

All commercial space had been leased.

All the apartments were rented.

More than 1100 people were in residence.

The Lake Anne Community Center was in full swing - clubs, concerts, films, lectures, a full range of community interests and activities under way.

An art gallery was opened.

The Lake Anne Nursery-Kindergarten had nearly 70 students, six teachers

The first elementary school was under construction

The Carter Glass Branch of the Fairfax County Library was open

Two Ministers were in residence and the first church was under construction

There was a doctor in residence and two dentists in practice.

A newspaper was publishing, the Reston Players, Inc., and a cultural group calling itself Serendipity had been formed - all by residents, all having no connection with the developer. There were chapters of the League of Women Voters, the Virginia Fine Arts Museum and many other groups.

It seems fair to say that the pilot project was a success, that there was an encouraging public response to this new conception of what a community can and should be. The architecture was, on the whole, fortunate. The press was more than helpful. The County, State, and Federal governments were cooperative. But at bottom,

it was the plan, the new approach, a planned community, that made the pilot project a success. What the residents, the retailers and the industrialists cared most about, and responded most enthusiastically to, was the New Town concept - the alternative to non-planning a good many people appear to be waiting for.

That the concept was sound and the plan viable was learned from the pilot project. Many other things were learned as well - perhaps the most important of them here, the need to differentiate between a planned community and a totally planned environment. Reston is and was always intended to be the former. Environmental determinism was never a part of the Reston plan or concept. And whenever confusion occurred in the public mind between the two - planning land use, and planning the way people will live - as was perhaps inevitable, it was necessary to make unmistakably clear that Reston was not planning people's lives in order to overcome a mixed, rather than a positive response. It can be said with some certainty on the basis of Reston's experience with the pilot project phase of development, that planning itself is still somewhat suspect in the public mind,

and that, when planning carries with it overtones of ubiquitous paternalism, however well-intended, a negative reaction can be expected in most instances. Americans do not like their freedom impinged on - even by the most benevolent overlords.

Reston's new and native-born theatrical company, The Reston Players, said in the introduction to their first production (an original musical comedy) in 1966:

"The chance to do, to participate, is what many sought when they moved to Reston, long before there were any clear signs that what was sought could be found."

To do. To participate. Those are key words.

III. In the early stages of community development - whether we are talking about a New Town, an urban renewal area in a great city, or a suburban sub-division - some decisions have to be made paternalistically - to some extent without the consent of the governed. Officials of planning and government, builders and mortgage bankers, utility companies and corporate entities are among those who make such decisions. They typically rely on the guidance of successful experience, and presumably would prefer to the kind of success that is merely financial, the kind that includes other rewards as well.

In the older, larger cities, in addition to the advantage of reasonably well-defined and centralized programs, procedures and responsibility -- the planning commission, the redevelopment authority, the town council, all the panoply of agencies, public bodies and, alas, red tape -- there is also the advantage of planning for people who are there, who can offer advice and counsel as well as protest. This is far less the case in the suburbs, still less in the case of remaining open land just beyond.

The New Town developer, working in concert with his planners, his staff, his consultants -- and probably with a prayer -- has to make many of his initial decisions before people are there. But he does not have to make as many once sufficient numbers of people

have arrived. For by their initiative and use of facilities the people themselves participate in the planning process.

For example, it was clear after less than six months' operation that the community center facilities in the first village center -- the result of research studies, analyses, designs and redesigns -- would be inadequate to serve the variety of ways the numbers of people wanted to use the community center considerably earlier than had been anticipated. Who was to know and how was it to be known that in a community of 500 there would be enough talent, interest and people to form a theater company -- that they would want rehearsal halls, large stages, and orchestra pit, etc., etc. This is not to say that Reston's Community Facilities did not serve them -- they did; but the next ones are needed in 1967.

The developer can guess, and guess right on such sure-fire facilities as a lake, a golf course, a swimming pool and a sound system. But he and his organization cannot predict with any certainty what, given the options and opportunities, people will decide to do. And while the New Town developer, by the very nature of his enterprise, has a responsibility to carry out his land use, or physical plan -- and undertakes the construction of numerous recreational and community

facilities -- this still leaves unresolved the question of who will create additional facilities and support the services and programs which are needed or desirable. Since at Reston the essence of the concept is opportunity and choice rather than prescriptions and commands, the answer is that it is finally the community's responsibility and that working through the Foundation and outside it with the planners and developers, the community will participate in its development, making and realizing its own choices, demanding and fulfilling the needs for services it requires.

For a new community in 20th Century America such as Reston, this is a very large order indeed, encompassing as it does both the physical and spiritual needs, not to say demands of a heterogeneous population of differing backgrounds, family life, education, income and cultural experience. Now that Reston is going beyond the pilot project phase, about to build housing subsidized by the Federal programs for cooperative sale housing (213) and middle-income rental housing (221D3), ready to take advantage of rent supplement housing when it becomes available and, meanwhile, extending its own non-subsidized price ranges, hoping to demonstrate the technological feasibility of mass producing low-income housing, the magnitude of what is required is seen. Community and social services, the

best information and techniques will have to be, somehow, available as the bolder and more controversial aspects of the Reston goals are unfolded. The amount and degree of social planning that must complement the development of Reston in the years ahead cannot now be determined, but must be prepared for.

The size, number and design of the facilities, institutions and services to come will, then, be determined in large measure by the leadership which develops within the community and Foundation in concert with the developer, his staff and consultants, and within the framework of the city plan. If Reston is to realize its goals in a timely way, rather than long after the need has become evident or even frustrated, if options and choices are to be tested, if experiments in new social approaches to the neighborhood, the village, the community, the city -- its life, mixture, identity; if activities and entertainments traditionally in need of subsidy are to take place, then substantial amounts of money are needed for the community to meet its responsibilities and seize its opportunities.

The programs and facilities and staff to implement the goals of Reston, to create a modern model of what a community can be like in urban America, must be planned, designed, and put into action over the years as the

community matures and grows in size. Timing is of the utmost importance. A serious time lag in stimulating new life patterns or in meeting evident needs can stunt the growth of a community. But there are serious dangers as well in premature and paternalistic provision for programs and facilities. The development pace must always be in scale with the size of the community involved.

This letter constitutes a request for the establishment of a special fund to be administered by the Board of Trustees of the Reston Virginia Foundation for Community Programs, Inc. The idea of requesting this "fund" was conceived in the light of the importance of scale and of community participation. Income from the investment of this fund would be appropriated for use at the discretion of the Board. Invasion of the principal of the fund for use could be accomplished only with the approval of the appropriate Ford Foundation designee(s) acting on the recommendation of the Board.

To the extent realistically practical, appropriations from the "fund" would be made on a matching basis in the form of contributions to the Foundation from individuals, corporations, and other eleemosynary institutions.

THE RESTON PARK

The functional use of open space, the multi-purpose use of land, and the continuous use of facilities and public places - all year-long, day and night - are basic elements of Reston planning. They are combined, together with other uncommon planning ideas, in The Reston Park.

A site of more than 80 acres, related to the sites for intermediate and high schools, and surrounded by medium and high residential development, has been set aside in the Reston city plan for the Reston Park. It is today the scene of the Fairfax County Hunt's annual Steeplechase. It will be tomorrow, in addition, the home of such clubs, teams, organizations, individuals, and institutions who care to use it for baseball, football, polo, soccer, ice skating, riding, hockey; musical, dramatic, and dance performances; exhibitions, contests, and competitions; meetings, conferences, seminars and lectures; games, entertainments, strolls, and rendezvous. There will be nothing else quite like the Reston Park in Reston - there is nothing else quite like the Reston Park, anywhere.

In 1970, the Reston Park will be where the Steeplechase takes place every September; the County Fair every October; where the Reston Music Center's summer programs occur every July and August; where

phases of the Annual Reston May Festival take place; where intra-mural village teams as well as school teams play their games; where each week brings a new conference, a new performance, a "happening." It will be used day and night fifty-two weeks a year. It will be a focal point for the people of Reston. It will be an important group of facilities for the entire metropolitan area.

The feasibility of using this site in such a complex and imaginative way has already been studied by the developers of Reston. A schematization of the site for all these purposes has been prepared by Sasaki, Dawson, DeMay Associates, Inc.

At this time, two of the many organizations which will participate in the life of the Reston Park are in existence: The Fairfax Hunt Club, and the Reston Music Center. The Fairfax Hunt Steeplechase is older than Reston, and a link with the past. The Reston Music Center is new, and would not have come into being were it not for the development of the New Town of Reston, and the donation of land in the Reston Park by the developers of Reston for its use. Two other organizations which may well become a permanent part of the Reston Park are already in the process of formation, the County Fair at Reston, and the Reston May Festival. It is appropriate to review the status of these four organizations:

1. The Fairfax County Hunt

The Fairfax Hunt Club was organized in the early 1930's by A. Smith Bowman, former owner of the property which now comprises Reston. Present Master of the Fox Hounds Randolph Rouse, and a Board of Governors that includes A. Smith Bowman, Jr. in its membership, sets policy for the club. Club members ride to the hounds weekly throughout the winter and conduct yearly steeplechase races in the fall. The steeplechase course is in Reston, and the races provide a colorful link with the past which will hopefully continue into the future.

2. The Reston Music Center

The Reston Music Center is a brand new institution created in the fall of 1966 under the leadership of State Senator Omer Hirst of Fairfax County. It is a non-profit corporation with a distinguished Board of Directors and Dr. James Christian Pfohl as its Musical and Executive Director. Dr. Pfohl was the founder and for many years the head of the Brevard Summer Music Center in North Carolina.

In its first season in the Reston Park, the music center will offer a six-week program of music education for 250 students from 12 to 18 years of age. Of these, 150 will be resident students using temporary facilities and 100 will be day-students. There will

be a faculty of more than 30, providing individual instruction for the students and performances for the public, as well as an administrative staff. It is hoped that permanent facilities in the Reston Park can be constructed by the summer of 1968.

3. The Fairfax County Fair at Reston

A Fairfax County Fair to be held annually at Reston is presently in the early planning stages, under the leadership of an energetic local lawyer, Roy A. Swayze, Esq. Mr. Swayze intends to form a corporation for the purpose of directing and administering a broad-based fair, which he envisions as an important showcase for the exhibition of the scientific, industrial, and business achievements of Fairfax County as well as the more traditional entertainment. Should this idea come to fruition, permanent exhibition, meeting, and dining facilities in the Reston Park will be utilized as well as various sports fields and other areas used temporarily during the period of the fair itself.

In view of the inter-relationship in Reston between the residential and industrial - government - scientific communities, and the fact that Reston wishes to be an integral part of the County structure as well as the metropolitan area, the developers of Reston and the Reston Foundation have encouraged Mr. Swayze to pursue this project.

4. The Reston May Festival

A steering committee of Reston residents, under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Henninger, a Restonian and a member of the Reston Virginia Foundation for Community Programs, Inc., was formed in the fall of 1966 to plan an annual program celebrating the anniversary of the dedication of Reston. At this early date at least, the May Festival is viewed as an opportunity for the people of Reston to participate in, enjoy and create an annual artistic fete as the culmination of the year's school, club, and organization activities.

The schools, churches, and various resident dance, music, and theatrical organizations are all represented on the steering committee. The Reston Foundation will commission a work of art for the festival and quite possibly bring in a professional performing art company as its contribution to the celebration.

Should this program prove successful, and should the residents prove desirous of continuing it every year, the Reston May Festival has an enormous potential both as a major community event, and perhaps later as an artistic event of national and international importance.

The facilities necessary for the Music Center, the most advanced in being of these organizations, can also, of course, be used by many other organizations - in addition to those outlined here - and for many other purposes. The permanent auditorium or amphitheater, dormitories, dining hall, lounge, study and rehearsal rooms required for the Music Center are equally suitable

for a conference center to fill the need for such a center serving Washington priced to fit the pocket-books of academicians and government employees. It might also quite possibly serve in conjunction with the programs and activities of the Northern Virginia Community College at Reston. The flexibility and adaptability of the Reston Park and the facilities proposed there is such, in fact, that it will be a center for education, the performing arts, sports, entertainments, scientific and business conferences, exhibitions and lectures. And also, it seems fair to guess, the favorite meeting-place of Reston teenagers.

While some of the preliminary planning for the Reston Park has begun, and its conceptualization is well under way, the detailed planning and design work for the project is still to be done. And while a temporary facility for musical and theatrical performances will be constructed in the Reston Park for the Music Center's 1967 summer school program, designs for permanent structures have not yet been undertaken.

The designs for the Reston Park must be correlated with the planning and design of the two public schools which are adjacent to the site, and which will utilize many of the facilities and playing fields of the Park.

This is a multi-million dollar project, and the planning costs will not be inconsiderable. Getting the detailed planning and designing underway is, however, the next step.

Health Care Program and Hospital Complex

That the quality and degree of health and medical care available in the United States is the finest in the world, is probably taken for granted by most Americans. This assumption is open to serious question. We know, for example, that the average life-span of a Frenchman is longer than that of an American; that fewer children die between birth and one year of age per thousand births in several European and Scandinavian countries than in the United States; that the Russians claim more doctors per thousand population than we have; that comprehensive public health services in Britain go well beyond our own; that in Germany, paid health and holiday retreats, built and staffed by employers, are increasingly standard items in labor union contracts.

It is possible that none of these facts if relevant to the care of human beings in our country. It seems probable that they are, however, and that we could do a lot more, and do it better than we now do, to take care of ourselves. We have the brains, the talent, and the money. But we have not really decided what our national policy toward health and medical care

is going to be. And perhaps as a result, we have shown a surprising lack of imagination in developing appropriate plans for bringing our remarkable resources to bear on the complex problems of providing adequate health care for a 20th Century society. We seem to be more successful in dealing with epidemics, scourges, plagues, as well as with pure research - vaccines, wonder drugs, oral contraceptives.

A new community searching for breakthroughs in health care should not - and cannot afford to - get embroiled in the national politics of medicine. But, it cannot wait, either, for further clarification of roles - particularly the Federal Government's - before it begins to make plans. What appears to present itself is still another opportunity for the New Town, in this case, Reston, to serve as a model or pilot project for the future - to demonstrate what should and can be done, to experiment with sufficient imagination and success to offer guidance for formulating policy.

Since Reston is not a government-subsidized, but rather a free enterprise development, there are advantages to having Reston pave the way. As an unincorporated municipality in Fairfax County, there is, in the strictest sense, no local government in Reston to provide

and pay for a comprehensive health and medical care program and the goal of having such a program must be reached in other ways. Whether and how that goal will be reached and what these other ways are and will be is instructive - indeed, of the greatest importance. The comprehensive health and medical care programs cannot be achieved by developing a single grand design, a blueprint that specifies at this time the role to be played by all those who could be involved in a health care program at Reston: the doctors, consultants, administrators; the designers, planners and architects; the Fairfax County Hospital and Health Commission; HEW, NIMH; the developer, the Reston Foundation, other foundations; the Georgetown University. The answers can be found for Reston certainly, and for other communities hopefully - by proceeding step by step in pace with immediate and local needs and desires, in concert with the appropriate agencies, groups and organizations willing to participate, and with the cooperation of the people of Reston. This process has already begun.

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In January, 1962, as part of the earliest social planning, before Reston was inhabited, the developers retained Dr. William Sanger, former Chancellor of the

Medical College of Virginia, to survey existing needs and facilities in the area surrounding Reston. The results of this study were made available to the Fairfax County Hospital and Health Commission, which was at that time considering the total health needs of the County. Sanger, Beale & Associates, medical consultants, and Baskervill & Son, architects, then collaborated on a plan for a medical center to be established on a 26-acre site in Reston's Town Center. This site was designated by Reston as the future home of a hospital complex, and incorporated as part of the Master Plan for Reston, submitted to and approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in the Summer of 1962.

In the Summer of 1965, sixteen acres of land in the Reston Health Care Center were offered by the developer to the Fairfax Hospital and Health Center Commission as the site for the western satellite hospital of the County system. To date, the offer has been neither accepted nor rejected.

The site for a major facility having thus been reserved, Reston turned its attention both to the more theoretical and practical problems of health care. In the early stages of Reston's growth, these

have coincided. It was assumed that a health care program would have as its nucleus a core of qualified doctors and dentists who would come to Reston to meet the immediate needs of the resident and working population. Space was leased in the first office building in Lake Anne Center to two dentists, and a resident-doctor leased an office and home in Lake Anne Center also. The latter shares his office with two other doctors - among the three are a general practitioner, an internist, and an obstetrician - and Reston has round-the-clock medical services.

This approach is the result of a good deal of study, discussion and consultation in the years following the Sanger report with County, State, and Federal government officials; representatives of the National Commission on Community Health Services; the Washington D.C. Group Health Association; George Washington and Georgetown University medical experts; local groups and individuals; and, of course, the doctors themselves. The consensus of these experts, tentatively accepted by the developers of Reston, includes a number of useful recommendations on how to proceed along the avenue toward comprehensive health care.

First, qualified doctors willing not only to

practice but also to live in Reston, must serve as the hub for the larger cadre of health and medical experts to follow. Some are already there. Second, all medical programs developed in Reston should have the positive backing of the community they are designed to serve. This is in keeping with the Reston concept. Third, the feasibility of group practice in a New Town should be demonstrated, and the role of individual practitioners should also be included in any plans. Fourth, provision should be made for a full service community hospital of perhaps 250 beds, related to the County's plans and affiliated with a teaching hospital. This planning is well under way. Fifth, provision should be made for other special facilities that may prove necessary or desirable -- care for the aged, mental health clinics offices, nursing homes, et. al. This will be taken up at appropriate planning intervals. Finally, since planning for a hospital alone usually takes five years, a small scale demonstration program must be initiated and studied to determine in more detail the needs, costs, and most effective ways to provide comprehensive health care for Reston. This possibility is being pursued by Georgetown University Medical Center, whose Department of Community Medicine has expressed the desire