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Edward Grimsley

Congress And Manassas

'Using millions of the taxpayers' dollars to keep a tax-producing commercial project off land the national parks people do not consider historical enough to save will not make sense to some people.'

CONGRESS' BRILLIANCE as keeper of the national purse has rarely been more gratifyingly demonstrated than by its recent vote to expand the Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia's Prince William County. All of us should be highly impressed by the acuity of the nation's legislators displayed in recognizing the necessity for committing the federal government to this multi-million-dollar program, the essentiality of which still escapes many people of only average intelligence.

That it is a most worthy cause must simply be accepted, for Congress surely would not waste \$413 million of the taxpayers' money, which is what the program might cost when all direct and indirect expenses have been tabulated. Would it? Congress' objective is to prevent desecration of the land involved by the development of a tax-producing, job-generating complex of offices, shops and residences. Remember that this is sacred ground, hallowed not because it was the scene of any Civil War battles but because Gen. Robert E. Lee once pitched his tent on it. From that spot he and other Confederate greats may have peered through spyglasses at the actual battlefield beyond.

Some critics who lack Congress' acumen will point out that the Interior Department's

experts have never considered this particular tract historical enough to include in the National Battlefield Park. Nor did Congress think the land sacred enough to add to the park when it voted to extend its boundaries in 1960. But historical significance is not always easy to grasp. It was not until residents of the area started thinking about all the traffic and other activities the proposed complex would generate that they recognized the sanctity of the land and launched a crusade to persuade Congress to save it. Some cynics will always question their wisdom, grumbling that if having served as the site of some general's headquarters is enough to make a piece of land too sacred to build on, vast sections of the South must be transformed into parks, an undertaking no more justified than buying up all the houses George Washington slept in and converting them into museums.

Some niftickers will even argue that Congress could have spent that \$413 million much more constructively. That amount would have financed four-year educations at good public colleges for about 15,000 young men and women. Some know-it-alls will suggest that distributing the money in scholarships to memorialize the Civil War would have been especially pleasing to Lee, who spent the last years of his life in education, as president of what is now

Washington and Lee University. For \$413 million Congress could have saved about 2,000 lives by financing that many liver transplants at the going rate. Or Congress could have established a fund to finance the rescue of 400 pairs of whales, at about \$1 million an operation, trapped in the ice in Alaska, freeing them to go off to die of natural causes, such as from harpooning by Japanese Ahabs. For only \$300 million, Congress could have financed the construction of a new Coast Guard icebreaker, to go with the one the Guard now has, which would make it unnecessary for the United States to rely on Soviet icebreakers in future whale-rescue missions.

But suppose Congress wished to keep all that money in the Washington area. Well, instead of spending it to protect some Prince William County citizens from the irritations of commercial development, smart alecks might suggest, Congress could have used the money to protect innocent Washingtonians from drug gang shoot-outs. Continuing outbreaks of violence between rival gangs have made life miserable for ghetto dwellers. For \$413 million, Congress could have hired an army of additional policemen for Washington. Or bought bullet-proof vests for just about every inner-city resident in the nation's capital. Critics of Congress will be rebutted by peo-

ple who think parks are as essential as policemen, especially when a park will enhance the quality of the park advocates' lives and increase the value of the park advocates' property. Of course, many if not most of Congress' critics will agree that parks are necessary and desirable, and that the government is justified in spending public funds to establish some oases of beauty and to preserve historical sites even if some livers do not get transplanted, some kids do not get to go to college and some whales do not get rescued. But these people will argue that growing urban counties like Prince William do need at least a few commercial activities to produce taxes to help pay for schools and other public services that even park lovers need. Using millions of the taxpayers' dollars to keep a tax-producing commercial project off land the national parks people do not consider historical enough to save will not make sense to some people.

But Congress knows what it is doing, and that's all that matters. It deserves our gratitude. And our help in its endeavors. Anyone knowing the location of a house George Washington might have slept in, or at which he might have paused for directions to a house he slept in, should notify his congressman immediately.

November 21, 1988

Dear Friend of Manassas Battlefield:

We thought you would be interested in the attached letter explaining what has happened to date in our efforts to save the battlefield.

During the course of the battle you wrote an excellent letter to the editor regarding this controversy. We hope, after reading our Nov 16th letter and the other materials enclosed, you might find time to reply to the enclosed editorial by Ed Grimsley, Richmond Times.

Grimsley's first pro Hazel editorial appeared in the Richmond Times on June 19th, two days before the Public Hearing before the House Subcommittee on Parks, regarding the Mrazek, Andrews, Wolf Bill to acquire the William Center tract. It was printed shortly after Hazel had hired (reportedly for six figures plus), the most powerful lobbyist on the Hill, J. D. Williams. Williams did his work well, almost simultaneously other downstate Virginia papers wrote pro-mall editorials, identical in form and substance to that printed in the Richmond Times, even using the same phrases. All of them, spouted verbatim, the Hazel / Prince William County fictions. The Times June 19th editorial was conveniently reprinted in the Wall Street Journal just in time to hit the Congressmen's desks the morning of the June 21st Congressional hearings on the Hill. The Richmond Times in four subsequent editorials, reiterated the same half truths and distortions, namely:

1. "The land was of no historical significance." Fourteen of the most prominent historians in the nation, with impeccable credentials, have all attested to the historical significance (Exhibit A). the Commonwealth of Virginia, Division of Historic Landmarks, has declared it eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places. (Exhibit B). And Hazel /Peterson's own historian, commissioned by H/P, at citizen request, to make an historical report on the tract, has dismissed as "ludicrous" their assertion that it was "just a place where Lee pitched his tent." (Exhibit C.)

2. "Experts have never considered this particular tract historical enough to include in the National Battlefield." Unequivocally refuted by the Chief Historian of the National Park Service, (Exhibit D)

3. "Congress did not think the land important enough to add to the park in its 1980 expansion bill." When the Director of the Park Service requested this tract be included in the bill, at the 1977 cost of \$ 6 million dollars, the local governing body, by public resolution, declared they would "never withdraw their opposition to the expansion bill" if this tract was included. (D&E)

4. "Residents didn't object to it being on historical land until they started thinking about all the traffic, pollution, etc. that a huge regional mall would bring." The fact is that the Pr. Wm. Planning Commission, recommended denial of the Planned Mixed Development ordinance Hazel sought, as did the Supervisor representing the

district in which the park is located , and a standing- room- only group of civil war buffs and historians, who attended every public hearing on the H/P rezoning , objected loud and clear to its impact on the historic tract and the adjacent Manassas National Battlefield Park. Anyone can vdrify this by listening to the tapes of the hearings and reading the local news accounts. Citizens of the county, as well as the Superintendent of the Park , spent nine months negotiating with the developers in an effort to see that the development did not adversely affect the park . All of their good faith efforts went for naught when the developers announced they would build a huge mall -unplanned, unwanted, unneeded- a breach of the public trust. (Exhibit F ,G and H).

5. Where does Grimsley get his \$ 413 million cost guestimate? This is even more than the County's highly speculative and greatly bloated estimate of \$155, 396, 395. it was probably gleaned from the same source as all his other information- the developer ! Someone should inquire how he arrived at this \$413 million figure. Surely he didn't pull it out of thin air?? But given the ease with which Mr. Grimsley accepted, without question, without research , and without documentation, information received from the developer and/ or Pr Wm County, perhaps he did.

6. In another of his unresearched editorials Grimsley asserts that despite all the polls and petitions that showed Virginians overwhelmingly opposed the regional mall and prefered to have the federal government take the land and add it to the park that the voters themselves elected a "generally pro-growth supervisor" (Cole). Had Grimsley read Cole's campaign literature, read news reports of his public pronouncements, he would have known that Coles constituents voted for him because of his promise to abide by the adopted slow growth comprehensive plan for this area, his promise to take steps to protect the Manassas National Battlefield Park, his repeated assurances he would do something to alleviate the gridlocked traffic situation in our district, caused by too much growth. He turned out to be one of those politicians of the "promise them everything, give them nothing " school. He ignores the comprehensive plan , would have gladly paved over the entire battlefield to accomodate Hazel, and welcomed the addition of 85,000 more cars from the proposed mall on roads already carrying far in excess of capacity. Cole bears a strong resemblance to the Tammany Hall politician who preofessed that , " Raping is a crime- unless you rape the voters a million at a time!"

Anon! We hope these materials motivate you to write another of your excellent letters to Editor Grimsley at the Richmond Times . If you do, we would so appreciate a copy.

Gratefully Yours,

Annie Snyder

Annie Snyder

Chairman



SAVE THE BATTLEFIELD COALITION

P.O. BOX 110, CATHARPIN, VIRGINIA 22018

November 16, 1988

Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters,

Late last January, shocked and outraged by Hazel/ Peterson Cos. announcement they would build a huge regional shopping mall on the historic tract adjacent to the Manassas National Battlefield Park, we declared "We'll fight it with everything we've got". A few days later Post columnist Yardley responded, "right though certainly you are, your "everything" is nothing." He went on to admonish us that "the deck has been stacked against you by the County Board of Supervisors, which clearly is hand in glove with the developers", asserting that, "The United States belongs not to the people but to those with the cash and the clout, and those lucky few are the developers."

"Let's prove it still belongs to 'We the People'!", we said. You did and it does!!

The William Center tract became a part of the Manassas National Battlefield Park on Friday November 11th when President Reagan signed the bill passed by Congress to expand the Park and save the land for past, present and future Americans.

No one knows better than you do that it was an uphill battle all the way. No one knows better than we how quickly you "rallied behind the Virginians" and responded to our plea for help. The outpouring of concern came from thousands in every state in the Union, and from tens of thousands in Virginia. Saving the Battlefield evoked the greatest grass roots response to a preservation cause in decades. You called, you wrote and you asked "What can we do to help?" We sent a list of eight things you could do. You did them all, often writing a few weeks later to ask "What more can I do?" You gave your time, your money, your talents, your services. There are no words to tell you how touched we were by your letters and your offers of help, how much they reenforced our determination to win the "Third Battle of Manassas".

Our opponents had the whole hearted cooperation of five of our seven local supervisors who had sold out to the developers in January, for the promise of larger tax revenues than they would have received from the campus like office park we were told would be built.. At no place in the public record was a regional shopping mall indicated as an appropriate use, or even suggested as a possibility. The developers deceived us and our supervisors betrayed the citizens of Prince William. One local columnist, confessing to be a "big proponent of economic growth" summed it up for us all "This is not an economic growth question. It is a question of right and wrong." We screamed foul at the lack of due process and petitioned for a public hearing. Our local governing body turned a deaf ear. All they could hear were the cash registers.

Bob Webb, an editor for the Washington Post, wrote of the "Tragedy at Manassas: Paving Over the Past" that, "The federal government must get back into the business of protecting the national heritage. Markers and visitor centers and forlorn appeals to county supervisors are not enough. We must be able to tread the ground, to see the past in our mind's eye, to sense the historical moment, even the grimmest, as at Second Manassas....." The Manassas National Battlefield Park belongs to all Americans, hundreds of thousands of whom exercised their first amendment right "to petition the Government for a redress of greivances." Congress responded by getting back into the business of protecting the national heritage.

Sure there were dark days, always brightened by the petitions you collected and mailed to us and the encouraging letters you sent with them. The last tally was more than 80,000. They still come. As a result of the petitions and the thousands of letters you wrote to your Congressmen and to your U. S. Senators, Congress not only saved the battlefield park from incompatible development but saved this historic, hallowed tract for future generations.

A bill to expand the Manassas National Battlefield Park and acquire the land, drafted by Congressmen Michael Andrews of Texas' 25th District, Robert Mrazek of New York's 3rd, Frank Wolf of Virginia's 10th, and supported by French Slaughter of Virginia's 7th, was passed in the House (308-98) August 10th. They and Congressman Bruce Yento of Minnesota's 6th, Chairman of the House Sub Committee on National Parks and Public Lands, and all of their staffs, put forth a herculean effort to accomplish this. Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, Chairman of

the Senate Sub Committee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests took on the monumental job of shepherding the Battlefield Bill through the Senate

It was largely because of Senator Bumpers' considerable efforts, and that of his staff's, along with the help of Virginia Senators Warner and Trible, that the bill passed the Senate (50-25) on October the 11th. Bumpers offered it as an amendment to the Tax Correction Bill. When it passed he said "I've been in Congress 14 years and this counts among the four or five top things I've ever done." All of these gentlemen, deserve the deep and abiding gratitude of Americans, past, present and future. On Veterans Day, President Reagan signed the Tax Correction Bill and the property became federal parkland.

In order to stop the bulldozers and acquire the land before any more destruction took place, the bill provided for a rarely used "legislative taking" which mandated that the tract become federal property the day the bill passed, the price to be negotiated later. All sorts of guesstimates have been made as to the cost, ranging from the county tax department's appraised value of 13.6 million to a pro-Hazel Washington Times speculative "half a billion."

The Washington Post, interviewing Hazel after the bill had passed the Senate, reported that "Hazel determined that, compromise or no, it was in his interest to raise the price of the William center tract by doing as much work as quickly as possible", and quoted him as deciding "If they're coming after me, they're coming after me in the most expensive way possible." On the day the president signed the bill, noting that the government will owe interest on the value of the property until it presents a check Hazel, who passes the property on his way from his 4,000 acre farm to his Fairfax office, commented: "As I ride by the property tonight, I can look at an investment drawing interest- compounding quarterly."

What is it worth? The News Courier of Charleston, S.C. editorialized "Who is going to put a dollar amount on the nation's heritage? What is the legacy of the past worth? Thousands of men spilled their life's blood on that hallowed ground..... They never once thought about the cost. What is their sacrifice worth to us and to the generations who come after us?"

Oh to have the time to compile, and the postage to mail, pages and pages of all who volunteered and their pro bono contributions: legal firms, lawyers, public relations firms and individuals, data processing experts, economists, artists, musicians, graphic artists, ad people, printers, accountants, television, theater and radio stars, reenactors, writers, historians (professional and amateur), veterans, engineers, traffic analysts, lobbyists, sign painters, carpenters, painters, map makers, researchers- just about every talent conceivable; those who took on the work of getting out mailings, keeping records and press clippings, counting the petitions and tallying them by states, copying and filing all the letters, answering the phones, filing, replying to every letter, acknowledging every contribution, doing the publicity, organizing and working at the rallies, writing letters to newspapers and elected officials, circulating petitions. There were financial contributions from trusts and organizations; from over 2500 citizens, the rich and the poor and the in-between.

For the first four months, when we had little or no money, every volunteer dug in their own pockets to finance postage, telephone calls, and all the myriad expenses involved in getting organized. People and businesses everywhere donated items for our three local fund raising auctions, for our rallies. Eight solid months on every weekend, Coalition volunteers manned the table at the Park and at dozens of other events here, in DC, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and around the country; giving out information about our plight, getting petitions signed, raising funds by selling informational bumper stickers, T shirts, buttons, hats, cassettes, posters. Over three hundred organizations joined us in the battle, 30 of them national. If we had to put a price tag on professional pro bono services, on the volunteer hours, the goods and money donated to save the battlefield, the total would be mind boggling. We end the fight poor but solvent, thanks to all who have contributed so much.

Jonathan Yardley you are just plain wrong!! The United States does not belong to those with the "cash and the clout". It still belongs to "we, the people".

Very Gratefully Yours,

Betty H. Rankin
Betty Rankin, President

Annie Snyder
Annie Snyder, Chairman

August 31, 1988

Hon. Dale Bumpers
United States Senator
SD 229 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0401

Dear Senator Bumpers:

The proposed 542-acre "William Center" development immediately adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park in Prince William County, Virginia, poses an unprecedented threat to one of this nation's most significant historic sites. The development, which includes a 1.2 million square-foot shopping mall, will consume critical sites associated with the Second Battle of Manassas, and, with its attendant traffic, noise, and pollution, will destroy Manassas National Battlefield Park as we know it.

The William Center tract played a vital role in the Second Battle of Manassas. From his headquarters on this property, General Robert E. Lee, joined at times by Generals Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, James Longstreet and J.E.B. Stuart, directed one of the South's most decisive victories, one that opened the way for the Confederacy's first invasion of the North. The tract also encompasses nearly one-fourth of the Confederate line during the battle. This portion of the Confederate line set the western dimension of the battlefield and severely limited the Federal's ability to maneuver successfully (hence the two episodes of fighting on the William Center tract). Moreover, it was from here on August 30, 1862 that James Longstreet launched his battle-winning counterattack--an attack that twice the size of "Pickett's Charge" at Gettysburg and far more successful. And it was on this property that during and after the battle, both North and South set up field hospitals to treat some of the nearly 15,000 men wounded during Second Manassas.

Just as disturbing as the loss of this historic ground is the impact this development will have on the adjacent National Park. Immediately across the road from the development is the Brawner Farm, where Wisconsin's and Indiana's "Iron Brigade" and Virginia's "Stonewall Brigade" opened the battle in bloody stalemate; there the development will impose mightily on a pristine, hallowed landscape. Traffic from the up-to 80,000 people per day who will visit the mall will choke the already hard-pressed roads through the park. And that traffic will breed noise, signs, lights and pollution that will impact virtually every inch of the battlefield. In short, the entire character of the battlefield will be changed. It will be sapped of its evocative and educational power.

We, the undersigned historians and scholars, strongly urge you to pursue acquisition of the William Center tract with all possible speed. Manassas Battlefield must be preserved. At the same time, we urge you to install the mechanisms needed to protect Manassas and our other national parks from future intrusive development, for without such action what is happening now at Manassas will merely foreshadow the fate of all our refuges of hallowed ground and natural beauty. The responsibility to preserve these places rests with this generation; the power to preserve them rests with you.

Sincerely,

(over)

James M. McPherson

Dr. James M. McPherson
Edwards Professor of American History
Princeton University
Author, Battle Cry of Freedom

James I. Robertson, Jr.

Dr. James I. Robertson
C.P. Miles Professor of History
Virginia Tech.
Author, General A.P. Hill

Emory M. Thomas

Emory M. Thomas, Ph.D.
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Author, Eisenhower's Lieutenants

Harry W. Pfanz

Dr. Harry W. Pfanz
Former Chief Historian, NPS
Author, Gettysburg: The Second Day

Richard M. McMurry

Richard M. McMurry, Ph.D.
Professor of History
North Carolina State University
Author, John Bell Hood

Gary W. Gallagher

Dr. Gary W. Gallagher
Professor of History
Pennsylvania State University
Author, Stephen Dodson Ramseur

Stephen W. Sears

Stephen W. Sears
Historian, Norwalk, CT
Author, George B. McClellan

William C. Davis

William C. Davis
Exec. Editor, Historical Times
Author, Battle at Bull Run

Alan T. Nolan

Alan T. Nolan
Chair, Board of Trustees
Indiana Historical Society
Author, The Iron Brigade

William A. Frassanito

William A. Frassanito
Historian, Gettysburg, PA
Author, Gettysburg: A Journey in Time

Robert K. Krick

Robert K. Krick
Historian, Fredericksburg, VA
Author, Lee's Colonels

Richard J. Sommers

Dr. Richard J. Sommers
Chief Archivist-Historian
Military History Institute
Author, Richmond Redeemed

John J. Hennessy

John J. Hennessy
Former Historian, Manassas NBP
Author, Second Battle of Manassas

County Denies Barring 1980

By RICHARD LEIGH
JM Staff Writer

Disagreement continues to rage over why the William Center tract has not been included in past expansions of the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Mall opponents hold that the land was not included in a 1980 expansion because of opposition by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors and by members of Congress who acted under pressure from the supervisors.

However, county officials have held that the Department of the Interior, historians, and members of Congress deemed the property of not sufficient historical value to merit inclusion in the 1980 expansion.

Central to the wrangle is a 1.2 million square foot regional shopping mall planned for construction as the centerpiece of the 542-acre William Center mixed development. Hazel-Peterson Cos. plan to develop the mall jointly with the Edward J. DeBartolo Corp.

While Board of County Supervisors Chairman Kathleen Seefeldt, a Prince William supervisor since 1976, denied that the panel pressured Congress to omit the parcel from the 1980 expansion, she said the county's stand to reserve it for economic development had been well known

for years and was a "given."

However, according to National Park Service Historian Ed Bearss, the 1980 park expansion bill would never have gotten out of House and Senate committees without the exclusion of the present William Center tract and two others "specifically because of opposition by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors."

The board "violently opposed" inclusion of the Marriott tract, Bearss said. "The only way it got out of committees onto the floors" of both houses was for these properties to be excluded, he said.

Park service maps showing desired areas of acquisition included the Marriott tract, which later became the William Center tract, through 1979, Bearss said.

Anne Snyder, chief of the anti-mall Save the Battlefield Coalition, said Congress excluded the parcel from the 1980 expansion "solely and only" because the supervisors refused to withdraw their opposition to the bill otherwise.

On the other side, "I can't recall any discussion or focus" on the

Marriott Expansion

Marriott Corp. tract, which later became the William Center tract, during discussions leading up to the 1980 expansion, Seefeldt said.

"The focus of the discussion was on whether all of the Brawner tract should be included" because of possible conflicts with the alignment of the proposed Va. 234 bypass, not fixed at the time. The final bill included all of the Brawner Farm, she said.

Exclusion of the William Center "never became a major focus of discussion — it was sort of a given," she said.

The 1980 expansion bill was a compromise whose "architect" was Sen. John Warner, R-Va., Seefeldt said. "The conclusion they reached was that the Marriott tract was not of sufficient historical significance, in the view of the Congress at the time," Seefeldt said Wednesday. "That was clearly stated by Warner. They looked at it carefully, and they felt that including the tract would not be justified. The county certainly agreed."

Seefeldt referred to remarks by Warner during the Sept. 3, 1980, hearing before a Senate subcommittee on the 1980 park expansion, published in the Congressional Record.

That expansion bill "maximizes historical and environmental considerations and minimizes economic loss to private landowners and to the community," Warner said then.

"Most historians agree these three parcels -- the Stone Bridge, the Wheeler tract, and the Brawner Farm -- are the most significant historical acreage not now in the park," Warner said during the hearing. "I have sought the advice of Civil War historians and the consensus is that all historically significant land will be protected" by the bill by inclusion in the park.

In the early 1970s, the National Park Service began to assemble a list of properties it wished to include in an expansion bill, including the William Center, said county Planning Director John Schofield.

The county went on record that while it favored expansion of the park, it would not support inclusion of what is now the William Center land, the Battlefield Business Park, and Parkridge Office Park.

In 1974 and 1976, first Rep. Stan Parris, then Rep. Herb Harris, succeeding 8th District congressmen, each unsuccessfully introduced bills to expand the park, Bearss said.

The first bill, Snyder said, was introduced in order to protect the park from further incompatible development in the area in the wake of Marriott Corp.'s plans for a theme park there.

Those two bills excluded the Marriott tract because rezoning had already been approved for the theme park by Prince William County, said Snyder.

Parris introduced the first park expansion bill because "the county had approved and welcomed with open arms Marriott's proposal to put a monstrous theme park adjacent to the park," according to Snyder. "Until then, only farms had surrounded the park, but many key historic sites were not within the park, among them Stone Bridge, Brawner Farm, Portici, and the Marriott tract."

"The park service was concerned that all of these sites would be developed and lost forever," Snyder said. "So it came up with a plan to expand the boundaries and include these properties before the Prince William governing body moved to allow development on them."

After a lawsuit succeeded in striking down the 1974 Marriott rezoning on grounds of improper public notices in 1977, the county offered Marriott an opportunity to reapply for its rezoning, which it declined, said Schofield.

After the Marriott Corp. abandoned plans to build a park on the land, the park service attempted to tack the Marriott tract onto the park expansion bill.

Although the park service had not formally recommended including the Marriott tract previously to that time, it believed the land should be included, according to William Whalen, then chief of the service, in a June 23, 1977, internal memo.

"While the inclusion of the tract was not included in the departmental recommendation, we continue to feel that inclusion of this property is crucial to the future protection and management of the park's resources," according to

1980 Expansion

Whalen's memo. "Several significant events with regard to the Marriott tract have taken place since our original recommendation. The Marriott Corp. has abandoned

its original proposal to put a theme park on the property.

"In the wake of their pullout, the county commissions have recommended that the property be used for an industrial park or as a race track if and when the state of Virginia legalizes horse racing. The development of the Marriott property in any of these fashions will make management of the park extremely difficult. By acquiring this property at a cost of \$5 million, we will be able to expand the park to its logical boundaries."

However, a May 10, 1977, resolution by the supervisors pledged them to oppose inclusion of the Marriott tract.

According to the resolution, "a member of the board was informed in Congressman Harris' presence that the Department of Interior intended to have the bill amended to take the entire Marriott tract, and to place control of a future Va. 234 bypass north of Interstate 66 entirely within control of the Department of Interior..."

"Therefore, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors cannot and will not withdraw its opposition to any expansion that includes the

Marriott tract ... or that jeopardizes the county's ability to provide roads necessary to service industrial development and the citizens of Prince William County."

Harris introduced a park expansion bill once again in 1980. Once it came out of committees in both houses, the Marriott tract, Stony Ridge, and another tract were not included, said Bearss.

Asked whether the supervisors worked to ensure that no park expansion included the present William Center land, Schofield said, "That would be a fair statement."

Now, a bill that would call for a "legislative taking" of the William Center, closing of Va. 234 and U.S. 29 within the park, and \$30 million toward alternate road construction is set for consideration by the House Public Works and Transportation Committee soon. It is then expected to pass the full House.

Warner has called for Senate hearings on the William Center controversy, and has said he will sponsor a bill that would buy, at a minimum, Stuart's Hill, the William Center site of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's headquarters during the Battle of Second Manassas.

9/15/89

Potomac News

Aerial Photo of Work in Progress at William Center Site



RF 1988
POTOMAC NEWS



SAVE THE BATTLEFIELD
COALITION

P. O. BOX 110
CATHARPIN, VIRGINIA 22018

PRINCE WILLIAM
THE **Journal**
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Manassas • Manassas Park • Nokesville



Steve Mawyer/Journal

Annie Snyder, second from left, joined supporters Saturday for a tour of the newest addition to the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 16-17, 1988

People's victory

IT IS A RARE OCCASION when ordinary folks take up a fight against the entrenched political establishment, a large portion of the business community and a determined, successful developer.

It is even more rare when they walk away from that fight with all the marbles.

One of those most rare happenings took place last week, however, when President Reagan signed legislation that immediately added the William Center tract to the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

It was an amazing victory for the thousands of ordinary folks who believed a large regional shopping mall was inappropriate for the site upon which thousands of other Americans were killed and injured in a civil war that split our nation apart but also enabled it to be whole again.

One private lady, Annie Snyder, began that fight and marshaled the interest and resources that brought victory. Nobody in their right mind would call Mrs. Snyder ordinary — she is most extraordinary — but she shows what can be done when people are determined.

Congratulations to Annie Snyder and all the unknown and famous people who worked so hard to preserve this hallowed land.

It was a battle that had to be fought and a victory that had to be won.

A Great Battle Was Fought At Stuart's Hill

Don't listen to the developers.

There's a heated dispute just now over the proposed William Center mall to be built next to the Manassas National Battlefield Park. You'll hear some proponents claim that this high visibility commercial enterprise poses no threat to the battlefield, that it is sited on land of very little historical significance. Don't listen to them. A great battle was fought on and around this tract in August 1862.

Prince William County, which approved the rezoning of this land for commercial use, required the developer, Hazel/Peterson Co., to provide historical and archaeological studies and, to the extent possible, establish historic markers and trails to memorialize points of interest on the property. Hazel/Peterson contracted with an independent cultural resource and management consulting firm to perform this work. A team of professional historians and archaeologists was assembled, of which I was the principal investigator of Civil War military activity on the William Center tract.

The research revealed much that is interesting about the site—its prehistoric and historic occupation, as well as important insights into settlement patterns and land use. Clearly, however, it is the well-known and thoroughly documented (in numerous books, as in my own report) Civil War connection that has generated the outrage over the proposed mall.

The historical record shows that fighting began near the property in the late afternoon of Aug. 28, 1862, at the Brawner Farm just north of Rte. 29. Federal troops advancing along the road took up positions on the tract, and numerous wounded found sanctuary there. Regimental surgeons in a field hospital located 400 yards south of the road treated many of the seriously wounded until the early hours of Aug. 29, when federal troops marched off the field toward Manassas. Dead and wounded were left scattered across the northern portion of the tract.

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In the morning, federal troops returned to the area and engaged Confederate regiments on ground immediately to the east and south of Stuart's Hill—the highest elevation on the property and soon to be Robert E. Lee's headquarters for the remaining two days of the battle. Intermittent skirmishing and heavier fighting took place there during the day. By early afternoon, Confederate Gen. James Longstreet's wing of the army arrived and deployed across the midsection of the tract. In the late afternoon rebel units on the property attacked eastward into areas now protected by the National Park.

On Aug. 30, as severe fighting continued along Stonewall Jackson's positions north of Route 29, Longstreet's divisions remained in position on the tract. In the late afternoon, as the last attempt to break Jackson's line failed, Lee, from his headquarters on Stuart's Hill, ordered Longstreet's men forward in a massed assault that, amid scenes of heroism and sacrifice on both sides, drove the federal army from the field.

Although my report drew no conclusions as to the significance of the action here vis-à-vis other Civil War battlefields, it should nevertheless be obvious that momentous events either occurred on or were directed from the Hazel/Peterson property. The location of Lee's or any army commander's headquarters during a major engagement of this type is worthy of preservation.

Moreover, this site has been known as Stuart's

Hill ever since the war because of the Confederate cavalry commanders' presence there during the battle. The story of Stuart's famous nap on the hill is retold in every book written about him. Longstreet's grand attack, which originated from the property on the last day of the battle, was in every respect the equivalent of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg the following year—and infinitely more successful.

The destruction of these historic sites would be serious enough, but much worse would be the disastrous effects a major shopping mall would have on the National Battlefield Park. Overburdened park roads, visual blight and the inevitable peripheral development would separate the park from its natural setting and thus destroy the historical integrity of even the protected parts of the battlefield.

Development can take place in an orderly fashion that serves the needs of the present while preserving the best from the past. However, all Americans should demand a stop to mindless, anarchical growth that devours our historical roots and places our national heritage in jeopardy for the short-term benefit of a privileged few.

—James A. Schaefer



SAVE THE BATTLEFIELD
COALITION

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Look! There stands Jackson like a stone wall!
Rally behind the Virginians!

General Bernard Bee at First Battle of Manassas, July 21, 1861

Printing donated

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA.

BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS

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MOTION: WHITE

SECOND: BYRD

May 10, 1977
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 77-19-24RE: EXPANSION-MANASSAS BATTLEFIELD PARK -- FORWARDED TELE-
GRAM EXPRESSING CONTINUED OPPOSITION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby agree to send a telegram to Congressman Herb Harris, Congressman Philip Burton, and Secretary of Interior Cecil D. Andrus, stating the following:

The Board of Supervisors of Prince William County are informed that Congressman Harris has drafted his Battlefield expansion bill to exclude the Marriott property from the Manassas Battlefield Park Expansion and that this bill was approved by a subcommittee of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The Board agrees with the bill's requirement that all parcels in the northeast quadrant other than the Wheeler Tract be included by scenic easement rather than fee acquisition. This would ordinarily permit the Board to withdraw its opposition to the bill. Recent events indicate that such withdrawal would be foolhardy, however, since a member of the Board was informed in Congressman Harris' presence that the Department of Interior intended to have the bill amended to take the entire Marriott tract, and to place control of a future Rt. 234 Bypass north of Rt. 66 entirely within control of the Department of Interior. The Department indicated other intentions contrary to Congressman Harris' bill as presently approved. Therefore, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors cannot and will not withdraw its opposition to any expansion that includes the Marriott tract or the acquisition of parcels in the northeast quadrant of Rt. 234 and I-66 by fee acquisition or that jeopardizes the County's ability to provide roads necessary to service industrial development and the citizens of Prince William County.

VOTE: AYES: Byrd, Donnelly, Humphries, McCourt, Seefeldt, White, Wood.
NAYS: None.

ABSENT DURING VOTE: None.

For Information:
County Attorney,

CERTIFIED COPY

James J. Seefeldt

NOTE:

MARRIOTT
TRACT
is now
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PETERSON
COS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1988

MANASSAS, VA 25 CENTS

Mall Plan Prompts Planners to Reexamine Zoning Ordinance

By EDWARD T. HEARN
JM Staff Writer

Prince William Planning Commissioner Frank Milligan was recently asked a pair of questions — Did Hazel/Peterson Cos. say in 1986 it planned to build a regional shopping mall? Did he believe the company obtained the proper zoning for a mall?

"I would say no and no," said Milligan, an 11-year commission member and the panel's new chairman. "I certainly didn't vote for a regional mall."

But a regional mall is what the county is getting, a huge project warmly embraced by County Executive Robert Noe and the Board of County Supervisors.

Last week, Hazel/Peterson announced plans to build a 1.2-million-square-foot mall on the company's William Center property. The tract is adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Unlike the top county officials, some planning commissioners and Gainesville area residents are upset about the mall. They say the mall was never planned and a few say the company should apply for a rezoning.

According to county officials, Hazel/Peterson can go forward with the mall. But to prevent future land-use battles, the Planning Commission wants to tighten the language of the zoning ordinance that applies to William Center.

In Nov. 1986, Hazel/Peterson obtained zoning under a newly-created Planned Mixed-use District category, allowing the company to build up to 560 houses and 2.9-million-square-feet of non-residential construction.

One of 16 permitted uses by right in the PMD is retail construction. That gives the company the authority to build the mall, Planning Director John Schofield said.

But Milligan and other planners are scratching their heads about the regional shopping mall because they thought Hazel/Peterson intended to build a corporate park — a wooded campus of glass and steel building for high-tech, white-collar workers.

"Obviously, there is a great difference of opinion of the goals and

intent of the PMD zoning ordinance," said Gainesville Commissioner Richard Hefter, a strong opponent of the regional mall.

Hazel/Peterson officials acknowledged that they did not tell the county during the 1986 rezoning period about a plan to build a mall. That's because they didn't have a mall plan until recently, when they were approached by Ohio-based Edward J. DeBartolo Corp.

"It fell out of the sky," said John T. (Til) Hazel, a Hazel/Peterson principal. "DeBartolo called us and said we have watched your property and it looks like the place to be."

A joint venture between the two companies, the mall is scheduled to open in 1992. A study for Hazel/Peterson estimated the William Center would create 10,000 jobs and net the county \$180 million in the first 20 years.

At the intersection of Interstate 66 and the proposed Va. 234 bypass, William Center is viewed by county officials as key factor in getting the bypass built. Noe has proposed, as a 1988 referendum item, spending \$10 million to build the bypass from I-66 to Balls Ford Road.

Although Milligan and Hefter say the county was unable to plan for the mall, they don't plan to mount a campaign to block the project. Milligan said he's more concerned about the process than the result. He said that in the end the shopping could be the best thing, but he wants the county to have more say in what gets built.

"I think we can take a look at the PMD and try to get more controlling language in there," Milligan said. "I

think it's important to strengthen this ordinance so we know what's coming in."

Coles Supervisor Terry Spellane, the former commission chairman who voted against William Center, said that the idea of shopping mall never crossed his mind. He agreed the PMD needed reworking.

"The PMD has to be looked at so that something like that doesn't happen in the future," Spellane said.

When Spellane and other officials speak about the future, they have at least one project in mind — the Anden Group's proposal to build 5,000 houses and 20-million-square-feet of office space in the Cherry Hill area near Dumfries.

The California-based developer is seeking PMD zoning for its 2,000-acre project. And commissioners want to review the plans with care, even though Anden has put pressure on the county to expedite its application because of contractual agreements.

"I don't see any need for us to jump backward through hoops to meet their time limits," Milligan said.

"I think we would be doing a great disservice to 200,000 people if we spent less than 90 days looking at this thing," Commissioner Harold Dutton said.

Chairman
of the
P.W.M.
Planning
Commission

Chairman of Pr. Wm.
County Planning Commission
FRANK Milligan - 494-1925
(home)

The Journal Messenger

A Park Communications, Inc. Newspaper

TUESDAY JUNE 21, 1988

Barg, Jenkins Flip Mall Stance.

By PAUL DINUCCI

JM Staff Writer

Two Prince William County supervisors have broken from the official county line and accused the Hazel Peterson Cos. developers of the William Center mall, of deceiving the public during its rezoning of the 542-acre tract.

Neabsco Supervisor John Jenkins and Woodbridge Supervisor Hilda Barg said Monday that the developer used a loophole in the zoning ordinance to receive acceptance of the project.

"I've been saying that for a long time," Jenkins said Tuesday morning. "It's probably a de facto rezoning."

Jenkins said that the original rezoning had called for mixed-use development and had not specifically indicated a mall on the land.

"I think there's been a lot of misrepresentation," he said.

Barg said that the present board has been forced into an awkward position over the mall issue because the four members who took office in

January had not been adequately briefed in the rezoning proposal.

In 1986, the developers of the William Center tract received approval of a planned mixed-use district, which calls for numerous uses including a developer plan for a campus-like office park.

But in January the developers requested a regional mall on the site, acceptable under the original rezoning application but vastly different from the office park initially proposed.

At that time, four of the board's

seven members had taken office — Barg, Coles Supervisor Terrence Spellane, Gainesville Supervisor Robert Cole and Brentsville Supervisor William Becker.

"Our hands are tied," Barg said. "I feel I'm listening to the people."

Barg explained that the people are overwhelmingly opposed to the mall and as an elected official it is her obligation to echo their sentiments.

"I don't think they objected to the original rezoning," she said, "but they feel they've been deceived."

"I would like to see the developer

work out the problems with the people," Barg continued. "I don't feel up to fighting Til Hazel's battles."

Becker said Tuesday morning that he would have preferred seeing an office park rather than a mall on the land. Yet Becker said that the land needs to be used to generate tax revenues, regardless of whether it's an office park or a mall.

"We want that area for development," Becker said. "There is nothing we can do about it anyway. We just have to let nature take its

course."

Jenkins said he would like to see the county receive \$15 million in road improvements to alleviate traffic problems around the battlefield and have 150 acres of the mall site donated as a possible satellite campus of George Mason University.

County officials have been advocating mall development to bring in needed commercial revenues to balance the tax base.

However, neither Deputy County
See Barg, Jenkins on A-2.

Say County Misled

Continued from A-1

Executive Larry Hughes nor County Attorney John Footé would comment on the newest developments. All questions were forwarded to County Executive Robert S. Noe Jr., who could not be reached for comment.

In related matters, Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., has proposed a bill calling for the federal government

to immediately buy the 542 acres. The rarely-used method, called legislative taking, will be discussed at a series of hearings today on Capitol Hill.

In addition, Wolf is proposing an amendment to that bill that would close off traffic along Va. 234 and Va. 29 running through the battlefield and would divert motorists along a proposed federally-built bypass.

Civil War ITEM

Publisher & Editor: Ewald Kockritz, 84 NE 109 St., Miami Shores, FL 33161 (305) 757-4310

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NEABSCO DISTRICT

John D. Jenkins

COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

1 County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia 22192-9201
(703) 335-6600 Metro 631-1703

EXHIBIT H.

BOARD of COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Kathleen K. Seefeldt, Chairman
John D. Jenkins, Vice Chairman
Hilda M. Barg
William J. Becker
Robert L. Cole
Edwin C. King
Terrence Spellane

June 14, 1988

Mr. Robert S. Noe, Jr.
County Executive
County of Prince William
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, Virginia 22192

Dear Mr. Noe:

This is in reply to your letter of June 10, 1988 pertaining to the draft proposed statement to the House Interior Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands for the June 21, 1988 hearing.

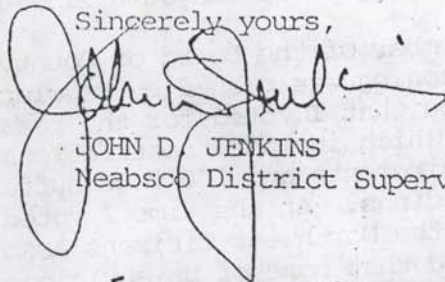
I was a member of the Board of County Supervisors when the original request for rezoning was passed by Resolution #86-61 on November 18, 1986. I can assure you that I voted for the rezoning for a Planned-Mixed Use District (PMD) which included restrictions on building heights to 45 feet, open space requirements and 100 foot buffers between the Battlefield and commercial buildings. At the time I voted on this matter, I believed that the public and the Northwest Citizens Association were in agreement with the rezoning and that none of us envisioned that a regional mall would be built on the property. It was not until January 1988 that I learned that Hazel/Peterson planned to construct a 1.2 million square foot shopping mall, 1.7 million square feet of other non-residential units, including office and hotel units and 540 units of residential housing. Unfortunately, because of Virginia law regarding land use, our citizens have had no official public forum in which they can present their views on the significant changes involved in this land use issue. Because of this, the citizens of Prince William County feel that the Hazel/Peterson Corporation has used a bait and switch tactic to obtain a more favorable land use without having to adhere to the structured land use approval process.

The outcry of the citizens has reached the national level and several congressmen have attempted to intervene. While I abhor the tactics of Congressmen Robert J. Mrazek from New York and Michael A. Andrews from Texas which purport to hold the county hostage to congressional sanctions, I likewise see merit in the proposal presented by Congressman Frank R. Wolf of Virginia. I resent and reject the notion that Congress should be involved in this matter, but I understand why they have intervened and I support the peoples' right to public input in this instance.

With that in mind, I now find myself and the Board in the awkward position of trying to negotiate the best possible proffer for the use of this tract of land should it be taken by the Federal Government. I believe that our testimony to the House Interior Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands should provide that we will support the acquisition of the Hazel/Peterson tract by the Federal Government if they will dedicate and pass title for 150 acres of the tract to Prince William County for the purpose of establishing a college or university and also contribute \$15 million for road improvements which will relieve the traffic load on Routes 234 and 29 which traverse the Battlefield.

In view of the position which I have taken in this letter and in prior Executive Sessions of the Board, I request that the proposed testimony be changed accordingly. For example, I believe that it is inaccurate to say in Paragraph 2 of the section The Need for Economic Development that the "...Prince William Board of County Supervisors so strongly supports the William Center project." While I do support the original rezoning, I cannot support use of the tract for a regional mall until the citizens of Prince William County have been given the opportunity to provide public input through the established land use process. ←

Sincerely yours,



JOHN D. JENKINS
Neabsco District Supervisor

cc: Board of County Supervisors
County Attorney

Served Throughout
Hazel/Peterson Rezoning

Jenkins
Phone: 703 670 6907 (home)