

# THE CARILLON CIVIC ASSOCIATION



## **Carillon History and Fun Facts**

--provided by Beth O'Leary for past newsletter editions

### **The Marburg Property**

The oldest standing residence in the Carillon neighborhood is the ca. 1889 farmhouse located at 3020 Rugby Road on the corner of Bute Lane. Originally comprising 1 ¼ acres, the land was carved out of a much larger estate, "Beechwood Farm," in 1888 and sold by Richmond Dairy Co. owner, Thomas L. Blanton, to Charles Euker. In short time, Euker and his wife, Augusta, built their new country residence and named it "Marburg" after the German city from which Euker, his father, and three brothers emigrated in the 1850s. Euker served as an officer in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and afterwards gained prominence as the respected owner of a downtown saloon, pool and billiard hall. A popular member of the Richmond Horse Guards, he appeared frequently as a dignitary at Richmond events. By 1905, Euker had sold Marburg and, at age 65, took a position as commandant of the Old Confederate Soldiers' Home on the Boulevard. He died there two years later.

Marburg was subsequently purchased by a series of individuals including tobacco magnate Tazewell Carrington (in residence 1923-36) and Benjamin and Anne Dennis (1936-65), who, according to their granddaughter Debbie, planted the property's commanding boxwoods. The late J. Watts and Elizabeth Vermillion called Marburg home after 1965. Their son, Lucian, resides there today.

### **A Marker and a Mystery**

Near the south end of Sunset Lane stands this small enigmatic obelisk marked: "C. L. 1908." A survey of period Richmond papers suggests that could indicate the city limits in 1908. But why here and why then?

It wasn't until 1914 that the present-day Carillon neighborhood was annexed by the City from Henrico County. The earlier 1906 annexation ended at the western edge of Byrd Park. Tyler Potterfield, author of *Nonesuch Place: A History of the Richmond Landscape*, proposes that the marker did originally mark the city boundary in 1908 and may have been repurposed and relocated to do the same after 1914, despite the date. In 1908, the street was sometimes called the Beltline Road in reference to the nearby "Beltline Railroad." After 1914 it was referred to as Spruce Street; after 1924 as Nelson Street; and finally beginning in 1928, it became Sunset Lane.

### **Historic Arches**

The CCA archives has just acquired an original 1932 aerial photo of the Carillon dedication. A close-up detail confirms that the brick piers, eagle-topped arches, half-circle benches, and community marker at the corner of Sunset Ave. and Rugby Rd. were already in place. They were likely erected in the late 1920s when that section of the neighborhood—then called William Byrd Parkway—was developed.

### **A "Moving" Blast from the Past**

Last October 15<sup>th</sup> marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Carillon as a memorial to Virginians who served in World War I. The tower opened with great fanfare, including a grand parade that processed from the State Capitol to Byrd Park. Today you can enjoy a fun three-minute movie clip online, showing some of the 1932 pageantry, by clicking [here](#).