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Yearly Subscription, \$2.00 in advance in Prince William County

More Citizens
Should Attend
Town Council
Meetings. Know
Your Town Business

CIRCUIT COURT TO DECIDE ON REFUND TO HEALTH CENTER CONTRIBUTORS

Itinerant Termite Exterminators Seek Out Widows as Special Prey

If a stranger presents himself at your door and prophesies your house a shambles, attacked, chewed and digested, all in the space of an hour, with nothing left but few brass door knobs and the foundation, the guy is probably a fraud. Dismiss him from your premises!

That was the advice of the Manassas Chamber of Commerce after they heard at their Tuesday meeting how there are men traveling in Prince William County who pass themselves off as competent termite exterminators. Exorbitant prices are asked but the services rendered ultimately reveal a complete lack of appreciation of the ways of the termite.

Dr. George B. Cooke warned the Chamber against contracting with unknown men who purport themselves to be exterminators. A recent article in a Washington newspaper warned citizens of the metropolitan area to be on their guard and protect themselves from itinerant exterminators, he said.

Reportedly, there have been several instances recently in Manassas of people being taken for a far more financial damage than the termites could ever hope to produce. Strangers come and point out the dangers of termites in such a forceful way that few householders can resist employing them, it is said.

Once employed the pseudo-exterminator makes noise like an exterminator true, and exhibits enough professional show to convince the uninitiated, but in the end he may arrive at your house with a truck full of tools and a barrel full of chemicals, but chances are the chemicals are cut and he doesn't know which end to hold the tools by. In short the fellow would make a better sideshow barker than exterminator and there is not much good can be said of him.

Perhaps it is only a fierce hatred of wood-devouring insects that

causes him to recall instances of two-story houses suddenly crashing down in a heap around the ears of what had been a jolly, prosperous family. Or he may tell of the awful screams of pretty little babies who are awakened deep in the night by falling lumber bashing in their cribs.

And perhaps it is a neurotic fear of the termite that causes the self-professed exterminator to exaggerate the dangers of termites. Some Chamber members thought the menace was never great and the damage light even when the pests were given a head start.

And perhaps it is only a spirit of religious determination to rid the world of termites and their race that causes the faker to demand unreasonable remuneration, much like the Holy Crusaders felt fully justified in ravishing transperverly lands in order that they might prosecute their wars against the infidel.

But for none of these doubtful reasons does the stranger-exterminator solicit chiefly among aged widows. It doesn't take an experienced con man to perceive the lush possibilities of alarming a widow by picturing the unreal dangers to her home.

Mayor Harry P. Davis solemnly reported that three widows have recently come to him asking advice. In each case the woman had been visited by a strange man who told her of termites and of dangers to her house. One woman told the Mayor she had been asked \$900 for the job. He told her that if it cost that much to exterminate a house, she had better let the bugs eat their fill and then rebuild if needed. It wouldn't cost much more. Another woman was caught by His Honor just in time as she was preparing to fork over \$700 to have her house eradicated of termites.

Unfortunately, not everyone was safeguarded, the Mayor said, and

one widow came tearfully to him with a tale of having paid \$2,000 to exterminators. The men returned in several weeks and informed the woman that "wood worms" were now fast at work destroying her house. An additional \$500 was asked. Although she saw no "wood worms" she saw more termites and realized she had been cheated. The men disappeared.

These fraudulent exterminators will also give guarantees when the job has been completed to their satisfaction. R. Jackson Ratcliffe told the Chamber how he had his house exterminated two years ago and this Spring, after seeing termites again, he phoned the company who had supposedly rid his house. The Washington telephone operator informed him there was no such number listed in the directory, nor was there any such street address as given on the worthless piece of paper.

The Chamber of Commerce decided to bring the matter before Town Council and urge the adoption of some sort of regulation which would protect householders from dishonest solicitors.

There is a present Town regulation which requires all canvassers to be issued a permit at the office of the Town Manager, but it is not known whether this will apply to exterminators. This regulation was enforced several months ago when a group of crippled men came to town canvassing subscriptions to magazines.

Apparently the only bona fide insect exterminator now in Prince William County is located in Tri- angle where he has been for about two years. He is agent for a large, reputable Washington company and no complaints have been made of his services.

All offers by strangers to rid your house of termites, the Chamber thinks, ought to be heard with some suspicion.

Eastman Keys Murder Trial Verdict Today

A decision was expected this afternoon in the Eastman Keys murder trial, as the Journal went to press.

At noon, Commonwealth Attorney Stanley A. Owens was speaking to the jury, following the completion of testimony and examination of evidence. Circuit Court Judge Arthur Sinclair was expected to instruct the jury shortly afterward.

The present trial of Keys began yesterday. A deadlocked jury resulted July 25 when Keys was first brought to trial for the murder. The jury was reportedly deadlocked at 9-3. Owens announced then that he would bring Keys to trial at the next term of Court.

Eastman Keys is charged with the fatal shooting of his 44-year-old sister-in-law and housekeeper on March 16, 1948 at his home in Dumfries. On the same day Keys suffered a gunshot in his left arm that made amputation necessary. It is believed that he attempted suicide after shooting his sister-in-law.

Just as they did in the July trial, psychiatrists appeared yesterday as expert witnesses for both sides and held that Keys was mentally irresponsible at the time of the shooting and, conversely, that he was sane. Inability of the jury to reach a verdict on the point of Keys' sanity may again stretch the trial out to another term of the Court. The defense maintained that the shooting occurred while Keys was temporarily insane and the prosecution tried to establish that the shooting resulted from a fit of jealousy over the attentions paid Mrs. Char-

BOND ISSUE Attorney General J. Lindsay Almond ruled yesterday that a referendum on school bond issue may be held on the same day as the general election on November 7.

Almond thus cleared up misunderstanding in Prince William County over the possibility of holding the referendum on general election day. The Circuit Court must set the date for a referendum and it is now believed that Judge Brown will set the date for November 7.

In a letter to Commonwealth Attorney Stanley A. Owens, the attorney general said special ballots and special ballot boxes must be provided for such an election, which, he pointed out, technically is not a part of the general election.

Committee Hears Report On Highway

Since no decision has been announced by the CAA on the site of a proposed new Federal airport, backers of the Monticello Highway are not pressing their plans too far, hoping that the airport ultimately will be located in Fairfax or Prince William County where the Federal government would obligingly build a portion of the highway for them.

Possible sites suggested for the proposed airport have been almost as numerous as the aircraft field who would like somehow to tie in Monticello Highway with the airport have been in a spin.

At a closed meeting of the Executive Committee of the Monticello held in the Manassas Town Hall Tuesday night, members present heard a report on a recently completed engineering survey of the most favorable route for the new highway. Authorization for this survey had been given by the State Highway Department and the engineers were to recommend a likely route to the Department. About two months ago the boards of Supervisors of Fairfax and Prince William Counties voted to match State funds for the employment of Richmond engineers to make the survey. Fairfax contributed \$2,000; Prince William, \$1,000.

The engineer's survey, one member of the committee reported, recommended a route that begins at Edsall cloverleaf on Shirley Highway and runs southwest, through Chifton and intersects Route 25 in the vicinity of Yorkshire Acres. The route curves behind Manassas, crosses Route 234, and intersects Route 28 again, this time about one mile southeast of Manassas. The highway then is supposed to go straight south-west-south to Charlottesville.

General James A. Anderson, head of the State Highway Department, is reported to have told members of the committee that the highway is assured along the route described above. But only a two-lane highway can be built at first, he is reported to have said, the other two lanes will have to be built later.

Full Refund Or Pro Rata Is Question Owens Says

Whether full refunds legally can be made to contributors to the Prince William War Memorial Health Fund will be decided by the October term of the Circuit Court.

Commonwealth Attorney Stanley A. Owens handed this problem to the Court when he filed a petition asking whether the refund should be made in full or on a pro rata basis. The County treasurer has given holds about \$18,000 which was given and accepted on condition that it be used for the construction of a health center or clinic in honor of Prince William's war dead.

The County Board of Supervisors earlier this year decided not to appropriate the additional funds needed for the project, thus the legal problem of just how it should be refunded has been a perplexing one, since some of the money already has been spent.

The petition filed by Owens lists the names of several score contributors and the names of the other contributors numbering approximately 1700, are known to various members of the fund-raising committees.

In 1947 about \$14,800 was raised through public subscription for a war memorial and two years later the Board of Supervisors voted to transfer \$66,000 from the County general fund to the war memorial fund making a total of about \$24,800. However, \$6,476 was expended, chiefly for architect's fees (\$2,200) and for the purchase of a three-acre lot where the once-proposed health center was to be located. Thus, the Court must decide whether the County should return to each contributor 100 cents on his dollar, or to pro rate the expenses which would mean that each contributor would be refunded something less than 100 cents on his dollar.

When asked by the Journal, Owens stated it was his opinion that since funds were accepted initially on the condition that they be used for a specific purpose, and that now they were not to be used for that purpose, the contributors should have a complete 100 percent refund. Court action in the matter being necessary, he continued, because there is no precedent for this particular legal problem, and he felt a court determination of the matter ought to be sought for the guidance and protection of the Board of Supervisors and other County officials who will be called upon to issue refund checks.

Proposals for a war memorial originated shortly after the last war, at a meeting of interested citizens at the Courthouse. Plans for the solicitation of funds were made and later two committees, headed by D. J. Martin and Dr. E. H. Marsteller, collected about \$14,800 from residents of the County.

Gradually plans for a health center evolved and in 1949 the Board of Supervisors voted to add \$10,000 to that already privately collected and enable planners to apply for Federal and state grants, amounting to about \$50,000 for the construction of a health center.

As envisioned, the health center was to cost about \$75,000 and was to employ trained nurses on duty 24 hours a day, and be equipped with X-ray facilities. Physicians of this area were to be free to practice there.

However it became evident that a health center of this sort could not be built as clinical technicians were not available. Later, after discussion of other types of war memorials, the whole plan was dropped.

There the matter stood until some contributors to the fund began to ask for refunds of their money and County officials were perplexed, not knowing just how to go about refunding contributions after some of the money had been spent.

There is a possibility that the Court will direct the County to sell the three-acre lot bought for the site of the health center and return the revenue to the fund. In this event \$3,000, or almost half of the expenditures, would be saved. The lot is located on Sudley Road, just outside the Town limits.

Names of the five draftees from this area who will be inducted into the armed forces on September 23 are as follows: Thomas Lewis England, Fairfax Station; Charles Donald Smith, Gainesville; Allen Crover Ellison, Manassas; Allen Lewis Hartman, Woodbridge; and Robert Lee Jones, Dumfries. Twenty-seven men have been ordered to report to Richmond for physical examination on October 2. No draft quotas have yet been received by Prince William County for the months ahead.

The State Highway Department has let a contract for 3.4 miles of road surfacing on secondary Routes 38 and 642 to W. W. Sanders of Warrenton. The \$32,728 improvements will be made between Bethel and U. S. Route 1.

Members of the Manassas Baptist Church, under the direction of pastor John D. Edens, are preparing to take a religious census of Manassas and vicinity on Sunday afternoon, September 24. Cooperation is asked when the census taker calls.

All Northern Virginia owners of purebred dogs and puppies over the age of three months are invited to enter the Sanction Match of the Old Dominion Kennel Club which will be held Sunday, Oct. 1, at Beech Tree Farm, just off Route 50, outside Falls Church. According to Mark Taynton, chairman of the event, this will be an unusual opportunity for inexperienced dog owners to show their animals. All the judges will be professional handlers. Novices as well as those with some experience may obtain expert reaction to their handling technique.

Three hundred feet of water main are now being laid on Prescott Ave. from Center St. to the corporate limits. The new water line replaces a temporary one in the area and should afford better protection for business establishments in northeast Manassas.

The Rev. E. Fred Edge, pastor of Manassas Evangelical United Brethren Church, has been re-assigned for the coming year to the Manassas circuit by the Annual Conference held recently at Waynesboro.

The regular meeting of the Nova Shrine Club will be held next Monday evening at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Manassas. Refreshments at 6:30 p. m. and dinner at 7. A good speaker is promised.

The Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department will hold a baked ham and turkey supper in the fire hall of Friday, September 29, from 4 until 8 p. m. Proceeds are to benefit the firemen's building fund.

The first Fall meeting of the Manassas FFA will be held tonight at 8:30 in the Osburn high school auditorium. Teachers and parents are invited.

The district highway engineer at Fredericksburg has suggested a new approach to the problem of promiscuous roadside dumping of trash and garbage. Upon his recommendation the Garden Club of Fauquier County obtained a piece of land where the public was permitted to dump without charge, and three or four times a year the highway department smoothes the dump with a bulldozer. The County pays for the bulldozing, which amounts to about \$100 a year.

Mr. Egg has gotten too big for his breeches, says D. U. Livermore, VPI poultry marketing specialist. Successful efforts to breed larger eggs have resulted in eggs that no longer fit the standard shipping cartons. Livermore says that although there are 50 per cent more "fat" eggs and 100 per cent more "too long" eggs today than there were 30 years ago, the fillers and flats designed for 1917 model eggs are still being used, resulting in damage in transit.

William White: second place in Senior Calf Class for Guernseys and winner of Reserve Champion Junior Heifer. William Davis: animal placed fourth in class for Senior Calves; Lloyd Davis took fifth in the blue Ribbon Class and Leonard Yankey had a white ribbon animal.

Harry Miller, Jr. won a first with his Senior Holstein Calf and also had the Grand Champion Holstein Calf. Junior Cowne topped the class in Holstein Heifers and with the same animal won the Grand Champion of the show.

Lester Parsons placed first in the Senior Heifers, Jimmy Flickinger second, and Junior Cowne third.

Lester Parsons had the Senior Champion Female and Jimmy Flickinger had the Reserve Champion Senior Female.

In the Fitting Class: William White won second, Junior Cowne third, Harry Miller, Jr., fourth Charles Caton fifth, and Jimmy Flickinger sixth.

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Bond Issue For Drain System Before Council

Manassas Town Council, at its Monday meeting will consider the feasibility of a \$20,000 bond issue to finance a drainage system to relieve the northeast area of town from surface water after heavy rainfalls.

Town Manager James Ritter says he favors a general obligation bond issue as the only way to obtain funds for the needed project.

At its last meeting Council discussed digging an open ditch through property owned by the Manassas Recreation Association to carry off the excess water which accumulates west of Centreville Road after heavy rains.

Council also considered the possibility of building a system of culverts from Centreville Road to Grant Avenue.

Richard Worthington, resident highway engineer, earlier told Council that, although he could not make official promises, he thought the State might contribute to the cost of culverts under Grant Ave., since Grant (Route 234) is part of the State highway system.

Vets Farm Club Says 'Thanks' For Fair Help

Following is a letter received from Joseph Johnson, president of the Veterans' Farm Club in which he expresses thanks for cooperation and encouragement given the Club in its recent successful efforts to revive the Prince William County Fair. The fair, held last month, was the first in Prince William for almost 30 years.

September 20, 1950.

The Prince William County Fair Committee is both proud and happy to publicly thank the Manassas Journal for its wholehearted and enthusiastic support in the establishment of the first Prince William County Fair in many years. We feel that this type of fair has long been needed and we shall devote our efforts to have it repeated in the years to come.

The cooperation of the many public-spirited citizens, who gave freely of their time and effort, is acknowledged: Mrs. Leona Barlow, who so capably handled the Home-making Exhibits, with the able assistance of Mrs. Helen Champion and the other members of the County Home Demonstration Clubs; County Agent Frank Cox and his assistant, Charles Hall; and Philip B. Reading and Raymond R. Fish-paw, Vocational Agriculture Instructor.

We are grateful to our local merchants for their cooperation in entering displays of merchandise and lending their financial assistance.

Through the generosity of the Board of Directors of Longview Park, and Mr. John Counts, manager, the park grounds were made available to the committee for the three days of the Fair. The convenient location and many facilities of Longview Park made it an ideal site for the event.

We wish especially to thank the people who donated registered calves which were awarded as prizes to FFA and 4-H Club boys in the livestock and dairy classes:

Mrs. Olive M. Hooker—Holstein, L. R. Cowne—Holstein, Harry Miller and son—Holstein, Harry Wilson—Holstein bull.

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Obituaries

J. Willard Greene

J. Willard Greene, 70, a native of Manassas, died last week in a Washington sanitarium. A resident of Washington, he was a retired metropolitan police sergeant.

Mr. Greene was a frequent visitor to Manassas where he had spent his childhood and school years. His mother lived here until her death a few years ago. Mr. Greene retired from the Washington police force 25 years ago after serving for 23 years.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Catherine Marie Greene of Washington, a daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Sangster of Colesville, Md., and two sons, J. Willard Greene, Jr. of Washington, and Eugene W. Greene of Seat Pleasant, Md. Also surviving are two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday in Washington with burial in the family cemetery at Bradley, near Manassas.

CLUBS

U. D. C.

The October meeting of the 8th Virginia Regiment chapter, U.D.C., was held this week in Memorial Hall, Hickory Grove. The president, Mrs. R. B. Gossom, was in the chair.

By request, Mrs. R. J. Wayland, first vice-president of the Manassas chapter, presided in the order of business.

The Chapter report to the Virginia Division Convention, to be held in Norfolk, October 3-5, was read by the secretary.

Several readings were given by Miss Margaret Shirley. The U. D. C. objectives were stated by Miss Isabelle Hutchison, president of the Manassas chapter.

Election of officers followed and Mrs. Robert Conner was elected president, Mrs. Barton Padgett, vice-president; Mrs. Henry Thomas, recording secretary; Miss May Ewell, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Gales Hutchison, treasurer; and Miss Randolph Smith, recorder of crosses. Mrs. R. B. Gossom was unanimously elected president emerita.

The invitation of Miss Shirley to hold the next meeting at the Old Shirley home, "Oakshade" was accepted.

A delightful social hour with delicious cakes and fruit punch, followed.

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Nokesville FFA Members Win Cattle Show

The Brentsville High School FFA members added another string of ribbons, trophies and cash prizes to their belts yesterday at the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair cattle show.

Nine boys from Nokesville carried twelve animals to Fredericksburg and returned with \$177 in cash prizes, two trophies and over twenty ribbons. In three recent cattle shows the FFA boys have won a total of \$469, four pure bred calves, and three trophies.

Winners at the Fredericksburg show were: Charles Caton, 1st place in Senior Calf Class and Grand Champion Junior Female Guernsey; and second place in class for senior Heifers and Guernseys.

News from Prince William Communities

Nokesville
By Mrs. Fred Shepherd
Sixteen members of the religious education committee of the Brentsville district, representing all the churches of the district who take part in the religious education in our school, met at the Nokesville Church of the Brethren on Monday night for a meeting. Officers for the coming year are the same as last: president, Rev. D. D. Fleishman; vice-president, George Sonafank; secretary, Mrs. Ed. Michael, and treasurer, Miss Frances Owens. Among the business matters taken up was the beginning of plans to have another East-side-West-side basketball game during the winter. Remember last year's grand evening of entertainment?

The "Old" teachers of our school entertained the "New" teachers at the gym on Thursday when the former prepared a delicious supper and planned the evening's entertainment.

Mrs. J. F. Hale entertained the W. S. C. S. at her home on Monday. Continued on Page 2

Haymarket
By Mrs. A. H. Meyers
The Gainesville District Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will have a ham luncheon on September 23 in the fire hall, from 11:30 till 2. Public is invited.

Don't forget the card party sponsored by the Woman's Club to be held at the home of Mrs. A. Kerr on Wednesday evening, September 27 at 8 p. m. Members and their friends are cordially invited.

Mr. R. A. Todd of Staunton, Va., is spending several days at the home of his sister, Mrs. A. R. G. Bass.

Mrs. George Gossom, Miss Virginia Carroll, and Mr. Preston Carroll left Tuesday to visit their sister in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Mrs. C. L. Rector is on an extended visit at the home of her brother-in-law, Mr. E. R. Rector, in Woodbridge, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Fewell Melton and sons, Bobby and Eddy, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Thomas and daughter, Nancy, and Mr. Homer Allison. Continued on Page 6

Dumfries
By Dorothy Acord
Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Martin spent the day at Luray Caverns on Sunday sightseeing.

Mr. Dick Hornsby, who is stationed at Camp Lejeune, N. C., was home for the week-end visiting his daughter, Jeannie, and Mr. and Mrs. Elvan Keys.

Guests of Mrs. Ira Hill on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pease from Arlington.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Cline and family over the week-end were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Cornwell from Washington.

Mrs. Bill Lint left for Camp Lejeune, N. C. to stay with her husband for a week.

Mr. Beryl Taylor was home for three days last week visiting his wife, Hazel. Mr. Taylor left Thursday evening to board his ship in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Coulter announced the birth of a boy, born on Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Smith. Continued on Page 2

Centreville
By Nora Good
Mrs. R. E. Martin has returned home from Georgetown Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Harris of Colonial Village were Saturday night visitors. Mr. Harris had week-end leave from his duties with the armed forces.

There will be a PTA meeting in the schoolhouse on Sept. 19.

Roger Burke is going to drive the school bus that Denny Robertson has been driving. Mr. Robertson has been put in charge of incoming and outgoing freight for the school board.

Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Allison and Johnny of the Greenbrier Apartments had dinner Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. William Good. Mrs. Nora Good presented Mrs. Howe's second grade with an electric wall clock last week.

Mr. Henry Wells is leaving Monday for duty with the armed forces. He was with the Navy in World War II.

Mrs. Lester Nichols visited her. Continued on Page 6

Telephone Manager Now Improving
J. A. Vetter, general manager of the Central Mutual Telephone Company, following an operation September 13 for gallstones, is feeling much better and resting comfortably, according to his son, Stuart Vetter, of Manassas.

Lung complications developed after the operation and Vetter, in critical condition, was placed under an oxygen tent. His condition was enough improved by September 17 to permit physicians to remove the tent, but Vetter is not expected home for at least another week.

Vetter entered the hospital September 5 for observation after being in a run-down condition for several weeks.

Word comes that after two consecutive mild winters, State highway forces in Prince William County are expecting a severe one this year and have been ordered to take every possible precaution so that road damage from wintry weather may be minimized in this County.

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