

Leesylvania State Park Is Dedicated

By BETTY CALVIN

JM Staff Writer

4/29/85

Retiring Virginia Del. Floyd Bagley, D-Prince William, seems to have stolen the show Saturday at the dedication of Leesylvania State Park.

Bagley, a Virginian by choice but not by birth, told *The Journal Messenger* he had researched history and had come up with a fact he later mentioned in his remarks at the ceremony.

He was subsequently reported by news media as pointing out that the date of the dedication, as the anniversary of the birth of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, April 27, 1822. Many of those in the audience bore name tags bearing the name Lee, as descendants of Gen. Robert E. Lee, for whose family the park is named.

The 500-acre park lies on the shores of the Potomac south of Woodbridge, and three miles northeast of Dumfries, on Va. 610.

Cosponsored by the Society of The Lees of Virginia and the Virginia Division of Parks and Recreation, dedication program took place Saturday afternoon at the site. The annual meeting of the Lees also took place.

Selected to become a state facility in 1978, the land had been owned by billionaire landowner Daniel K.

Ludwig, of the American-Hawaiian Steamship Co. He donated the 508-acre site and reportedly was granted some handsome tax writeoffs as a result.

Phase I development, to be completed by 1987, will include launching facilities for motor and sail boats, a picnic area, parking, restrooms, nature trails, a beach and other support systems.

Subsequently, plans will be implemented to include a swimming pool, concession area, visitor center and other day-use facilities. Prince William Park Authority plans to develop a segment of the park, also.

A plaque honoring the birthplace of Light Horse Harry Lee and home of the family of Henry Lee II and his wife, grandparents of Robert E. Lee, was unveiled. State and local elected officials, including Del. David Brickley, D-Prince William, participated.

Richard Groover, state staffman, said he expects the park to attract about 200,000 visitors a year, when completed.

Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Resources Betty Diener noted that Northern Virginia has 25 percent of the population of the Commonwealth and thus has a great need for more recreation and park opportunities.