

short time since that Saturday last spring when this spot boasted merely the foundation for the beautiful structure which henceforth will serve as Hagerstown's seat of Municipal Government.

That such a building has become necessary is evidence, if evidence were needed, of the continued and continuing growth of the City. Such growth inevitably brings with it a broadening of administrative control, and causes many more of our citizens to transact business before your officials, your Boards and Commissions. The prime purpose of these functionaries is to afford the residents of your City speedy and effective service in contrast to the more deliberate methods of other branches of government. And so this building, the seat of your local government, will facilitate, and help to simplify, administrative functioning and procedure.

Life moves fast in this great Nation of ours, so comparatively youthful as opposed to the older countries of Europe. Realization of how far we've come from that by-gone day a century and three-quarters ago when Jonathan Hager first founded a little settlement, which was to bear his name, comes quickly to mind when one glances at the picture of Hagerstown's first City Hall—a picture with which all of you, I am sure, are familiar.

Tiny it was, and its circumscribed second floor, served both as a City Hall for Hagerstown, and a Court Room for Washington County, while the comparatively open space below was used not only as a market, but also as a hitching post, and even as a whipping post. As a memory and a link with the past, it is to be treasured, indeed. Hagerstown now is equipped for the use of its local Government, as well as any city of its size, and I think the citizens of Hagerstown owe a tribute of praise to the vision and foresight that made this new City Hall possible.

It is particularly fortunate that this building should be provided just at this time, for I believe that it is possible to predict safely that Hagerstown will welcome within the years to come many more visitors than have passed through its borders up to this time.

It seems that we Marylanders now fully appreciate what a splendid heritage we have in our great State. As the newly created Maryland State Publicity Commission has decided to publicize in its slogan, Maryland is indeed an "America in Miniature" blest as are few other states in this great country of ours with every type of physical advantage. As I say, we have just begun fully to appreciate this fact, but having once realized it, we intend to do our utmost to acquaint many thousands of our fellow Americans with the unmatched advantages our State has to offer.

In and around Hagerstown there are so many historical spots, that the City is very properly included in one of the major scenic tours now being portrayed by the Maryland Publicity Commission. As a State, we have been far too backward in the discussion of Maryland's contribution to the history and culture of our Country.

As we stand here this afternoon, happy participants in these interesting ceremonies, I wonder how many of us stop to give a thought to what such occasions as these mean to us here in America. We have but to remember the headlines that have greeted us in our daily papers these many months to come to the full and consoling realization that we, as Americans, enjoy blessings of peace and liberty, such as are vouchsafed at the present time to few other peoples in the world. While we are gathered here dedicating this splendid