

# Renovation For Agnew Speeded

## Governor's House May Be Finished Ahead Of Schedule

[Annapolis Bureau of THE SUN]

Annapolis, June 29—Although the interior of Government House now resembles the scene of a small but intense battle, Governor Agnew may be able to return to his 99-year-old mansion sooner than expected.

The target date for completing the \$235,000 remodeling and renovation of the Governor's residence is September 1, but officials connected with the job said today that the work is running ahead of schedule.

Governor Agnew is living on the State yacht, Maryland Lady—formerly the Governor Tawes—while his family is staying at an Ocean City cottage which the Chief Executive visits on weekends.

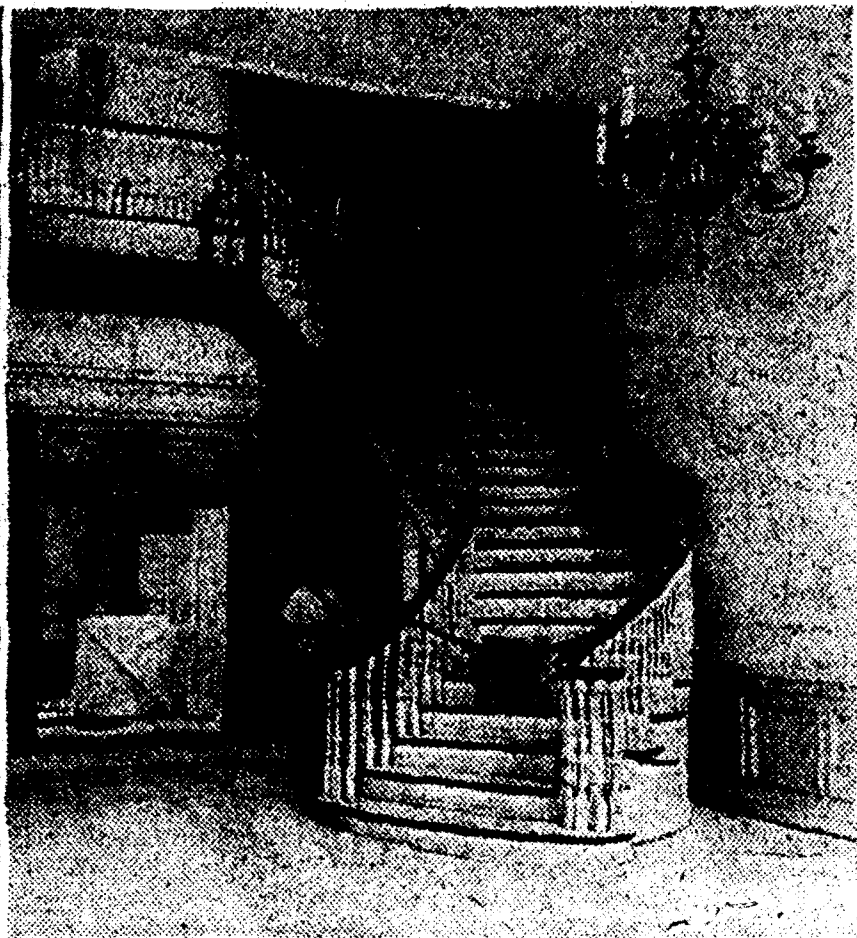
Inside the stately mansion, dust and plaster swirl as some 35 workmen rip holes in walls, pull up flooring and cut huge caverns to accommodate shiny sheet metal ducts.

Ernest Craven, the mechanical superintendent on the job, said today that his workmen are "about two weeks" ahead of their timetable for installing the 22,000 B.T.U. air conditioning system, renovating the heating plant and fitting new water pipes in many parts of the mansion.

That the project is proceeding faster than expected was confirmed by George R. Lewis, director of the Maryland Department of Public Improvements, and John L. Knott, president of the Baltimore firm performing the work.

Neither man, however, would specifically say just how far ahead the project is.

"We're sort of superstitious in



**AHEAD OF SCHEDULE** — Fred Schoennagel works in the Governor's Mansion in Annapolis, where refurbishing work is about two weeks further along than had been expected.

the building business," Mr. Knott commented. "Everytime you brag about being ahead, something happens to set you back."

While all of the work is being performed on the interior of the three-story mansion, the project will leave its mark outside of the building.

In back, among the plants and shrubs in the garden, will repose two large green compressors for the new air conditioning system, which is replacing what Mr. Craven calls "an old wartime chilling unit."

Except for places where plaster is being gouged away for ducts and new electric wiring, most of the mansion is remaining structurally intact.

A major exception is the

second-floor master bath, whose marble slab walls were completely removed to permit reconstruction with modern plumbing units, a shower and a sauna bath.

When the project is completed, persons familiar with Government House may have the feeling that there is something different about many of the rooms on the second floor.

The feeling will be real, because most rooms are having false ceilings installed which lower their height almost 2 feet. The bogus ceilings are required to hide the ducts and pipes serving the air conditioner.

In many restorations on old mansions, workmen, as they rip and tear, encounter buried relics of bygone days. Government House has been relatively unproductive so far.

The earliest known specimens are two "Cigarros" cigar boxes bearing 1929 tax stamps found by Mr. Craven beneath the tile floor of the master bath.

Another dateable find came when the wallpaper was removed from the servants' stairwell between the first and second floors. Scribbled in pencil is the inscription: "Papered by O. Schildwachter and T. Cullington, May 24, 1940."