

# Charles Cooke Dies; Wrote for New Yorker

Charles Harris Cooke, 73, a former contributing book reviewer and writer for the Washington Star, and former staff writer for The New Yorker magazine, died Tuesday at his home in Cooperstown, N.Y., after a heart attack.

Cooke began writing for the New Yorker in 1930 and, during his 12 years there, wrote for the "Talk of the Town" column.

He once was asked how he managed to land a job at the magazine, which had a reputation for being a difficult place to get work.

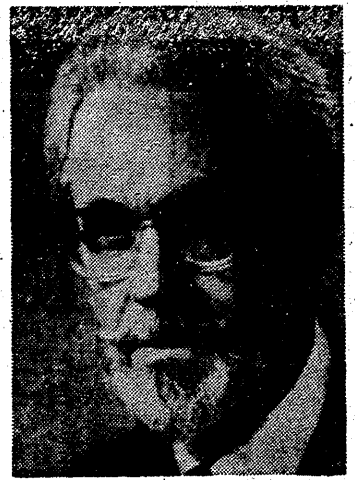
"I got my start there sending in news breaks . . . the little squibs with the comment," he said in an interview with the Georgetown in 1968. "I sent in such a blizzard of them that they hired me in self defense."

Cooke described his duties there as writing "almost all the music stories, circus stories and opera stories and screwball stories. I was Vice President in charge of screwballs."

He worked closely with James Thurber, who wrote about Cooke in a chapter of his book, "Talk of the Town," that "No other reporter equalled his energy or came close to his output."

Cooke left the New Yorker in 1942, and enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the age of 38. He went through basic training and, as a lieutenant assigned to the intelligence division, was the first editor of the Air Intelligence Digest.

Cooke retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel and became a speech writer and researcher for several government agencies here, including the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Health,



CHARLES HARRIS COOKE Book reviewer for The Star

Education and Welfare and the United States Public Health Service. He worked with the Surgeon General in the early 1960s on an investigation of the harmful effects of tobacco smoking.

In the late 1950s, he began contributing book reviews and feature articles to The Star. He moved back to his hometown, Cooperstown, N.Y., in 1970, and continued to write for the Star for two more years.

Cooke also wrote several books, among them a guide to home piano playing, "Playing the Piano for Pleasure," published in 1941. His wife, Anne, said yesterday that Cooke was still receiving fan mail about the book three days before he died.

## Alma Gaines Ramsay

Alma Gaines Ramsay, 83, a former public relations specialist for the American Red Cross, died Wednesday in Staunton, Va. of a heart attack. She lived on Rock Spring Road in Arlington.

Before coming to the area in 1935, she worked as a reporter with the Richmond Evening Journal and the Richmond Virginian.

She had also worked for 12 years in the Richmond Department of Statutory Research and Drafting, where she followed legislation for national reporting services.

In 1940 Mrs. Ramsay was a member of the Virginia Committee of 100, which was formed to campaign for the re-election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

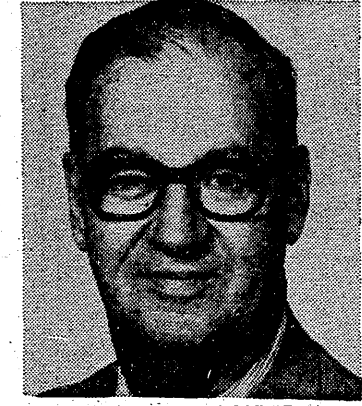
In 1941 she was elected chairman of the Arlington County Utilities Commission, of which she had formerly been secretary.

Also in that year, Mrs. Ramsay was appointed as a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Council of Defense and was secretary of the Arlington Women's Democratic Club.

She was a member of the Organized Women Voters Club of Arlington, and the Rock Spring Congregational Church and had headed the revenue and expenditures committee of the Arlington County Civic Federation.

She leaves two sons, Andrew C. and Walter G., both of Annapolis, a daughter, Jeanne R. Bunyan, of Kawai, Hawaii; a sister, Marian Madrin, of Mechanicsville, Va.; and 10 grandchildren.

Services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Rock Spring Congregational Church, 5010 Little Falls Road in Arlington.



DAVID A. COHEN Owned supply firm

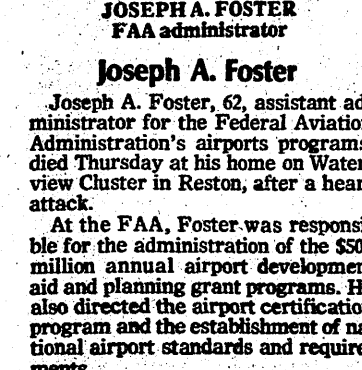
David A. Cohen, 77, creator of the furniture polish "Endust" and founder of Daycon Products Co. Inc., a Washington-based janitorial supply firm, died Wednesday at Suburban Hospital, after a heart attack. He lived on New Mexico Avenue N.W.

Cohen developed the furniture polish in 1959, and sold it to American Manetta Corp.

He was born in New York City, and was raised in Lynchburg and Roanoke, Va. In 1938, he moved to the District.

He founded Daycon in 1941. He leaves his wife, Esther; two sons, Robert, of Potomac, Md., and Gerald, of Alexandria; two sisters, a brother and two grandchildren.

The family suggests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the United Jewish Appeal.



JOSEPH A. FOSTER FAA administrator

Joseph A. Foster, 62, assistant administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration's airports programs, died Thursday at his home on Water-view Cluster in Reston, after a heart attack.

At the FAA, Foster was responsible for the administration of the \$300 million annual airport development aid and planning grant programs. He also directed the airport certification program and the establishment of national airport standards and requirements.

Before joining the FAA here in 1976, Foster long had been director of aviation for the City of Houston, a job he had left in 1967 and then returned to in 1969 after spending two years as vice president of airport facilities for the Air Transport Association of America in Washington.

Foster, a native of Little Rock, Ark., held degrees from Sam Houston State University and the South Texas College of Law.

He leaves his wife, Patricia; a daughter, Joni, of Blacksburg, Va.; and a son, Erle, of Kansas City, Mo.

Hortense L. Amram Hortense L. Amram, 89, one of the first women to serve in the U.S. Army, died Oct. 8 at the Bryn Mawr Terrace Nursing Home in Philadelphia, where she had lived since 1974.

During World War I she was a telephone operator at General Pershing's headquarters at Chaumont, France.

She leaves two stepsons, Philip W. of the District, and David W., of Philadelphia; a stepdaughter, Elmor A. Naham of Philadelphia, and a brother.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. at the Robert A. Pungary Funeral Home, 7557 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, with burial in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

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## Cards of Thanks

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