

# Renovators plan a home, not a shrine

By HEILAINE PATTERSON  
Staff Reporter

Some believe that whoever moves out of a house leaves something behind which becomes part of its history.

The Robert E. McMullins certainly have found this to be true while renovating the 18th Century Surgeon Lawrence Brooke house at 303 Caroline St.

In the course of their hard work, they've discovered a feather-stoned brick walk that was covered by concrete, oil paintings, bottles, a fork and other items.

Tearing off a front porch, the McMullins found a stone stoop and a portion of the brick sidewalk. By knocking out a concrete walk, they unearthed the sunken bricks. Ironically, McMullins said, he had planned to lay a brick entrance walk.

They also discovered scenic oil paintings on four door panels and a more unusual one, a rat hole painted on an upstairs baseboard.

The paintings are signed by W. Hazard, 1886, whose family had owned the house for some 30 years during the 19th century, McMullins said.

While working on a rear addition that will include a kitchen, pantry, and master bedroom, the McMullins found the old bottles, three sugar shells, a three-tonged bone-handled fork—all remnants of previous house dwellers. "It makes you belong a little more to the house," Mrs. McMullins says.

Their project, returning the exterior of its original manner and renovating the interior, is the first they've undertaken. The house was selected after a 12-year search in different parts of the state.

"It's going to be a home and not a shrine," emphasized Mrs. McMullins, who added they are looking forward to living in town.

Fredericksburg is a marvelous town in which to raise children, says Mrs. McMullins, who explained that they will no longer be dependent on an

automobile for transportation in the city since they can either bike or walk to the library, schools, movies and stores.

Their four children, who range in age from 5 to 19 years, are excited about moving into the oldest section of the city. They have lived in Braehead Woods for 3½ years but are renting another house on Caroline Street until their restoration is finished sometime around Christmas.

The children have pitched in enthusiastically and their friends have given time too, Mrs. McMullins says. About 20 of them

took every bit of plaster out of the house, she added.

Losing a contractor forced them to do more work themselves. A number of appearances before the City Board of Historic Building slowed them. Since the house falls within the bounds of the city's 40-block historic sector and was constructed prior to 1870, exterior changes had to be approved by the board.

McMullins, who has done the bulk of the work on weekends and evenings, since the construction start in March, commutes to Alexandria where he works. "Fredericksburg has everything to offer to make it worthwhile to commute," he said.

Removing and rebuilding two sets of chimneys so fireplaces on both floors would work has been a major task. Salvaged mantels will be repaired and replaced and new wiring and plumbing will be installed.

The original chair rails and wide plank flooring in the hallway will be refurbished, Mrs. McMullins says. An arch on the center hall and most of the original woodwork has been retained and will be coated with fresh paint.

The family prefers colonial furnishing using reproductions and family pieces, complimenting the house's exterior.

The house, believed to have been built in 1759, still possesses many original beaded boards with some custom-made to match the original siding.

The McMullins will paint the exterior Ludwell tenement gold, trimmed with bisque and Palace Arms red shutters. Square cedar shakes will be used on the roof to cover sections of old roof timbers that show Roman numerals, marking the point where they were joined with hand-bewn nails.

Three dormer windows were changed by replacing the triangular-shaped forms on the top of the dormers with gently sloping roofs, fixed on dormers set into the gabled roof. Front windows with small panes will be returned to the house, matching those on side walls.

Historical records show that Lawrence Brooke, the inhabitant who gave the house its identity, practiced medicine in Fredericksburg for 11 years. He rented the simple frame dwelling in 1782 and 1783 from Dr. Chas. Mortimer. Most of the homes along the street were built for rental to people of substantial means. At the time Brooke lived in the city, he was one of 22 doctors serving the port town, Mrs. McMullins said.

A Spotsylvania County native, Brooke began studying medicine at Edinburgh College, but interrupted his education to sail on John Paul Jones' "Bon Homme Richard," taking part in the celebrated battle between Jones' ship and the "Serapis" of the northeast coast of England in 1779.

Brooke returned to school, this time at the Parisian Medicinal University where he earned an M. D. degree in 1783. In August of that year he began practicing medicine at Smithfield, his Spotsylvania birthplace, and by 1792 had moved into the city.

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Robert E. McMullins restore Surgeon Lawrence Brooke house.

Staff photo by Barry Fitzgerald

## Boyfriend is a joker

Dear Ann Landers: My boyfriend is marvelous—but he's nuts. His "practical jokes" drive me up the wall. Sometimes he'll wear a black patch (Moshe Dayan style) over one eye, just to attract attention. Or, he'll show up with his arm in a sling, his head bandaged, or on crutches. Last summer when I was away on vacation he sent me a telegram saying he was in the hospital, very ill—so I rushed home. He met me at the airport and shouted, "April Fool!" (The date was actually August 16.)

In June he grew half a moustache. It looked ridiculous. I refused to kiss him until he shaved it off. He kept the blamed thing for nearly a month. Last night he tried to pay the restaurant bill with "funny money." He had it printed with his picture instead of Alexander Hamilton's. The restaurant manager nearly punched him in the mouth.

They got into a fight and I was so embarrassed I left without him.

Deep down he's a very sweet guy and he'd do anything in the world for me but I'm afraid to marry him because he's such a loon. I'd like your advice.—Offagala Onagala

Dear Offa: He sound too flaky for the long haul. If you do marry him, better buy some rubber-soled gym shoes and prepare for a lifetime of wall-climbing.

Dear Ann Landers: How does one find love again? I've been divorced ten years and during that time I've had sex with hundreds of women. I've been hopping from bed to bed hoping to find someone I can really care about. So far, it hasn't happened.

During this time three women have fallen in love with me, including the girl I am going with now. But I just can't return her love. I feel lonely and empty. She wants to get married. I'd like to marry again, but I don't feel that she's the one I want to spend the rest of my life with.

Is there something wrong with me? Are my standards too high? Am I looking for something

A Lovelier You

## Four reducing rules

By MARY SUE MILLER

A reducing Lovely writes: A neighbor claims she lost weight by eating hard boiled eggs and cottage cheese at luncheon. So I added one hard egg and ½ cup of cottage cheese to my luncheon menu. I have not lost, but gained. Can you explain this?

The Answer: The word "added" is probably the key to your problem. You should substitute the egg and cottage cheese for other foods. One hard egg and 5 tablespoons of cottage cheese total 177 calories. With it you may have a slice of melba toast and a piece of raw fruit. Those two items bring up the count to 300 calories—the ideal number for a dieter's luncheon.

The reasons why an egg and cottage cheese are recommended to weight watchers are their relatively low count and very high nutritional value. They also have sufficient bulk to satisfy the appetite. And right there you have three rules for successful dieting.

Reducers write constantly about foods and liquids that are

reputed to take off weight, but do not work out when tried. A teen, for instance, heard that water-cress was low in calories, so she placed a few sprigs in her hero sandwiches. Result? Nyet.

The foremost dieting rule is: Know what you go about. As a start, get a calorie counter and a nutrition chart.



POCKET CALORIE COUNTER

Do you really know the calorie counts of the foods you eat? Our leaflet, POCKET CALORIE COUNTER, tells the score at a glance. It also gives a diet plan—a way to eat and slim. For your copy, write to Mary Sue Miller, care of this newspaper, enclosing a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and 15 cents in coin.

Birth of twins

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wayne Shelton of 3504 Lafayette Blvd. announce the birth of their first children, twin boys, Michael Alvin and Kenneth Wayne, born Sept. 8 at Mary Washington

## Vision screening program

A free vision screening program for pre-schoolers has been planned in the city and three area counties during October and November.

The program, which seeks to detect danger signals signaling an eye problem, is being sponsored by the Virginia Society for the Prevention of Blindness and coordinated locally by the Junior Woman's Club of Fredericksburg.

An estimated 2,500 public and private kindergarten students age 3 to 6 in the city, Stafford, Spotsylvania and King George, will be tested by trained volunteers through a series of games to determine eye difficulties. Parents will be informed should their child exhibit a vision problem and corrective measures will be encouraged.

The Junior Woman's Club hopes to sponsor a similar program in the spring for non-kindergarten children in that age bracket.

Some 40 volunteers representing area women's clubs are expected to become certified as eye screeners. Others wishing to volunteer may call Mrs. Todd Repass, regional coordinator for the program, at



AP wirephoto

## Julie's new job

Julie Nixon Eisenhower has begun work as a \$10,000-a-year assistant editor of the Curtis Publishing Co. of Indianapolis. The President's daughter, who has a master's degree in education and worked previously as a teacher, will spend most of her time editing children's materials for the firm's four youth magazines: Jack and Jill, Child's Life, Children's Playmate and Young World. She also will work on children's books and television programs the firm is developing and will assist in plans to expand the revitalized Saturday Evening Post.

## Polio victim becomes television reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The wistful 8-year-old who was the 1959 national poster girl for the March of Dimes has grown up to become an award-winning television reporter and Oklahoma

crutches, but they have not stopped her career.

She has served as anchorman for WKY-TV's midnight news, cohost for its weekly "Dialogue '73" and newscaster