

NEWS



PAMPHLET FILE
From COLONIAL
WILLIAMSBURG

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EDITORIAL.....

Top news of the month was the retirement on June 1 of Vernon M. Geddy as Executive Vice-President of Colonial Williamsburg, to be succeeded by Bela W. Norton.

Stepping down after nearly sixteen years as ranking local official of the organization, Mr. Geddy will retain his connection with the project in the post of Counsel, and will also continue as a Trustee of Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated, and as a Director of Williamsburg Restoration, Incorporated.

Mr. Geddy suffered a heart attack last year, and the present move was taken on the advice of medical authorities, and authorized with regret and reluctance by Mr. Chorley, Mr. Rockefeller, and the Boards. In his announcement to the press on May 19, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, 3rd stated:

"As the senior resident officer of Colonial Williamsburg practically since the beginning, Mr. Geddy has played a leading part in translating Dr. Goodwin's dream into a reality and in developing Williamsburg into a great national shrine. It is a matter of deep regret to all of us that, for reasons of health, it has been necessary for Mr. Geddy to ask to be relieved of the heavy administrative responsibilities he has been carrying. However, it is a source of very real satisfaction that he will carry on important work for Colonial Williamsburg and that we may have the continuing benefit of his advice and counsel.

"It is a source of much gratification that Mr. Norton, a member of the Colonial Williamsburg staff for sixteen years, will succeed Mr. Geddy. By his past service to Colonial Williamsburg and the public service he has rendered in the community and the state, Mr. Norton has demonstrated his ability to assume this important position."

This is the first issue of a regular employees' publication. It is designed to keep a continuing record of the programs and policies of Colonial Williamsburg, to create an awareness of what employees are doing in all sections and departments, and to coordinate personal notes about all those who work here. Support of all will be needed to make this publication one which will serve all and interest all.

CARRIAGE FLEET GROWS

Starting May 11, a second old carriage was added to the Williamsburg scene. This is the "blue" carriage, the one used before the war to carry hostesses to and from the buildings. It is a closed coach with four seats. Now the visiting public can take a carriage every 15 minutes from the Old Court House Museum. A tour of thirty minutes gives the visitor a general view of the restored area.

W. D. McPherson, C&M Department, supervises the operation of the two carriages. The number one coachman is Ben Spraggins, sometimes called the most photographed man in Williamsburg. The coachman for the second coach is John Sheppard. Willie Meekins is in charge of the stables and keeps the horses looking so well groomed.

The coach has long been a favorite part of the Williamsburg scene for both tourists and residents. The development and co-ordination of this activity is under the Special Activities Department. Mrs. B. E. Steel, Mrs. R. S. Brooks, and Mrs. Merritt Foster head up the sales department for coach tickets and are having a close race to see which can set the highest records in sales.

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NEW TRAVEL SYSTEM

The Hertz Driv-ur-self Company has recently added Williamsburg to its new rail-plane-auto travel system.

Using the leading national magazines and newspapers, the Hertz organization is trying to get tourists to leave their cars at home, travel by plane or train and then rent a Hertz car when they reach their destination.

The Hertz car rental here is handled through the new Travel Office scheduled to open in the Craft House at the old Information Office. William Canham is in charge of the rentals along with the other activities of the office including bike and camera rentals and road and ferry information.

RECENTLY ACCEPTED SUGGESTIONS SUBMITTED BY COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG EMPLOYEES

ANN BIPPUS (\$5) - That a floor plan of the Goodwin Building be included in the Secretaries' Manual.

HUMPHREY LEE, JR. (\$10) - That "No Parking" signs be placed on South England Street opposite side door of the Lodge South Wing.

MILDRED LANIER (\$5) - That a sign indicating that the building is closed be hung on the front exterior doors of the Goodwin Building on holidays.

HELEN BAKER (\$5) - That an extensive map of the restored area, including the buildings used as private residences, be made available for use at the Reception Center.

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THEATRE GETS TREATMENT

The Williamsburg Theatre has recently been rehabilitated by Henry Beebe's department.

With the installation of "Happy" Halligan as its new manager the first of this year things began popping at the old cinema. First came new seats, the kind that pop up. Next came new projection equipment, same as just installed at the Radio City Music Hall. Next was the new air conditioning system, which is a multiple unit job, right up to the minute in conditioning technique.

On the line for immediate installation are new rugs.

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An exhibit of advertisements from the Philadelphia Inquirer featuring colonial signs has been placed in the Goodwin Building.

FROM: THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

RE: CANADIAN-AMERICAN DAY

"...In the course of my business, I have attended many functions. I have observed and taken part in the planning and execution of many of them. . .But never in all my experience have I seen any function planned so carefully and executed so beautifully. . .On behalf of the Trustees and Officers, may I extend to you our heartfelt appreciation for all that you did to make Canadian-American Day and the weekend for the Canadians such a great success. (signed) Kenneth Chorley"

BACK OF THE SCENES. . .

The day that President Truman and Governor Tuck met on the latter's home ground and exchanged handshakes instead of exchanging blows; the day that Canadians and their neighbors to the south joined together in a thought-provoking symbol of international friendship much needed in the world had its conception back last summer in the minds of our president, Kenneth Chorley, and Dr. John E. Pomfret, president of William and Mary. The event wound up with nearly every Colonial Williamsburg employee contributing a hand toward the smooth run-off.

The event was originally planned for last fall as a testimonial to Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King, a faithful follower of Williamsburg, for his long service in public office, with the Governor-General of Canada, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, present. The royal wedding in England, however, delayed these plans as the principals were to be present in Westminster Abbey as Elizabeth and Philip exchanged vows.

The invitation was extended to Harry S. Truman, President of the United States, through General Harry Vaughn, the President's military aide, who has a daughter at William and Mary, while he was in Williamsburg last fall for a football game. The President, it is understood, was delighted with the invitation and the opportunity to receive in person the degree which had been awarded him soon after he took office as President but which he had been unable to be present to receive.

Further planning for the April event was made by Mr. Chorley during a special trip to Ottawa and by Mr. Norton, who went to Washington to confer with Presidential press secretary Charles Ross and members of the Secret Service.

Secret Service agents came to Williamsburg about two weeks in advance of the event to map out exact plans for the President's itinerary and protection.

Spectacular interest in the event was built up in the nation's press in speculation on the forthcoming meeting of President Truman and Governor Tuck, outspoken opponent of the President on the Civil Rights issue, and indications were received of large press, radio and newsreel coverage of the trip. Background material was prepared by the Department of Public Relations and press headquarters were arranged for the day at Brafferton Hall. The largest group of press representatives consisted of the White House Correspondents and the entire Williamsburg Tourist Court was rented to accommodate them. Most of them arrived the afternoon before and a dinner was given for them there that evening, at which time the Secret Service outlined the arrangements. Tom McCaskey, Bob Hoke and John Goodbody were on hand to greet them and stood by the press delegation, one of the more important adjuncts of the event, throughout.

Three wirephoto outfits--AP, ACME, and INP--set up shop in the city, with the AP bunch in the Search Room of the Goodwin Building under the guiding hand of Tom Williams and Jack Turner, photo lab assistant. Several television outfits were represented, the men filming the event and rushing the movies back to Washington to be put

CANADIAN-AMERICAN DAY (Cont'd.)

on television networks.

The President was to arrive by yacht at the Naval Mine Depot and all arrangements had been made for this procedure. Secret Service men were quartered at the Mine Depot and the official cars were there being serviced. About 4:15 Friday morning, the telephone got Mr. Norton out of bed. It was the Secret Service saying that the yacht was fogbound and had docked at Dahlgren (some 30 miles from Washington) and the President would come the remaining way by car. The Secret Service needed two more cars for the trip. Accordingly, Arthur Buie and Levi Stephens were roused out to chauffeur the cars and drew praise from the Secret Service for some of the best driving they had seen. The trip was hectic, since it was 113 miles each way and there was little time. Several of the newsmen were tumbled from bed to make the trip over high-crown, narrow and winding roads; the several cars traveled together at high speeds and were controlled by radio.

The President arrived on time and the morning's activities went off smoothly despite threatening rain. The campus had been readied by the College and Colonial Williamsburg crews. Some weeks before the paint section under Robert Webb had freshly whitewashed all the picket fences in the immediate area and the landscape crews under J. B. Brouwers had cleaned up the front triangle. That morning Bert Score, maintenance foreman, with William Reinecke and Frank Jacobs, roped off the Inn area as directed by the Secret Service and were called on for an emergency job of street patching near the Palace.

When the President and his party arrived at the Inn, he was shown to his room by Mr. John Green. He quickly reopened the door of his suite to see where his daughter, Margaret, was being shown and jokingly asked where the "prima donna" was going. Maid Robbie Gough was in the President's room with instructions to hand the President the room key and leave. As she did the President asked her name and then asked her if she would like his autograph. After she had recovered enough to say yes, he brought out a dollar bill, autographed it and handed it to her.

Captain Sam Peach had his police section on duty at the Inn assisted by no less than 15 Secret Service men and a small army of 25 to 30 military police. Captain Sam had a hand in the planning of the details with the Army, state police, Secret Service, and city forces. After luncheon he took his men to help at the Palace.

A. Edwin Kendrew escorted the President through the Palace buildings and grounds and was a bit stymied when he started to show the Palace cellars to the President only to find that they had been locked as part of the security for the President. The now famous "homey" touch which the President gave his signature on the Palace guest book wherein he gave his address as 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, "at present," was found several days later. The book had remained in use at the Palace and it was considered remarkable that some souvenir-seeking visitor had not yet torn the page out.

The long open Chrysler which Arthur had made a special trip to New York to bring down--said to have been made for the King and Queen of England for their tour of the New York World's Fair many years ago-- was used along with the other rented cars over the ensuing weekend for the Canadian party. Mrs. Angie Cowles, head of Office Services, arranged for the cars and chauffeurs and called in old hand Levi Stephens from his cabinet-making business and Cue Willis, on loan from the Lodge. She also arranged for the special ferry trip at Jamestown on Sunday to carry the Canadian party across to Brandon. Up and down the line, the entire affair showed the contributions of all hands.

PROFILE: LEONARD BILES, the Golf Doctor

Near tee number one, out where those golf blues begin, a genial, red-faced sportsman keeps shop in a converted chicken house. The man is golf professional Leonard Biles, and the chicken house, lately of Colonial Williamsburg's poultry project on Richmond Road, is the temporary clubhouse and caddy shack for the Williamsburg Inn golf course, a 2755-yard nine-hole layout first opened on June 15, 1947.

Len Biles hails from England. He was born near Great Yarmouth, in Norfolk, a few years the other side of 1900. He had a golf club in his hand soon after a rattle, and served as professional at Waybridge in Surry and at tongue-twisting Aberystwyth in Wales. In March, 1912, he boarded the Mauretania with his new bride, and ever since has worked patiently with duffers on this side of the Atlantic. He accepted positions at Sleepy Hollow, in Scarborough, N. Y.; at the Wianno Yacht and Golf Club, on Cape Cod; and at Watertown, N. Y.; hard by Lake Ontario. Then he moved across the Mason-Dixon Line to Virginia's mountains for a 17-year stretch at the luxurious Homestead resort hotel at Hot Springs. During the recent war, he presided at nearby James River Country Club, stepping down only in favor of his brother-in-law, Joe Fuller.

Somehow, Len has managed to squeeze into his temporary headquarters a remarkably complete selection of balls, bags and clubs, as well as golf shoes, hats and socks. An added responsibility has been the recruiting and training of local caddies, most of whom never saw a course before and never tracked a smothered hook into the deep honeysuckle. And, along with his merchandising and administrative chores, the new professional has been busy at the old business - that of teaching both sexes of varying ages and all shapes the mystery of interlocking grips and slow backswings. These duties have kept Len's own golf to a minimum, but he still can at least recall a 63 at Hyannisport, a 64 at hilly Homestead, and a 67 on the long, wood-fringed Cascades championship course. But golf professional Biles' greatest pride is not his subpar golf, but his granddaughter and two grandsons; he commutes north to see them in his new Studebaker whenever he is able.

So far, the Inn course, designed by the Scot veteran Fred Findlay, has done pretty well. Greenskeeper Bob Johnson hopes that the new seeding of Bermuda grass with withstand summer heat, and the greens are getting in such good shape that soon the players will have nothing to cuss but themselves. Jeter D. Davis is tractor operator. The golf course crew includes Joseph A. Myers, Owen J. Harrold, Berkley Jones, Leon B. Brown, and Emanuel Smith. On sunny days, well over fifty golfers turn out. Of course, local linksmen look forward to the day when the condition of the course will permit forming a club, with members competing in handicapped tournaments and challenging competitors from West Point, James River and Hampton. And all golf hands will welcome a larger clubhouse, while in the distant future looms the prospect of a second nine holes.

Meanwhile, both golfers and course get in shape. To date, par has been broken only once for the 18-hole route: Jack Hamilton, Amateur Champion, toured the tricky layout in 33,34 -67, for the course record. No official hole in one has yet been registered, although one Lodge guest holed out his tee shot on number eight and then modestly refused recognition because he was playing alone. The most remarkable shot of the year has been the hard-hit drive of Brewster Cornwell of the William and Mary team, who two weeks ago drove the first green, some 345 yards distant. The College

PROFILE (Cont'd.)

incidentally has had an auspicious first season under Coach Billy Gooch, with a win-loss record of four and three.

The CW-WRI golfing contingent, headed by Charlie (Three Putt) Hackett, has been seen on and off every fairway, in every marsh and briar-patch, and even wading knee-deep in the watercress in the gully fronting number seven tee. Especially active are Messrs. Cocke, Geddy, Sparks, Bob Taylor, Norton, Green, Pete Tucker, Alexander, Cipriani, Ernest Lee, Upshaw, Loughrie, Bob Evans, Monier Williams, Boyer, Chorley, Colonel Wheat, and new recruit, Bert Koch. George Bartholomew plays on the College team. On the distaff side, add Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Stubbs, Mrs. Monson, Mrs. Haislip, as well as the Misses Lanier, Layne, Lavery and Miller.

Len Biles' assistant is the able John (Sam) Banks, Army Air Corps veteran who looks and swings something like an underfed Gene Sarazan. Sam is scheduled to complete his course requirements at William and Mary next autumn, and hopes to go on to do graduate work.

So Len Biles looks to the future as well as the past. He likes to reminisce about the old clubs hanging on the caddy-house wall, and will tell you that Harry Vardon was the greatest of them all. Among more recent tournament players he liked Hagen and Sarazan, and in today's book he writes the names of Nelson, Hogan, and Sam Snead. The top amateur, of course, was Bobby Jones. Golf clothes? Well, Bobby Locke's knickers don't faze a veteran of the plus-four decade, and he has made no complaints yet about today's young ladies in shorts.

ATTENTION GOLFERS! The Golf Committee plans a tournament soon for all Colonial Williamsburg employees. So please hand all scores in to Len Biles for a handicap.

VOX POP IN WILLIAMSBURG

Getting Williamsburg ready to have its say on "Vox Pop," took plenty of planning. This started in New York at a meeting between Mr. Norton, Mr. Boyer, and the Vox Pop originator Parks Johnson. The tone of the program was established, the date set, and initial preparations begun.

On Sunday, May 9, the entire crew of the radio show arrived in Williamsburg and were turned over to Tom McCaskey, who was assigned to assist and co-ordinate the show. First act was to introduce the visitors to the city via a conducted tour. Next they were entertained at the Inn's famous Buffet Supper. Next day a huddle was held in Mr. Norton's office to pick out persons who would be interviewed.

A long list of local people were offered to Johnson and ex-Hollywood star Warren Hull who picked out those they wanted to see. Then came two days of personal interviews with many people. Finally the choice was made and Mrs. Frank Adolph, one of the hostesses; Minor Wine Thomas, the Museum Supervisor; Miss Ellen Bagby, of the A.P.V.A.; Ben McCary, a student of Matthew Whaley; and Fleming Brown, major-domo of the Palace, were selected.

Tickets were given to 500 persons in a first-come first-served manner. At 7:30 the program went on the air and the guests were interviewed. Between 160 and 180 stations on the ABC network carried the Williamsburg Vox Pop program. Millions of listeners heard a glowing account of our city and were encouraged to visit us. Since the program a great volume of mail has been received from listeners in all parts of the nation, indicating the drawing power of this show.

At a future date a complete recording of the program will be played in the Goodwin Building projection room for the benefit of those who would like to hear it.

PERSONAL BRIEFS.....

William F. SMITH, Room Clerk at the Inn, recently checked in a 6½-pound arrival, Nina Alice Smith. Baby and mother are at Kane, Pa.....Walter C. THURSTON of Richmond and Lyman L. PETERS of Suffolk are new construction superintendents for CW under the postwar building program. Thurston was formerly associated with the Kent Construction Co. of Richmond and Peters had his own firm in Suffolk..... Otis ODELL, Jr., formerly with Todd shipyards, is the Construction Mechanical Engineer and E. Randolph LEE of Hampton is the new Estimate and Purchasing Agent..... Mrs. ODELL has joined the Sales Force of Craft House.....Edward ALEXANDER and Richard SHOWMAN were in Boston last week attending the annual session of the American Association of Museums.....Two of last year's hostesses made news: Mrs. Frank BEAL, Jr. (Patricia Martin Beal) became the mother of Frank Peer Beal III in Dalton, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Daniel (Ethel) ELLIOTT called at the Palace with their little son DE Jr.....A daughter, Donna Rae, was born on May 17 to Mr. and Mrs. Donald TAYLOR. Mary Taylor was formerly Receptionist at the Goodwin Building, while her husband has often lent a hand during evening lecture programs.....Doris Elizabeth YOST of the hostesses, who graduates from W&M this Spring, is to become the bride of Harry David Sizemore, Jr., of Clarksville, Va., on June 7 in the Wren Chapel.....Another hostess heading for marriage is artist Marjorie H. OAK, who drew the cartoons for the forthcoming Employees' Manual. Miss Oak has announced her engagement to William Jolly, Jr., of Petersburg, Va.....Fred L. FRECHETTE, Chief Room Clerk of the Inn and Lodge, was among those taken into membership of Bruton Parish Church at the Confirmation Service held Sunday morning, May 16.....Mrs. G. Tilsley MACDONALD of Craft House has resigned and moved to Rumson, N.Y..... Mrs. William BLANKS has left the Craft House; her place in the office will be

taken by Miss Jean GIESELMANN.....J. A. UPSHUR, a victim of poison oak, has been seen wearing white gloves, like the rabbit in "Alice in Wonderland".....James L. COGAR and John L. LEWIS, Jr., sailed from Norfolk May 21 for Europe. They will open an antique shop near Cogar's house on York Street in the autumn, and an old house is being moved to this site for this purpose.....Messrs. Charles PECK, Ernest JANSON, and Matthew HOGAN, auditors from Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery, have completed their annual audit and returned to New York.....Miss Moyra MCCAUSLAND has left CW to join the (Episcopal) Order of St. Anne's at Arlington Heights, Mass.....Miss Virginia MARSTON recently attended the Eastern Star convention in Richmond.....From Bill MCPHERSON comes notes from C&M....."Miss Louetta YOUNG, formerly with our department, has accepted a position with Stedman's, interior decorators, of Roanoke..... O. Newton SEAL, of near Toano, recently joined our accounting offices.....E. M. SHELDON has been appointed to serve on the Rent Control Board, acting in the Camp Peary area. Gene informs us he is not only concerned with politics, but also with Peary ticks".....Mrs. E. M. LEE and family have moved into the Pitt-Dixon House while their house on Duke of Gloucester Street is under architectural study for possible reconstruction..... Clarence E. TAYLOR was recently appointed as the archaeological laboratory helper assisting Minor Wine THOMAS..... Tom HALLIGAN, better known as "Happy" and house manager of the Theatre, recently returned from a trip to New York where he got a first-hand look at the way our big cousin, the Radio City Music Hall and other big-time theatres, operate.....A big event takes place in the Theatre Family soon when Patrick BUCHANAN, the smiling Irishman and Halligan's assistant manager, takes unto himself a bride. And just to keep it in the family circle, the bride will be Hilda BATEMAN, of Williamsburg, who

PERSONAL (con't from page 7)

worked at the Theatre last summer as a cashier....Not to be outdone by the assistant manager, Dabney CARR, one of the student ushers, is also planning on nuptials. Tina Jones, of Arlington and a former W&M student, will become Mrs. Carr....Mrs. John FISHER has almost completed a highly successful series of lecture trips which carried her to twenty-two cities, including Houston, Texas, Memphis, Tennessee, Philadelphia, Charleston, Portland, Maine, Evanston, Illinois, West Hartford, Connecticut, and French Lick, Indiana....Lynton A. UPSHAW, recently promoted to resident manager of the Inn, also has been on the road. Just this past weekend he was in Asheville, N.C., attending the Southern Hotel Association Convention there....Miss Shirley DAVIS has returned from Atlanta after visiting her father who has been ill for some time. Her mother, Mrs. Franklin Beatty Davis, returned with her for a short stay....Alden HOPKINS spoke to the Rosecliff Garden Club in Waynesboro, Va., on May 7. He was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. John HENDERSON and Miss Wanda CASTLE. On Saturday and Sunday they toured Skyland Drive and visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Washington REED in Warrenton, Va....Wash Reed was formerly of our Architectural Department....Mrs. Genevieve OSLUND of the Craft House attended the W&M Varsity Show presentation in Richmond and was accompanied home by her daughter, Ruth, who is a student at St. Catherine's School.... Among those in Williamsburg who are busy with their summer gardens is T. G. PEYTON, Room Clerk at the Inn....Mrs. Charlotte MASSEY has returned to her work in the Architectural Department after being ill for several weeks....Mr. and Mrs. Vernon GEDDY spent a week in New Orleans at the Pontchartrain Hotel there and on their return visited at the Virginia Beach home of Mr. Ross McNeal....Miss Monie PRICE spent the weekend of May 15 in Hampton where she was a bridesmaid in the Price-Planck wedding....Maupin SAUNDERS, former

relief operator at the Theatre, has accepted a full-time booth job at the new drive-in movie at Tabbs. Henry KINKEAD, utility man, has replaced him in the projection room. Henry is a GI student who first joined the staff in 1943....Mrs. Franklin MINOR is attending her sister's graduation exercises in Meadville, Pa., this week....Mrs. Angie COWLES and son, Carter Cowles III, spent the Memorial Day weekend in Hampton as guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Long....Miss Ruth JOLLY spent the Memorial Day weekend at the Spottswood Arms Hotel at Virginia Beach....Carl BRIDENBAUGH was the guest speaker at Old Sturbridge Village in Worcester, Mass., on May 15. He spoke on "Colonial Craftsmen."....Mr. and Mrs. S. P. MOOREHEAD entertained members of the Architectural Department and their wives at a cocktail party on May 7 in their home, the Light-foot House, on Duke of Gloucester Street....Katy HANRAHAN, vivacious first lady of the Theatre box office, will graduate from Matthew Whaley in June. This summer she will be the full-time cashier.... Monier WILLIAMS has been made vice-president of the local Rotary Club.

From Ewell JONES comes word of his colleagues in C&M; Ewell dons the reporter's mantle of Isham JOHNSON, columnist for the old "Restoration News"...."John SHEPPARD recently became a coachman.... Josh HUNDLEY spent a recent Sunday in Richmond with friends....John L. HAILEY accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Clyde WALLACE, motored to Petersburg to visit their daughter and Clyde's sister....Mr. and Mrs. Coleman BANK'S daughter has been in Williamsburg on a visit from New York.... Mrs. James TASWELL has been ill and under a doctor's care....Joe B. MILL and Robert ROBINSON have been on vacation"....Fleming BROWN, of Vox Pop fame (see story on page six) took another community bow the same evening when he was installed as President of the Bruton Heights PTA.