

Anniversary Issue

**THE NEW
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**AMERICA
TOMORROW
CREATING
THE GREAT SOCIETY**

The Community: **Could This Be Our Town?**

The first residents are about to move into what promises to be one of the first modern communities in America worthy of the name. It is a comprehensively planned new town, named Reston, located .18 miles west of Washington, D.C., in a wooded Virginia hillside. By 1980, if plans work out, it should have 75,000 inhabitants, most of whom will not need to commute because they will have shopping, education, cultural inspiration and, most of all, their jobs practically within walking distance. Reston may well point a way toward arresting America's hideous urban sprawl that consumes our land at a rate of one million acres a day and that is hardly, as someone has put it, "a healthy soil for the growth of our civilization."

The countryside is uniquely beautiful and the first buildings already show equally unique architectural charm and excellence. But the bulldozers are still tearing into the red earth and the workmen are still clambering about the scaffolding and construction debris.

By next summer, however, Reston's first village — the plans call for seven such neighborhoods plus an urban town center — should be coming to life. Its artificial 35-acre lake, surrounded by lovingly arranged clusters of townhouses, should be filled with boats and swimmers. Already stocked with fish, its clear water will mirror the shops and community center of a bustling waterfront plaza and a handsomely sculptural 16-story apartment tower

that heralds the town from afar.

People will walk to this village center through the woods and townhouse plazas on walkways and overpasses and underpasses that are dramatically lit at night and no automobiles will get into their way. The children will, of course, also walk safely to their new school, designed for the latest needs of modern education with the help of Ford Foundation experts. Cars have their own roads and are parked away discreetly so they don't clutter up the townscape.

Reston already has a champion golf course and architecturally intriguing club house, designed by Charles M. Goodman. By summer it will also have tennis courts, a riding stable, a boat marina, an art gallery, adult education courses, a youth center, numerous playgrounds with enchanting, modern equipment designed by sculptor Gonzales Fonseca, and probably a little children's zoo where the tots might try milking a cow.

By summer, too, developer Robert E. Simon, whose initials form the first syllable of the name of the town he launched almost single-handedly, will know. He will know whether free enterprise can do better than build sleazy suburban subdivisions which, with their cute neo-Williamsburg or Cinderella "homes," all their kitchen gadgets, barbecue patios and useless front lawns, cater at best to fashionable market expectations of "gracious living," as though living consisted only of con-

by Wolf Von Eckardt