

The Whistlestop

(A SPECIAL ISSUE PREPARED FOR BUSINESSES AND CLUBS)

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SOUTHWEST HERITAGE, INC.

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FUND NEARS \$520,000 AS BUSINESSES START DRIVE

Technical Advisers Guide Restoration Plans

Progress of Fund Encourages
Directors to Anticipate
Early Rebuilding

Under the able leadership of Harry Cunningham and his Restoration Committee, Southwest Heritage has gathered an experienced team of technical advisers to work closely in the renovation of the old Depot into a civic and cultural center. The advisory group of Robert E. Forsythe, Douglas R. G. Williams, Robert H. Tanner, and Leon B. Murray are assuming the job primarily as a public responsibility and a service to the community.

Architect Robert E. Forsythe, the initial selection made late in 1976, heads the team of experts who will synchronize their talents in the rebuilding project. A native of Ohio, Mr. Forsythe is now completing the preliminary drawings for the building which will be used by clubs and organizations of Collier County.

Forsythe is known for his design of the National Professional Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Other projects designed by him include the Belmont County Branch of Ohio University, Canton City Hall, the Main Post Office and Bliss Tower, also in Canton.

Forsythe graduated from Ohio University and is a member of the American Institute of Architects. He is President of Palm River Estates, a member of the Board of Directors of Naples Federal Savings and Loan Association. He has been the architect for their branch offices, the Vanderbilt Bank, the Naples Theatre, and several Port Royal residences.

Last January Douglas R. G. Williams, a retired industrial engineer now residing in Naples, was chosen to work closely with the architect in the engineering facets of the reconstruction. A graduate of Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, Dr. Williams brings to the job many years of experience in management in manufacturing. He has supervised the construction of industrial plants in all parts of the country. In 1956 he joined Echlin Manufacturing Company, located in Branford, Connecticut, and served as Vice President until his retirement in 1973.

He returned to Florida three years ago to become a resident. "We love Naples," he says, "and with my experience in engineering construction I am happy to contribute all I can to make the Depot a distinctive community center."

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Changes Made In Policy

The campaign committee of Southwest Heritage, Inc. has approved two basic changes which affect the recognition to be given to the business community in the forthcoming drive for funds to pay for and refurbish the Depot.

First, instead of having the names of shareholders of various levels merged with the list of personal contributors, there will be a separate plaque placed in the grand lobby for businesses and organizations. Through this plan those companies which have contributed a share or more will be easily identifiable. A similar separation of personal and business gifts will be followed in the Book of Recognition, which will carry names of all other donors to the Fund.

Second, since gifts-in-kind are just as appreciated as cash contributions, the Committee is encouraging businesses to give supplies and materials which will be needed in the reconstruction of the Depot. All parties weighing a possible gift-in-kind should communicate with Harry M. Cunningham, Vice President for Restoration.

Third, the Directors have endorsed the concept of a Board of Presidents composed of community leaders, whose functions would be to coordinate matters relating to the usage of the center.

Spring Phase Focuses On Working Community

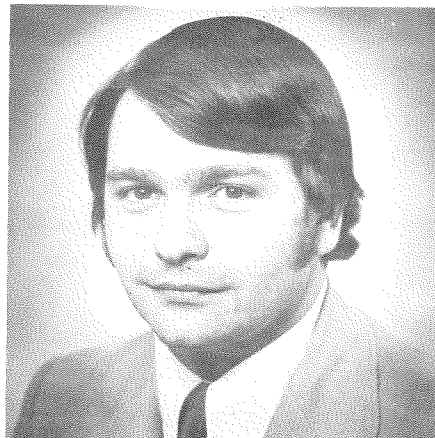
Leadership gifts in April lifted the Depot Fund to \$520,000 as the Business-Club Division initiated its spring thrust. Meanwhile, the Directors and volunteers seek to complete the winter visits and bring the campaign within striking distance of the high goal.

On May 10 fifty businessmen began the second half of this division. In a similar phase last spring, 65 pledges were secured totalling \$41,000. Thirty gifts reached or surpassed the share level of \$1000. When interviewed recently, Co-chairman Edward J. Oates, Jr. said, "After reviewing the prospect list, I am convinced that last year's level can be equalled or surpassed." The other co-chairman, Robert C. Moss, then added, "Remember the 'save the depot' idea began with the Jaycees, was encouraged by the Chamber, and mandated by the City Council. Both the business and the retirement communities have a stake in the proposed center."

Concurrent with the business thrust will be an effort to enlist clubs, many of which will be the primary benefactors of the planned center. Sizable gifts from a few clubs spearheaded the pre-campaign effort in early 1976. It is hoped that every service club and organization will participate.

The General Division, scheduled for May, has been delayed until fall because of the shortage of manpower and the large list of prospective donors in special categories. Said incoming President Charles T. Letson, "Our problem is not a lack of interest or endorsement. It is the paucity of personnel to bring the important story to the many friends in our City."

LOCAL LEADERS WHO HEAD BUSINESS-CLUB EFFORT



ROBERT C. MOSS
Co-Chairman
Businesses-Clubs



EDWARD J. OATES, JR.
Co-Chairman
Businesses-Clubs

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SAVE THE DEPOT FUND

1976-1977

(Nota bene: The businesses and organizations listed below have already contributed to the Depot Fund in earlier phases of the drive. In accord with recent policy changes, their names are listed separately rather than co-mingled with the 200 other individuals who have pledged some level of shares. In the next and final printing of the bronze plaque, the names of *all* shareholders will be again printed with the separation of each share level and each group.)

BUSINESS DONORS

- *Adolphus, Inc.
- A. Vernon Allen, builder
- Ashley and Company, CPAs
- Barnett Bank of Collier County
- *Barnett Bank of Naples
- *Benson Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Boran, Craig, Schreck Construction
- *Bowman's Office Supply
- *Ted Brousseau, attorney
- Citizens National Bank
- *Coast Federal Savings & Loan
- *Corbin-Lindabury Garden Center
- *Cunningham Insurance Agency, Inc.
- *DeVoe Buick-Cadillac
- A. G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.
- *Fibber McGee's Closet
- *First National Bank & Trust
- *Gene's Fifth Avenue Florist
- Bob Hill, Inc.
- *Earl G. Hodges Funeral Chapel
- Hutchison Tire & Battery Service
- Ingram's Hardware
- Johnston of Florida
- Jones & Braido, Inc.
- *Lawyer's Abstract Service, Inc.
- *Ad Miller Associates, Inc.
- *Naples Airlines
- Naples Area Chamber of Commerce (LPGA)
- *Naples Millwork & Fixtures, Inc.
- *Naples Service & Supply, Inc.
- *Naples Steel Products, Inc.
- Neinas and Goodlette, attorneys
- *Outboard Marine Corporation
- *Paine, Webber, Jackson & Curtis
- Pauly Realty, Inc.
- The Piccadilly Pub
- *Pittman Funeral Directors
- Lilly Pulitzer, Inc.
- *Radio-Television Centre
- *Raymond, James & Associates, Inc.
- *The Gazebo
- *St. George and The Dragon
- Holland Salley, Inc.
- Sheraton-Edgewater Beach Inn
- *Smith-Lesher Insurance
- *Southeast National Banks
- *Turner Corporation
- U. S. Homes, Inc.
- United Telephone Co. of Florida
- Watkins & Barkau, realtors
- Annette C. Winn, realtor

ORGANIZATION DONORS

- American Hibiscus Society, Ranney Chapter
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- East Naples Rotary Club
- *Ikebana International, Chapter No. 160
- **Naples Art Association
- *Naples Artcrafters
- *Naples Civitan Club
- **Naples Garden Club
- *Naples Jaycees
- *Naples Junior Woman's Club
- Naples Orchid Society
- **Naples Woman's Club
- *Optimist Club of Naples
- Phi Beta Phi
- *Pilot Club of Naples

*Donor of a \$1000 share or more.

Two recent appointees to the professional team are Robert H. Tanner and Leon B. Murray. Tanner is a specialist in the important acoustical area and Murray will concentrate in air-conditioning, plumbing, and the electrical.

Mr. Tanner received his Bachelor's and Master's degree from Imperial College of Science Tech University in London, England. His thesis was entitled "The Acoustical Design of a Festival Theatre." His acoustical expertise has been used in the design of over 400 buildings, such as halls, theatres and churches. He holds several patents and has written extensively, mostly on communication subjects.

Leon B. Murray, consultant in the mechanical, established his own engineering firm in Naples in 1968. He has provided consulting services for many buildings in Naples, including the First National Bank, Naples Bath and Tennis Club, Coast Federal building and the Naples Dinner Theatre.

Following his graduation from Louisiana State, Mr. Murray studied aviation engineering at Yale University and joined the United States Army Air Corps in 1942. After completing military service, he entered the field of electrical and mechanical engineering with Alabama Power Company, from which he retired as Vice President in 1968.

Mr. Murray is a member of the International Solar Society and has specialized in providing solar heating for numerous Naples buildings, including the Library, Naples Federal Savings and Loan, Park Shore, and more recently, the Venetian Village.

With pledges and cash contributions flowing steadily into the office, the expertise of the new professional team will be greatly needed in the very near future. In fact, the Board of Directors of Southwest Heritage expects to approve the start of some sections before the end of the summer. Portions of the new center should be operational during the coming winter.

The old Naples Depot, when renovated for usage, will be far more than a meeting place for garden enthusiasts or art devotees, integral though these activities are in the life style of Naples, says campaign adviser Weimer K. Hicks. The many rooms of varying sizes, the centrality in the downtown, the off-street parking, and the anticipated bargain rental rates all make the planned community and cultural center a most attractive community facility.

The historic building can be a likely arena for off-season, revenue producing events, such as conventions and regional conferences. Motels, shops and restaurants should benefit when the structure is operational. This potential as a small but attractive convention center is added reason for the business community to welcome the "save the depot" achievement.

The diversity of room sizes will take care of the interests of groups from 12 to 300. The old depot warehouse, 60'x40', will become the large grand assembly hall where groups of a few hundred can convene. With folding chairs removed, it can be linked with the Display Gallery to form a large art gallery, something which will answer a felt need in the City.

To the south of the grand assembly hall is the old baggage room, 30'x30', now to become a room with capacity of 100. Five additional rooms of diverse sizes complement the proposed center, so the building can care for several organizations simultaneously. At the southern end will be a garden patio with attractive decor.

The restored building provides spacious areas, indoors and outside, for travelling exhibitions which can capture the whims of an alert community. The centrality of location and the 200-car parking lot make the building accessible to a variety of dining places, shops, and motels in the downtown section.

The management of Southwest Heritage, Inc. proposes to organize committees of parents to provide and sponsor appropriate youth activities, especially during their leisure months. In fact, the entire program of Southwest Heritage, says the campaign director, will be organized and operated by volunteer committees under the Board of Directors.

The modernized air-conditioned building will be an inviting locale for bingo, duplicate bridge, shell and flower shows. It especially lends itself to any activity which requires sizeable floor and wall space, or an abundance of meeting areas.

Thus the Board of Directors, says Hicks, expects the restored building to answer a real need of Naples, namely by affording meeting places for the many homeless clubs and organizations. But the Board does look beyond that main purpose and sees a large unit with sufficient space to draw groups to our City, all of which will add an important dimension in the future.

Encouraged by the steady flow of cash and pledges, the Southwest Heritage Board is hopeful that actual work of restoration can begin this summer, with part of the large building available for use during the coming winter. The \$520,000 subscribed to date indicates that substantial progress is being made toward the goal of \$788,000.

This spring the business community and the many clubs within Naples will be asked to rally in behalf of the project. Public solicitation is anticipated for the autumn, with the entire campaign completed during the next winter.

Several rooms have the convenience of classrooms, says Hicks, and will be teaching stations for classes in painting and crafts for adults and youth alike. During the summertime one can envision art classes and interest group sessions, especially for youth.

This detailed floor plan illustrates the layout of the first floor, which is 214' x 355'. The plan includes the following areas:

- Grand Assembly Room (A):** 405' x 391', featuring a display gallery, balcony, and storage areas.
- Meeting Rooms (C, D):** Room C is 180' x 185' and Room D is 105' x 165'.
- Offices (F):** Located near the executive board room.
- Executive Board Room (G):** 125' x 214'.
- Concourse Garden Patio (H):** 214' x 355'.
- Other Areas:** Includes a men's and women's room, a ticket and information area, a grand lobby (E), a storage room (B), a projection booth, a ramp, and a west entrance.

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