

Boots, but No Saddle, Help in Raising Flag

By Jean White

Staff Reporter

As William McAinsh, Jr., tells it, a friend came up to him the other day and said:

"Bill, the funniest thing happened to me while driving down Virginia ave. the other day. I could have sworn that I saw you in hip boots in a pool raising a flag."

"I was," McAinsh replied.

And he was. If it's not McAinsh, there will be someone else in hip boots wading out in knee-deep water in the 30-by-30-foot pool in front of the Riverview Realty Co. office. It's the only way to get to the flagpoles to raise and lower the American and District of Columbia flags—except by bridge.

"Well, we tried that too," said G. V. Brenneman, sales manager, with the air of a man who has been through hell and low water over the pool. "I designed an aluminum bridge. But the hip boots

are easier than putting the bridge up and taking it down each time."

Riverview Realty is the sales agent for the Watergate development, the luxury apartment-hotel-office complex to be built on the Potomac riverfront. McAinsh, the property manager, has done his share of pool wading, although a janitor usually does the job now.

Now who would put a flagpole in the middle of a pool?

Well, it seems, there is an explanation.

The Italian designers first thought of a high jet spray, surrounded by four flagpoles (two for the Watergate colors). When they thought about the river winds blowing the mist, they put the poles in the midst of a pool with low jets. But no one reminded them that the American and District flag would have to be raised and lowered each day.