

Always, the Paul Coopers' library was open to visiting scholars. Paul, Jr.'s, interests were less literary than his father's, but they were perhaps more scholarly and critical. In scholarship, he was a great stickler for accuracy—perhaps a carryover from his scientific training. He was an indispensable guide to visiting scholars writing about James Fenimore or William Cooper. One recent visitor, Alan Taylor of Boston University, who had spent a week in Cooperstown in 1988 researching William Cooper, wrote afterwards, 'I could not have advanced my project so swiftly, without Paul Cooper's thoughtful advice.'

Paul was an eccentric in the best sense of the word—totally dedicated to his interests, following them wherever they led him, which in his case was to the very ends of the earth. As at home as he was in the Arctic or the upstate New York of this century, he would have been welcome, too, in the England of Newton or Herschel, or fitted into the New England of Emerson or the Lowells.

Henry S. F. Cooper, Jr.

#### CARLISLE H. HUMELSINE

Carl Humelsine was one of the legendary achievers. He was built in the heroic mold, though paradoxically he was a perfect, discreet committee man. The conjunction of dynamic executive and assiduous bureaucrat produced an unusual equilibration. For many, his death at seventy-three on January 26, 1989, leaves a gap in their lives.

A native of Hagerstown, Maryland, he had ascended dramatically within a few years of graduation from the University of Maryland in 1937. He joined Gen. George C. Marshall's staff during World War II and by war's end was a colonel and had played a role at Malta, Yalta, and Potsdam. He was then twenty-nine. He subsequently entered the State Department, becoming the youngest assistant secretary and deputy under-secretary in that depart-

ment's history, serving secretaries of state Byrnes, Marshall, Acheson, and Dulles.

In 1953, at the age of forty-seven, he accepted the post of executive vice-president and resident officer of Colonial Williamsburg. He became president five years later and held that position for almost twenty years. He subsequently became chairman and later joined Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., as chairmen emeriti of the foundation. During these years, he led the foundation forcefully and imaginatively, until it was recognized as one of the leading history museums and preservation organizations in the world. During these years, too, he brought his experience and remarkable skills to an ever-widening circle of cultural organizations—to trustee and periodic chairman roles at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Mariners' Museum, the National Geographic Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Gallery of Art. He was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society in 1971. At the semiannual meeting of the Society in April 1973 at Williamsburg, Carl hosted a reception for members at Carter's Grove. A great many other endeavors, permanent and commercial such as United Virginia Bank, or impermanent and philanthropic, like the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, benefited from his sage advice, sound strategy, and clear vision of the essential.

Given his indoctrination in the Army and the State Department, it is not surprising that he was unusually attentive to hierarchy and its manifold subtleties. His exercise of it periodically produced responses that puzzled him. Yet he was sensitive and compassionate, understanding the needs of an extremely wide range of personalities and engendering deep loyalties.

It was not unusual for him to assume a posture of rustic benignity, self-effacing to a fault. This was partially inbred and partially acquired, but was far from reality. He was surprisingly complex and could be amazingly subtle. His skills in weaving through conflict-laden situations, leaving them full of resolution and har-

mony, were second to none in my own experience. I recall numerous occasions on which I slowly became aware that accord was replacing discord as the prevailing mood, primarily due to Carl's great tact and finesse.

He lived well and enjoyed his prerogatives to the full. Yet he also gave of himself most generously and unstintingly. He committed himself with energy and passion to the high-minded principles of the organizations he served. Yet he was nothing if not practical and knew the inescapable need for high idealism to achieve a compromise with fluctuating realities in order to survive.

Carl was brilliant with detail, when the occasion called for it, for he knew that in unremitting attention to detail lay the perception of quality—the hallmark of the best individuals and institutions with whom and with which he was fortunate to associate. His grasp of strategy was also sound, and often far superior to that of his colleagues. And he had the gift of being able to communicate on these distinct subjects within the hour (as one contemporary cited with a certain grudging admiration) to either 'redneck or royalty.'

About Colonial Williamsburg Carl cared deeply and passionately, though sometimes this was veiled with apparent diffidence. His imprint on that large, diverse organization is huge. His legacy can also be seen in the range of major enterprises that are the better for his having contributed to them his remarkable skills and abilities.

Carl held honorary degrees from the College of William and Mary, Hampden-Sydney College, Rutgers University, as well as from his alma mater.

He is survived by his wife, the former Mary Speake, two daughters, Mary Carlisle (Mrs. Thomas K. Norment, Jr.) of Williamsburg and Barbara Anne (Mrs. Roger T. Harmon) of Roswell, Georgia, and four grandchildren.

Graham Hood

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