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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

## SEVENTY HOMES ESCAPE TAXES, COUNTY FINDS

Coughlan, Karn Urge General Reassessment.

Revelation that some seventy properties, totalling in value approximately \$100,000, have escaped the tax assessor in Montgomery County, some for as long as ten years, has lent emphasis to the demands of county heads that a general reassessment of real estate be held this year.

The property which has been added to the assessable basis of the county in the past two years included one garage building valued at \$9,000 in the heart of the business district of Silver Spring, it was revealed by County Commissioner Paul M. Coughlan.

Commissioner Coughlan pointed to the discoveries as proof of his contention that a general reassessment is necessary for the county in order that assessments may be equalized and inequalities in taxation abolished. He stated that a recent tax survey disclosed that approximately \$20,000,000 should be added to the county taxable basis if such a reassessment is held.

The commissioner declared that the entire commercial area of Silver Spring is assessed at \$850,000 while the increase in population in that area since 1927 when the last general assessment was held has boosted property values to between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000.

"I hope the tax rate won't have to be raised, but even if it should be absolutely necessary I would be against it until a reassessment has been made, I believe a reassessment would bring in enough new taxes to make increasing the rate unnecessary."

Coughlan's demand for a general reassessment was echoed by Frank H. Karn, president of the Board of County Commissioners, who said that most, if not all, of the county commissioners favor such a reassessment to discover escaped properties and readjust assessments made before the building boom of the past decade had increased values, especially in the suburban areas of the county.

"I believe a new assessment is needed in the county to readjust property values, which are far from what they were in 1927," Karn said.

"Some of the farm assessments would have to be lowered, but the majority of changes would be graded upward. Some of the commercial property near the District Line is selling at six or seven times its assessed value."

The County Board has already gone on record in favor of a reassessment, and had advised the county's delegation in the Legislature to oppose the bill postponing the State-wide property reassessment, Karn explained.

## Cabin John 4-H Club Elects

Perry Baker was elected president of the recently organized 4-H Club of Cabin John at the first meeting held in the home of Allan P. Sadtler. Philip Sadtler was elected vice-president; Warren Marshall, secretary; Vernon Richetts, treasurer, and Edward Allen, sergeant-at-arms. Albert A. A. Dy, assistant county farm agent, will address a meeting of the club today at the Sadtler home. Establishment of a community garden will be discussed.

## Modern Recording System Is Asked By Park Body

Modernization of the recording of property transfers in the rapidly growing metropolitan area of Montgomery County through use of lot and block numbers instead of the present system of recording by metes and bounds, which has been abandoned by most of the progressive cities and counties of the country, is provided for in a bill to be presented this week by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Walter W. Dawson, counsel for the Planning Commission, conferred Friday with Senator Stedman Prescott at Annapolis regarding the proposed change. Dawson also urged legislation changing the present fixed \$25 fee for drawing subdivision maps for recording in the office of the clerk of the circuit court to a sliding scale ranging from \$15 to \$75, in accordance with the size of the plat.

Appointment of Macon G. Williams of Grantsville, Md., as field representative in charge of the Social Security Board field office at Cumberland, Md., was announced today by G. R. Parker, Regional Director, Region IV, which includes Maryland, the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

## The Public and The Press



From the Buffalo Evening News.  
European Racketeers



From the San Francisco Chronicle.  
If Practice Becomes Universal



From the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.  
Vox Pop Speaking

## Montgomery At The Legislature

Two Montgomery County bills have been enacted by the General Assembly and have been placed on Governor Nice's desk for signature.

One provides that the state's attorney for Montgomery County shall have the authority to appoint a stenographer for his office at a salary of \$80 a month.

The second bill, which was sponsored by Miss Ruth Shoemaker, prohibits children under sixteen from discharging firearms in Montgomery County except when supervised by adults, hunting game in season or shooting at licensed ranges, skeet or clay pigeon ranges.

Retention by Montgomery County of interest and other handling charges in delinquent taxes collected by the county for special taxing areas is provided in a bill which has been introduced in the General Assembly. The charges collected would be paid into general county funds.

T. Yellott Canby, delegation chairman, said that the legislators felt that since the county bears the costs of collection it should be compensated partly by retention of the extra charges.

Pay increases are provided for Montgomery County policemen in a bill which has been introduced in the House of Delegates by the county delegation. The chief of police would receive an increase of \$500 annually and each other member of the department \$300 annually under terms of the bill.

The bill is not made mandatory, but confers the power of granting the increases upon the Montgomery County Commissioners. The commissioners must grant increases to all members of the force or not at all, however.

## SANDY SPRING FARMERS OPPOSE PACKING COUNT

Heated debate over the proposal of President Roosevelt to increase the membership of the Supreme Court ended the sixty-fifth annual Farmers' Convention of Sandy Spring, Md., last week in Sherwood High School at Sandy Spring.

Alan Farquhar introduced the resolution opposing the court change plan. The meeting was thrown into an uproar when Eugene B. Casey, of Gaithersburg, rose and told the gathering that President Roosevelt was the only President who had ever kept his promise to the farmers and "if you discredit him now, you place the farmer back where politicians can give him what they please."

A cut-and-dried vote indorsing the resolution had been expected, but the actual vote showed forty-seven for the resolution and forty-two favoring the President's plan.

The convention also adopted a resolution urging the Montgomery County Civic Federation to take action on a resolution now pending in the federation which favors a referendum on the adoption of the county charter form of government. Entry of the county health department in the United States Chamber of Commerce health contest was indorsed.

Col. George H. Calvert, Jr., president of the Maryland Society of Washington, will address the monthly meeting of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants, District of Columbia, next Wednesday night at the old Union Engine House.

Colonel Calvert will take for his subject "The Founders of Maryland and the Early History of the Province of Maryland."

## SEPARATION OF RURAL AND SUBURBAN COUNTY SECTIONS ADVISED

Consolidation of Montgomery County's thirty-one taxing areas and separation of the suburban and rural sections for tax purposes were urged in an address by William Paul Walker, University of Maryland economic expert, before the Kensington Chamber of Commerce last week.

Walker said that the various special taxing areas and incorporated towns of the county should be eliminated and all placed under the county government. He declared that Montgomery County's \$1.98 per capita administration cost is the largest in the State.

The speaker denied that the county is in desperate financial plight. "Montgomery County has all the possible wealth to support an elaborate governmental program," he said, but declared that these costs can be pruned considerably.

He urged consideration of the county manager form of government; a general reassessment which would be continuously alterable to meet changing conditions; reduction of the county debt by retirement of maturing bonds instead of refunding; limiting new bond issues to short terms to save long time interest, and dividing the county into two sections, rural and suburban, with a different tax rate for each section.

The Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution opposing diversion of gasoline taxes to any other purpose than roads and urging the Maryland General Assembly to provide legislation prohibiting such diversion through a Constitutional Amendment.

## ROOSEVELT INVITED TO CARROLL FETE

President Roosevelt has been invited to attend the opening of the State and nation-wide celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, September 20th, at Baltimore. The invitation was extended by the Charles Carroll Commission, of which Senator Tydings and Representative Cole are members.

Congress has appropriated \$12,500 for Federal participation in the celebration.

## UPHAM, ALLEN ADDRESS CLUB

Diversion of gasoline tax funds threatens the Maryland highway system with obsolescence, Charles M. Upham, consulting engineer of the Maryland State Road Commission, declared at the monthly meeting of the Young Men's Democratic Club of Silver Spring, in the Jesup Blair Community House.

The speaker warned that diversion of gas taxes to the extent proposed by Governor Nice in his budget message to the Legislature not only will endanger the present highway system but will result in the State losing between \$500,000 and \$800,000 in Federal road grant funds.

Sharing the speaking platform with Upham was Wilton T. Allen, park commissioner of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who described the county park system which he said now covers approximately 1,200 acres.

Charles M. Irelan, Jr., president of the club, presided over the meeting.

## Refunding Power To Commissioners

The Montgomery County Commissioners would be empowered to refund bonds amounting to \$693,000 maturing in the next two years under terms of a bill which has been introduced in the House of Delegates by the county delegation.

The bill is not mandatory, but permits the commissioners to refund, provided the refunding bonds are sold at not less than par and with interest not to exceed six per cent and that the bonds are redeemable within 30 years. Authority to levy general taxes for debt service also would be conferred upon the commissioners by the terms of the bill.

## CHARTER CHANGES ARE FORMULATED FOR KENSINGTON

Several changes in the town charter are proposed in a bill to be sent to the General Assembly by the Town Council of Kensington. Under its terms the Mayor and members of the Council must be freeholders and the former 30 years old and Councilmen 25.

The Council has asked the County Commissioners to provide at least one policeman to serve in Kensington at all times and has written to Dr. Edwin W. Broome, County Superintendent of Schools, asking status of the plans for a junior high school in the town.

The town fathers indorsed the action of the Municipal League of Montgomery County in favoring direct payment of lateral road gasoline tax funds to towns and opposing diversion of gasoline taxes to any purpose other than road building. Councilman Edwin A. Noyes was named delegate and Councilmen Raymond Burgdorf and Robert Lewis, alternates, to the Municipal League to represent the town.

## Redeemer Chapel Stages Pageant

A religious pageant was staged at the Chapel of the Redeemer, Glen Echo, Md., Sunday, February 28th, under the direction of the Rev. M. Mills Perkins. The prelude, "Land of Hope and Glory" was played by E. Elgar, this was followed by an address by the Rector, Rev. M. Mills Perkins on "Loyalty to national and spiritual ideals." Thirty of the junior members of the church participated in flag ceremonies and later formed the cast of the religious and patriotic pageant which was staged in six parts. Miss M. M. Taylor was soloist, singing the "Recessional."

This is the second pageant given in the Chapel this winter, the first being at Christmas. The next or third pageant will be given shortly after Easter, "The Christian Hymns of the Nation."

## TROOP 237 GETS FLAG

Col. Tench Tilghman Chapter, D. A. R., has presented an American Flag to Boy Scout Troop 237 of Chevy Chase. The presentation was made Friday night by Mrs. Franklin Getzendanner, regent, who was accompanied by Mrs. Richard Cunningham and Mrs. E. W. Offutt, members of the committee which arranged for the flag presentation. The troop, recently organized, is under leadership of Scoutmaster William G. Fox and Lacey F. Rickey.

## KENNEDY WANTS STATE ROADS INVESTIGATED

Full investigation of purchases of equipment by the Maryland State Roads Commission will be asked in the General Assembly by Senator Raymond E. Kennedy, Democrat, of Baltimore, he has announced. The investigation would cover the purchases from the funds in the 1936-1937 budget.

The investigation, Kennedy said, would bear particularly upon the recent purchase of forty trucks at a cost of \$49,800. The senator also viewed with suspicion the move to re-create the purchasing department of the roads commission which was abolished by the 1935 session of the General Assembly and its duties transferred to the Central Purchasing Bureau.

The roads commission asks \$600,000 in the budget now before the Legislature for purchase of new equipment. Senator Kennedy said he had data showing that John McCool, son of State Librarian John McCool, Cecil County Republican politician, had been renting trucks to the roads commission since October, 1936, and had received as much as \$4,400 a month under this arrangement. His investigation also is planned to inquire into this aspect of the roads body's dealings.

"I have learned," Senator Kennedy said, "that the State Roads Commission, for some inexplicable reason, hired a firm of private engineers, the name of which I have, to draw up specifications for the purchase of forty trucks recently acquired."

"I found out that this engineering firm was engaged after the commission had, with its own personnel, submitted specifications to the Central Purchasing Bureau that were unsatisfactory to that department."

"It is my information that the specifications of the engineering firm were so drawn that the chassis of only one make truck would fit them."

"There were two bids offered—one by the makers of the type of truck purchased and one by another firm that could not meet specifications. I have the names and data on the negotiations in both instances."

"This matter is of such a nature that I feel fully justified in asking the Senate, by resolution, to provide for an investigation of State roads purchases, especially these trucks, and for an inquiry into State officials, paid by the State, who are doing contract business with the State Roads Commission."

"Further, the 1935 Legislature abolished the purchasing department that formerly had operated in the State Roads Commission, but in the budget at hand we find provision for the hiring of a purchasing agent at \$3,000 a year and an assistant and a secretary at \$1,200. The purchases made under the 1935 change, are made through the Central Purchasing Bureau."

## COUNTY RELIEF SITUATION MAY BE ADJUSTED

Possibility that Montgomery County's muddled relief situation will be straightened out was voiced in a letter from J. Milton Patterson, executive secretary of the Maryland League of State Aid and Charities, received Tuesday by Frank H. Karn, president of the Montgomery County Commissioners.

Failure of P. Ray Souder, supervisor of county aid, to send estimates to the State board, resulted in the county being left out of the budget estimates of the State board. The county faces the possibility of having to raise more than \$30,000 for relief work.

Karn wrote to Patterson when it was found the county was not included in the budget, and asked status of Montgomery County. Discovery that the county was left out was made by Miss Ruth Shoemaker, member of the House of Delegates, who wrote to Karn and asked why the county had not forwarded an estimate.

Patterson wrote that he had received a letter from Miss Dorothy A. Everson, executive secretary of the county welfare board, which contained an estimate but that the letter arrived February 6th after he had sent the budget to the General Assembly.

Patterson asked that the county submit regular reports through the welfare board, declaring that this would be very helpful.

Andrew M. Newman, deputy clerk to the county commissioners for Bethesda, has been named a member of the Chevy Chase Fire Board by the citizens committee of Martin's Addition, Chevy Chase, Md.