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Town Topics

Their Home Inspired Jefferson

By Marie McNair

AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNG couple newly arrived in town are Count Mario di Valmarana and his American wife, Betty, daughter of Henderson Supplee, president of the Atlantic Refining Corp.



Mrs. McNair

Count di Valmarana is one of the several young architects here for Rome-based Societa Generale Immobiliare, one of Europe's largest real estate companies which is to put up Watergate Towne on the Potomac waterfront.

Yesterday, Count and Countess di Valmarana were introduced to a small group of Richard Pearson's young friends at cocktail time at his house in Georgetown.

Dick Pearson and Betty Valmarana have long been friends stemming from their Philadelphia days.

American-born Donna Julia Brambilla whose late husband was a member of one of Rome's most distinguished families found a lot to talk about in Italian with Count di Valmarana, bringing up names of families she knew when she lived in Italy.

The young Count's family palazzo, she said, was the inspiration for Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, in Charlottesville, Va.

Having finally got the green light on this five-building project which will be next to the John F. Kennedy

Center for the Performing Arts, Count and Countess di Valmarana are prepared for about a four- or five-year stay in Washington. They're living in Foggy Bottom now while searching for a Georgetown house.

Giuseppe Cecchi, project manager for Watergate Towne, said yesterday the first building to be started will be the cooperative apartment house. Already about a third of the apartments have been sold from floor plans. Sen. Wayne Morse is a purchaser, so is Mrs. Claire Chennault,

widow of the General of Flying Tiger fame.

Carter Brown, Assistant Director of the National Gallery, was there yesterday and with Colt de Wolf Jr. was his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Drucka-Lubecka, who has come to Washington to live and is a member of the secretarial staff at the Moroccan Embassy. Mrs. de Wolf was at home, ill with a cold, hoping she'll be well enough for her own party on Friday to be given for her sister.