

Fairlington

10TH

Anniversary

1943

May

1953

Program

May 29, 1953

Friday, 8:00 p.m.

**Abingdon School
North Fairlington**

Introduction of Donald M. Murtha, President, Fairlington Civic Association, by Hyman J. Cohen, Chairman of Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Presentation of Mrs. George Bassett Williams of Fairlington, widow of Mr. Williams, Executive Vice-President of Defense Homes Corporation and designer of Fairlington

Robert W. Williams of Fairlington, son of the late George Bassett Williams.

Capt. R. N. McFarlane, USN, a first resident and first president of Fairlington Civic Association

William A. Ziegler, General Manager of Fairmac Corporation

Millard G. Homan, Manager of Fairlington

Greetings from Arlington County to Fairlington from Colin C. MacPherson, County Treasurer

Response by Harold Sandbank, Fairlington Civic Association

Address: Armistead L. Boothe, delegate to the General Assembly, attorney and President of Alexandria Bar Association

Presentation of Alan L. Dean, past President, Fairlington Civic Association

Refreshments — Social Hour

Music by Philip Jones, Elizabeth Krebs, Wilson Myers

Flowers by The Arlington Florist

Saturday, 11:00 a.m.

May 30, 1953

**Abingdon School
North Fairlington**

Memorial Day Bicycle Parade, 11 o'clock, begins at Fairlington Elementary School, proceeds to Abingdon School. Parade Marshal Lt. Frank C. Palmer, Bureau Commander of Safety Traffic, Arlington County Police Department. Led by Optimist Drum and Bugle Corps, Edward S. Loveless, Manager

Invocation: Rev. Martin T. Quinn, Blessed Sacrament Church

Flag Raising Ceremony: Fairlington Scout troops, directed by William Harting and Maj. Lee R. Terrell

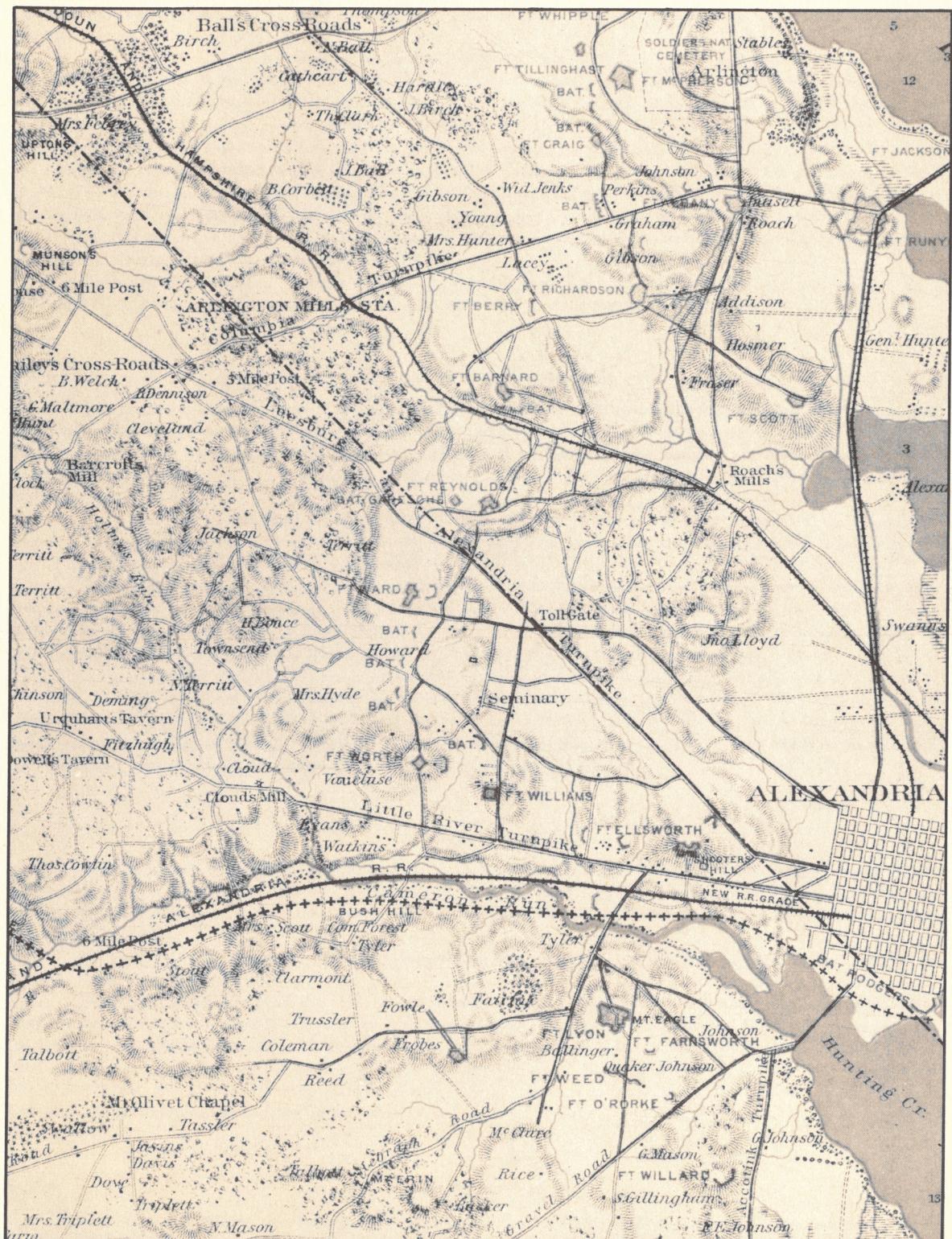
Rededication: Donald M. Murtha, President, Fairlington Civic Association

Awarding of Bicycle Parade Prizes: Hyman J. Cohen, Chairman

Childrens' Rides and Refreshments

Cub Scout Baseball Game

North Fairlington Pack 120 versus South Fairlington Pack 117 at 1:30 p.m.



Extract of military map of N.E. Virginia showing forts and roads, Engineering Bureau, War Department, 1865.
From the Library of the Army War College

Mr. Smith named his land Hampton Farm and it was extended from Lucky Run east to Seminary Road and Donaldson store. A white mansion stood on the site of the water tower in North Fairlington and the lane to the house was bordered by huge pine trees, a few of which are still standing.

Courtland Smith, the richest man in the County and a real "gay blade," raised thorough-bred horses and most of Fairlington was a pasture where grazed as many as 90 brood mares. In 1895, Mr. Smith, before a large crowd, jumped his best bay, Up To Date, over a six foot six hurdle while holding his six week old daughter in his arms. It is reliably reported that three women fainted but no mention is made of Mrs. Smith's reaction.

After the Smith estate was sold in 1926 the land was broken up into several small holdings and was all woodland with the exception of an area extending roughly from Quaker Lane and Leesburg Turnpike to Wakefield Street and thence to 35th Street. This cleared area was used as a landing field for private planes and from 1931 until 1934 there was a flying school, but after a fatal plane crash the residents of Seminary Hill banned against the use of the field and it was abandoned.

In 1941 the Navy Department had under consideration the acquisition of the land for an auxiliary landing field but this too was successfully opposed by the Seminary Hill residents.

Before the construction of Fairlington, what is now known as Quaker Lane was named Seminary Road and was but a dirt road running from the Episcopal Seminary to Four Mile Run where it intersected Glebe Road.

Defense Homes Corporation

Late in 1940 the Defense Homes Corporation was chartered under the statutes of the State of Maryland for the purpose of building permanent homes anywhere private industry could not or would not furnish housing for the defense workers then being recruited all over the country. This corporation, which was of a temporary nature, borrowed the money for these projects from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and its financial obligation was to break even after paying interest on the loan, operating expenses and taxes.

Many such projects were made possible by this means and when the Pentagon and Navy Annex were on the planning boards, it became apparent that housing would be needed for the influx of workers into the Washington area. Fairlington was one of three housing developments built in this vicinity.

The late George Bassett Williams, whose widow is one of Fairlington's distinguished residents, was the executive vice-president of the Defense Homes Corporation and Fairlington became his own special dream and pet. In 1924 347 acres were acquired by the corporation and Mr. Williams often drove out and then walked over the area while guiding its construction. It was designed by the architects Kenneth Franzheim and Allan B. Mills after the Williamsburg tradition.

At its completion Fairlington's 3,439 units comprised the largest and most beautiful permanent housing development of that time. Mr. Williams named it by combining the names of Fairfax and Arlington counties. South Fairlington and all of North Fairlington north of Columbus Street are in Arlington County. Blocks 1, 2, and 3 were in Fairfax County until 1951 when this portion of Fairfax County was included in the area annexed by the city of Alexandria as the result of its successful annexation suit, pursuant to the annexation provisions of the Virginia code.

Fairlington Is Built

In order to start the actual construction an anti-aircraft battery, radar devices and barracks had to be moved off the land at the corner of Leesburg Turnpike and Seminary Road. The construction crews of the Thompson Starrett Company, contractors, cut the barracks in two and then carried the complete installation across the street opposite the present site of Perine's filling station.

On May 15, 1943, after many months of construction, work had progressed sufficiently to allow the first 300 families to occupy their new homes.

Fairlington, which was built at a cost of \$35,396,640, at that early date did not at all resemble the comfortable, well-established communities from which the new residents had come. It had no paved roads and the trucks working on extending the project drove back and forth and ground the earth to dust three and four inches thick. The housewives would haul out hoses and dampen down the street in an effort to keep their homes clean. There were no lawns, trees or sidewalks and the settlers waded through mud that first winter and spring. It had no easy routes to Washington or even to the Pentagon. All those things were planned, however, so that there were high hopes of better things.

The First Year

Like other such pioneer communities, Fairlington lacked material facilities, but it abounded with people with constructive ideas. In the communities from which they came, they had been active in civic organizations; they had been members of churches, and of clubs; there were sports lovers and orchestral players; they were dancers and readers and movie fans. All these interests and skills they brought with them and once here, they transplanted them into new organizations with startling rapidity.

One of the most immediate needs was for churches. Congregations were formed and met in homes, in schools or in almost any building until churches could be built. On Easter Sunday, 1944, Saint Clement's Episcopal congregation met in their

completed chapel and the permanent church was opened for services in 1947. The Fairlington Methodist Church was built in 1945; the Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church was completed in 1946; the Fairlington Presbyterian Church was opened for services in 1947, and the Fair Park Baptist Church opened its doors in 1948. Many of these churches plan to extend their plants in the near future.

By September, 1943, Fairlington boasted a newspaper, the Fairlington Neighbor, edited by Mrs. Virginia Davis. Its first issue showed the rapid progress made in the community. Fairlington got its streets paved in the first summers; AB & W busses soon became available to transport its residents to Washington and Alexandria. The Arnold Line, for a period of time, provided service to Washington and Clarendon. All shopping had to be done in Alexandria, Washington or distant Arlington points; the only store was "Donaldson's," at the corner of Braddock Road and Quaker Lane. To provide services for the growing population, "Uncle" Joe Chernier began construction of a shopping center now called Shirlington, on December 6, 1943. It was to cover an area of 23 acres and to cost about three and a half million dollars.

During 1944 there was built the store building at the corner of Leesburg and the present Quaker Lane, now occupied by Shirley Food Stores. The building's first occupant was a market known as County Garden, which closed after a relatively short economic life, due to financial and other difficulties. The Safeway Store was the next to appear on the Fairlington shopping horizon. It was followed by the Centre Theatre building, and then by the Fairlington Shopping Centre.

School Is Opened

It is hard to imagine Fairlington without Shirley Highway, but it was a well-established community before that traffic artery was completed. Those early months also brought a fire department staffed then as now partly by volunteers. Fairlington had no school until January 3, 1944, and the early papers reflect the intense interest of the citizens in the work on Fairlington Elementary School. Of course the Fairlington Parent-Teachers Association was organized almost the moment the school opened and has long participated in the Arlington County Council of the P-TA. In March 1944 the community got its first public health clinic staffed by personnel of the Arlington County Health Department.

A check of the early newspapers shows the almost bewildering variety of civic and recreational activities which the early residents initiated. As the bulldozers finished the grading, baseball games began; male Fairlingtonians have always maintained several baseball leagues. Tennis, handball, and bowling leagues quickly began competition. But if the early Fairlington had its sports, it also had its piano classes, its duplicate bridge tournaments and its amateur dramatics. The very first issue of the Fairlington Neighbor reported the activities of the Red Cross volunteers and the meetings of the Girl and Boy Scouts in the basement of the Administration Building. These latter two were sponsored the first year by Fairlington's management which George DeNeale headed. Both the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women were organized at the very first.

Almost immediately after World War II the Defense Homes Corporation, under the terms of its charter, had to liquidate its holdings. Fairlington, together with other housing developments was offered for sale from December 4, 1945, to January 5, 1946. The transaction by which Fairlington was sold to its present owners was completed in 1947; the Fairmac Corporation acquired Fairlington and McLean Gardens for a sum of about forty million dollars. Defense Homes Corporation not only paid off the loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but also turned over to the RFC a profit of three million dollars.

The Civic Association

People in Fairlington were always community-minded. Service clubs such as Kiwanis were organized and the first newspapers reported the formation of the Fairlington Civic Association under the chairmanship of Commander (now Captain) R. N. McFarlane. The Civic Association in one form or another has held a unique position in the life of Fairlington and Arlington and is a member of the County Civic Federation. It has been the sponsor of much of the recreational and leisure time activity here and has been the focus of many an epochal effort on the part of its members to stimulate an interest in community affairs and to help build a better Arlington County.

The early civic leaders devised the scheme of providing play equipment for the children by money raising activities and before the organization of the Arlington Recreation Department the Association also provided playground supervision during the summer months.

The Fairlington Players, now an independent amateur theatrical company, was originally started by the Civic Association which sponsored it financially until it was able to support itself. It now has a membership of about 150 players of which 35 are in really active status. It is a non-profit organization, with the exception of the children's play which is presented at Christmas, the profits from which are given to a charity. The Players produce four plays a year; one each season.

The Civic Association also sponsored the Modern Dance Group which has proved of benefit to many children in recent years.

To provide money for these varied activities the Association first raised funds by subscription and dues but soon the needs outran the money. The wartime paper shortage offered an opportunity to raise money and a monthly paper drive became a very prosperous project and a focus for neighborhood enthusiasm. Prizes were provided for the children who collected the most paper and much of the income was used in the purchase of the swings, slides, and sand boxes in the play areas.

Memorial Day

The Memorial Day celebration has for several years been an anxiously awaited holiday because of the colorful bicycle parade that forms in North Fairlington and winds through the streets to terminate at the school in South Fairlington, or vice versa. There, prizes are given for the best decorated "bike" in the several classes and age groups and then the crowds attend the carnival on the school grounds.

It was soon apparent that the Fairlington Elementary School would be inadequate for the needs of a community made up largely of young parents. The Civic Association and the P-TA and interested residents of North Fairlington successfully insisted that the new Abingdon School in North Fairlington be increased from the planned six rooms to ten rooms, by conducting a house-to-house survey to establish the need for a larger new school. It was completed in 1950 on acreage deeded to Arlington County by Fairmac Corporation.

The Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic School was opened on Braddock Road at Quaker Lane in 1949 and the work on an addition to the school will begin this month.

The Civic Association lent weight to the improvement of libraries in Arlington County and has always encouraged its members to provide volunteer service in the Shirlington Branch.

County-Wide Participation

Participation of citizens in the political life of their community has always been promoted by the Civic Association which, together with the Fairlington P-TA and League of Women Voters, organized the first joint Committee on Registration. In the first years of its existence no citizen of Fairlington was a registered voter, of course, but as soon as they had fulfilled the residence requirements, citizens were urged to register and vote. Over the years registration campaigns have been held annually, so that now a large percentage of residents are articulate registered voters.

Residents of Fairlington have been active in the civic affairs of Arlington County, both as individuals and as representatives of organizations. They have been hardworking members of Arlington County P-TA, Scouts, civic, school, park, library, and recreation committees. Several were representatives to the Advisory Committee on the County's six year improvement program and participated in the study of Arlington's incorporation. Fairlingtonians have been elected to the Arlington County Board; been nominated for the School Board, and stood for election to many other County offices.

Most of the male residents of Fairlington are either Civil Servants or officers in the military services and there are many professional men among its numbers.

Probably the next big community project will be to set up the Civil Defense operation in cooperation with the County plan, for which Alonzo J. Covel has been appointed warden for Fairlington.

And thus, Fairlington, with an approximate population of 12,000 and a reputation known round the world, completes its first decade.



Acknowledgements

HYMAN J. COHEN, GENERAL CHAIRMAN
MRS. DONALD M. MURTHA, CO-CHAIRMAN

All Officers of the Fairlington Civic Association, assisted by:

Harold Sandbank	Perry Connor
Mrs. Albert C. Howard	Mrs. Delos E. Flint
Mrs. Richard Gabel	Matthew Warren
Mrs. Leonard B. Sussholz	Hugo B. Valeri
Col. Phillips D. Carleton	Mrs. Arthur Rosenwasser
Mrs. Nathan Siegel	

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Moreau Chambers	Walter F. Cronin
Mrs. Peter Delohery	Herbert S. Billowitz
Edward O. Poole	Spencer B. Rixse

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Sidney Edelman, <i>Chairman</i>	
Mrs. Jack Miller, <i>Co-Chairman</i>	Mrs. James R. Lee
Glen Bayless	Douglas H. Smith

PHOTOGRAPHS COMMITTEE

Lewis C. Cook	Mrs. Frank Bruskin
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GUEST COMMITTEE

Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Troxell	Mrs. Olive S. Whitley
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HOSTESS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Charles J. Corcoran, <i>Chairman</i>	
Mrs. Robert Day	Mrs. Richard Gabel
Mrs. William McCahon	Mrs. Kenneth Stahl
Mrs. Allyn Walters	Mrs. William Harting
Mrs. Max Kane	Mrs. Arnold Shostak
Mrs. L. R. Paramore	Mrs. Theodore Wertime
Mrs. Edward O. Poole	Mrs. Leo Garson
Mrs. Virgil C. Funk	Mrs. Robert Hollingshead
Mrs. Donald Benjamin	Mrs. Walter Tkach
Mrs. Will Anderson	Mrs. Robert Healy
Mrs. Vincent F. Pelosi	

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

Richard Gabel	Maj. and Mrs. Lee R. Terrell
Assisted by parents of Cub Pack 120	

Map procured by Major General Fred L. Walker

Management

William A. Ziegler, *General Manager of Fairmac Corporation*
Millard G. Homan, *Manager of Fairlington*
Jesse T. Diuguid, *Assistant Manager of Fairlington*
Mrs. Mildred Lee, *Executive Secretary*

OFFICERS OF THE FAIRLINGTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION 1952 - 1953

Donald M. Murtha, *President*
Hyman J. Cohen, *1st Vice President*
Mrs. Frank Bruskin, *2nd Vice President*
Mrs. Alonzo J. Covel, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Douglas H. Smith, *Recording Secretary*
Mrs. Paul J. Molaison, *Corresponding Secretary*

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Harold Sandbank	Carleton A. Del Mar
Col. Phillips D. Carleton	William H. Dorsey, Jr.
Alonzo J. Covel	Irving M. Herman
Mrs. Donald M. Murtha	Richard Gabel
Louis Ravin	