



The Manassas Messenger

It's
1948

"There stands Jackson like a stone wall!"

THE HOME PAPER

of Manassas, Centreville, Clifton, Haymarket, Nokesville, Triangle, Dumfries, Quantico, Woodbridge, Occoquan and All of Prince William County

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PHONE

1947 Is Year Of Civic Progress In Prince William County

Town Council Adopts Traffic Ordinances

A mass meeting of citizens of Manassas has been called for next Friday night, January 9, at 8 p.m. in the Town Hall to consider the repeal of the ordinance prohibiting slaughtering houses within the corporate limits of the town.

A flurry of actions bearing on traffic and parking problems, a lengthy discussion of Manassas Frozen Foods' pending application for a permit to erect an abattoir, a decision to begin enlarging the Fire House, and reports on taxes and utilities, were among the matters that occupied the Town Council on Monday night in its last meeting of 1947.

W. E. Moser and Robert A. Newman were present to oppose the issuance of the permit to the Frozen Foods plant. Councilman Hook said he had had protests from 15 or 20 citizens since the matter was brought up at the last previous council meeting. It was pointed out that such a permit could be issued only by rescinding an existing ordinance banning slaughtering establishments.

Frank Parrish, Frozen Foods' representative, said he had numerous other towns and cities in Virginia, including Winchester and Richmond, did permit slaughtering plants within their corporate limits and had not found them objectionable. He said that a modern, properly operated plant would be indistinguishable outside from any other building; and that he believed objections would be withdrawn if full knowledge were available.

Definite action was postponed until the next meeting, and the committee of Tiffany, Hook, and Trusler, previously appointed to study the matter, was continued.

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Davis Retires As Chamber President

Mayor Harry P. Davis received a rising vote of thanks from the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce Tuesday for his "outstanding work, interest in and devotion to" the chamber during his tenure of office as president. The gesture of recognition, moved by Dr. George B. Cooke and President-elect E. D. Goltswarte, followed a talk by Mr. Davis in which he expressed regret for the lack of concrete achievements in recent months but said, "I still have faith in the Chamber of Commerce and believe it is a worthwhile organization."

C. W. Alpaugh, retiring treasurer, reported a total paid-up membership of 46 and a treasury balance of \$102.20.

Secretary-treasurer-elect Norman T. McManaway suggested that the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs be asked to join with the chamber in seeking an improvement in train and mail service especially Manassas-Washington mail, which was reported to be threatened with further curtailment. Mr. McManaway also proposed for consideration at the next meeting a change in Article 3 of the chamber's by-laws to permit of changes in the amount of dues by vote of the chamber.



Maj. Hanson Retires As Custodian Of Manassas National Battlefield Park

Maj. Joseph Mills Hanson, retired December 31 as custodian of the Manassas National Battlefield Park, after completing 14 years in the National Park Service, Major Hanson had passed the legal retirement age, but his actual retirement had been twice postponed by special dispensation.

Major Hanson came to Manassas as Custodian in April, 1942, prior to which time he had done extensive historical research as a basis for the land acquisition and planning for the Manassas National Battlefield Park. He was formerly Historian at the Petersburg National Park, served as Research Historian in the Library of Congress for the National Park Service, and did special studies for Parks at Richmond Appomattox, Antietam and Saratoga, N. Y.

On Saturday afternoon, December 20, a group of National Park Service officials and other friends gathered at the Battlefield Park Museum to honor the retiring custodian in an informal ceremony, during which a number of handsome gifts were presented to him. It was also announced that Garnett Jex, portrait artist of Arlington, would paint a portrait of Major Hanson to be hung in the museum building for whose equipment and arrangement he has been so largely responsible.

Among those who attended the gathering were: Ronald S. Lee, Chief Historian of the National Park Service, of Washington;

Col. Willard Webb, Chief of Staff and Reading Division of the Library of Congress, Washington; Mrs. Frances F. Sawiloff (Mrs. Wilhelm) is Historian of the Fredricksburg National Battlefield Park; Mr. and Mrs. Helen Stuart of Washington; Mr. Stuart is State Liaison, Commerce Department; Col. John L. Jones, U.S.N. Public Relations Officer on the Staff of Secretary of National Defense; Forrestal; Garnett Jex, portrait artist of Arlington; Harold L. Peterson, Curator of the National Park Service Museum Laboratory in Washington; Mrs. Frances B. Dogan, "Historical Aide" of the Manassas National Battlefield Park; Elsie Leonard Park employee; Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Cox; Mr. R. Jackson Ratcliffe, Col. and Mrs. Benjamin Muse; Miss Carlota Muse; Mrs. Joseph Mills Hanson and Sherer Norris.

Major Hanson expects to continue to reside in Manassas and will engage in literary and historical research and writing.

No announcement has been made as yet as to Major Hanson's successor at the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

MERCHANTS' WINDOW DECORATIONS GET GARDEN CLUB PRIZES

The Christmas windows of C. E. Fisher and Son won the first prize of \$3.00 offered this year by the Manassas Garden Club for the best window decorations. The second prize of \$2.00 was awarded to the Manassas Grill, while honorable mention went to Cooke's Pharmacy and Hyson's Department Store. Judges were Mrs. V. V. Gillum, Mrs. A. E. Didilake and Mrs. A. A. Hoof.

New Clubs, New Bus Service, Bridge, Taxes, Highlight Year

The Messenger's Review of 1947

The most important events in Prince William County during 1947 were without question the 65-per cent increase in the county tax rate; and the public school crisis, which necessitated the tax increase and which continues to present problem of paramount concern to county and State.

Next in importance to the life and progress of the county were the establishment of two strong new service clubs, the Woodbridge Kiwanis Club and the Manassas Lions Club; the purchase in February, and the incipient development of Jack Breeden, of the one time magnificent, but long neglected Portner Estate on the outskirts of Manassas.

The inauguration by the Triangle Transportation Co. February 1 of a Manassas-Quantico bus service also had far-reaching effect upon county activity; while the outstanding highway improvement of the year was the completion in December of the Milford Mill Bridge (185 by 24 feet) over Broad Run on Route 28 between Manassas and Nokesville.

Outstanding also were projects, uncompleted at the year's end, for a Prince William County War Memorial Health Center and a Memorial Recreation Center for the Quantico-Triangle-Dumfries area; while the Monticello Highway movement, now increasingly promising, has possibilities which may outweigh any of the rest in ultimate importance to this region.

It was a local election year, but little change was made in the complexion of local government as a result of the municipal elections, the August primary for the general election in November. The only change above the town level was the election of R. B. Gossom to succeed C. B. Roland as Supervisor from Gainesville District, and no sweeping changes were made in town administrations.

The news of press and radio from the international scene was all bad and getting worse every month, but there was little that we could do about it here. Few attempted to follow the day-by-day intricacies of Russia's cold war and seemingly inexorable advance upon Western civilization, although appeals for relief for the needy people overseas received a generous response from this county.

Prince William County worked and played and laughed and wept and worshipped and rested through another year of good farm prices and good business, but skyrocketing cost of living. Though income was substantial, there were many heavy demands upon the public pocketbook, including, in addition to higher taxes, an exceptional series of fund-raising drives. Growth and progress, however, were evident in all sections.

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Manassas Lions Plan Benefit In Collaboration with Regional School

The Manassas Lions Club will ob. cal treat when, on the evening of January 29, it will sponsor the Regional High School Chorus, a program of select musical numbers. This fine group of well trained voices delighted those who heard them last year with well balanced, feelingly-rendered groups of songs, classical, semi-classical and popular alone.

pected to add to the social calendar and increase the Memorial Fund during the coming weeks.

Paul Muse Gets State Sports Writing Award

The Messenger staff received a happy thrill during Christmas week when the news arrived that the Virginia Press Association judges, a group of Washington newspaper men, had given third place in the Virginia weekly newspaper competition for the year's most outstanding example of sports writing to none other than the Messenger's youngest reporter and sports editor, Paul A. Muse.

The judges were, of course, unaware of the fact that Paul is an Osborn High School senior, 17 years of age. He will go to Lynchburg January 10 and join the older newspaper men of the State in the annual awards banquet, after which he will receive his certificate.

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