



Chris Nilsen—Journal Messenger

Turn-of-the-century Sutton Farm at Manassas National Battlefield Park is currently under review by a state preservation agency to see if it qualifies for status as a historic site. The National Park Service has proposed adding as many six more stables to the farm for an equestrian program.

## Watchdog group concerned about impact of new stables

By CHRISTOPHER HINDERS  
JM Staff Writer

New horse stables for Sutton Farm at the Manassas National Battlefield Park are still in limbo and probably will be for another few weeks, according to a preservation lobbyist with a national park watchdog group.

Bruce Craig of the National Parks Conservation Association said representatives of the National Park Service and other historic preservation groups met at the site Monday to gather information.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, and the Washington-based Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are expected to make recommendations to the Park Service on whether the site has historic value and how the proposed stables would impact the area.

The Virginia agency's opinion may be released within the next two weeks, according to architectural historian Elizabeth Hoge.

The possible construction of six to nine extra stalls on the Sutton Farm site scheduled as long ago as Oct. 1, 1990, drew the attention of the watchdog group. The independent agency urged instead that the late 19th Century farm house and its land be set aside in a historic zone.

The issue gained more notoriety when reports came out that Vice President Dan Quayle backed the construction project which could cost the park anywhere from \$30,000 to \$80,000. Sources said the stalls would house horses for Secret Service agents who accompany the Quayles on their riding outings at the park.

Craig said the vice president may have less influence in the matter than many think.

"The people who run the equestrian program at Manassas have been trying to do this for years. Now they're using the vice president who has been caught in the middle of all this," said Craig. "We'll have to watch and see what the Park Service does."

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has a team of about eight people from different fields studying the site to determine how much historic value it has.

The Park Service said Sutton Farm is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The historic agency will either agree or disagree with the opinion and present its findings, however the Park Service is not bound by the group's recommendation.

"The site must have distinguishing architectural features in order to be considered unique," Hoge said in a telephone interview last week.

If the building is determined to be fairly commonplace in design for the period, it's less likely to be labeled as a historic site, she added.

The building was a dairy from the turn of the century until the Park Service bought it in the 1950s.

Hoge said few buildings remain from that period, leaving the site's integrity in question. The committee will study photographs of the farm before moving along with its evaluation.

If the historic preservation group and the Park Service have differing opinions, Hoge said the matter would go before the National Register for a final decision.

At Monday's meeting, the Park Service and independent agencies looked at the site "in a broad context — not particularly the building, but the impact on the whole [preservation] program," Craig said. "Nothing was decided. It was largely an informational meeting."

Kenneth Apschikat, Manassas Battlefield superintendent, confirmed that the gathering was a routine informational meeting and that nothing was determined.

However, Craig added that the "meeting of minds" was significant in itself.

"They've gone through the preservation hoops. That's why we have environmental rules and they [the Park Service] are following them."

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to lease 25 acres of the city-owned Wakeman tract.

The Confederate Air Force hopes to build a museum on the tract near the Manassas Airport.

World War II exhibits at Manassas Airport sometime. They have been tentatively set for July 4 and sometime in September.

the Senate in a district that was included in the Senate's first proposal.

About 95,000 of the 155,000 in

# Salesman says he robbed bank because car sales were poor

FAIRFAX (AP) — A car salesman, faced with bills he couldn't pay because cars weren't selling, armed himself with a pellet gun and robbed a bank, his attorney said.

Earl Meyer pleaded guilty Tuesday in Fairfax County Circuit Court to two charges of robbery, two charges of using a gun to commit a felony. He had never been arrested before, his attorney Bill Bourland said.

Bourland said his client was a victim of the economic downturn.

"It's not an excuse," Bourland said. "But clearly it's not the way he lived his life in the past. He had led an exemplary life. The car business was not doing well. I think when someone is at the point of desperation this can be the end result."

Meyer was arrested about six minutes after a Chantilly branch of

George Mason Bank was robbed March 12.

Meyer sped off from the bank and was caught going 61 mph in a 35 mph zone by a police officer who had set up a radar trap. The car he was driving was registered to the car dealership where Meyer worked.

The officer gave Meyer a ticket, went back to his cruiser and was ready to take off when he heard a radio call that matched Meyer's description.

Neither Bourland nor Warren E. Barry, clerk of the circuit court, would say where Meyer worked.

Meyer will be sentenced June 10 by Chief Judge Richard J. Jamborsky. He faces up to two life terms plus four years.

And his speeding ticket is pending.

## At The Movies

MANASSAS MALL 7 — NEW SCHEDULE N/A — "Sleeping With the Enemy" (R) — 7:10, 9:30; "Home Alone" (PG) — 7:20, 9:30; "Class Action" (R) — 7:00, 9:20; "Career Opportunities" (PG-13) — 7:45, 9:45; "Out For Justice" (R) — 7:50, 9:55; "Defending Your Life" (PG) — 7:30, 9:50; "A Kiss Before Dying" (R) — 7:40, 9:40; "Oscar" (PG) — 7:10, 9:40

LOEWS MANASSAS — "Dances With Wolves" (PG13) — 5:00, 8:30; "Secret of the Ooze" — 5:00, 7:15; "Silence of the Lambs" (R) — 7:30, 9:45; "Marrying Man" (R) — 9:15; "Toy Soldiers" (R) 7:50, 9:55.

DALE CITY \$1.49 CINEMAS — "The Godfather Part III" (R) — 5:00, 8:15; "The Never Ending Story" — 1:00, 3:00; "King Ralph" (PG) — 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:20.

TACKETT'S MILL 4 — NEW SCHEDULE N/A — "Dances With Wolves" (PG13) — 8:00; "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II" (PG) — 7:15, 9:15; "The Silence of

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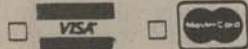
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