

OPENING CEREMONY  
FOR  
ABINGDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Invocation: Rev. William A. Clebsch, Virginia  
Theological Seminary

National Anthem: The Star Spangled Banner

Welcome: Mrs. Clyde Lindley, president of the Abingdon  
School P.T.A.

Introductions: Mr. William Early, superintendent of the  
Arlington County schools

Speaker: Dr. Erwin R. Draheim, Arlington County school  
board member and special representative for  
Abingdon School

Presentation of the keys to Abingdon School: Supt.  
William Early

Acceptance of the keys to Abingdon School: Miss Mary  
Barbour, principal

Benediction: Rev. J. Grady Hutchison, Jr., Fair-Park  
Baptist Church

Social Hour

# GROUNDBREAKING EXERCISES

## ABINGDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### IN NORTH FAIRLINGTON

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 1949 11 A.M.

#### SPONSORED BY

Claremont Civic Association  
Fairlington Civic Association  
Fairlington Parent-Teacher Association

#### PROGRAM

Mr. Robert E. Reynolds, Master of Ceremonies

INVOCATION - Rev. J. W. Leggett, Pastor, Fairlington Methodist Church

#### PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Safety Patrol Color Guard, Escorted by two platoons of the Safety Patrol

#### SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Entire audience, led by Miss Helen Tapprich, Member of Fairlington Safety Patrol  
"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

#### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Led by Mr. Clarence P. Lewis, Choir Director, Fairlington Methodist Church

#### REMARKS BY MASTER OF CEREMONIES AND INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Dr. Barnard Joy, President, Arlington County School Board  
Mrs. Edmund D. Campbell, Member  
Mr. Colin C. MacPherson, Member  
Dr. O. Glenn Stahl, Member  
Dr. C. E. Tuthill, Member  
Mr. William A. Early, Superintendent, Arlington County Schools  
Dr. Edward J. Braun, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Charles J. Walsh, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Erwin R. Draheim, former President, County Council of Parent-Teacher Assns.  
Miss Grace Hall, Principal, Fairlington Elementary School  
Mrs. Robert C. Young, Member, Citizens Advisory Committee for Fairlington School  
Mr. Harold Sandbank, Chairman, Citizens Advisory Committee for Fairlington School  
Mr. William S. Ziegler, General Manager, Fairlington (Fairmac Corp.)  
Mr. George C. DeNeale, Manager, Fairlington Community  
Mrs. Allie S. Freed, President, Paramount Communities & Claremont Community  
Mr. John W. McLeod, of McLeod & Ferrara, Architects  
Mr. Arthur Pomponio & Sons, Inc., Contractor for Abingdon School  
Mr. Fayette M. Latham, of Pomponio & Sons, in general charge of construction

#### REMARKS BY PRESIDENTS OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Joseph P. Smyth, Fairlington Civic Association  
Mrs. Charles J. Corcoran, Fairlington Parent-Teacher Association  
Lt. Cmdr. O. W. Fusch, USN, Ret., Claremont Civic Association

#### DESCRIPTION OF OUR NEW SCHOOL

Mr. John W. McLeod, of McLeod & Ferrara, Architects of Abingdon School

#### ADDRESS

Mr. William A. Early, Superintendent, Arlington County Schools

#### ADDRESS

Mrs. Edmund D. Campbell, Member, Arlington County School Board

#### THE GROUNDBREAKING

By 15 children of North Fairlington and Claremont representing all the children of these communities in the first, second, and third grades who will be pupils in our new school

#### CLOSING SONG - "AMERICA"

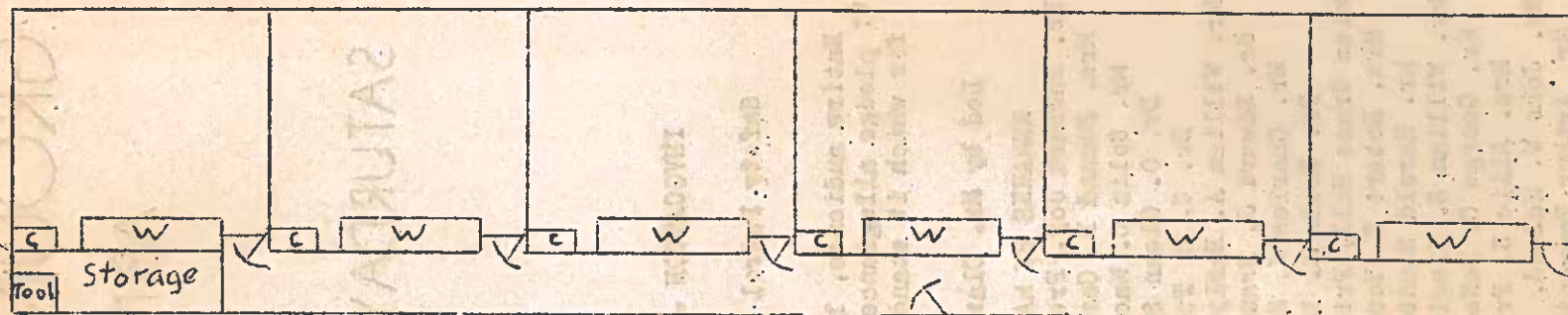
Entire Audience, Led by Mr. Lewis

#### BENEDICTION - By the Rev. Leggett

#### Committee in charge

Mr. L. R. Paramore, Chairman, and Mr. Alan Dean, Fairlington Civic Association  
Mr. Robert E. Reynolds, and Mr. Harold Sandbank, Fairlington Parent-Teacher Assn.  
Mrs. Rupert Herr and Mrs. Thomas Kinney, Claremont Civic Association  
Miss Jessie Carpenter, Safety Patrol Director, and Col. Robert J. McDuff, USA, drilled the color guard and marching platoons of the school's Safety Patrol.



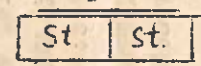
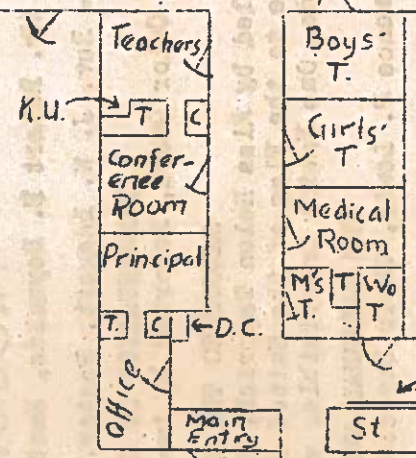


Shirlington

# DIAGRAM OF ABINGDON SCHOOL IN NORTH FAIRLINGTON

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| C CLOSET           | K KITCHEN       |
| CAB DISH. CABINET  | KU "ETTE UNIT   |
| CH CHIMNEY         | RA RANGE        |
| DB DISPLAY BOARD   | RE REFRIGERATOR |
| DC DISPLAY CASE    | ST STORAGE      |
| E ENTRANCE         | T TOILET        |
| J JANITORS. TOILET | W WARDROBE      |

Portion of future annex (more rooms and auditorium)

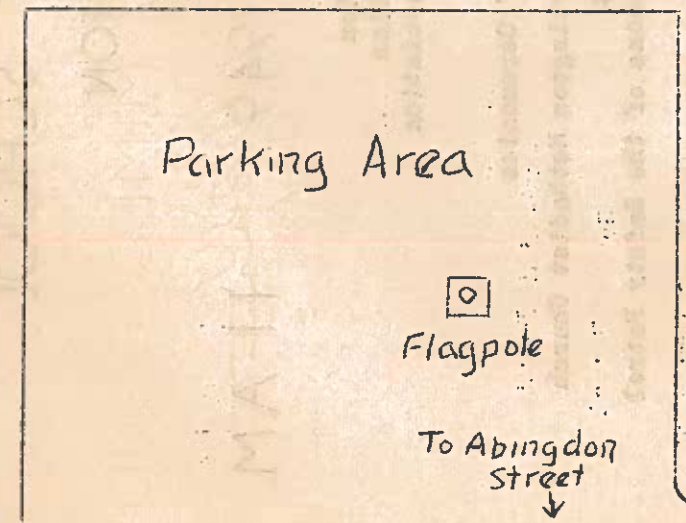
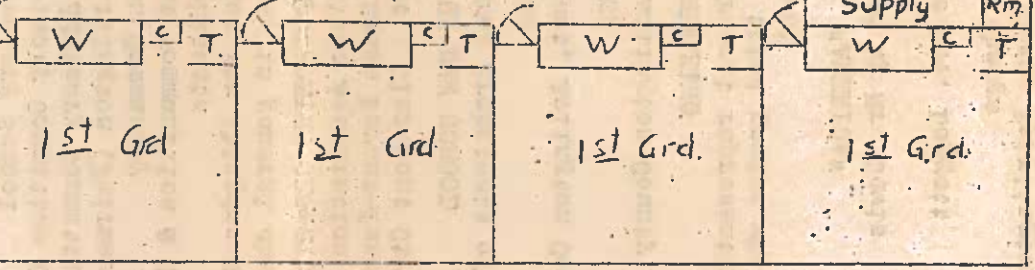


Play Room



Shower Rooms

Portable Platform



Flagpole  
To Abingdon Street

Portion of driveway for trucks

Shirlington

Submitted with apologies!

October 30, 1949

Mr. Reynolds ( and to any others interested):

Attached is a summary of the remarks made at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Abingdon School. It is not complete. You will recognize there are omissions. However, I think after you have read it, you will be able to make necessary additions so that altogether you will have a fairly adequate account of the morning's activities. I wanted very much to get it all down for you, and accurately too - but after ten or twelve years' absence from stenographic work, it didn't come back as readily as I thought. Anyhow, maybe this much will be of some help to you.

I did not take the time to list the titles of all those you presented, nor to take the names of the participating children, etc. You have that information.

I do sincerely hope that this much done will help contribute to a good report for that day.

(over)

Shirley Newby



Summary of Remarks made  
at

The Groundbreaking Exercises of  
The Abingdon Elementary School in  
North Fairlington

Saturday, October 29, 1949

The Reverend J. W. Leggett, Pastor, Fairlington Methodist Church, led the invocation and asked that the Lord's blessing "rest upon us in this new venture in which we stand identified."

The Presentation of the Colors followed.

Mr. Reynolds:

"We have with us today a large number of distinguished guests and I want to present them. But I want to go out of order on one person.

"This school demonstrates a fundamental issue of American life - a principle the ordinary citizen and the citizen who doesn't hold office recognizes. These activities have been carried out for about five years by the citizens of Arlington County and citizens of Fairlington, and the Claremont Civic Association. I think we have to give credit for a principal effort to the Fairlington Civic Association.

"Most noteworthy was the success of the census and poll which we took in order to convince the old school board of the inadequacy of the proposed six-room addition to the present school and of our need for a separate school in North Fairlington. The person who led the effort in connection with the census and poll is a citizen whom we all know. It is with very considerable respect and affection that I present Mrs. Robert E. Young."

Mrs. Young expresses our gratefulness and adds, "My one thought has always been that it (the building of the new school) will save some child's life. I am just so grateful and thank you all very much."

Mr. Reynolds mentions Mr. MacPherson, Mr. Walsh, and Dr. Draheim. Miss Hall is presented.

Mr. R:

"The playground portion of the school is right where you are now standing. This was given by Fairmac Corporation at no charge with the understanding that when it was not being used for school

2.

activities it would be available for recreation by tenants of Fairlington."

Mr. Reynolds presents Mr. William Ziegler and Mr. Howell.

Mr. R:

"Mrs. Allie S. Freed, as president of Paramount Communities, has felt the need for a school and sold the land at a very great reduction of cost. We are happy to present Mrs. Freed."

Thanks is offered to Mr. Pomponio, president of Pomponio & Sons, contractors for the new school, for the building of the platform for the ceremony.

Mr. Latham is presented and thanked for his very great assistance to us.

Mr. Joseph P. Smyth, Fairlington Civic Association, is introduced, and says:

"Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I just want to say that I am very happy to represent the Fairlington Civic Association and proud of the part we played in the building of the new school."

(Mr. Smyth gives credit to Mrs. Young, Allan Bob Reynolds, who have worked very hard in getting the school. To these individuals and to all groups in the community, and to the school board who made it possible, "thanks for a job well done."

*Mrs. Allie Freed?*

Mr. Reynolds introduces Mrs. Corcoran, who says:

"I am very happy to represent the South Fairlington P. T. A. We of the South Fairlington school feel sure that all the parents will rejoice in the knowledge that the crowded condition of the South Fairlington school will be alleviated. The North Fairlington mothers will certainly be happy to know that their children won't have to travel on buses in crowded conditions as they now are.

"The South Fairlington P. T. A. will be happy to be of assistance to the new school. In fact, we have allotted the sum of \$100.00 as a starting fund for the new school. We are all going to be happy for its completion. I want to wish the very best of luck to the



parents, teachers and children of the Abingdon School from the South Fairlington P. T. A."

Mr. Reynolds then introduces Mr. John W. McLeod, of McLeod & Ferrara, architects of Abingdon School.

Mr. McLeod:

"Mr. Reynolds gave me five minutes in which I should give you a description of the new building. This would be an imposition on both parents and children. I will cut my remarks down to about a half minute.

"I would like to tell you about our thinking in the matter of the designing of this new school building. We felt first of all that a school building should be an aid rather than an obstruction. Most schools are designed as public monuments. We have tried now to make the building a part of the educational process. We have tried to get everything into this school that we possibly could. We have sinks in every classroom. We have individual toilets in the first grade rooms. We have tried as much as we could to get away from an institutional feeling in the building of the school. However, we are bound by state laws. It is, after all, a school building, but we did attempt by the use of color and light to make a more homelike atmosphere. We have tried to get them in so that they will be of assistance.

"We have attempted to get play space in our class rooms. This will be a great help, although this play field is for the larger children. The smaller children need supervised play adjacent to the classrooms. So far as the physical comfort of the children is concerned, we have devised radiant heating which permits the children to play on the floor, which they all do at that age. To offset the criticism of having the floors too hot we have supplied supplementary heat in the rooms in the form of convectors. The pickup heat in the morning will be done by means of supplementary heat. I can't think of anything else that would give you a picture of it."

"All in all, as far as the children are concerned we are enthusiastic about the building. You will be too when you see it. You will also have a chance to tell us some of the things you don't like. That is the chance we have to take."

Mr. Reynolds then introduces Mr. William A. Early, Superintendent, Arlington County Schools. Mr. Early refers to the bad weather which attends the ceremony - "This California dew may get to be more than a downpour than it is now. But I am delighted that there are this many people who take this much interest. This is a new

experience for me because I have had to carry the entire load in the communities where I worked. It is a situation that does not exist in lots of our localities.

"The Abingdon School will be one of the first in a series of buildings that will be constructed to take care of the increase in this community. In 1947 there were approximately 10,000 children in school. Within six years you will have some 27,000 children, 19,000 under six years of age. Therefore, you will have all of this, plus one half of those already in. I give you the information and you do the work.

"Our next situation will be a school in Claremont, south of Columbia Pike and north of North Fairlington. Every time a new home is constructed the county is obligated for a thousand dollars in capital outlay. This school represents \$300,000.00. As the new constructions come, you will have to add accordingly.

"As to your Miss Hall - how we could use the sword which Solomon was going to use on the baby with two mothers! I think it is up to you to find another Miss Hall. So that may be a competition among you. We had been thinking in some other terms in regard to Miss Hall.

"We hope that this building will be completed with the least amount of lost time. To you the best of luck. I am available to you whenever possible. If we can be of help, please let us know."

M r. Reynolds presents Mrs. Edmund Campbell, Member, Arlington County School Board.

Mrs. Campbell:

"Everybody has been talking to the grownups, and I think I will talk to the children. One of the jobs I like best is the job of actually seeing the school get started. A new school is not going to do any good if you don't get everything you can out of it. When I went to school we considered that we were lucky if we had a room that was warm enough to sit in.

"We are counting on the boys and girls for whom we are doing this to be even better citizens than your fathers and mothers. Some of you boys and girls know things that your parents don't know. It is because you started with these things - radio, television, and all these fine things we have today. The parents have to keep up with the children not only in the kind of buildings but in the kind of instruction.



"Mr. Reynolds, we agree that we are not going to have enough space for all. Somehow we have got to take care of everybody. Will you all be a kind of pilot to goad the rest to work hard for schools? If you do we will have money enough, teachers enough and schools enough to provide adequately for Arlington's children."

2300

2100

1900

1700

1500

1300

1100

900

700

500

Children of  
Elementary  
School Age  
in Fairlington  
(excluding 3  
blocks in  
Fairfax County)



Enrollment  
Expectancy

943

792

1437

942

1715

1125

1955

1282

2196

1440

1545

1947

1948

1949

1950

1951

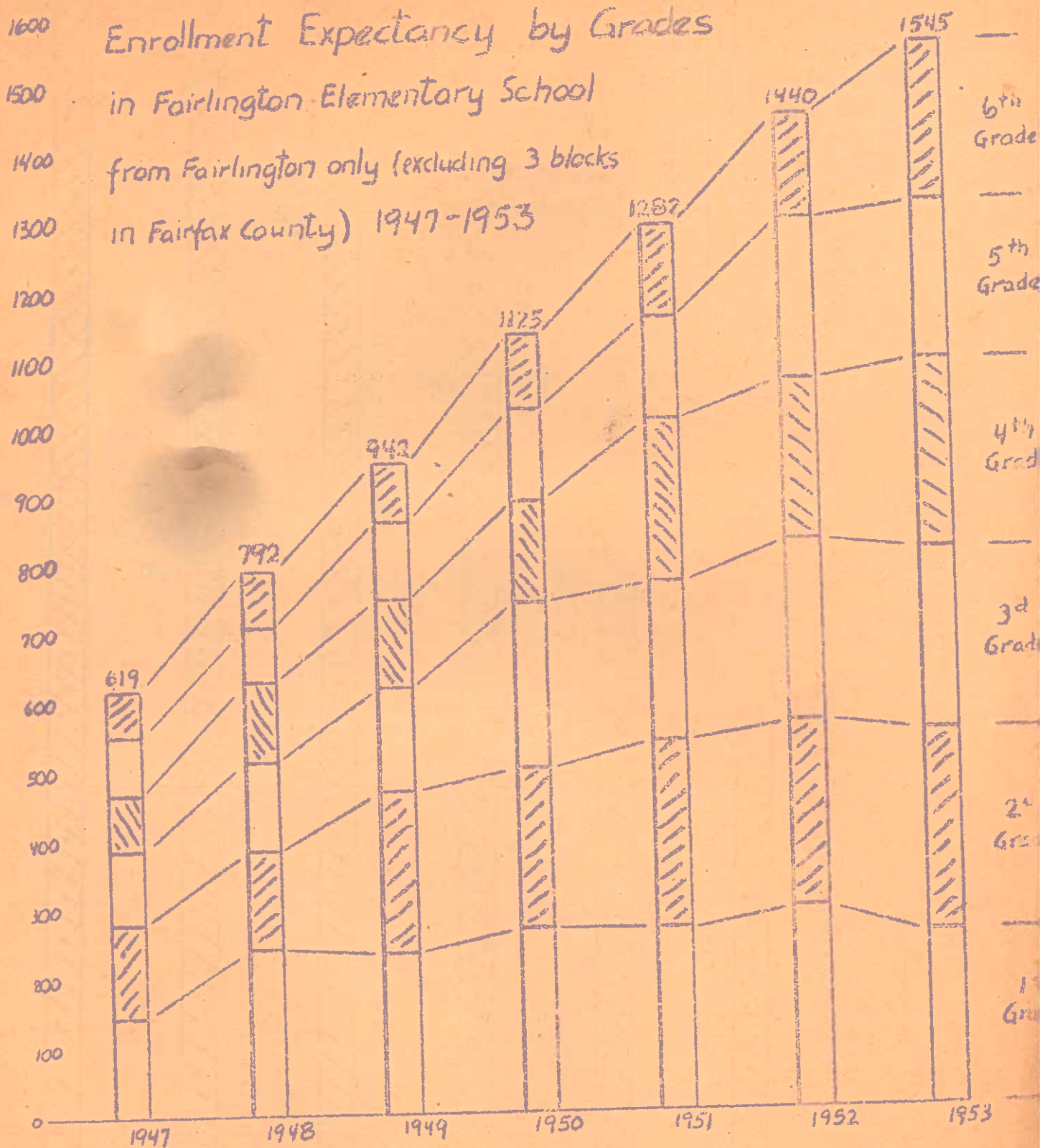
1952

1953

Source: Table 4 "Estimated Total Number of Children 11 and under", and Table 5  
"Estimated Enrollment in Fairlington School"

Prepared by: Fairlington Association October 22, 1947





Source: Table 5 containing projected enrollment based upon present enrollment in the light of number of children in age groups at present of 5 years and under.

Prepared by: Fairlington Association, October 22, 1947

# ANNOUNCING A CHANGE IN DATE FOR GROUND BREAKING

FOR THE ABINGDON SCHOOL  
IN NORTH FAIRLINGTON

NEW DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Ground will not be cleared by October 15 (the original date) as the contract was not signed until October 11. Also, because our principal speakers will not be able to come on October 22, we have had to make a further postponement in the date announced at the October PTA meeting.

Don't forget the SQUARE DANCE Saturday, October 22 at Fairlington Elementary School. Wylie D. Goodsell, Caller 50¢ each wear your jeans & calicos

See March of Time's "FIGHT FOR BETTER SCHOOLS" at Centre Theatre, November 2 and 3



COME IN YOUR JEANS &  
GINGHAMS & CALICOS  
AND HAVE A GOOD TIME  
AT THE PTA  
SQUARE DANCE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

8:30 TO 11:30 AT THE SCHOOL

50¢ PER PERSON

WYLIE D. GOODSSELL  
CALLER

DOOR PRIZES

PTA OF FAIRLINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL







Prop line

Robert E. Reynolds, Public Relations  
3050 So. Woodrow St., Arlington, Va.  
TE-1774

Groundbreaking Exercises  
Marks Start of Abingdon  
School in North Fairlington

The people of Claremont and Fairlington communities in Arlington, Virginia, will celebrate the start of construction of the new Abingdon school in North Fairlington at groundbreaking exercises on Saturday, October 29, at 11 a.m. on the site at Abingdon street and 30th road. Sponsored jointly by the Fairlington and Claremont Civic Associations and the Fairlington Parent-Teacher Association, the celebration will climax a five-year effort by these organizations to secure a school in the community.

Interest in the affair is heightened by the current issue of "March of Time" featuring the struggle of Arlington citizens to improve their school system. The Abingdon school is the second elementary school to be constructed under a recently approved bond issue. Ceremonies marking start of construction of the Glen Carlyn school, the first begun under the new building program, were held in August this year.

Two platoons of the Fairlington school's safety patrol, which has won numerous first and second prizes for floats or slogans in the national safety patrol parade held in Washington each Spring, will escort a color guard for the salute to the flag and singing of the national anthem. Miss Helen Tapprich, a sixth-grade pupil and a member of the safety patrol, will lead the salute to the flag. Mr. Clarence Lewis, choir director of the Fairlington Methodist church, will lead the singing.

After introduction of a group of distinguished guests, the gathering will hear brief remarks by the presidents of the three sponsoring organizations. Mr. Joseph P. Smyth will speak for the Fairlington civic association; Mrs. Charles J. Corcoran for the Fairlington Parent-Teacher association, and Lt. Cmdr. O. W. Fusch:



add - Fairlington Groundbreaking Ceremonies

U.S.N., Ret., for the Claremont civic association.

Mr. John W. McLeod, of McLeod and Ferrara, architects of the new school, will describe its principal features. Mr. William A. Early, superintendent of Arlington county schools, and Mrs. Edmund D. Campbell, member of the school board, will ~~make short addresses~~ be the main speakers, and each will make a short address.

Highpoint of the ceremony will be the actual groundbreaking by fifteen children of North Fairlington and Claremont. A child living in one of these communities was selected from each of the first, second, and third grade classes in the present Fairlington elementary school to represent all of the children who will be pupils in the new Abingdon school.

The exercises will close with the singing of "America". The Rev. J. W. Leggett, pastor of Fairlington Methodist church, will pronounce the invocation and benediction. Mr. Robert E. Reynolds of the PTA will be master of ceremonies.

The committee in charge of the exercises includes Mr. L. R. Paramore, chairman, and Mr. Alan Dean, of the Fairlington civic association; Mr. Harold Sandbank and Mr. Robert E. Reynolds of the Fairlington PTA; and Mrs. Rupert Herr and Mrs. Thomas Kinney of the Claremont civic association. Miss Jessie Carpenter, sixth grade teacher and director of the safety patrol, and Col. Robert J. McDuff, U.S.A., and private secretary to Gen. Omar Bradley, drilled the safety patrol.