An associate, who at the time was sorting metal into bins, narrowly escaped death or injury by a quirk of fate. He had loosened the jacket of his uniform which was ripped from his body by one flying piece of

One of Father's reminiscences of his service with the bureau was not without a modicum of humor. When during World War I, our soldiers complained of the "cooties" while in the trenches, he recalled that while searching caves for the nitre supply obtained by collecting the droppings of bats, his body from head to foot was covered with crawling lice.

When Richmond was evacuated he had been separated from his command by illness and invalided to his home there. However, he left his sickbed, joined the retreating army, was captured and paroled in Danville.

I recall my father relating a dramatic experience prior to his capture, when he was carrying some orders in duplicate ahead of the retreating Confederates. Unaware of the turn of events at Appomattox and the presence of Federal forces in Danville, he was crossing the Dan River bridge there when he met a comrade who told him that Lee had surrendered. The teenage courier promptly chewed up and swallowed one dispatch and threw the other in the river. It was then that

he ran smack into the enemy's hands. A Federal medical officer, realizing that the lad was very ill, had him taken to the field hospital until he was sufficiently recovered to return to Richmond. Incidentally, he walked all the way.

Not long after returning to Richmond, destiny ruled that he should forsake science for the pen, and in consequence he became in later years one of the most distinguished editors and literary men in Virginia and the South.

In his new role of a newspaperman he plunged into the thick of the Reconstruction period. He reported the "Black and Tan" Underwood Constitutional Convention, was the last editor of the famous Richmond Enquirer; edited the Old Dominion Magazine, founded by Martin Hazelwood and later was editor and owner of The Richmond Standard, a weekly literary and family journal.

The greater part of Dr. James' life was, however, occupied in editorial work on the old *Enquirer*, the old *Richmond Dispatch*, forerunner of

The Times-Dispatch, and The News Leader, where he served as editor, and later when his health was failing, as Senior Associate Editor.

In 1881 Washington and Lee University conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Letters, it being the first time that honor was ever conferred in the history of the institution or its predecessor. Additional honors came to him in his election as a Fellow of the Royal Victoria Institute of London, England, and as honorary member of the New York Historical Society.

#### Epilogue

Today, edges of the leaves of that little notebook are scarred and blackened. With its scientific data, representing stories of how many untold problems in munitions were solved, it was nearly destroyed in a fire which wrecked the News Leader Building on Eighth Street December 1, 1918. He, Doctor James, who as a teen-age student over one hundred years ago wrote upon its pages—died the next morning.

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# FOR THE RECORD

# German Vibratory-Compacting Equipment Firm Establishes in Richmond

• Vibromax Corporation, the sole, wholly-owned American subsidiary of Losenhausen Maschinenbau AG Duesseldorf West-Germany, has been established at 2707 Willard Road, Richmond. The new corporation is a distribution and service center for the German manufacturer of vibratory-compacting equipment.

Christof P. Glasmacher, President of Vibromax, was with the parent company in Germany for several years and holds a Master's degree in mechanical engineering from the Institute of Technology of Munich, Bavaria. Mr. Glasmacher said that Richmond was selected as American headquarters because the operating cost level in the capital city and transportation facilities presented a better cost ratio than other areas which were explored. He added that, since Vibromax will import and adapt to the American market the Losenhausen product line, it was necessary to be near a port Hampton and Roads offered needed facilities.

Vibromax imports a complete line of vibratory-compacting equipment ranging from the smallest unit, which weighs 100 pounds and is used by housebuilders and landscapers, to the biggest unit, manufactured by Dingler, of Germany. The Dingler machine weighs 33,000 pounds and is used for construction of highways and dams. The Dingler machine is the largest on the world market.

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Mr. Glasmacher said that Vibromax will adapt the Losenhausen line to American standards by exchanging German-made engines to those made by Briggs and Stratton and Wisconsin in order to provide easier and faster service. Vibromax is setting up a network which will market to distributors and will train personnel to sell equipment to the ultimate customer. The new company will stock an extensive line of spare parts and new equipment.

Sales manager for Vibromax is Joe Schrage who has been engaged in similar work in the United States for the past five years. Mr. Schrage is well experienced in the compaction field since he has been working in that field for 14 years in Scandinavia and the United States. Mr. Schrage is certainly known in the field by his past activities in the area and has made a lot of friends among Virginian contractors.

The parent company, Losenhausen, is the originator of vibratory-compacting equipment and built its first machine in 1934. While vibratory-compacting equipment has had an extensive market in Europe for the past 20 to 30 years, such equipment has been in use in this country for a shorter period. In Europe, Mr. Glasmacher explained, the equipment had had broader use due to the fact that there are more cars per mile on European roads than here. The equipment has a product range of uses including trenching, pipelines, air and sports fields, parking lots and driveways in addition to road construction and dam building.

Losenhausen was established in 1880 as a manufacturer of testing machinery. As a result, according to Mr. Glasmacher, all Losenhausen equipment is extensively tested under actual conditions.

The Virginia Division of Industrial Development and its newly established International Trade and Development

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CULPEPER, VIRGINIA Department worked with Mr. Glasmacher in establishing the new facility in Richmond. The Division's Director, J. Frank Alspaugh, and the Director of the International Trade and Development Department, Fred G. Kessener, met with Losenhausen officials in Germany during a European trip to interest foreign manufacturers in establishing operations in Virginia.

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#### FOR THE RECORD

(Continued)

### Nelson Receives Appointment from VDAC

• John W. Nelson, Jr. of Richmond has been appointed Regulatory Field Supervisor in charge of nuisance bird control according to an announcement from B. W. Southall, Director of the Division of Regulatory Services for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

Nelson will be implementing the law approved by the 1968 General Assembly. Under the new Nuisance Bird Law, the Department is authorized to conduct investigations, and make surveys to determine economic losses or public nuisances caused by birds. The Department is also authorized to demonstrate techniques or render technical assistance to persons when such problems exist.

Nelson joined VDAC in 1965 in the Technical Division. Since September, 1966, he has been working as a regulatory inspector covering the Richmond and middle peninsula areas.

A graduate of Varina High School, he received a B.S. in Agronomy from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1962.

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North Carolina reached the one year mark December 4, 1968 and has worked 768,000 manhours and is continuing.

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#### FOR THE RECORD

(Continued)

Keeling, Washington, Washington and Associates Announce New Associate Partner

• KEELING, WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON AND ASSOCIATES, Architects and Engineers of Norfolk, Virginia are pleased to announce that James R. Washington, A.I.A., formerly chief architect and project planner with the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, has joined the firm as an Associate Partner.

Mr. Washington is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Planning Officials and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. He received his Bachelor of Architecture Degree from Clemson University and worked with Stephens and Wilkenson, Architects of Atlanta, Georgia prior to moving to Norfolk in 1965. In his new position, Mr. Washington will join two brothers, Emory B. Washington, Professional Engineer, Director of Engineering for the firm and Robert E. Washington, A.I.A., an Architect. The Senior Partner of the firm is Harry W. Keeling, Jr., Professional Engineer and Naval Architect.

Mr. Washington will become a project director for the firm with a major responsibility for multifamily housing planning and design.

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#### VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONS

The fourth annual meeting of the Virginia Association of Professions was held at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond on November 23. Shown here, at left, from top to bottom, Alexander Wellford, VSBA, who presided at the business meetings; Dr. Jason R. Lewis, VSDA, outgoing President; Carl Bain, VaPhA, who presented his plan for the VAP sponsored Police Assistance Foundation; and Hunter Jones, VSCPA, who was installed as new President.

At right, Jones presents Lewis with a gavel marking his term of office as third president of VAP. In the two lower photos, Dr. F. Ashton Carmines, President of MSV, presents Dr. David M. Hume of the Medical College of Virginia, the VAP award for his pioneer research in heart and kidney transplants.

VAP now has 1,010 members from eight Virginia professional organizations.









to tell the Virginia Story

JANUARY 1969

PAGE SEVENTY-ONE

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# NEW YEAR – WITHOUT A RESOLUTION

(Continued from page 5)

about "the American Dream." While, admittedly no avid listener to or reader of campaigners' exhortations, and with very limited tolerance for transient comments upon them, I encountered no reference to this once dependable evocation. However, a student of mine heard of "the American Dream" somewhere, and asked me what it was. In turn, I asked a whole class of superior juniors and seniors what it meant to them, and pursued it further by asking the same of intelligent, educated young persons recently out of graduate schools. It was quite enlightening to discover the diverse, and mostly vague, notions held of "the American Dream" by superior members of a generation from whom will come the nation's future leaders.

Some associated the dream with pioneers, some with the founding fathers of the republic and others with the immigrants who came to America in the latter half of the nineteenth century. All agreed that the dream was related to equality of opportunity, and this opportunity chiefly concerned the earning of money or even riches. There was a sort of minor refrain about political freedom, but this was all involved with a contempt for the machinery of the techno-structure and the remoteness of the machinery's operations from the current aspirations (or dreams) of the younger generation. Under questioning, most of the students or recent graduates revealed a dim awareness of the historical period when the equality of opportunity implied a personal responsibility to avail oneself of the opportunity-to achieve a certain personal independence—but none of them had any actual experience with, or memory of, the demands of self-responsibility of the individual as a characteristic of

The only conclusion that could be drawn was that—at least, to this cross-section of enlightened young people—"The American Dream" had not only lost all meaning but belonged with other dead values of the past which had not extended into the present. When, however, it was my time to give my version of this lost dream, I found

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myself baffled about what meaning the dream had ever had. The only element that I suggested which won anything like unanimous response was that the old dream implied certainties. It implied a correlation between cause and effect which would result from the individual's responsibility. In the simplest, most obvious example, it was assumed that when the individual worked diligently at his calling, arranged a buuget which allowed him to save some money, lived honestly and with some regard for his community, he would win the self-respect that came of providing for his tamily according to his means and being accepted as a worthy citizen by his neighbors. In accepting this as a fair example of the old certainties, my cross-section of interviewees found it quaint and funny—belonging with the "period" aspects of the trolley-car, "Twenty-three skidoo" and I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles. That is, the aspiring writers among the group would use this old "certainty" as research material in building a scene of another era.

Some of the more disenchanted laughed at the contemporary standards which assured them of continuing their "education" (they laughed at that too) into "middle age." For they did not regard a prolonged institutionalized period as providing any certainties at all; on the contrary, the more time they were allowed to study-with its implications of reflection and exchange of ideas among those who were not merely accumulating hours toward a certification of acquiring the necessary credits-the more they looked with alarm and apprehension at an adult world in which the meaning of the individual's life seemed to have lost its relevance. On this point, there was an intense agreement about the uncertainties at the heart of the society to which few voices of authority, and none in politics, addressed themselves.

On the other hand, in psychology and current philosophy, as well as in the writings of philosophical-minded observers, there is a growing emphasis upon the ambiguities in our time, the contradictions and the acceptance of contingencies which have replaced the sense of certainties. It is the feeling, in the young (though not necessarily youthful), that the mechanics of the techno-structure will not touch those inner realities. Norman Mailer is far from unique in voicing their apprehensions over having another repairman on the obsolete machinery, but it is unusual to find these apprehensions voiced in a national medium of large audience.

When the embarrassment over "The Great Society" label caused "The American Dream" to be tacitly forgotten, no voice in national politics has been raised to offer a new dream, or ideal. Indeed, such is the spiritual flabbiness of a people living in the shadow of the statistics of the Gross National Product, such is the negativism about the possibility of any meaning to life in the techno-structure, that the young tend-in the derision that is the opposite side of fear-to scoff at the very idea of a dream or an ideal which appeals to the spirit of the American. Maybe they are right to do so. Yet, they have no memories of having experienced a different ethos from that now prevailing; and any appeal that is to have meaning to them must—to paraphrase Mailer—both bring forward what is valid in the tradition and offer revolutionary ap-

If a voice of authority is to enunciate a new idea that is relevant to the meaning of life, the idea must squarely confront the climate of uncertainties. The generations rising into full adulthood have learned to accommodate themselves to ambiguities. What they can

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have demonstrably failed.

Thoughtful men and women of my generation have, by the nature of tragic life, long ago accustomed themselves to living with contingencies. We never expected any of the panaceas offered by the machinery of the technostructure to achieve significant or stable results. But the six years of the Johnson administration have provided the younger generation with a sped-up course in acceptance of the absence of certainties in the cause and effect proposition of political techniques. From the overnight solution of the centuries old problems of different races in the same environment to the overnight abolition of poverty, no reasonably intelligent observer can miss the disastrous failures of the techniques to achieve their stated goals, nor, perhaps of more consequence, the confusion and resentment, the disorder and the hatred, the whole tense atmosphere of uncertainty, which has resulted from promises impossible of fulfillment.

Of all things, Richard Nixon does

seem to be a realist. If he is not to follow his predecessor into sudden obsolescence, he will have to confront the real causes of the present bitterness and bewilderment, and apply his realism to diagnoses of the disease and not to its obvious manifestations. The time has passed when the enlightened public, especially the rising generations, will be taken in by the application of snake-oil on pimples, or any variation of Dr. Johnson's "Cure-All Elixir." If Nixon tries the old remedies out of a medicine-show tent, he will belong to the past-and the rest of us will know chaos. Since it is a New Year, we might wish the new administration the courage and enlightenment to bring forth something new in the vision of government.

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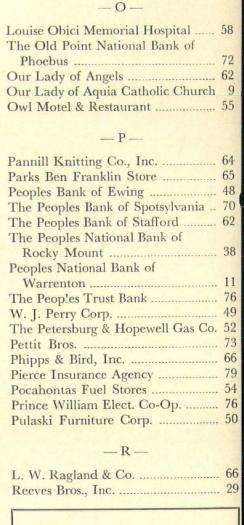
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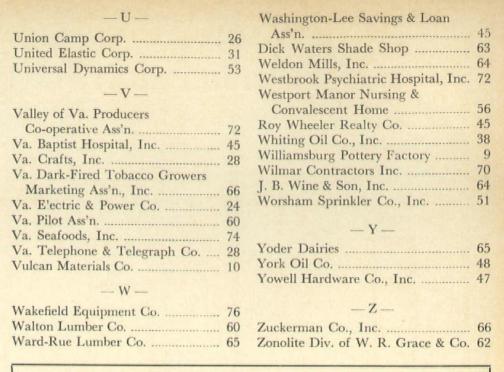
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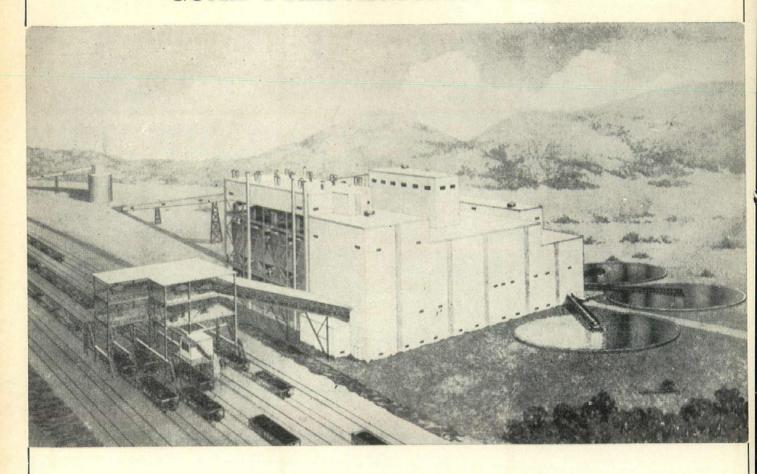
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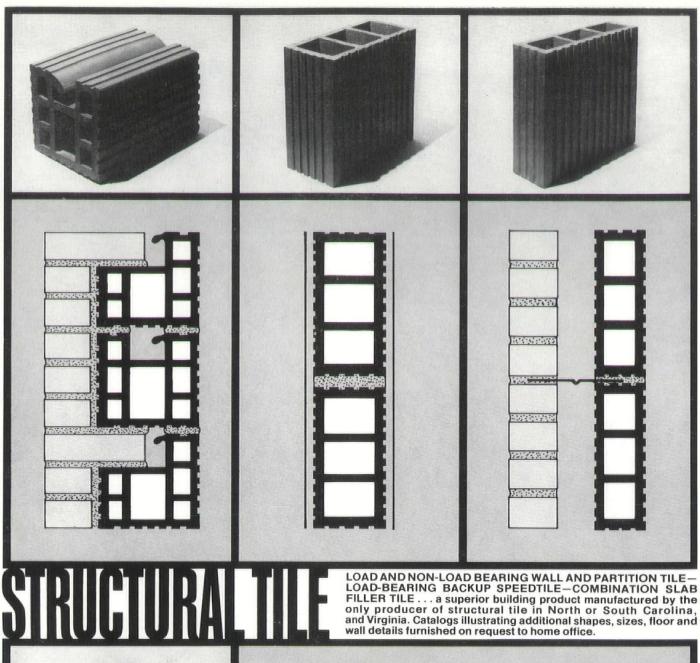
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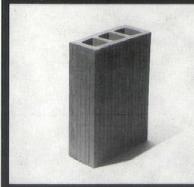
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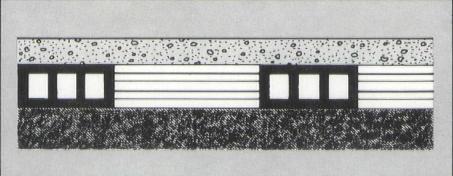
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