Season's Greetings

VIRGINIA BRANCH REVIEW

ALSO

THE MANY LIVES OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CHURCH
By Phyllis G. Leonard
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Is "Christmas Only For Children"?

IT HAS COME to be an accepted bromide that, "Christmas is for children." I do not think this is necessarily true. It depends on the parents' attitude to their children, to Christmas, and to the act of giving. When I was a small child my mother, with limited means, devoted herself to radiating a spirit of Christmas. In those days, I imagine, hers was a fairly typical practice, with emphasis on the traditional carols which had not then become shopworn. There was in the home a gradual build-up to the Great Day which every one in the family seemed to anticipate.

One vital detail of the build-up, which now seems gone, was the making of the Christmas cake. I remember with the greatest vividness the "blanching" (skinning) of almonds in hot water and placing the ivory colored nuts on a sheet of brown paper under the stovepipe in the dining room for a slow heating. Then there was the batter left on the sides of the bowl, which was the child's delight to eat, although my mother and grandmother seemed also to relish tasting it. In this whole time-consuming ritual of the cake-making, I believe my mother and grandmother enjoyed it as much as I did.

There were a couple of aspects of the Christmas season which my parents definitely enjoyed more than I did. My mother carefully wrapped a large number of presents in boxes of all sizes, to be distributed among her relatives and friends all over Richmond, and it was my chore to deliver them. In those days before all families had cars (in fact, few did), my journey was by trolley car. The packages would be arranged in my arms, coming up so high as to rest against my head, with the first deliveries on top. The trip would consume a whole afternoon, and it would be dark before I got back home, but what I most remember is the warmth of the assorted adults who received me: I remember their radiant faces and happy laughter, as if they also partook of some transcendent spirit of the season.

The other aspect of the season which was designed for adults was the round of dinners—which I also believe was typical of large families—which was held every night at a different house from Christmas Eve to New Year's night. At the precise time in which I came along, I was the only child in the whole family, and those heavy Christmas dinners were certainly not designed for me. In the lethargy following the meal, the grownups would talk casually among themselves and my place was not only "children should be seen and not heard" but evidently no one even saw me.

At one of my cousin's houses, a three-volume set of Poe was handily placed in the living room, and from before dinner until the evening mercifully ended, I read these volumes. By the time I was twelve, I had gone through them all twice, and if I had had the cast of mind of a future Ph.D., I would have enjoyed a fine start as a Poe expert and could have written an original thesis on "The Effect of Poe on a Child at Christmas Dinners."

At one of my aunt's house, there were always new popular novels, and these I must admit (since I was not an embryonic scholar) (Continued on page 29)
President Pete Gilvin, a vital man by nature, began the Annual Midyear Board Meeting in Minneapolis, September 18th through the 22nd, by encouraging the Associated General Contractors, their wives and guests to take the lead in helping solve the many problems facing our nation today. He feels that these men of industry should be leaders—not followers.

At this meeting of the Board, they unanimously nominated John E. Healy of the Heavy Construction Division in 1962.

Mr. Teer, a highway contractor, is president of Nello L. Teer Company. He has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1951, and was chairman of the Associated General Contractors Highway Contractors Division in 1968.

Mr. Lembke, a building contractor, is chairman of the Board of Lembke Construction Company, Inc. He has served on several national committees including Ethics, and Education. Also, he was the founder of the New Mexico Building Branch in 1945, and served as its first president.

The Associated General Contractors and President Gilvin were praised for their efforts in helping rid the nation of pollution by Rep. John A. Blatnik. He also noted that President Gilvin in a recent action had appointed a 17-man national committee to deal with the problem in the construction industry.

The Board of Directors heard the recommendations of more than 35 committees that met for three days preceding the Board Meeting. The Board approved numerous recommendations vitally affecting both the Associated General Contractors and the construction industry.

The Manpower and Training Committee has approved a new program for training returning servicemen under...
Unanimously nominated for National AGC offices were (l-r) James D. McClary, senior vice president; John E. Healy, II, president; Nello L. Teer, Jr., vice president; and Charles H. Lembke, treasurer.

Project Transition. The experiment and development project, using simulators developed by the Singer-Link Company, has been submitted to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for funding. The program, the first of its kind, will train about 2,000 persons as teamsters and heavy equipment operators. The Singer-Link Company described the training program and displayed some of the training equipment developed by the company.

The Committee discussed the current status of the AGC JOBS Program. To date, contracts have been finalized calling for the training of nearly 800 persons. Programs to train an additional 1,700 persons are currently in various stages of development.

The Committee recommended that a separate training program be developed for the construction industry alone. If this cannot be done, the Committee recommends that the JOBS contract be renewed for another year.

The Legislative Committee recommended several proposals, among which were:
1. Establish a Federal Commission on Labor Law Reform to make a thorough and complete study and investigation of the need for the enactment of new legislation or the revision of existing legislation.
2. Make it an unfair labor practice for a labor organization to discriminate on account of race, color, religion or national origin.
3. Make it an unfair labor practice to require a person who objects to membership in a labor organization to be a member of such an organization as a condition of employment.
4. Call for the suspension or repeal of labor laws which unduly favor organized labor including the Davis-Bacon Act and related acts.

The Building Contractors Session at which the liaison activities with the various federal awarding agencies were reviewed, was chaired by Andrew P. Wick. Associated General Contractor members were urged to work toward securing a policy of a 10% retained percentage until 50% of the project is completed. At that time the architect would authorize the release of 5% to be retained from each future application for payment.

The Building Chapters were urged to establish a committee to gather, research, and disseminate information to their members and the national office on the construction management approach in their area. The Building Directors stated their opposition to GSA's (General Services Administration) new
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construction procedures regarding construction management and will furnish GSA with positive recommendations for changes to its present procedures.

The Convention's social scene began with a most inviting Welcome Night Party Saturday night in the Star Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel—a something for everyone affair—name it, and it was there. The host with the most was the Minnesota Chapter, with Bill and Margaret Gary in command. Their motto was: “We want everyone to enjoy themselves!” Your palate was pleased by the very best in food and beverages.

Then, it was off to the Casino Party held at the Radisson Mart. It was definitely fun and games! You could wager your play money on anything from horse racing to blackjack, interrupted only briefly to bid on attractive prizes. In fact, a very lovely Polaroid Colorpack II camera was brought home by Nickie Duckhardt, wife of Jim Nickie Duckhardt, the Executive Director of the Virginia Branch.

While the men were busy with meetings Monday, the ladies were charmed with a delicious luncheon, topped off by what was called a “Fashion Flashback Show.” This was without any doubt the most unusual fashion show anyone had ever had the pleasure of attending. Gowns out of history were modeled. It was literally the “Gay 90’s on Parade.” There was even a wedding gown modeled that was completely hand crocheted, and which took approximately one year to make. It was a thing of beauty. As if this was not enough, the ladies were honored by a visit from the Governor of Minnesota and given favors consisting of a smoked crystal glass with the seal of the State of Minnesota on it, a lovely bottle of Christian Dior perfume, and a charm in the shape of the state.

Dining in Minneapolis would best be described as an experience. The portions would astound even the average person. The Haberdashery at the Radisson Hotel was a must. Have you ever eaten peanuts and wondered “What in the heck do I do with the shells?” Well, at the Haberdashery, you can worry no more—you just throw them over your shoulder, politely drop them on the floor beside you or if you like, make a little pile of shells on the table (which will be brushed off onto the floor by the waiter when you leave). You see, on each table there is a stone crock full of peanuts for you to enjoy with your coke, beer or sandwich. The Haberdashery began in 1910 as a men’s store, but on St. Patrick’s Day in 1970, the Radisson Hotel opened this unique room as a place for men and women to gather and indulge viands, libations and conviviality. What a marvelous way to begin the afternoon!

When the dinner hour approaches your heart can lightly turn to the Lodge of the Radisson. Most people long for a luxuriously rustic hunting lodge—tucked away at a beautiful lake. The Lodge features marvelous Minnesota food specialties in a plush and private northwoods setting. All menu items relate to food products that Minnesota abundantly produces. To start your palate tingling how about baking powder biscuits, corn bread (and you haven’t eaten corn bread until you try this), whole wheat bread and enriched white bread—and to compliment this delightful assortment is an earthen crock of whipped honey butter that really does melt in your mouth. In fact, this restaurant is so versatile that if you should have a special occasion that you would like to give that little extra touch to, served “Family Style,” merely give the Lodge staff a day’s notice and they will have everything ready to your liking. To complete the perfect meal, spend a few extra moments listening to the beautiful music and gaze dreamily at the open hearth in the middle of the room. Also, just in case you feel like you might enjoy a midnight snack, they will gladly give you an “apple bag” (we call it a doggy bag) containing your centerpiece (delicious Minnesota grown apples).

However, should you feel so inclined and desire French cuisine, do try the Dyckman Hotel, where you will find the irresistible Chateau de Paris. The Chateau is made up of three connecting rooms, each with a special flavor of its own. The Cave is a small intimate den with several booths carved out of the dark stucco walls. Looking through the small glass doors and windows of the Cave one can see the Wine Cellar, a larger and more spacious room filled with intriguing wine bottles stored in specially designed wooden bins. Hanging from the ceiling are several authentic wine driers, filled with bottles, which have been made into chandeliers and glow with a red light. Next door is the Gran Salon, an elegant dining room decorated in gold and off-white. Panelled walls are enhanced by gold brocade wallpaper and gold trim.

Minneapolis also has Charlie’s Cafe Exceptionale, the winner of 19 consecutive Holiday Magazine awards, with a wide selection in wine and your dining preference. Delicious food with personal service.

To close the perfect evening you might select Allée Pigalle at the Radisson, where you can have a sing-along with a plus. If you wish you may assist with the music too while you sip your favorite beverage. Your pleasure is their pleasure at Pigalle.

- Minneapolis is a great place to visit, and I don’t doubt a great place to live!

James F. Duckhardt and Robert M. Dunville
• First impressions are most important—and in the case of Robert M. Dunville, we sincerely hope that they will be lasting ones. Bob Dunville is president of Robert M. Dunville and Brothers, Inc., of Richmond.

Bob and his charming wife, Glenyce, attended the mid-year Board of Directors meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, this past September. This was their first national meeting and Bob was kind enough to share his experiences and feelings about the meeting with us.

When asked why he had decided to attend this meeting, Bob replied: "Naturally when becoming a member of any trade association one's curiosity is aroused as to just what makes the association tick and what kind of people are active in its work. When I was appointed to the research committee, it was possible for me to attend the recent National Board Meeting in Minneapolis, which meeting I felt would key me in on the organization and the kind of men carrying the ball for A. G. C. Usually one gets out of an association just about what he puts into the association."

We next asked Bob what he expected regarding the meeting, to which he said: "With the many needs of the construction industry, I hardly knew what to expect when I went to this meeting. One thing is for sure: I did not expect the tremendous effort, excellent planning and coordination of the various committees. I can truthfully say that I have never attended a convention or meeting in which planning and concerted effort of committee chairmen and members was better planned, coordinated and more productive than the committee meetings I attended."

It appeared obvious that Bob was pleased with the meeting, but when questioned he elaborated, "It was a pleasure to see the direct approach of the committee chairmen doing their assignments and in the manner in which they kept their discussions in line and on the subject at hand. Frankly, it was an inspiration to sit in and see the progress and work that could be accomplished in the short time assigned to each committee meeting.

I think it was about this time that I began to realize the caliber of the committee chairmen and members. Obviously each member was running a successful business, and no doubt has forged to the top of the construction industry in his area."

We next asked which program appealed to the most. Bob was very enthusiastic and commented: "Of all the committee meetings that I attended probably the most interesting and one most vital to our industry is the one dealing with manpower and training. As the wage scales of the workers in the various trades have moved upward, we find fewer and fewer of the sons following in the trades of their fathers, since they are attending colleges and are inspired to work in the professions rather than their fathers' trades. This is creating a critical manpower shortage in the construction industry, which is furthered by restrictions of trade union memberships. This committee has addressed itself to this problem and is coming up with some excellent answers to the problem.

If we, as contractors, could recognize the opportunity we have in the many servicemen returning from active duty who will be seeking training courses and new employment, and could tap the great supply of uninspired people stimulating their ambition, inspiring them to improve their way of life through their own effort; we could go far towards minimizing this problem. Incidentally, Sam Shrum of Harrisonburg, our immediate past state president, is very active in this committee and is contributing much to its work."

Motivation is such an integral part of any business we were very anxious to know which program he felt had the most motivation for him. "The contract forms and specifications committee, with S. Peter Volpe as chairman, appealed to me to be one of the most highly motivated of the committees. This committee is actively involved in the rewriting of contract forms in all fields of construction, whether for federal or private use. They are actively attacking some of the antiquated and unfair sections of contract forms currently in use. One problem in particular is being studied, namely retainages. All of us recognize the inequity in a 10% retainage on contractors involved in piers, caissons etc. (and in some instances site preparations) until the completion of the contract two years later when their work has been approved and accepted before the next phase can be started. No doubt in many instances the owners are paying a considerable premium in increased costs because of the time that this money is being tied up. It appears that this committee may be going to recommend that the 10% retainage be withheld until 50% of the project is completed, at which time this retainage will be reduced to 5%, with 5% to be retained on the balance of the work until the project is completed and accepted. This should at least partially ease the financial strain on subcontractors who perform their work in the early stages of the project. At the same time...

(Continued on page 27)
CONSTRUCTION DAY 1970

High school students from three counties toured area construction sites Friday, October 9, 1970, in a "Construction Day" program sponsored by the Valley District Associated General Contractors in cooperation with the Vocational Industrial Cooperative Training Clubs.

The turnout was described by J. A. "Buddy" Kessler, Jr., President of Virginia Branch A. G. C. as "amazing." He made the statement when he left his office that he would be speaking to a couple of students at a banquet, but when we walked through the doors at Belle Meade Restaurant and saw the 244 students and school personnel in attendance, he was amazed.

Mr. Kessler's thoughts when he left his office were probably the same as many others who are involved with young people today—they feel that the younger generation does not care and they do not want to get involved. But what was overlooked was the motivation behind these young people who attended "Construction Day."

VICA is the fastest growing national youth organization in the nation today. It has some 100,000 young people enrolled and is increasing at the rate of 20% per year. VICA is the national youth organization for trade, industrial, technical and health students, both college bound and non-college bound, with emphasis on the non-college bound, especially the high school dropouts.

VICA provides an opportunity for industry to bridge the "communication gap"—to keep abreast of youth, their thinking, their goals and their needs. It starts youth thinking about skilled trades, crafts and training in fields of interest, and in many cases it gets them started working with firms that have apprenticeship programs or other training programs for them after they graduate from high school.

VICA offers industrial membership and the Virginia Branch A. G. C. has become the first in the nation to join. In joining, the Virginia Branch A. G. C. hopes to contribute to the development of youth and retain a never-ending supply of construction craftsmen.

Many of the Valley District A. G. C. members work with the local high school clubs in their program of working students on a part-time basis. All are complimentary of the students' work and interest and feel that it is part of the answer to the shortage of skilled craftsmen.

The majority of the 200 students attending the tour were enrolled in the VICA program, although all high school students were invited to attend. Posters and handouts describing the days festivities were posted and handed out in all the area schools. Also, all VICA clubs put up bulletin boards to help promote "Construction Day."

The schools that participated were Turner Ashby High School, Broadway High School, Harrisonburg High School, Montevideo High School, Woodrow Wilson High School, Valley Vocational High School, Ft. Defiance High School and Triplett Technical and Business School.

Six county school buses were used for transportation. Each bus left a separate school or area with a schedule to visit three construction sites. All sites for each bus were arranged so the bus

(Continued on page 27)
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Pre-erected stairway of the new 5-story Southwestern Virginia Savings & Loan Association in downtown Roanoke—produced by Fabricated Metals, Inc.
be projected onto a screen viewed through the front windshield. In addition, slides of various indicator readings will be projected onto a lower part of this screen during certain sequences. This will teach proper and improper indicator readings relative to work situations. The slides and films will be narrated and controlled by a magnetic tape unit and will represent situations for each major task of the job.

The film that the trainee will view in his simulator will be photographed originally from actual heavy equipment and will show typical scenes for the various job tasks related to a particular piece of equipment. The filming of the scene through the windshield will also include simultaneous photography of the instrument panel. Thus, when projected later in the training period, the photographed instrument panel indicators will be coordinated with the road scene and projected at a location in the trainer cab corresponding to the panel, or underneath the windshield scene.

In this setting, the trainee will move much closer to the actual job environment and to typical job acts, while at the same time postponing the responsibility for actual vehicle control. As the trainee manipulates controls and familiarizes himself with the controls as applicable to a given task, a pre-recorded programmed voice coaches, prompts, guides, and points out what to look at and what to do just prior to the requirement for action.

As an integral part of the program, Phase III will have the trainees operating each of the five pieces of heavy-duty equipment on driving ranges. This phase of the program will be carefully evaluated by a competent teacher-operating engineer according to predetermined performance levels.

The A. G. C. has long been aware of the shortages of operating engineers faced by the construction industry. It is to help alleviate these shortages, as well as to prevent construction firms and heavy-duty equipment manufacturers and dealers from being penalized because of the lack of a training program that this sophisticated training program has been designed.

And so, a new approach to training has been launched. With this program the construction industry stands on the threshold of new dimensions.

Many members of the Virginia Branch, A. G. C., were able to discover for themselves some of the possibilities of the Link Trainers which were on display at the mid-year Board of Directors Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota in September.
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General Contractors for Richmond Food Stores
Virginia Branch, A. G. C., Member
Appointed to Safety Codes Commission
By Governor Linwood Holton

William G. Bryson has been appointed by Governor Linwood Holton to serve on the Virginia Safety Codes Commission. This group is responsible for the administration of the Rules and Regulations governing construction demolition and all excavation, and is under the Department of Labor and Industry.

Mr. Bryson, Safety Engineer for Tidewater Construction Corporation of Norfolk is a past chairman and currently a member of the Virginia Branch A. G. C. Safety Committee.

Mr. Bryson has a B. S. Degree from Berea College, and has been active in Safety Engineering ever since. He served several years with the National A. G. C. in Accident Prevention and while serving as chairman of the Virginia Branch Safety Committee he was instrumental in developing the Safety Code for the Construction Industry in the State of Virginia.

Mr. Bryson received the Veterans of Safety Second Highest National Technical Subject Award in Safety Engineering Literature. The article was on Prestressed Concrete Yard Operations. This article appeared in the American Society of Safety Engineers Journal and several other national magazines.

A past president of the Great Neck Estates Civic League, Mr. Bryson is also a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Norfolk Consistory and a Shriner at Khedive Temple in Norfolk.

Virginia Branch, A. G. C.
Executive Director Honored by Optimist International

James F. Duckhardt, Executive Director of the Virginia Branch, Associated General Contractors, has been elected Lt. Governor of Zone 2, Capitol Virginia District, Optimist International. He was elected by the clubs he will serve, the Optimist Clubs of Richmond, West Richmond, Manchester, Lakeside, Central Richmond and Chesterfield.

Jim has been a member of the West Richmond Club for 12 years and has served in various offices including that of President from July of 1968 to October of 1969. He has also been Bulletin Editor for the past four years.

As Lt. Governor, Jim is Optimist International’s officer responsible for direct contact with member clubs. His success will be measured by the success of the clubs in his zone. He is available to any club that might need his ability and experience. He will advise the club on proper administrative methods and on the Optimist Programs as they apply to each club. Jim will also visit each club at least twice a year and report its progress to Optimist International. His duties including handling all zone functions such as the Youth Appreciation Banquet that was held at Northminster Baptist Church and the Zone Oratorical Contest.

Jim’s zeal and enthusiasm should make him an outstanding Lt. Governor of this Zone.

DECEMBER 1970
McDevitt and Street Company presents...

DISTRIBUTION CENTER
FOR
RICHMOND FOOD STORES, INC.

THE BALLINGER COMPANY
Architect

Work has been completed on the mammoth Richmond Food Stores, Inc. distribution center, off U. S. 301 in Hanover County. The center, which contains over 600,000 square feet of space is now in use.

Overall cost of the 1200-foot-long facility is estimated at about $7.5 million, a company spokesman said. The center—13 acres under one roof—is large enough to allow the loading and unloading of 90 tractor trailers at one time, as well as 26 railroad freight cars.

McDevitt and Street Co. of Charlotte, N. C. was the general contractor for the project and the architect was The Ballinger Co. of Philadelphia.

Richmond Food Stores has 640 employees. About 500 will work in the Hanover facility and the rest will remain at the Robin Hood Road dairy facility which is to remain in operation.

The new complex resembles a small city, with its own water and sewage facilities and a method of cataloging stock that resembles a city street system.

Jim McKinnie, a supervisor at the new warehouse, explained that the aisles are alternating one-way streets. Each bay of the steel shelving—which reaches to within only a few feet of the 30-foot high ceiling—is like an apartment house. Within each bay, the slot, or actual shelf, is an apartment. The street, building, and apartment numbers correspond to specific types of items, he said.

There are also special refrigerated rooms for perishables—which McKinnie calls the “egg box,” “poultry box,” and “dairy box”—with enough space for two basketball courts. A deep freeze, the same size as the “dairy box,” maintains a minus 10-degree temperature.

Leonard E. Starr, Jr., the food cooperative's general manager, said vegetable coolers, both wet and dry, are as much as five to seven times larger than facilities at the old warehouse, which has about half the floor space of the new building.

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VIRGINIA RECORD

Subcontractors & Suppliers

From Charlotte, N. C. were: McDevitt & Street Co., general contractor, foundations, concrete, carpentry & weatherstripping; G. G. Ray Co., roofing, paneling & waterproofing; & Wearn Lumber Co., millwork.

From Richmond were: Scruggs Masonry Corp., masonry; J. B. Eurell Co. of Va., roof deck (Textrum); Allied Glass Corp., windows, window walls & glazing; AC & S, Inc., insulation & insulated freezer panels; N. Chasen & Son, Inc., painting; O’Ferrall, Inc., acoustical & resilient tile; Rabe Electric Co., Inc., electrical work; Guy Smith Hardware, hardware supplier; & Blakemore Construction Co., paving.


Founded 1878
Stretching from Eighth to Ninth Streets between Main and Franklin in Richmond, The Bank of Virginia's new 11-story building adjoining its 800 East Main location has just been completed. The latest addition in Richmond's financial district is now receiving finishing touches inside and occupancy has already begun on a number of floors.

The all-electric building of limestone and mosaic precast stone was designed by Ballou & Justice, Richmond architects, and was constructed by Daniel Construction Company of Virginia at a cost of approximately $6.5 million. The building was also designed so that an additional 13 stories can be added when needed to meet future expansion requirements. American Furniture & Fixture Company is providing the interior design and fixtures throughout the building. A 7-level parking garage area, providing space for 210 cars, is also included.

A number of separate non-public contact operations, which have been housed in leased quarters in various locations throughout Richmond, are being brought together for the first time, bank officials stated. In addition the executive offices of Virginia Commonwealth Bankshares, the registered bank holding company with which The Bank of Virginia is affiliated, will be housed on the fifth and sixth floors along with additional VCB departments and affiliates.

The new service building is connected with The Bank of Virginia's existing headquarters building at 800 East Main Street by tunnels from the basement level and also over the alley-way from the bank's second floor. Executive offices of The Bank of Virginia will remain in the 38-year-old two-story building at the corner of Eighth & Main, as well as the customer bank lobby. However, a special feature of the new building will be a walk-up teller window on the Ninth Street side in addition to a TV teller drive-in window and a regular drive-in window, with entrance from the Eighth Street side.

Comprising the basement area will be the largest commercial bank vault in Virginia, the purchasing, printing and stockroom departments, plus the mail room, which will service the new building by a selective conveyor depositing mail by push buttons to mail rooms on individual floors. Another (Continued on page 28)
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MUSE HALL
DORMITORY AND DINING HALL FOR RADFORD COLLEGE

THOMPSON AND PAYNE, Architects

The first floor of the tower and the dining hall and coffee shop are air conditioned. Other features of the building include sundecks, balconies leading from the lounges on the sixth through the 13th floors, and a main parlor which may be used for piano concerts and receptions. There are four elevators in the tower and an elevator in each of the wings.

Mrs. James B. Meador, Radford College's Interior Designer, selected all of the furnishings. Mrs. Meador has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Richmond Professional Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University). At Radford College, she is responsible for the furnishing of new buildings and for refurbishing existing campus buildings.

The building is the tallest in Virginia, west of Roanoke, and was built on land which was the site of the College's first building—Founders Hall—built in 1913. The $1 million per year operation, which has been under construction for two years, has been financed by revenue bonds, which will be canceled by student room and board fees.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
Dobyns, Inc., Dublin, general contractor, excavating & carpentry.
From Roanoke were: Atlantic Concrete, Inc., concrete; Roanoke Iron & Bridge Works, Inc., steel; Roanoke Engineering Sales Co., Inc., windows; Webster Brick Co., Inc., brick supplies; John H. Hampshire, Inc., acoustical and plaster; and Cates Building Specialties Inc., steel doors & bucks and hardware supplier.

Others were: Bat Masonry Co., Inc., Lynchburg, masonry & stone work; Leonard Smith Sheet Metal & Roofing Inc., Salem, roofing & waterproofing; Central Glass Co. of Va., Bristol, glazing, supplied & installed Kawneer aluminum entrance; Joe Rainero Tile Co., Bristol, ceramic tile & terrazzo; W. Morton Northen & Co., Richmond, resilient tile; Miller Mfg. Co., Inc., Richmond, millwork; Muncy Electric Co., Narrows, lighting fixtures & electrical work; Galax Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc., Galax, plumbing fixtures, plumbing, air conditioning, heating & ventilating.

Also, Tauscher Roof Deck Co., Bristol, Tenn., steel roof deck; Tilley Paint Co., Inc., Pulaski, painting; McKinney Drilling Co., Nacogdoches, Texas, piling; and Dover Elevator Co., Greensboro, N. C., elevator.
Despite many problems, the city of Norfolk was able to construct one badly needed school during 1970. In a program with the U. S. Naval Command, the city awarded a contract to Robert R. Marquis, Inc., to build the Camp Allen Elementary School on government property, serving navy personnel students as well as city of Norfolk residents.

Contract time of completion was originally set at October 1970. However, during the course of construction it became evident that the school must be open for complete occupancy by September 1. With full cooperation of architect, A. Ray Pentecost, city of Norfolk engineer, Powell H. Taylor, and the many overtime efforts by the general contractor and his subcontractors, this deadline was met.

Camp Allen Elementary School represents the very latest ideas in group teaching. Each section of classrooms is designed in such a manner that by opening folding partitions, special courses can be instructed to three class groups at a time.

The school was constructed with a capacity of 1,050 students which necessitated a complete physical education program. To fulfill this program, the school board elected to incorporate a complete gymnasium with special arts and crafts classrooms.

The general contractor "fondly" remembers its construction program on this school, as Marquis' superintendent, John Milhausen, constructed a temporary housing over the building area and poured concrete during the bitter months of January and February.

Futhering this project, while other projects were shut down, definitely facilitated its early completion.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
From Portsmouth, Robert R. Marquis, Inc. was the general contractor. From Norfolk were: E. K. Wilson & Sons, Inc., air conditioning, plumbing & heating; Ferrell Linoleum & Tile Co., Inc., acoustic work, resilient tile, ceramic tile, quarry tile, terrazzo, marble, carpet and metal toilet partitions; Door Engineering Corp., overhead doors, coiling grill & vault doors; Hall Hodges Co., Inc., doors & metal frames; Charles W. Davis, electrical; Chesapeake Steel Inc., folding gate, structural, miscellaneous steel & Solar grills; Baker & Co., hardware; Snow, Jr. &

(Continued on page 29)
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A view of Pohick Church's cemetery with markers going back to 1698 (Photo courtesy Va. State Chamber of Commerce)

THE MANY LIVES OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CHURCH

By PHYLLIS G. LEONARD

A CHURCH that cost 33,500 pounds of tobacco may have been the first place of worship attended by our first president!

Can you visualize the wee Washington, only three, already astride his father's horse and wide-eyed at bewigged, beribboned parishioners of old Pohick Church? For Sundays in 1735

The churchyard took on almost a festive air with horses, carriages, slaves and frolicking children. Sermons were relatively brief, for the Lord's Day also meant feasting, gossiping, visiting, picnicking and maybe even fishing! (Such activities for the isolated families were pleasant complements to the cheerful faith and practical reverence that would keep Pohick Church alive through terrible times.) In cold or inclement weather, it is interesting to conjecture whether the sermon was finished before the foot warmers and hot bricks grew cold.

Although Sunday was a busy day at the Episcopal church of Truro Parish in Fairfax County, the rest of the week was not. It was the custom for the rector to live on a small plantation nearby which was furnished to him by the parish. Consequently, on week days the church drowsed alone in its wooded grove, hearing only curious birds singing among old tombstones and small animals scurrying over horse mounting blocks.

The sturdy brick building you can still see today in Lorton, has a history intimately bound up with Washington's family ties and heartstrings. His father, Augustine, appears to have been vestryman of the old Pohick Church, chosen as one of the twelve most "substantial and intelligent" citizens of the parish. An historian states that the post was "an assignment rarely peaceful and not always pious."

This description of a vestryman's duties may have referred to his obligation to collect money owing the church—even though it might involve debtor's prison for the unfortunate parishioner! Other practical responsibilities included building and maintaining roads to encourage attendance, operating ferries on the way to church, providing furnishings, directing poor relief, seeing to the care of idiots, orphans and apprenticed children. A more touchy matter was how to "settle controversies over delicate questions of precedence" among the proud families who worshipped in rectangular pews typical of that era.

By 1762 George Washington was 30 years old and safely back from the French and Indian War. He was already married to his dear Martha ("an agreeable Consort for life") and busily engaged in beautifying his beloved Mount Vernon. Like most really busy
people, adding one more activity to an already overcrowded schedule was no real problem. His election to the vestry of old Pohick was undoubtedly received with warmth and the unshakeable sense of duty Americans always associate with him.

Several years later the frame “Chapel of Ease,” which had served hardy Virginia settlers since the close of the 17th century, was condemned as rotted and unfit for use. The time had come to build a new church to serve the elegant, prosperous squires descended from the pioneers. Washington approached this project with the same precision and care for detail that characterized his entire life.

Tradition says he mapped the neighborhood, marking the distance of each parish family from Pohick. On the basis of this survey, his “spott” was approved by the vestry as being the focal point of surrounding plantations. He also drew the plans for the church and was a member of the committee overseeing its construction. New Pohick would stand at the forks of two roads down which Washington is said to have divided his forces on the way to Yorktown in 1781.

Just before the Revolution began the Washingtons were attending regular services at their new parish church, now only six miles from Mount Vernon. Like many others of this era, the place of worship was financed and supported by tobacco. In fact, tobacco had served as a currency since 1612 when first established as the principal crop of historic Jamestown. Notes were issued to the growers in receipt for crops held in public warehouses. They were then used as money to buy the luxuries and necessities of successful planters such as Washington and his famous neighbor, George Mason, one of the fathers of the Constitution and a fellow vestryman.

What would our modern minister think of 16,000 pounds of the weed as his annual salary? Or 500 pounds for a special sermon? In the reality of Colonial society, the wage gave a decent living. The rector also received a “glebe” which usually included the use of 200-300 acres, a house, outbuildings, occasional livestock and a labor force of slaves and indentured servants. To qualify as a clergyman, however, an Englishman born in the New World had to journey to England, take holy orders there and be approved by the Bishop of London. Undoubtedly it was great comfort when a lifelong friend (and former attorney), Reverend Lee Massey, was ordained in time to officiate at the funeral of Patsy Custis, Martha’s 16 year-old daughter, in 1773.

War with the mother country loomed and broke in 1775. After almost a century of service to the countryside, Pohick Church lost its guiding hands as vestrymen turned warriors and parishioners turned revolutionaries. It then stood virtually abandoned.

The Commander-in-Chief returned home to his precious Mount Vernon just in time for Christmas dinner in 1783. The war was over, and there were a million things to be done, the enjoyment of family and friends, house improvements, crop experimentation, breeding fine dogs and horses, collecting rare plants. Perhaps this is why Washington resigned from the Pohick Church vestry in February of the following year. Then, too, there was no resident minister and services were too irregular for his devout family and himself.

Perhaps Martha, with fresh memories of war’s uncertainties, wished to attend Christ’s Church in Alexandria. The Sabbath rituals were dependable, and her husband was an honored vestryman there also. Furthermore, it must have been very pleasant to arrive in a green chariot (“Ornamented, with flowers all over the Panels”) drawn by six handsome horses—to become once more an elegant part of aristocratic society.

Still, neglected Pohick Church evidently had an occasional service of interest, as it is recorded Parson Mason Locke Weems preached there in the late 18th century. It may be assumed that his sermons were as fanciful as his books, for this disgruntled minister-

A view of the church in 1858. Out of sight are the “two Horse Blocks with each two Flights of Steps and . . . Six Benches for the People to sit on under ‘the Trees’” (Courtesy Pohick Church Handbook)

George Washington at age 40 before the cares of the Revolution aged him (From Graham’s Magazine, March, 1864; Reproduced from the collections of the Library of Congress)
Washington's death, a sincere and dedicated clergyman, Reverend W.C.P. Johnson, came to Pohick and was horrified by its condition. He felt the parish church of America's first president and of Mount Vernon deserved to be restored as a patriotic gesture as well as a religious necessity for the surrounding area. His appeal for funds raised the then substantial sum of $1,500 with which a new roof and ceiling were installed. Although an old journal states confidently "...but the very best of the field and the fowl of the air... seem to have revered the house of God..." it was probably none too soon.

Illustrous men who pledged funds were Francis Scott Key, John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster and Martin Van Buren, eighth president of the U.S. at the time of his donation. Many descendants of old families once attending Pohick also contributed, and their names rang with history—Washington, Lee, Custis, Mason, Fairfax. Others with lesser claim to fame gave because they, too, wanted to help.

Then Reverend Johnson, the chapel's champion, moved away. Pohick once more fell into disrepair and silence. This quiet was rudely disturbed during the Civil War when soldiers from both sides used the church as a stable and picket post. The interior was completely dismantled and destroyed. Instead of vandals was largely corrected. Pews, pulpit and altarpiece were reproduced and installed. Plans made in 1774, but put aside because they were "too burthensome for the Parish at this time," were brought to fruition when a vestry house was built in 1932. This construction commemorated the 200th anniversary of Truro Parish and the bi-centennial celebration of George Washington's birth. A parish house and rectory have also been erected. Pohick lives again, safe and secure, immortalized on the National Register for Historic Places at the National Parks Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Although tradition paints Washington as a man of iron will and immovable determination, records reveal a warm man who liked a pretty ankle, good dogs and horses, fine clothes and a "well-victualed table." Of course, like us all there must have been times when he wanted to be alone to replenish his inner strength at the church of his father. Surely then, it is not idle to picture a relaxed Washington, taking a detour from an errand or inspection of his several farms, reining his mount at lonely sun-dappled Pohick for a few moments of prayer and meditation.

There at the old cemetery he may have mused over the life and fate of Lieutenant William Herris who died long ago in 1698. Was he one of those described in a French pamphlet of the day which remarked enviously: "The land is so rich and fertile that when a man has 50 acres of ground, two men-servants, a maid and some cattle neither he nor his wife do anything but visit among their neighbors?" Or was he unlucky and perished with a tomahawk in his scalp? Surely Washington bowed his head at the grave of his friend and companion-at-arms, Dr. William Brown, Physician-General of the Continental Army, dead at the early age of 42 from hardships suffered at Valley Forge.

Whatever Washington thought as he gazed at the church and tombstones was his alone. No doubt he pondered on his youth, dreamed of loved ones and friends who peopled his past and wondered, as we all do, what the future held. He knew there were hard days ahead. In his century, as in ours, there reigned death and war, cynicism and hatred, disloyalty and dishonesty. Yet Washington also knew that in the end good conquers evil. Strength for this lay in the inherent virtues of the new nation forged in the Revolution, and he, for one, had great faith in his countrymen.

Part and parcel of the infant United States was its religion, and church was an integral part of social and intellectual life. Clergy were considered indispensable. The motto on our modern coins, "In God We Trust," would have been accepted without question or demur. The man whose noble head graces one of those coins held a small country church to his heart, and it returned his love by girding him with courage and resolution. For us, of the violent 20th century, there lies both inspiration and lesson in an old letter encouraging the repair of Pohick Church: "If for no other reason, the temple should be preserved as evidence that such a man as George Washington was not ashamed to acknowledge his God and Saviour, by regularly attending on his public worship."
FOR THE RECORD

Smithsonian Institute Sponsoring Nantucket Exhibit

An exhibition surveying 300 years of architecture on the island of Nantucket, based on research by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, and the Nantucket Historical Trust, was at The Octagon, September 30 through November 1.

Nantucket, once the whaling capital of the world, has survived fire, depression and plague and with the help of architects, students and citizens is battling to survive 20th Century urbanism. A University of Florida professor and six students are completing a six-year architectural survey of the famous port, called by Indians “the land far out on the water.”

Thirty miles southeast of the Massachusetts mainland, Nantucket is a serene island in time as well as the piece of U.S. real estate farthest in the Atlantic. Architects agree with tourists and residents—some of them descendants of 19th Century sea captains—that the island’s unique setting of white and gray houses on a sailboat-shaped ledge of sand and rock should be preserved.

The Nantucket project is one of seven surveys being conducted this year by the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), co-sponsored by the Department of the Interior, The American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress. Since 1933 HABS has recorded some 15,000 buildings.

The careful recording of Nantucket’s wharves, shops, churches and homes by HABS “has helped make people here aware of what we have and supported our efforts to save it,” noted Edouard A. Stackpole, editor of “The Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror” and president of the Nantucket Historical Association. The Association’s 1,100 members (Nantucket has a permanent population of less than 4,000) are asking the Massachusetts legislature to establish design and zoning control over the entire island. Since 1955 the city has been declared a historic zone and has had a review board with powers to control new buildings. In June of this year the city of Nantucket was awarded the AIA’s Citation for Excellence in Community Architecture for waterfront development by Sherburne Asso-

Ciates and architects Richard H. Kuehl, AIA, and Gary E. Daughn, AIA, of The Providence Partnership in Providence, R.I.

“Nantucket represents an important period in the building of this country. But even a historic district is subject to ravages of change—to weather and calamity. So it is important to record it as a practical guide to what we have and wish to preserve,” noted Walter Beinecke, Jr., Trustee of the Nantucket Historical Trust which is assuming the cost of the HABS survey.

“Nantucket means so much to America,” points out F. Blair Reeves, AIA, project supervisor. He is a University of Florida professor of architecture who has worked on HABS jobs for 12 summers.

“It figures in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, in the growth of American business, in the development of the Quaker faith, as a laboratory of wildlife and plants and as a repository of craftsmanship, architectural design and town planning,” noted Reeves. “So we want now to show some of this fabric, the consistency that retained its unique flavor all these years.”

Some residents fear subdivisions, shopping centers and new large-scale resorts could damage the island. They welcome the HABS work as another effort to reinforce the value of careful development. “We want to stop the pests from devouring the landscape and we want to keep the distinct style of Nantucket architecture that has persisted here longer than styles any other place in New England,” said Stackpole.

In five years, HABS summer crews have measured, drawn and photographed 64 individual buildings in the tree-lined port. The 1970 HABS team is documenting two Nantucket neighborhoods, recording India Street and portions of Union and Orange Streets. Street layout, surfacing and curbs, fences, landscape and a total of 44 houses are being drawn and photographed. “To me, Nantucket is house tied to house by streets, fences and

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lades. That's why we are recording environment" as well as walls and roofs, said Reeves. "These streets show the accumulated tastes of a succession of people that lived here," he added.

Reeves' apprentices are Benjamin Walbert III of Allentown, Pa., who will begin graduate architectural restoration studies at Columbia this year and is a 1970 U. of Florida graduate; Ellis Schmidlapp of Fiqua, Ohio, a 1970 Carnegie-Mellon U. graduate who will work for the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation; Martin J. Rosenblum of Brooklyn and James D. Skelton of Plainfield, Ind., both University of Illinois students; and Richard C. Crisson of Santurce, Puerto Rico and Schmidlapp of Piqua, Ohio, a 1970 Carnegie-Mellon U. graduate who will work for the Library of Congress in Washington.

HABS, with an annual budget of $175,000, also has survey crews at work studying Pennsylvania and New Jersey areas to be flooded by the Tock's Island Reservoir in the Delaware Water Gap, at Fort Mifflin on the Delaware River, at Philadelphia, and in Washington, D.C.'s diplomatic row Massachusetts Avenue, Indianapolis, Nashville, Tenn., and Newport, R.I. Over 37 years HABS has slaved through the history and parts of buildings from the Virgin Islands to Iolani Palace in Honolulu. Some of the "stars" of this historic roster include whole parts of New Orleans' Vieux Carre, the Old South Meeting House in Boston, Stratford Hall in Virginia and Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in Chicago. Los Angeles' Dodge House and Denver's Larimer Square area have been destroyed after being recorded by HABS. They are recent reminders of the still shaky status of many of the nation's most significant buildings and places. James C. Massey, HABS chief, estimates that 25 percent of the structures recorded since HABS started in the Depression have vanished, victims of subdivisions, highways, fire, urban renewal and apathy.

Yet the nation remains a storehouse of significant buildings and locations, Massey said. He estimates perhaps 75,000 structures are worthy of HABS attention. "Places we've neglected and hope to record include Martha's Vineyard, near Nantucket, Guam, Brooklyn and whole sections of Oregon, Washington, Vermont and Oklahoma." HABS records around 500 structures each year "mostly in response to local requests and mostly with some money from local sources," said Massey. Some cities and owners ask for a HABS survey because it can help get a structure placed on the National Register. Buildings on the Register get some legal protection against demolition.

HABS' work is stored in the Library of Congress in Washington.

More than 30,000 drawings, 40,000 photographs and 10,000 pages of documentation are located in Room 235, generating a surprising volume of requests. Around 8,000 copies of these holdings are sought each year by the public, reports Miss Virginia Daiker, chief of the division of prints and photographs reference section.

Who uses the material?

"Movie companies want the recordings to check authenticity of their sets, architects want them for ideas for new buildings, or they may be working on restoration of an old one. Universities want them for teaching files. There's a big boom in the preservation movement and libraries want the recordings for exhibition and files, civic organizations need them to make up their own lists of valuable buildings" which may be perish, said Miss Daiker. "We even got a request from a woman who wanted to paper her bathroom with blueprints and from a historical organization that used a measured drawing to illustrate stationery," she added.

The Library of Congress generally charges $1.25 for a photograph and 35¢ for a sheet of drawings. The HABS collection is the most used of any in the Library's print and photograph division.

"When HABS comes to town, things really begin to happen," said Prof. Reeves. "At first it's like fishing. You have to be patient" with citizens. "They'll start asking questions. Before you know it, the citizenry gets involved in the work." HABS crews almost always stimulate a renewed interest in the past. Restoration and preservation work by private owners often follows a HABS survey.

Summer HABS crews encounter snakes, spiders, rusty nails, dust and mystery.

"I've never measured two buildings that were the same, even when built by the same carpenter," said Reeves. "You may discover some of the houses, like these in Nantucket, were moved from

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PAGE TWENTY-FOUR
VIRGINIA RECORD
this is an old house,” he said, pointing another location. Or it might be that to a rooming house on India Street. “But an awful lot has happened to it.”

In time, the crews can distinguish when houses have been remodeled and what is hidden as well as what shows. “It’s fun to sleuth these things. It can be a detective story,” added Reeves.

Crews use 100-foot tape measures, carpenters’ rules, molding profilers and cameras to detain buildings. Fire truck ladders and airplanes are sometimes employed to capture details by camera, and equipment is often borrowed from local engineers or road departments and utilities. “We sometimes make tools we need,” said Reeves. It takes two days to two weeks to measure the average building. The crew leader normally uses information supplied by local authorities but also gathers written documentation, from neighbors, old diaries, wills and court records, while the crew measures. Documentation also includes a description of the surrounding landscape and a history of the structure.

Nantucket surveying has revealed fine detailing in textures, finishes, corner posts, beams. The rather spartan-looking clapboard and shingled houses occupy the old town in an orderly, refined manner. But individually they show such flourishes as captain’s walks on the roof, handsome doorways, colorful sundials and weather vanes, mermaid figureheads and other mariner reminders of the town’s golden whaling era of the 1830s. Reeves notes “the joinery is excellent, probably because of the skills that were here in shipbuilding.” The overall impression of Nantucket is of a serene setting, allowing expressionism that doesn’t intrude.

Nantucket’s leaders and this year’s summer crew would prefer to see Nantucket remain a mixture of history and commerce. “We’re fortunate to maintain a balance between history and uses,” noted editor Stackpole.

“Nantucket has one basic commodity to enjoy and sell, and that’s history,” said Nantucket Historical Trust’s Beinecke. “What makes Nantucket different is its history and the way it has been protected. The more you help people become aware of this, the more you can maintain and market it.”

“They’ve made it worthwhile to keep the old; other places could do the same,” said student architect Crisson.

“I’d like to think an older building can be used like an older person,” said architect Walbert.

The Nantucket exhibit was at the Octagon during the month of October, and now it will travel under the sponsorship of the Smithsonian Institution.

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Advice That Can Help If Blood Pressure’s High

1. Try not to worry. Worry, nervous tension and emotional storms help to push blood pressure higher.
2. Don’t put on excess weight. Overweight is a hazard to health.
3. Regulate use of tobacco and alcohol as your doctor specifies. Smoking can raise blood pressure; alcohol doesn’t, but some people react poorly to it.
4. Follow a regular pattern of rest stops during the day. Taking time out even before you become tired will help you to avoid the tenseness and irritability (to be avoided by the hypertensive person) that go with fatigue.
5. Get plenty of sleep. During sleep, blood pressure falls to its lowest levels. It rises on waking.
6. Choose sports that are not competitive. Exercise is good for you. But overexertion can lead to complications. Avoid sports where you can’t stop if you become tired.

For more information about high blood pressure, ask the Virginia Heart Association for the leaflet “Your Blood Pressure.” But remember, it takes two to treat it—you and your doctor.

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CLASSROOM SKILL TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR JOBLESS

Southside Virginia Manpower Skill Center, at Crewe, will offer classroom skill training to 110 jobless or underemployed workers in training programs announced by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Health Education and Welfare.

The government has approved $85,733 for the center to offer 24 weeks training to 50 welders. A second program will provide 13 weeks of training for 60 nurse aides. This program will cost $60,526.

The training funds are provided under the federal Manpower Development and Training Act. The programs are conducted by the Virginia Employment Commission in conjunction with the Nottoway County training facility.

MARTHA WHITE MILLS, INC. RELOCATES IN CLOVERDALE

Martha White Mills, Inc., warehouse and distribution center for prepackaged family-use corn meal, cake mixes and flour, has moved its plant in Roanoke to a new 9,600 square foot facility in Cloverdale in Botetourt County.

The Cloverdale facility is the only Martha White Mills distribution center in Virginia. The firm, which has national headquarters in Nashville, has operated in Virginia for ten years and employs 12 persons. Eugene C. Wright is manager. Annual gross sales last year were three-quarters of a million dollars.

Factors for the move to Cloverdale, eight miles north of Roanoke, were: access to railroad siding and interstate highways and a more favorable tax structure.

Martha White Mills operates 26 mills and warehouses nationally. Chairman of the Board is Cohen Williams; president is James King.

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time, it would seem to afford the protection necessary to the owner. This is only one of the many modifications that they are seeking in standard state, federal and private contracts.”

We asked Bob if he felt that his trip was worthwhile and received a very positive, “My trip to Minneapolis was one of the most satisfying experiences that I have had in regards to the construction industry!” from him.

Bob Dunville summed up his thoughts beautifully with “It was an experience and opportunity that every member and associate member should avail themselves of.”

It was rather obvious that Bob had derived a wealth of information and ideas. Glenyce also remarked that she had thoroughly enjoyed her trip, but had to admit that the best part was seeing the satisfied expression on Bob’s face when he returned from the meetings.

The next national meeting will be the Annual Convention which will be held in San Diego, California, next March 5th through the 11th. Why not plan to attend and pick up your share of enthusiasm, motivation and knowledge? We’ll look forward to seeing you.

moved toward Harrisonburg and ended up at Belle Meade Restaurant for a banquet.

The construction sites included Madison College and Eastern Mennonite College projects, Harrisonburg Fire Company No. 1 and Rescue Squad Building, the Weyers Cave water-sewer facilities, Rockingham Poultry Hatchery, Shenandoah Valley Electric Co-operative, Metro Pants and Westminster Electric. All sites were in different phases of construction, and all phases of construction and related trades could be seen by each of the busloads. Handouts giving cost, bidding information, stage of completion and problems encountered was given to each student on all of the buses.

For example one bus toured Madison College Physical Education Building, a $4,600,000.00 project, that has just been started. Here they saw site work such as excavation, footings, building layout, forming lower wall and heavy equipment working. The next job, Eastern Mennonite College Library Building, a $1,200,000.00 project, was approximately 60% complete. Here they saw a reinforced concrete building with exposed white concrete and cantilevered walkways. Masonry work was underway with electrical and mechanical trades working. The third site was Keeler & Phibbs office building, a $200,000.00 project approximately 40% complete. This building was brick and block construction with architectural brick work, all four corners being round brick work. Masonry work was underway with scaffolding around most of the building. The electrical and mechanical trades were at work running conduit and pipes in the masonry walls.

All students were given hardhats and briefed on safety before going on the sites. On the construction sites the job superintendent explained what was going on and showed them, either physically or on the drawing, what was taking place. All groups were orderly and asked many questions on why things were being done as they were. Many students expressed a desire to work on construction projects through the summer and were interested in the apprentice trades available to them after graduation.

After the tours all students met at the Belle Meade Restaurant for lunch and a short program. Those in attendance at the banquet included representatives from the Valley District A. G. C., School Board members from Augusta County, Rockingham County and Shenandoah County, members of the Board of Supervisors, all school principals and many instructors and teachers.

The program was conducted by Tom Booker, Director of Services of Virginia Branch A.G.C. J. A. Kessler, Jr., President of Virginia Branch A. G. C., gave the welcome. VICA student Marvin Suter III introduced the school guests. Guest speaker Larry Johnson, Executive Director of VICA, spoke on VICA and told the students that it was as much their duty as the older people to bridge the “generation gap” or as he saw it the “communication gap.” He stated facts and figures where the student enrolled in VICA did better in college and was much better prepared for work after graduation. He stated that men who worked with their hands had as much dignity and contributed as much to society today as the college graduate.

At the end of the program the film, “The General With The Cockeyed Id” was shown, and after this all students left on their buses to return home.

Valley District A. G. C. felt that “Construction Day” was a 100% success and were pleased that they could have a small part in the education of students. They remain available at all times to advise students interested in the construction industry.
special feature of the new building includes a centralized disposal machine with trash chutes on each floor (known as Somat) which will collect and confidentially destroy all paper material by grinding it into a watery pulp, which will be pumped into disposal containers daily.

Main lobby entrance to the new building is on the Eighth Street side with two small retail stores located on either side of the main elevator lobby area. Five elevators will service the building at the present time but provision has been made for the installation of five additional ones to meet future expansion. The ground floor on the Ninth Street side (which is slightly lower than the Eighth Street side due to the slope of the land) will house walk-up and drive-in teller windows. Commonwealth Mortgage Company, a VCB affiliate, will be located on the Ninth Street mezzanine.

Each floor contains approximately 23,000 sq. ft. of area. Located on the first floor office floor above the parking levels are the Trust, Municipal Bond, Investment, VCB Finance and Marketing Departments. On the second floor is the newly equipped staff cafeteria and the executive dining room. Also on this level are the staff services, staff relations, bookkeeping and freight payment departments.

The entire third floor is occupied by Virginia Commonwealth Services, an affiliate of Virginia Commonwealth Banks, which provides data processing and accounting services for the holding company's member banks. The Master Charge operation, which will move in after the first of the year, will occupy the fourth floor . . . with the VCB offices topping out the building on the fifth and sixth floors.

Special security measures have been inaugurated in the new building. Two full-time guards are stationed in the lobby. It will be their responsibility to maintain an information desk for customers and monitor the alarm system in addition to checking the identity of anyone coming into the building after closing hours. Following the trend of other large businesses, the bank is photographing and issuing special "ID" cards to all tenants of the building, and every employee will have to show this identification to the guard in order to get into the building after hours.

One other new feature of the building—in fact, for all the bank's offices in the Richmond area—is the recent installation of the Centrex telephone system, which is housed in the new service building.

When H. C. Moseley, chairman of The Bank of Virginia, announced the awarding of the contract for the building back in June, 1968, he stated that it was "tangible indications of The Bank of Virginia's intentions to keep pace with the rapidly growing economy" and that it would "enable us to continue to provide the latest in banking services more efficiently and with the most modern facilities possible." Now that the new building is a reality, The Bank of Virginia looks forward to proudly showing it off to the public later in the spring.

Subcontractors and Suppliers
From Richmond: Daniel Construction Co. of Va., general contractor, foundations, concrete & carpentry; E. G. Bowles Co., excavating; Bethlehem Steel Corp., reinforcing steel; Economy Cast Stone Co., precast Mosaic; N. W. Martin & Bros., Inc., roofing & water-proofing; Lane Brothers, Inc., painting & plastic wall finish; Porter-Hayden Co., insulation; John H. Hampshire, Inc., acoustical & resilient tile; Richard Wilton, Jr., Inc., plaster; William H. White, Jr., Inc., plumbing fixtures, plumbing, air conditioning, heating & ventilating; Pleasant Hardware, hardware supplier; Grinnell Co., Inc., sprinkler; Ezekiel & Weilman, kitchen; Engineering Equipment Co. trash disposal; and Westinghouse of Richmond, computer floor.


Also: Conveyor-Lamson Division, Diebold, Inc., Baltimore Md., vertical conveyor.
IS "CHRISTMAS ONLY FOR CHILDREN"?

(Continued from page 3)

enlivened me considerably more than
the straight fare of Poe. One, The Com-
mon Law Wife, by Robert W. Cham-
bers, was considered a very "racy" nov-
el of its day, but I did not know that.
I liked it because it was about artists
and New York. The story was about a
maid, called in those days “a good,
virtuous girl,” who, in need of funds
in the big city, passed herself off as a
professional model and posed in the
nude for a famous artist. They drifted
into an affair—hence the title, Com-
mon Law Wife—and, although of
course there were no explicit sex scenes,
in fact, no sex scenes at all, this illicit
relationship constituted the raciness of
the subject matter. I’m sure they mar-
rried in the end, and looked forward to
raising a family in the suburbs, but this
conventional windup did not save the
novel from being regarded by the adults
in the family as unsuitable reading for
a child. But how little they noticed me
can be indicated by the fact that I had
finished the novel before they observed
what I had been reading.

This point about Christmas in my
childhood—at least in my family—not
being only for children in no way
soured the season for me and in my
memories the dinners hold the same
quality of warmth as did the gift-bear-
ing visits on the trip. Though it prob-
ably seems like an obscene word today,
there was an atmosphere of “love” in a
season of truly, deeply good cheer, and
of this I partook, even though little at-
tention was directed toward me. I be-
lieve that when these elements are
present, Christmas was—and can be—
also a time for adults.

Christmas in the home of my children
was certainly a season for adults when
my wife made preparations. She
shopped for little presents for the two
girls, and also for me, all during the
year, whenever she saw something that
struck her fancy. These were mostly
inexpensive objects, some little more
than toys, which were adjuncts to the
childrens’ main presents. They were all
stored in a guest room, which gradually
took on the appearance of a shop, and
weeks before Christmas she began the
most elaborate wrapping of each small
object. She spared herself no expense
on paper and ribbons and, with a native

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DECEMBER 1970

PAGE TWENTY-NINE
I'm sure that she enjoyed these preparations as an end in themselves, and I know she enjoyed the hours it took the children to unwrap, gaze upon and examine each of the little gifts. The radiance in her face as she watched them was testimony to her own participation.

Doubtless no one can explain why one individual adult has such a depth of feeling about Christmas and the act of giving. Without these elements, Christmas can be painful for children as well as adults. Once, when my daughters were very young, we were shopping at a big downtown department store for the presents they were to give us and their friends—while they threw out a few hints for their own. As we were leaving the store, a little girl of their age was leaving with her father. They were obviously in poor circumstances, but the little girl was smiling gaily at the wonders around her while the father's face was set in grimness. Then she pointed at something and spoke brightly, and he, hurrying her to the street door, said in tense anger, "Is there anything you don't want?"

It was a tragic vignette. The father, of course, was not angry at her—although it came out that way—but at himself for the inadequacy of his means in comparison to his daughter's responses. Nor did she, of course, expect anything from others.

"O, I'd like to have that!" How could the father, instead of being defensive about his inadequate means, have been experiencing a feeling of giving, he would have suppressed his crushing retort and supported her innocent expressions of "wanting."

There is a book by Jacques Maritain, the existential theologian, in which, with no faintest references to Christmas, he expounds on the ennobling aspects of the generous impulse. He takes another old bromide, "It's better to give than to receive," and develops the subjective enhancement of the individual who gives of himself. My mother's intensive preparations for Christmas and my wife's year-round receptivity to little, personal gifts which would bring pleasure to others surely represent this giving of one's self in a thoughtfulness and concern which participates in the joy brought to others. The late Bill Strother, Miller & Rhoads' famous Santa Claus, might have been away in detail when he wanted to celebrate Christmas the whole year; but he was fundamentally sound in believing that the spirit of giving should not be seasonal.
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