INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITY CELEBRATES 20th BIRTHDAY

This issue of the MARINA CITY NEWS is dedicated to those brave pioneers who settled a city in northern Illinois approximately one mile west of the shores of Lake Michigan on the north bank of the Chicago River in 1962 AD. They braved a number of hardships (floods, drought, bowing winds and snows of winter) and enjoyed the pleasures (catered steak dinner from Fritzsel, turkeys at Thanksgiving and, in later years, sparkling holiday lights glimmering from the balconies of our "city within a city", Marina City).

The first settler was (The Venerable) J. Ralph Deppen, D. D., Administrative Assistant to the Episcopal Bishop of Chicago, who arrived October 14, 1962 to find his belongings being moved into his apartment by a crane, hoisted over his balcony railing! He is now living in California but we were able to contact him to obtain his recollection of the event: "I do remember the moving in. It was Sunday, I was driving up State Street after a morning's duties in a South Side parish. As I approached the river, I saw my identifiable household goods dangling on a flat from the crane still mounted on the East Tower. I nearly drove into the river! The move in, however, was easier, cheaper and safer than the move out."

Rents for a studio apartment began at $115.00 per month and went up to $180.00: one-bedroom apartments, from $155.00 to $230.00 and two-bedroom apartments, from $295.00 to $350.00.

Of the 806 original families, a stalwart 85 remain to tell the tale. Here are some of their stories:

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Kay Saunders:

On a Sunday afternoon, October 14, 1962, the first residents of Marina City arrived. Their furniture was hoisted up by crane on the outside as the TV cameras recorded the event.

In those early months, as each floor was completed eager tenants moved in. It was over two years later, December 23, 1964, before the last "pioneers" were settled in apartment #6004 in the West Tower.

Can those of you who were not among the 1962-63 pioneers imagine what is now the lobby as just an expanse of mud covered by planks and a few bare bulbs lighting the way to the West Tower? There were no stores of any kind, no mail boxes nor laundry room. The Management Office was in one of the apartments, there was no carpeting in the halls and uncertain elevators were sometimes manned by construction workers in hard hats.

But there were some amenities: Mail was delivered to each apartment, we had free newspapers, elegant boxes of food from Stop & Shop and Hillmans, a beautiful bouquet of flowers from Mr. McIntire (one of the founding fathers of Marina City) and a turkey from the Management at Thanksgiving.

(cont.)
May Saunders (cont.)
At the end of May, 1963, a tiny grocery store made its appearance! Gradually all the other conveniences that we take for granted were added to make Marina City a real city.

Among the list of the original “pioneers” who are still here, at least one certainly deserves our recognition. Mike Sterling, who took care of our voting address change and saw that we got to the polling place on Clark Street.

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Ruth Vose:
It was a typical, cold, Chicago day with several inches of snow on the ground, January 24, 1963, but I didn’t mind as I was realizing a nearly 3 year old dream. I was moving into Marina City!

In February, 1960, the newspapers announced these twin towers would be built within walking distance of work...and would have BALCONIES! In 1962 there was a flood of applicants. For those new to Chicago, or the younger residents of Marina City, there was no Outer Drive East, Harbor Point, Hancock Building, or Lake Point Tower so Marina City was THE high-rise apartment building.

In the early months we were excited when we came home from work to find carpeting in the halls, or the wooden “canopy” over the long State Street staircase had come down, a laundry room opened on the 20th floor and especially the opening of a commissary on Memorial Day weekend (at last you could buy bread and milk without braving the elements)!

We really “roughed it” in the early days; especially those in the West Tower who had to “walk the plank” across the lobby for months as there was no Dearborn Street entrance and no lobby floor! However, everyone talked on the elevators with great enthusiasm about the latest addition to our “home”. We enjoyed being “pioneers and had a feeling of warmth and spirit of camaraderie with our neighbors much as that which must have been experienced by the early settlers of Chicago.

In the early years of Marina City when you travelled to other cities, billboards read “FLY TO CHICAGO” with Marina City prominently displayed in the background. It now has been replaced by the Hancock and Sears Tower but to Marina City “pioneers”, MARINA CITY - THE TOWERS - are Chicago!

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While we are talking about “pioneers”, it would be remiss not to pay tribute to the true “pioneers” of Marina City, Marina Management Corporation and Morris Swibel who has solved our problems all these years and without whom Marina City would not be the same, Charles Swibel and the late William McFerridge without whose vision and planning Marina City would not be at all, the architect, Bertrand Goldberg who put everything together so beautifully and Robert Butler who, until his retirement, kept everything together.

On the following page is a list of original residents who still call Marina City “home”. (With apologies to any who may have been omitted inadvertently.)
DEADLINE NEARS FOR C.U.T.D. CLAIM FILING - by John Leonard

Anyone owning a condo at Marina City at any time between the date of conversion and December 31, 1979 has only until November 1 to file a claim regarding a property tax refund (case #79 CH 4665). The case involves a class action against the Chicago Urban Transportation District seeking a return of property taxes collected by the C. U. T. D. Most of the eligible property owners received legal notices in June of this year but many may not have understood the notice or the claim form that was enclosed. It boils down to this: If you owned property here and didn't file the claim form you will receive no refund. If you do file a claim you could receive approximately $25.00 to $150.00 (my guess) depending upon the size of your unit, number of years owned and number of other claimants.

For more information, contact one of the following:

Harry A. Young, Jr., Esq.
33 W. LaSalle St., Suite 2000
Chicago, Ill. 60603

Howard Arvey, Trustee
May & Speck Data Processing Center, Inc.
18 W. 100 2nd Street
Oak Brook Terrace, Ill. 60181

ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 2 - by John Leonard

On October 5, there were 90 new voter registrants at Marina City thus raising the total number of registered voters to 827. We would like to remind these new registrants as well as everyone else that our polling place on Tuesday, November 2 will be located in the Dearborn Room at the west entrance to Marina City. Voting hours are from 6:00AM to 7:30PM.

In our local races, Democrat incumbent, Cardiss Collins, is opposed by Republican Darnay Cheeks for 7th Congressional District Representative; Democrat incumbent, Dawn Clark Netsch, is unopposed in her re-election effort as State Senator from the new 4th Senatorial District. In the race for State Representative of the new 8th Representative District, two incumbents face each other. Democrat Jesse C. White, Jr. is opposed by Republican Elroy C. Sandquist, Jr.

In the above races there are no third party candidates on the ballot. For more information, you may contact me at 822-0537.

END OF MASSES AT MARINA CITY - by John Leonard

To the disappointment of Marina City Catholics, the Rev. Timothy J. Lyne, Pastor of Holy Name Cathedral, recently announced that the 10:30AM Sunday mass at Marina City would be discontinued. Due to a shortage of priests this service will have ended with the last mass at Marina scheduled on October 24.

A bus to the Cathedral will be provided after that date.

Sunday masses at the Cathedral are at 7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 11:00AM, 12:15 and 5:15PM. For further information, call the Cathedral rectory at 707-3040.
INTIMATION OF IMMORTALITY

Have you noticed the plaque on the wall of the entrance to the East Tower? It is a copy of a scroll which has been buried on the marina level. On November 22, 1960 ground was broken for Marina City. On that date the planets were in the positions indicated on the "star map". These relative positions establish this date for all time to all observers who understand the universal language of astronomy. This map, prepared by astronomers and artists of Chicago's Adler Planetarium has been engraved on enduring metal for placement in the foundation of Marina City. Hopefully this message will survive the erasions of time and space and be communicated to future generations. A dedication ceremony was held on November 22, 1962 at which time the original was sealed into the foundation perhaps to be discovered centuries from now.

The legend in English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Chinese reads: "This building began on the 22nd day of November 1960 AD according to the Gregorian calendar. The planets in the heavens were as shown on this celestial map. The universal language of astronomy will permit men forever to understand and know this date. Marina City and its towers were the dream of William L. McPehridge, the planning of Charles R. Swibol and the architecture of Bertrand Goldberg."

FROM THE EDITOR:
Thanks to all of the contributors for this issue of Marina City News. Should you wish to be a contributor to future issues of the newsletter, please submit your articles to the office.

In Memoriam. Recent deaths reported include the following:

Ellen Kane;
Theodore (Ted) Loeb, husband of Judith;
Tom Novak.

Jerry Anderson, Editor.

Phyllis S. Overy

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