

Prince William Aide Operates in Jail

By LEE FLOR
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For the last eight months, the Prince William County government has had its assistant executive secretary in jail.

The official, Gerald H. Gregory, is good-natured about the situation. He claims to like his jail, even though "it is a bit drafty in the winter" and has had blacksnakes in the attic.

Numerous birds have been busy building nests in the walls of the jail this spring and the chirping has been "a most pleasing sound," Gregory said.

Constructed in 1822

The old jail at Brentsville, Va., was built in 1822, apparently its bricks being baked on the site. Because the bricks were not kiln-baked at a high temperature, woodpeckers and other birds apparently have an easy time boring holes through them. There are many bird nests near almost every window frame.

Gregory, a lover of fine old buildings, managed to get permission last summer from the county to move his offices into the old jail building. "We didn't have the office space at the courthouse in Manassas," he said.

The old jail was built when the county decided to move its courthouse complex from Dumfries, along the Potomac River, to a more central location in the county.



Gerald H. Gregory relaxes near his office, a 19th century jail, in the background.

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PWC-Historical Sites
(Brentsville Jail)

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