

1 April 1948

Mr. Jack Carper
Director of Public Relations
Virginia Military Institute
Lexington, Va.

Dear Podner:

Attached herewith is a draft of the VMI band piece. It's sorta rough and I'd appreciate any revision you give it, including a graf on the VMI band.

I feel rather corny today and so didn't attempt a color lead on the story. There may be a good angle in the fact that W&L-VMI relations, traditionally shaky, are reaching a new high degree of amity as evidenced by the VMI band's acceptance to play for the convention. Whatcha think?

Also enclosed is my standard mock convention mailing list for your use. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT as we need it back as soon as you've used it. Compiling the list took considerable trouble and it would break my soul in twain to lose it. Let me know your postage and other costs incident to getting out the story and I shall be pleased to repay you the stamps and envelopes, etc.

Thanks, Bub.

Yer buddy,

Lea Booth

FOR: AM's of Thursday or Friday,
April 8 or 9. (at your convenience)

LEXINGTON, Va., Apr. 00--Virginia Military Institute's _____-piece military band had accepted an invitation from neighboring Washington and Lee University to serve as official musical organization for the W. & L. mock Republican national convention April 20-21.

The Cadet musicians will lead the pre-convention parade through the streets of this college community as a preliminary to the conclave opening in Convention Hall (Doremus Gymnasium) on the W&L campus, and later will provide music for the series of demonstrations which the collegiate politicians will stage during the two-day conclave.

While the conventions are designed in all seriousness, as in past such affairs the political pyrotechnics will be intermingled with a round of frivolity during early convention goings-on. The convention hall will be scene of the usual parades and demonstrations for boosters of each Republican candidate whose name is placed before the convention as a possible G.O.P. standard bearer in the November presidential elections. The V.M.I. band will lend the musical touch wherever needed in the convention's color scheme.

Major objective of the mock affair is to select the Republican party's "nominee" for president and vice-president of the United States. With two exceptions the convention has been a quadrennial event at Washington and Lee since 1908. Five out of eight mock convention "nominees" have been confirmed in the real party conventions which followed.

The appearance of the VMI band will mark the first participation by Cadets in the W&L student's political show.....etc.

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