

Fees, Photograph Mix-Up Mar Mansion's Inspection

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Annapolis, Oct. 15 — A family from Beltsville drove to this historic city today to see the remodeled Governor's mansion, which they thought was open to the public.

It was not—unless you wanted to pay \$3.50 for a tour sponsored by Historic Annapolis, Inc.

The State recently spent more than \$300,000 renovating the house.

"We're a little angry, putting it mildly," said Mrs. Patricia McCauley, as the family walked away.

"We'd like to go in," added her husband, W. D. McCauley, "but for three-and-a-half — it's not worth it."

Had To Pay

Meanwhile, the press, which also had to pay the admission fee, was fighting its own battle. Mrs. Agnew, the First Lady, had called from New York to order that no pictures of the refurbished rooms open to public view be taken.

A photographer observed to Mrs. Howard A. Keith, the president of Historic Annapolis, that others on the tour took cameras into the mansion. Yes, she said,

but they were not taking pictures.

"Oh, yeah?" said a man who had just come out of the mansion. "You ought to see my little sister's roll of film."

Once inside, the press photographer walked up to a State trooper and asked if he could take photographs. Sure, said the trooper.

Historic Houses

Mrs. Agnew, who with her husband was in New York today preparing to leave for a trip to the Virgin Islands, had allowed Historic Annapolis to add the mansion, Government House, to the list of historic houses on the tour.

Mrs. Keith told one man who brought his family from Baltimore to see the executive residence that it was a special tour and questioned whether he would let people simply walk through his own house.

"If the public paid for my

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house, I would," the Baltimorean, Joseph F. Foehrkolb, of 409 Gusryan street, answered.

A family from South Carolina, who, passing through Annapolis, had wanted to see the mansion, decided not to pay the \$3.50 ticket for each of its five members.

Howard R. Hunt, of 905 Wellington road, Baltimore, said he was "disappointed," and the family decided not to go into the mansion. "They spent a quarter of a million dollars of our money," he said as they walked away.

Several families were under the impression—but were not told at the gate — that they would have to pay \$3.50 for each child. It was learned later, however, that those under 10 got in free.

Cost \$10.50

That means that it would have cost the Foehrkolb family \$10.50 for the whole family, including their 14-year-old son, to visit the mansion.

Some people just shrugged their shoulders and paid the money.

"We didn't know we needed them," Ralph F. Daffin, of 1216 Landington avenue, Catonsville, said, referring to the required tickets.

Mrs. Keith, meanwhile, had this to say:

Salt Of The Earth

"The people who are going in here today are having a lovely time. The people going in here today are just nice, salt-of-the-earth people.

"People who come to you and say, I have a right to go in there—they don't have a right to go into a man's home."

Several visitors said they heard of the "open house" on

the radio but added that no admission charge was announced.

Mrs. Keith said of the house:

"It doesn't look any different than it did before—except it's clean—and they moved some of the furniture around."

"Any Woman Would"

She said a Rembrandt Peale painting was moved from the State dining room to the hall. Mrs. Agnew, she went on, had moved furniture around "as any woman would do."

Most of the work, she noted, was in renewing plumbing, wiring and the elevator, and installing a fire sprinkler system.

Seven of the 54 rooms in Government House were open for the tour.

Visitors were told that groups could arrange tours throughout the year, by making reservations, and the tours would be free of charge. The traditional open house on New Year's Day will also be held as usual.