

# The Manassas Journal

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of Merchants

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## 'Kapers' Is a Wow; Staged Again Friday Nite at Haymarket

Even if it hadn't been staged for a worthy cause, the Seventh Annual Kiwanis Kapers at Osborn High School last Friday would have been worth more than the price of admission.

The combination of facts that it was a wing-ding of a show and that it was put on for the benefit of underprivileged children made the sensation of parting with a green dollar bill for admission a positive pleasure. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000 persons packed the High School auditorium for two performances, and what little welkin that had not been displaced by enthusiastic showgoers rang from start to finish of the two-hour show.

Everybody was happy. The oldsters had an old-time minstrel show for their delectation; the other half of the show was sugar-coated vaudeville, in the form of a television talent show with the capable Russ Cullen as the poor man's Arthur Godfrey, broadcasting over Station PUNK-TV.

Opening with Arnold Service's variations on an old Bob Hope theme, the fast-paced show ran through to final curtain with hardly a stumble. When the Kapers go to Haymarket Friday evening—and the chances are a good many Manassas' will tag along to see what they missed last week—some of Service's patter will have to be changed, being more appropriate to the county seat than to the Upper End. The same comment applies to a wowsie let fly early in the program by Russ Cullen, the master of ceremonies of the TV phase.

Sitting at a desk on stage with his "secretary," June Wilkins—ever a "secretary" when she's called—Richardson-Cullen answered the telephone and carried on the "yes" end of a conversation. Hanging up, he announced to the audience that it was "Roy Doggett, calling to see if we have a permit to put this show on." Haymarket might or might not get the significance of that crack, but the fact that Manassas did was apparent from the roar that went up.

Warren Orr, local hot-rod enthusiast, started off the talent part of the show by demonstrating that he can travel as fast and furiously on a trumpet as he can in a stripped-down racer. His work on "Star-dust" would have elicited from Hoagy Carmichael himself nothing but praise.

A surprise early in the show was the appearance, from the auditorium, of the noted mezzo-soprano, Mme. Humann-Schank, who turned out to be Cleveland Fisher dressed—and padded—in the costume of an ancient operatic harridan. Critical note on Mme. Humann-Schank: she was loud.

When the show goes to Haymarket, one of its stars—and Judy so—will be young Tommy Baker, who attends Osborn but lives in the Haymarket area. Working with ordinary spoons, the lanky high schooler beat out as sweet a bunch of rhythm as one would wish to hear.

Saying her pajamas and putting on her prayers, young Martha Jean Saunders stopped—or at least gave definite pause—to the show. As a New York critic once said of another singer, "She sang, but she didn't need to. She could have just stood there; she was that pretty."

Hillbilly music is one of those things—the little girl with the curl—that is likely to be very, very good or simply horrid. Gill Machen, A. V. Eanes, Fred Wolfe on guitars and mandolin—and Edith Melvin and Bucky Golladay—working what used to be called the "sacred harp"—turned in a worthwhile performance in the folk-music department.

Briefly—but very briefly—Marie Kerlin and Melva Fleishmann appeared to sing a surprisingly short number called "Snow Ball" and then made way for an aggregation that, for sheer confusion, made the Marx Brothers' antics look like a Saturday afternoon parade at West. Continued on Page 4

## Hey, Sheriff! Your Slip Is Showing

Memorabilia of two wars lay strewn in disarray across the Prince William County Court House lawn this week despite the fact that two weeks ago Sheriff John P. Kerlin fixed squarely on his own shoulders the responsibility for all caretaking activities in and around the Court House.

Speaking at a dinner of the Kiwanis Club, Kerlin said that part of his job was to maintain control over the buildings and grounds in Court House Square. "If a communist should come to the Court House and want to make a speech," Kerlin said, "I could keep him out." At last, reports no communists had applied for speaking permits, but another strong wind invaded the Court House area about two weeks ago and blew down the Honor Roll of Prince William Countians who served in World War II. At the time of going to press this week, the sign was still on its face, and no instructions had been issued to repair it.

Examination of the courthouse lawn showed another war monument to be in disrepair of several years standing. The cannon-bumtable marker erected in 1911 at the southeast corner of the grounds in commemoration of "Fifty Years After" the Civil War, showed the following damage:

Of four pyramids of cannon balls, each originally containing 20 balls, or a total of 80, only nine balls remained in one pile. Two heavy anchors had been yrenched from their moorings and dragged several feet out onto the lawn. One of the anchors was partially disassembled. A broken soft-drink bottle lay on the grass between the two anchors. Names had been scrawled on the green patina of the brass cannon. The plaque itself had been defaced by scribbling.

—Noise-counting in Prince William County for the 1950 census is being done one hundred and twenty percent faster than expected, according to census officials, and should be completed by the end of April. Already urban counting is complete and tabulations will be made in another week.

## Council To Raise Taxes; Utilities

Manassas appears headed for an increase in its tax rate from \$1.25 to \$1.34 and an increase in the sewer rate of 50 percent; in the basic light rate of five percent and the basic water rate of six percent. This is to meet the needs of the town budget which must be adopted by next Monday night.

The result to the residents of Manassas in the utility rate raise will be to increase the sewer bill \$3.00, the light bill \$6.00 and the water bill \$2.50 per year.

The council took no formal action at a called meeting Wednesday night. The need was discussed but not faced.

The subject of rebuilding the Pitts Theater by using the present walls of the building which went through the fire of several weeks ago was under consideration as a result of the Pitts Theater Management requesting a permit authorizing the rebuilding.

Councilman Doggett opposed granting the permit because he said he had made sufficient investigation to assure him the walls might have been made unsafe by heat expansion. J. S. Cruickshank, a civil engineer, who is reported as contracting to furnish the steel for the beams for any rebuilt structure, by letter advised Town Manager Ritter that in his opinion the walls are safe.

Doggett offered a motion that the council reject the application of the theater chain. His motion did not receive a second. Councilwoman Saunders then proposed that an independent civil engineer's advice be sought regarding the strength of the walls. This was adopted with Councilman Rice voting with Mrs. Saunders, and Doggett voting no. Councilman Hook had already signed the request for the permit but was not present at the meeting.

Discussion leaned toward the necessity of establishing a building code for structures in which there are public assemblies based upon the requirements of other communities, particularly Arlington, Fairfax and Alexandria, in relation to exits. Councilman Rice and Mrs. Saunders both expressed themselves as being dissatisfied with the exits at the Pitts Theater before the fire. There is no indication that the exits are to be improved in the reconstruction program. Whether the Pitts Theater will be allowed to be rebuilt without provision for better exits remains to be decided.

—"Best Regards to all" writes Dr. George B. Cocke, on a postcard to the Manassas Journal staff from Clearwater, Florida. Had the card arrived last week instead of Monday of this week the jovial druggist might have made the staff satisfied. Dr. Cocke will be away until the end of April.

## Church, Secular Leaders Urge Support For Week-day Religious Class Program

### IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS TRAINING IN SCHOOLS STRESSED



Above is a typical scene in Virginia's Public Schools where students are given religious training. There are 74 teachers employed in Virginia in religious education work and 44,000 school children are enrolled in the week-day classes. Religious training is accomplished through Bible study, use of hymns, discussion and picture interpretation. All this week leaders of the community have been stressing the importance of religious training. (See editorial.)

Prince William County is marking Religious Education Week this week, and religious and secular leaders are joining in support of the current program to afford religious training to school children during the public school hours.

Miss Hazel Saunders, religious education teacher, stated the purpose of week-day religious education this week by saying that the classes aim "to give the child a knowledge of Bible facts coupled with the incentive to put into practice in every-day living Christian principles of right. This is done through Bible study, the appreciation and use of some of our best hymns, discussion, picture interpretation and various forms of creative activity."

In Virginia, there are 74 teachers employed in religious education work, and 44,000 school children are enrolled in the week-day classes. In this county, 26 classes are taught each week in the seven white schools with 840 children enrolled. The students number 97 percent of the children to whom the work has been offered.

In discussing week-day religious education this week, Commonwealth Attorney Stanley A. Owens raised the point that when one asks "whether we should have week-day religious education we can hardly escape a corollary, should we have week-day secular education?"

"Have we really decided in our minds which is more important?" Owens asked. "Is either important? Some circles say we are getting too much secular education. Is that true or are we getting too much of the wrong kind? Perhaps we should unlearn some of the things we already know, such as our habits of disinterest in week-day living of the Golden Rule, our habits of envy and jealousy."

Owens offered the suggestion that in formulating religious education programs, an effort should be made to provide "instruction" along lines which all groups—Catholic, Jewish and Protestant—can agree are fundamental, yet not controversial.

The attorney stated that he is "not willing to believe that the three groups are incapable of finding enough common ground to formulate a religious curriculum that could be taught all three without doing violence to honest sectarian differences."

Also supporting religious education was J. E. Bradford, Jr., who pointed out that in rural areas such as this one many children live at considerable distances from churches and Sunday schools. "The need for religious education in our schools," he said, "appears even greater today than ever before."

"The religious education of the majority of rural children," he continued, "consists entirely of what is possible to give them through the program of religious instruction that has been made available through the efforts of our churches and ministers."

By law, religious education cannot be paid for through the public instruction system, Bradford pointed out. It must rather be carried on through contributions made through churches or otherwise.

Offering full support to the religious education program is the Prince William County Council of Churches, headed by Mrs. Paul Swigart as president with the following other officers: Rev. Albert C. Winn, first vice president; G. W. Garber, second vice president; L. J. Carper, secretary; Rev. C. L. Snaveley, treasurer, and the executive committee made up of:

D. W. Garber, J. E. Perdue, George Jones, John W. Ellis, J. L. Bushong, Stanley Owens, W. C. Sadd, Jack Fick, Jr., Rev. H. Fred Edgs, Rev. John D. Edens, Dr. H. E. Hudgins, Rev. E. Guthrie Brown, Rev. R. Earl Schlotzauer, Rev. Clark Wood, Rev. L. J. Tes'a, Rev. D. D. Fleishman, Mrs. H. S. Burchard, Mrs. L. J. Bowman, Mrs. Audrey Kerr, and Mrs. Paul Irvin.

The principal work of the council is the promotion of week-day religious education in the county's public schools. It depends upon churches, civic organizations and Dallas, Texas. Continued on Page 8

## News from Prince William Communities

### Nokesville

By Mrs. Fred T. Shepherd  
Put back 25c for each member of the family so you will have it ready to go to the show put on by amateurs in the local school sometime in the next week or two. Mr. George D'Agata and Miss Alma Watts have been working for several weeks lining up talent for the program since this was their month to plan the program for the P.-T. A. Prizes for first, second and third places will be awarded.

Do you remember the May Day programs at the school about 18 years ago? Well, Miss Watts and Mr. D'Agata are making plans for a real May Day affair the first week in May—definite date next week. There will be a Tom Thumb wedding by the children of Miss Wright's and Miss Ware's room, musical games by each of the other grades, with music by Mr. Barbers and the band. The afternoon noon festivities will also include the crowning of the King and Queen and the Court. We have so many of the children of the school can take part so we are Continued on Page 2

### Catharpin

By Mrs. Curtis Lanham  
The Catharpin Home Demonstration Club will visit Manassas on Thursday, April 20, to attend a demonstration of the model kitchen at the Prince William Electric Co-op.

Mrs. Lester Anderson entertained the second grade at the Gainesville school Wednesday, week ago, in honor of her daughter Peggy's birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Alvey and son, Ricky, of Orangeboro, Ky., Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Alvey, Jr. and daughter, Gale, of Roanoke and Lynn Alvey of VPI are expected this week for a visit with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Alvey.

Mr. and Mrs. Macon Piercy were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alvey.

Mrs. P. H. McPhillips is in the Lynchburg Hospital.

Currell Patie, of Falls Church, was a visitor in the Catharpin area on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Guiffré were dinner guests Friday night of Mr. and Mrs. Ugo Carusi in Washington. Continued on Page 10

### Dumfries

By Dorothy Acord  
Miss Elizabeth Brawner was dinner guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Burdette in Alexandria on Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Smith had as their guest from Saturday until Tuesday, Mr. Fred Koss from Washington.

Mrs. Warfield Brawner entertained at a luncheon on Thursday for Mrs. Harold Drake of Mt. Airy, Md. and Mrs. Bill Piper of Quantico.

Mr. and Mrs. Magruder Keys had as their dinner guests on Sunday their daughter, son-in-law and grandson, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fick, Jr. and John Frances.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Acord had as their guests Sunday, Mrs. M. E. Breenahan, Mrs. D. C. Thornton and Mrs. DeForge from Hillsdale, Md.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Milligan. Mr. Milligan's mother passed away on Thursday. The couple left Thursday evening to attend funeral services on Saturday in Tennessee.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bishon and Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Brawner visited. Continued on Page 12

### Quantico

By Lee Roy Peters  
The area of Dumfries was saddened Saturday by news of the death of Willis W. Sisson at his home where he had resided for a good number of years. He had worked at Fort Belvoir as a carpenter until a few weeks ago when he was laid off. He is survived by his wife, Mamie and two step-children, Edward Brauner of Washington, D. C. and Wilbur Brauner of Dumfries. Services were held at the Dumfries Methodist Church on Tuesday.

Quantico will fall into line with the Marine Corps on daylight time April 29. The town council will not take any official action on this problem but all merchants will conform with the Marine base. The daylight saving time will remain with us till the last week in September.

A fire started at the home of Mrs. Mary Queen, negro resident of Quantico, early Friday morning, due to a faulty chimney flu. The U. S. M. C. fire department was called shortly but arrived too late to save the house, but did prevent the fire from spreading.

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Mr. and Mrs. Elmer L. Ritenour of Catlett have announced the engagement of their daughter, Helen Louise, to Mr. O. D. Rickman of Dallas, Texas. Continued on Page 7

Twenty-five registered Jerseys in herd owned by Clover Hill have been classified under a program of The American Jersey Cattle Club. Of the 25 animals, 12 are Very Good, 14 Good Plus, 8 Good and 1 Fair. The classification program sponsored by The American Jersey Cattle Club is designed to help breeders of registered Jerseys improve their cattle on the basis of what comes closest to the breed's standard of perfection.

The Women's Guild of Bethel Lutheran Church had a party for the children of the church and their parents last Thursday evening, April 13. About 125 attended.

Father Charles Egbert Cornell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Cornell, of Bristol, was ordained a priest of the Catholic Church last Sunday at the Notre Dame Chapel at Trinity College, Washington. Archbishop O'Boyle conferred the sacrament of Holy Orders. Next Sunday, April 23, Father Cornell will say his first mass at St. Peter's Church, Washington.

A. Crummett, of Sullysburg, who has been under the weather with a cold, for some days, was in and out of Manassas on Monday evening recovered.