



The Whistlestop

SOUTHWEST HERITAGE, INC.

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NAPLES, FLORIDA 33940
TELEPHONE: 262-1776

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

With this WHISTLESTOP we conclude another winter season at the Depot.

After sixteen months of operation, we know two things:

First, the Cultural-Civic Center can operate on a sound financial basis with the small but important boost which our friends are giving the Depot through Life Memberships.

And second, the demand for meeting space reached every high level for which we had hoped. Already one thousand meetings have been held at the restored Depot.

What a tangible tribute to the entire concept!

May I add, too, that this demand for space is the further reason to justify the support of the Life Membership drive which is now approaching a successful conclusion. As of May 1, more than \$80,000 had been pledged, with one or two Life Memberships arriving daily.

But it is vital that every dollar of the \$100,000 goal be pledged.

The final \$20,000 will not come easily. In fact, it will only come if friends sit down after reading these words and mail in the pledge card now. (Or phone 262-1776 if you have no card.)

These Life Memberships are different and incorporate a new idea. The money will be assigned to a permanent endowment fund with only the interest to be used for operating. This interest will close the gap between rentals and store profits and cost of operations.

I know that many of you are planning to subscribe to a Life Membership. May I urge you to send your pledge card now? We believe that the success of the Depot project and the community need for the Center do merit your endorsement.

Many thanks to the many whose efforts have made the Depot a reality.

Charles T. Letson

SUMMER HOURS

This is the last issue of THE WHISTLESTOP this season. How time does fly! During the summer, life and activities at the Depot will be maintained at a slower pace. But there will still be a number of events lined up for the coming months, and consequently the Depot will be on a business-as-usual basis with slightly shorter hours.

The Depot will be open from June through September from 10 AM to 2 PM weekdays. The End of The Line Store will remain open in June and close in July and August and open again in early September.

The Annex at 947 Fourth Avenue South (263-3607) will stay open during the summer as activity warrants. This is the first summer for The Annex.

NOTICES TO CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The schedule for next season is being made up at this time. Will you please contact our secretary, Mrs. Grace Reid, as soon as you have your program.

The year runs from September 1980 to September 1981. We expect an even bigger year and urge you to reserve your dates as soon as possible. Please call Mrs. Reid at 262-1776 or see her at the Depot during the week from 10 AM to 4 PM. Inquire about our new lower rates.

When Margery Stoneman Douglas took the podium to address the Historical Society on April 16, the usage of the renovated Depot reached its millenium. How apropos that the County's Historical Society, dedicated to the understanding and preservation of the past, should be the group which used the Cultural-Civic Center for the 1000th time since its opening.

Six years ago the Depot was in wrack and ruin, only a warehouse for railroad supplies and the dusty headquarters of a lumber company. But Emilio Galagarza and the Jaycees saw its potential for the future. They took their cause to the people, crying "Save The Depot."

Old timers realized that most of the landmarks were being razed, with only a few remaining. The City Fathers rallied behind the clarion cry and urged that steps be taken to preserve this vestige of the past.

In January, 1976, Southwest Heritage was chartered as a non-profit body to raise money to buy and refurbish the old railroad station. Its first task was to determine the way in which a restored building could best serve the community. The Directors concluded that Naples has no greater need than a cultural-civic center at which the 150 or more clubs and organizations might meet.

So with more determination than many thought warranted, this small band of visionaries ventured upon the task of raising \$788,000 to buy and rebuild the decaying structure in order to "preserve the past and prepare for the future."

The fabulous way in which the citizens rallied is well known. Not only was the goal over-subscribed, but special gifts were secured to add a much-needed art center, to purchase three railroad cars which authenticate the project, and to buy a strip of land for required parking.

Now, a year and four months after the opening, few if any would question the rightness of the undertaking. A casual study of the accompanying usage chart corroborates this conclusion. The large Dellora and Lester Norris Hall, seating over 250, has already welcomed more than 200 different groups. The Bradley Gallery to its North has been the display area for fifteen exhibitions, with scarcely a week passing in the season in which some artistic show could not be seen and enjoyed.

The old baggage room, now the Conrad Windisch Room, has been the gathering place for 362 meetings. This light and cheery room, seating up to 75 or so, is in constant demand by varying groups. Adjoining Windisch is the Paul Benedum Room which accomodates small gatherings of about 20 people. Since the James Brooks Room has been assigned to The Naples Institute, the Benedum Room is increasingly in demand. As the months pass, one may find that it becomes the most occupied part of the building.

By chance rather than design, the old Depot has three kitchens, each in a different section of the building. With the heavy demand for parties and dinners, their availability has proved most convenient. Parenthetically, once the Godfrey Patio has been completed, the Board expects the need for the third kitchen will grow.

The railroad cars have likewise played an important role in the life of the Center. Opened to the public only last fall, the Hirshhorn Club Car has offered a novel environment for meetings as well as cocktail parties. Its potential is still to be achieved as month by month it grows in demand.

These fifteen months of operations have not been devoid of surprises. None anticipated the constant demand for meeting space which has come from the business community. Hardly a week passes without some financial house or investment firm or business renting space for a seminar or training session. The larger rooms have been equally popular for buffet and dinner parties, most of which are catered. Frequently these are dinner dances, a type of party for which Norris Hall is ideal.

Numerically speaking, the millenium has been passed in fifteen short months. Don't be surprised if one year from this Spring THE WHISTLESTOP reports that double the number of organizations have met at the old Depot in just one year. What a thrill this continuing progress is for the many who have invested their time, gifts and talents to the project. The Depot has truly been saved. And its service as a historical landmark grows.

USAGE OF DEPOT AREAS JULY '78 THROUGH MARCH, 1980

AREA	MORNING-AFTERNOON-EVENING			(Event) TOTALS*
Norris Hall	50	56	97	203
Windisch Room	120	96	146	362
Bradley Gallery	40	33	67	140
Benedum Room	47	19	60	126
Hirshhorn Club Car	6	4	21	31
KITCHENS:				
North Kitchen	12	15	37	64
Middle Red Kitchen	6	13	12	31
Southwest Kitchen	1	1	1	1
Patio	3	3	1	4
Grounds				
Brooks Room (in 1978)	8	2	3	13
	293	242	449	979

*Apparent inconsistency due to some occasions running all day, etc.

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Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Vaillancourt; Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Valentine; Peter Van Arsdale; Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Van der Eb; H. Norton Van Duyn; Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Vann; The Villager Shop. Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Wadsworth; Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Wagner; Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Wainscott; Mrs. S. Wainwright; Ms. R. W. Wakely; Mr. & Mrs. R. O. Walker; Walden University; Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Walker; Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Wallace; Dr. & Mrs. W. S. Ward; Mrs. R. C. Ward; Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Wardwell; Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Wareham; Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Wareham; Watkins & Barkau; Mr. & Mrs. M. Waud; WBBH Broadcasting & TV; Mrs. C. F. Wedell; Mrs. E. Weed; J. E. Weghorst; Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Weiner; Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Weinig; Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Wellman; Mr. & Mrs. G. Wendel; Mrs. W. M. Werber; A. C. West; C. E. Westman; Mr. & Mrs. G. Wharton; Ms. J. D. Wharton; E. W. Wheaton; Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Wiggers; Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Wilhite; Lila Willard; Mr. & Mrs. D. R. G. Williams; Mrs. C. Williams; Dr. & Mrs. H. C. Williams; Mr. & Mrs. P. H. Williams; Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Williams; Dr. & Mrs. R. N. Williams; Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Wilson; Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Windsor; Mr. & Mrs. C. Winger; In memory of John Winkler; Mrs. J. A. Winkler; unnette C. Winn; Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Wise; Roger Withers; Mr. & Mrs. G. B. Woods; R. J. Woods; Mr. & Mrs. G. S. Woodward, Jr.; Mrs. W. H. Woolverton; Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Wurster. Mr. & Mrs. D. York; Mr. & Mrs. I. R. Zeman; Mrs. F. J. Zimmerman; Mr. & Mrs. R. O. Zimmerman, Mrs. P. G. Zouck.

NEW OFFICERS AND NEWS OF HOME CLUBS

Naples Art Association announced new officers elected for the next two years:

President	Ruth Casey
Vice President	Richard Tucker
Recording Secretary	Dorothy Brownell
with two-year term	Directors named as Catherine Lane, Alyce Nash, and Burt Stevens
and one-year term	Directors Eleanor Cosgrove and Dick Livingston.
Lucille Howe, President while the Art Association made great strides, was honored	with a plaque and elected President Emeritus of the Naples Art Association.
As THE FLORIDA GARDENER for May-June reports, our Naples Garden Club has received the prestigious Deep South Mary Myrick Historic Preservation and/or Restoration Award "for involving a large segment of the population in saving and converting the city's historic depot into a community and garden center."	
They have also recently elected Third Vice President	Mrs. Edwin Brown
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Herbert Herrmann
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Joseph Goetten
Treasurer	Mrs. Harvey Hanson
with Second Vice President appointed to fill out term	Mrs. Peter Zouck.

* Please make checks payable to Southwest Heritage, Inc., 1051 Fifth Avenue South, Naples, Florida 33940

MEMBERSHIPS

If you have not renewed your membership for next year, please do so. Regular membership for one year is still \$15. Sustaining memberships are \$100, and Life Memberships \$1,000. To conform to our fiscal year, all memberships will run to January, 1981 and yearly thence. I/we will be glad to subscribe _____ Life Memberships at \$1,000 each, to be paid as follows in the name of _____ or Sustaining

Membership at \$100 _____ or, Regular Membership at \$15. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

All donations are tax deductible.

ZIP _____

This form may be used to advise us of change of address for summer,etc.

THANK YOU

END OF THE LINE STORE AND ANNEX:

A sincere "THANK YOU" for our selfless volunteers at The Annex (our Thrift Shop at 947 Fourth Avenue South).

Helen Voter

Charlie Hartmann

Fred Redding

Burch Springer

and to our substitutes:

Katie Stoneman

Linda Krebill

and to our devoted Treasurer Elsie Carr. Some of these good folks go off to the North in the middle of May and some are on short vacations. As a well-wishing member, do phone me and offer a 3-hour stint any day you are bored!

Janet Lee will be gone for five or six months but she and Chuck will take over in the Fall again.

By the way, stop in and see the Revlon cosmetics donated by a well-known beauty shop now going out of business (and some lovely new clothes).

Please save your usable furniture and housewares for us and we will be able to pay our utility bills at the Depot! AND the End Of The Line Store has really received TREASURES - complete sets of both (c.1900) MINTON and SPODE China from a Columbus, Ohio well-wisher - appraised by William Warren Roberts.

Now, give me a ring - you'll learn a lot about human nature in 3 hours!

Ruth Brashear ... 262-0314

P. S. Did you notice the number of male volunteers? Come on, you folks!

IMMOKALEE JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM - attended by approximately 250 students, was held on May 2nd at the Depot. Another prom added to our list!

DOWN THE LINE.... The month of May includes the Naples Art Association Pot Luck Dinner Meeting; regular meetings of Women's Aglow Fellowship, the Stamp Club, the D.A.R. (on the 15th); Sundays' Unitarian-Universalist Congregation; a University of Michigan Afterglow gathering honoring the concert group; American Society of Interior Designers meeting on the 14th; Naples Informed Parents on the 20th; a private wedding reception, and so forth...

IMPORTANT INVITATION TO CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS: The Southwest Council of Organizations is inviting all clubs and organizations interested in possible use of the Depot to attend an OPEN HOUSE beginning at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, May 27th, 1980. There will be refreshments and a guided tour of our facilities.

OF COMMUNITY-WIDE INTEREST: DOLLY THE TROLLEY will take a summer vacation, too. We are assured that she will take up her regular schedule around THANKSGIVING again.

Southwest Heritage, Inc.
1051 Fifth Avenue South
Naples, Florida 33940

