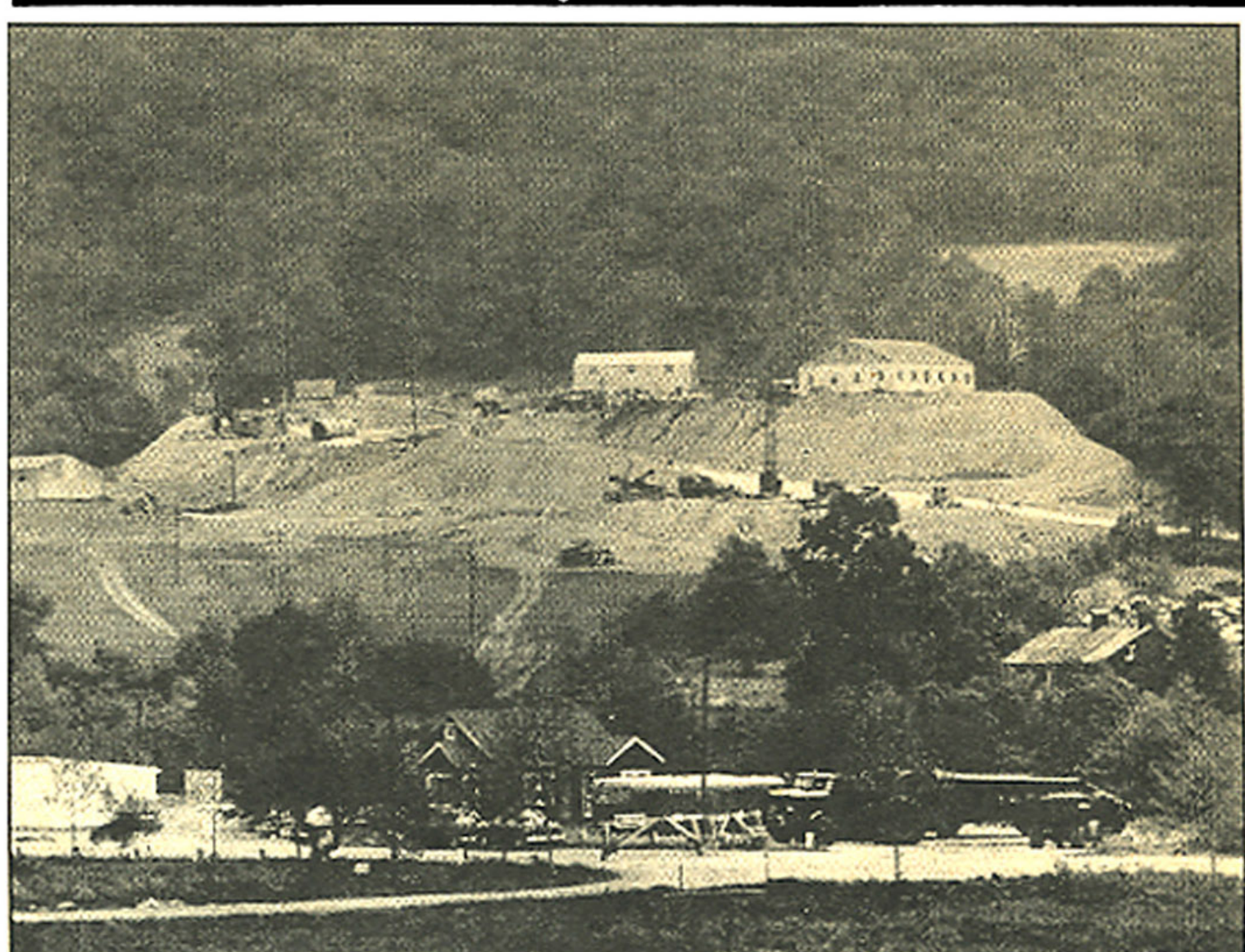
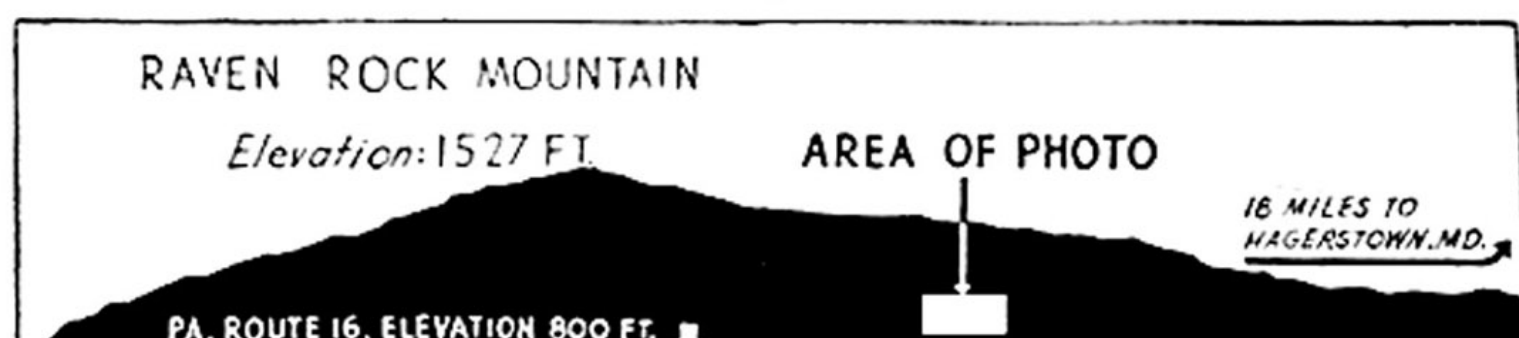


The brass hats go underground



Shadow Pentagon. There'll be a big hiding-place up there.

Pentagon No. 2 hides in a Pennsylvania mountain

In clear view of Pennsylvania Highway 16, the procession of heavy trucks waddled up the dusty, twisting mountain road, passed the guards' checkpoint—and disappeared.

In routine and unremarked fashion, they had entered what may be the most important hole-in-the-ground in the U.S.: the Defense Department's "Little Pentagon," about 18 miles northeast of Hagerstown, Md.

Quietly under construction since January, this restricted subterranean center is expected to be ready in seven or eight months to become the telecommunications hub of the free world. From three sides of Raven Rock Mountain, sandhogs working for P. J. Healy Co.—which built New York's celebrated Lincoln Tunnel—are drilling great tile-lined shafts, three shifts a day, seven days a week.

The finished chamber, according to local observers, will be 3,100 feet long, contain four suites for the top brass (the Joint Chiefs of Staff, among others), and provide operational quarters for some 1,200 technicians in peacetime, or 5,000 if atomic bombing threatens the Washington command.

Full-time Moles. Some of the personnel, it is believed, will have quarters underground; the majority will probably be housed at nearby Camp Ritchie, wartime military intelligence preserve. While rumors circulate of an express highway

Pentagon No. 2

to be bored the full 90 miles to Washington, Army surveyors more sensibly scour the area for airfield sites to protect and service the new base.

Considered important before, the "Little Pentagon" has gained added priority since the shelving last month by Congress of the General Services Administration's dispersal plan for the nation's capital. The GSA had urged erection of four satellite centers 15 to 20 miles from the District of Columbia, to house those vital to the Government's functioning. With this project knocked cold by economy-minded Senators, General George C. Marshall fell back last week upon emergency measures drawn up by the National Security Resources Board.

Scattered Civilians. "In the event of an attack which might destroy our facilities for operating at our present headquarters," Marshall warned the capital's 140,000 defense workers, "we must be prepared to operate at locations removed from Washington." He named 20 assembly points in the District and in adjacent Maryland and Virginia, where the workers would then be assigned to alternate headquarters.

These quarters, he admitted, "have been selected." He didn't name them. But it took little guesswork to conclude that the one permanent installation which would bind together these wide-sprawled, makeshift HQs would be the bombproof burrow hollowed out of Raven Rock.