

# GEORGETOWN TODAY OBSERVES CANAL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

## Pageant Will Describe Ceremony of Century Ago, Inaugurating Project.

### WILFLEY TO PERSONIFY JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

## At Night There Will Be Choral Celebration and Illumination on Aqueduct Bridge.

Time will turn backward a century today when the one hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal will be celebrated with a pageant under the direction of the Progressive Citizens Association of Georgetown, assisted by the Community Center Department. President John Quincy Adams again will accept the golden spade from Gen. Mercer, president of the canal company, and again will turn the soil which signaled the inauguration of the canal project.

The historic features of that memorable day will be reenacted with absolute fidelity, the committee in charge of the pageant declares. Many will be reenacting the parts taken by their ancestors in the inauguration of the canal.

The centenary celebration will be held on the banks of the canal near the District line, just above Chain Bridge.

#### Embarkation of Adams.

Outstanding events in the program will include the embarkation of President John Quincy Adams, portrayed by the Rev. Earl Wilfley, and his escort at Wisconsin avenue and K street on United States Navy launches for the trip up the river to Fletcher's boathouse, followed by a regatta of decorated private yachts. This will be at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon. The party will disembark at 4 o'clock at Fletcher's and embark on canal boats to be drawn up the canal by Army mules to the historic spot. The Marine Band will head this cortege in a canal boat. At 4:30 o'clock the party will leave the boats and take places at the ceremonials to be observed.

The Mayor of Georgetown, portrayed by Leslie J. Lelper, will present the golden spade to Gen. Mercer, played by John Prangle, who, in turn, will present it to President Adams. The President then will spade out a quantity of soil. The speeches made on that historic occasion will be repeated by the proxies. Then will follow the presentation to President Adams by Gen. Mercer of the first tow boy on the canal.

Dances will be executed by the Capital Society, Children of the American Revolution, headed by Mrs. Henry Fenno Sawtelle; the Gov. Thomas Welles Society, C. A. R., of which Mrs. Clayton Emig is president; the Georgetown and Thomson Community Centers, of which Miss Marjorie Schuster is director, and the East Washington Community Center, directed by Miss Judy Lyeth.

#### Fireworks on Program.

At 5 o'clock a fireworks and aerial demonstration will take place. The committee in charge includes John Arnold Cannon, Brig. Gen. J. E. Fechet, chief of the Army Air Corps; Assistant Secretary of the Navy in Charge of Aeronautics, Edward P. Warner, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce William P. MacCracken.

The aircraft program will include a fireworks display, with six salutes, and the spreading of the American flag across the skies, attack and pursuit evolutions by Army planes, and acrobatic stunts by the Navy and Marine planes and commercial planes.

Those portrayed in the pageant and the persons who play the roles follow: President John Quincy Adams, the Rev. Earl Wilfley; Gen. Mercer, president of the canal company, John Prangle; Mayor of Georgetown, Leslie J. Lelper; Mayor of Alexandria, Wilson Dawson;

Hon. Andrew Stewart, Dr. Andrew Stewart; Mayor of Washington, Harry English; Mr. Rush, Secretary of the Treasury, Harold Snyder; Gen. Porter, Secretary of War, John Davenport Long; Mr. Southard, Secretary of the Navy, Curtis Prangle; Mr. McLean, the Postmaster General, Charles Edward Polley; U. S. Senator J. S. Johnson, Odell Senart; Hon. Bouligny, Thomas McKeever; Mr. Washington, representative in Congress, Joseph McKeever; the first towboy, W. E. Grimshaw. Members of the diplomatic corps at that time as well as respectable citizens will also be portrayed.

#### Old Songs to Be Repeated.

Songs that were sung at the first turning of the soil will be repeated by the Palisades Chorus, led by Mrs. Ruth McCloskey.

At 8 o'clock in the evening a choral celebration will be held at old Aqueduct Bridge, to be participated in by the Federation of Choirs, led by Miss Virginia Williams; the Burleigh singers, led by Miss Williams; the Coleridge Taylor Choral Society, directed by Alfred H. Johnson, director of music for divisions 10 to 13 of the public schools; the Birney community chorus, augmented by the junior choir of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, directed by Edna Gordon Dockings. The committee in charge of the evening chorals includes: Lieut. Col. West Hamilton, Mrs. Gabrielle Pelham, George Beason, J. Townsend Beason and Mrs. Anna Murray. The Potomac Electric Power Co. has furnished the lighting for the evening event, directed by Harold Snyder.

Mrs. Margaret Hopkins Worrell will represent the Columbia Heights Citizens' Association in the pageant; George T. Bowman will represent the Mid-city Citizens' Association.

Boy Scouts will act as ushers at the ceremonies. Those who wish to follow the progress of the pageant along the canal can do so on Canal road according to Mrs. Fred T. Dubois, president of the Progressive Citizens' Association. Street car and bus service to the scene of the ceremonies has been arranged for.