

# Sprouse

I've been interested in the history of this area about 15 years and I started out knowing nothing about it. I went on a tour that the AAUW had some years ago. Before that I always thought, well, Mount Vernon was down there and it's very well known and Alexandria was up here and it's very well known and there wasn't anything in between. I found there was something in between and this got me curious about it, so I've been working with local history quite a while and learning as I went along, because it's something you really have to teach yourself.

I think maps show you what used to be here and what the roads looked like and who lived in the area. I tracked down a great many people simply by finding them on a map and seeing if the house was still there or just driving around looking for houses that looked as though they might have been there for quite a while.

I am also the chairman of the county History Commission and we have made an inventory of landmarks in the county, about 215. There are great places like Mount Vernon. Some of them are very modest and some of them are not places at all. The ruins of Belvoir, where the site is under the ground, is an archaeology site. The watering trough as you go up Fort Hunt Road where the horses used to drink water—that's on there too, because it represents something rare in the county.

In 1891 when they were first talking about building a boulevard to Mount Vernon, if you wanted to get to Mount Vernon it wasn't really too easy. You had to go down what was Route 1 and then at Gum Springs take 235 toward Mount Vernon. When they first started talking about it there was a gentleman named George Washington Ball who lived in this area. He proposed that the road to Mount Vernon should follow the route Washington had actually taken. It came down Kings Highway past Mt. Eagle and Spring Bank, then along Quander Road, cutting through the present Bucknell Manor and Popkins Farm, continuing to Gum Springs. Ball wrote an explanation of his map, "The Vicinity of Mount Vernon in Ye Olden Times," showing the exact location of the neighboring seats and the route of the road habitually used by Washington between his house and Alexandria.

When they finally built Mt. Vernon Boulevard it didn't come down Quander Road, but, if he could have advised them that's how it would have come.

I think the first major change was the shift in the crop from tobacco which had been the main crop before the Revolution and which exhausted the soil, to wheat and corn, which, even before the Revolution, was beginning to replace tobacco in this area. After the Revolution the big tracts were broken down as the land was worn out.

The younger members of the family very often would take off for the west and therefore the value of the land went down in the early 19th century and even towards the Civil War land around here was selling for \$20 to \$40 per acre. It wasn't very much, and the land wasn't any good. They weren't farming scientifically.

In this general area around Mt. Vernon it wasn't until Quakers from New Jersey area came down and started applying scientific farming to the land did they get it to produce anything. It was only then that the legacy of doing farming and market gardening came into use around here.

During the Civil War it was a no-man's land and there were enough forts in the general vicinity so that all the trees had been cut down, some buildings had been torn down, and others had burned. The people really had to start all over again and there was a very gradual build up as far as agriculture and land until almost the end of the 19th century. By then there was quite a lot of market gardening going on. If you look very closely you can still see a barn here and there. Suburbia, I think, has destroyed more than that. It's taken houses like Spring Bank and turned them into shopping centers.

In this part of the county I think they really built about as much as they can build.

QUESTION: Do you think there are archaeological finds in this area?

There's one that we know of on Popkins farm, called Clifton Lodge. It was built very early in the 19th century. There's an insurance policy on it for 1815, I believe, and it was torn down during the Civil War. Mrs. Popkins' vegetable garden roughly is the location of it. I think it could be found very easily. There is another one down on Sherwood Hall Lane, Hollin Hall, that burned about 1827. The location is approximately known. There's one at Hayfield down at Telegraph Road that we could pinpoint pretty closely. I think there are quite a few around now.

The county has a tremendous amount of resources. We have been working for the last couple of years indexing the county court records started in 1749.

We have that all done through 1807 and we are gradually working our way up although some of the books are missing. We have an almost complete set of deed books that go back to the time the county was founded. We have just made a major discovery—the two registers of free blacks from the early 19th century. In the 1790's a law was passed in Virginia that every black who was not a slave had to come to the courthouse and get two certificates saying this, so that he would be protected from being thrown in jail as somebody's runaway slave. This is very good source material telling when they were born, who owned them, and some other details.

We also have on microfilm at the Alexandria library "The Alexandria Gazette." It started in 1784 and there are some issues missing, but it runs pretty consecutively ever since it began, and is a gold mine of information. Unfortunately that has not been indexed and you just have to sit there and read the microfilm. So, there is a good bit of source material to work with in this county. It just takes time to get to, but it's there.

I think it is a very valuable contribution if you can get down on tape what people remember who have been in this area for awhile and have them describe the changes that have been made. One thing we know very little about, although it was mentioned to some extent in the first book, (*Snake Hill to Spring Bank*) were these two airports that were here on Route 1. I think that perhaps you will be able to find more material on that. Again there's not much that's known about New Alexandria. In the 1900's there was quite a flourishing community down there. There were factories and the car barn for the electric railroad.



MR. ARNOLD: So, that's how I got some of the land there. A lot of this land here was picked up on back taxes, because they didn't have a record of anybody owning it, and people would come along that knew something about it. They would check the records of Fairfax County and just pay the back taxes for ten or fifteen years, which wasn't much then. Maybe six dollars a year.

That belonged to the Belle Haven Country Club where the Towne Houses are. And in my opinion, I'd say that's how the country club got it because I got a couple lots of it even as late as I came along.

They made a trade with us so they could complete the golf course and have it all on one side.

The golfers used to come in and get beer. They made the rounds, came through to those last two holes, and the caddies would come in, one of the older caddies, and buy beer. The guys would sit out under these two huge Pin Oak trees and drink the beer, and then make those two holes. Pretty soon there'd be some more come by.

## Dodson

I moved into this area roughly 40 years ago. My father, grandfather and myself used to take walks together on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. We would go down what they now call North Kings Highway where Mount Eagle was located and there were four forts down there. They were associated with the Civil War: Ft. Lyon, Ft. O'Roarke, Ft. Weed, and Ft. Farnsworth. When I was a kid, Telegraph Hill was called Ft. Lyon Hill after the fort. Since then they have built Fairhaven, and Fort Drive came through where Ft. O'Roarke was located.

These forts were in the Defensive District of Washington and they were primarily to defend the railroads from the Confederates. The forts also gave them protection of Telegraph Road and the Gravel Road, as it was called. Ft. Lyon was constructed by the sixteenth New York infantry after the battle of Bull Run. The troops were quartered at Spring Bank Manor, where the K-Mart is located today. Spring Bank Manor was the property of George Mason, who was a relative of the prominent George Mason in Virginia history. That was the only place where the troops could get water and supplies. The entire area was wooded.

Being a student of the Civil War and also a relic hunter, I've hunted the areas where the forts are and I've recovered Civil War related artifacts. Some of them were definitely tied to New York, some to the Massachusetts units that were stationed there and some from Rhode Island. The guns were manned by the Rhode Island light artillery unit.

There's still earthworks at Mt. Eagle, which is Doc Fifer's old homestead. The latest big discovery was during the construction of Hayfield High School where they unearthed two Union soldiers.

One point that a lot of people don't know is that Telegraph Road was the main road in this area. It ran from Alexandria to Richmond. The road was patrolled daily by the Federals and they would camp along Telegraph Road, a lot of times at Pohick Church itself. If you visit Pohick Church today look in the brickwork and the concrete, because there's a lot of names and units carved in there which date back to the Civil War era.

The artifacts I find range anywhere from the common three ring Union bullet, which many people call the minnie ball, to haversack hooks, bayonets, scabard tips, and belt buckles. I recovered belt buckles out of the yard next door. I guess in this yard and the yard next door, I've taken in over 200 bullets.

The topographical maps made during the Civil War show the entrenchments and they also show the picket outposts that were located in this particular area. When I was a kid, when the back was plowed up, you'd walk along and you'd find maybe one or two bullets.

As far as actual combat in this area locally, there was none.

Fort Willard was in the defense of Washington. Of course it's located over in Willard's Circle in Belle Haven. When I was a kid we used to cut across in what was Dripping Springs in order to get to Belle Haven. It was a natural spring used by the men stationed at Fort Willard plus O'Roarke which was up on the hillside about where the Holiday Inn is located today. Ft. Lyon was the biggest of the three forts. Its primary purpose was to protect Telegraph Road and the Orange and Alexandria railroad which was your main line west at that line and also Duke Street which was your main East-West road in and out of Alexandria.

It's (the Groveton area) come a long way. Among the most renowned landmarks used to be the Penn Daw Motel. It was run by Cooper Dawson Sr., then by Cooper Dawson, Jr. I guess the thing that made me remember it the most was their great grandfather was General Sam Cooper of the Confederate Army and that sort of tied it in a little more than others. At the present time there's a man across the street, Tom Rodes. He was telling me that his great, great uncle was General Emmett Rodes who was also in the Confederate Army. He fought in the battle of Winchester in 1864. The area is very historic.

When they went to tear down Spring Bank Manor, when they built K-Mart, it was said that the steps were from the old capitol that was burned by the British in 1812. The steps were saved and brought down here. The local residents were trying to save Spring Bank Manor as an historic place.

## Eichelberger

You remember when Jeanie Beard was here? About two years ago, she put on a program for the Civic group. She's head of the Isis Center over in Silver Spring. When she came to the front door she said the first thing she saw, the first thing that struck her, were three spirits on the stairway. Needless to say I was already getting packed to leave. But she said not to worry about it because if they put up with you this long, they evidently like you, or they would really make it rough for you.

But strange things do happen here occasionally. Rose and I were sitting up in the living room one night about two months ago. The dog has this little rubber elephant she plays with all the time. Rose was sitting on the couch. I was sitting on the chair. Both of us were reading. The dog was laying over in the far corner sleeping, and this elephant was lying right below the coffee table. Nobody else was in the room. Cats

were out. All at once this elephant just took off. It went from the living room, just like somebody had thrown it, clean out through the hallway, and bounced off the dining room wall. Of course it startled us. Various little things like that.

Seem to have the strangest things happen up in the third floor, those bedroom areas where the kids sleep. Things fall off the dresser. Pick 'em up, and put 'em back on, and ten minutes later they're back on the floor again. It's really strange. But as far as the ghosts riding around the house on horses, I haven't seen nothing like that. Course, I haven't looked too often either. Little strange things like that, nothing really to scare you.

Summer interns and one full landscaping crew stayed here about a year before the county remodeled this place. I guess they had a rough time of it really. Mr. Queary, the foreman who was staying here, was using the library as a bedroom. The interns were staying in the basement where the big stone fireplace is located. Well I understood that the interns after a while wouldn't stay here, it spooked them too bad. Also, I guess these spirits or ghosts, whatever they may be, really gave Mr. Queary a hard time, because he finally had to give it up. He couldn't stay here any longer. I don't really know. But they swore up and down it was true.

Well, the whole area was an encampment, in defense of Washington. I found about a half dozen Miné balls in the woods. As a matter of fact, I found one right out here in the back yard. You know the southern ridge? We hunted over there one day at Kingsbrooke. We came across an old Civil War camp site; where they had the fire, the ashes from the fire and pieces of the old terra cotta beer bottles. Underground, buried of course.

When they put the new sewer line out back, they dug down about, oh, anywhere from 6 to 8 feet. In the colonial days, of course, everybody had a trash pit. They'd fill it up and cover it over and dig another one. We came upon an old trash pit out here; dug right through it, and got quite a few pieces of the old china; the white with the blue painting on it.

I ran into an old lady at a wedding here one day, and as soon as she walked in here, she knew the place was familiar. She looked around and told me she used to come down here as a girl. Senator LaFollette from Wisconsin owned this house at one time, but he never lived here; he just played around with it. This lady's Aunt and Uncle lived here as caretakers, and she was telling me all about the place as she remembered it. Of course it was just this center part standing then. But there was a large kitchen built on the back here, a one story house.

Structurally the center part of the building's got the original foundation; it's twenty-seven inches thick and made out of hand made brick and clamshell mortar. Then of course it does have the original floor joists in the basement. They're about 2½ inches wide and a full 8 inches in length. We noticed when we had this place torn apart during the remodeling on the 2nd floor there are steel H beams every four foot going across the 2nd floor to help strengthen it. The old part of the house is pretty cock-eyed because of settlement and so forth. They used the original wall studding on the house but they also reinforced it with new studding in the walls.



*Stoneybrooke Mansion*

In 1949, a spark from the flue set the roof on fire and burnt quite a portion of the roof off. When we had a ceiling spot off on the third floor, patching ceilings and so forth, I could see that there had been some new rafters put in. I knew at that time, of course, that there was a fire, but I had no confirmation of it until one Sunday, a fire captain from Alexandria came out here. He told me that the roof had burned in 1949.

When we first moved here, before they built the houses down at the bottom of the hill, there was deer here almost every night. And of course when they built the houses down here I guess it chased the deer down into the Huntley Meadows area. But I just saw some deer droppings about a month ago, in the snow at the playground one morning, so evidently there might be one or two strays come up here occasionally. I do know they cross South Kings Highway.

We do have a fox here that comes up at night. I haven't seen him since fall. But last summer he was coming up every night, as soon as it would get dark. He would come right up in the back yard here, up to the back porch, walk across, go down around and circle the playground, come back up out. He'd go over around and circle the tennis courts. Then he'd go down to the pavilion and snoop around there a little bit and down on in the woods. Every night it was the same path. I got him on the light a couple of times; he'd just stand there looking at me.

Probably the biggest problem they had with the whole place (Stoneybrooke), is the fire they had at the courthouse in the 1800's. Destroyed all the records. That's why they couldn't get a historic landmark for this building. They were pretty close to it, but they just couldn't quite come up with enough because the records were destroyed.

# Families and Attitudes



William Randall

## Randall

I used to live down top of Sherwood Lane at first, then after that to Hollin Hall. There were two farms right there together. My father worked there and that's where we lived until the time of the Spanish American War. Then we moved right up here where my brother lives at now. That's where I lived most of the time. But not a person living now was living then, outside of myself, that I know around here.

You had to go in Alexandria to get groceries, to Burrusses right on the corner, the first store in town. Wasn't no stores out here at all. Also there wasn't no post office here. You had to go to Alexandria to get your post mail. In fact, there was nothing but wagon roads. It was bad in winter time and dusty in the summer. If you went, you walked if you didn't have a mule or a horse. It was that time of horse and wagons.

There were no lights, nothing but bushes. Wasn't no house here; this was bushes. I used to live in that house there where those bushes and trees are. Time passed by. We had chickens, eggs, anything we wanted at home to eat. Far as that is concerned, eggs weren't high like they is now. You raised your own. Vegetables weren't high like they are now.

My father bought this piece of ground up there where George (his brother) lives. Now this piece of ground where I'm living was my father-in-law's. I'm married to his daughter, my second wife, Cordelia Johnson. We lived together about forty-three years.

I worked for the Electric Light Company. I worked down on the farms. I'd rather farm than do anything else I've seen done. Then you could get a job most anywhere and work, but that didn't last long. The War started going on. The war turns so many people out of the country, there wasn't anybody left.

We used to go to the dances, but we didn't do any dancing. A lot of them would come half drunk and that would stop all that. It was a pleasure at one time, but sometimes you'll be so tired when it's time to go to work next day. I wasn't doing too much cause I had to work.

I worked for the Electric Light Company, worked for the Telephone Company, and worked for the Street Car Company. All that stuff, that's hard work. I worked when they put the first lights in Arlington and Falls Church. Now look at it. It's a regular city. I got two bad bites of the light while I was going, so I got out of that.

QUESTION: We noticed the sign outside, Randall Estates. Do you still own that land?

I used to own it during Pat Johnson's time. It was left to Pat Johnson from Mrs. Mason. She lived yonder where Penn Daw is, the old building that was just across the road from Penn Daw (Spring Bank). On this side (of Route 1) was a big old house used to be George Mason's headquarters. His wife owned this piece of ground. He (Johnson) was his (Mason's) coach man, you see, carrying him back and forth from the doctor's. Mason said, "I might leave you something when I die." Doc French heard him.

Doc French said, "You try to get that out of him. Now he done said he was gonna give you something. You see what it is by the time I come back again."

He had it wrote, a note. Quander School wasn't over there yonder, that land Mason was going to give right over to him. But he (Johnson) didn't know no different till after Mason was dead. Mason, after he died, you know, his son took over. "No, we can't give you some down there (Quander Road area)," he told Johnson.

"Mrs. Mason, You give me my ten acres. I ain't comin' back."

"You can come back. I'll give you the acres off my plot," Mrs. Mason said.

That was the only thing that brought him back up here (to Randall Estates). They're so slick. They gave him two five acre lots that would go back to Mason at his death. In twenty years was when he found out. He said to me, "Come here. I got something to tell you. You better see about it."

I said, "Taxes are paid?"

"Yes, taxes are paid, but don't you know some of these men can come back and take that land from you and you'll be sittin' right out in the street?" He told me what to do. "You take and deed it to somebody for twelve months and have them deed it back to you. After twelve months, you can go and get a lawyer to investigate and they won't be bothering you. Deed it to your brother, George, if you want to."

So that's what I done. At that time George was a young boy who was gettin' his trade, but he run and work and got all straight in that twelve months.

In twelve months I'm going to Fairfax to get this straightened out with a Fairfax man. Why, nothing in Fairfax but lawyers. I was up there for a half hour for me to have this hearing. A lawyer gave him my deed, clean cut deed to that place. He read and signed it. He said, "Nobody can bother you." So that settled that. I never had any more trouble. Now I've been living here ever since.

QUESTION: Do you remember the depression?

Depression, oh yeah, I know a lot about that. Depression is as bad as it is now. The things weren't as high as they got them now. You could raise your hogs and things, have chickens. See we can't raise no chickens here, not like that. All that's gone. The biggest change in this area? To me building all these houses here. That's the biggest change I've seen.

So that's it, I don't know what else to tell you. All those different things always against black people, just workin' hard against them.

# Gallagher

They laid the concrete road (Route One) in 1918. In war time, you see, they couldn't take the stuff down to Belvoir because it would get stuck in the mud, so they had to rush a concrete road, and they did it so fast that the road ended up being a snake. That's where Snake Hill got it's name.

There was actually a lot of small farming through here, what they call truck farming, growing vegetables, taking 'em to the market, things like that. This man, Hardbower had two or three very long greenhouses. Where the old Groveton was, was Ayres farm. We used to go up and milk the cows. They'd pasturize it (the milk) there and then they'd deliver it door to door in Alexandria. They had a regular route, like a paper route.

One of the Cole boys, Chappie, was a daredevil. I grew up with him from the time I was about seven years old until I was about eighteen. He learned to fly at Beacon airfield. Both he and his brother learned to fly when they were about 16. Anyway, he took his mother up for an airplane ride in a small Piper-Cub type plane, and then he went up by himself. As I say, he was a daredevil, and he let the plane dive, couldn't pull it out, and he got killed. Eighteen years old. He was killed in 1931. He was the first playmate I ever had to die. But his brother went on to fly for Eastern, and is probably the second or third oldest pilot Eastern has today. Parker Cole. He lives down in southern Miami. When his house, on the NE corner of U.S. 1 and Popkins Lane, got torn down I sent him a card telling him they had torn down the house his father built in 1926.

His father dug a well, and we kids used to pull buckets of dirt, dump 'em, and bring 'em back. After they got the well in, they poured a concrete base layer and built the house on top of that. It was a house you could buy from Sears and Roebuck already fitted. All you had to do was put it together. The bungalow, they called 'em, an ugly looking house but modern at the time. For many years it was the rectory for St. Louis Church.

The first real restaurant, high-class anyway, was Penn Daw Hotel. But prior to that the biggest restaurant was a place called "Mother Bartletts." This was a white restaurant right in the middle of Gum Springs where Fordson Road meets Sherwood Hall Lane. That was the most dangerous curve on the whole road (Route 1) from Belvoir to Alexandria.

I remember the first time that I went sixty mph was in a 1922 Dodge. In those days tires would blow. They had only a guarantee for 8000 miles. This fellow, Capt. Richards, his wife divorced him because he was a reckless driver. This old Dodge was glass enclosed, and it wasn't safety glass then. If you ever had a wreck in that, it'd cut you to pieces. He went 60 mph in that car and that's as far as the speedometer went in those days. He might've gone faster. It was in that strip in front of the old Mt. Vernon High School. That was the big drag strip in those days. It was the straightest route from the top of Gum Springs down to Engleside. Course they weren't many cops around. There was only one policeman. His car couldn't go any faster!

Youth didn't cause any trouble in the old days. They weren't on anything. They just never bothered anybody. There weren't any hot-rodders. Bikes were the fastest things around.

It was rare for anybody from this area to go to college. People weren't so gung-ho about college. U. Va. used to be a big place to go if you had money. Kids went down there and they played sports and took music appreciation. It was strictly an aristocratic thing. Only two or three kids from around here were enrolled down there regularly. But people went to G.W. at night, I went to law school at Washington at night. I got a law degree for only \$20 a month going to school for four years at night.

## Route One

The following excerpts were chosen from the document *Preliminary Plan for Lower Potomac Mount Vernon, Rose Hill, and Springfield* published by Fairfax County in February, 1975. These are official statements and comments concerning the Route 1 corridor extending through the Groveton community.

"Portions of the corridor have been significant transportation routes since pre-colonial days. Although still used as a major transportation artery, Route 1 corridor changed from a primarily national roadway when the Shirley Highway was constructed. From that point, much of the interstate traffic that had utilized Route 1 shifted to I-95, and Route 1 increasingly became a corridor for local and regional traffic.

"Today the corridor is best known as an unattractive example of strip commercial development. Despite the problems, however, the corridor has considerable opportunity for improvement.

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"Retail commercial activities comprise the key land use of the corridor, including: 44 service stations, 44 restaurants, most of which provide short orders only and 'fast foods' service, 23 motels, 10 banks, 6 auto dealerships, 7 supermarkets, 8 furniture stores, 10 mobile home parks with a total of 1,712 pads, 5 car wash facilities, and a number of other businesses, ranging from Roberts Karate to Madam Gray Palm Reading.

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"Residents of the area have pointed out the proliferation of identical uses and services in the area, specifically service and short order eating places. There have been instances of new service stations opening within a short distance of stations that had but recently closed from lack of business. The same pattern has been observed for eating facilities.

"While there are a few attractive individual structures in the complex area, the lack of attention to siting, signing, landscaping, and relationship to adjacent structures has resulted in an overall level of design quality that is poor. There is no conscious pattern and few desirable use relationships that are apparent to the customer. *Many management decisions are made not only outside the Route 1 corridor, but outside the Washington Metropolitan area! This pattern of control may form a major obstacle to any proposal for transformation of the area.*

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"Accident Rate (Number of accidents per 1 million vehicles miles traveled)

Year	
1970	1,072
1971	1,141
1972	1,081

The import of these numbers is that a person is 3 times as liable to be killed and 4½ times as liable to have an accident along the Route 1 corridor strip as one who is traveling on the parallel section of Interstate 95. (p. 40)

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"The northern part of the corridor is affected by the extensive flood plains and stream valleys of Dogue Creek.

"Air quality is seriously affected by automobiles exhaust emissions aggravated by the start/stop traffic pattern which is so common along Route 1. Noise levels are also high because of the extensive automobile usage. (pp. 40-41)

"As one drives the length of Route 1 in either direction, one of the immediate perceptions is the lack of district identity; that is, to one who is not very familiar with the corridor, any one place along its length looks like any other place along its length. Service stations are repeated brand for brand; the same franchised fast food restaurants are seen at irregular intervals; and in some instances, marginal uses go in and out of business in fairly brief periods of time, with only slight remodeling of structures occurring. The clash of advertising signs in the corridor, all competing for attention of the motorist driving by, results quite predictably in a barrage of advertising structures and facilities, none of which is entirely effective in bringing the merchant's or product's name to the attention of the potential consumer. To put it simply, the eye gets confused by the mass of signs that line the road on either side. One suspects that a great deal of the cost and effort represented by this type of advertising may be not only inefficient but counterproductive." (p. 41)

## Adams

The first thing this morning when I left home I had a flat tire. When I came to Gum Springs that was before the days of drop center rims. It used to be you had to change your tires just like you change some bicycle tires. Take the casing off. Pull the tube out and patch the tube and put it back. Well, that's the way all automobiles were when I first came to Gum Springs. I think the first car I came to Gum Springs in was a 1924 Studebaker and it would do about 60 miles an hour down the hill and that was new in '24.

Another noticeable change. In those days if you stood on the road looking at your tire somebody stopped to see if you'd had tire trouble. If you had your hood up, somebody stopped. Today nobody pays attention. You better not stand out in the road or you'll get run over.

There was one little two-room school when I came then. It was originally a one-room school. It sat approximately across from the drive-in theater. That little school stayed there until a new school was built in Gum Springs. It was my task, or my pleasure, or my folly, that I tore that building down about three years ago. I had lots of thoughts about how we had to twist the county school board's arms to get that school, and yet it was so inadequate! To replace it they built the Drew Smith School.

I was going to school in Richmond, but I visited the family here who were descendants of the people for whom the Drew Smith school was made, Aunt Maria Smith was the first black teacher of the community in that school.

Mrs. Gibbs was the white lady who taught the Negroes (in that day they were Negroes) in her laundry room foyer. Then, when the county did provide a school, Aunt Maria Smith was the teacher.

I came to Washington to live in about '35 or '36 and I looked for somewhere in the suburbs to buy that I could raise some chickens and a pig. I happened to drive down Number 1 and something was familiar to me. I'd actually forgotten the days I did spend there enjoying the pear trees and the apple trees and the cherry trees down on the old Smith farm. Pines were all growing in the road way, but I found the old house, the well, the old root cellar where food was kept in the winter. It brought back very fond memories of a very good childhood. That farm is where the Drew Smith school is and the Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Up the road was the Kirk Wilkinson farm, a gentle ran farm. Most of the people in Gum Springs worked around on those farms. They were dairy farms. They were the principal supply of the city of Alexandria's milk and some went into Washington.

There wasn't any time to fight; everybody had to work too hard to survive. The blacks in the area worked for the whites and there were practically no poor whites. I think that racial strife comes from competition for the same jobs.

The Wilkinson mansion was a big gentleman farm. They didn't have to farm for money. Negroes who did domestic work were hired by the Wilkinson Mansion. It was just like a pre-war plantation except the Wilkinsons were very generous and very kind people. They figured out the logic and were generous. The other neighbors were just as fine people, I think but they just didn't have anything to express it with.

There might be a couple of boys fighting about some apples or fish or things boys fight about, but they would get a thrashing by the first man who came by. He'd whip both of them and send them home and tell them, "I'm gonna tell your daddy." That was what they really feared, because when he told your daddy and your daddy worked you over you didn't want to fight anymore for a long time. That was discipline to us.

The law of the county was on the other side. We had a sheriff that had an old A model Ford. When you ran all the way out to Fort Hunt Road or to the Wilkinsons to get to a telephone to tell the sheriff there was a disturbance; by the time you ran out there, called the sheriff and he drove down here—why if there was a murder the body would have been buried!

In early days if anybody thought it was necessary to call the Sheriff, citizens took the responsibility and they told what they knew. Later they had developed and there was no need for the Sheriff to come, and when he got there nobody knew anything.

Route 1 was macadam when I first started to travel it. Gum Springs was right on Number 1 in those days. When Mr. Roosevelt became president, one of his first WPA projects was to straighten Number 1 out. At the intersection of Sherwood Hall and Route 1 there was no straight road that ran through. Route 1 went through Gum Springs and came back up at the Belle Haven Lodge. It went from behind McDonalds by the Post Office then it looped over across the present Route 1 and went down into

the valley. Because horses couldn't pull wagons up Snake Hill, they had to wind around the hill.

Wherever there was poor folks and unlearned folks there was the ghost stories. There was stories of local folklore about the Civil War participants. Mt. Vernon was sympathetic with the Union side of the Civil War. A Miss Pruitt was in charge of the estate at that time. She was hiding out Union spys and Union army and that same Miss Pruitt kept the money from the Burke and Herbert Bank, hidden away in Mt. Vernon. Whenever she had a chance, she took it into Washington by horse and buggy in a large egg basket covered with eggs. She had to tell some lie about taking them to somebody in Alexandria until she got past Alexandria. After she got past the Confederate line she said she was taking them in to the President. "The President's sick and he needs fresh eggs and I'm taking them to him." So the Union lines let her through into Washington and she switched the money. Colonel Burke and Captain Herbert had left it in her care while they left in the war. She deposited it in Riggs Bank (in Washington).

Confederate money was worth nothing, absolutely nothing. So when Colonel Burke and Captain Herbert came back they had money on deposit with Riggs in Washington. That's why Burke and Herbert used to be called the oldest bank in the old dominion.

The most notable change that the county has experienced I think is in schools. Groveton High is now a campus. High schools used to be a school building on a little lot. There was no parking. Nobody had any cars—the teachers, the principal, nobody. We didn't have any school bus. There were no baseball teams with schools. The boys just went out and played in a field. So you see, we have overcome the old "grass roots" that I remember!

When we first prepared to pass a 10 million dollar school bond issue, people said, "How are we ever going to pay 10 million dollars off in school bonds? We can't do it. We're a county of poor people, farmers, and we can't. I was temporarily living in Alexandria at the time. They came in town and got me and said, "Why don't you come and help us campaign?" I rigged up the first sound truck that I knew anything about to do campaigning with. I got people who knew how to hook up a speaker and mike and I went down through Gunston, a black man campaigning among all the whites down there. I talked with a person and then I got on the sound truck. We must have persuaded them for the county to change its pattern. We cannot stay in the shadow of the Capitol.

Fairfax County never really did have marginal land; it was sub-marginal. Somebody said that George Washington became a politician because he couldn't make a living on the land. That's what we were saying. Our children were going to have to be employees of the federal government, going to have to go into the service industries because agriculture is not Fairfax County's thing.

We got that bond through and built schools like Drew Smith, modern brick schools with sanitary facilities. We didn't have to go out to the old stinking john anymore and they didn't get water out of an unsanitary well. We began to pay teachers a more respectable wage and we saw the return. Our children became brighter and more enlightened and as soon as they were finished with school they were getting jobs.

## Stokes

There wasn't nothing down here, nothing but woods. All that was woods clean to Fort Hunt Road. Nothing but a dirt road all the way through here. That was about 40 or 50 years ago.

I built a couple of houses over here. The state built a house there at the road and we put electricity in it, but it didn't have no water or nothing like that. It had all outside toilets.

QUESTION: What are the biggest changes in this area since you've been living here?  
The gas lines, sewer lines, water lines. You got a big nice school. We didn't have but a one room school. There wasn't much work or money, of course, things were cheap. You didn't need too much money. What little bit you had you made out with.

My daddy, he worked on the railroad. Some of them worked on farms. This whole area wasn't nothing but a farm, just very few houses on it. I did a lot of work around home, but I started out working when I was 13. I used to work for this guy; he had a farm, it was James Quander and Robert Quander.

QUESTION: Can you tell us about the Springbank Inn?

Springbank was a beer garden on the other side of the road, but little kids weren't allowed in there unless they stole in there to get a beer.

When I was a little boy, I was scared of water. They used to take me out and throw me in the boat and go off near the bridge, drop a net halfway out in the river. I used to help to pull it in. They used to give us all the little fish that we could catch. The big ones they used to take and sell.

I was scared of snakes. One day I seen a little snake and I guess I walked almost a half a mile going all the way around to keep from coming back (the same way). I seen a snake last summer over at Mason Hill. I had been working and I seen this black snake laying across. I was getting ready to get a stick and kill him and I happend to tell the lady and she went there talking to him and I haven't seen him since!

I didn't play too much of anything but a little checkers because when you was coming up during that time you had a whole lot of work to do. You didn't have a lot of time. When I was out of school we had to can and take care of the hogs. We had to cut wood and stuff like that. We had a well. We had a hand pump to pump it out of there. Each individual house had a pump. They used to have a big tank up in the attic. They used to pump the water from the basement up in the attic and the water would come down through the pipes. You had to heat it on the stove.

QUESTION: How many people were in your family?

My family? Ten. We used to fight. They used to whip me one day and I tell my momma that night and they would kill me the next day.

## Arnold

Have you heard this story of the bonus marchers that came to Washington in 1932? The bonus marchers, they were veterans of World War I and the government had promised them this money, bonus money.

They kept puttin' 'em off and puttin' 'em off. I think Hoover was president at that



time, MacArthur was in charge of the army, and I think Eisenhower had a part in it too at that time. Well, anyway, they chased 'em out of Washington 'cause they'd camped on the monument grounds.

They all came down here. They were all really, really pitiful. They brought the families with 'em and they had these old cars, just like Okies. They came here for that money and things were bad and they would demand it. They didn't get it that time, they got a little bit later on.

We took 'em in. Had to feed them, 'cause they were in really bad shape. We used to have to keep 'em for two or three weeks, then we'd get another bunch. But people were like that in those days. They'd take anybody in, help 'em and feed 'em, but you don't see a lot of that today.

## Barnes

Fairhaven was the first housing project that was built in this area. Up until that time people would build one house here and one house there. But they came in and took that area of Fairhaven and they set up a mill. They made those houses in the mill and brought them down in sections and nailed them up.

## Mantiplay

QUESTION: Have you noticed any changes in the area since you've been living here?

MR. MANTIPLY: Well, the A and P has been built, the Fairhaven Arco has been built. The Pizza Villa has been built. The houses, a lot of them are getting old and a lot of the older people have moved out. A colored family has moved in next door. The 7-11 down on Fairhaven Avenue has been built, and that's been a problem ever since it's been open. The palm readers down on Fairhaven—they moved in. A lot of the houses need some repair. Younger people moved in, and things are so high nowadays you know, that a lot of them don't have any money to do it.

This was the first model home in this community (Fairhaven) and it's been here from around the early 40's. When I first moved here it was \$12,000, and when they were first built I understand there were maybe \$4,000 or \$5,000. Now they're selling in the range from 35 to 40 thousand, some of them are getting 47 thousand.

I have to pay taxes in this area, and have been for twenty years, and I haven't got a sidewalk so far, I haven't got a drainage system like I should have. But definitely I think that we should get some of these things without tying ourselves up with the county or the government or anything else because we pay taxes the same as everybody else.

I drove a bus for A, B and W right down Number 1 highway. In the last 25, 30 years this whole thing was built up with all these restaurants and gas stations and shopping centers. It was only one lane on each side up until they started building this part of it. It wasn't a week that went by there wasn't about four, five and six (wrecks) and sometimes two and three a night. We've had a couple people killed on motorcycles right out in front of the house. A colored fellow that lived on Quander Road got killed right out in front here.

MRS. MANTIPLY: I'm a director at the Community Center at Fairhaven here. I don't attend every meeting because some nights I have to work. We have one a month. We have get togethers. The teen center, they had that for a while, and then I think the teenagers, some of them got a little out of place or something. They were misbehaving. I think there's much of that going on now in the world. They have bingo on Monday nights. We also have church services.

MR. MANTIPLY: They also have dances every once and a while like New Year's Eve. They have holiday parties for the kids. It really does a good job, I mean, it's active and people can participate in it. But we only get twenty to thirty people out of 200. It takes a lot out of just a few.

MRS. MANTIPLY: It used to be back in years past, we learned to know everybody and Christmas time we would have parties. We'd go to each other's houses. All night long we'd be up sometimes you know, just oodles of people would gather. Course you just don't get to know people now. Well, you know 'em when you see 'em, but you just don't get together like we used to.

MR. MANTIPLY: Every Saturday night it was something. And, you know, it just changed. I think it's a part of the country, all around here. I bought a CB now. I talk to a lot of people that I don't even know. You know I haven't even seen 'em before, but I do talk to 'em and we enjoy talkin'. Maybe I'll get to know 'em.

MRS. MANTIPLY: At one time these houses were gonna be sold commerical. Everybody was kind of upset, but that's been years ago, and it's just all died down.

MR. MANTIPLY: At one time they wanted to buy this house commerical. They wanted to put a beauty parlor here.

I have a problem right here because in front of my house there's a storm sewer, but that storm sewer does not belong to Fairfax.

MRS. MANTIPLY: It belongs to the state.

MR. MANTIPLY: Back a few years ago I had to get the Health Department to come down, and get in to open the drain because it was stopped and there was stagnated water around my house as much as 12 inches.

MRS. MANTIPLY: We found out it was the state's when it stopped up, with all that stagnated water—flies, and bugs, and there was trash and all in it. You could imagine what it would look like. We called the county. They said that they didn't have nothin' to do with it, and to call the state. We called the state. They said they had nothin' to do with it, it belongs to the county. We couldn't get between either one of the two, so we just called the Health Bureau. I mean it wasn't two hours before they came out and unstopped it.

MR. MANTIPLY: It's fine now ever since then.

# Hecox

When I came out here there wasn't a whole lot going on. There wasn't a whole lot to even tell you about because there wasn't much here. The only thing a person did was get on a bus in Alexandria and go to Fort Belvoir where all the activity was.

The open air theater, had been very active until the war started and they closed it down. In January 1944 they opened it again. Everybody flocked to it. If you didn't get there real early you never got in, and cars would line up a mile back, trying to get in.

One of the places you could get something to eat was right across the road, called "Twin Barrels." Now that's exactly what they looked like—two huge barrels hooked together. One end of it was his kitchen and the other part was where he served. The theater didn't have popcorn and candy because there wasn't any. All that stuff was rationed. The man with the "Twin Barrels" had the closest to a little restaurant. They've got a big service station and car wash there now.

The Harmony House, trailer Court, was there at this time. They made all their money during the war when nobody had a place to live, and anybody that had extra room made premium rates. There was many service men that had to take their families with them because they had no place at home.

That was the beginning of some of this federal housing, and one was Fairhaven. The most expensive house there, the very nicest one, was only \$3,000.

Along the Route 1 corridor there were about six green houses. In back of the open air theater was Ladson's, or Green Acres, and they raised flowers there in a field way. I lived back there for six months in a little tiny house.

In back of where the Shell station is built now, was a place called the Community House. They had rooms and you could rent one. It had a community kitchen and all kinds of kettles and dishes. You could stay there for \$3 a night which was outrageously high. We stayed there two nights. To get into the kitchen to cook was strictly out of this world because you had to carry water in. There was no plumbing, no inside facilities. The lady that lived in the house was kind enough to let everybody have water from her outside faucet. But you had to use the little house behind the big house for anything else.

That's, I think, an original "commune" the way I understand it! Just one big room and all together. Most of the rooms had your bed, dresser, and chairs or a davenport, and a table.

You could find housing in Maryland, everybody always thought the Virginia side was swampy. There just wasn't a place where anybody could build. When the war ended people wanted to buy homes. They had money to put down. Finally, a man named Gosnell decided that it was profitable for everybody, including him, to begin to fill that ground or buy a hill. Jefferson Manor was the first to be built. If you've ever been over there you'll know how small they are, but at that time it was a godsend because people just didn't have a place to live.

When we first moved into our house (we live over in Bucknell Heights) we were what you call country. You never dreamed that anyone could build on it because it was very steep. The thing was terraced down and we got Bucknell Heights!

Belle Haven and New Alexandria was built for the VIP's. At that time there were a lot of "dollar a year" men. That is people that had factories and big farms, people that had a lot of money and could afford to take time off to work for a dollar a year for the government. A lot of senators and representatives and cabinet members lived there. The purpose of it was to give them a comparable home to what some of them in D.C. had, and also to give them a club they could have without having to go so many miles away. They were also the first ones to get complete inside plumbing facilities.

When my boys went to school there was only eleven grades. When they were first getting ready to graduate, they put in a twelfth grade so he (my oldest son) had to go to school one year longer than he intended.

There wasn't much that wasn't rationed and that that wasn't rationed didn't matter. There was rationing on coffee, meat, fresh vegetables, canned vegetables—you had to have stamps for them. Sugar, gasoline, oil—you could buy so many quarts of oil to so many gallons of gasoline. And there was no way under the sun you could get extra stamps, unless you had somebody that was sick and had to make extra trips to the doctor. There had to be a good reason, let's put it that way. The stamps looked just like our green stamps today. Soap was in very limited supply, but it wasn't rationed. The store rationed it. I happened to work at Safeway during that time. The regular customers and the employees was allowed to have certain items.

In order to buy groceries you had to go into Alexandria. Chauncey's was in Alexandria and they had that store and also one that's a rug place now on Route 1. They stayed there quite a while and I don't know why they left.

All of the streets were originally carriage routes and all of them led into Alexandria like the spokes of a wheel. Route 1 was paved to transport missiles from Ft. Belvoir to the missile sites which ringed the whole D.C. area. I think there are still some of the sites around, if you just go looking. Burgundy Village has one. The government sees to it that the D.C. area has got complete protection.

I'm not a southerner. I come from the west, Nebraska, and we have a philosophy—when it's no good get rid of it and build it new. The only thing you use the past for is to learn from.

We came to Virginia and found the Civil War was still fought here. The people were still arguing the Civil War. And if anybody said anything about it, the answer, was, "Well, you didn't have a grandmother or aunt or uncle or somebody in the family there." Well, that's true, I didn't. The schools opened, the restaurants were opened, the theaters were opened. Nobody ever said anything if "they" went into a store or restroom with you. "They" were people; we grew up that way. One of the best friends I had when I was in high school was a colored girl. We had three years together. Nicer person you never knew.

When you come here, the whole atmosphere was different. I had to learn to keep my mouth shut. My husband got up on the bus one day and let a woman (black) who was holding a baby have his seat. I thought they was going to kick us off the bus. Truly, people were as mad as hornets that he did that and then he held the baby. That made it doubly insulting!

## Bartels

In 1963 we lived on Kenyon Drive in Bucknell Manor. Then we moved here, but when we moved here, I went to Vietnam. My wife and children came here to Hybla Valley. I am, right now, in the A.M.C. building over on Eisenhower Avenue by Cameron Station, Department of the Army Internal Readiness and Development Committee.

QUESTION: Are there any disadvantages or advantages for you and your family moving all over the country?

I think they like it. I think it has an advantage cause everybody gets to learn about people and other parts of the United States and other parts of the world. It teaches them, particularly children, to adjust to moving around when they become older.

QUESTION: When your family left Hybla Valley, where did they move?

In 1970 we moved to Indiana. Then we went to California, then we went to Iran, then we came back here.

Many of the stores that we used to deal with weren't around any more or they had moved to new locations. When we left here, the area was very clean, particularly Alexandria, and they advertised themselves as being the cleanest city in America and they *were* one of the cleanest I ever saw, but the situation is not the same anymore. Many of the people don't seem to be paying as much attention to their front yards as they used to.

QUESTION: When you retire, do you plan on living in this area?

No, either overseas, or wherever I get a job.

QUESTION: Are you able to get involved with the community?

Well, it depends on where you're at and how long you're going to be there and also the attitude that the civilian population has.

QUESTION: Has the military in this area increased in the past few years?

No, it has not increased in numbers. In fact, it is decreasing. The government is making an effort to keep the number down rather than allow it to increase.

QUESTION: How long will you be living in Hybla Valley?

Until June or July, because I retire at that time.

## Quan and Vuong

NANCY QUAN: We came from Vietnam. We are citizens of Vietnam. But we're not Vietnamese, we are Chinese.

TOM VUONG: A lot is different, different classes, teachers, and students.

NANCY: School is freer over here than over there. Here there is freedom of speech, freedom of religion. It's better than Vietnam, much better. For example you can smoke over here, but over there you can't smoke in school.

TOM: Over there you couldn't have couples. I like this school the best. Over there you can't do anything. You can't talk to your teacher, sit on the tables, or things like that.

NANCY: I like Big Macs better than hamburgers. I like pizza. It is so delicious. We have four kinds of food in Vietnam, there's French, Vietnamese, Chinese, and U.S. food. We also have Cokes, Sprites, Orange, and every kind of soda.

In Vietnam we wear hippy dresses, skirts, and hot pants. No jeans, but we do have the jean jackets.

TOM: Over there when you go shopping you don't have to drive one or two miles, you just walk. Everything is close together. We don't drive very much. If you need to take the bus somewhere it just takes about twenty minutes. Also a lot of people ride motorcycles. They ride motorcycles in Vietnam like people drive cars in the United States. Every family has two or three motorcycles. Rich people usually have the cars, but they also have motorcycles.

NANCY: The music is the same in Vietnam, we have slow songs and sweet songs. Our songs are sung in different languages: Vietnamese, Chinese, and English. We have such songs as "Love Story," and "Love is Blue."

Over there we go to school. We learn English, and Chinese. I speak four languages: Chinese, Vietnamese, English, and Mandarin. We take History, Geography, Math, English, and Chinese. We don't choose what we want.

TOM: In Vietnam my father was a dentist. When he came over here he tried to become a dentist, but they said, "If you want to become a dentist over here, you must go to school for six years." My father thinks that the time is too long. So my father decided to be a T.V. and radio repairman, because it only takes one year of school. T.V. and radios are also very easy for him, because he learned about them in Vietnam. He is finished with his one year of school, and is now looking for a job.

## Allen

My parents and I moved out to Bucknell Heights in June or July of 1959 and I've lived here about 18, 19 years. I'm an alumnus of the school and now treasurer of the Groveton High School Boosters and that is my basic involvement, but I have a great love and a great belief in the young people of today.

I started at the first G. H. S. of Popkins Lane in Spetember of 1959. We had a fantastic basketball team. We were undefeated in Fairfax County play for I believe 32 or 33 straight games. That was back in the time when Northern Virginia was divided into Fairfax County, Arlington County, and Alexandria City. We could beat everybody but it seems like when we played the powerhouse, Washington and Lee, over in Arlington, we'd always come away on the lower end of the score.

I remember the days when Stoneybrooke was a mansion and lots of vacant fields and when Beacon Mall and the apartments up there were an airport and a neat place to go driving cars and just hiding out and doing things. I remember when Fort Hunt High School wasn't there! All the area down there was woods. The biggest change is in the continued development. I remember when I was just a little kid riding my bicycle from Alexandria down to Bucknell Heights (it must have been about 1955) and Route 1 was a four lane road at best and there wasn't much traffic. The Dixie Pig was still where it is now, but there weren't so many people out here.

Believe it or not, I liked it when the airplanes used to come in over my house on the final approach to Beacon Field, and Popkins Farm was truly a farm, but we've kept pace with the rest of the nation and we've grown and things have gotten better in the way of services provided by the county, and things to do. But I still kind of yearn for the old days when you didn't have to fight a major traffic tie-up just to get across Route One at Beacon Hill Road.

My basic philosophy on today's youth is that all the youth are good and they're where it's at. The youth of today are tomorrow, they're the future. I think some people get high on drugs and alcohol. I get high on working with young people, that's my emotional high.

When we were growing up and going to G.H.S. we used to go over to Mount Comfort Cemetery and we'd play football and hit golf balls. One night we were camped out and we saw what we thought were ghosts. We weren't really quite sure. We used to run on the grave sites at Mt. Comfort Cemetery and I suppose we rattled a few of the people up, and they'd come up to get us one night.

## Stoops

Well, the youth today, there isn't very much change from when I was a youth, except that youth today have more freedom than children had when I was young. We had gangs that hung around on the corners. If you went out of your jurisdiction around in the neighborhood into some other neighborhood where you didn't belong, you were worked over. If you had a bike they'd take the bike away from you, tear it up or hide it. The youth today, I can't see is much different. The youth today has more advantages than the youth of my time. The youth in my day went out to learn a trade. Today, very few of them want to learn a trade. They are going into more academic courses which I can't blame 'em, to get out of the hard work. I haven't anything against the youth today.

## Washington

George Washington was my fifth great-uncle. The first Bushrod Washington was a Justice of the United States Court. He was appointed by John Adams. The Washington family originally started out west in Williams County, a little south of where Lee's home is. I went to high school in Pennsylvania and lived near Valley Forge. I've been in this area since 1939.

When we first moved here we had to get used to the airplanes. We could stand in the kitchen and watch the planes. Some came very close. The first one we saw, I dove for the floor. One fellow that lived over in the Groveton area had had it with the planes flying over his house, so he went into his house, got his shot gun and took a few punches at them.

Years ago when driving from Washington to Richmond we thought this was out in the country. It's really changed quite a lot. We used to go up to Popkins farm. It was real countrified. There was a farm down the road where the school (Bryant) is now, with chickens and pigs. We have seen changes.

I think it's important to get the history of your area. Everybody in the area has a big advantage as far as libraries and historical places go. It's an ideal place to go to school. Writing about the past history of this area, you must salvage the best things and apply them to the future.

# Jobs

## Anderson: psychiatrist

We consider a generation about 20 years. Generations go through the same kinds of things in growing up. Kids that are growing up 30 years ago faced the same problems that kids growing up today face. What has changed are the external things; social life, transportation, and knowledge, technological and scientific knowledge. But in just growing up kids have the same kinds of problems and have had for centuries.

There are a lot of community things that hold the community together, a lot of community spirit. Groveton has that quality to it. Something about this area reminds you of a small town. In the way the community grows up, the neighborhood kids, the neighborhood school—it's very much like growing up in a small town.

The younger generation is great. They're going through the same sort of things that everyone goes through and their ability to handle the problems as they face them is good. I recognize that some of them are having difficulties. This would happen anytime.

What has happened to Route 1 is that it has to be more of a corridor that leads people through and traffic has increased a great deal. Shopping areas have opened up the last 15 years. It's made us less dependent on down town. The changes on Route 1 have been able to bring the community functions closer to the people here.

QUESTION: Do you feel families are drawing apart from each other?

There are instances of it. But I don't think that the percentage is any higher than is any other time. Times the family really was not in touch was in time of war. Historically that's the time when families are really torn apart, either the Second World War or the Korean War or those who were affected by the Vietnam War.

Now the other kinds of things that keep families apart are domestic. They are thinking of divorce now, or separation because of marital difficulties. There is more of it nationwide and it filters down to this community. I don't think it is a good thing, but I don't think this area is any worse than some of the other areas in the country.

I remember at Groveton when we had programs in the SPTA on drugs and the biggest outcry, of course, was about pot. How very upset everyone was about it, especially

the parents! Now most parents are not that upset by pot, but there was certainly a time when it was a very touchy issue. It was very difficult for parents and school officials to understand just what to do about it. If you discovered somebody using it, did that mean they had serious sociological problems or did that mean they were going to go into hard drugs and become addicted? It's settled down to the point where parents and teachers realize that it's the type of individual that uses drugs that you have to be concerned about. Somebody that's using drugs is turning to drugs as a way of answering or dealing with their insecurities in a way that they don't have to face up to them.

We should consider alcohol as being probably a much bigger problem than the other drugs. Of things that are abused, alcohol is certainly the greatest. It has been and probably will be and is a more serious problem in this area than other drugs.

If the father is alcoholic it makes a lot of difference to the family. If someone of the family, the kids, are caught experimenting with drugs, then that affects the family. If there are users in the family we can say that some individuals of the family unit are not coping with their problems very well.

I'm saying there have always been family problems and there always will be family problems because these are problems of growing up and living together. Families are more mobile than they ever have been. We are mobile around here because of the high percentage of military and government workers. It used to be when a family grew up, a grandfather and grandmother on both sides were in the same town, or the son grew up on a piece of land and he stayed right next to dad and got a family and raised it. There are still communities in this country where people live and die in the same community, but that's not true in this area. I'm sure you have a hard time finding people that spend all their life here.



Formerly Pat's Market

## Arnold: storekeeper

QUESTION: Tell us about the armed robber.

MR. ARNOLD: The lunch rush was over and I was gettin' ready to paint the floor. This joker came in, had on this V.F.W. jacket, Veterans of Foreign War. And I was back by the meat case stirrin' this paint. I wasn't gonna get any more business until the school kids got out of school at 3:00, that'd be the next busy period.

He was awful friendly, "Hi old timer, ol' buddy," and all that jive they like to hand ya. And then I'd never seen him before and I just figured right then that this guy's too friendly.

I had this money in my pocket. It was two or three hundred dollars, so I took it out. And where the original meatcase was, I just threw it in there 'cause I was in the back. He had pulled around that side by the townhouses. I didn't see the durn car there. So he run on out and went around the side. And I just stood there and had a funny feeling and boy, next thing I know here comes three of 'em in the door.

One of 'em got out in front of me, he had this durn hood on his head. He was real soft talkin' and he said, "All right, this is a holdup." Got his gun in there and he got hung up in his jacket. He was pullin' it in and pullin' it in, he finally got it out and laid it on me. And he said, "Put your hands up," so I put my hands up.

What was I gonna do, I was gonna give him the money. Let him have it out of the drawer rather than him tearing the cash register up where I would have to buy another one. He said, "NO, no get out of there." And I started to walk out from behind it.

There was this other one, he had a gun and his handkerchief tied over his face. He put that gun on me and this other one he was in front of me. He put his gun upside my head and made me lay down on the floor back there. Took my own rope, clothesline, I sold clothesline, clothespins and everything. And he tied me up in one minute flat, and of course I helped him. I didn't fight him! He had my hands tied up and my feet drawn up behind my head and he had me tied up just like you'd throw a steer and then tie him up.

There was another one in there, he's the one that went through the cash register and took all the money. I had a coin collection, they took that. And the funny thing about it. I had money in my billfold. And he touched my pocket, that billfold one time or another he must of touched me a hundred times, and he didn't take that durned thing out. So that helped me to get out of the store business. They didn't get the \$300 I threw in the back, but I had about \$160 in the cash register and the coin collection. Oh yeah, and I had a gun that one of the customers got for me but I never got to use it.

MRS. ARNOLD: He just laid there on the floor until—

MR. ARNOLD: The mailman came along and untied me! Then the police came down but they never caught 'em. That was 'bout 1965. It was a year and a half after that, that I left the business and leased the building.

## Brown: lawyer

I've been involved in a number of legal matters in Northern Virginia. For example, I handled the case that went to the Supreme Court about ten years ago which resulted in the Virginia Poll Tax being held unconstitutional as a condition of voting. The