

Cleveland Park, Old and New

CLEVELAND, From C1

In 1863, Forrest's original 900 acres were subdivided and the area became a summer spa of manor houses for wealthy Washingtonians seeking relief from the heat of the city.

Among the sweltering townsmen was President Grover Cleveland, who found the White House "a monotonous residence," according to one account of the period, because of his "confinement to its four walls and the almost constant visits of place hunters and anxious officers."

Cleveland's Choice

Thus, in 1886, "the President drove about on a prospecting tour, and a modest little gray stone house on high ground, from the front of which an extensive view of the hills of Virginia, the Potomac River and the Capitol was obtainable, arrested his attention. After some negotiations it was purchased for him at a cost of \$21,500 and the deed was registered in his name."

The account added: "On such days as those . . . when the city is sweltering and work in the White House is out of the question, he believes he can go to the broad hall and, seated at a table over which the unobstructed breeze has full play, devote himself uninterruptedly to a good deal of serious business which would be difficult to expedite in the White House, open as it is from morning until night to every person who chooses to call."

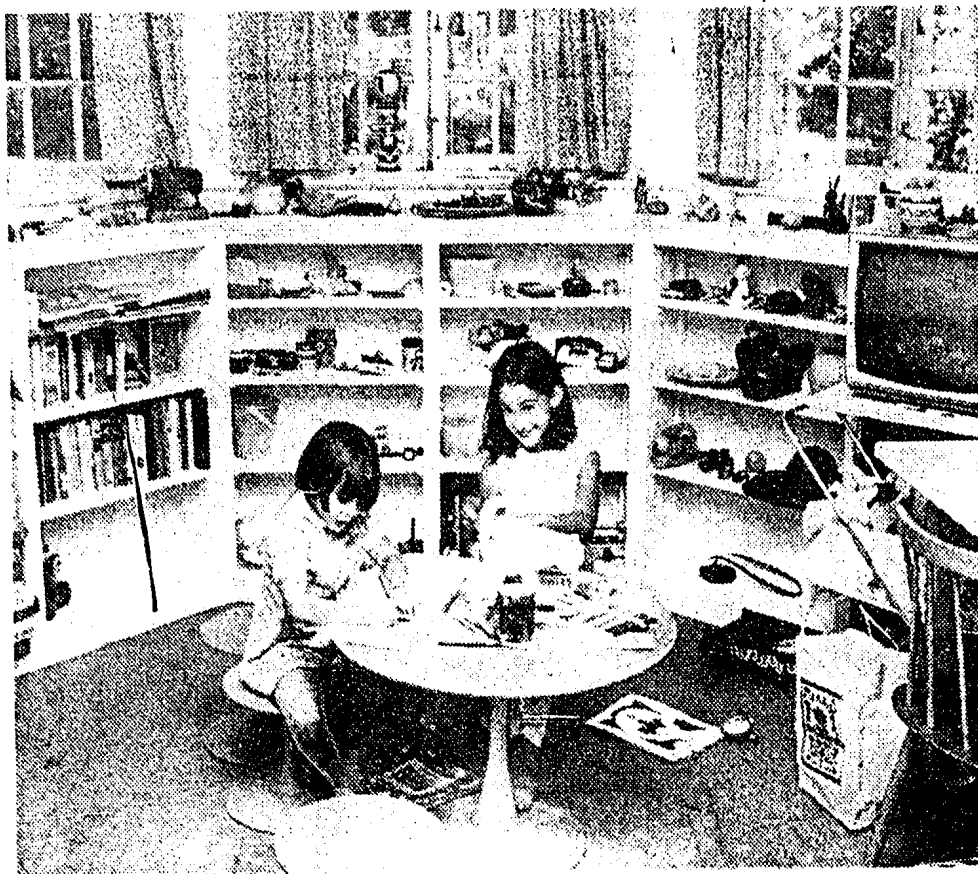
Far From "Modest"

Although Cleveland's "Red Top," as he called the house at what is now Newark and 35th Streets, might have been a "modest little gray stone" home in his day, it was nothing of the sort by today's standards. Pictures of the now-demolished structure show it to have been a rather amazing-looking affair, almost surrounded by double-deck masonry porches with multiple arches. With its mansard roof and pinnacles that seemed to call for flying pennants, the house typified the gay summer hotel architecture of the late 19th century.

Whatever the esthetic considerations of the house, Cleveland apparently had as keen an eye for a good investment as he is reputed to have had for the ladies.

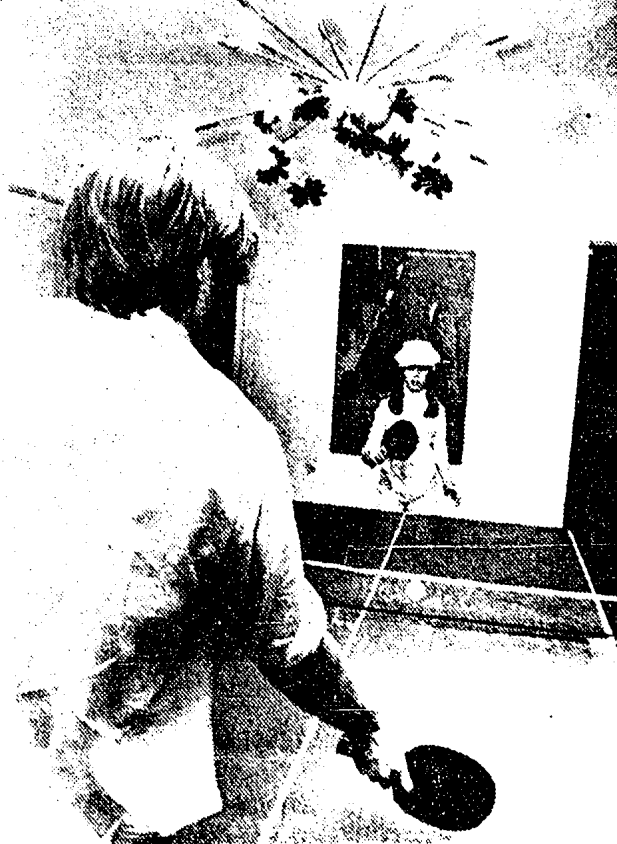
Thus, seven years after he paid \$21,500 for the house in the neighborhood that would later bear his name, Cleveland sold Red Top for \$140,000.

Three-quarters of a century later, Nicholas Kazenbach would turn much the same trick down the street.



The Scheman family playroom used to be the living room. Remodeling cost \$25,000.

By Jim McNamara—The Washington Post



Everett and Kathleen Shorey play table tennis.

By Jim McNamara—The Washington Post