

The Big Picture – Alexandria: City of Understanding

Sergeant Stuart Queen: There is today, an increasing awareness among Americans, that preservation of our way of life requires constant vigilance. We accept heavier military budgets as the price for that vigilance. At the same time we can offer a greater willingness to understand the problems of our protecting services.

On the personal side too, there has been a happy development; the citizen has come to recognize the military as a cross section of his own American neighbors. He also finds daily contributions made by the military to his community life. In turn, he has been welcoming the military man to a fuller participation in his own activities. Nowhere has this growing understanding and affection born happier results than in the city of Alexandria, Virginia.

Narrator: Georgian-brick buildings and quiet tree-shaded streets. Many of them built by Hessian soldiers after the Revolutionary War into Alexandria the imprint of history, history that dates back as far as 1635.

For its citizens of tomorrow, the latest in educational facilities recaptures the flavor of that past. Pride in history has not blurred vision. Today, the city has become a center for electronic research, a logical growth from an earlier industrial era, and an even earlier position as the agricultural market for Northern Virginia.

World Farmer's Market still stands in dramatic contrast. Behind rises the modern Georgian building that houses the city's municipal offices. Old and new are never far apart. Here George Washington recruited his first command, from its steps made his last public appearance. The old apothecary shop...