

Va - Prin Am / Bel Air

SECTION B

Prince William
Living
People Leisure Home

MANASSAS, VIRGINIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1974

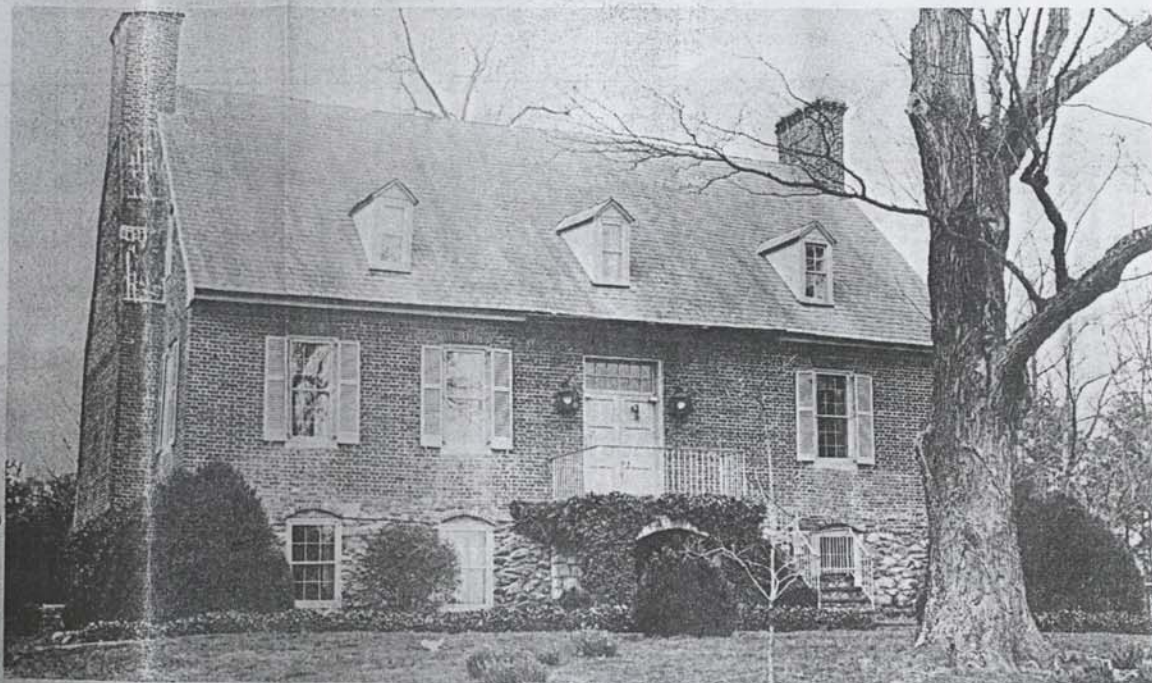


VIRGINIANA FILE
Public Historic Sites
(Bel Air)

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

Bel Air Mistress Has Never Seen A Ghost



The spirits of Bel Air
may have also
wanted recognition...
a blue and white book
fell off the shelf,
knocking her on the
forehead. When

**BEL AIR
PLANTATION**
PRIVATE ROAD
NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC



The spirits of Bel Air may have also wanted recognition... a blue and white book fell off the shelf, knocking her on the forehead. When the book was retrieved its title—"Virginia Ghosts"—stood out in eerie bold letters.



By MARGARET ELIAN CLARK

Some say that Bel Air Plantation near Dale City is haunted, but Mrs. Ann Flory who has lived there with her husband, William since 1949 said she has never seen a ghost.

"There is a legend that the spirits return on the night following the anniversary of the death of any member of the Ewell family who used to live here as early as 1740. They are said to have a midnight feast—strange lights shine through the windows and all," Mrs. Flory related.

When asked if she had ever looked for evidence of this she smiled, "No, but we had visitors at one time who refused to occupy our guest room after saying that on three consecutive nights, something or someone had pulled all of the covers off the bed when they were asleep. They insisted that they were unwelcome in that room."

Driving through the gates of Bel Air Plantation gives the same mysterious and thrilling feeling as that of reading "Jane Eyre," for the first time. The

daughter married Parson Mason Locke Weems, the first biographer of George Washington. They lived at Bel Air for a time, but Mrs. Weems "longed for the bright lights of Dumfries," according to Mrs. Flory. "We are in the process of trying to restore the Parson Weems house in Dumfries in time for the Bicentennial in 1976," she added.

Mrs. Flory, a member of Historical Dumfries of Virginia, took out a 60-day option in order to try to save it. "Otherwise it would have been demolished," she said.

A busy woman, Mrs. Flory is immersed in her work as chairman of the Bicentennial Committee for both Dumfries and Pohick. "It's almost serendipity to be confronted with two such challenging projects at one time."

Mrs. Flory is not a stranger to organizing on a large scale. She was once employed as director of compensation for the Post Office Department where she was responsible for over 700,000 people. "Being involved as volunteer is a little different, she

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narrow path twists and turns until suddenly the two and one-half story house with its pre-Georgian front looms up at the top of the hill.

Mrs. Flory, who is soft spoken and interesting enough to be a Bronte heroine, greets the visitor with a warm handshake that dispels any anxiety about being transported so suddenly into the 18th Century.

The house has 14 rooms. The main floor was constructed in 1740 by Major Charles Ewell, and it is believed that the stone walls of the ground floor were erected at an earlier date. The walls are as thick as three feet in some areas, and it boasts a huge 20-foot outside chimney on the southwest side.

The first restoration of the home was around 1875, and it required only minor structural alterations. It has been described as a "modern dwelling, which retains its integrity as a pre-revolutionary building.

Mrs. Flory has furnished it tastefully with some family pieces that date as late as the 19th Century. An impressive portrait hangs in the hall showing a young and beautiful girl was a personal friend of Mrs. Flory. It was painted by Paul Bartlett and at one time hung in the Chicago Museum.

In 1795, Colonel Jesse Ewell's

mused, "You have to think up creative ways to interest people in wanting to help."

Parson Weems' biography on George Washington "was a great influence on Abraham Lincoln," said Mrs. Flory, opening a cabinet of rare editions and newer volumes of books.

The spirits of Bel Air may have also wanted recognition because when she reached for the biography by Parson Weems, a blue and white book fell off the shelf, knocking her on the forehead. When the book was retrieved, it's title—"Virginia Ghosts"—stood out in eerie bold letters.

**Course Being Offered
On Single Parent Life**

The Fairfax Chapter of Parents Without Partners and Fairfax County Adult Education are offering a course on Single Parent Life beginning Tuesday, April 16, 8 p.m.

The class is a series of six discussions dealing with the problems of the newly separated, divorced, widowed or those facing possible separation.

For information concerning registration call the Annandale Adult Center, 256-8448.

Everybody needs to hear money jingle in their pockets and know that they can spend it on whatever they desire. The trick is to be able to afford that jingle.

Hilda Daily, Extension specialist in home management, says it's easy once you learn how to guide your income when it's on the outgo.

Thirty-one women signed up for the VPI Extension Office seminar, "Finances Need A Tune-Up?", but only three showed up at the Prince William County Library, to hear Miss Daily's advice on money planning.

Values Count

A complicated mental process that boils down to realizing personal values is the key to money management, according to the home management specialist. "Money management is simply decision making. We decide how much money we will spend on housing, clothing, food and recreation, and we make those decisions by acting on what is most important to us."

The first step to getting more from your money, Miss Daily says, is to realize what your own personal values are. "You should be able to put your money where your values are. If you do what the Joneses do you're just following your neighbor. You haven't thought about what is important to you."

Giant Wish-book

Decide what you want. Set a goal. If you're the member of a family find out what each member of your family wants and then make a list of priorities.

Deciding where you want your money to go can be fun. It's like turning the world into a giant wish-book from which to choose whatever you want.

After you've decided on security, a new car, or an expensive vacation, you have to return to reality to determine

what you have to work with.

How is your income being spent now? How do you want to use it? And where can you make changes in your present spending habits?

Two Goals

"You have to have two kinds of goals," said Miss Daily. "You have to have a goal to be able to meet everyday living expenses, and you have to have as a goal to be able to afford your wants."

To be able to meet both those desires

you have to plan ahead and keep track of where you're going. "Is it going for fun things you aren't really buying that are actually lowering your income?"

Getting more mileage from money is a lengthy process something you can do week or this month and the next month.

"It takes at least three months to accurately determine how

Affording That Pocket

