

ROCKLEDGE UNCERTAIN

Va - Prince Wm / Occoquan

Bridge Appears to be Out

6-7-72

The new bridge of Occoquan and the town's hopes of restoring Rockledge both appeared to be stalled, by indications at a special meeting of the Occoquan Town Council Monday.

According to a letter from Douglas Fugate, state highway commissioner, forwarded to Mayor J. Robert Ritenour by State Sen. H. Selwyn Smith, plans for a controversial new bridge appear to be stopped, at least for the present.

Smith was among the officials who were sent copies of a May 16 Town Council resolution stating the town's opposition to State Highway Department plans to construct the Route 123 bridge between the commercial area of the town and the Poplar Lane residential area.

The resolution suggested an alternate route of the end of Route 748, and further requested that the state renovate and maintain the present bridge, built in the 1880's which now carries all Route 123 traffic between Fairfax and Prince William

counties.

Fugate, in his letter to Smith, said the state Highway Commission had been requested a number of times to consider Route 748 as the bridge approach, but it did not seem it would serve the traffic need.

That approach would require a longer structure and extensive approaches, which would result in excessive costs, Fugate said. For some time the costs of the proposed bridge have been mounting, and he placed the currently estimated total at \$2.2 million.

Only \$100,000 has so far been allocated for the bridge, and Fugate told Smith he believed it may be better to spend that money to fix up the old one-lane bridge.

This would involve receiving permission from the Corps of Engineers to construct a center beam on the old bridge in the river.

Hopes for acquisition of Rockledge for the town were dimmed by an unforeseen problem, the possibility of a moratorium on sewer

connections in the eastern end of the county.

The town council had hoped to include the purchase and restoration of the old mansion in its negotiations with the developers of a large apartment complex planned partly within the town. It would, they hoped,

be leased to the town at a nominal fee.

However, it now appears that unless the Occoquan-Woodbridge Sanitary District is permitted to expand its capacity via interim facilities, the Board of County Supervisors will have to call a

moratorium on further sewer connection commitments.

Phillip Bordsky and Robert Levick, representing the developers of the complex, indicated to the council they were no longer prepared to go ahead with the apartments as
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OLDEST IN STATE

ABC Manager to Retire

A popular Manassas resident, Wallace H. Lynn of 8601 Sudley Road, will retire as manager of the Manassas ABC store on June 30.

Lynn, who has been manager of the store since June 16, 1936, is believed to be the oldest manager in the state in terms of continuous employment — 36 years.

Lynn, who will be 64 on Aug. 19, has been a resident of Manassas for over 50 years and plans to continue to reside in the area following his retirement.

After receiving his training at an Alexandria store, Lynn

became the manager of the Manassas store which was located on S. Main Street in Downtown Manassas at that time. The store moved to the Manassas Shopping Center on Feb. 1, 1958.

A graduate of Hargrove Military Academy, he studied accounting and business administration for four years at the College of William and Mary.

He enjoys playing golf and traveling which he and his wife, Mary, plan to continue to do after his retirement. The couple have a son, Wallace Jr. who

who resides in Chattanooga, Tenn. "I just plan to take it easy," said the retiring manager.

The only time that Lynn was away from the Manassas store was from July 15, 1943 to Feb. 6, 1946 when he served in the U. S. Navy, including 1 1/2 years in the Pacific.

Lynn was honored with a retirement dinner on Sunday at the Manassas Downtowner. Lynn said he will continue an active role in Trinity Episcopal Church where he has held many offices including that of church treasurer.

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Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

VIRGINIANA FILE

*PWC - Historical Sites
(Rockledge - Occoquan)*



Rockledge, in better days

Bridge Appears

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long as there was uncertainty about sewer service.

They presented a site plan of the area, which the council is planning to study in detail. Questions were raised as to the traffic patterns which would be established by the apartments, and representatives of the council are planning an inspection of the site Saturday.

Brodsky and Levick made it clear they couldn't go through with any deals concerning Rockledge until they knew something more definite about the future of the apartments.

Rockledge was built in 1758 by John Ballendine, the industrial founder of early manufacturing at the town of Occoquan. The house was built under the supervision of the foremost colonial architect of his time in the Virginia - Maryland area, Englishman William Buckland, who also built Gunston Hall in Lorton where George Mason lived.

Named Rockledge because it was built on a site cut from a ledge of solid rock, the 11-room house was built of stone, rare for tidewater areas of Virginia. The main portion of the house is a three story structure, one room in depth. A large brick wing housed the butler's pantry, the kitchen, and sleeping quarters.

To pay off debts, Ballendine sold Rockledge in 1776, to John Semple of Maryland. The house was acquired after the Revolution by Nathaniel Ellicott of the family who founded Elliott City in Maryland. Ellicott operated Occoquan Mills for a number of years, but transferred Rockledge and its interests to the John Janney family, who kept it for over 100 years.

Fred A. Barnes bought and restored the house in 1931 and it remained in the Barnes family until Laurence A. Barnes sold it in 1967. The building was condemned in 1961 because of the severe structural damage it had suffered.

John Woodall of Maryland now owns Rockledge.

While Laurence and Nancy Barnes owned Rockledge it was surveyed by representatives of the Secretary of the Interior and designated an historic building by the advisory committee to the Historic American Buildings Survey and certified as having great historical and architectural interest and being worthy of preservation. A detailed record of its appearance and condition was made and deposited in the Library of Congress.

Historic Occoquan, Inc. would like to restore Rockledge to its former dignity and beauty, according to Mrs. June

Randolph, former president of the group. They would like to restore Rockledge and have it open to the public as an historic site in Prince William County. No plans have been made, however, as funding is necessary first.

Right now Rockledge is just a shell. Mantels, bannisters, and Newell posts have been removed, and every window has been broken. "It will take a lot of work and money, but it can be done" said Mrs. Randolph.

Seven Area Residents Graduate at Madison

Seven Manassas area residents were graduated from Madison College.

Among the college's 793 recipients of degrees were Bryan Eugene Daniels, B.S., son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene A. Daniels; Deborah Catherine Davenport, B.S., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Davenport; Barbara Kay Geist, B.A., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. August W. Geist; Elizabeth Marie Johnson, B.A., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Earl Johnson; Emiley Ann Lindsey, B.S., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Lindsey; Beatrice Elizabeth Lipps, B.S., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene T. Lipps; and Naomi Virginia Martin, B.S., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Martin.

Beltway

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damages and the parked 1967 Rambler was damaged to the extent of \$400. Charges are pending.

Police are investigating a hit-run accident Monday about 10:45 p.m. which caused \$300 damage to a 1967 Mustang.

Estel Randolph Moore, 20, 8721 Wellington Road, Manassas, told Officer S.L. (Andy) Capps he was slowing for a stop sign on Blooms Road at Route 28 and a vehicle made a wide right turn and struck him in the left rear.

He said he believed the hit and run car to be a beige over white Chevrolet.

John Ernest Baker, 31, 16629 Geddy Road, Woodbridge, received a lacerated ear when the car he was driving went out of control on Route 1 about 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

Officer J.F. Hawks said Baker was southbound in the right lane, lost control, turned around, hit the bank and then crossed the highway and ran into a ditch.

He was charged with failure to keep the vehicle under proper control. The car, a 1971 Plymouth, sustained damage amounting to \$600.

A one-car accident on Opitz Boulevard, Woodbridge, Saturday about 6 p.m. resulted in lacerations and contusions to James Arthur Tolson, 36, of Silver Spring, Md.

Officer Hawks reported Tolson, eastbound in a 1965 Corvair, ran into a five-foot high gravel pile, went over the top and down a 50-foot embankment.

He was charged with reckless driving, and the car sustained an estimated \$300 worth of damage.

Leroy Jenkins, Rt. 1, Gainesville, was charged with driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, and refusal to take a blood test after sideswiping another truck about 1 a.m. May 27.

Daniel Tito Jumlon of District Heights, Maryland, suffered a laceration to his right hand. He was a passenger in a 1972 Chevy panel truck driven by Buster Franklin Smith Jr. of Greenbelt.

Jenkins' truck was a 1969 Ford pickup. Officer G.W. Jones estimated damage to each truck at \$100.

Mrs. Halliwell Seeks Temporary Injunction

In a complaint filed yesterday with the Circuit Court of Prince William County, Mrs. Anne W. Halliwell, Superintendent of Public Welfare, is seeking an injunction against the Prince William County Welfare Board from terminating her employment until judgment has been rendered in a suit challenging the status of that board or until the terms of a resolution by the Board of County Supervisors giving the Welfare Board authority in personnel matters with concurrence of the State Welfare Department is met.

Mrs. Halliwell charges that no concurrence on her dismissal has been received from the state.

Named as defendants in the suit are Welfare Board members Donald W. Turner, Agnes Gerrity, James Byrd and William B. Lenz Jr. The hearing is scheduled for 10 o'clock this morning.

Supervisors to Decide On Search for Executive

A decision on how to go about finding another county executive to replace Bobby J. Hansen, whose resignation is effective June 30, is expected to be made by the Supervisors

Counties. Neabsco Supervisor Donald W. Turner, who is actively pursuing the replacement of the county executive, said he would ascertain the difference in cost