

ARLINGTON: THEN AND NOW

By JAMES TURMAN BARRON

Arlington, as one of the nation's fastest-growing communities, has changed substantially over the years. Gone is a rural, relaxed atmosphere. Landmarks have fallen in the name of progress and development. Pictures mirror these changes, and with this issue the *Magazine* begins recording graphically modern scenes and contrasting them with the old.



With development, areas change in appearance as civilization "advances". The two views of Four Mile Run shown here reflect the changes in East Falls Church. The current image shows one of the last sections of Four Mile Run not to be put underground (lower left of picture), while the old view shows the area at the turn of the century.



The present Chain Bridge is the latest structure to span the Potomac on the site of an old Indian crossing near Little Falls. Floodwaters washed away many of the early bridges, so in 1852 the re-builders used iron chains to try to insure the span's longevity. Apparently that bridge met its end



by collapsing, not by being washed downstream. The name derived from the materials has persisted, even for its non-chain successors. Of strategic importance in the Civil War, as seen in the old view, Chain Bridge (or the earlier spans) was first used to transport livestock to market in Georgetown.¹



¹ Cf. Robert L. Taylor, "The History of the Potomac Bridges in the Washington Area," *Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (1957).

The Carne School was the first building in Arlington erected specifically for use as a public school. Its name honored the County's first school superintendent, Richard L. Carne, who was in office in 1871 when the



school was built. Located at 25th Street and North Glebe Road, the Carne facility was replaced by the John Marshall School, built some yards to the north of the old building in 1926. Currently on the Carne site is St. Mark's United Methodist Church.



• "Then" pictures from Arlington Heritage, Courtesy of Eleanor Lee Templeman.