

Growth of a Suburban Village

Fostoria, Overlee Knolls & Westover
1730 - 1998

BY SOPHIE B. VOGEL

The Land

In 1730, 652 acres were patented to Simon Pearson and James Going in the northwest part of what is now Arlington County (Land Ownership Map: 1669-1796). The southern boundary of this parcel was Four Mile Run, with an eastward extension crossing the present Patrick Henry, Kenilworth and the intersec-



(HP-OK NCP)

tion of Kennebec and North 11th Streets. Today's Quantico Street was the western boundary, and the eastern limit was Lexington Street. The northern boundary extended into Fairfax County.

Despite subsequent changes in land ownership the boundaries of the southern portion remained fairly constant and today, more than two and a half centuries later, constitute the borders of *Highland Park-Overlee Knolls* whose north border ends at the south side of 22nd Street North. The eastward extension is in the *Westover* Civic Association which stretches south to Four Mile Run (now covered by I-66), and east to North Jefferson Street.

"The natural lay of the land can be seen when traveling west on Washington Boulevard. Beginning at McKinley Road the traveler encounters a hollow traversed by a brook (now covered) running north to south under Westover to join Four Mile Run east of McKinley Road. From a hill at the intersection with 18th Street, which is also traversed by a brook (now covered) running north to Ohio Street, which is also traversed by a brook (now covered) running north to south to join Four Mile Run near the Ohio Street I-66 overpass. From Ohio Street, the Boulevard rises gradually to Quantico Street and beyond."¹ This configuration of knolls and hollows, with a general slope southwards to Four Mile Run (now covered in part by I-66) defines the neighborhood which grew, over a period of two hundred years, from farmland to a suburban village.

John Sommers bought the tract, between the "meanders of Four Mile Run" on the south and the intersection of 19th and Lexington Streets on the north, in 1820. On the 1860 map the Sommers parcel is surrounded by properties of the Febrey family.

The Febrey Family

Before the birth of Nicholas Febrey, there appears to be no record of either his parents or the name Febrey, but in the 19th century the Febreys were influential landholders in Alexandria County.

Nicholas Febrey was born in the "country part" of Alexandria, now Arlington County, in 1800. He married Belinda Ball, a granddaughter of Moses Ball. Two years after Belinda's death, in 1860, Nicholas married her cousin, Amanda Ball, another of Moses Ball's granddaughters. Nicholas purchased many country properties, including a parcel on Wilson Boulevard and McKinley Road. Amanda and Nicholas moved into a house Amanda inherited from her father which was located on the hill where Swanson Junior High School (Middle School) now stands. Nicholas Febrey's name appears on a petition to the Virginia General Assembly to ignore President Polk's proclamation of 1846 ordering the retrocession of Virginia land (Alexandria

County) ceded to the District of Columbia back to Virginia. Nicholas died in 1868 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, which was established in 1779 and is located on North Roosevelt Street. Descendants of the Febreys are also interred in Oakwood.

John E. Febrey, Nicholas' eldest son, was born in 1831. He was a realtor who married his cousin Mary Frances Ball in 1855. They built a home on the property his father acquired on Wilson Boulevard. The house is no longer standing but it may have been the large frame house that was demolished and replaced by the Christian Science Church in 1966. The mansion Mrs. Templeman mentions in *Arlington Heritage* is probably the green shingled house facing the Willston Apartments. A log cabin on this Febrey Farm served as a tuition school during the Civil War for the Febrey children and others from the abutting Fairfax County line. Samuel Stalcup, the teacher, was a firm disciplinarian who went on to teach in the State School system when it was established in 1870.²

In 1881 the State Board of Education required two School Superintendents, one for the City of Alexandria and one for the county. In the last decade of the 19th century John E. Febrey served a term as superintendent of the County Schools. After John's death in 1893, the farm was sold to Alvin Lothrop of the Woodward and Lothrop department store. It is now owned by Randolph Rouse, the realtor. Audrey Meadows was mistress of that house while she was married to Rouse.

Moses Alexander Febrey and his wife, Caroline built a house (no longer standing) above Powhatan Springs (a photograph of Powhatan Springs is on page 97 of Eleanor Lee Templeman's book, *Arlington Heritage*).

Henry W. Febrey, a Justice of the Peace, married Margaret Amelia Payne in 1851. His farmhouse, *Maple Shade*, which was built on five acres, still stands at 2230 North Powhatan Street. Margaret bore Henry eleven children. Additions to the house were built as the number of children increased. Within a wall of this house is embedded a reminder of the Civil War. The table was set for dinner when a shot came through the window, severed a leg from the table and lodged in a wall, leaving the dinner intact. The shot presumably came from Hall's Hill which featured in the Battle of Munson Hill.

Mr. Paxton, who bought the house in 1919, renovated it in 1926 to the original size by removing the additions. The house changed hands several times to the Coxens, Colonel and Mrs. Hoge, Mr. and Mrs. Logtens, before it was sold in 1957 to a developer who preserved the original house and many of the trees around it.

Ernest Jackson Febrey, one of Henry's sons, built the house at 6060 Lee Highway in the late 1870s or early 1880s. Dr. Kincheloe, a physician, bought the house which was eventually converted into the Crestwood Sanitarium by his widow who put it up for sale in 1956. She told this writer it was a burden to



Courtesy of Roger Morton

Maple Shade

manage and that the population in the area was too young to need a nursing home. The income from the few residents in the home did not cover expenses.

Edwin M. Cope, a neighbor, realized the property was an ideal location for an outdoor swimming pool. He received enthusiastic support from families in the area. The summers were hot and most of the homes were not air-conditioned. The 31 families who first met to discuss the matter were generous with pledges and funds. On July 4, 1957 the Overlee Recreation Center was officially opened. It is now the Overlee Community Association with two swimming pools. The Febrey house serves as a clubhouse with regular bridge club meetings and 'is available for rental to members for parties, meetings, receptions etc.' (Overlee Rules book). *Maple Shade*, Henry Febrey's house, is visible from the balcony of Ernest's house (the clubhouse). The Febrey homes were reportedly the only houses in the area.

A creek ran through the properties. Prior to being covered over by John Marshall Drive and Ohio Street in 1965, the creek was a favorite refuge and outdoor laboratory for children living in Overlee Knolls. Bamboo which grew along the creek served as their "Bamboo Forest," and turtles and small marine animals inhabited the stream. When that creek vanished underground, the children rode their bikes through Fostoria to Four Mile Run.

The Farms

The main crop grown on the Febrey farms in 1840 was probably corn. The yield reported from the county was 18,000 bushels a year. Grains, oats, rye, barley, wheat and buckwheat accounted for another 16,000 bushels. By 1860 the potato harvest had more than doubled from 6,283 bushels to 14,597.³ The *Alexandria Gazette* of May 13, 1854 advertised a tract of land for sale on Four Mile Run as suitable for a market farm. Improved roads and the railroad that was built alongside Four Mile Run facilitated the transporting of crops to market.

Local orchard fruits were in demand. Ernest Febrey's apple orchard grew in what is now the back parking lot of the Overlee swimming pools. Good drinking water was a problem then as it is today. Moses Alexander Febrey was able to supplement his income by leasing the springs on his property above Powhatan Springs to the Harper Company which bottled the water and sold it to the White House and other homes in the Washington area.

The Railways

In 1853 the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railway was extending its route southward along Four Mile Run to Alexandria. The road had been graded as far as Clarke's Gap and a single track was laid from Alexandria to Herndon by September 1859. At the start of the Civil War the railroad operated as far as Leesburg — about a two-and-a-half hour trip. The Union forces took over the railroad between Alexandria and Vienna to transport supplies and troops. At the Leesburg end Confederate soldiers burned bridges and trestles and tore up track to hinder the enemy's movements. By the end of the war the railway was in a shambles, both physically and financially. It changed hands several times. A portion of the track was restored by 1868 to allow trains to run between Alexandria and Leesburg daily with two trains going each way. In January 1882 the railroad was sold to the Washington and Western Railroad Company and the following May sold again to the Washington, Ohio and Western Railroad Company. On June 1912 the Washington and Old Dominion took over the operation of the railroad. "The railroad right of way along the meandering Four Mile Run (it crosses the stream eleven times between Falls Church and Alexandria), lined with a profusion of seasonal wild flowers, was one of the most beautiful and scenic stretches of track in Virginia."⁴ In 1897 an electric railway providing access to the nation's capital was built parallel to the steam railroad.

The Fostoria Subdivision

In 1890, when the Washington, Ohio and Western Company ran the railroad, the Four Mile Run portion of Sommers' tract was purchased by the Fostoria Land and Development Company. The development was named *Fostoria*.⁵ The

property changed hands and its name to *Highland Park* in 1907 when it was sold to William S. Hoge, Jr. The railroad stop, however, continued to be the Fostoria Station. Potential buyers were enticed to the country by the Barber, Williams & Company, Real Estate and Insurance in Falls Church who, as sole agents for the developer, placed an ad in *A Brief History of Alexandria County, Virginia*, a publication authorized by the Alexandria County Board of Supervisors:

Buy a home in this beautiful Virginia subdivision
Three and one half miles from and 450 feet higher than Washington City
Cool air, pure water, all to make life worth living
Situated on both Steam and Electric Roads
Lots Cheap. Easy monthly payments. A great investment.
We build your house to your own idea
A small cash payment down, balance payable in
MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS
Why pay rent when you can buy a nice new home?
Come and see for yourself, or apply to either the Owner or Agents.
Wm S. Hoge, Jr.
Residence, Highland Park, Virginia

In spite of similar ads, the area remained predominantly farmland. In 1938 there were about 63 houses, each built to individual specifications. The most distinguished early homes were erected in Fostoria by Bernard Noland, a resident of Highland Park. Large porches, some wrap-around on both levels, and columns were among his favorite architectural features. The Freeman house on 16th Street North, shaped like a steamer, was originally intended to be a convalescent home. Other identified Noland houses are on 15th Street North and on North Nicholas Street.

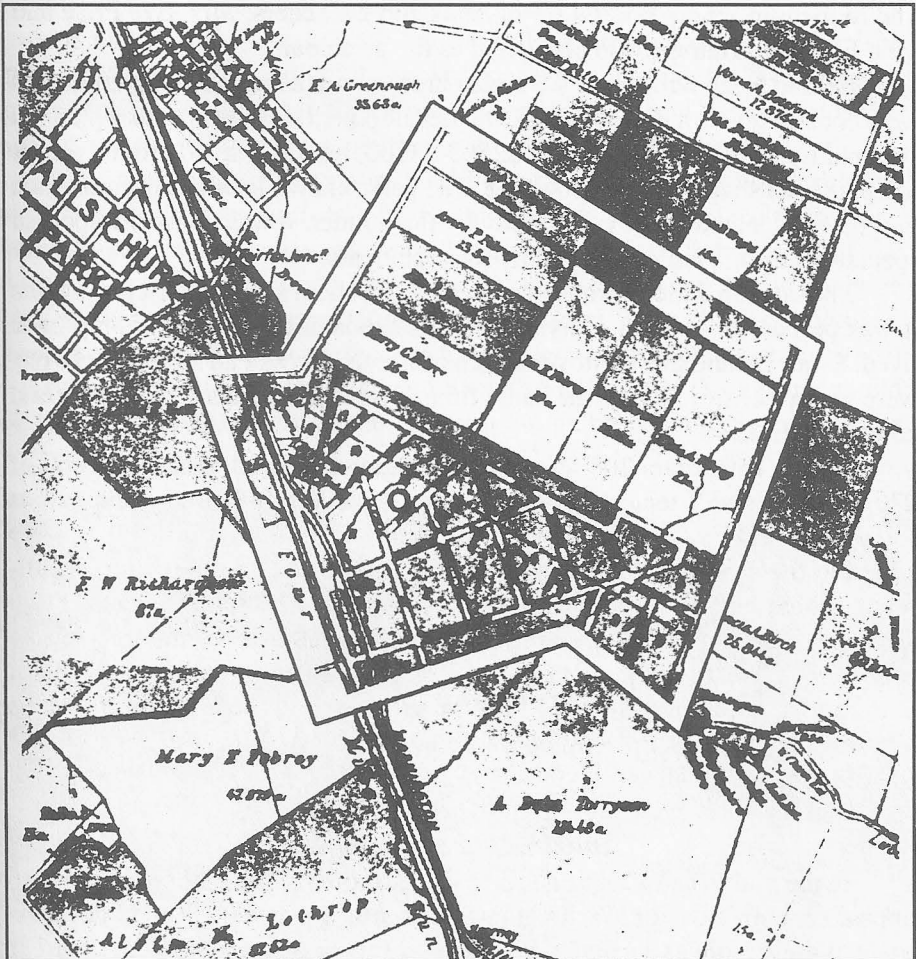
Automobiles, Roads and Overlee Knolls

“Following World War I, and with wider use of the automobile, a hard surfaced road, the present Washington Boulevard, was constructed through the former Febrey properties, linking the community directly to East Falls Church to the west and North Glebe Road to the east. With easier access by car, in the mid-1920s, a new subdivision, *Overlee Knolls*, was [begun]. In that decade and succeeding ones the growth of Highland Park-Overlee Knolls mirrored Arlington’s general increase in population: 5.2% annually in the 1920s, 7.9% in the 1930s, 8.9% in the 1940s and 1.9% in the 1950s.”⁶

After Memorial Drive (now Washington Boulevard) was built the streets in Fostoria were paved. The rural setting into which the developers were moving is

highlighted by an incident recorded in C.B. Rose's history of Arlington County. A neighbor complained about the Overlee Knolls subdivision. Apparently the developers had built the septic tank adjoining the farmer's property. Since there was no drainage field for the tank except a small creek, all the sewage from the Overlee houses drained from the tank into the creek. The farmer's livestock would not drink the water. The creek became a breeding place for mosquitoes. A sewage system was in place by 1937 (the bond had been voted in 1933).

Highland Park (Fostoria) and Overlee Knolls joined to form one civic association in the early 1930s. Citizen community groups banded together in



(HP-OK NCP)

Fostoria, circa 1900

Arlington in the early 1900s to improve or provide basic services like water and firefighting in their areas. With sewage trunks installed, development grew more rapidly in Highland Park and Overlee Knolls. In Westover apartment houses mushroomed along Washington Boulevard.

Schools and More Homes

The pattern of future growth was apparent to the residents of the area. Through the efforts of the civic association (HP-OK), a neighborhood elementary school, Walter Reed, was erected on its present site (the corner of Washington Boulevard and McKinley Road) and opened on September 16, 1938. The four-room school housed 67 students and 2 teachers, Mrs. Eve Price and Mrs. Elizabeth Hauser, who also acted as the principal.

Behind Reed School, in a wooded area, small, asbestos-shingled homes were constructed in a new experimental development. *Parkhurst* was a planned community of reasonably priced, \$2500-\$3500, houses, ringed around a central park area shaped like a horseshoe. The park, known locally as "Horseshoe Park," was donated to the community by the builder. It was a favorite spot for special-occasion picnics enjoyed by Reed students.

The land on which Swanson Junior High School stands was a farm when it was purchased in 1938. This is where Amanda and Nicholas Febrey once lived. Swanson and the Westover Baptist Church, across Patrick Henry Drive, were under construction at the same time. Swanson was started in 1939 and completed in 1940.

Within four years 208 more children attended Reed, making a total of 275 children and 7 teachers (Mrs. Hauser became a full-time principal) at Reed in 1942. Five years later six classrooms and a multipurpose room were added to the school. These new classrooms could not hold the 1949 enrollment, which had more than tripled to 760 pupils. The school went on two sessions, morning and afternoon. Other students attended temporary classrooms in the Westover Baptist Church. The primary wing, consisting of eight classrooms, was added in 1950. The apartments and modest houses in the Westover area increased in number through the 1950s. Enrollment continued to hold around 700 through 1965.

Apartments and Stores

In the mid to late 1930s one and two-bedroom apartment houses began to appear on both sides of Washington Boulevard. It was not planned development, it grew more as a small town. Each year more apartments were added as needed. In these early years many families with children lived in the apartments; there was very little choice in housing.

A drugstore and a Safeway, the first shops to be built, were the nucleus of the more than twenty-four establishments lining Washington Boulevard today. Shops were added and the mix changed several times during the ensuing sixty years. In the 1950s business establishments reflected the needs of the community. One-car or no-car families, despite the two bus routes on Washington Boulevard and on Lee Highway, patronized the local shopping strip. The Westover Market generously offered free delivery to its shoppers.

The Rice building, on the southwest corner of McKinley and Washington Boulevard, was built by James Rice, grandfather of Terri Gawen of Gawen Realty, in 1940. The realty quarters were on the second floor. Shops on the street floor were a delicatessen, Blanche's Beauty Shop and a laundromat. This space is now divided between the Lebanese Taverna and Gawen Realty. The space next to the Rice building was still open land as was the wooded area across McKinley Street. Mr. Stiner bought the land adjacent to the Rice building and erected the four stores that are still standing in their original form.

The remaining south side of Washington Boulevard was not developed until after 1951. Bruce Holland's florist shop, which occupied a white house on the north side of the boulevard since 1948, was the first to move across the street to one of the new stores. The Lady Hamilton dress shop was in the large store on that southeast corner. Virginia Ray's ladies' wear (lingerie, blouses, hose, sweaters) was on the north side. A shoe store occupied the premises next to Ray's. The teachers from Reed and Swanson patronized these shops as did the residents. For the weary men returning home by bus there was the Blue



Courtesy of Roger Morton

The Rice building, on the southwest corner of McKinley and Washington Boulevard.

Candle, a bar-restaurant, where they could discuss the day's affairs with neighbors over a beer. The only carry-out at the time was the Chinese shop, which was well patronized, as was the Westover gas station which moved to Lee Highway to allow expansion of the post office to the McKinley Street corner.

The stores that have survived, though some have changed ownership since the 1950s, include the drug store, the Safeway (the only occupant-owned store on the strip — Safeway did not build on rented land — was sold to the Seven-Eleven convenience store), the Westover Village Market, Ayers variety store, a bakery, two beauty shops, a flower shop, the Blue Candle (now Luna Park, with music added to its menu), a laundromat, Gawen's Realty, two barbershops (one on each side of the street), an Oriental carry-out, Mr. West's dry-cleaning establishment, and the Preston King branch post office (renamed in 1943 in memory of a young resident who was killed in World War II).

The dress shop, a shoe store and Ray's ladies' wear, prominent in the 1950s, were gradually replaced by a High's ice cream shop, which lasted several years in the former Lady Hamilton premises before they were rented to Italia Bella, an Italian restaurant which has since changed hands several times. The Lebanese Taverna replaced a Greek pizza place. A thrift shop and a Hi-Performance hardware store complete the list.

In the 1950s the Clarendon Bank, opposite Reed on McKinley Road, initiated a savings program for the children in the school. A representative from the bank came to Reed every Friday, banking day for the students, who were issued passbooks. Students could save as little as 10 cents a week, or more than a dollar. Clarendon Bank was bought out by First American and then by First Union, based in North Carolina. The local touch was gone as was the savings program.

Westover Branch Library

The Westover branch of the Arlington Public Libraries occupied rented space in a street-level apartment on Longfellow Street and Washington Boulevard in 1948. Before long patrons and books were spilling out into the corridor. When Mrs. Williams, Reed's first PTA president, offered to sell her property, adjacent to Reed on the corner of Lexington and McKinley Road, to the county she met with no success. The community considered the site an excellent location for the Westover Library. Meanwhile, a private builder bought the property and was digging a foundation for one of the five houses he planned to erect.

Tom Simpson, a past president of the PTA who lived in Tara-Leeway Heights, was fortunate to recruit Verna Clapp, acting Librarian of Congress, to speak at an outdoor picnic behind the Simpson house and Trinity Church, to which county board and school board members were invited (all did not at-

tend). Clap addressed the group. He casually remarked that public libraries often get lost in the sewer issues that invariably emerge for consideration at the same time. The community effort was a success. In 1963 the Westover Library moved into the new building.

Winds of Change

In 1965 Lee School, now the Senior Citizen's Center on Lee Highway, was merged with Reed. Both schools were necessary to accommodate the increased enrollment. The following year, 1966, Langston and Reed School were integrated. An addition had to be built at the least possible cost. No bond issue was floated; the money came from current capital improvement funds. A round building provided the most space for the money. It was planned with Gennette Nygard, Elementary School Supervisor, several Reed teachers, the librarian and Dr. Richard Wiggins, the art supervisor, who was an architect. Before the addition was built the School Board purchased a property with an old white frame house that sat behind the primary wing of the school. When that house was razed, construction began on the "Round."

In 1969 there were 813 students in the Lee-Reed-Langston School complex. The community was guided through these changes by School Superintendent Ray Reid, who was sent to Arlington from Richmond when school integration was mandated. The idea of an appointed superintendent did not sit well with residents, but Dr. Reid's integrity, values, and ability to work closely with teachers and parents soon won them over. Some look upon him as Arlington's best superintendent to date.

The school and county boards of the late 1970s envisioned Arlington's future as a swinging singles community living in the high rise apartment houses,



The Round, Reed School

Courtesy of Roger Morton

condos and town houses that were springing up in Crystal City, Rosslyn, Fairfax Drive and around Washington Lee High School. Arlington Community Hospital was ready to close the obstetrics service in the late 1970s. School enrollment was in a temporary slump and several elementary schools were closed. The community unsuccessfully pleaded for a little restraint in closings. A demographic report commissioned by the school board reinforced the community's position as did Art Vogel, then president of the Highland Park-Overlee Knolls Civic Association, who came up with the same projections.

The PTA and residents strongly believed that the lull in the birth rate was temporary. They conducted a door-to-door headcount of children within Reed's boundaries, which shrank when sections were taken to fill the new Glebe School and others in the area with dropping enrollments. Superintendent of Schools Larry Cuban agreed with residents and Reed did not close in 1979. Arlington Hospital displayed conservative judgment after holding some public forums and did not close the obstetrics service.

The number of shoppers increased in Westover when George Mason Drive was cut through in 1965 to allow children from Hall's Hill to walk to Reed. Their parents were able to shop, visit, and volunteer at Reed.

Changes in the 1980s

In 1982 the Westover Shopping Center was renovated. Shoppers now walked on brick pavements. The Westover Market, the post office and the Lebanese Taverna were enlarged. The Black Forest Inn and the bakery were moved closer to the drugstore and the gas station was removed from Washington Boulevard to make room for the post office addition. Both beauty shops ended up on the south side of the boulevard. The following year Mr. Quinn, who owned the shops on the south side, gave them a Victorian facade and moved space about to make room for the Lost Dog carry out and the Gourmet Deli Shop. At this time the shopping district along Washington Boulevard acquired the name, *Westover Village*.

On the 21st of April Westover Village was officially dedicated with a ribbon-cutting by Ellen Bozman, representing the county board, and Jack Jones, who owns the north side of the strip. The *Northern Virginia Sun* carried a full page spread commemorating the occasion: "With the theme, 'We Take Time To Care,' Westover Village kicked off its grand opening celebration Thursday. Sponsored by the Westover Business Association, the three-day festival featured clowns, jugglers, marching bands, cheerleaders, antique cars and puppeteers. Demonstrations and exhibits were put on by Arlington Hospital, Arlington County fire and police departments and the Arlington County Schools."⁷ The Preston King branch of the post office was not included in the celebration. It celebrated completion of the new building in 1995. Shortly after the gala celebration, the school

board announced that Reed School would close in 1984, even though Reed's enrollment surpassed any of the nearby schools: 267 in K-6, 100 Montessori pupils and bused-in ACAP toddlers — a total of 400 children.

A petition signed by more than 1000 residents was presented to the school board; the increased enrollment in the coming year was noted. On April 21, 1983, the president of the Westover Village Business Association, Jim Morgan, wrote to Evelyn Syphax, chair of the school board (copy to Walter Frankland, chair, county board); paragraph 2 reads: "With more than one million dollars invested by our landlord, our merchants and our County government in revitalizing Westover as a model family shopping center, it makes no sense to us to recommend destroying the very institution that had drawn so many families with young children to the neighborhood." Several parents of the PTA (backed by four civic associations) filed an unsuccessful law suit against the school board.

Parents were promised that the children would be bused into three schools — each with only about 200 students. All the Reed children could not fit into three schools!

No further renovation was done to Westover Village until 1998 when the market was modernized by its new owners.



Preston King branch post office

Courtesy of Roger Morton

I-66

The year 1982 marked the completion of I-66 which covers a portion of Four Mile Run. Although the location of I-66 had been approved in 1959 by the Federal Bureau of Public Roads, work on the section in northern Virginia began in 1977. There were groups in Arlington County that objected to I-66 on several grounds. A six-lane highway with train tracks in the middle was unacceptable. After many meetings and several lawsuits, Secretary of Transportation Coleman reached a compromise with the activists. The segment of I-66 passing through Arlington would be a four-lane highway with no truck traffic allowed.⁸

In the Westover area, where so many streams and runs were under asphalt, Four Mile Run was the last refuge for raccoons and other small wildlife. During construction of the Four Mile Run segment, the highway engineers had frequent consultations with Art Vogel, president, and Waltern Dryer, past president, of HP-OK regarding sound barriers, plantings, the Ohio Street overpass and other matters of community preference.

Residents had to cope with the displaced wildlife that found its way into their attics, chimneys and back yards. It was a difficult time for all - animals and humans. Many neighborhood homes display brick walks and brick steps, souvenirs from I-66 and the houses that were destroyed in its wake. Demolition teams started selling the bricks for five or ten cents apiece but toward the end they gave them away to residents who loaded bricks into the trunks of their cars and drove them off the properties.

Affordable Housing

The Westover Apartments were among the most affordable in the county. Rentals remained firm in the 1970s when double-digit inflation was running wild. There was always a waiting list for the charming duplex apartments, located on the north side of Longfellow and Washington Boulevard. The complex was owned by B'nai Brith in Ohio. Early in 1986 the Arlington Housing Corporation, a non-profit group, bought the complex, paying more than the market value. The purchase, residents were told at a meeting in the Swanson cafeteria (which was filled to capacity), would keep the units from being converted into condominiums by a developer. The community was very vocal in opposing the move. AHC has since purchased another apartment house, Ashton House, in the Westover area in 1991.

Minor renovations to the kitchens, addition of window air-conditioners, and repainting of apartments tripled the original rental prices. While the renovations were in progress some residents had to move out of their apartments. Vacancies replaced waiting lists.³

Another non-profit group, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, formed by Joe Wholey, Tom Leckey and others, purchased two of the Westover

apartment houses in 1991. Another two were bought in 1995. The four apartment houses are named for Joseph Fisher I, II, III, and IV. Joseph Fisher was a member of the County Board from 1963-1974.

Some People

The Febreys were active in the community in the 1800s. Nicholas signed a non-retrocession petition in 1846. John had a tuition schoolhouse on his property and later served as a Superintendent of Alexandria's country schools. Henry held office in 1865-67 and from 1872-73 served as the Washington District representative on the board of supervisors. He was a justice of the peace of Alexandria County, he was a captain in the 175th Regiment of the 2nd Division of Virginia militia, he served as a trustee and steward of Dulin Chapel M.E. South Church of Falls Church and as Superintendent of the Sunday School.⁹

From June 30, 1892-July 1, 1893 William N. Febrey represented the Washington District on the board of supervisors. He was elected again to the board of supervisors in 1904-07 and re-elected in 1908 to 1911 when he was chairman of the board.¹⁰

In the decades between 1937 and 1962 a large percentage of the population in Westover Village consisted of military personnel assigned to Fort Myer, the Pentagon or the Navy Annex. During those years only 30% of the students remained at Reed for the full six years of schooling. By 1973, the number of students who attended Reed for five years or more was 69%. As more housing opened up in Fairfax when the farms were sold to developers the Reed school area became more stable.¹¹

In 1946 a Reed parent, Alice Mintz, was involved in the creation of CCSI (Citizens' Committee for School Improvement) which achieved an elected school board for Arlington County in 1947. James Stockard, a former Reed PTA president, was elected and served on the school board from 1956-67. He was the last elected school board member at a time (1947-56) when Arlington was the only jurisdiction in Virginia given permission to elect its school board.

The Committee of 100 was conceived in 1956 by Lyle Bryant, who settled in the Highland Park-Overlee Knolls area when he came to Arlington. James Almand, Esq., Arlington's long time delegate to the state legislature, was a Reed student. At least seven teachers who taught at Reed resided within the boundaries of Highland Park-Overlee Knolls and another seven were in the school system as teachers, librarians and administrators. Garnet Jex, a prominent local artist, lived in the Overlee part of the area from 1937 until his death in 1979. His sunny painting of children walking to Reed was an inspiration to all as it hung in the school's corridor from 1959-1984.

This is a sampling of citizens who contributed their expertise and time to

create Westover Village. As the century comes to a close, we find that many residents opt to remain in the houses where they spent their childhoods. They add extensions or renovate according to their present needs. Those with larger lots often subdivide, allowing new homes to be built for families in search of a friendly small town like Westover Village.

Notes

Sophie Vogel resides in the home she and her husband, Arthur, bought in the Highland Park-Overlee Knolls area in 1953. Both were actively involved in the community: she as librarian/media specialist at Reed School; Arthur served on the County Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee and as a trustee for the School Board Employees' Supplemental Retirement System. He was appointed by the school board to the Committee to Review Purchasing Policy and the Ad Hoc Committee on Construction and several other school and county committees. Mrs. Vogel was appointed to the county and the schools telecommunications committees when she retired and now edits the *AHS Newsletter*. Terri Gawen contributed information to this article. Roger Morton is president of the Highland Park-Overlee Knolls Civic Association. The maps in the article are from *Highland Park-Overlee Knolls Neighborhood Conservation Program*. Additional information may be found in:

Eric Christenson, *The History of Arlington Public Schools, 1979-1995*.

Arlington Public Schools, 1996. Overlee Community Association, Inc. 1992 Manual, *History of Overlee Reed Elementary School, "A Brief History of Reed," in Parents Handbook, 1973-74*.

References

- ¹ Arthur Vogel, *Highland Park-Overlee Knolls Neighborhood Conservation Program* (Arlington: Planning Division, Arlington County Department of Community Affairs, 1982), p.3.
- ² Dorothy Ellis Lee, *A History of Arlington County, Virginia* (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1946), p. 126.
- ³ C.B. Rose, Jr., *Arlington County, Virginia, A History* (Baltimore: Arlington Historical Society, 1976), p. 86.
- ⁴ Ames W. Williams, *The Washington and Old Dominion Railroad* (Arlington: Arlington Historical Society, 1989), p. 43.
- ⁵ In response to an article on *Fostoria* by Linda Wheeler in the *Washington Post*, 11/13/93, this writer received a call from Fostoria, Ohio initiated by Neil Murray, who was writing a biography of Charles Foster, U.S. Congressman and Secretary of the Treasury, 1891-92 under President Harrison. Foster was interested in railroads (Washington, Ohio & Western owned the railroad when the Fostoria Land and Development Company bought the property). Murray suspected that Charles Foster may have been involved in the Land Development Company. Fostoria, Ohio was named after his family.
- ⁶ *Highland Park-Overlee Knolls Neighborhood Conservation Program*, p. 3.
- ⁷ *Northern Virginia Sun*, April 21, 1982, p. 7.
- ⁸ Sherman Pratt, *Arlington County, Virginia, A Modern History* (Chelsea, MI: BookCrafters, 1997), pp. 238-254.
- ⁹ Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Arlington Heritage: Vignettes of a Virginia County* (New York: Avenel Books, 1959), p. 96.
- ¹⁰ Arlington Historical Society Research and Records Committee, "County Officials in Arlington, 1870-1960," *The Arlington Historical Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 3, October 1967, p. 42.
- ¹¹ Reed Elementary School, *Self-Study Report, 1975-76*. Arlington Public Schools, pp. 9-10.