

Mary Boulware

is 84, a former resident of Spring Bank, who now lives in Alexandria.

The Bucknell bus wasn't running through there then. I know when they first started. They were digging stakes. I walked down through the woods one day. I wondered what they were for. I ask a man one day, "Mister, what they going to do down there? I see them stakes all sticking up through there!" He said, "Going to run a bus up here, going to make a road for the bus." I said "Coming up this hill?" He said, "Yeah." I went along there one day again and them old bulldozers was in there just cleaning up, and wasn't long before they had buses coming up through there. So they started the bus. Five cents to go up to Alexandria, that's what it was. On the other road was 10 cents. Ft. Belvoir was 10 cents. We quits Belvoir and we'd catch the 5 cents bus.

I walked all through them woods. They had an old dump over there. I'd just walk through the woods and try to find flowers. I got some old wild roses down there. They're still running on the fence down there now. I got them off the dump - I'd find good flowers off the dump. Some of them said, "Snakes going to run you out of them woods." But I never saw a snake. I looked, but never saw one.

Better days then, than what's now. To tell you the truth, better days. Sometimes I wish that I could call the days back because it's just terrible times. You could get together and you could have nice times, but you almost scared to go out now. You could go out and you could walk at night and nothing would bother you. But you dare not to walk anywhere at night now. Taking purses, and things. I'm just afraid to go out at night. I used to just go for miles. Nothing bothered me. But now I have to go the least little block, I'd run into an old drunk or something. Times ain't like they use to be. Use to be much better time. Bad times now.

We use to have to go across the creek before they making the bridges across the roads. My Uncle went through the creek once. There were no bridges; he just made his mules go on through the water. They got half way through, logs were coming down, and he tried for his knife and tried to cut it loose so's the mules could swim out. One swim out and the other just drug on down. The wagon had been full of everything, food, everything. All of that got washed away. So then they went to making bridges. The bridge down on Quander Road has been there for years. It wasn't as big as what it is now - it was a little old thing.

Reverend Battalon came in and asked me, "Where do all these children go

to Sunday School?" I told him they didn't go to Sunday School, there was none, no church. He said, "There ought to be a church here." I asked this lady if we could have a Sunday School in her garage. He (Wilson Battalon) was willing so we went and had the Sunday School and we was doing pretty good so he said, "Mrs. Boulware, how about us putting up a tent?" He got the cloth and we put up the tent. We'd meet at night. Finally the wind blew the tent down. Then they went and got some boards and he made a nice little place. Folks came in the church, having a good crowd. So he said "I'm going to build a church." He had three houses in Washington and he put his houses up. Raise enough money to pay for it, didn't want him to lose his houses. They build and they buy lumber and build till they got that church you see down in Spring Bank.

I moved into Spring Bank in 1950. When I moved down there all those white folks' houses wasn't there. All of it was woods. I pick plenty of blackberries all around there by Ft. Hunt Road. Sit my water bucket on my head, full of blackberries, one in each hand, and come home.

I did window cleaning. All every which away, window cleaning. Clean all the houses in Fairfax. I just went around window cleaning. I just clean the house and the people would move in the houses. Just go around to the new houses they were building. I didn't know the people who moved in them.

Remember the night club "Springbank Inn"?

Yeah, I used to go there - they just had a little club like and they would sell stuff in there. Kind of like a lunch room.

Mr. Jimmy (Quander) had so many greens. He wouldn't give nobody none and he wouldn't sell ya none. He just wouldn't sell ya none for the money. He bring them up to the market and sell them, but he wouldn't give people down there any greens. I wanted some greens so bad one day, so I went on out there one night, and got me some. Great big old tons of it -- it was the best around - but he would never sell you none of them. He wouldn't sell me none and he wouldn't give ya none. Not only me who got them but it was all the colored people who would go get them. He'd never miss them, he had so many. He just had acres of them out there where the school (Bryant) is now. There was tons of greens. The biggest turnip greens I'd ever seen. He'd tell you he wasn't ready to pull them up. Every Friday he'd cut them and pull them up, big sack full, and be ready to take them to market on Saturday.

He could grow anything on that land. He was farming right, that's good land. Had okra too, Mr. Jim would sell me a little bit of okra. One day I wanted some okra. The okra had grown so tall, just bending over, so tall,

and I didn't have no knife. I tried to break it off - that okra stung my arms up so! I broke me some - put it in my lap and come on home. I cooked it up. I cooked my okra. He wouldn't give you anything - you would have to go in the field and take what you wanted. That's just the kind of man he was. He had so much corn and everything growed up around there - couldn't no one see me.

And I would go and pick cherries. They had me to pick the cherries for them to carry to market and I'd go up there and stay all day in them cherry trees. I'd just climb them ladders, pick buckets full of cherries. And strawberries - they had a big strawberry patch. I'd go and get the strawberries in the mornin' - the sun would get so hot I'd just be sweating - picking them strawberries for them, and I wouldn't charge them a thing. I didn't have nothing to do then - just walk about - and I'd go there and stay all day. His wife would give me one of those little baskets full in the night when I'd knock off and I'd make a pie. That's all I charged - I didn't want nothing else. Her daughter, one day she come up town and she bought me a dress. She sent it down here by her daughter -- told me from being so nice and kind and not charging nothing. She give me a dress and I was proud in my dress.

I would take part of my money and put it in the church. I'm just happy today that part of my money has gone in that church. I need it today, but I paid it and then they got the church. And they ask me, "What must we name the church?" I told them "Name it Mt. Calvary" So that's the name of the church today; I named it. Then they wanted a piano in there. I was the first one to give \$5 down. I said, "Here's \$5."

And I'll tell you where I come by that \$5. Old Mrs. Quander's mother was sick and I was so good to the old lady until Mrs. Quander give me \$5. She said, "You been here, ain't charged me nothing to take care, so I'm going to give you \$5." And I went right home and took that \$5 and put it in the church. That's why they have a piano.

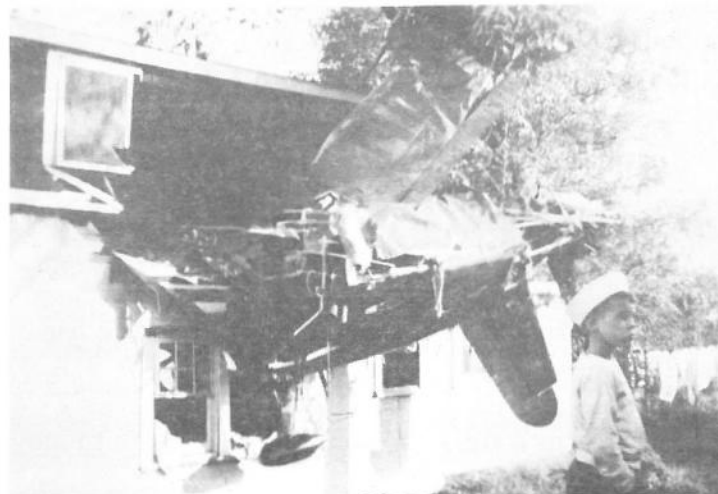
Carrie Johnson

We moved into Fairfax County in March of 1937. I had just one child. Then in 1942 my second child was born. He went to Groveton Elementary. I was president of the Groveton P. T. A. the year of '45-'46, '46-'47, and we had many difficulties. In 1948 they asked me to be chairman of the band committee. We had no band in our community, or in this part of the county. The next year I went down to Mt. Vernon high school and met with Mr. Steinbeck, the band

director, and with a few parents. We asked him what he wanted the most for the band, and he asked for uniforms. When he told us that the uniforms would cost \$2200, I raised \$2500 by doing many things. I sold newspaper ads for the Alexandria Gazette, we had donkey ball games and dances, and had a tag day. The next year I raised \$2600 for the band and we bought band instruments. I didn't do it by myself, the parents helped me.

In 1950 we decided the airport had to go. We banded together the Citizen's Association -- I was chairman of the Membership committee. That first year we had 1000 members. The airport, during World War II, was used, you know, to teach navy people, in and out. It was terrible.

My home is at the end of a runway. Now then, an airplane set down and went through a house next to Groveton School. A year or two later a plane set down in my back yard. It was hot. It was on, I think, the 5th of September. I was pickin' lima beans in the garden and Gary was sitting near the chicken house. He had two chickens that somebody had given him at Easter time, and they were grown and he was sitting there holding them. I came up out of the garden and told him to come in, it was too hot to be outdoors. The only way I could get him in was tell him I would read to him. We came in, and we hadn't been in 5 minutes before that airplane set down. If it hadn't been for the swing that we had built out of telephone poles -- the plane hit those things and stopped -- and the dog house that the chickens stayed in was knocked clear up against the house, and I was just petrified. Well, there was a thousand people there in our yard, including the firemen and police. It just ruined everything we had.



*The plane that landed
in a house while
trying to land
at Beacon airport*

Well, we, the Citizen Association, banded together and we were determined to get rid of the airport. We had a meeting before the board of supervisors and was there all night long till 5 o'clock in the morning. They decided they shouldn't get rid of it. We raised money and our lawyers went to Richmond, and two years later they overturned that. They said the airport had to go. The airport was run by the Reid family.

This area was in terrible condition. There was no hard surface on this road out here. My husband every weekend had to get out and fill up all the mud holes in the winter time to get out on the highway.

It was difficult time really and truly because we had to go to Alexandria to get a loaf of bread, there were no stores in this area. The people really and truly knew each other. We worked together and I enjoyed every minute of working with people in these parts. I think the parents of today are missing a lot by not having activities in school so they can get acquainted with each other.

This street was named after Franklin Reid. I mean, the Reids owned all this property with the Picketts. Mrs. Reid was a Pickett and their home is the old house in front of Miss Smith's house. After the Picketts died Mr. Reid used that for his tenents, they tended the farm. Then, I guess in '19 or '20, he sold it to the Barnetts. This subdivision was started in 1925. Franklin Reid was just a young child at that time, a young fella, and (Franklin Street) was named Franklin after him, and Pickett after the Pickett family.

I understand when Dr. C. L. Fifer moved out of Mount Eagle he leased the ground to those apartment people. I don't think he ever sold it, and of course, Gary being an antique collector, he was just heartbroken when they went in and burned it down. You see the house had been vandalized. Dr. Fifer told me when he was getting ready to move that it was to be used as a club house and golf course. It had been a club at one time. Before World War II, when gas rationing came along, the club broke up. So Dr. Fifer bought it. And that must have been 1941-42. Then, you know, George Mason's father lived -- down there where the K-Mart is, in that great big house. It's a shame that it wasn't a landmark and left in this area instead of being torn down.

When we came out here in 1935 to look at property the real estate man told us that Mount Comfort was for sale. It had a house on it and they had cattle over there. There was 165 acres, and they offered it to us for \$16,000. And of course, we were young people and my husband was a World War I veteran. He had just gotten his veteran's pay. We only had so much money -- and he is not a farmer, and didn't want that much land.

Alcindar Hines

We have two new schools in our neighborhood now, a new church and new homes, and better roads. We also have a lighted street on Quander Road.

You had a son buried on that property out there. Is he still out there?

Yes, they put a fence around it. When they were pushing down those trees and all over there, and cleaning up, I walked over that way and told 'em I appreciate that.

One thing we don't have anymore is the ballfield. Remember the ballfield? Where the Wildcats used to play? That was the name of the baseball team that my brother-in-law, Lawrence Randall, was the manager of. Yes, a very good team. They would go out and play other teams. He had a young team, some of the small young boys, he called the Randaleers. He furnished uniforms for them, bought it all his self. Field was located on the back end of the property of the Quanders, on the Joseph Quander's property.

My husband built this home.

The mail boxes were out by the Spring Bank Elementary School down there. Everyone had mailboxes out there on No. 1. My Daddy's oldest brother, Robert Quander, he was the one that got this road in here named for the family -- Quander Road.

Spring Bank Elementary School was a one room school and we had first through seventh grade. We'd have three grades in the morning and three grades in the afternoon. We'd have arithmetic, reading, and spelling before lunch and in the afternoon we would have English and Geography and Hygiene. And we would have 2 recesses. At 10:30, we'd have a 15 minute recess and we'd have one hour at 12:00 -- from 12 until 1 lunch -- and in the afternoons we would have 15 minutes again, from 2:30 to a quarter of three. We brought our lunch, you know, it wasn't served. We didn't have no hot lunches. They had a big stove and during the winter months the boys, the big 6th and 7th graders, being able to leave school, would go down early in the morning to make a fire, so the room would be warm. They carried water because we didn't have any water there. We got water next door at my Aunt's, Miss Elizabeth Quander's home, and each person, each child, would have their own private drinking glasses. We had 35 or 40 children.

During the winter months we had deep snows. All the men and neighbors, they would get out and shovel snow. They'd take the horses and a big wide board and drag the road down, so you could get in and out. Wasn't too many automobiles in those days.

I was born and raised here, and I've seen this community and I've seen changes made.

C. R. McCalley

*Mac McCalley worked with
Charles Goodman and
Robert Davenport
building Hollin Hills.*



Bob Davenport was a government employee at one time. Two or three guys got together, "Let's go build a coupla houses." So they started in Tauxemont about 1945. Each one of them built their own house and moved in. Then they decided to start a corporation where they'd all put in a little money, and they bought Hollin Hills property. Mr. Davenport at the time was just secretary and treasurer of the outfit. Then, as time went on, he was sole owner.

At the time I went to work for Mr. Davenport things were very poor. He didn't have any money, he didn't have anything. He had one little old second-hand truck, and very few employees when we started. After a while, we had a big force, I guess as much as 70 or 75 employees, in full swing. Hollin Hills was nothing but an orchard, apples, pears and cherry trees,

and ther'e's still a lot of them in there.

I thought (the houses) were horrible. The first one was built on the corner of Rippon Road, and Drury Lane. The first house that was built in that style, and I had an argument with Mr. Goodman the first day. I said I don't care to build that kind of house. I walked off the job, I drove off, and I came back and cooled down a little better, and went back to work. I never did like all that glass.

Bob, he was the boss, and I was the construction boss. We would move a house anyway we could on a lot to save a tree.

I've been remodelling the old Zimmerman house. I was taking off some siding last week I found an old cardboard milk top. It said Zimmerman farm. So I gave it to the lady who lives in the house.

Mr. McCalley spent his boyhood on the Mount Vernon plantation because his father worked there.

Duck hunting was my only sport, as a matter of fact. When I was a kid my dad had a dog and he would go out with us and shoot squirrel. Mount Vernon at that time had about three miles of shore line that we used to hunt on. Only those that lived in there were allowed to hunt.

I started out building at a very young age. I decided I did not want to go to school. My parents never did have much money. My dad always wanted me to go to school. I wanted to go into the building business so I quit school. I had one teacher my first three years at St. Mary's Catholic school in Alexandria. I don't belong to the Catholic church, but at the time we did not have any schools to go to. The street car went right to the door.

(Later) I had one teacher at Snowden school that came from way up in the country and had a Model T Ford, and I'll never forget her. There was snow on the ground and she came to school with chains on all four wheels. It was only a two-wheel drive car and she had chains on all four wheels. Mrs. Frinks was my main teacher. . . the only one I really had through grade 7. It was a two room school. You had your own lunch and you wouldn't eat if you did not have one.

One of the boys that went to school with us was always in trouble. One day a load of guys were going along with a load of hay, and he threw a match in the back. We watched a whole wagon full of hay burn up. We were bad boys.

We played a trick on a preacher one night. He was coming through between two hills, so we got a sack and filled it full of straw, and tied it with a rope across. About the time the preacher gets coming through, you start

this thing dacing in the middle of the road.

No we did not scare him. One of the good boys got his grandfather and came down the hill and caught us. We used to steal watermelons at Mount Vernon right out of the garden. They would be green but we would steal them anyway.

Lew Quander Family

LEW: My grandfather built a two-room shack. And he wasn't married and he built the shack and he was a slave. From there he got married and raised six kids. That was Henry Quander. He bought land for fifty cents an acre. He raised six kids and they helped him on the farm. He went from this farm all the way over to Spring Bank Inn. My father and his sons were hard working farmers. All they did was farm. Dairy farm. Pig farm. Hustler farm. Vegetable farm. Yes sir, they were hustlers. Shoot, what you talking about? They raised everything. Carried food to the market and sold it.

When I was a kid had to go all the way to Alexandria just to the store. The first store came out this way was White Owl Inn, Crocketts. Shoot, you could get five pounds of potatoes for a nickel and a pound of sugar for two cents.

WILLIE: Lawrence Randall organized the first baseball team in Spring Bank. Mr. Randall use to pay Burnham so much a month for the field.

LEW: My father own that property, then he lost the mortgage and Burnham took it over.

WILLIE: We use to play up at Mongerey St. Then they stop letting us play up there. Then Mr. Randall got the field from Burnham. We got good. The first year we came in second place. Second year second place. Third year we won Championship.

We never did have any trouble. This is like a private section. We did what we wanted to. No one messed with us. Everything was lovely until they started investigating us. The county is trying to move all niggers out.

My mother told me when they came up here we were living on Mrs. Jackson's side and when it was raining we use to have to put down buckets to catch the water. Mrs. Lizzy sold daddy that land. If it wasn't for Mrs. Lizzy we wouldn't have the land now.

How were times out here during the depression?

LEW: Hard. My Daddy, after he stopped farming he started working for the ice company. He was making thirty-five cents an hour. When I first went to work I worked for the government. I brought home \$34 a

week, my daddy brought home \$36 a week.

How do you feel about the county changing Quander Road Elementary School?

LEW: I think it's wrong. It's not the idea of changing school, the point is changing the name. They don't want a black man to have nothing. Fairfax County never had a school named after a black and Quander Road hurt them.

What year were you at Groveton?

SHEILA: My graduating year was 1969, but I didn't graduate from there. I graduated from George Washington. Then we didn't have no black cheerleaders, no blacks in nothing but boys playing sports. Girls went out for cheerleading but no one made it. So we started a pep club. We even had a sit-down strike. About every week we were having sit-down strikes. We even had a sit-down up in the front lobby. We stayed up there just about all day long.

There was a whole lot of pressure up there. Like you could go in the bathroom -- there would be five black girls and five white girls. If a teacher came they would tell the white girls put your cigarette out and go to class, they would send the black girls to the office and they would get suspended.

They had so much hassle; everybody was hassleing you. If you were late to class you had to sit in the principal's office for hours. We really did have big problems in school. Didn't have no holidays, no nothing. Easter holidays we all sitting in school.

Did you have any buses?

SHEILA: Yes, we had one bus that came down in the black neighborhood. I went to Bryant and Groveton. We had better times at Bryant. At Bryant we kind of mixed. Everybody did their own thing. But at Groveton it wasn't like that.

Robert Jewett

*assistant principal at Bryant, now at Hayfield high school,
was manager of the Little Hunting Park pool.*

Little Hunting Park vs. Sullivan was a test case which eventually reached the Supreme Court and I might mention that the issue involved wasn't black vs. white, it was private club activity vs. open community pool activity. The Supreme Court found that Little Hunting Park was in violation of the Sullivans' civil rights in that anybody who belonged to the so-called Bucknell Heights community could, if they were Caucasian, join the pool. It seemed very obvious to them that the single thing preventing the Sullivan family's

tenants from using the pool was the fact that they were black. Little Hunting Park maintained that it was just a question of could they have a private club? And of course the Supreme Court in all its wisdom was able to see right through it, and eventually opened up all of the so called private clubs to the entire community. You know, meaning everybody.

I came here in 1954, which was a pivotal year in civil rights, and at that time I signed a white only or Caucasian only, that was the term, clause when I bought a home. The document prevented you from selling your home to anybody except a member of the Caucasian race. I couldn't sell it to an oriental, I couldn't sell it to a black, I couldn't sell it to an Indian. It had to be Caucasian. The federal government ruled those clauses unconstitutional.

I noted a pretty gradual but reasonable change in housing within the Bucknell Heights area. I think a combination of things caused the area to change, not the least was the Supreme Court ruling. I think it's significant that there's a great deal of anger still generated within the Bryant community towards Little Hunting Park. I think it's significant that no black families belonged to little Hunting Park and they're quite adamant about why they don't. They just say, "You didn't want us when we wanted to come and now we don't want you." It's interesting to know that the membership at the time was certainly divided on the issue. Some wanted to integrate the pool; others did not.

At the beginning, 13 intermediate schools were built, 10 at the same exact time. The land that was taken by the County was all black-owned land. The Quander family, specifically -- the land was actually given to them. And utilized by blacks all the way down to the late fifties when it was condemned and taken by what you could call the white Fairfax County government -- because at that time there were no black Fairfax County employees. No black firemen, no black policemen and no black judges, no black school teachers. The white men came in, condemned the land, took the land. It's significant that when the school was built they threw up a high barbed wire fence around the property which is still in existence today. The Quander children that lived in the old white Quander farm home had to walk down around the other side of the fence and catch a bus to Luther Jackson, which was a newly created black high school. I might add that it was the only black high school in the community at that time. Prior to that time black students whose parents lived in the community only had access to grades 1-8. Mr. Quander's grandson tells me that he was one of the first blacks to go to Groveton. He said to me that he was spit on and that they were cursed. He is a student at Federal City College now. He was interviewing me. I sort of turned things around and asked him a few questions. He claimed that sure, there was no physical violence done to him unless you consider being spat on physical.

I remember one incident well. It involved direct conflict between a large number of blacks from Hybla Valley and a large number of blacks from the Spring Bank community. I attempted at that time to cause the kids to come together and resolve the conflicts themselves. Most of my attempts were looked at by members of the black and white community as acts of a bigot -- because I would do such things as separate black and white. I always took the position that I had observed very little meaningful integration.

I would say that conditions have improved in housing more than in any other area. It's observable that people who were ignoring black neighbors don't ignore them anymore. They do speak and get along. Initially there was the temptation to move on the parts of some whites in that community.

I remember filling a clinic one day with about 20 black boys and girls and they were having a real hard go. They were physically angry and had been violent and I put them in the clinic and said, "I'm asking you not to do any more violence with one another but to talk it out." There seems to me to be some evidence to suggest that people appreciate an opportunity to get together and to work on a specific problem and not have the man or woman leading the way. I think, I think I would try that sort of thing again.

One of the rules that I established for a community rap group was that no more than 3 white adults be in the meeting on any given night. That's a pretty strong statement. I took the position that the black man had been dumped on often enough by whitey and was used to taking what we call a subservient position, just sitting back and letting whitey rant and rave like I do, and so letting whitey resolve his problems. We didn't need any more of that. The only way I knew how to cause something other than that to happen was to overload the meeting with blacks so they would finally stand and take a position and put us on the spot, the few of us that were there, and they did.

I was attacked by Herman Howard, whom I think an awful lot of, and he was indicating that it was demeaning to blacks to say this. "We don't need you to stack it in our favor, we'll speak." I said, "You will speak, you are a professional, you have a doctorate in communications. Yes, you will speak and you will speak whenever you get the chance. You will represent yourself, your family, and your race, and your community." We tried for what we call grass roots participation as opposed to the token black representation. I believe we were one of the only groups ever to get it.

There's an advantage to a small setting such as Groveton High School or Bryant Intermediate as opposed to Hayfield, and I think that's it. When somebody tells you that you can divide 4,000 students up into 6 subschools, and that everyone will get personal attention, you need to say well, that's been tried, and that hasn't been the case. I'd like to go back to a smaller setting.

Joe Korbus

was born in Austria and came to the Groveton area from Stafford in 1944.

Well, I move in here 1944, 'bout in March. That be around 30-35 years. I live here by myself for a year or so. My father died so I brought my mother down here. She stay here till she die.

There was a flying field right across the street from me. And one day 'bout 5 years after this airplane come running through my house and on to next door and tore up the house. Just tore off a piece of a corner of it. I replace it myself. They repay me for it.

There was few houses then, but Route 1 is all build up. Used to, you could go a mile, 2 mile, before you see a house and now you can't. It's houses and buildings and stores all built up. I say it's necessary they build stores for people, build apartments for people, but soon as they finish, all people come in and they all fill up and don't take long to fill 'em up. I don't know where the people comin' from. Where they live before -- in the woods or something.

Oh, I walk around sometimes but I don't feel like walking around too much.

Herbert Harris II

is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It's hard to say when I was first acquainted with the Groveton area. It was really when I was active in the Federation of Citizens Associations, probably in 1957-58, that I started learning enough to turn left at the Dixie Pig. When I came that was the great landmark, you know. I became familiar with the area more and more after, say, 1957-58.

Route 1 was such a traveled highway 40 years ago, that you got all these highway-oriented uses -- the gasoline stations, the hamburger stands and what have you. So your problem was to correct, and to try to come up with planning policies that would start turning it around. I invented an ordinance in Fairfax County that stopped additional gas stations on Route 1 in 1970. Most of the zoning attorneys said the ordinance was unconstitutional and probably un-American and certainly immoral, but it stood up in court and it simply said that there were enough gas stations on Route 1 between Alexandria and Ft. Belvoir and that there would not be anymore.

We overlaid a completely new zoning district over the whole Route 1 corridor and said "No more gas stations or drive-in restaurants." This, I think was to turn around the wide problems of development, to make it more serviceable to the community and to make it more aesthetically pleasing as far as America goes.

You have an equally important part of development and that is your housing problems -- a lot of inadequate and inappropriate housing in that Route 1 corridor. A lot of people have been affected. I didn't realize, for example, when I first started working on the drainage problem in Gum Springs, that the swampy conditions in Gum Springs really hadn't existed all the time. It existed after Route 1 was built, which stopped the drainage. It took \$470,000 to correct it. I went by there during the campaign, kinda expecting people to be glad that the last of the drainage problems was corrected. The only one that really talked to me about it were those that were mad because of all the tearing up that had occurred.

It's a challenge to retain some of the low and moderate income housing that we have, and up-grade it for people, and not just have everything go very expensive. Federal programs can help. I think people are afraid of them and I've had experiences where we suggested rather moderate size housing programs for low-moderate income people, and the communities tend to be a little fearful of them. But I think we've got to have this type of housing to replace some of the trailer courts, and some of the very inadequate housing some people are living in.

I hope we've at least chartered a course for recreation in the future. You've got two elements of recreation. You have facilities and when you talk about facilities, you're talking about land, and that means that you've got to make sure that you've set aside adequate parkland. As you know we have the district park, eighty acres set aside precluded from development. And hopefully, some of that can be developed into active recreation which means tennis courts and ice skating rinks if they ever get around to financing this type of thing. You need this type of active recreation for an area that has as many people living in it as this one does.

The facility is just one part of it. The second part of it is equally important -- and I think the Groveton area has done fairly well on it -- and that is people organizing the recreation programs. I think you need to have parents actively engaged in Little League activities, in Cub Scout, Girl Scout type of activities, and activities relative to the library and the parks, to actually plan the programs. This is the hardest part about it -- to get the people to put in the time and the effort that's necessary. You simply can't

hire staff to do all these things. The community demands a lot of people volunteering a lot of their time to make these kind of programs successful.

It's very important to understand that schools are not just for formal education; they often are the most important public facility in the community. I've always been a strong advocate that a school should be used seven days a week and twenty-four hours a day, if possible. I was a strong advocate the whole time I was on the Board, and unsuccessfully so, for the year-round swimming pool, with respect to the high school.

We started in 1968 talking about the Groveton plan, which is really geared around the idea of tremendous citizen involvement. It took an awful long time to get people to understand this, and especially the school administration to understand this. The school kinda feels like their job is to teach, and the less you mess up the blackboards, the better off you are. But I think it's important to make the schools really centers of community activity.

With regard to the churches, I think more and more that churches should realize that their job is working in the community, helping other communities. I also think the churches should be doing a lot more as far as youth activity is concerned.

I stood at the head of the Harrelson tract and said that some time in the future, you could have a community center here. When I say community center, I just mean sort of a focus of activity, a place that says, "Hey, this is ours, the center of town." I think we've moved quite a ways along on that. The regional library is now there, the hospital is three-fourths there, and a mental health center is there. We have our new rescue station there. Between that and the hospital there should be a governmental center. This can start giving some focus, a place where people can go for government things, where they can meet and so forth. But -- to create a community -- I don't know all the different elements that go into creating communities.

It is important in a community as large as Fairfax County, for people not to take the attitude that, "Hey, I've got my school. I don't care whether somebody else gets his or not." It's not right. Our community can afford good schools, and it should be top priority. We should really have them.

I was chairman of the Federation's committee on schools in 1957. One of the most important things that has been accomplished in the last years that I took direct action in was the expansion of special education. We have an awful lot of young people that need the services of special education -- the retarded, those with special learning disabilities, and what have you. And I do think in the last five years, that we started making considerable progress in this area.

Have you got any area that you represent now that would have as mixed a community as that of Groveton?

I don't think so. There may be, but I've always maintained that that area was as good a microcosm of the nation as there was. In every sort of way, economically, socially, and politically too, I've had all kinds of people try to describe my area to me as being one way or the other. They'd look at Hollin Hills and say it was very liberal, look at Belle Haven and say it's very conservative, look at Villa May and say it was very expensive, look at Bucknell and say very moderate, look at Gum Springs and say it was very poor. You have the complete spectrum, really, in that area. I think the great vitality that Groveton High School should and can have is the fact that it has such a hybrid strain.

Lotte Dolezalek

is from Germany, recently became a U.S. citizen.

I lived, before I came to this area, in the New England area. We emigrated in '61 to the Boston area. I moved pretty close to the prestigious Concord area. I can tell you about my first shock--maybe I shouldn't call it that. In arriving here, I had figured that housing would represent a very modern type of house. What I saw in New England was the mock Colonial style. I was really not prepared for that. One thing I remember was my struggle with the windows, the sash windows. People were much more conventional in their taste than I had been prepared for.

The other thing I did not know as a foreigner is that you live largely by social groups. So that neighborhoods tend to represent certain social strata. Very soon it became obvious to me, the fact that if you have a black family move into your neighborhood at that time the real estate values would come down. We were prepared to have a varied neighborhood, from our German background. At that time I didn't have children in the school system, but when I heard that higher overall taxes reflect a better or worse school system I became alerted and thought: "Maybe if we are now going to buy a house, I should pay attention to that factor."

The criteria I had on my list reflect my European values. Top priority, from the moment I had made that connection, was which schools. Very close to that was the consideration of living close to public transportation. I did not want to live too far away from the center of town. I also did not want to have to depend on private transportation.

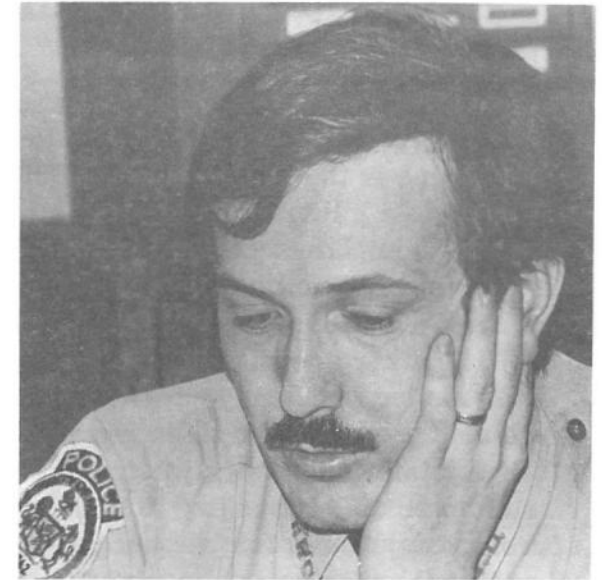
What actually convinced us to buy in Hollin Hills was at last we found what you call a contemporary type of architecture. I was delighted. I was delighted also with the concept of the architect to leave the natural surrounding as untouched as possible, and in not trying to place one house facing the street the way another house would. You have these rows of development houses, which is quite a difference compared to European buildings where you do not have developers. You build your own house. You have only certain limitations. You can not build a high rise beside a one story house. You have to keep a certain distance between your neighbor. You have to keep a certain distance away from the street. But as style goes, you can have your terms, colonial house beside a modern structure.

The other consideration I gave to the choice of this house was that it was close to a bus line, and I had made up my mind that by the time my oldest child was ten I would teach him how to use public transportation. I felt, for a youngster, the experience of a town is very important. Also, later, at that point he should be able to shop independently if he wanted to.

I'm a foreign language teacher and a librarian, I have prepared for both, but I do not work. I'm predominantly a housewife, and a mother. I have a boy in West Grove, I had a boy in Groveton who graduated last year, and I have one daughter, a junior. When we arrived, I think in '67, I did not hear much about the project of a new school. My first contact with new Groveton would go far back. I think it was through my capacity as the P. T. A. president of Bryant. I got involved because Bryant and Groveton were going to change sites. I was invited to participate in meetings but at that point they had already established priorities. I came along and was kind of drawn more into the center of it by becoming a member of the student committee of the charrette.

*Andy Wyczlinski,
community relations officer
at the Groveton District station.*

Andy Wyczlinski



The patrolmen's responsibility for Groveton goes from Alexandria, south to Ft. Belvoir and Rose Hill and east to the river. The community relations program in Fairfax County started approximately in 1969. My work is different from normal police work. Community relations maintains liaison with civic organizations and businesses. We provide speakers to the various organizations to talk about crime prevention subjects and we try to be available for the students who feel they have problems.

There's more to law enforcement than just arresting people. Social problems must be taken into consideration. Police aren't paid solely to preserve and protect the tranquility and quality of life; we are paid to assist the citizens in maintaining their own quality and peace and tranquility in the community. The Police Department alone cannot do the job of law enforcement, it's a joint effort between the residents of the area and the Police Department - both.

Hollin Hills has been one of the highest areas for burglary. The Groveton area has no more problems than any other area.

Groveton community is the oldest in our area. We have a problem of homes decaying, therefore the quality of life is decaying which, in some instances creates a crime problem. People may be stealing to provide the necessities. But basically Groveton is a well-established community. It has one of the highest number of cases but that doesn't necessarily mean that it's a high crime area. Generally speaking, a lot of the complaints

in the Groveton area are of minor nature. Such as drunks, disorderly conduct because of the nature of Route 1. Another thing that causes some of the problems is the location of Ft. Belvoir. The rest of Fairfax County doesn't have a military base close to it. Crime wise I'd say it has a great number of complaints compared to any other area, however they are of minor nature. Drunks, barking dogs complaints, vandalism, things of this nature. We still have our share of violent crimes down here, but if its any more than other areas, I couldn't really say.

We have a problem youth-wise in burglary. The majority of burglaries committed in this area and Fairfax County are committed in the daytime, and the majority of crimes are committed by juveniles. The rate of continuing burglary is tremendous. Generally speaking if we apprehend a juvenile for one burglary, we are going to clear from one to maybe 30 additional ones he was involved in. It's a problem, but we have to deal with it in a number of ways. It takes effort on the part of all areas of the Criminal Justice system and parents involvement

I think it's appropriate to get to know the juveniles. It's important that the kids know that I'm still a policeman and policemen still have a job to do. Whether teenagers like the laws on the books or not is a question that has to be raised with legislators, not the police. The police are out here to do a job. I believe the majority of teenagers know what's right and wrong.

I'd like to see an increased emphasis on crime prevention as opposed to detection and apprehension. Apprehension, of course, is essential so the police function; however, we cannot apprehend all the criminals. I think when we consider detection and apprehension, we place it to the crimes against property such as burglary, auto larceny, general larceny. All these things can be replaced. When you're discussing, murder, robbery or rape, there's no way the Police Department can return a person's life, even if they can detect and apprehend the perpetrator.

No one wants an increase in crime, but you have to expect it because of all the social reasons, the exit from the cities, everyone's moving out to Fairfax from D.C. D.C. has increased the size of it's police force to an excess of 5,000 men, so that displaces the criminals. What I'm trying to say is there's no way that we're going to stop crime. Crime prevention is not total prevention of crime - there's no way.

To me it's rewarding to see kids come up and call me by my first name. There I think, well, I've established something with this kid. He's not calling me a pig. If I can get a young person to come up to me and "Hey,

Andy, How you doing?" or recognize me no matter what I'm dressed in, and say, "I'll give you a hand with this or that," I think that's a reward in itself.

We had a barricaded person in a house and some officers, myself included, had to go in and take the person out of this room where he was barricaded with his wife and little child and he had a gun. When we went in, one of the officers dropped his own gun. There were a number of black subjects standing around, the other gun went sliding across the floor. Well, I think a number of years ago in any community that was against police, those guns would have been gone. But the two weapons were picked up by one of the people there who said, "Officer, I believe this is your gun, and this is the gun the other guy used." The people assisted us with that. The fact that we are getting cooperation from communities -- I think that's a reward and a benefit. If you can gain the support and respect of communities that were previously against the police, I think you've accomplished your job.

Bonnie Falvy

is assistant to the director of the Crossroads program. The Crossroads house is next to the land where Mount Eagle once stood on North King's Highway. A Metro terminal is planned for the land directly in front of the Crossroads house.

History goes back to the late sixties in terms of the Crossroads program. In the late sixties in Fairfax County there was a lot of drug usage in the communities and in the schools. When we talk about Crossroads we're really talking about two facilities but one program. The clinic, that's an outpatient place that's located at Fairfax Towers. If the problem is severe enough that they need residential treatment, then you're referred here to the house, and the stay is anywhere from 6 months to a year. It's a lot more controlled, obviously, than outpatient. We have both males and females. The treatment is in groups, and individual, and a lot of it is just working out the everyday problems of life. There are no locks on the doors, and no bars on the windows. We get referrals from courts, from parents, from voluntary service.

We try to -- from the day one -- start defining when that person is going to go back out in the community. What seems difficult for anybody in treatment is the readjustment back into the community.

We are a totally abstinence program. We do not offer the choice, alternative use of methadone, and we do not medicate at all, or offer any mind-altering drugs such as tranquilizers, anti-depressants. We do have a regular physician that all the kids see for routine workups when they first come in, and then on periodic checkups after that. We do not dispense any kind of drugs. That can be abused or has been in the past.

All these kids have problems. You're really talking about a multitude of acting out problems, not just the use of drugs. That is one of the symptoms. We try to teach them, to repattern so they can survive and react and respond in a sensible concerned way. Just sitting down and talking to an individual helps. Pointing out that they left a mess in the kitchen. Dealing with daily stress, that becomes an important issue too.

I want to stress two things: one is confidentiality. Federal guidelines are very, very strict and we abide by them because we feel they are important. Let's say you came up to me and said "I hear Suzie Q is in your program." I couldn't acknowledge the fact that Suzie Q's in the program unless Suzie Q told me it was all right. So it's very, very important for the community to know.

As far as the police are concerned we have a very good relationship, and very often they bust a kid or see a kid intoxicated in public -- whether it's pot or alcohol or whatever -- they'll say "Well, get over to Crossroads." Another thing, our relationship with the schools are very good.

It's a pendulum, it is just that society has calmed down about it. I don't think there is any less than 3 or 4 years ago. I don't think there's as much heroin, even though we're seeing more of it than we were at this time last year. When I first came here the big thing for the kids was pot, and for the adults it was illegal methadone. Then they cracked down on all the programs in D. C. and thank God. So that kinda went out. Then they started with Qualudes. Then that died down and we saw a lot of alcohol. We're still seeing a lot of alcohol, a lot of K. W., that's Killer Weed. It's P. C. P. which is a horse tranquilizer, and mixed with marijuana or parsley. And if you don't have any of that good stuff you can go to your own kitchen get a little parsley and spray it with Roach or Raid and smoke that. It doesn't become physically addictive but there's a lot of physical complications. It's even more detrimental than heroin. Alcohol is up right now, and what it will be 6 months from now I don't know. It's kind of scary when kids are mixing alcohol, K. W., barbituates and stuff. That's a fatal combination.

I think we made a horrible mistake in the 60's when we had these commercials on television like the kid with a needle in his arm with the room swinging around "Don't smoke marijuana" as the message. You're saying to the kids that smoke marijuana that they're going to hell in a handbasket, and the kids knew it isn't true. We lost our credibility. I think education programs are important for exposure for the understanding of why a kid will turn to drugs. The kids that never get into it don't need it and the kids that get into it are going to use it. So let's deal with what's going on.

I've never sat down with a kid that's been smoking marijuana and said, especially to a guy, "This is going to inhibit your male hormone production, and you smoke enough of this stuff long enough you'll get breast enlargement and you're not going to have an erection." So what? He doesn't care. I smoke cigarettes. I see it's a hazard to health and it doesn't stop me, so I have to deal with why I continue to do that. The issue is not whether or not it's going to kill me.

Anyone is eligible to apply in our program and get in. Let's say a teenager comes with their parents. You'll be seen with a case worker for about an hour, hour and a half, not to just ask about drugs but about what's going on in school, at home, and finally what led to all this thing. We have had teenagers who call or drop in on their own. You talk to any kid. I have to say "Look, I can't work effectively with you unless your parents are involved -- whatever's going on with you is going on with your family."

We just rented the house for a house that we could hold 30 kids in but we've fixed it up a lot.

Belle Haven Country Club

Sometime after 1783 Westgrove plantation came into being, built by the Wests, a family prominent in the early development of the county. It is hard to imagine a plantation on a golf course, but a land survey made before the house and grounds were sold in 1815, indicated a large house with huge chimneys, a barn, an overseers cottage and slave quarters. The plantation was burned during the Civil War.

Doris McGuinn

is secretary at Belle Haven Country Club.

How long has there been a Belle Haven Country Club?

Since 1924, so that makes it 51 years. We have a board of 12 directors. Out of those 12 they have a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The remainder are committee chairmen. The board members are limited to a 1 year span and each year 4 old members drop out as 4 new ones come in.

There is no discriminatory ruling in the by-laws. The by-laws simply state that a member must be sponsored by 2 members of the club. If they wish to sponsor a Negro or a Jewish person it is their perfect right to do so. As far as I know in my tenure here at the club there has been no Jewish or Negro that has applied. We have Christmas office parties and the members give parties. Not long ago one of the beer distributors, a member of the club, gave a party for his employees and there were colored guests. I don't know about Jewish people, but I do know that there were colored guests.

Our head waiter is a colored and is over all of the other waiters. Out of 4 permanent waiters, 3 are white, but the head waiter is black. There are blacks on the greens crew. Some of them have been here 10 or 15 years and are working their way up the ladder. I don't think there's any discrimination as far as the hiring and firing policies.

As in any large organization you'll find little cliques. The golfers don't get along with the tennis players all the time and the tennis players might not get along so well with the golfers. I don't know of any actual hatred or dislikes. Of course with the gossip through the club, just as if it was a small community, you'll hear it if any can't get along. I haven't heard of anything like that.

Belle Haven has always been a golf oriented club. Its tennis program is just beginning to grow. Until just recently we only had 4 tennis courts. Now we have 8 and we're planning on 10. The pool program is beginning to grow.

We have to limit the numbers of guests that members can bring. They can't have guests on weekends or holidays. We do have Wednesdays designated as ladies days.

We wish to have a dining room, party room, larger kitchen facilities, larger grill facilities, larger locker rooms and larger office facilities.

Mr. Landrith, Mr. Van Metre and Mr. Shiver

have built many of the developments

in the Groveton community.

George Landrith

We moved into BelleView in 1941, and I was in the construction business. In 1946 we bought property that's now BelleView, BelleView Shopping Center and River Towers with 105 acres of swamp. In order to develop it we had to haul in about 8 feet of fill over the whole area. We actually started construction May 3, 1947, and finished the summer of 1951. We had 1,000 garden type apartments and sold 26 acres to Allan Rocks Company, who built 550 apartments known as River Towers in 1960. When we bought the land the water company had to run a water main 3 miles, and services had to build a pumping station to pump the sewage into the Potomac River. Of course now there's a treatment plant.

There's quite an extensive underground drainage. The swales are affected by the tides -- the water rises and falls with the tide in the area. We had quite a problem with the under ground water when we put in sewer and water. We had to use well points, to keep the water out, and that water also went up and down with the tides. In fact, these buildings are practically setting on water. It was very difficult to develop because of that but it's been very successful. We stay full, and it's a convenient place to live. We have probably over 300 families that have lived here ever since we built, many cases where children were raised here, got married, and they're raising their families here. Some of the military have lived here as much as four times throughout a period.

I did live in Belle Haven. We sold our house last May and we bought a small lot and are going to build a small house back up in Belle Haven. The sewer moratorium's on and I can't get a building permit. I understand that's going to be lifted in about a month, so then we'll start building back up in there.

Olm and I were partners in building, and at one time I owned half interest in Belle Haven. Then I sold it back to him, so we both built our houses up on a new street there, and we decided to call it Olmi-Landrith Drive. It was terrible because no one could spell either one of them, and we had to spell them everytime we talked about it. No one spells Olmi right. No one spells Landrith.

One time the lady across the street decided she wanted to change and she went around and got 26 or 27 people, including us, to sign a petition to change it. We were very happy to have it changed. There was one, I believe he was a Colonel, came home and found out. He said he didn't want it changed because his kids knew how to spell it. They had it on all their credit cards and mailing addresses. So he went around and got a petition signed. Practically all the same people signed not to change it. They went before the Board of Supervisors to have the street changed, and the board decided that if the people couldn't make up their minds, they would just leave it the way it was. So that's the reason it's still Olmi-Landrith Drive.

Albert Van Metre

My occupation is a builder and developer. I went through Officer Leadership school out here at Ft. Belvoir in 1946, and I've been in and out of this particular area since then. We started these apartments sometime in the early 60s and we've been building down here and renting these apartments since then. We have built houses all up and down Route 1, Plymouth Haven, Mt. Vernon, the Mt. Vernon sub-division, Fairfield and Collingwood and quite a few others. Land was available in this area and I guess that's the main reason. We built Mt. Vernon Woods and part of Rose Hill. I built Badger Park about 20 years ago, and Hollin Glen which is right next to Hollin Hills. All of our developments have been very successful around here. Our water tables are a little high at times, but otherwise it's all right.

We're sitting on one of his (George Washington's) farms and if you go into the back of this sub-division (Mt. Vernon Square) and see a great big tree back there, he mentions that tree in his papers. We've gone to quite an expense in surgery to save the darn thing.

I think the area is slowly improving. I thought it would improve a lot faster than it has. The widening of Route 1 has done a great deal to eliminate some of the trash and mess that we have on Route 1. Houses are very difficult to sell right now and I really don't know why. Interest rates have been very high.

Route 1 had gotten to about as low a point as it could and the only thing to do economically was to tear down and rebuild. It hasn't happened as fast as I thought it would, it didn't happen as fast as, say, Jefferson Davis Highway, where the Crystal City situation has occurred almost overnight, and that

looked just like this or worse 10 years ago. It's my feeling that Route 1 has nothing but a very, very bright future. The economic value of most of the trash along here is very small which means that it's more economical to tear down and start over again than to try and just keep on and on with a poor and shabby looking place. One thing we'd like to see, as I live in this area, is that the county not approve the redecoration of some of these marginal establishments, that they be required to be torn down and started over again. A building that's too close to the highway or a building that is really an eyesore may be a menace to the health and welfare of the community. Up and down Route 1 you can see old gas stations, old motels. Sometimes they take those and they'll put in a palmist or something like that and she can pay like \$120 a month but it does not help Route 1 in general. I mean it's a poor use of public property.

The state has build the highway (Route 1) and the state will do some beautification in planting grass and things of that nature, but if you want something nice you have to do it yourself.

Land prices have probably increased slower here than the rest of the county because there is so much junk down here. As that disappears, the prices, I think, will accelerate.

Jube Shiver

*was interviewed at Spring Gardens
apartments on Richmond Highway*

I couldn't find any decent community to live in. I was inspired, more or less, to start a sub-division, Randall Estates. A group of professional people agreed that we would build together. We have about 45 homes there now, a sub-division that I'm really proud of.

After building that I saw a greater need. If people of our income level could not find homes, I thought -- who was doing anything for the lower income? As a result I got involved in and built the project you are located on now for lower income families, 209 garden apartments -- the first project in Northern Virginia built for lower income people under government regulation 221-D-3. The next project of any size was the 25 homes in the Gum Springs area. Most of those families are pretty proud of that one. Gum Springs is a very unique community. The basic people there are people who have been here all of their lives. Their families have been constantly here.

Three or four years ago they came up with the plan for developing Gum Springs which the Board of Supervisors accepted. They asked the Board of Supervisors to allow them to plan their own community. The people, I think, in Gum Springs are very aware of what is going on around them now in the process of property development. They are anxious to see their community develop but with them playing a major role. I think this is good.

I have been involved in the community's development, not only from the point of property development, but also human development.

Gum Springs was just gum trees and a bunch of shacks. No paved roads, I don't believe, holey roads, very few houses had running water. Right across the fence here they had what was called Joe King's bottom -- about 15 or 20 shacks in there, they had one open house where everybody went to take a shower and an open toilet. No street lights or anything that we have in this area now.

The community, on the verge of losing its grant for the community action program, asked me to come in and reorganize. I came in as director and served for 8 months. Without the community nothing would have been accomplished. Because the people had confidence in me, we were able to pull it together.

This area was just a farm, a field. Mrs. Saunders who is dead now, and her son (my partner here) used to own the property. I think they had about 10 or 12 acres.

The story of Randall Estates is built around "Mr. Fairfax," himself. Mr. Randall is quite a gentleman. He was a little younger when I met him in his 70's. He's now 91. He lives by himself, completely independent. He still drives. Mr. Randall has lived in the area in which he is living now -- within the range of 3 or 4 miles -- all his 91 years. He owned a dairy farm once. It's a strip of land that Randall Estates is on. I understand from Mr. Randall that from Ft. Hunt Road to Route 1 was owned by blacks. When I went into development blacks had the whole area straight through. Blacks owned the land between Bucknell Manor and Hollin Hills from Route 1 to Ft. Hunt Road.

Mr. Randall was referred to by the children in the community as "The Old Farmer". His house was about 4 feet off of Rollins Drive, and he had to walk down to what is now Colgate to get his mail. The mailman passed right by his house every morning on the opposite side of the road in Bucknell Manor. This was the reason they say, because he had a farm. The mailman, the walking mailman, did not deliver the mail to the farm. It was amazing. This was before Mr. Randall moved into his present house. Then he started getting

mail. But I think that any good mailman that had any feeling for human beings would have handed him his mail.

When we first wanted to do Randall Estates I would call companies and they would say they had money available of F.H.A. or V.A. -- or course, when I showed my black face, that was another story. They didn't have any. This went on. I went into about 14 banks and in the 15th I made the loan. Once we got that first loan through, we didn't have too many more problems financially in Randall.

When we started Randall Estates the white community did not know what was going on. I got all of the engineering done and got ready to start the first house. I pulled the first machine in to start the digging two men came over and wanted to know what was going on. Mr. Randall had lived there all of his life, and they were newcomers. They spoke to him and said, "Well, you didn't say anything to us about developing your land." He said, "I didn't think I had to get permission from you to develop my own land."

There was one gentleman who died shortly after we moved into our houses but he was quite an interesting fellow, lived just across the street. He and I used to be out in the yard often and talk. One morning I walked out and he said, "Shiver, you sure came out and messed things up."

I said, "What do you mean?"

He said, "Well, my taxes have gone up."

"Well, isn't that a little unusual," I said. "That's contrary to the system, isn't it?"

"What's that?" he said.

"Usually when a black person moves into a community the property goes down," I said. "I've raised the value of your property."

My biggest problem as a black developer was at the entrance desk, if you understand what I mean. It was the girl sitting behind the desk who would let you get back there or not. They found out that I could pay my bills like any developer, even better, and they would welcome my trade. There were concerned with making a profit whether I was black or white or blue, so that eliminated the problem there.

I went into the thing with determination. I was expecting the unusual. So I had built up the vitality and everything that goes with it to make me strong enough to do any problem I was going to run into. I communicated with the man that I feel is most trustworthy, and I think I had a power that was beyond my human power.

Martin Luther King said "I have a dream." Mine was in terms of housing development -- trying to house people who needed to house themselves. This was my dream.

Mrs. Fitzsimmons and Miss Wood were two of the teachers at Groveton when it opened in 1956. Mrs. Kogelman came to Groveton in '57, Mrs. Kelly, in '63.

Grace Fitzsimmons

When Groveton High School opened in 1956, it was the showplace of Fairfax County. This community was very, very proud of Groveton and some people resented such a big school and such a good school. They used to call it the country club. There were all sorts of rumors about the swimming pool which we didn't have, of course. We were so proud of our physical plant that teachers were told that there were to be no chairs against the wall, so that the walls would not be marred. On the last day of school we were all scrubbing walls so that we wouldn't be censured for it.

The thing that I remember mostly about that first year is that they immediately started building the new wing. We had just moved in and they started tearing down the room next to 206, and I was teaching in 206. The noise was very bad. I remember losing my voice. I had to talk above the hammering and so forth.

It was an all white student body. That time it was the style for the boys to wear their pants with the belts below the navel, and this was one of the things that the dress code specified - no belts below the navel. They had to pull up their pants. I remember one day one of the students was sent home because he had the belt below the navel and the father came to school. He was angry at the principal, but the principal backed the dress code for the school. Also the boys had to tuck in their shirts - they couldn't have their shirt tails out. Any type of jersey had to have a collar.

The girls had a code too. At that time we had no problem with short dresses because they weren't in style, but we had trouble with skirts that seemed to flip up every time the girl sat down. I can't remember what they wore underneath, maybe just a lot of petticoats.

The behavior was different. There were cautions on the P.A. not to display any form of affection, not even holding hands, which is very different from today, and they were not allowed to chew gum.

Everyone said grace before eating and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Each student had a card with the honor code on it and he was supposed to respect that card and live by it.

As far as the teachers go, we were asked, during the preliminary days before school started to address each other as Mr. and Mrs. so there were no first names in front of students. The men had to wear ties and coats. They

had to wear something with a collar. I remember one very hot June day, the first day that I remember boys came to school without socks (this must have been 1960), the principal made an announcement on the P.A. that if a teacher had noticed in their rooms any boy who wasn't wearing socks, that the student was not to take the exam. They were to be told to go home. I remember looking around the room. I myself was not wearing stockings and I thought this was certainly an inconsistency because the girls were allowed to go without stockings, but the boys were not. There was a great deal of formality among the teachers, even a dress code. In fact, I remember the first teacher that ever wore slacks to the school. Then the next day somebody else wore slacks and that was it.

There are three things that I remember that were funny. Some enterprising students got some bats and they brought them to school in a bag. When the last bell rang they let the bats loose all over and they really caused pandemonium. Another interesting thing that I remember was a musical that was put on by the teachers. Mr. Hupart, who is still here, was Sonny and another teacher was Cher. Also I remember a satirical sketch that was put on by the teachers satirizing the behavior of the students. One thing that they satirized was gum chewing. Also, a satire was put on by the students on the teachers.

When Groveton opened, Mt. Vernon was just a slum as far as Groveton was concerned. Groveton was the school and the showplace in Fairfax County. Groveton has always been the proving ground for all the other schools. From this school almost every school in Fairfax County now has someone who has taught at Groveton. At one time most of the principals at other schools had been in some administrative position at this school. For instance, after Mr. Chesley left here, he went to open Woodson. And the principal at Woodson was the assistant principal at Groveton when it opened. Almost every school in the county has had some contact with Groveton.

My first year at Groveton I was making \$3600 a year. Very few students had cars. There weren't as many cars. People just didn't have as much money.

What surprises me is that the new Groveton spreads over such a wide area. It seems to me that they - the students and the teachers - would feel sort of isolated, rather than as a community.

The roads were very, very bad. It has just been recently that they were as good as they are today. In the spring I don't know how cars could ever survive. Fort Hunt was just an obstacle course. There's more traffic now, but it's a wider highway. It wasn't kept as well as today, and you just had to avoid holes. It was really dangerous.

Belle Haven was all built up except for Arkendale, which went very quickly after we moved in and Bucknell was already there. We didn't have the shopping centers we have today. Belleview was the shopping center.

I think Groveton's just a lot of small communities rather than one big community. And I really think that the people are so different. In 1956 when the school opened there was this common pride. This was the school in the county. I remember having some foreign visitors here, and how impressed everybody was with the school we had here.

Josephine Wood

A challenge, this is the way I looked at coming to Groveton, it was a challenge. Teaching was much more difficult the first few years at Groveton because teachers carried a much heavier load. No teacher had a completely free planning period. When we had a planning period we didn't have it for planning. Most of us were assigned to something. I was assigned to the clinic.

I had been at Mount Vernon a long time, and I felt like it would be a fresh start for me, and maybe I could do better if I changed and started with a new school.

The faculty as it's organized now is much more departmentalized. There wasn't much emphasis on departments at first. There were no department chairmen for anything but the science department, and the faculty functioned more as just one unit rather than as departmental groups.

When Groveton opened it had more science equipment, more biology equipment, than Mount Vernon. The first few years we did a lot of talking about competing with the school down the road, which was Mount Vernon, and I think that has sort of died out. I'm sure things will change as we go in to a new building, just as I saw changes as I came from Mount Vernon to Groveton. I think change is always something that you look forward to.

Dorthie Kogelman

Groveton at first was almost totally by itself. My daughter, who was in the eighth grade, was just learning to drive and we would bring her here and let her drive around the parking lot at Groveton.

The Unitarian Church ground -- I still remember what beautiful grounds those were. Allan Steven's father had always been the caretaker there. I remember the play casts sometimes would go over there. Allan had the whole place to himself, and we'd have cast parties and such, but the grounds were much better kept at that time, and I think that it was much more gardenish. Students did not hang around there at that time. Not that they were not permitted to, I guess it was because there were more woods around. They didn't really have to congregate in this one small last spot of nature. The grounds have really shrunk to a very minute part of what they once were.

All the way down from the Groveton area, on Route 1, there was the Dixie Pig and Three Hundred Club. What is it called? The one that has go-go girls? (1320 Club) Along that area there was absolutely nothing and from there on out to Ft. Belvoir you would drive for miles before you'd find any kind of established buildings.

The breakdown in school (zoning) is kind of interesting. I'm trying to think of the name of that area across Ft. Hunt Road -- West Grove. When I came here West Grove was feeding students (to Groveton) and Belle Haven and Jefferson Manor and Gum Springs. This was all Groveton. Mt. Vernon picked up the students on out towards Ft. Belvoir. The first "chunk", I believe, was bitten off by Edison. They took Jefferson Manor. There was no Hayfield. Anyway, Groveton was bulging at the seams. Mt. Vernon came down the road toward us a little bit. Then Fort Hunt was built and they chopped off West Grove.

Due to parents who didn't want their kids to go to Groveton?

Well, that wasn't the way those of us who lived in the community were told. The population was growing so, actually, I believe that it could be more accurately said that they just needed a new school. But you do have a point. Unfortunately, in 1958, the "greasers", quote, unquote, the ones who slicked their hair back, really had a bad reputation. They were considered the renegades of the school. Somehow Groveton had that reputation accumulated way back at the beginning of the school. And we never have been able to live it down to this day. You still talk with people-- "I remember when . . ."--and they feel that Groveton has never gotten away from that. In my opinion, and in the opinion of a great number of parents, Groveton has always had high quality education.

The cheerleaders were asked to be stationed almost like a welcoming committee. The whole thing, when I look back on it, was a real farce. We expected one, possibly two, (black) students. Anyway we were getting one

student and you'd think we were being mobbed. The cheerleaders came that day, told to dress in their uniforms. They were to greet this student. Teachers were stationed throughout the school to avoid an uprising. I walked this beautifully dressed, male student who was all smiles and very cultured, and eventually became president of the student body his third year here. It really was amusing. Apparently the Virginians were not ready to accept this kind of invasion.

Rita Kelly

I think that probably not just Groveton, but from the things that I've read in the NEA journal, throughout the U.S. and probably in other countries, that the students have adopted a freer attitude with the faculty. Things that were frowned on in the past are common place. You're always going to find a small percentage, say 5%, of any school who are going to cause problems in one way or the other.

Ten years ago there used to be gangs in this school. I better define gangs. These were groups of students who went around together, and I guess you'd say, stuck up for each other. If one of them had a problem, they all joined together on the problem. They really would take it out on someone, not necessarily so much in school as outside of school. The first two or three years I was here there were lots and lots of fights in the hall. Most were solved pretty quickly.

I think that probably most kids watch too much TV, they seem to have no other pastime. You know, go to the refrigerator during the commercial and get back to the television rather than to get involved in other things. It starts when they're very, very young.

I think someplace along the line we have missed the boat -- when I say we I'm talking about teachers in general. I firmly believe that starting in elementary school, homework should be introduced as a daily affair and then have the quantity of homework increase until finally in high school you're doing say an hour or an hour and a half. The freshmen I have have a preconceived idea here that homework is something you just don't do. Nobody really expects you to do it and so it's not unusual to find a number of people who haven't even opened a book. I think most of the teachers who have 9th grade this year will agree with what I'm saying because I've talked to them about it.

The name Charrette came after Doctor Watts was made Superintendent of Schools. We had meetings for the new Groveton many years prior to his appointment. Charrette was just a new term for the same old thing.

I definitely think we straightened out differences because, you know, everyone had input into this. I think we were very fortunate because we had many people who had expertise on different subjects. We had people that lived in the community who were architects who helped and, you know, just all types of people. You had a real cross section. It (the Charrette) was a very dedicated group. I just can't believe people spending so much time for so many years.

Gail Morrison

like Mr. Whalen, graduated from Groveton and works at the school now.

In 1965, we were interested in getting through school, most of us, or some of us through college. It was our goal in life. Now it seems people aren't really concerned about getting through school. Attitudes have changed. In my day there was one central administration that you went to. There were no upstairs offices. Some of the teaching methods have changed. Back then we had lectures and the students couldn't roam around the halls. We had to go and be in our classes when we were supposed to be. Of course we didn't think it was odd, and we didn't think about protesting.

I needed a job so I came here, it was exciting, it was very interesting to come back here and see how it changed. I was lucky that they hadn't moved yet into the new school because then I wouldn't've found it. When I found I was going to be working with some of my former teachers, I was rather nervous at suddenly going from the student point of view to an equal basis.

William Whalen

When I was in school everyone was everyone's friend. It was like one big group. When I was in school - everybody had short hair and crew cuts. It's kind of funny see -- you watch "Happy Days" on T.V. ? That's sort of like we were you know. Everyone was alike, everyone wore letter sweaters and we had loafers and white socks and skinny ties. Now I think everyone -- you know with the late sixties and do your own thing. I think everyone has gone their own way It's just like a big splurge.

When Groveton first opened in '57 there were a couple of gangs - Mt. Vernon used to be our strongest rival in everything. There were the people that actually wore black leather jackets and the hair all skicked down, the chains, and stuff. They really did have some fights. They had hot rods and stuff like that, but by the time I went to school, in '59, '60, '61 that all began to disappear.

We had Saturday football games - Saturday afternoons at 2:00 -- it was over at 4:00.

Saturday afternoon football?

I don't know, it's a lot of fun - it's like college. It's warmer and you get a lot more people because many parents go places Friday night - that's their night out. I'm under the opinion that your sports program is meshed in with your spirit. If you don't have good athletics and if you don't promote it and if you don't try to sell it to the students, you're going to have poor athletic teams - poor spirit.

Enrollment doesn't go up because there are a lot of families -- their children have already gone through school and they have no more children. So we don't get the families that move in with kids because families are not selling. It's a very stable community. People say it's transient but it's really not.

I didn't really come back to Groveton. After I went away to college and graduated in '68 I applied to Fairfax. I got a job at McLean High School, which is as far away from Groveton as I think you can get. I worked there for 3 years, and then McLean destaffed. Their enrollment went down and they let some teachers go. I started working at Bryant and then I got destaffed from Bryant because they had to build on it, and all of Bryant went over to Hayfield and Walt Whitman. Luckily there was a counseling position open here so I finally after 11 years wound up back where I started from.

Tom Hill

was in the first graduating class of Groveton in 1957.

I graduated in 1958, Groveton High School opened in September 1956. The students came from Mt. Vernon High School, the area that Groveton now encompasses, Hollin Hall, Hollin Meadow and the various points along Rt. 1 down through and what used to be called Gum Springs. They also came from Hollin Hills, they came from over in Jefferson's Manor, Huntington, Virginia Hills.

It just so happened that I was the sports editor of the original paper. The Tiger Rag was just a mimeograph paper and we had the problem that you have now with it. First, we had the hassling as to what comes first and what gets the space in the paper. We had three or four names nominated what to call the paper. The Tiger Rag is the one that was voted on by the people in the journalism class who ran the newspaper.

The Tiger Rag came out monthly, each student subscribed and paid for the paper. I don't recall what the fee was, a dollar, dollar and a half, and it was taken to the homeroom on the first school day of the month.

Was there a change in attitude when the students came to the new Groveton?

At first they were amazed. You have to bear in mind that Mt. Vernon is quite old. It was not run down, but the halls were painted a drab color. Then you come to the new Groveton which was at that time the first front level school in the nation with all the so-called modern conveniences. The students were amazed and proud.

I could tell you some stories on that first year. We did get a terrific amount of school pride. The students compounded together and we bought what we called Hex-O-Bars, which is the tiger which you have in the show case now. And we also bought the two cubs for the Hex-O-Bars. They used it for their games played away and home. The students also took their little tigers to the games.

What athletic facilities were there?

None outside of the gym. The football team everyday dressed then ran down to Bucknell elementary school and practiced on their play ground, ran back to the High School, undressed, showered and whatever, and went home. All home games were played at Mt. Vernon for the first and second years. The basketball team had a gym, the same gym you have now. With a student population of 1,000, we could only seat 250 people which was a bad break at that time, as I'm sure it is now. The baseball team had to go on a bus to whatever field they could find. Most of the time it was over to Virginia Hills elementary, sometimes it was down to Ft. Belvoir to practice. The same with the track team. They always went to Ft. Belvoir to practice, because we had no track fields in Fairfax County at all.

The first year we set up what we called a Steering Committee. Now we did quite a bit that first year and I don't think any student government since have come anywhere near what we did.

The only thing that has to be done to Groveton is there has to be more student involvement, there has to be more student pride from what I can see.

Now I don't know where or how it can be done like I said, our pride really came in a freak-fluke thing. But the situation you have is entirely different. We were basically a group of people pulled away from our school which was Mt. Vernon, and taken to virgin territory, transplanted, and told this is your school. We had to nick-name it we had to do all these various functions for it. The three names were the trojans, or the bears or the tigers. Then we put it to a student vote and the Tigers ran away with the trojans coming in second and the bears were virtually out of the running. We set up the campaign to get a stuffed animal and this brought a lot of wow support and this is what really started the school going in the right direction.

James Ross

was principal of Groveton, 1973-75.

About five years ago, when Superintendent Watts gave the tip, it became evident that the seven million dollars in the bond issue would not build both Groveton and Mt. Vernon. At the time, the demographic data pretty much suggested a 2800 student capacity school for both Mt. Vernon and Groveton. Clearly Mt. Vernon was growing faster than the Groveton areas so Ned Orleans, who is now on the superintendent's staff, made the motion that the school board take the 7 million dollars and build Mt. Vernon and let Groveton go back to the drawing boards.

The name of the game was balance, to serve the diversities of the community. Dr. Watts got all of these people together and asked me to represent him in working with them. We had a couple of pre-sessions and formed a thing called a charrette. With all respect to my boss, that was a bad name.

The patrons in the Groveton Community were not happy with the wrap-around design. Mt. Vernon is some new brick wrapped around the old Whitman school. As a consequence we came up with the campus plan. The concept was to utilize the old Bryant school for a capacity of 2800 students.

Mt. Vernon is built for 2800 in every aspect of its operations. We're cut down to 1400 in the academic halls, and having said that, there'll be vacant space in our building, quite a bit of it. But if we ever grow to 2800, you plug in, you build two pods adjacent to the media center. Eureka, you're all the way up to 2800 again. So it depends, if we never grow, it looked like a dumb move, if we do grow, it would have been a big saving.

For staff training, we're doing quite a bit of it. We would hope, now that it has been established, according to Mr. Lundquist, Associate Superintendent, we will open that building in September of '76. There was talk of January and, frankly, I did not favor it. You can't move in mid-year. So we're hoping in the summer of 1976 to move all teachers on board for 5 days for staff development. With the help of the Area office and Nat Emery in effect I've got lesson plans for each of those five days and there's sixteen different units we want. It's that kind of individualization of instructional techniques. Another part of it has been release time, to go to other schools and visit. I'm hoping that we're going to grow to size. We're too small to do some things now.

We're exploring the idea of getting rid of departmentitis. Couldn't we take English, Social Studies and Foreign Language and call it the Humanities? Can't we work together? You take an aspect of ecology and the way it affects man and come up sometimes with a three-hour block, with an English, Social Studies and a Science teacher.

Well, when you move, there's some loss of efficiency. If I have one overhead projector on each floor here, then I'll have four overhead projectors and they're fairly useable. However, when we're in three different buildings, do we need more in the way of equipment? I think it's going to be less efficient from the part of staff time. But at least there'll be space to do things.

Suppose we got the money to have printing; we ought to produce a newspaper in-house. We ought to have the Business Ed. typists, vocational printing group, and the people who actually do the writing and editing for the newspaper all working as a team.

I think the best word for the school, instead of "open" would be "flexible" or adaptable. There will be three classrooms upstairs in the English, Social Studies and Foreign Language section that are closed off with doors just like we've got here. The rest of the space is what we call flexible. Now we're working on the features to see to what extent they want it flexible.

I asked for 1.1 million dollars. We were initially awarded \$549,000 and that makes the compromise \$750,000. I cannot equip the entire vocational, the entire fine arts, the whole kit with 3/4 of a million.

What we will do, we'll take with us all the old furniture. We'll buy just the new furniture that we need. Some people object to that. To me as a taxpayer, its unconscionable for us to take these chairs we're sitting in and throw them out and spend \$75.00 a piece for new office chairs. I will not do it.

Ruth Dell

*school board member from Mt. Vernon district,
lives in the Groveton community.*

I don't really feel that I can speak for my husband because he had a rather unusual experience. He came in very early and served with the first citizens' group. That was, uh, '68 to '70, and then the committee, as well as the larger S. P. T. A. began feeling disappointed at what the architects actually came up with.

The fall of '68 was when the citizens set up their group. The bond referendum was passed in the spring and in the fall of '68 the citizens wanted to try to develop something, along with the cooperation of the faculty. And there was some simultaneous work going on.

The School Board actually approved some general specifications for a high school, in the spring of '69. And then in the summer the first preliminary sketches of Groveton came about. The committee, reviewing them in the fall began to feel strong disappointments with the sketches. Then in January of '70, they met with the Superintendent and a School Board member - who at that time was Ned Orleans. They (the plans) were to the best of my recollection, much like the Falls Church conversion. It was the same thing of converting an intermediate school into a high school, but much more in terms of the same kind of orthodox building programming that we had had in the county all during the 60's.

There was a county wide committee of educators within the system who with some community participation were developing the plans for Robinson High School. (Robinson) was the first high school that was really going into the new high school design, where you could have much more open and flexible space, and they were hopeful that that was going to influence the kind of design that would evolve for Groveton. (They) were very disappointed when it didn't.

Dr. Watts seemed to appreciate the disappointment, and it was at that point, in very early '70 that he suggested the community and faculty and staff try a Charrette. I don't believe that (the architect) had been involved in designing any contemporary school up to that point. And for some reason or other, the ideas and concepts were just not moving from the community and faculty through the administration to the architect and getting translated!

The charrette did continue to work until January of '71 when the final sketch was brought to the community. The campus plan came totally out of the Charrette. There was a breakaway from the old design.

From there we go to the bond referendum in '72 and our next big disappointment. The school board did approve the money for the conversion to be in the referendum, and then the referendum was defeated. (The) first thing they did, following the defeat of that referendum, was to consider not building the conversion, but renovation. And this is when the community had to give some very serious thought. During the summer it was considered very strongly. I think it was about December of '72 when the feasibility studies came back. The school board then in fact did reject the renovation. Indeed, it was too high a cost for a very limited place.

The community sensed a good possibility that the School Board would go ahead and stick to the conversion in the bond referendum if the cost was not too high. The cost figure that was decided upon seemed to be somewhat pulled out of the air at that point. The amount was 7 1/2 million and this was less than what had been put in the previous bond referendum.

The academic building, with all four wings on it, originally would have accommodated 2800 students. The School Board adopted it on the basis of 2100, which took off one wing. Then we got, in the latter part of '73, after the bond referendum had succeeded, to see what we could get in the way of bids. We were running into new problems -- these very highly inflated construction costs going up monthly. So we went through and several more community meetings. The community was concerned about what might be done in order to come down to the amount of money we had.

We had not been able to get a bid for around that amount and we went up the creek again, so to speak. But, this time we made it. It seems to me that there had been lots of different people involved in this whole process over all this seven year period and it's taken a lot of work and fortitude and people staying with this problem to really make the Groveton High School come true.

So, uh, the Charrette started in March '70, and was only underway less than a month when they discovered that funds in the 1968 bond referendum were not adequate. When another referendum came around, people did pull themselves together and began to work. They persuaded the school board that because there was going to be a long delay they would like to have a few things done in the Old Groveton, and that's how the library was modified. It was just a sort of a stopgap kind of thing. They hoped to do some other renovating, but that sort of got lost in the process.

Joe and Ruth Keys

started the Tiger Boosters and have been active supporters of improved opportunities for community recreation.

RUTH: If you believe in something you want to give the time to it. Otherwise, you're expecting somebody else to do it. And then if the results are unacceptable to you, then what? I think we have a past history that's within the records of the Groveton High School athletic department -- that we did more and presented more money to the athletic fund than any other activity.

Could you guess how much money it would add up to over the years you ran the Tiger Boosters?

JOE: I'd say around ten thousand.

RUTH: There's a lot else involved. Like Mr. Frazee would want picture frames. Where was I gonna get picture frames? I had to go out and get them for nothing. And I felt the girls and the boys were being discriminated against here for this reason: the wrestlers and the football boys got things that the girls didn't get, like oranges and such. So I took it upon myself as president of the Tiger Boosters to ask for donations. Wherever the wrestling team went, or wherever the girls went, we took our own automobile, used our own time and gasoline, and took it to them.

Sometimes you think your work's gone for nothing, you get a lotta lip sometimes at the concession stand. But a very lovely thing happened to me one Christmas, might bring a few tears. I was in the Giant, some children who hadn't meant anything to me in the past, you know, came up and said, "Merry Christmas, Mrs. Keyes." I guess someone recognized the effort.

JOE: I didn't get into athletics in high school because I was delivering papers. It interfered with athletics, but after I got through with my papers and work, I participated in evening football, baseball and anything else. My interest in sports were generated at that time, but my parents didn't participate. Which more or less got me into the idea that parents should participate in sports with the children. I was in Little League even before Roberts got in the darn thing.

I took all the kids that weren't accepted for Little League and Pony league and I formed a new league, the farm team league. Mr. O'Brien -- the two of us thought kids should participate in ball even though they were rejected by the regular teams.

Have you seen the new school building from Quander Road?

RUTH: From the outside it's frightening. I went out in the back yard one

day and I said to Joe, "This is what we fought for? Oh my God, look at that building." They had a large survey of the community to find out what the community wanted and all. Well then, you come to a meeting you'd think great, we're going to get a school. By the end of the meeting you think oh, why did I even bother.

JOE: We got word that the gym has been cut down. We wanted something like Hayfield has plus an all-weather swimming pod. We haven't got either of them. I don't care what they say -- with Metro going in Huntington Ave. you're going to have a three mile impact area that going to have an impact on the community.

RUTH: I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see one day Bucknell being in high rise -- in fact that's what they plan.

JOE: Well, if you go back to the maps of the whole area they show that this is nothing but springs. The man behind us built a house and he went down for a well -- something like 23 feet and hit all the water he needed. In certain areas they had to put in dry wells at the side of the house because the capillary action of the water underneath kept building up under the houses. Marine clay is predominant here and a lot of accidents are happening to homes because the clay -- if they take out the stabilizing factor of trees, plants, big rocks when they're building -- like down in Belle Haven hill where the land slides.

Edward Risley

We've lived here for 21 years in the same house in the Hollin Hills subdivision. We were attracted here because we like the style of architecture. We liked the idea of having a small detached house to bring up our children and there was a pleasant highway into the city. When we came out here I don't think we thought about what was around Hollin Hills, but the longer we've lived here the more we've been exposed to problems that extend beyond our immediate neighborhood. I think we were focused sort of inward at the beginning. We wanted to build a Hollin Hills swimming pool and tennis courts. Fairly early on, we began to think about zoning, began voting for representatives who would try to plan ahead for good schools and a good environment generally.

Since I'm a geographer by background I'm interested in environmental things. Most of us who work for the government are more or less bureaucrats. You can't say that we work to achieve all sorts of ideals, but at least we learn how to be compromisers, and I think compromise is necessary, too.

As we saw this explosion of people into Fairfax County over the decades of the 50's and 60's, we saw the character of the place change. We saw the

development of "the Route 1 corridor" which certainly isn't very aesthetic. Initially, the way we lived was shaped a great deal by the real estate developers.

Hollin Hills an attempt at a planned community, where the architect worked with land planners, to lay out the houses and streets in a way that would be, sort of, a best use. You can see up and down the river other communities that put more accent on a larger house for the same amount of money. It's this subdivision life that's different from town life.

You get a mixture of people, you have a mixture of problems. I don't have too much difficulty in discerning unique qualities of this part of Fairfax County as distinct from other sections which are also just conglomerations of subdivisions. We have Route 1, which is a very busy highway, and we have a more heterogeneous population. I would define the Groveton area today as pretty much the boundaries of the Groveton High School. There certainly is no focal point that I know of, where you could say, "Here's the town hall."

I got into the charrette through the P. T. A. We were going to spend the money (as taxpayers it was our money), to expand and build a larger, new High School.

During the 50's and 60's the building construction staff had a principal objective of sheer shelter for the students. The subdivisions were being built so rapidly and the real estate people were pushing for schools. The schools had a tendency to keep getting larger and larger - especially the high schools, which were running up to 3000. The problem seemed to me to be too much attempting to cope with large masses of teenagers, a sort of undesirable way of stereotyping students, expecting that they would all fit in packages and could be moved around in groups. It was not a desirable way to go in the future.

We started out with "A Report of the Community Advisory Committee for Planning the New Groveton High School," which was already the product of a group of interested citizens, representing architecture, education and various other fields, as well as the school representatives. They didn't call it a charrette, I don't know that charrette was ever the right word, but it was a jazzy word. A charrette means last minute, joint planning activity for a large building, with representation of all the people concerned with the design of the building, and the ultimate users of the building collaborating. It would normally be an activity extending over six weeks, a couple of months. Ours went on for about 4 or 5 years. But by any name, we were willing to go along. We felt there were unique qualities of this area that deserved to be taken into consideration in the design of this building, but might extend beyond the thought processes of the school administrator sitting 20 miles away out in the city of Fairfax.

We felt that it was a good thing to bring in people with different backgrounds, different interests, but all sharing a common concern - putting up a good high

school, the best one we could do. People like the Quanders have a hundred years of history, here, and certainly have strong interests in what is done to land that was taken away from them. Others, like myself, feel quite attached to this area in many ways; a lot of emotional investment. We promoted the idea that this school should have community facilities. The design of the school should anticipate the different kinds of people using the school. Not solely as a school - though that was its primary function - but also after hours.

We did talk to various families immediately next to the school. I don't think we ever satisfied their concerns that a new high school would have great impact on their life, but I hope that the answer that's going up now is better than it would have been without this community participation. The charrette informed people about where we stood in the construction process, and we could get feedback on whether people agreed or not. In the end, the people would have to vote on the bond issue.

A school administrator would like to account for his students all of the time. He'd like to have one door, so that everyone goes in and out that door. Then he knows where everyone is all the time. But some people were interested in open teaching, open classrooms. They might prefer to see a number of doors. We had to thrash these issues around quite a bit, and I'm sure that most people felt that they were making compromises. But in the end we'd have a set of compromises which would suit the largest amount of people.

We tried to avoid the elitism of one small group of people saying "We know best, and we're going to tell you how to do the building," whether this was construction people out in the county, or whether it was a group of theoreticians in the neighborhood. It's hard, over such a long period of time, to keep people's interest alive. We have a chronology that extends from 1969 right up to 1974.

I'd say from what I see over here that this is going to be the best, physically the best, high school in Fairfax County. I feel that. That's just the bricks and mortar part of it, but it'll be successful if the students identify with the school, and feel that they have something that's unique, and a good environment for them. Our thinking has been fairly much that exposure to different groups and people from different backgrounds is a good thing and that it would not be desirable to have all the vocational education people on one track off in one corner of the schoolyard who didn't interact with other people.

I'm sure that it would have been a different building if we had not existed. Quite likely there would not have been a high school at all, because we maintained continuing political pressure on the county. So that they couldn't forget us - though I'm sure that there were times that they would have liked to have us go away. We were persistent and sort of hung in there.

Part of what held the charrette together was occasional spells of frustration, indignation that the planners were moving ahead and weren't taking us into

their confidence. There was some tension between the people who represented the user interests, the students, the parents and anyone else who would use this property, and the people in the county whose objective was to get something according to standards within the budget requirements. Sometimes we exchanged heated words but I think we never got into an open break with real acrimonious exchanges. One of the ways we avoided that was through this vehicle and we called it the charrette. We had several superintendents for construction, we had several superintendents and we had several principals. When people change you're apt to change policies and the policies may tend to overlook some of the history.

But at our meetings, we did have the support of the superintendent, so the construction people from the county would show up, the designated architect, Mr. Pickett, would show up and we could have a meaningful sort of exchange. We weren't just talking to ourselves. We were talking to the people who were going to be able to do - if anyone was going to do it.

Periodically when we realized that we had to show some muscle out in the county we'd have a gang of people go out to the school board meeting to impress them with our concern. We could get people whom you couldn't get to come out every week or every month. They realized this was something they had a personal interest in because they had lived in this area a long time and had students here. It was a great, rewarding experience to find that we share a common goal and we could work together. When we needed to, we'd get up a substantial number of people and fill the cafeteria. This was always impressive both to the local supervisors and to the school administrators. I think we had a crisis every six months or so.

There were times during the charrette when I felt, you know, that it was sort of an imposition that I had to spend so many hours calling people on the telephone, going to meetings, but, it brought home to me the fact that we have a political system that exists and that it works if you make it work. And we had a happy ending. It could have been unhappy, I think. They could've told us to go jump in a lake. We were fortunate that Jim Ross was the superintendent's assistant both for Dr. Watt's and afterwards, and he had a good feeling for what had happened.

I looked up charrette reports in other cities, in other situations and I'd say that I found them rather disappointing, because they talked about something that had happened in a month's time and they seemed a little superficial. A charrette could be just a gimmick, the way the name sounds, if it isn't approached in the right way, I think there is an interaction that's necessary between the users, the designers, the builders and the operators. People say this is true of hospitals, or any other kind of institution, I don't know about prisons. Certainly for schools.

If you're looking ahead - what's the county going to be like 20 years from now? then you have to be concerned that the school keeps up so that it can be adapted as time goes on. We looked at the design of Groveton as one attempt to answer some of the problems. Let's say we will provide a variety of educational opportunities for kids of different ages. We will have some hobby shop opportunities for older people. People who are interested in little theatre - we have a place for them. And how do we do this in a high school building? One way is to break the building down. That's why we went to this campus plan, separate buildings for these activities, and the student body has access to all of these things - not be confined to one or another.

When we worked as a charrette we could write letters, or proposals that we all agreed to. Then we'd all sign them. I'm just expressing a personal opinion and my opinion is that the charrette did work, up to the point where the design of the school was approved and the contract was let. I believe that there should be a place for continuing more active community participation in the construction of the schools. I'm not sure that there's a good means for the immediate neighbors to go over and talk to the construction people about where they put the chain link fence. That's just an example, Should they call up the superintendent? They have to have a vehicle; if we had a charrette still active, we would solicit their views. We'd go over and ask them "What do you think?" Well its kind of late now, to do any of these thing. I'm out of touch. But I'll have a son back in Groveton next fall and I think I'll raise this question at SPTA meetings.

Larry Daly

When my brother died a bunch of his friends figured they oughta have something around the school that they could remember him by, so they decided on something like this. My mom thinks that this is where it should be.

He played a few sports, baseball, football, and ran winter track, but he wasn't a track star.

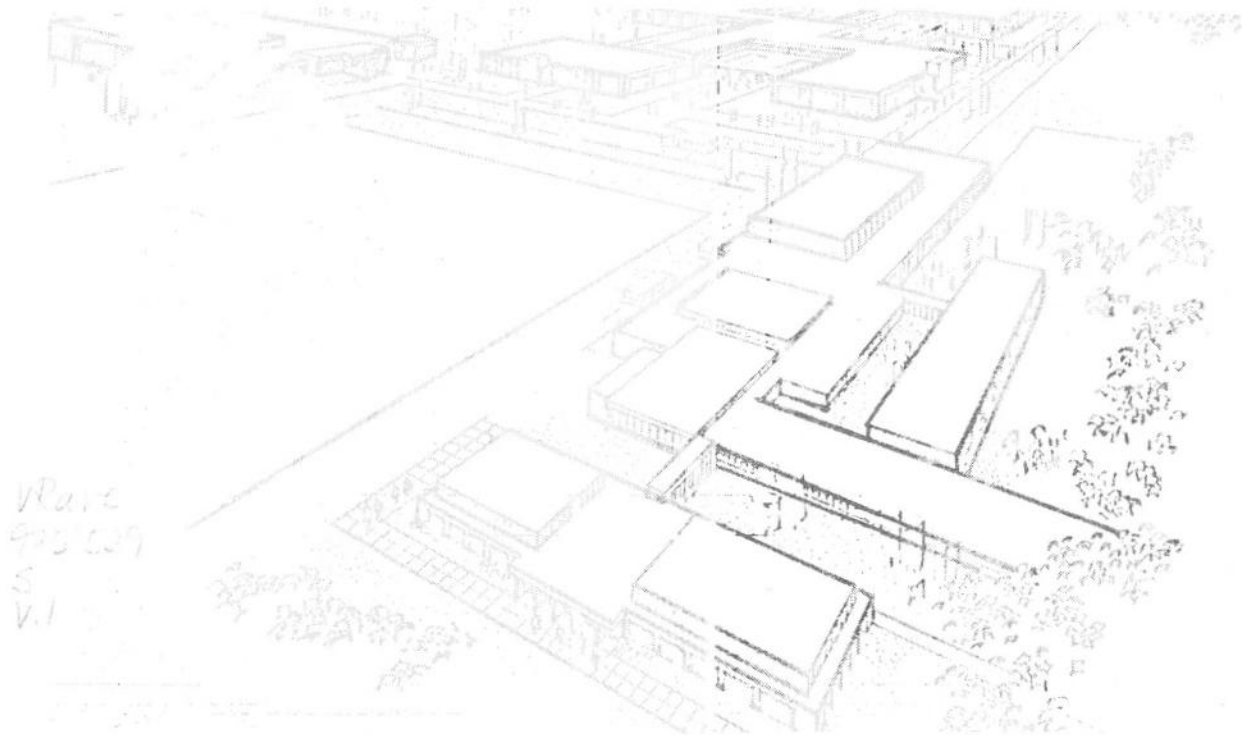
The Bill Daly memorial marker stands near the Groveton baseball field. It reads:

*Bill Daly
April 13, 1953
April 11, 1971
We remember a true friend*

CREDITS

This book proves that in today's world of hustle and bustle a community can pull together and get its history into book form. The following people are the ones that made it possible:

Paul Anderson, Toni Andrews, Barbara Bashline, Katrina Block, Mark Bobotek, Gary Boulware, Courtney Braver, Bev Byrne, Erika Crowther, Rick Ellis, Peggy Eggleton, David Harlow, Pat Hill, Sally Irwin, Charles Jackson, Cathy Johnson, Stacey Johnson, Ron Jones, Craig Kuhn, Lorri Keck, Greg Kelso, Andrea Kerr, Noelle Madison, Cathy Marcinkus, Marian Mohr, Shirley Moody, Charles Muck, Bev Nesbit, Marc Ostinato, Cheryl Paddock, Welton Quander, Drama Roderick, Richard Schultz, Steve Slawson, Ken Soltis, Felix Speight, Melanie Stong, Susan Treglown, Tammy Walker, Nancy Wallace, Donna Welch, Carlisle Vicenti and all the narrators.



Sketch of the new Groveton High School

*designed by architectural firm of Pickett, Seiss, and Hook;
constructed by Jennings Corporation.*