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August 6th, 1965

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART
62 Gower Street, W. C. 1
Telephone: Museum 7076

From JOHN FERNALD Principal

To Whom It May Concern

This confirms that Miss Helen Marie Taylor, of Meadowfarm, Orange, Virginia, U.S.A., is authorized as my appointed representative and Associate Producer to proceed with plans in Richmond, Virginia, or whatever place she feels may be most appropriate, to create the facilities and raise whatever moneys are necessary in connection with establishing in America an Academy--Conservatoire and Professional Theatre to be built and directed along the lines which I have established at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London.

If she can commit herself by January 15th, 1966, to making such a situation available to me, I on my part will commit myself to a minimum of five years as Artistic Director and Principal of the organization, such commitment to apply in the case of any other American city able to carry out Miss Taylor's project and offering the necessary facilities.

John Fernald

Copy

from: Helen Marie Taylor
(after November 3, 1965)

Release date: November 3, 1965
Dateline: Atlanta, Georgia

2325 Monument Avenue
Richmond, Virginia, 23220
phone: EL 3-2231
OR

"Meadowfarm"
Orange, Virginia, 22960
phone: 7865

ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION WELCOMES FERNALD AND ROYAL ACADEMY CONCEPT FOR U.S.

The National Board of the English-Speaking Union, meeting at its Annual Conference being held in Atlanta, Georgia, has unanimously approved, under the Chairmanship of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the announcement of Mr. John Fernald's offer to come to America to found and direct a professional Academy-Conservatoire, to be patterned along the lines of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art of London. Mr. Fernald has served as Principal of the famous training school for British actors for the past ten years.

The resolution was drafted by Mr. B. Hubert Cooper, former President of the Philadelphia branch of the E-SU, and was presented at the meeting of its National Board by the Hon. Walter S. Robertson, former Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs and President of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. President Eisenhower made comments favoring the resolution, which offers an enthusiastic welcome to the proposal, during its debate.

Mr. Fernald has agreed to consider coming to any American city which expresses a genuine interest in the proposal by January 15, 1966, and will commit himself to serve as Director of the Academy-Conservatoire Theatre for a minimum of five years. An exact site for the Academy has not yet been selected, though Richmond, Virginia, has been suggested. Miss Helen Marie Taylor, Mr. Fernald's American Representative and Associate Producer, will be meeting with citizens of interested cities who contact her during the coming weeks. Conference members were invited to write her % "Meadowfarm", Orange, Virginia.

Miss Taylor said in an interview later, "I am particularly hopeful that we will receive invitations from cities other than New York so that we may use this splendid opportunity and generous offer of Mr. Fernald's to help forward and strengthen the decentralized professional theatre movement which has been developing in America in recent years. This growth of quality repertory theatre has also served to point up our genuine and growing need to have more American actors trained in the classical tradition. Mr. Fernald with his Royal Academy-Conservatoire concept is uniquely qualified to help us in this task."

AMMENDED AND FINAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, we, the National Board of Directors of the English-Speaking Union, meeting at the 1965 Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, etc., believing that the nation-wide development of performing arts centers now taking shape in many parts of this country will, as far as theatre is concerned, encounter great problems in public acceptance and local financial support unless far greater opportunities for thorough and professional training of young men and women aspiring to engagement on the professional stage are afforded, and

WHEREAS, we greet the prospect of the formation of a National Academy-Conservatoire of Dramatic Art to be organized in America along the lines of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art of London, a professional training Academy justly famous for schooling its students on the rock of classicism, and to be developed in this country under the Directorship of John Fernald, the R.A.D.A.'s distinguished Principal, WE, as evidence of our genuine and sympathetic interest in the project, offer our enthusiastic approval and welcome to the proposed new organization when and if formed.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower	Chairman
Mr. Charles E. Saltzman	President
Brigadier J.W.F. Treadwell	Vice President
Mr. Thomas S. Tyler	Vice President
Mr. Alan T. Schumacher	Treasurer
Mr. J. J. Schieffelin	Executive Director
Mr. Peter Romilly	Deputy to the Exec. Dir.

and attending Members of the National Board of Directors

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER PROPOSED

An adventure in professional theatre, unique and unequalled in this country, is available to the city of Richmond if the city can come up with the facilities necessary to house it, a group of Richmonders learned at a breakfast conference hosted by Mr. & Mrs. John Lanahan at the John Marshall Hotel yesterday.

Mr. John Fernald, Principal of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, announced his willingness to devote five years to the establishment of a similar performing and teaching academy in the United States, and professed his enthusiasm for Richmond as a possible site.

Mr. Fernald spent the weekend in Richmond with the dual purpose of hearing auditions for RADA at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Sunday, and exploring potential facilities for establishing a comparable academy and professional theatre here.

"I have realized from experience with American students of the theatre in England that there is a wealth of American talent crying out to be professionally trained," stated Mr. Fernald. The Performing Arts Center he envisions, like the Royal Academy in London, would at the same time provide training in classical theatre to students who qualified through national competitions, and furnish the Richmond area with season-long professional theatre, running the gamut from the classics to Albee, from tragedy to farce, performed by the professional company, some members of the teaching staff of the academy, plus visiting theatre luminaries.

Mr. Fernald's offer to come to America to found and direct a professional academy-conservatoire was enthusiastically approved at the most recent Annual Conference of the English-Speaking Union, held in Atlanta. A resolution drafted by Mr. B. Hubert Cooper of Philadelphia welcoming Mr. Fernald and the Royal Academy-Conservatory Theatre concept was presented by the Hon. Walter S. Robertson of Richmond to the E-SU National Board and under the Chairmanship of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who spoke in its favor, the proposal was unanimously passed and read in part:

"Whereas...believing that the nationwide development of performing arts centers now taking shape in many parts of this country will, as far as theatre is concerned, encounter great problems in public acceptance and local financial support unless far greater opportunities for thorough and professional training of young men and women aspiring to engagement on the professional stage are afforded, and whereas we greet the prospect of the formation of a National Academy-Conservatoire of Dramatic Art to be organized in America along the lines of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art of London, a professional training academy justly famous for schooling its students on the rock of classicism, and to be developed in this country under the directorship of John Fernald, the RADA's distinguished Principal, we, as evidence of our genuine and sympathetic interest in the project, offer our enthusiastic approval and welcome to the proposed new organization..."

Support has also been voiced by Governor Albertis S. Harrison, Jr.: "...This is an exciting venture and one that should, and I believe will, have the enthusiastic support of the people of Virginia. ...While my term as Governor is rapidly approaching an end, I am quite certain that any future Governor of this state will give it his full support and encouragement.

Certainly that shall be my intent during the remainder of my term..."

James J. Kilpatrick, Editor of the Richmond News Leader, in a letter to Richmond Mayor Morrison M. Crowe, had this to say: "...the very tangible possibility developed that Richmond might be able to attract one of the world's most eminent teachers of drama, John Fernald of London, to establish a dramatic academy here... If it could be brought off--if Richmond could erect Latrobe's beautiful theatre to house not only a professional repertory theatre but also the nation's foremost academy of dramatic art--this city and the Commonwealth would have pulled a real coup. No more exciting venture in the field of the arts has been seriously proposed in Virginia since Governor Pollard took the leadership 30 years ago in founding the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The opportunity is great, but other cities in Virginia and elsewhere already are bidding for Fernald's Academy, and the project calls for early consideration."

Leslie Cheek, Director of the Virginia Museum, added his name to the growing list of supporters this weekend and wrote in response to the announcement: "You have told me at length about your plan to establish an Academy and Professional Theatre in the United States, patterned on the long-revered Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in England. It seems to me that America is now approaching a true, widespread interest in dramatic art, and will need to have increased sources of theatre professionals. Therefore, it is a pleasure to welcome John Fernald to our country, and I hope that he can help us achieve an ever finer perfection in the performing arts."

Atlanta, Birmingham, Alabama, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Princeton and New York are among the cities which have voiced definite interest in snatching up this opportunity if Richmond does not seize its option to create the Academy, in connection with the new Civic Center and Latrobe Theatre, to form a rich and unique Richmond Center for the Performing Arts.

Possibilities for Richmond sites will be explored during the next few weeks.

For further information contact:

Helen Marie Taylor, Mr. Fernald's appointed representative and Associate
Producer

EL 3-2231
EL 8-C078
(Miss Marder, secretary)

2325 Monument Avenue
Richmond, Virginia, 23220

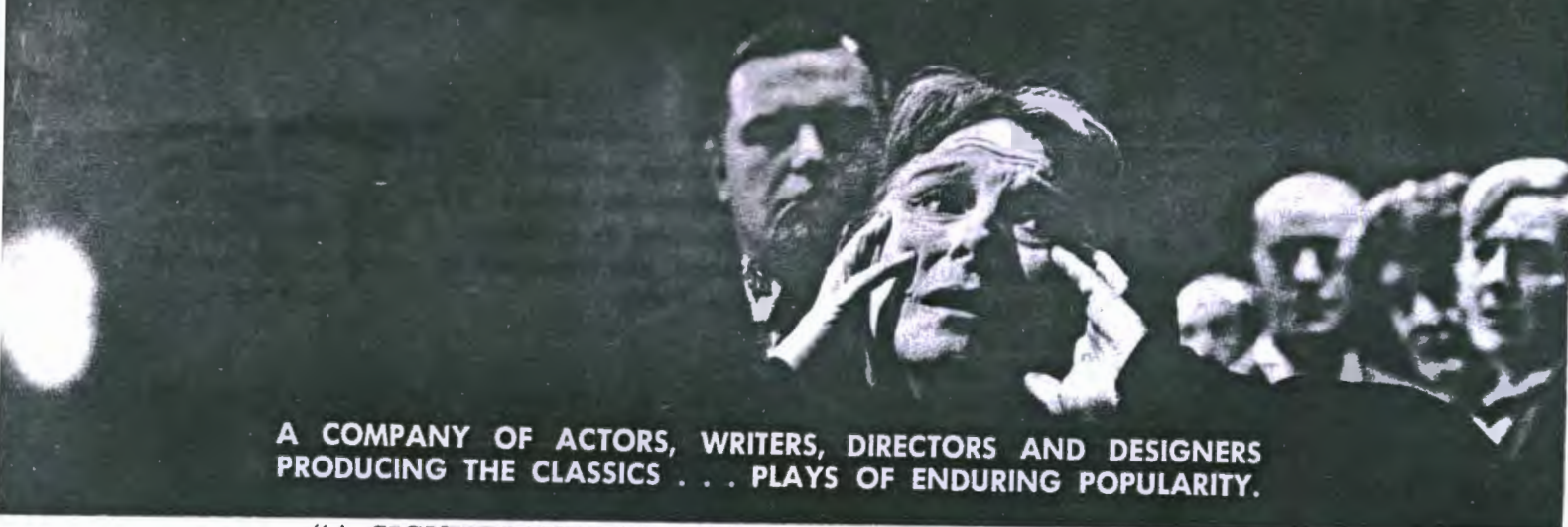
Ann Archer, Publicity

355-7270

Richmond, Virginia

APA

THE ASSOCIATION OF PRODUCING ARTISTS



A COMPANY OF ACTORS, WRITERS, DIRECTORS AND DESIGNERS
PRODUCING THE CLASSICS . . . PLAYS OF ENDURING POPULARITY.

"A SIGNIFICANT EXPLOSION!" *Hewes—Saturday Review*

THE ASSOCIATION OF PRODUCING ARTISTS

HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A LIVING SHAKESPEARE TRADITION

by Dorothy D. Victor

THE APA at McCARTER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL COMPANY reunites a remarkable group of the most experienced actors of Shakespeare in this country. This 28-member team of actors and directors brings to Princeton the collective experience of over 420 previous productions of the entire Shakespeare canon—thirty-six plays plus the (somewhat suspect) *Two Noble Kinsmen*, sometimes attributed to Shakespeare in collaboration with the Fletcher of Beaumont and Fletcher.

This wealth of experience has been gained on the stages of the three Stratford Festivals—Stratford-on-Avon, Stratford, Ontario, and Stratford-on-the-Housatonic, Connecticut; the Festivals at Antioch and Toledo, Ashland (Oregon), San Diego, and New York's Central Park; the Old Vic, the Phoenix, the New York City Center, and on Broadway; off-Broadway with the Shakespearewrights; in Massachusetts with the Brattle Theatre of Cambridge and Group 20 Players in Wellesley; and with a score more theatre companies. Among the actors, there are those who have worked under the distinguished direction of Sir John Gielgud, Sir Laurence Olivier, Dr. Tyrone Guthrie, and Miss Margaret Webster. The company members received their basic training at Carnegie Tech and Yale University, at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, as well as other prominent colleges and universities.

Among the remarkable credits of individual company members, it may be noted that Ellis Rabb, Richard Graham, and David Hooks represent a combined experience of 124 roles in 146 Shakespeare productions. Each has appeared in virtually the entire Shakespeare repertory, including the three parts of *Henry VI*. Rosemary Harris is one of the rare recipients of the coveted Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts Gold Medal and played Desdemona in the Old Vic company when Richard Burton and John Neville were alternating the roles of Othello and Iago. Richard Easton is the only actor in the world to have played in all three Stratford Festival companies.

It should also be noted that, without exception, every member of the company has worked before with at least one other company member, and some have played together in as many as thirty productions.

With reference to the current repertory of five plays, this APA company brings the experience of 52 previous productions: 11 productions each of *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; 10 productions of *As You Like It*; and 9 productions of *Twelfth Night*. Twenty-one members of this company have appeared in or directed at least one other production of one or more of the five plays.

It is hoped that this Festival will, among other things, demonstrate how similar backgrounds and mutual experience may contribute to ensemble performance and quality of production even under the pressure of limited rehearsal time, inevitable in a repertory situation.

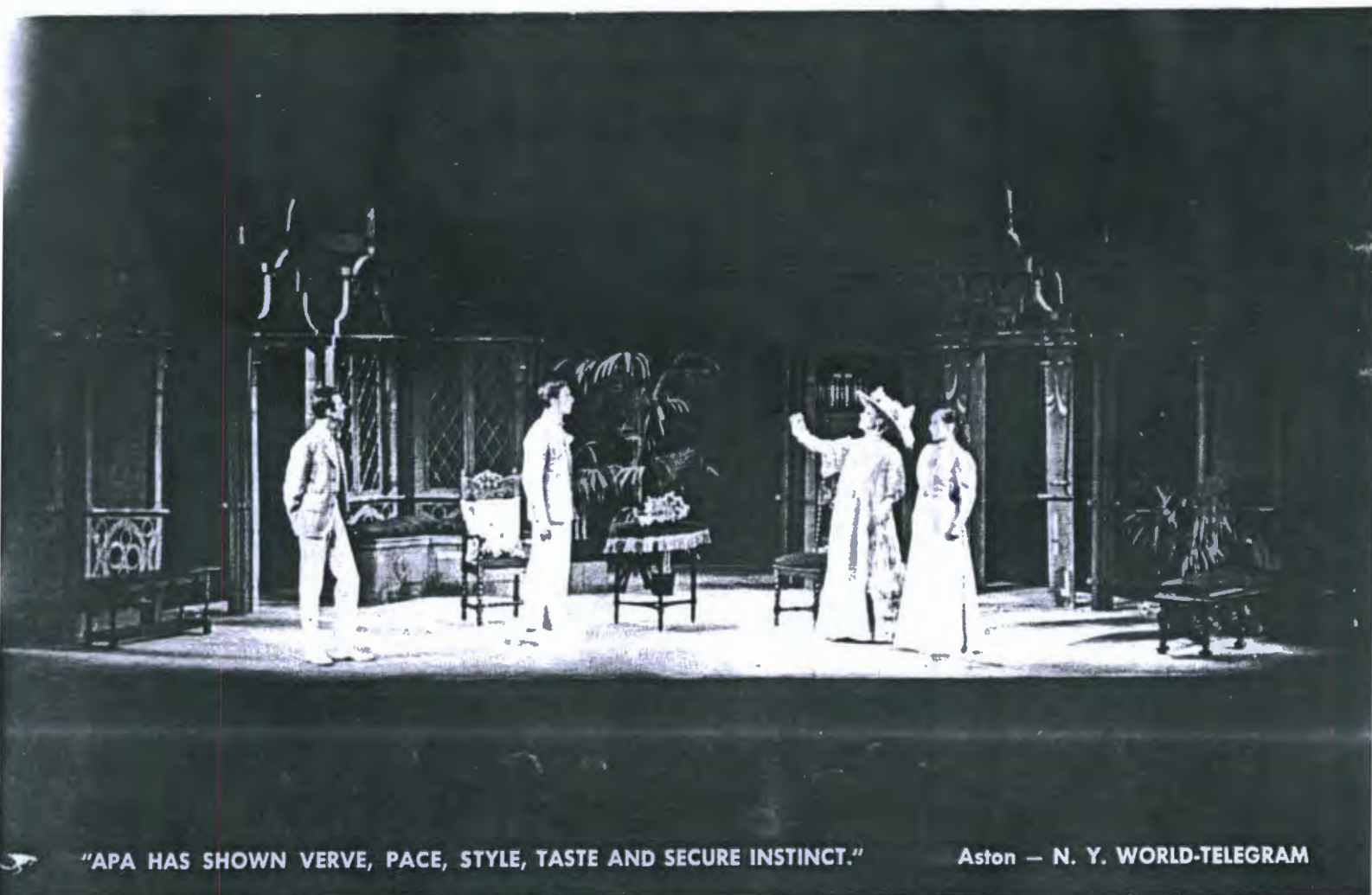


"AN EVENT FOR REJOICING!" Philadelphia Inquirer

APA is a non-profit theatre corporation encompassing the varied talents of over 100 artists, covering all aspects of theatre production, in a well-integrated ensemble of concepts and skills. The 50 active participants of the 1960 repertory companies represent the combined experience of over 3000 professional productions here and abroad.

The collective impact of the quality of membership evoked 6 months of unsolicited engagements before APA had publicly announced its existence. A 1961 return engagement was requested by every theatre visited in 1960.

APA is a flexible organization, available to present:—one play or a repertory of plays; a series of plays in residence; a new production—anywhere in the country.



"APA HAS SHOWN VERVE, PACE, STYLE, TASTE AND SECURE INSTINCT."

Aston — N. Y. WORLD-TELEGRAM

"ENSEMBLE BRILLIANCE COMBINING GROUP TALENT WITH INDIVIDUAL SKILL." PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1960 REPERTORY COMPANIES

The Acting Company—

Tucker Ashworth
Jacqueline Brookes
Keene Curtis
Thayer David
Jack Dodson
Ralph Drischell

Edward Grover
Jane Groves
Olive Dunbar
Richard Easton
Joyce Ebert
James Goldsmith

Rosemary Harris
Betty Hellman
David Hooks
William Larsen
Nicholas Martin
Joanna Merlin

Donald Moffat
Earl Montgomery
Cathleen Nesbitt
Ellis Rabb
Patricia Ripley
Eve Roberts

Joanna Roos
Paul Sparer
Frances Sternhagen
Margot Stevenson
Helen Marie Taylor
Dorothy D. Victor

"THESE ACTORS MOVE WITHOUT ERROR FROM RUEFUL TRAGEDY TO ANTIC-SATIRE . . . TO STIMULATE AND DELIGHT THE MOST DISCRIMINATING PLAYGOER."
Norton—BOSTON RECORD

Louisville Takes 3 Giant Steps To Establish Resident Theater

By DUDLEY SAUNDERS

Louisville moved three steps closer to establishing its own permanent resident theater last night.

The Theatre Louisville, Inc., board of directors announced:

✓ It has just signed a contract to buy the Arts in Louisville House, 519 Zane, for \$90,000, and plans to convert part of it into a 388-seat theater.

✓ A \$150,000 fund-raising drive will begin sometime this fall (although pledges will be accepted immediately).

✓ The first season probably will begin next January or February if the fund drive goal is reached.

All three announcements came at a meeting last night at the Arts in Louisville House. About 100 invited guests, including the head of a similar resident theater in Cincinnati, attended.

Bingham, Jr., Heads Board

The announcements followed more than a year of planning by a board, now headed by Barry Bingham, Jr.

Theatre Louisville will be set up as a professional Actors Equity company running a regular eight-month season with eight shows lasting a month each.

Although the first full season of 32 weeks isn't scheduled until the fall of 1965, the board said it planned to run for a half-season starting next January or February.

The show organization's proposed \$150,000 budget covers the down payment on the property, installation of the theater on the ground floor, and partly underwrites the theater against possible losses during the first three seasons.

The down payment, due at the end of the first year, is \$36,000. Renova-



Staff Photo.

RICHARD BLOCK He pushed theater idea

tion would cost another \$35,000, according to Henry Altman, who prepared the budget.

Morton Boyd, Jr., who will head the fund drive, said the group has already received \$1,250 checks from The Courier-Journal and the Cochran Foundation. He said drive plans will be announced later.

Producing director Richard Block, who pushed the creation of Theatre Louisville, said the proposed opening season schedule includes:

"Skin of Our Teeth" by Thornton Wilder; "A Doctor in Spite of Himself" by Moliere; "Arms and the Man" by George Bernard Shaw; "A Taste of Honey" by Shelagh Delaney; "The Tavern," a comedy, by George

M. Cohan; A Shakespeare comedy, possibly "As You Like It"; A Luigi Pirandello play; and "Ah! Wilderness!" by Eugene O'Neill, or Brendan Behan's "The Hostage."

Block said he hoped Theatre Louisville would be able to do original plays later as well as the works of such newer playwrights as Harold Pinter, Edward Albee, Jean Genet, and Ionesco.

Block said seven professional actors will be hired for the season and guest directors will be hired for probably six shows every season. He'll direct the other two.

Stars May Be Brought In

He also said established "name" actors and even stars may be brought in later for single shows if they are willing to work for the regular \$100-a-week scale.

Local actors will be "jobbed in" to support the resident actors.

During the meeting:

Helen Marie Taylor, a New York actress who is a member of the Theatre Louisville board, outlined the resident theater movement around the country and said Louisville was in an excellent position to set up its own theater.

(Other cities which have already set up resident theaters include Washington, Oklahoma City, Minneapolis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Seattle, Dallas, and Hartford.)

Morse Johnson, chairman of Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park, outlined creation of that theater and some of the problems it faced. It recently collected \$110,000 in a fund drive and begins a new season March 19.

Architect Jack Ward said the present structure and the proposed renovations had been thoroughly checked and approved by structural engineers and fire inspectors.

Louisville To Get Resident Theater

By WILLIAM MOOTZ

Courier-Journal Drama Editor

A capacity crowd of more than 100 invited guests gathered in the gallery of the Arts in Louisville House last night to hear plans for the establishment of a professional resident-theater company in Louisville.

The meeting was conducted by Barry Bingham, Jr., president of Theatre Louisville, which plans to organize such a company here.

Bingham announced that his board of directors had just signed papers which will enable them to buy the Arts in Louisville building where the group proposes to establish a resident-theater company.

The meeting was held to interest local theater lovers in Theatre Louisville's plans.

Made A Good Show

Bingham conducted the meeting with guest speakers, color-slide projections by members of his board of directors, and all the razzle-dazzle of a good show.

Guest speakers were Helen Marie Taylor, actress from New York, and Morse Johnson, president of Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park, a resident theater about to embark on its fifth season.

Johnson told of how Playhouse in the Park was founded—too fast and with too little money.



Staff Photo

TALKING SHOP

Morse Johnson, left, president of Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park, and Barry Bingham, Jr., president of Theatre Louisville, discussed professional resident theater last night at the Arts in Louisville House. Johnson was guest speaker at a meeting to promote plans for the establishment of a professional company here.

chairman, announced gifts of \$1,250 each from The Courier-Journal and the Cochran Foundation. He said these gifts will help get the campaign for funds off the ground.

The campaign will be conducted next fall. Boyd made clear that it will be a one-shot deal, and not an annual affair. He also said all pledges would go into an escrow account. No money will be spent until the campaign is 100 percent successful.

Four Kinds Of Plays

Richard Block, artistic director for Theatre Louisville, said the group would produce four kinds of plays: 1, classics, 2, established plays of the recent past, 3, contemporary works of the experimental theater, and 4, new plays that have never before been produced.

For Theatre Louisville's first season, Block said he had tentative plans that would call for the production of such works as Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth," a comedy by Moliere, Shaw's "Arms and the Man," George M. Cohan's "The Tavern," a comedy by Shakespeare, O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness," or Brendan Behan's "The Hostage," Delaney's "A Taste of Honey," and Pirandello's "Henry IV."

When it begins operation, Theatre Louisville will present

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1963



The founders of Theatre Louisville, Inc., left to right, Richard A. Block, Helen Marie Taylor, and Barry Bingham, Jr., who are now looking for backers and a board of directors.

CITY SHOWCASE

An Arena Theater Offers Heady Hopes

CURTAIN LINES By Sherwood Kohn

If things go well for a group recently incorporated under the name of Theatre Louisville, we will soon have another showcase for live, professional theater.

The concept of Theatre Louisville, however, is somewhat different than the operation at the Brown, and perhaps a good deal more exciting to the serious theatergoer.

Although Theatre Louisville is a nonprofit organization like the Louisville Theatrical Association, it is set up as a permanent, professional, resident theater company, which is quite another (but complementary) matter.

The L.T.A. acts as principal booking agent at the Brown. With some accuracy, it can be described as an agent for Broadway, or at least as local outlet for the type of commercial theater that originates on Broadway.

Theatre Louisville would like to try something else.

Producing on an arena stage built into the old Arts In Louisville House theater at 519 Zane, it would feature a resident company of about eight Actor's Equity members, offer eight plays over a season of 32 weeks, and in general align itself with an expanding theatrical movement that includes such successes as Washington's Arena Stage, Minneapolis' Tyrone Guthrie Theatre, and San Francisco's Actors Workshop.

Would Seat About 400

The theater would probably seat about 400 and prices would be scaled in the neighborhood of \$1.50 to \$3.50.

A sample season would include such plays as Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," Terence's "The Brothers," Pirandello's "Henry IV," Brecht's "Galileo," Shaw's "Arms and the Man," Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," Jean Giraudoux's "Madwoman of Chaillot," a Shakespeare play, and an original script.

That's heady stuff, particularly when it could be done here with Broadway-quality actors who have worked together in a series of plays.

Furthermore, it comes as a delightful surprise that two of Theatre Louisville's founders are Louisvillians, and that the third is the American representative of the British Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

The two Louisvillians are Richard A. Block, fresh from directing two off-Broadway productions, and Barry Bingham, Jr., assistant to the presi-

dent of The Louisville Times and The Courier-Journal.

The third member of the triumvirate is Helen Marie Taylor, a native of Waco, Tex., one of the founders of the American Association of Producing Artists, and a contributing founder of the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Conn.

At the moment Block, Bingham, and Miss Taylor are looking for angels to back their project and a 12-to-15-member board of directors to manage it.

Block, who will be the theater's managing director when and if it gets off the ground, has high hopes, and the way he expresses his idea has me fired up, too.

"What we are building is a theater," he said, "not just a single production," and you've got to admit the long view of art is the only one that really makes sense.

ATL Spells Success

After the death of the Keith Circuit and demolition of the acoustically superior National Theater at Fifth and Walnut, Louisville became known as one of the worst theatre towns in the U.S. With theatre housed in the grim echo chamber that is Memorial Auditorium, the New York bookers maximized that the two worst weeks of the year for legitimate theatre were Christmas week and whatever week they booked a show into Louisville. For a quarter-century *Variety* recounted the sad toll of unpleasant grosses in Louisville.

Yet Louisville has never been a dead "culture" town. Witness the international acclaim for the Louisville Orchestra.

The revival of the Brown Theater demonstrated that Louisvillians will turn out for top-quality fare presented in a proper theatrical setting—and that they will shun second-rate performances. In fact, the experience at the Brown has indicated that though Louisville cannot muster as large an audience as neighboring Cincinnati, which has a larger pool to draw upon, it musters a highly discriminating audience.

In 1964 a group of optimistic young Louisville businessmen and a small group of professional theatre people got together to do something about theatre. In May that year the first of four summer productions was presented, and Louisville joined 15 other U.S. cities (including San Francisco, Washington, Cincinnati, Memphis and Houston) which had their own resident professional theatre. The first regular winter season was launched in December 1964, and the six-play season drew 15,000 attendance.

During its second season, in 1965, Actors Theatre of Louisville leased the abandoned Seventh Street railroad station and by October converted it into a practical and modestly plush 250-seat theater far surpassing off-Broadway theaters in terms of acoustics and audience sight lines. During that season, 37,000 patrons applauded a repertoire enlivened with such productions as *Waiting for Godot*, *School for Wives* and *Death of a Salesman*. The list of 500 season ticket-holders grew to more than 1,700.

The just-closed 1967 season topped all others with 4,700 season ticket-holders and attendance of more than 52,000. This makes Actors Theatre the fastest-growing of the now 34 resident professional theatres in the country.

A phenomenal success in "one of the worst theatre towns in the country." ♣



Staff Photo

MRS. JAQUELIN E. TAYLOR BLOCKS ASPHALT-LAYING MACHINE ON MONUMENT AVENUE
She and Her Neighbors Prevented Workmen From Covering Old Paving Blocks in Front of Their Homes

Woman Halts Paving Project

By JOHN HOPKINS

Irate Monument Avenue homeowners stopped workmen who tried to cover the old paving blocks in front of their homes with asphalt today.

Mrs. Jaquelin E. Taylor of 2325 Monument Ave. stood in front of the large asphalt-laying machine and stopped its progress after it had laid a two-block long strip from the Boulevard to Davis Ave.

Mrs. Taylor and her neighbors, members of the newly-formed Monument Avenue Association, demanded and obtained from City Manager Kiepper an appointment for a 5 p.m. meeting today.

They then will request that the city conduct a study of costs of alternate methods of paving, Mrs. Taylor said.

The Monument Avenue residents, who like the appearance of the old asphalt paving

blocks, hope to persuade the city that the charm of the neighborhood is worth preserving — even if that means spending a little more than blacktop would cost.

Mrs. Taylor, president of the association, said her group had been promised the city would meet with them before proceeding with the project.

Therefore, she was alarmed when she looked outside today and saw paving machinery inching its way eastward toward her home.

She dashed into the street, and told the astounded — and some what amused — workmen that she would not move from in front of the machinery.

A city policeman there to direct traffic called his lieutenant, S. R. Snipes, for instructions. When Lt. Snipes arrived, he said, assistant city public works director Chalkley Duval had arrived and told him Kiepper had agreed to meet the protesting citizens at his office later today.

Workmen then shoveled up a pile of hotmix asphalt that had

Paving Plans Stir Verbal Brickbat

By Ed Grimsley

In an effort to make Monument Avenue a more comfortable thoroughfare, the city has aroused the ire of a group of the street's residents who don't want to be comforted.

What the city wants to do is put a smooth layer of asphalt on Monument all the way from Lombardy Avenue to the Boulevard, covering the street's existing paving stone surface. Many residents of the street along these blocks would rather have the stones, saying they give the street a greater distinction and more durability than asphalt.

The city agrees that the stones make Monument distinctive, primarily by giving it a rough surface that jars motorists. It also agrees the paving stone surface has been quite durable. The main reason the city wants to pave Monument, a spokesman for the Department of Public Works says, is to give motorists who use it a smooth ride.

RESIDENTS of the area and the works department disagree on what the stones are. According to a spokesman for the Monument Avenue Residents' Association, they are "Belgian blocks," defined in the dictionary as

"a stone paving block cut as a truncated pyramid with base 5 to 6 inches square, depth 7 to 8 inches . . ."

But the Works Department insists that the stones are nothing more than pressed asphalt blocks.

All agree, however, that the blocks were put down some time before 1920, possibly as long ago as 1913. They have proved remarkably durable, while, according to a spokesman for Monument Avenue residents, asphalt surfaces "always need repairing."

IN ADDITION to being rough, the present surface

disturbs the Works Department for another reason: the gutter that edges the street is paved in concrete, and there's a conspicuous seam where the concrete and the paving stones meet. Motorists, says a works official, don't like to drive with one side of the car on the concrete and the other on the stones. If the whole street surface were smooth, he says, motorists probably would drive closer to the curb and the street could carry more traffic.

Residents of the street counter, however, that if motorists drove much closer to the curb, they'd run the risk

of hitting trees growing along the street. To this the city replies that maybe the trees—which it planted—are too close to the curb. This, in turn, makes some Monument Avenue residents wonder if the city now is thinking about cutting down the trees.

By the end of the week, the city had moved some equipment onto the street and had started preliminary work on the paving project. And residents of Monument Avenue were getting in touch with their councilmen, hoping primarily for a postponement of the project until it has been thoroughly reviewed.

Section

B

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Sunday, August 25, 1968



Staff Photo by H. Lee Gup-ton

Paving Stones (foreground) Near Lee Monument May Be Covered With Asphalt
Residents of Area Are Angered by Plan to Replace Distinction With Smoothness

Maker of Paving-Blocks Is Located

An official of a Long Island, N. Y., manufacturer of the quaint-looking block paving of Monument Avenue is planning to fly to Richmond Monday, according to Mrs. Jacquelin E. Taylor, a leader of a group of the street's residents opposed to a city resurfacing project.

Mrs. Taylor said today the official is Donald Kehoe of the Hastings Pavement Co. of Flushing.

She said Kehoe, with whom she talked Friday by telephone, agreed to come to Richmond Monday to see if Monument

Avenue's blocks need replacing as the city contends.

Kehoe also will make an estimate of cost involved in replacing any deteriorated blocks, Mrs. Taylor said. The pressed asphalt paving blocks on Monument Avenue were laid in 1913.

The city plans to have a two-inch layer of smooth asphalt laid over the existing paving stones, from the Boulevard to Davis Avenue.

But Mrs. Taylor Wednesday faced down the huge asphalt-laying machines to stop the project and later that day her group won a 10-day delay in the work as a result of a meet-

ing with City Manager Kiepper.

Mrs. Taylor said today that "Mr. Kehoe assured me the paving blocks were indeed available and that his company could also supply workmen."

But, she said, Kehoe advised that the city train a local work crew to lay the paving blocks that may be needed to replace any that are deteriorating.

"He questioned, though, whether any repairs need to be made, considering the blocks were laid only 60 years ago," said Mrs. Taylor.

Moreover, she said, Kehoe

had informed her that the paving blocks are being used in projects in four other cities, including Washington. This fact, she contended, refutes the city's argument that the blocks have become "obsolete."

Donald Chumley, a 20-year-old University of Oklahoma student visiting in her home at 2325 Monument Avenue, did the "research and leg work" that led to her contacting the Long Island paving block manufacturer, said Mrs. Taylor.

She said Chumley went to the Virginia State Library and found the company listed in a manufacturers' guide.

Blocks vs. Asphalt on Monument

MRS. JACQUELIN E. TAYLOR has proved one adage wrong and another right.

"You can't fight City Hall" will never again seem a valid assumption, at least in Richmond.

On the other hand, "Never underestimate the power of a woman" has been proven a sagacious observation, as CITY MANAGER ALAN KIEPPER admitted to City Council yesterday.

MRS. TAYLOR is the attractive lady who planted herself in front of a street-paving machine on Monument Avenue and stood firm. The machine operator and a policeman at the scene summoned higher officials to tell them what to do. The answer: Stop everything, pending further word from the city manager.

That same afternoon — last Wednesday — MRS. TAYLOR and others who don't look kindly on covering the avenue's old paving blocks with asphalt — met with Mr. KIEPPER. After an hour's session, the manager agreed to a 10 days' delay in the paving project.

Yesterday, MRS. TAYLOR, with formidable backing by other Monument Avenue paving block devotees, presented her case to City Council in a most capable manner. All of her spokesmen praised paving blocks and downgraded smooth asphalt as far as Monument Avenue is concerned. Included in the ar-

ray of speakers was a representative of a New York firm which makes paving blocks.

MRS. TAYLOR didn't get the guarantee of a 60-day delay that she asked for. CITY ATTORNEY CONRAD MATTOX, who is squeamish about such things, said the city had made a contract with a paving firm to put the asphalt on Monument Avenue, and that the city could be liable if it didn't go ahead with the work within reasonable time. MRS. TAYLOR suggested the contractor be given comparable work on some other street instead.

In any event, MRS. TAYLOR charmed at least some members of Council with her well-arranged presentation, and everybody agreed the paving machines wouldn't roll on Monument Avenue — even without MRS. TAYLOR standing in front of them — for a couple of weeks. In the meantime, the city administration and the TAYLOR troops will try to reach a negotiated settlement in light of all available data that can be assembled.

Despite the valor of the fighters, the unusual paving blocks may still lose out to the commonplace asphalt covering. Nevertheless, MRS. TAYLOR has graphically demonstrated what one aroused citizen can do, albeit her particular *modus operandi* is not necessarily recommended. It could prove hazardous, especially in front of a steamroller.

Tuesday, September 10, 1968



Staff Photo

Mrs. Jaquelin Taylor shows Donald M. Kehoe (center), sales manager for Hastings Pavement Co., Inc., of Flushing, New York, and Joe Williams, sales representative for

F. Graham Taylor Co. of Rocky Mount, N. C., where blocks were being paved over on Monument Avenue. Mrs. Taylor opposes the paving of the avenue with asphalt.

Asphalt Foes Apparently Win Delay

City Council has taken a "hands off" position in the Monument Avenue paving controversy.

However, Mrs. Jaquelin Taylor and others opposing the covering of the street's old paving blocks with asphalt did succeed Monday afternoon in winning a council consensus that the city administration should consider the group's arguments for retaining the blocks.

City Manager Kiepper agreed to meet with the citizens who argue that the city should call a halt to its planned paving project along the avenue, from Stuart Circle to the Boulevard.

2 MONTHS ASKED

Mrs. Taylor, of 2325 Monument Ave., asked for a two-month delay. But council took no action on her request after City Atty. Conard Mattox advised that the paving issue was an administration matter and that "any undue delay or cancellation" of a \$65,000 contract, covering the Monument Avenue project, would leave the city liable.

Mrs. Taylor and several speakers, including Donald Kehoe of the Hastings Pavement Co. of Flushing, N.Y., which makes the paving blocks, presented the anti-pavement faction's case before council.

The gist of their arguments is that asphalt paving would detract from the street's beauty and would be much more expensive than the replacing of worn out blocks with new ones.

HALTED WORK

It was Mrs. Taylor who last Wednesday stood in front of paving machines to bring the resurfacing work to a halt.

Kiepper at that time agreed to a 10-day delay in the project, and as a result of Monday's council session, he apparently is going to extend the delay.

LETTERS TO THE NEWS LEADER FORUM: 7/29/69

Former Confederate Museum Director Sees Need to Retain Paving Blocks

Editor, The News Leader:

I sincerely wish that I could have been with Mrs. Jaquelin E. Taylor and the Monument Avenue Association at the City Hall Council hearing on the evening of July 23, for the presentation of facts regarding the sheet asphalt paving of Monument Avenue, but a previous engagement prevented me from attending.

I do, however, wish to express somewhat more than the usual "concern" about this matter of preserving the integrity and character of Monument Avenue. In fact, one of the reasons that I left Richmond and my six year directorship of the Confederate Museum was because of the frustration caused by the polite concern without action which seemed to mark one worthwhile preservation project after another. Conservation, to influential Richmonders, is a pleasant word easily mouthed; it usually indicates only a hands off, do-nothing attitude. It was this gentlemanly brand of procrastination which ultimately destroyed Broad Street Methodist Church, hid the Robert E. Lee House behind the facade of a modern brick building, and completely thwarted my own efforts in behalf of a decent museum building for the Confederate Museum and a period restoration for the Confederate White House, to name only three examples. No, concern is not enough, and I wholeheartedly support Mrs. Taylor in regard to preserving the unique paving blocks on Monument Avenue.

I am sure that one must realize that the paving blocks, or lack of them, are only a part of the preservation and conservation problem of this handsome old street. The asphalt parking lots, the traffic signals and the cheap boarding houses which, incidentally, respectable Richmonders refuse to notice, have already done their part to mar the landscape. And need I mention the traffic which long ago should have been diverted, or at least controlled, so that the street could remain an aesthetic experience rather than a commuter's speedway? It is my harshest opinion that such decline is inevitable in a city that lacks imagination, and unfortunately, in this field of civic conservation and preservation, contemporary Richmond certainly seems to lack the necessary imagination.

Such was not always the case. If I

had been able to appear before City Council, I would have reminded that distinguished body that once there was a man in Richmond who believed that the splendor and beauty that was Rome could be re-created on what was then a lonely hill in central Virginia. Today, thanks to the imagination of Mr. Jefferson, Richmond has the most beautiful Capitol building in America. Early Richmond is full of other idealistic and aesthetic endeavors that once made her "the Queen City of the South," and the laying out and the brilliant execution of Monument Avenue are indications of this. I am personally very familiar with what one group of Richmond ladies did during the 1890s to save the old White House of the Confederacy from demolition. This group of visionaries founded the Confederate Memorial Literary Society, now primarily the Confederate Museum, as an agency to petition City Council and to fight for the preservation of their "sacred Davis Mansion."

Even today there are a few Richmonders such as Mrs. Taylor and her committee who obviously do care, though their efforts on Church Hill, along the old canal route, and alongside the historic James have not been, especially rewarding when compared with what some other cities are doing. Here in Houston, for example, we at the Harris County Heritage Society are doing a lot with the relatively little heritage that this new city has to offer. Houston cares, and Houston and the Heritage Society have taken, and are still taking, action to preserve the past while building for the future.

I hope that City Council will listen with more than the usual concern to the arguments put forth. Please save Monument Avenue as a whole — draw the line and keep the paving blocks,

then preserve the trees, divert the traffic, clean the monuments, and uphold the property values. I wish the Monument Avenue Association success in its efforts!

PETER RIPPE,

Director, Harris County Heritage Society, Houston, Texas.

Wants Smooth Surface On Monument Avenue

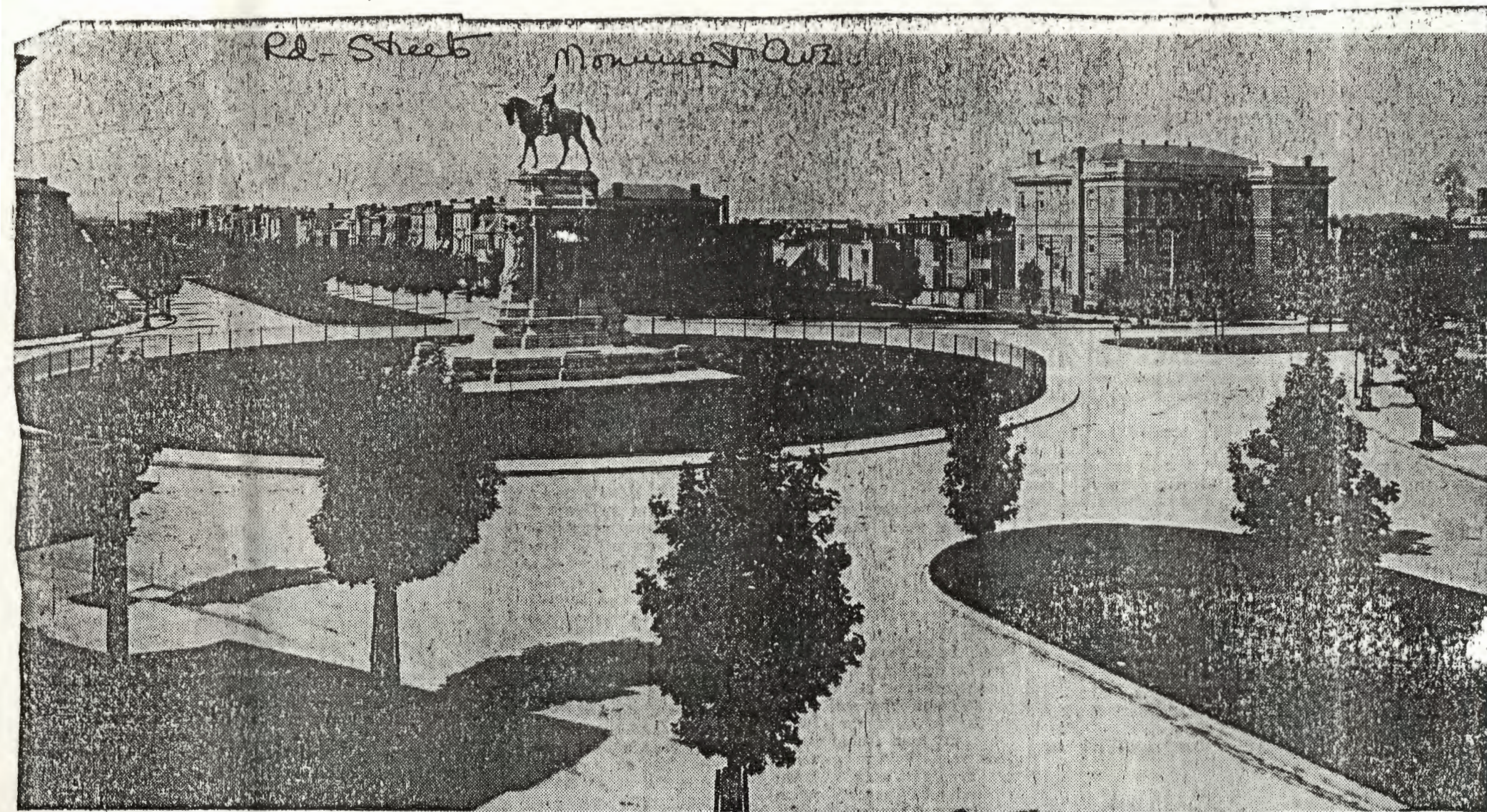
Editor, The News Leader:

Almost every day I travel on Monument Avenue, and the only things that I can see that are worth looking at are our beautiful statues that I hope will always be there for our tourists to look at. We could enjoy these much more if there were a smooth surface beneath us. I just cannot agree with Mrs. Taylor and her friends in wanting to spend all that money on some special kind of paving block. I'd say Mrs. Taylor was doing a good job if she would encourage the city to go ahead with the rolled asphalt surface and take the difference in the two projects and feed some of the poor who are begging for help.

I think Mr. Kiepper is doing a good job and I hope he sticks with it.

(Mrs.) EUNICE M. BASS.

Rd - Street Monument Ave



This Is the Street That Was

Not the Champs Elysees, not Unter den Linden —but Monument ave. in Richmond around the turn of the century. The maples that now arch

over both lanes of the thoroughfare were still young. The view is westward from just east of the Lee statue at Allen ave. (Additional pictures

and story on a proposal to beautify Monument ave. are on Page B-4.)

Photo from Cook Collection, Valentine Museum

NOV 21 1965 TD

MONUMENT AVENUE PETITION

WE, the undersigned residents and taxpaying friends of Monument Avenue:

OPPOSE

1. Altering Monument Avenue, or its surface, in such a manner as to destroy its original character.

OPPOSE

2. Unsafe traffic patterns which are presently being required on many parts of Monument Avenue by jamming six lanes of moving cars into a space built and intended for four lanes.

OPPOSE

3. Wasting Taxpayer's money on unnecessary expenditures while genuine needs of the avenue are neglected.

OPPOSE

4. Destroying the handsome, maintenance-free surfaces which paving blocks, cobble stones and granite spools provide in the few remaining streets and sections where they exist in Richmond.

Name _____

Address

Telephone

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

Petitions Seek to Stop Monument Repaving

Mrs. Jacquelin Taylor, who has spearheaded an effort to stop the city from covering over the asphalt blocks on a portion of Monument Avenue, said yesterday that she plans to acquire 30,000 signatures on a petition to City Council.

Mrs. Taylor also said that the Monument Avenue Association would meet at 8 p.m. tomorrow at the Branch House, to discuss new moves in the street paving controversy.

City Manager Alan F. Kiepper agreed Friday afternoon in a meeting with Mrs. Taylor and other residents to gather information on the cost and methods of repaving Monument Avenue and to inform them of his findings and decision on the matter in a week or 10 days. Also, according to Mrs. Taylor, he told them that he would give them a chance to request a public hearing before City Council if they so wished after his decision had been made.

Policy Changes Sought

She said that her group was interested in changing the policy of the city of repaving all of the city streets with the smooth asphalt which has been used on all city street repaving since about 1950. In accordance with this she said she was seeking the names of all city residents who lived on streets which still had the asphalt paving blocks, cobblestones or other older paving materials.

Mrs. Taylor went to City Council last Monday and was told by Kiepper there that the city had already let a contract for the repaving of Monument Avenue from the Boulevard to Davis Aves, and that it would be expensive for the city to break the contract. She said she met with the president of the company which has the contract with the city on Friday morning and that he said he would accept "any reasonable offer" from the city that would protect the stockholders of his company.

She said that Gordon F. Penick, president of the Asphalt Paving Service Inc., was cooperative and said he had no intention of causing the city any embarrassment if they wished to reconsider the paving method of Monument Avenue.

Answers Found

Mrs. Taylor said that she had now found answers to all of the original reasons why the city could not pave the streets with the asphalt blocks, such as availability of the blocks, feasibility of installing them, and cost of such a project.

She maintains that though the initial cost of installation might be higher, money would be saved by the lack of maintenance costs.

She said that the "weary, harassed and long suffering taxpayer" should know the facts about the city's repaving policies, adding that before she would relinquish her efforts to save the asphalt blocks remaining, the city "is going to know they've been in a fight."

Monday, September 30, 1968

Richmond Must Preserve Its Historic Charm

The time has come for the business and cultural leadership of Richmond to give serious thought to the best means of preserving this city's distinctive appearance and atmosphere. At the rate things are going, Richmond is going to end up in a few years with little or no architectural or scenic character.

Consider that in the past few weeks several disturbing things have occurred to make one wonder just where it will all end, and whether there is any way to halt the present destructive trend.

★ ★ ★

First there is the disturbing plan to cover the charming old Monument Avenue paving blocks with asphalt. Fortunately this has been stopped, at least for the present, and there appears to be an excellent prospect that it will never be carried through.

Monument Avenue is the most famous street in Richmond, and the one that most tourists want to see. The long line of Confederate idols, from GEN "JEB" STUART at one end to COMMODORE MATTHEW FONTAINE MAURY at the other, is an impressive and, indeed, unique sight. It must not be spoiled by turning the avenue into a carbon copy of pretty much any conventional thoroughfare.

The other recent development that causes many Richmonders to grieve is the announcement that the Holiday Inns are planning to build a 14-story hostelry on the southwest corner of Madison and Franklin Sts.

If this plan is carried out, that section of Richmond, which has managed to retain some of its antebellum atmosphere, will lose much of that priceless and rapidly vanishing commodity.

Demolition of the buildings standing just west of the corner of Madison and Franklin to make way for a 14-story motel would remove one antebellum residence, the attractive JOSEPH Y. GAYLE house, at 301 West Franklin, as well as the adjacent residence and the adjoining three "Baltimore Row" houses.

The Holiday Inn has considered and rejected other sites at Eighth and Grace and Second and Grace. Either would have been greatly preferable, from the standpoint of preserving some of the vanishing characteristics of old Richmond.

It has also been reported that the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond is negotiating for the purchase of the Hotel Jefferson. Since one of the two principal

owners of that famous caravan-serai says it is "not for sale," and that it has been doing well financially, the likelihood of the hotel's being sold appears remote.

However, let us bear in mind the damage which would be done to that part of the city by any drastic alteration of the architectural scene, especially by the wholesale destruction of old residences or other structures.

Another important building in that immediate vicinity is the ARCHER ANDERSON house, immediately east of the Jefferson. This massive example of early nineteenth century residential construction was a center of the city's social life in days gone by. It is empty now, and the question is how to find some means of preserving it.

The best method of achieving the retention and restoration of this and other valuable old buildings would seem to be through the extension of the scope of the Historic Richmond Foundation's activities and that of the city's Architectural Review Board. These extensions can be achieved through councilmanic action.

The Historic Richmond Foundation's jurisdiction extends today to a limited area of Church Hill around St. John's Church, and nowhere else. The review board works with the foundation on this area, and also passes on the placement of historic plaques throughout the city.

★ ★ ★

Business interests in Richmond should realize how priceless and irreplaceable are the history, tradition and atmosphere of this city. From a purely financial standpoint, this is "money in the bank," and it should be preserved by every legitimate means.

Charleston, S. C., and Savannah, Ga., which have historic foundations with city-wide jurisdiction, exercising a measure of control over the destruction or alteration of valuable structures, appreciate the importance of this. The business interests there know that tourists are among the greatest assets a city can have, and they also know that tourists will stop coming to any old city which loses its charm.

Richmond's new city hall and new coliseum, and the expressways, are all to the good — indeed, quite necessary. But let's not forget that Richmond has a heritage, a tradition and an atmosphere which once lost can never be recovered.

Clifford Dowdey Believes Historical Monument Avenue Worth Saving

ditor, The News Leader:

Along with other longtime residents of the Monument Avenue neighborhood, I have been deeply disturbed by the threat to its impressive beauty, with its suggestion of a stateliness that is so rare today. We were encouraged to learn that its unique quality might be saved by having the avenue nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Now we learn that some questions have been raised about its historicity.

The Jefferson Davis Monument is sited at the site of the Star Fort (shown clearly on many old maps), the merriest and major protection of the city from the west during the four years of the siege. In fact, the last remaining earthen walls of the fort existed into this century slicing across the avenue just east of the statue. In conjunction with this historic site, it is as manifestly the intention of Richmond citizens to have the statues of the three Virginians who defended the city (two of whom were killed in the defense) to make of Monument Avenue a permanent memorial that would serve as a link with the past. By time and association the memorial avenue itself began to acquire a patina of the past and to hold historic connotations to the present.

No one can cite any authority for an arbitrary time at which a landmark comes "historic." When Boston's Beacon Hill was the age of Monument Avenue, it began to fall to disrepair—left behind by progress and a group of far-sighted, public-spirited citizens worked to resurrect it.

None will deny that Beacon Hill is historic today, and one of the most tranquil and distinguished residential neighborhoods in the world. Nor would anyone deny that the White House of the Confederacy (Confederate Museum) was historic; yet it almost lost its chance to become historic, when its one vote saved it from being demolished to make room for a school. Monument Avenue is to be sacrificed to provide a six-lane highway for motorists. Richmonders can be certain of one thing: their proudest thoroughfare will never become historic.

As of today, Monument Avenue is definitely historic to the older citizens, providing one familiar continuity in their own lives, one site that seemed impervious to change. As one of those citizens, I am trying to make the point that the preservation of Monument Avenue intact — as it is — is of concern to countless citizens beyond those actually living on Monument Avenue. To my personal knowledge, Virginians from other cities take pride in this lately memorial avenue in their capital city, and visitors from other States always show appreciative interest in seeing it again. It is really one of Richmond's most distinguished and distinguishing physical characteristics.

If, however, despite the meaning Monument Avenue has for people everywhere, the necessities of maintenance left no alternative except to remove one of its distinctions by covering the blocks with asphalt, then this would be another of the changes practicality forces a community to accept. But Mrs. Jaquelin E. Taylor, president of the Monument Avenue Association, as in her possession the documentation to prove that reconditioning of the blocks can be done, by the experts at that field, at a cost so reasonable as to obviate the necessity of destroying an aesthetic attribute by asphalt. This being the case, I do not understand the nature of the opposition to

the expressed preferences of the taxpayers, past and present, to establish and maintain Monument Avenue as a handsome boulevard which, now rich in sentimental associations, can become beyond argument of historic meaning, with increasing value to the city and the State as time removes more distinguishing landmarks of our visual history.

CLIFFORD DOWDEY.

Values of Richmond Need To Be Preserved

Editor, The News Leader:

Believing that the people of Richmond are deeply interested in the beauty and history of their city, I am writing to express the hope and wish that the City Council will protect and safeguard the splendid old paving on Monument Avenue for generations to come.

Its unique surface is part of the historic and aesthetic whole and should not be mutilated. It is a priceless heritage. People from all over the world come to our historic city and Monument Avenue is one of the places they want to see. No more than the people of Williamsburg would consider changing the paving of their old streets, do we, the people of Richmond, wish to change that which is lovely and adds character to our city. I think this is the most handsome surface in Richmond, and I am glad to hear that the staff of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Com-

The petitions which will be presented to City Council on Wednesday, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. will show that 90 per cent of the residents living in this area of Monument Avenue that is under attack have backed Mrs. Taylor's efforts and are opposed to asphaltting the street. Many thousands of residents' signatures throughout the city and the Commonwealth are represented on the petitions. Additionally, there are signatures from Richmond's concerned friends and admirers from 32 States and four foreign countries. This illustrates, we feel, most eloquently the interest and dismay felt by citizens throughout the city, the State, and the nation, for, indeed, Monument Avenue is justly famed throughout the world as one of America's most notable boulevards. The destruction of any one of the parts that make up the majesty of its totality would do irreparable harm to the whole.

The Monument Avenue Association welcomes the support of all people everywhere to join in the gallant movement to guard its future. This applies to all those individuals on the local level, as well as our friends throughout the world.

It seems entirely fitting that the staff of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission is to recommend that Monument Avenue be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

Now let's have no more nonsense about this being a one-woman project.

JOHN BRANCH.

Mrs. Taylor Fights For What Is Right

Editor, The News Leader:

I wish to express my admiration for Mrs. Jaquelin Taylor for having the courage to fight for what is right.

I seem to remember from my Paris days that the Place de la Concord was paved with wooden blocks. When I lived there no one ever spoke of having them paved over. These blocks had been in place for decades and thus saved La Ville Luniere a lot of money.

I live close to Azalea Mall Shopping Center and was astounded some months ago when I found out that the whole parking lot was repaved at an enormous expense. It seemed to me that it was only yesterday that the mall opened.

My impression is that the taxpayer's money is criminally wasted and we sorely need dedicated people such as Mrs. Taylor to put brakes on elected spenders.

It is tragic that all over the world those glass and cement matchbox structures are built in place of old buildings. Soon it will not make any sense to travel. The same matchboxes will meet you in Dakar, Timbukto, Madras, and Richmond.

F. TJOVALL.

Reader Objects to Kiepper's Policies

Editor, The News Leader:

When a thoughtful and able citizen such as Mr. Richard Velz puts words on paper for public view, one must give his ideas careful consideration. (Forum, July 16). This I have done and would like to differ with him.

Mr. Velz would divert our attention from the miniscule asphalt paving argument to the more pressing need for adequate lighting of Monument Avenue. This, he implies, would protect the residents from attack at

night. Mrs. Jaquelin Taylor has already offered constructive criticism in regard to attacks at night, not only of Monument Avenue, but all over our city. I refer to her withering exposure of Mr. Alan Kiepper's plan to continue with the sensitivity training of our police force.

Mr. Velz has a distinguished war-time naval record, and I am sure that he is painfully familiar with the performance of American prisoners of

Correction

• A letter that appeared in the Forum July 18, "Baptist Minister Comes to Defense of Bible," did not carry a signature in the late editions. The letter was from Bill Rice, Pastor, Fellowship Baptist Church.

—EDITOR

war in Korea who were subjected to this same sensitivity training administered by our enemies. These poor men were so mentally enfeebled by this cunning technique known as brainwashing, that there was no need to use fences to contain them.

In other words, Hogan's Heroes of television fame could not have acted as comically or heroically under these circumstances. You may ask what all this has to do with Mr. Velz's idea of adequate lighting on Monument Avenue. The answer is this—once Mr. Kiepper's plan to indoctrinate our police force with this insidious rot is fully implemented, it won't make any difference whether Monument Avenue is lighted at all because criminals will be free to operate unhindered in the light of day. Fantastic, you say? Regard then, if you will, 100 miles to the north the seething crime-ridden morass that is our nation's capital, Washington, D. C. A friend of mine, three weeks ago, was mugged there in a parking lot at 14th and R Streets, at 3:30 p.m., in broad daylight. Such happenings occur many times daily in that city and are a natural consequence of an ineffective police force. Mr. Kiepper means would be sensitivity training.

JOHN A. GILL.

Notice

The six articles by associate editor Ross Mackenzie about his recent trip to southern Africa have been made into a booklet. They are available postpaid at 25 cents per booklet. Persons wishing copies should write to: The News Leader Editorial Page, Box 1617, Richmond, Va. 23213.

mission will recommend Monument Avenue for the National Register of Historic Places. . . .

It is my belief and hope that the City Council will remember there have been other Mayors and other City Councils in Richmond willing to reverse themselves when demolition and mutilation had already been approved for the White House of the Confederacy and the John Marshall House. It is my devout hope that this City Council will have the vision and the courage to do the same for Monument Avenue.

MRS. WILLIAM W. PETTUS.

Mrs. Taylor Has Much Citizen Support

Editor, The News Leader:

During the past ten months, Richmond Newspapers has repeatedly implied that the battle to save Monument Avenue's uniquely handsome and maintenance-free old paving blocks has been the lone concern of one woman.

It is certainly true that Mrs. Jaquelin E. Taylor has spearheaded the opposition to the tax waste and ill-advised mutilation of Monument Avenue. What you have repeatedly refused to acknowledge, and you have been told many, many times, is that there are many of us who have worked by her side and shall continue to do so.

Monument Avenue and Sense

City Council is to be commended for reaching unanimity Monday night on the divisive issue of the paving of Monument Avenue. Mayor Phil Bagley's proposal to set up a Monument Avenue Commission to advise Council about such things as paving, zoning, and care of the monuments seems to us the best way out of this can of worms. In our opinion, the Commission ought to be comprised of non-partisan experts — probably persons who have no property interests on Monument Avenue: Then, no questions of conflict of interest could possibly arise. That decision, however, is up to the Mayor. Now Council can get on with other matters facing the city.

There has been an awful lot of shouting on this issue; it is time to lower our voices. The issue, as almost everybody knows, has been hanging around for some time. But few persons recall that it first came up when former City Manager Horace Edwards — not the current City Manager, Alan Kiepper — submitted the 1967-68 capital budget. In that budget Mr. Edwards recommended, with the approval of the planning commission, the resurfacing of Monument Avenue with asphalt mix. It was part of a program that has been in effect for years — a program under which, as the Department of Public Works has deemed them in need of repair, the city has been resurfacing streets formerly paved with asphalt blocks. For the public's information, we list those streets, and those remaining, at right.

Now, no one disputes the fact that the asphalt blocks that were put down throughout the city have done their jobs well. They have lasted an especially long time along Monument Avenue because years ago the city initiated a policy of not granting utility easements along or across the road-

way. Consequently, Monument Avenue's roadbed has not been repeatedly dug up and mutilated with shovels and jack-hammers. And through the years, the asphalt blocks have contributed to the distinctive quality that that section of Monument Avenue exudes.

In its deliberations, the Commission might consider such roadway questions as these: In view of the fact that Monument is a major artery in Richmond, should parking be allowed on the right-hand sides of the street? Should the asphalt blocks that have deteriorated be replaced or covered? Could asphalt blocks on other city streets scheduled for resurfacing, be used to replace worn out blocks on Monument? Should trucks, except those carrying material to or from residences on Monument, be barred from use of the Avenue? Is it feasible or desirable to make Monument Avenue one-way in-bound during the morning rush hour and one-way out bound during the rush hour in the afternoons?

There are other questions, to be sure — many other questions. And if the Commission's recommendations to Council turn out to mean substantially higher costs for asphalt blocks than for asphalt mix, then persons who support those recommendations must not turn around and criticize Council for spending too much money on capital outlay projects and not enough money on the poor. Council and the city administration have been harassed too long. If Richmonders are to expect good men and women to continue to run the city, abuse and rudeness must not be the order of the day. With the volatile issue of Monument Avenue now apparently settled in a sensible way, Richmonders should close ranks and give Council their full support — mixed with measured, and modulated, dissent.

DAVID TENNANT BRYAN, *Chairman and Publisher*
ALAN S. DONNAHOE, *President and Associate Publisher*
VIRGINIUS DABNEY, *Editor* JOHN E. LEARD, *Managing Editor*

Monday, November 11, 1968

Preserve Richmond's Charm

The importance of setting up more effective machinery in Richmond for the preservation of historic landmarks and for protecting certain significant areas of the city from damage or destruction, where that is deemed desirable, is being considered at informal conferences here. Details remain to be worked out, but the necessity for some sort of action is obvious.

The same problem exists in many other cities, of course. A recent highly disturbing example is that of the handsome Villard Houses on Madison Avenue, New York, near St. Patrick's Cathedral. It appears that these structures, which are modeled after a charming Italian Renaissance palace (see illustration below), are headed for ultimate demolition.

This irreplaceable complex of buildings is occupied by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, Random House, publishers, and the Capital Cities Broadcasting Corporation. It was erected in the 1880's, and is one of the finest creations of the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White. It is modeled after the Cancelleria in Rome.

ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE, writing in the New York Times, feels that the Villard houses are headed for the bulldozer, and in the not too distant future. Land at that point is worth \$400 a square foot, and various builders and real estate developers are trying to buy the block. Most of it is owned by the Archdiocese, and a diocesan spokesman says it is a question how much longer the church can afford not to sell such valuable property. Random House has announced that it is moving its offices to other quarters.

So the trend apparently is in the direction indicated by Miss HUXTABLE. She says that "things will not be slowed down by the fact that although hearings have been held on official landmark designation for the block, that designation is still pending by the Landmarks Commission."

Richmond has been confronted with similar issues in the past, and in too many instances the wreckers have taken over. The city was jolted some weeks ago when it appeared that the Hotel Jefferson might be in danger of demolition, along with a nearby antebellum residence. There was also a plan to cover the paving blocks on Monument Avenue with asphalt.

Some of these possibilities have been stymied, at least for the time being, but there exists no adequate agency in Richmond for moving in on such situations. Something of the sort is needed.

The Historic Richmond Foundation, which serves as a watchdog for the area immediately surrounding old St. John's Church, is not restricted to Church Hill by its charter. The great success which the foundation has had in Richmond's East End provides lessons for the rest of the city.

Savannah's huge success in restoring its ancient streets and squares in less than a decade might also be studied by the Richmond group which is concerned for the preservation of our own distinctive areas.

The Richmond City government and the community at large, especially our historically minded citizens and our business leaders, should combine to bring about some sort of effective approach to this problem. It is a problem which has had too little attention in the past.

'I Can't Help Thinking They Were Aiming at You'



Voice of the People

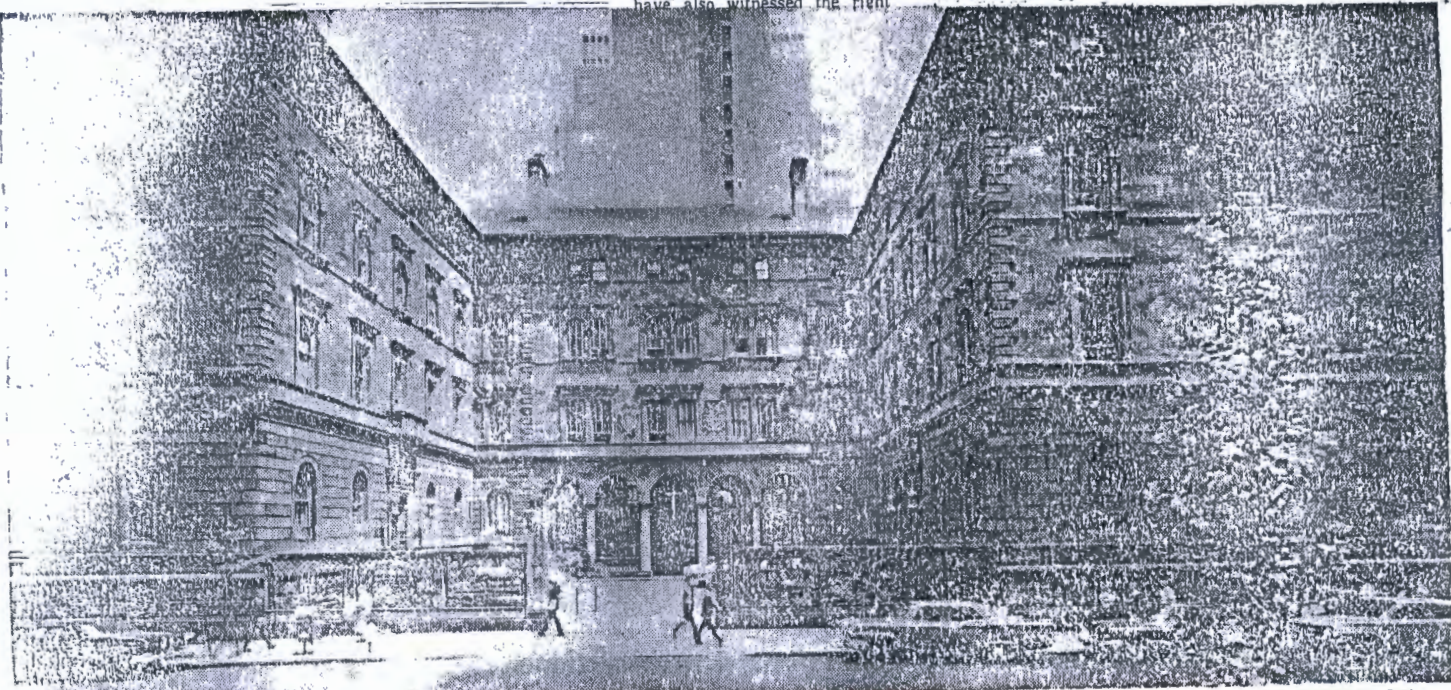
President-Elect Deserves Full Support

With Election Behind Us, Let's All Unite

Now that the presidential election is over we have seen a loser become a winner. We have also witnessed the right

Letters should be brief and on one side of the paper and must include the writer's signature and full address. Each letter published must appear over

of this monetary contribution. The collection ranges from 15th century German woodcuts to 20th century American lithographs, many of which are badly in need of restoration, all



THIS CHARMING CLUSTER OF HOUSES ON NEW YORK'S MADISON AVENUE seems destined to be torn down. Erected by Henry Villard in the 1880's, the loss of these structures would be irreparable. A group of Richmonders has been meeting with a view to preventing similar catastrophes here. (See editorial above.)

Tem 11/11/68

HELEN MARIE TAYLOR

(MRS. JAQUELIN E. TAYLOR)



FOR
CITY COUNCIL

YOUR CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL

HELEN MARIE TAYLOR

(Mrs. Jaquelin E. Taylor)

LONG INTERESTED IN PRESERVATION AND POLITICS, HELEN MARIE TAYLOR HAS BECOME WELL KNOWN AS A CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIC OF LOCAL RICHMOND GOVERNMENT — — SHE WOULD LIKE TO BRING CHANGES FOR THE BETTER IN:

POLLUTION

She wants the James River cleaned up. She opposes the six million dollar high-rise shopping center "beautification" plans for the concrete river islands and advocates the development of simple nature trails, swimming, fishing, and boating facilities and restoration of the popular and enjoyable old barge boats on the canal locks planned by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Patrick Henry, and built in 1820.

PRESERVATION

As President of the Monument Avenue Association,

she has defended historic Monument Avenue and other treasures of Richmond's heritage which are the principal attractions to tourists. Since her appointment by the mayor to the Monument Avenue Commission, she has continued these efforts. As President of the Richmond Metropolitan Planning and Preservation Alliance, she has been a strong advocate of preserving the remarkable old Pump House in Byrd Park as well as the famed Canal Locks and Boat Turning Basins. These should serve as a vital part of a restored "Old Richmond" between the "Main and James" for the pleasure of Richmonders and a magnetic and unique attraction for our guests to the City.

TOURISM

According to Carlisle H. Humelsine, President of Colonial Williamsburg, if visitors to Tidewater could be induced to stay a few more hours and spend one night in Richmond, it would mean \$20 to \$30 million dollars to our economy each year. . . Think what this would mean in relieving taxpayers of what is becoming an unbearable tax burden. . . The Railroads should be encouraged to develop "Pullman Passenger Cruises" through Virginia and they should be provided real tax incentives to do so. And since preservation is the key to tourist appeal in Richmond, Helen Marie Taylor's dynamic efforts are needed to save the beauty and essential historic quality of the City, as progress is made toward modernization in other areas.

EDUCATION

Mrs. Taylor is convinced that education can be improved and would favor strict "accountability" in evaluating its quality. Emphasis should be on the excellence of basic teaching, and teachers should be backed in their efforts to do this. . . She is for maintaining the freedom of choice, and Neighborhood School concepts.

OPPORTUNITY

She favors emphasis on Vocational Training Schools for adults as well as for youth so that the doors of opportunity will be opened increasingly to all. Our city can only be as strong as its productive citizens, so people should be encouraged, and enabled by training to get off, not on, welfare.

CRIME

Safe streets and colleges require fair but firm action if disturbances should erupt. . . full support and backing for well trained law enforcement officials, con-

cern for the rights of society as well as for those of the accused, immediate steps to combat drug abuse, an all out war on pornography and obscenity, and better lighting provided. . . These are among the musts which Mrs. Taylor will insist on.

TAXATION

Tax Waste — Helen Marie Taylor has been innovative and outspoken about the city budget, not only in objecting to taxes but ferreting out tax waste, so that surplus sources of revenue might be used to pay for necessary services. . . She was credited with finding \$500,000 that had been unaccounted for in the 1969 budget and she called for a number of cuts:

- (1) \$90,000 for underground tunnel to lead to a
- (2) \$375,000 subsidized restaurant in City Hall
- (3) \$100,000 for a new stable for 8 horses
- (4) Air conditioning for the Mechanics Institute Building which was scheduled for demolition in two years (and which already had over 30 window air conditioners!)
- (5) \$1,800,000 for cementing over the Byrd Park Reservoir (for 39 tennis courts, making them perhaps the most expensive in the world!) instead of phasing out the reservoir as recommended, though not required, by the Federal Government.
- (6) \$100,000 for additional funds for the City Managers public relations (Publicity) and research department.
- (7) \$70,000 for "training" courses for city hall employees. Last year this fund was used for "Sensitivity Training" and employees were required to take the course, like it or not, by City Manager Kiepper.

Responsible Government — needs money to care for the human needs of the truly dependent old, the help-

less young, and the sick. . .to pay for police and fire protection and other necessary services. . . to improve our schools, to control pollution, promote preservation and beautification and enhance the over all quality and well being of our community, but. . .

Tax Harassment Must Stop — both for the private citizen and homeowner, as well as our businessmen. Helen Marie Taylor fought, and fought hard, at budget hearings last year, the. . .

Home Property Tax	Restaurant Tax
Tax Rate Increase	Machinery Tax
Food Tax	Estate or Death Tax
Utility Tax	Bliley Occupation Tax
Hotel Tax	Tobacco Tax

Helen Marie Taylor has called attention to over 6½ million dollars in tax waste. Most of the above Taxes would have been unnecessary if the City Council had heeded her advice and made these cuts.

Though she has been critical and outspoken about the present city administration, its spending priorities, and its budgets. . .she has many constructive ideas for reorganizing the budget and the municipal tax structure. She would have us reaffirm our time honored and time proven pay-as-you-go policy with strictly limited debt.

Elect a proven Concerned Citizen's Champion and true independent to your city council on Tuesday, June 9th., 1970!

And Don't forget:

MRS. JAQUELIN E. TAYLOR

IS

HELEN MARIE TAYLOR

HELEN MARIE TAYLOR

Concerned Citizens' Champion

- * **Cut Taxes — Cut Spending**
- * **Pay-as-you-go — Limited Debt**
- * **Sound Economic Development**
- * **Develop Tourism**
- * **Preserve Historic Landmarks**
- * **Accountability in Quality Education**
- * **Clean Up James River — Build Bridges**
- * **Better Street Lighting**
- * **Support the Police and Firemen**
- * **Crack Down on Anarchy**
- * **Fight Pornography & Obscenity**
- * **Take Secrecy out of City Hall**

Biography

Wife of Jaquelin E. Taylor, Dairy Farmer and Investor. Mother of three sons. Member St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Architectural Consultant, Teacher, Producer, Director, Artist. Honor graduate of Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Teacher Training, London University.

To Help Elect:

HELEN MARIE TAYLOR

WRITE P. O. BOX 707

OR

TELEPHONE 358-0078

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

**HELEN MARIE
TAYLOR**

(MRS. JAQUELIN E. TAYLOR)

P. O. Box 707

Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Tuesday, October 15, 1968



Staff Photo

City Council Says Advertising Agency Can Occupy This 14-Room Residence
Special Use Permit for 704 Westover Road May Be Challenged in Court

First Use Permit Granted Since Action by Legislature

City Council granted a use permit yesterday for an advertising agency to use property at 704 Westover Road, the first such permit since the 1968 General Assembly attempted to restore the special power to council.

A court decision in 1966 knocked out the council's special use permit power, but the General Assembly relaxed the requirements a bit and apparently gave new power to the council.

Prior to 1968, a vote of seven council members was required to sidestep the normal city zoning procedure and grant special use permits. But the General Assembly, at the request of City Atty. Conard B. Mattox Jr., reduced the number of council votes needed to six of nine.

Area residents objected to the use permit granting yesterday; they included Colston A. Lewis, president of the Maymont Civic League, and Mrs. Jaquelin Taylor, who has been fighting for Monument Avenue preservation of paving blocks.

Mrs. Taylor argued that the property should be used for the purpose of single-family residence as zoned or as a school.

Regardless of the import of the case, it could serve as the first test for the city's newly restored special use powers as granted by the 1968 General Assembly.

moot because of settlement of the controversy that caused the fight in the first place. Thus the city didn't get a clear decision from the high court as to whether or not the city should continue trying to use the special use permit powers in the face of the Law and Equity Court decision.

The vote yesterday was 6 to 3 in favor of granting the permit, with Councilmen Howard H. Carwile, Henry L. Marsh III and James G. Carpenter voting against the proposal.

Carwile's proposed commission on conflict of interest in city government was turned down by 5 to 3 vote; it was supported by Marsh and Carpenter.

Council authorized, by 7 to 2 vote, the acquisition of property located on the east side of Three Chopt Road between Stuart Avenue and Kensington Avenue for widening Three Chopt from Patterson Ave. to Hanover Avenue. Carwile and Marsh voted against that.

The General Assembly was told along with the request for the restoration of the special use permit power that the city merely wants an opportunity to prove to the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals the validity of the powers.

The Law and Equity Court decision that struck down the previous powers was appealed by the city, but the high court decided that the matter was

League of the 24th Precinct

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

October 25, 1968

Mrs. Jacquelin Taylor
2325 Monument Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Dear Mrs. Taylor

We, the members of the League of the 24th Precinct, are eternally grateful to you for your forthright interest and specific advice.

It was so heart warming to discover that someone, so able, sympathized with us in our community struggles. The wounds which we have had to sustain in the West End have caused us many heart rendering experiences. Yet, in spite of it all, we are more than determined to work together for all the things necessary to making a wholesome community in the City of Richmond.

We glory in your courage and seek a continued interest from you in any way that you can be of assistance.

Thank God we have another shoulder to lean upon. We are so thankful and encouraged to continue to fight for every right that we as citizens have a right to enjoy.

Appreciatively yours

Senora Lawson
(Mrs.) Senora Lawson - President

Laura Bright
(Mrs.) Laura Bright
Committee Chairman

memo
from

Mrs. Helen Marie Taylor
(Mrs. Jaquelin E. Taylor)

Effort to preserve a residential
neighborhood in Richmond Byrd Park-

I alerted and brought all the
people together (black and white),
hired counsel, and successfully
led the delegation to safeguard
this fine and fully integrated area.
Plans to alter it's zoning, character
and undermine its stability were
defeated.

HMT

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