

meant by supervision? The law was in conflict with many rules of court, with many local laws, with the emotions and prejudices of officers and laymen alike in the counties.

In any case it soon became obvious that we were not equipped spiritually to take care of portraits, our shelves were not built for newspapers, we had no place for a library of printed books, nor did we have space for sharks' teeth, pieces of the *Peggy Stewart*, arrow heads and many other museum items not mentioned in the statute.

But we could pretty much fix our own policy except where others' rights or prerogatives were involved. This had to be determined to begin our work, and it was, in time, by clarifying laws, by opinions of the Attorney General to clarify the clarifying laws, by persuasion, by use of photocopying machines of various types and by just getting people used to an idea.

But the original Act was strongly biased in favor of historical records. No other reason for collecting records in one place was thought of at the time. Soon, however, the war in Europe made us think of duplicate copies, security copies, and we began the program of microfilming which has continued until this day. Still we were thinking of preserving the historical records, the thought of duplicating records so that there would be some to permit government to function after a disaster came long after that, at the beginning of the atomic era. And this step brought us by the back door into records management.

We had in the early forties begun to give officers of government authorization to destroy records. We had come full circle; created to preserve records we were now the agency and the only one in the state which could destroy them. What a change a decade had made!

By now we had eliminated certain non-archival functions included in the law. We had taken on some others: archival as for example becoming custodians of the records of all offices which became defunct, quasi-archival such as the building of a fine documents collection, and non-archival such as the editing and distributing of the MARYLAND MANUAL. In addition the members of our staff have assigned to them certain duties as individuals such as participation in the Maryland Historical Trust and the New York World's Fair.

But the addition which has been most important has been Records