

The Manassas Journal



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THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1951

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Manassas 'Goes Hollywood' As Movie Scenes Are Shot

Local Ball Club Getting Ready For '51

Plans for baseball in Manassas this season were formulated at an organization of players and interested fans here Monday night.

Last year Manassas had two ball clubs but with the Red Sox apparently out of the picture, it looks as if the Manassas "Macs" will be town's entry in the diamond sport.

"The Macs" at their meeting Monday elected, subject to acceptance, the following officers: President, Bill Saylor; vice-president, John Parrish; secretary-treasurer, Turner Wheeling; field manager, Kite Roseberry; business manager, Stuart Vetter; publicity manager, Buddy Merchant.

The advisability of entering two leagues this season was discussed. Maurice Smith and Kite Roseberry were named as a committee to attend a meeting of the newly organized "night" league.

Although no definite date has been set for practice, it is expected to start in the very near future. Former players with local Red Sox, it is understood, will join up with the Triangle Red Sox.

At the moment, it looks as if the "Macs" will have a strong hitting and fielding team but are weak in pitching and behind the plate.

At Haymarket, the Rev. T. E. Boorde, pastor, the evangelist will be Rev. Robert L. Allen, of Washington.

At Triangle, the Rev. Herbert Keam, pastor, the evangelists will be Rev. V. T. Glass, Nashville, Tenn., and Rev. Ben S. Price, Purcellville, Va.

ENLIST IN GUARD Two new enlistees were sworn into the 177th AAA Operations Detachment, Virginia National Guard Unit, at the armory here today night, it was announced.

While the scenes were taken, hundreds lined the area to watch the setting up of cameras, sound truck, etc., and the actual "shooting."

Mr. Woolstunhume spoke highly of the fine cooperation of Town Manager Ritter and other officials in making it possible to film the scenes here. He stated that the picture would probably be ready for release by June.

Appointive officers inducted were: Adjutant, Curtis L. Polen; officer of the day, John E. Martin; instructor and historian, Alfred J. Peterson; service officer, James L. Gregory; legislative, Marvin Evans; adjutant, Russell H. Polen.

Named as guard and color bearers were James L. Gregory, Donald Nalls, Paul Mauk, Melvin Slusher, Clyde Albrite, Curtis Polen and John C. Glass. Five awarded medals for merit for securing 5 new members during the year. A medal was also awarded S. Eugene Worley, who secured 25 members.

Commander Dalby praised the Post for its splendid record the past year. The local Post was the second in the state to reach its membership goal and had the distinction of being the only Post in the 8th District to attain its quota of members.

IN MEDITERRANEAN Robert V. Clifton, seaman, USN is Route 1, Box 56, Hickory, Va., is serving aboard the light cruiser USS Roanoke operating in the Mediterranean as a unit of Vice Admiral John J. Ballentine's Sixth Fleet.

Several door prizes will be awarded, including a 500-lb. bag of feed. Attractive displays will be set up in the sales room. Manager Byrd anticipates a big turnout for the affair.

Baptists Engage In 'Fixing' Bee

"Where there's a will, there's a way" . . . as several members of the Manassas Baptist Church are finding out this week.

Sore muscles, lame backs and a few smashed fingers are no deterrent to the enthusiasm with which they have attacked the job of fixing up the unfinished third floor of the church's educational building.

More room was needed for education facilities, so a number volunteered and set to work with hammer and saw to put the third floor in shape. The ladies also cooperated by preparing supper for the workers and refreshments afterwards.

Baptists To Hold Revival For 2 Weeks

Simultaneously with 34 churches in Northern Virginia, the Baptist churches of Prince William county will hold a two-week revival.

These evangelistic services held in cooperation with the entire Southern Baptist Conference, east of the Mississippi, are expected to attract thousands.

Rev. John D. Edens, pastor, will conduct the revival at the Manassas Baptist Church, which will begin Easter Sunday and continue through Sunday, April 8th. Services will be held each evening at 7 o'clock.

At Woodbine Baptist Church, Manassas, of which Rev. C. W. Dick is pastor, the visiting evangelist will be Rev. R. E. Blackstone, of Ontario, Canada.

At Haymarket, the Rev. T. E. Boorde, pastor, the evangelist will be Rev. Robert L. Allen, of Washington.

At Triangle, the Rev. Herbert Keam, pastor, the evangelists will be Rev. V. T. Glass, Nashville, Tenn., and Rev. Ben S. Price, Purcellville, Va.

The Board of Supervisors received from the County School Board today a request for the allocation, out of current tax revenues during the next fiscal year, of \$97,000, as capital outlay to provide for a stop-gap school construction program, to alleviate unbearable conditions now existing in county schools.

This amount would be supplemented by \$268,950, available from the State "Battle" fund, making a total of \$365,950, and would be expended as follows: Occoquan Elementary School, addition of six classrooms and cafeteria, estimated cost \$150,000; Bennett Elementary, six classrooms, cafeteria addition, shop, estimated cost \$190,000; Nokesville School, new agriculture shop and converting present shop into three classrooms, estimated cost \$25,000.

On the basis of estimated County assessment to \$19,500,000, for next year, the allocation of \$97,000 would probably mean a special school construction levy of 50c per \$100 of assessed valuation. Present school levy for operation and fixed charges is \$2.30.

Approval is sought for an operating budget of \$807,745, an increase over this year of \$80,205. Increase in instructional cost accounts for \$68,885, of this amount, and represents the normal increase in present teachers' salaries under the new salary schedule, the addition of an elementary supervisor and eight teachers, and an increase in tuition paid by the County to the Regional High School and the Technical School due to the greater numbers of students who will enroll in those schools next year. Instructional cost represents about 73 per cent of the total operating budget.

The remaining \$14,320 of the increase is accounted for in administrative and general operating expenses, including normal increases of teachers' salaries.

The budget provides for the purchase of three additional buses, the replacement of one bus, and for the change over of the heating plant at Osbourn High School to an automatic type, either gas or oil.

The "click" of movie cameras and the bustle of activity, that goes with handling and setting up equipment necessary to shoot a movie, has Hollywood taking over Manassas this week.

Famous screen stars, directors, technicians and a gang of experienced laborers, etc., descended on this quiet community early Wednesday morning as Paramount Pictures prepared to use local background for scenes in the movie film, "My Son John."

As the Journal goes to press the town was still agog over the movie colony, which had invaded the community and intended to complete "shooting" today.

Charles Woolstunhume, unit production manager, of Paramount, stated that three sequences were to be filmed here, with most of the "shooting" taking place at the residence of Mrs. W. L. Lloyd on West street.

The production concern: the story of an average American family and their two sons going off to war. Helen Hays, noted stage star, plays the mother and Dean Jagger, the father. The two sons are Richard Jaeckle and James Young. Leo McCarey, famous for his productions, "Going My Way" and "For When the Bells Toll" is director.

One of the scenes taken at the local Lloyd home, which was chosen because it was typical of an average small town American home, shows the sons in uniform tossing a football in the street, with their father standing in front of the house, all waiting for Mom (Helen Hays) to come out of the house and join them, as the boys set off for Korea.

Another scene, typically "family," is filmed in the backyard. The last scene to be taken here today will be the Prince William county courthouse, it is understood.

Mr. Woolstunhume, who made arrangements for the scenes here, stated that there are about 70 employees in the movie group. Of these were 44 from Hollywood which were flown to Washington by plane, including the stars, technicians and also equipment.

There were five from New York City and about 15 extras, chosen from among Washington residents. A caravan of limousines, station wagons, buses and big moving vans brought the personnel and equipment here from Washington both mornings.

The company brought its own portable power generator, and even a caterer to prepare and serve luncheon at the Trinity Church parish house.

While the scenes were taken, hundreds lined the area to watch the setting up of cameras, sound truck, etc., and the actual "shooting."

It is estimated that several thousand people at one time or other came to see the movie in production. Six local officers were hired at \$15 per day to handle the crowds and traffic.

Mr. Woolstunhume spoke highly of the fine cooperation of Town Manager Ritter and other officials in making it possible to film the scenes here. He stated that the picture would probably be ready for release by June.

Appointive officers inducted were: Adjutant, Curtis L. Polen; officer of the day, John E. Martin; instructor and historian, Alfred J. Peterson; service officer, James L. Gregory; legislative, Marvin Evans; adjutant, Russell H. Polen.

Named as guard and color bearers were James L. Gregory, Donald Nalls, Paul Mauk, Melvin Slusher, Clyde Albrite, Curtis Polen and John C. Glass. Five awarded medals for merit for securing 5 new members during the year. A medal was also awarded S. Eugene Worley, who secured 25 members.

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FRANCIS S. VAN DOREN has announced that he will seek election as supervisor from Coles District.

Van Doren Will Enter Race For Supervisor

Francis S. Van Doren, of Manassas, R.F.D. 2, announced this week that he would be a candidate for supervisor representing the Coles District, subject to the Democratic Primary, August 6.

The present supervisor from Coles District is the Rev. Murray Taylor, who serves as chairman of the Prince William County board of supervisors. Although Mr. Taylor could not be reached today, it is understood that he will seek re-nomination which indicates a two-cornered contest for supervisor in the Coles District.

The new candidate is a farmer and retired government employee. He saw 21 years service with the government, of which five years was with the Board of Examiners, 4th Civil Service District.

Mr. Van Doren has served 10 years as director of the Prince William Rural Electric Cooperative, being one of the original directors. He has also served the REA as secretary-treasurer, and the past year as president of the board of directors.

He is originally from Arlington county, coming to Prince William about 12 years ago. While in Arlington, he was active for 19 years in Boy Scout work. He was also secretary of Independent Hill Fire Department.

VFW Officers Installed At Meeting Here

Newly elected officers of Francis Cannon Post, No. 7589, Veterans of Foreign Wars, were installed in an impressive ceremony at the Post home Monday night.

The installing officer was George C. Dalby, commander of the Virginia 8th District. Those talking office were: Commander, James V. Davis, Jr.; senior vice commander, Leon C. Mills; junior vice commander, Harvey Luck; quartermaster, Sidney E. Worley; advocate, Robert Swank; chaplain, C. H. Wine, Sr.; surgeon, C. B. Roland; trustee 3 years, Martin C. Weisenthal.

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Clean-Up Week Dates Are Set; 100th Member Joins Chamber

Tractor Turns Over, Killing County Farmer

William V. Swartz, 50, a Nokesville farmer, was killed early this morning when a tractor he was operating overturned in a wooded area near his home.

Mr. Swartz' chest was struck and crushed by the seat of the tractor. He was discovered by his father, F. M. Swartz, Nokesville, and Grover Bailey, Nokesville.

Mr. Swartz had been a resident of the Nokesville community for 36 years. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Bessie Swartz, one brother and two sisters.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed Thursday afternoon.

Red Cross Has Nearly Half Drive Quota

Returns from four of the six districts of the county show that Prince William workers have raised to date a total of \$1,386.94, or 42% of this year's goal of \$3,300, according to a statement this work from Mrs. Joseph Mills Hanson, fund chairman.

Of the districts reporting, Manassas shows a total of \$1,008.19 turned in, or 61% of its \$1,650 quota; Bentsville, \$178.20, 54% of a \$330 quota; Gainesville, \$80.05, 21% of its \$330 quota; and Occoquan, \$88.50 or 27% of its \$330 goal.

The report also includes unallocated contributions totalling \$32. Mrs. Hanson said, and stated that prospects for attaining this year's goal are fair, since only about a third of the workers enrolled throughout the county have made returns thus far.

Communications from National Headquarters ask that workers be urged to complete solicitations as soon as possible and to cover areas thoroughly, as this is vital if Red Cross is to serve effectively our armed forces at home and abroad.

Better Pasture Program Off To Good Start

Dr. Grover F. Brown, chairman of the Prince William County pasture committee, called his committee together at the County Agent's office Saturday afternoon to begin work on the pasture improvement program for this year.

Dr. Brown, who is chief agronomist for the Soil Conservation Service gave a brief summary of the pasture improvement program from the national level. A score card for the pasture contest was discussed and it was decided that the following committee members representing the five districts of the county would submit a tentative score card at the next committee meeting from which the county score card will be taken: Manassas District, W. M. Johnson; Bentsville, Philip Reading; Dumfries-Coles, Alan Staples; Gainesville, Gordon Jarr; Occoquan, E. W. Thompson, Jr.

The pasture committee will hold its next meeting to complete the county score card March 30 at the Bentsville School in Nokesville. A supper meeting to bring together public and commercial agencies of the county interested in the pasture program will be held at the Stonehall Jackson Hotel on April 2 at 7:30 p.m. Invitations for the dinner have been mailed out.

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Not one but two weeks have been set for the observance of Clean-Up Week in the county, it was announced at the regular luncheon meeting of the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday noon.

The Clean-Up committee, which is headed by D. M. Kelso, has specified the last week in April, and the first week in May for the clean-up program.

Tentative plans for the project were outlined by the chairman and immediate action will be taken to contact the various communities in the county so that the observance will be coordinated throughout Prince William.

Various organizations and individual citizens will be recruited to help in the clean-up and beautification program.

The meeting was largely attended by members, and there were several special guests.

Caton Merchant, Manassas business man, was accepted as the 100th member of the Chamber. He was presented by Dr. George B. Cooke.

R. Worth Peters, county superintendent of schools, was the principal speaker. He outlined the immediate needs of the school system and also spoke of future building plans and the necessity of expansion of school facilities.

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Lions Annual Music Festival Delights Capacity Audience

The 4th annual Music Festival of the Manassas Lions Club drew a capacity audience at the Osbourn High School auditorium Friday evening.

Featuring the National Symphony Orchestra, of Washington, under direction of Dr. Howard Mitchell, which has played on this occasion for the third successive year, proved again a rare musical treat for the community.

To quote Dr. Mitchell . . . "it was the most responsive audience he has appeared before, in Manassas."

Ned Bradford, president of the Lions Club, was highly complimented on the unqualified success of the affair, which proved a complete sell-out and enabled the club to meet the heavy expense incurred in bringing such an outstanding musical organization to a town as small as Manassas.

Many termed the program the most pleasing ever presented here. Every selection was enthusiastically received and applauded.

Patrons from the District Home were guests of the club for the occasion.

As if speaking the feelings of their citizens, one person stated that the Festival in his opinion has become the occasion of the year for Manassas.

PTA Votes Teachers Support; Spokesmen Defend Bell Test

Any breach, if one actually existed, between the teacher and the parent elements of the Manassas PTA appeared to be healed as the result of action taken last Thursday night at the regular meeting of PTA members.

Rightly or wrongly, a considerable segment of the teachers had become sensitive to the linking of the name of the PTA in publicity in recent months, the latest being the criticism against the use of the Bell Inventory Test.

Jack Merchant, vice president of the PTA, offered a resolution "That the PTA make a statement that they will support the teachers, as they appreciate their efforts, as they always have, and that we will continue to support them."

Reverend Fred Edge then offered an amendment to the resolution to include the school administration in the PTA's statement of support. The vote on the amendments brought forth a lusty chorus of "ayes," and only one or two voices were heard when the "noes" were called. The vote was unanimously in favor of the resolution as amended.

Speaks for Teachers. Donald Marang, an 8th grade teacher, apparently summed up the feeling of the majority of teachers, when in the discussion of the pending resolution, he said, "I have been a little upset and that is not caused by the parents or by the students. The break is between teachers and the newspaper that has set itself up as the spokesman for the County. It is the newspaper that has been writing the editorials attacking the school this year. . . . It has upset

students, teachers and the public. The editorials are not helping. Let them be sure that when you attack Mr. Peters you are attacking Mr. Marang and the other teachers in the school (much applause) . . . I don't think the children are not disturbed over it. They are. When you say one word against the school or against the people who are over the school you are hitting the authority of it. Teachers in the elementary schools have students who stand up and tell them what they will do and what they will not do. Where do they get this? It is coming from home. . . . Always belittling teachers or attacking them does not help at all. . . . I would like to see more parents come into my classroom."

In making a plea for more cooperation between parents and teachers, Mr. Marang further said, "Before writing the editorial, if the writer had thought it over, come in and talked to the school authorities, all this confusion could have been avoided. I gave the test; I studied about the test when I was in college. It is classed as one of the greatest and best psychological tests ever put out. Wait a while and try to learn something about it before you speak."

Further business conducted, included the appointment of a committee composed of Colonel E. L. Rice, Jack Merchant and Stanley Owens, to draft suitable memorial resolutions upon the passing of Miss Eugenia Osbourn.

New By-Laws. A new set of by-laws, in accordance with the policies and organization of the national and state Congress of Parents and Teachers, will be considered for adoption at the April meeting. Mrs. Marie Barrett, Mrs. Claude Tipton and John Champion were elected as a nominating committee, to present nominations for the election of officers slated for the April meeting.

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Advertisement for HIBBIE'S 115 N. Main St. Manassas, Va. "Everything Electrical" It is prompt and efficient. It counts and we provide it everywhere.