

# The Rambler

... Strolls in  
Foggy Bottom

By GEORGE KENNEDY

The Rambler dismissed his driver yesterday and took a walk in the old gashouse district.

An immaculate marble building, modern on classic lines, stands in the block where Pete Daley's goats were wont to graze when released from their pen behind his saloon on the corner. It is the home office of the Peoples Life Insurance Co.

The Potomac Plaza, a large modern, co-operative apartment building stands on Virginia avenue just northwest of the intersection with New Hampshire. It is a frankly modern, steel constructed building. It stands on stilts.

Near it at Twenty-fourth and G streets a very interesting modern building, almost all glass on one side, is approaching completion.

It is being built for the American Association of University Women.

And the news is that a Roman real estate firm has taken option on eight acres along the river.

In his stroll the Rambler stopped in a construction office, a rather elaborate temporary shack, and had the good luck to meet Royce Ward, the president of Hegeman-Harris, one of the largest construction companies. His home office is in New York.

Hegeman - Harris built Rockefeller Center in New York and many other skyscrapers in New York.

This caller ventured that Foggy Bottom was jumping.

"Jumping!" said Mr. Ward, a slender, keen but pleasant sort of a person. "That's an understatement. This is the liveliest place in America outside of Cape Canaveral."

Asked why it took so long, he said:

"Things were held up until it was determined just where the inner loop freeway was to go. As you know various plans for the development of the property owned by the Washington Gas Light Co. in this area have been announced since the war.

"This Italian option is the real thing. It's a very old company and it has done some spectacular construction in European cities.

"I have a call in for Nicolas Salgo, their representative in New York. Why don't you talk to him when I get through?"

In a few minutes the Rambler found himself talking to Mr. Salgo who told him that the Roman real estate firm he represents was indeed an old one, having been started in 1862 while Rome was still ruled by the Pope.

"And it still has the same name it started with," said Mr. Salgo. "It is Societa Generele Immobiliere di Lavori, di Utilite Pubblica ed Agricola.

"They have built a great many buildings in Rome, Milan and Turin. Recently they built a large apartment building in Paris.

"They are associated in the construction of the Hilton hotel in Rome which will be known as the Cavalieri Hilton.

"The first building they will construct will be an apartment building at Twenty-fourth and H streets. The architecture will be a modern type that will show continental influence."

The Rambler resumed his stroll and at the northeast corner of Twenty-fourth and G streets met a man coming out of a house perched several feet above the street.

It was an attractive little house, a rectangular solid surrounded by trees and the little terrace on the south side was thick with iris.

Asked if this house was to go in the rebuilding of Foggy Bottom, he said:

"I hope not. I was born here. Sixteen Cavanaugh's were born here."

He was Thomas R. J. Cavanaugh, a man in his 60s who had fought in the 42nd or Rainbow Division in 1918 under Maj. Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

"I was a boy when they built the gas plant here and erected the tanks," he said. "I remember how frightened I was of the sparks the ironworkers would make.

"This neighborhood was all Irish and German. The Irish would trade with Irish grocery stores and the Germans with German. They had their own bakeries.

"Come along now and I'll show you the Braddock Rock where Gen. Edward Braddock landed on his way from Alexandria to Fort Duquesne.

"If I hadn't pointed it out, they'd have built the new bridge right over it."