

House puts down dukes and approves \$3 billion flow of funds to help Midwestern flood victims **A9**

Putting brakes on drunken drivers

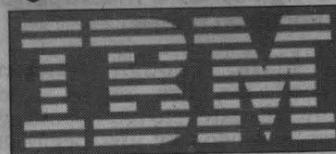


Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mary Sue Terry takes aim at teen drinking and driving **A3**

Throw away the key

Republican gubernatorial candidate George F. Allen proposes slamming the door on parole for all criminals **A3**

Big Blue sings blues



IBM reports its worst ever loss as expenses of its massive corporate makeover mount **A9**

Pizza pigout

Oversize pies get the ultimate taste test from from tough teen tastebuds **D3**

Hired helping hands

Parents turn to European live-in nannies to keep together hearth and home **D1**

SCORES

Carolina League	
Kinston 8	Prince William 1
American League	
Toronto 6	Baltimore 5
New York 5	Detroit 2
Chicago 7	Cleveland 4
St. Louis 3	Boston 2
Philadelphia 3	Kansas City 0
National League	
Chicago 0	St. Louis 7
Pittsburgh 6	Florida 3
Atlanta 5	

William County.

Standing outside a convenience store Tuesday in Haymarket, Mitchell said he wholeheartedly supports the proposal. "It's going to produce jobs and it's going to deliver revenue for the county," he said.

Mitchell, other residents and local politicians offered comments that ranged from glowing endorsements to

competing against six other groups for a license to run a horse racing track. The Virginia Racing Commission will pick one of the applicants for a track license in January.

Like Mitchell, longtime Gainesville resident and locally renowned slow-growth advocate Annie Snyder strongly supports the project. "I personally

like to see horses instead she said Tuesday.

The proposal, however, critics. Haymarket resident shall said it would cause usual traffic headaches. comb, 22, agreed. "I think bad around here as it is," her Haymarket home.

Historic house may go down

PN 7/28/93 p. A1

J. Robinson House

Park Service says repair cost prohibitive

By BRIAN KELLEY
Manassas Bureau

MANASSAS — Facing a \$500,000 estimated cost to rebuild the Robinson House, the National Park Service will have to consider the less expensive option of tearing down the fire-damaged structure, a Manassas National Battlefield Park official said Tuesday.

The Robinson House, a 67-year-old two-story farmhouse built partially on the foundation of a cabin that stood at the time of the Civil War battles of Manassas, was heavily damaged in a Monday evening fire. It was once the home of a family with roots in local black history and, its members say, ties to Virginia's 18th century white aristocracy.

Federal investigators, assisted by Prince William County fire officials, examined the wreckage Tuesday but have announced no cause for the blaze.

Early Tuesday, a county Fire and Rescue Department official termed the blaze suspicious. He said he could establish no accidental causes and noted that a ground floor window either had been broken into before the fire or blown out by the heat after it started. All other windows and doors to the building were secure.

Park Superintendent Kenneth E. Apschnikat met with his boss, Park Service Regional Director Robert Stanton, at the site Tuesday. They decided to ask the FBI



By Chris Moorhead-Potomac News

Park Investigator Carl Hanson, employee Barbara Muller and Park Police Capt. Marvin Ellison look at the Robinson House.

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Supervisor implicates mounted patrol in fire

McManus: group may want to show need

By BRIAN KELLEY
Manassas Bureau

MANASSAS — Even as federal and county investigators sought clues to the cause of the Monday fire that gutted the Robinson House at the Manassas National Battlefield Park, Prince William County Supervisor Bobby McManus had a suspect.

"It's probably someone in the mounted patrol who did this," said McManus, a Gainesville District Republican.

McManus, a foe of the mounted patrol program, confirmed the statement when it was read back to her. She said the equestrians' motive would be to show that there is a serious vandalism and crime problem in the park that required both motorized and mounted patrols.

Park Superintendent Kenneth E. Apschnikat said Tuesday the case remains under investigation by federal authorities, assisted by the county fire marshal's office. He said the FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms would join the probe. No cause has been established, he said.

McManus, a first-term elected supervisor for western Prince William, admitted she had no proof for such a serious allegation, but said it was



Bobby McManus
Opposes horse patrols

her opinion.

In April 1992, McManus made a similar serious claim, again without proof. She told a reporter she feared for her safety because the man she defeated in the November 1991 election, former Supervisor Bob Cole, had applied to become a volunteer deputy sheriff and as such could have qualified to carry a firearm.

Cole called her comments an abuse of power and said, "She's obviously paranoid."

On Tuesday, McManus commented on the mounted patrol in a telephone call to a Potomac News reporter to

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the incident, Coffey said.
With the help of dogs, deputies tracked the suspects as far as the Stone River subdivision, Coffey said.

Car stereo, speakers stolen from pickup truck

A car stereo and speakers were stolen Friday night or Saturday morning from a pickup truck in the 1100th block of Ramoth Church Road, said Capt. Charles Jett of the Stafford Sheriff's Office.

The items, valued at about \$150, were taken from a Spotsylvania man's unlocked 1985 Nissan pickup, Jett said.

Compiled by staff writers Steve Bard, Will Jones, Karl Pugh and Denyse Tannenbaum.

Norfolk ticket has winning Cash 5 numbers

RICHMOND (AP) — A Cash 5 ticket sold in Norfolk holds the latest winning numbers, Virginia Lottery spokeswoman Cherie Phaup said.

The numbers drawn Monday for the \$100,000 prize were one,

three, seven, 15 and 23, she said.

Prizes of \$100 each will go to 275 players who picked four of the winning numbers. For correctly picking three of five numbers, 7,455 players won \$5 each.

The numbers

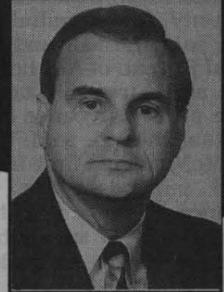
These lotteries were drawn Tuesday, July 27, 1993:

Maryland
Play 3 2-9-5
Play 4 9-6-8-7
Match 5 1-12-21-22-29

District of Columbia
Midday Lucky Nos. 8-0-5
Midday D.C. Four 1-2-8-1
Evening Lucky Nos. 0-8-3
Evening D.C. Four 3-5-5-8
Quick Cash 36-17-31-26-1-14

REAL ESTATE FACTS

BOB HUMMER, CRS
Past President, Prince William Association Of Realtors



Finger pointed at patrol

BLAME From Page A1

complain about a sentence in a news story about the Robinson House blaze.

The sentence read: "The incident also is certain to spark renewed calls from supporters of mounted patrols of the park by trained volunteers and rangers."

Pointing out that a park ranger in a truck spotted the flames, McManus accused the Potomac News of "playing sides" on the hotly disputed horse patrol issue.

One of those patrol supporters, Martha Hendley, was at the fire scene Monday night, along with a dozen or so tourists, park neighbors and reporters.

Hendley, who lives near the park and participated in a National Park Service assessment of the horse patrol last spring, said then the fire and a string of more minor vandalism incidents in the park show the need for more, not less law enforcement, including the patrols. On Tuesday, Hendley reacted quickly to McManus' allegations against her fellow equestrians and park volunteers.

"It's absolutely unfounded and ridiculous," Hendley said. "The people in the mounted patrol have as much respect for the park as anyone else."

McManus "goes off like a loose cannon," Hendley said. "It just makes her look foolish."

Lynn Chinnis, a battlefield neighbor and volunteer member of the mounted patrol, also had trouble believing the accusation.

"I can't imagine it's any of the volunteers I know," Chinnis said.

Correction

A story in Monday's edition of the Potomac News about a Dale City house fire incorrectly reported that two children who set the blaze while playing with matches were brother and sister.

Historic house may go down

HOUSE From Page A1

and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to assist in the investigation.

Concurrent with that inquiry, the Park Service now has to decide if what's left of the Robinson family's former home is worth saving.

"Basically what we have is a non-Civil War period house," Apschnikat explained. "Now that we have half a house, do we go back to 1926 [when the Robinsons built the current structure] ... or do we take down what we have and, through archaeology, expose the original foundation?"

Such digs, especially in areas that haven't been methodically examined, can turn up valuable artifacts to augment knowledge of the site's history. "It may be an opportunity in disguise," Apschnikat said.

Though county fire Lt. Tim Hattwick gave an initial \$100,000 damage estimate for the fire, Apschnikat said a full restoration, using costly historic preservation techniques, would run \$500,000.

The Robinson House, like the nearby Henry House, often confuses battlefield visitors who may think it is the original structure, Apschnikat said. "It doesn't give the visitor the full impression" of the history that occurred there, he said.

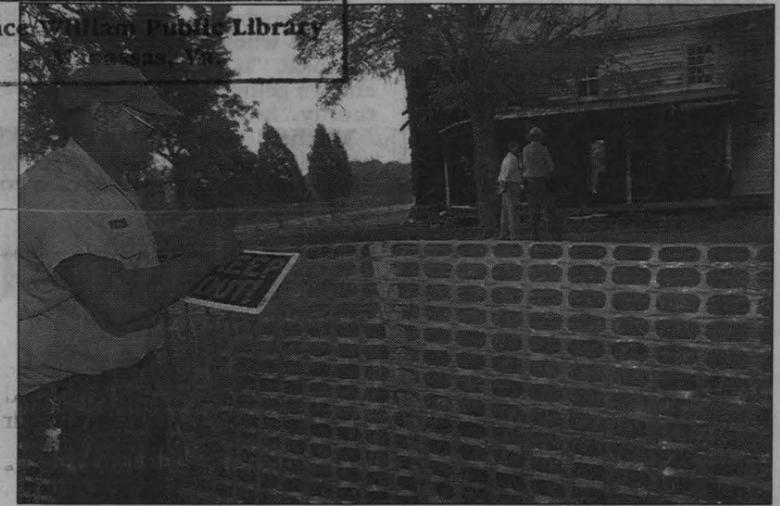
The Park Service would involve the Robinson family in an analysis of the alternatives, he said.

Bladen Oswald Robinson, a retired educator and great-grandson of freed slave James Robinson, said Tuesday his fa-

Obituaries

Edwin Vargas

Edwin Vargas, 36, of Woodbridge, died Sunday, July 25, 1993, at Washington Hospital Center.



By Chris Moorhead-Potomac News

Park Service employee Max Stubbs' sign sends a message to potential trespassers Tuesday at the Robinson House.

mily would have to discuss the issue before deciding whether to support demolition. Speaking only for himself, however, the 83-year-old Robinson did not oppose demolition in the interest of boosting the original site's historical value. The Robinsons had planned to visit the site during a family reunion set for mid-August.

Firefighters stayed at the Robinson House until 11:30 p.m. Monday, Apschnikat said, to give the structure another long soaking and prevent embers from flaring up. Officials cordoned off the area with orange fencing.

Firefighter Don Weber was taken from the scene to Prince William Hospital in Manassas for treatment of chest pains late Monday night. He was later released, according to the county Fire and Rescue Department.

Apschnikat also said Tuesday that park Ranger Carl W. Hanson was not the first person to report

the blaze. Though Hanson radioed the fire report into county dispatchers after spotting it while driving by just before 8 p.m. Monday, a passing motorist used a cellular telephone to call it in to authorities at 7:50 p.m., Apschnikat said.

Staff writer Denyse Tannenbaum contributed to this report.

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