



The Whistlestop

SOUTHWEST HERITAGE, INC.

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Volume 2, Number 2

April 20, 1978

CHANGE IN FORMAT

Two years ago THE WHISTLESTOP was introduced as a printed publication. Its purpose was two-fold: to carry news of the progress of the restoration of the Depot and to give information about the continuing efforts to finance the project. In the center of each issue was the bronze plaque, a replica of which will adorn the Gerard Lobby once the campaigning is completed.

With this issue we depart from the printed publication and substitute a duplicated newsletter. No longer is the bronze sheet necessary to tell our story, so the expense of printing it cannot be justified. In making this change, Southwest Heritage is following the policy of other social and charitable organizations of the City, all of whom bring information to their constituencies through the media of the duplicated sheet.

MEMORABILIA COMMITTEE ORGANIZED

In order to rekindle some of the nostalgia of by-gone days, a Memorabilia Committee has been created by Southwest Heritage, Inc. for the purpose of acquiring all types of railroad memorabilia for the Naples Depot, now in stages of becoming a civic and cultural center. Joe Greenwood will chair the Committee that includes Sydney Stokes, Leslie Arends, John Bush, Fred Borch, Fred Schultz, William Bent, Edward Fuller and Olga and Joseph Hirshhorn.

"The idea to obtain railroad rolling stock for exhibition on the tracks around the Depot site was delayed two years ago," said Greenwood. "The heavy responsibilities of raising money for the basic Depot purchase and then for the restoration took first priority." In the interim period a number of people have continued their canvass to find engines and cars for exhibition, but if they are to be brought to Naples, it must be before the tracks are removed.

Charles Letson, Southwest Heritage President, has reported that acquisition efforts on a gift basis are continuing through the interest of Olga and Joseph Hirshhorn. He said: "I believe we can get useful and appropriate items, but funds will be needed that are not available."

Letson and Weimer Hicks, Campaign Chairman, have invited the interest and support of the community in this new Memorabilia Committee and have established a special category whereby such gifts can be given as memorials or honors. "Only a small number of railroad items from the Depot itself and some from donors are now on hand," said Hicks. "We solicit any help Neapolitans can give in adding useful items that will contribute to the historical significance of the Depot."

Call 262-1776 for further information regarding railroad memorabilia.

Word has been received that a Tavern-Lounge-Observation Car has arrived in New Orleans on its way from California to the Naples Depot. Mrs. Hirshhorn, a director of Southwest Heritage, has been negotiating to obtain this unique car and have it brought from California to Naples as a part of the Depot restoration project.

"I finally completed the arrangements," she said. "After many phone calls to Washington, California and to the presidents of Southern Pacific Railway, Seaboard Coast Line and Amtrak. Secretary of the Navy Graham Clayton, a former president of Southern Railway, was most helpful in advising me who to contact. Amtrak has offered to move the car to New Orleans and Seaboard will move it from there to Naples - both legs of the journey - as their contribution to the Depot rejuvenation."

Joe Greenwood, Chairman of the Memorabilia Committee, also on the Board of Southwest Heritage, says, "This is a great acquisition for the Depot. People will really be turned on when they see this 85-foot stainless beauty on the tracks right next to the Depot. We were very fortunate in obtaining it....Everyone will have an opportunity to inspect it. Most people today have had very little experience with railroad cars. School children will enjoy going through it. In it we can hold small meetings. There will be countless uses for it."

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hirshhorn spend considerable time in Washington where his fabulous art collection is housed in the Hirshhorn Museum. In January, Mrs. Hirshhorn spoke to Mr. Paul Raistrip, President of Amtrak, who helped get things rolling. She has been in constant contact with the heads of many organizations and companies to bring about this momentous occasion. "Just wait until this car rolls into the Depot," says Mrs. Hirshhorn "What a celebration we'll have!"

The car, built in 1947 by the Budd Company, has two lounge areas with a bar section in between. The rear, with its rounded end, comprises the "observation" part of the car which was always the last car on the train, to allow the passengers the best view.

FUND RAISING SPRINTING TO GOAL LINE *** INFLATION RAISES BUILDING COSTS

Dominant in the home-stretch drive to recreate the historic Depot into a useful Cultural Civic Center is the All-Community Division of the sizable campaign. Meanwhile, the Major Gifts Division continues to seek endorsement from many individuals to be contacted by personal calls, and the commemorative program has been expanded by the new mini-commemoratives.

The All-Community drive, which makes its appeal to donors by letter and media, has occupied major attention the last two months. Thus far this division has raised about \$30,000 toward its quota of \$48,000, with gifts arriving daily. It does offer a means whereby every resident of the Naples area is given a chance to support the city-wide project.

With \$760,000 gifted or pledged, the sprint toward the original goal of \$788,000 is well on its way. "One must realize, however, that inflation plagues this civic project, too," says Campaign Adviser Weimer Hicks. "Two years have gone by since the goal was set. Contracts for 60% of the restoration still must be let, so the ultimate need is certain to go over the earlier estimates. To illustrate, the roofing was budgeted for \$10,000, but replacement costs for this contract approached \$25,000. While this is extreme, there are bound to be other overruns which escalate our needs, such as an adequate studio for the art classes and the exciting plan for railroad cars."

After a quarter of a century of wandering from pillar to post, the Naples Garden Club has found a new home in the rejuvenated Depot. "We are eagerly anticipating having a 'home' in the Depot," said Mrs. Esther Freyermuth, President of the Garden Club. "What a wonderful way to celebrate our twenty-fifth anniversary!"

"And we are equally happy to welcome the Garden Club which has been one of our earliest and most ardent supporters," says Charles Letson, President of Southwest Heritage, the organization purchasing and restoring the old Seaboard station, declared an historical site in 1974.

The Garden Club's donation to the restoration is a total of \$25,000. The recent check for \$5,000 leaves two similar payments to be made over the next two years. Completion schedule for the Depot calls for the south half to be ready by this summer and the remainder of the structure before the end of 1978.

The Garden Club has shown an especial interest in the grounds of the old Depot, and has designated that their contribution be used toward beautifying those areas. The bottle brush trees along the eastern line of the property are the first step in an effort to bring some relief to the neglected surroundings. Virginia Pollock, a member of the Garden Club, also a member of the Board of Directors of Southwest Heritage, heads the Landscaping Committee. "We can't wait to have the restoration work completed so we can proceed with the landscaping that will make this one of the truly beautiful attractions in Naples," says Mrs. Pollock.

MINI-COMMEMORATIVE

"The large commemoratives are great, but they are more than I can afford," commented a widow and good friend of the "Save the Depot" campaigners. "Why not encourage us to commemorate some loved one we've lost?"

As a result there will be a large bronze plaque listing all donors of a share or more. Major rooms of the renovated building have been given, mainly as tributes to personages of Naples' past, including the late Edward R. Godfrey, Paul G. Benedum, and Harry Lynde Bradley.

We now combine the two ideas of plaque and memorial. A donor can place the name to be memorialized on one line of the plaque and the giver's own name on the other line. Each line on the plaque is considered as one share. As:

In memory of Mrs. Ruth Smith Jones

Given by her son, John C. Jones

or

In memory of my husband, William

(By) Mrs. Louise Frank Johnson

Thus each of these would be two shares, or \$2,000. For further information, call the office.

The Board of Directors of Southwest Heritage suffered a profound loss with the passing of Mrs. Harry Lynde Bradley on February 1. From the inception of the "Save the Depot" idea Mrs. Bradley was a strong advocate of the restoration. Patroness of the arts, she envisioned the rebuilt Depot as an ideal facility for an expanded program in her special interest. Her gift of the Harry Lynde Bradley Gallery will stand as a permanent tribute both to her husband and to her life and activities in our City.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Lincoln Robinson Clark, newly-elected Director who passed away on March 26 before he was able to attend his first meeting of the Board. Lincoln worked with diligence as a volunteer on three successive phases of the drive. His special postcard campaign in late 1977 proved a creative idea which added monetary returns to the financial undertaking. We will miss his dedication and leadership.

END OF THE LINE.

Yes, the day will come when we open the south end of the restored Depot!!! In fact, we expect to move into our new offices before May 1. This Spring we will operate with makeshift furniture, but come Fall we will be ready to open the entire south end for community use. All interested organizations should phone 262-1776 and make tentative reservations. Available will be the large Windisch Room, the Benedum Room of classroom size and the Directors Room for small conferences.....And at last we are ready to move ahead in the north part of the building. Plans and specifications for the art studio and gallery have been agreed upon. Bids should be let in June, with completion date for phase II by the first of next year....Postcards of the late Jane Brigham's beautiful painting of the Depot - ordered "way back when" by the Art Association - are now available in most postcard racks in the City. Pick up your supply of this view of our landmark at your convenience.....

On display soon in the lobby of Southeast National Bank will be a model of the last passenger train which puffed in Naples in the early 70s. The model has been secured from George Lake through the courtesy of the bank. It will be shown in the Bank lobby until the Depot is restored, when it will become a permanent part of the memorabilia of the Depot....and Mrs. Walter Sands donated a punched ticket and two genuine anti-macassars from that last train, with a local Naples newspaper telling about the ride.....On February 19th, courtesy of Doris and Bill Reynolds, the Depot benefited through another Haitian Festival. Once again the art objects of Haiti and the steel band gave the Gazebo a Caribbean atmosphere for the afternoon. Our Board wishes to express its appreciation...All of which reminds us of the Ramble, which we now must call the First Annual Depot Ramble. Obviously this event must become a yearly affair. And what better note on which to conclude the column. Unless it be by the blowing of the railroad whistle which Dick Windisch acquired to call to order all meetings of the Board of Directors....

NEW NAMES ON THE PLAQUE

(Nota bene: Since the publication of the last WHISTLESTOP, the following names have been added to the Bronze Plaque which is symbolic of gifts of \$1,000 or more.)

PLATINUM SHARES

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Gerard
Naples Garden Club
Naples Art Association

SILVER SHARES

A M S Manufacturing, Inc.
William G. Selby and Marie Selby Foundation

MEMORIALS

In memory of Harry J. Clarke
In memory of James Finlay
father of Irene Finlay Davis
In memory of F. J. Githler
In memory of Eunice H. Lair
In memory of Edward L. Lloyd
In memory of J. H. Marlowe, Jr.
In memory of Ansel McSwain
In memory of Tom Truesdale
by Mrs. Grace Truesdale

BRONZE SHARES (Business)

Bill Smith Appliance Co.
The Collier Company
Crayton Cove Yacht Sales
Alden Thomas Harris Antiques
Hospitality Buffet
Naples Dinner Theatre
Robb & Stucky of Naples, Inc.
Tri-City Pool Service and Supply

BRONZE SHARES

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian J. Allard, Jr.
Harold J. Althaver
Mrs. Harold J. Althaver
Gordon O. Andrews
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Boden
Mr. and Mrs. Hadley Case
Mr. and Mrs. Dale E. Chlumsky
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Cosgrove
Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeLong
Mr. and Mrs. Earl F. Dixon
Mrs. Jack R. Doidge
Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Doubleday
Mr. and Mrs. W. Max Finley
Arthur Ford
Samuel Freeman
Mrs. John Harcourt Hall
Mrs. Eleanor Letson Hauck
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas L. Hooker

Mrs. Clarence L. Howard, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Huppeler
Mrs. Lois Kerckhoff
Mark LaMendola
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. W. LeBien
Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. LeVay
Mr. and Mrs. John G. McCoy
W. W. McDowell
Mrs. George H. Rutherford
Mrs. Howard A. Stamper
Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Staton, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Swain
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney A. Swensrud
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Telford
Mrs. Carl von Goeben
Mr. and Mrs. Morrison Waud
Mrs. Albert D. Williams
Mr. and Mrs. John E. Woodward