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AN INTERVIEW WITH SUE AND LEO BORNS

An Oral History Conducted by Anna Huddleston

West Charleston Neighborhoods:
An Oral History Project of Ward 1

Oral History Research Center at UNLV
University Libraries
University of Nevada Las Vegas

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An Oral History Project of Ward 1
University of Nevada Las Vegas, 2014

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The transcript received minimal editing that includes the elimination of fragments, false starts, and repetitions in order to enhance the reader's understanding of the material. All measures have been taken to preserve the style and language of the narrator. In several cases photographic sources accompany the individual interviews.

The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project.

Claytee D. White, Project Director
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PREFACE

Leo and Sue (Easley) Borns came to Las Vegas in 1962 to begin an architectural career that would last forty-four years in Southern Nevada. Leo Borns worked for various firms in Las Vegas before developing a reputation as "F. Borns, Architect". He has gone on to design buildings for state public works, Clark County, the City of Las Vegas, Clark County School District, churches, and private home owners. Rarely taking a job outside of Southern Nevada, Leo Borns' intent was to develop an architecture considered indigenous to the area while keeping the conservation of energy and technology as prime importance.

Mr. and Mrs. Borns, after living in the area for approximately five years, decided to purchase a home on Strong Drive in McNeil Estates where they raised their three children. Active in social and philanthropic organizations, both Leo and Sue have become acquainted with numerous area personalities. Mr. Borns is most proud of being a part of the development of the Kiwanis Water Conservation Park although his structural designs can be seen throughout the Southern Nevada area. At the age of 77, he closed his office but remains an integral influence on the Greater Las Vegas area.

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March 21, 2014

This is Anna Huddleston. It is March 21, 2014. I'm at the home of Leo and Sue Borns, and we're going to talk about the early Las Vegas History project and their lives in Las Vegas when they first arrived here in 1962. **But before that:**

Leo was a Navy Pilot, born in St. Louis, Missouri. Upon finishing Naval Aviator Training in Pensacola, Florida, and Advanced Training in Corpus Christi/Kingsville, Texas, I was then transferred in June of 1955, and stationed at North Island Naval Air Station, in San Diego, California. Mary Sue Easley was a native Californian, who lived in Palos Verdes Estates, and was attending Whittier College, in Whittier, California. Sue and Leo were married in the Neighborhood Church in Palos Verdes Estates, California on June 30, 1957.



June 30, 2014 our 57th Wedding Anniversary Leo and Mary Sue Borns

Grace Presbyterian Church, Las Vegas, Nevada

Among other places, we honeymooned in Las Vegas, Nevada, stayed at the Sands Hotel for about three days. Saw Jack Benny & Giselle McKenzie, and we also saw Tony Bennet. It was

much fun, but then it was back to work at North Island, and my four and a half years of military service was coming to a close.

I departed the military service and went back to college to get a degree in architecture.

In June of 1962 I graduated with a Degree in Architectural Engineering from California State Polytechnic College in San Luis Obispo, California. During my senior year I was deeply involved in anything architecture. I was Chairman of a group of eleven architecture and structural engineering students who worked on a senior thesis, titled: "The Big Sur, A Regional Planning Document" for that 52 mile long designated coastline in middle to northern California.. When the Salinas County Planning Commission finally adopted an overall Plan for this pristine area, they used two of the items in our plan and notified our Architectural Department/University of their actions. Also, besides my architectural classes, I entered a Nation Design Competition and came in third place. I won a Three Dimensional Presentation Award granted to me on the day of our graduation, and I won a Design Competition for a Historical Monument here in Nevada, called Ichthyosaur Historical Monument. This competition was only offered to three architecture departments at three Universities, and one professional school of architecture, Taliassen West (in Scottsdale Arizona) The three Universities were: Cal Poly, Cal Berkeley, and U.S.C.

I was offered several jobs in California on and about my graduation, but chose to accept a position my architecture department set up with Las Vegas Architect, a Cal Poly Alumni by the name of Jack Knighton, who had an established firm here in Las Vegas.

We arrived in Las Vegas near the end of June, 1962, and I went to work for Jack Knighton. My wife had friends here in the mobile home business on Boulder Highway. John and Dorothy Wagner. Wagner Trailer Sales. My wife and her sister, Cynthia grew up with the Wagner's two daughters in California, and their family's were very close friends. Sue worked for the Wagner's for the first six months we lived here, and then our first daughter, Pamela was born.

She then became a mother and housewife for Pamela, Michael and Cathleen.

Jack Knighton's Office worked up a cost estimate for Ichthyosaur, and all the necessary documents to submit to the Nevada Park System and the State Public Works Board. When all had taken place and the cost was examined, \$230,000.00 was far too much for the Project, and it was set aside, with the acknowledgment that it was my project, and may be resurrected in some future year...Which it did not! So that aside, I continued to work for Jack Knighton. Two other draftsmen were employed there also, Tony Campanero, and Pat Porcorello. Both of course senior to me.

Bob Whann, a structural engineer, who was the sole employee of another Architectural Firm, contacted me, and asked if I would be willing to work for them after I got off work from Jack Knighton's office, and I said I would. So I worked there from 5:30 p.m. To 8:30 p.m., and sometimes on the weekends. After a short period of time I left Jack Knighton's Office and worked full time for Harry Hayden Whitely. About seven months later, Harry Whitely, who was in his 70's had a stroke, and Bob and I kept the office running until he was able to get back.....But he wasn't the same, and for some reason he fired me. Bob Whann and I never could figure out why, and Bob figured it had to do with the stroke he had, and his Office did not remain open much longer.

I applied for a job at George Tate's Office, and he hired me. I was there for over a year, and during that time the local A.I.A. Convention was going to be hosted by the local Chapter of the A.I.A.(American Institute of Architects). Howard Brandis, an older gentleman, who had heard about me, called me to his office and asked if I could help with the displays and award ceremonies. And I said I could. So he put me in charge of it, and I fabricated, from redwood, all the exhibit stands, and all the lighting for all the architectural submittals, for the Architectural Awards Portion of the Convention. When Howard Brandis and Jack Miller heard that I did all this at my own expense, and that George Tate had not paid me for the hours I was not at his

office, they were both very unhappy with George Tate, and gave Sue and I total admission to the convention and the Awards Banquet free passes to everything. We had a very enjoyable time!

Shortly after that, George Tate informed me that he and Tom Dobrusky (his long-time associate in the office, and only other employee) , due to the downturn in work, were going to pool their resources, form a partnership, as a means to survive. So, I was out again. There was no work to be had for all the architect's in town, so I applied for a government job with Holmes and Narver, an engineering firm primarily at the Nevada Test Site. While I was there at the test site meeting with Holmes and Narver, Jack Miller contacted my wife at home and offered me a job with his firm...Needless to say I accepted....So my wife and I were that close to saying good-bye to Nevada and heading back to California. Jack had one of the largest offices in Nevada, along with Zick & Sharpe Architects, and they helped each other out. During this slow time, I was loaned out to Zick & Sharpe for a small job. To Jim McDaniel Architect a couple of times, and to Tate and Dobrusky, who took me from Jack for at a time what they thought was a big job, that didn't materialize. So there I was, without a job again. It was the end of October, 1966. I was a licensed Architect by then, and so I called Jack Miller to see if I could come back. He said times were really bad, and that he was going to have to lay off everybody in his office, so there I was, a licensed Nevada Architect, without a job. So I called Jim McDaniel's Office, John Mayer answered the phone, and I told him my situation.....and he said, I have this house remodel, for a very influential man in Las Vegas, and I will never get to it, and you know why (and I did). He gave me his name, Lester LaFortune, Owner and President of the local Garbage Company, Silver State Disposal Company, plus a few others in other states. Lester asked John to do the Project because John and his son were very close friends who went to High School together here in Las Vegas. John gave me Mr. LaFortune's phone number, gave me a few tips on how to speak to him, given that John gave his job to me. So I called Mr. La Fortune, explained the circumstances, and he wasn't all that happy, and very brusquely, he gave me the address of the house, told me to

be there at a certain time that evening, and not to be late, and said he will look at me at make a determination if he wants to work with me or not! Of course, I was scared to death. I got to the house he was planning to remodel early, and waited for him to get there. Well we hit it off just fine, and I had the start of my Architectural Practice here in Las Vegas, Nevada near the end of 1966, about in November.

Howard Brandis heard of my start-up, called me over to his house, which he and his wife were packing to leave town, and he wanted to cut a deal with me, since I hadn't hung out my "Shingle" yet. He had some minor jobs he would like me to handle, if I would put his name on my letterhead. He said he was given a job by a former classmate of his in San Francisco, Fred Allen of the Architectural Firm of Anshen & Allen, a very large prestigious firm. He said he would only ask this of me for a couple of years at the most. So I agreed. So I started my architectural practice in 1966 as Brandis Borns Architects, a "Registered Fictitious Firm Name" but there was no Howard Brandis, but his time and experience as an architect here gave me some confidence.

One of the projects he gave me was for the design of the Best Glass Warehouse and Office in North Las Vegas. My first whole architectural project. It was for Walt Featherston, who was a rather abrupt man. I successfully designed and completed this job. One of the other small job contacts Howard gave to me was for 7/11 Stores. These were all very small projects, but one day Senator Chick Hecht called me up and wanted to do some remodel work in one of his stores.

I never heard from Howard again, so after about three years I unregistered the Fictitious Firm Name, and dropped his name from my letterhead and continued my practice, as Leo F. Borns Architect.

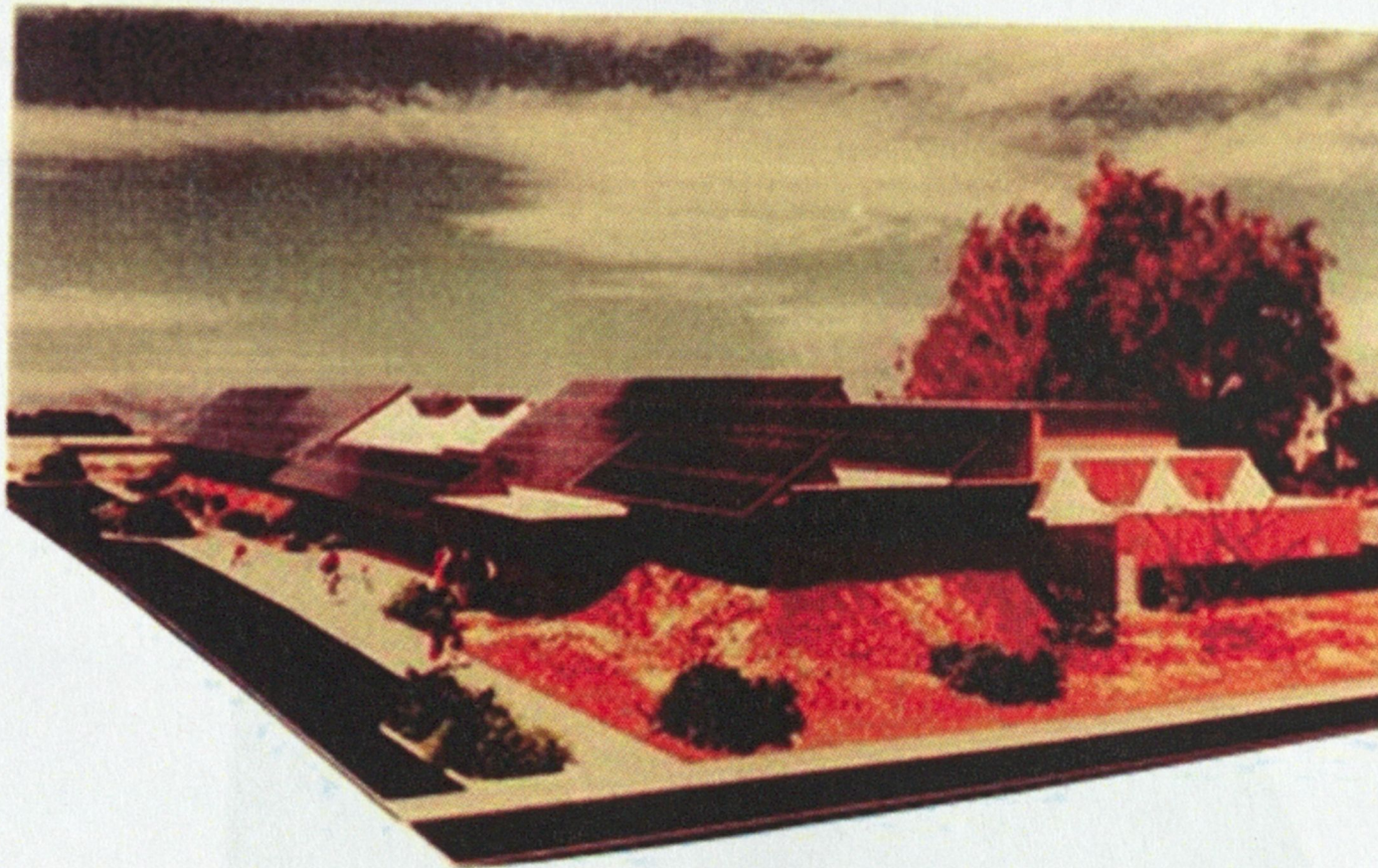
About four years later Howard showed up in my office, said he wasn't coming back to Las Vegas, thanked me, and wished me well.

About a year after I started my Practice, things began to pick up again. The Clark County

School District had a new Superintendent, Dr. Kenny Guinn, who put together a School District Construction Department. He hired a Planning Director, Chuck Neely, and a Director of Construction Stanley Bokelmann, plus a Bond Election to start remodeling and adding on to existing school campuses. They sent out notices to the local architects, of which I was included, and I made their list with my presentation. Of course all of the jobs they gave me were relatively small, but they were all small. They had no money to start new campuses, this came many-many years later as the town grew. A lot of the larger ones they gave me were for campuses out of town, such as Indian Springs, Boulder City, Moapa Valley, Searchlight (Harry Reid Elementary School). I got projects from the State Public Works, the County, the City, and the Private Sector jobs were coming along also. It was great. I never had more than a staff of eight draftsmen, but this was considered a good sized office for Las Vegas. And I was off and running as a Las Vegas Architectural Firm, and I had my Practice for 44 years. Clean, simple lines and form are the thrust of my design. The driving force of my firm has always been to strive for architectural excellence. It has always been youthful and responsive to all levels of economic growth of the young community, eager and content to become a part of and grow with it, desiring with this concerted effort to develop an architecture which may be considered indigenous to the area. Conservation of energy, and technology have always been of primary importance in my approach to design. Risks were taken with innovative and bold design as early in the firm's growth as 1970, with the design of the Silver State Building---a silvery-mirrored four story office building, corporate headquarters for the local Silver State Disposal Company. The design was energy-conservation oriented. Four years later when the first energy crisis affected the nation, the State Public Works Board commissioned my firm to design a laboratory building to research and develop systems of solar energy. Completed in 1976, the Solar Laboratory, was the first solar heated and cooled state-owned building in Nevada. It was operated by the University of Nevada Systems' Desert Research Institute. It was located in Boulder City, Nevada.

Built in 1978, the Stewart/Mojave Recreation Center, owned by the City of Las Vegas, was designed as a very large experimental solar air-conditioned project. It was to be a national prototype, the integral part of the solar-energized system, funded and produced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

This building was large in size. Over 32,000 s.f. The building was built, and space was provided for the solar air conditioning system. A couple of years passed, and the Center was still functioning on its standard H.V.A.C. System. Finally, NASA gave up and said the solar air conditioning system was a failure (as were just about all of the plumbing based solar cooled systems trying to be designed). **So the City of Las Vegas just had a standard heated and cooled Recreation Center. They were not happy! The Recreation Center still functions Today.**



Photograph of the architectural model of the Recreation Center

In reality, looks about the same as constructed, but

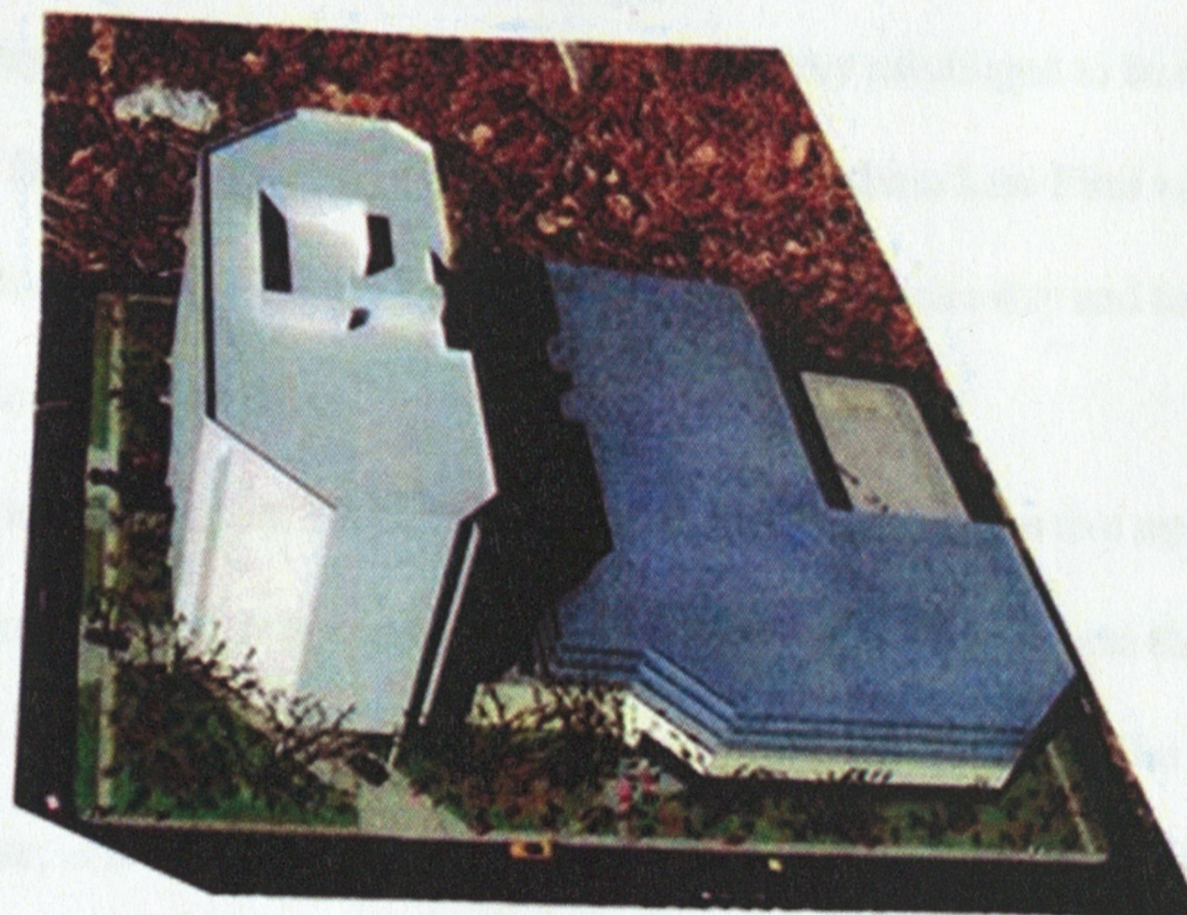
There are no solar collectors, as shown, on this roof area.

From 1979 through 1990 my commissions included the Henderson Campus of the Clark County Community College, churches such as the new Sanctuary Building for the First Presbyterian Church (now re-named the Grace Presbyterian Church), a series of large office

buildings including the Bonneville Square Building, the Magna Executive Center, and Surgical and Medical office buildings for Sierra Health Services.

Regarding the Bonneville Square Building. It was for a large Law Firm: Beckley, Singleton, Delanoy, Jameson and (List, who became a part of the firm later). It was located on South 4th Street, and Bonneville Avenue, Northeast corner. It was a four story office building, with a parking garage. It was more than doubled in size for the next addition, and then a third addition. This Office Building was sheathed in black solar glass, and in my opinion, still the best looking building in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada, and this is the year 2014.

When we were putting on the third addition to this building, I got a phone call from Bill "Wildcat" Morris, who wanted to build a similar building across Las Vegas Boulevard from Bonneville Square. He wanted to do it in light colors, such as white. **The picture of the model below** gives an indication of what it would have looked like, but, it was not to happen as Bill suddenly passed away.



Office Building for Bill Morris (Photograph of Architectural Model)

I closed my office at the end of 2008, the year Barack Obama became President of the United States. My very influential clients stopped their projects, and told me there would be NO money for probably six to ten years, and probably twelve to fifteen years. It was difficult to do,

since the Projects I was working on with them were in the size of millions of square feet in size, and the Project started with the demolition the Commercial Center on the South side of Sahara Avenue and Maryland Parkway, and was planned to absorb everything West to the Sahara Hotel property. We were working with the Clark County Redevelopment Agency, to coordinate this right, and Clark County was part owner of this Center. Two months after my clients stopped their Project with me, the County closed the doors of their Redevelopment Agency. So my clients were "right-on". I was 77 years of age at that time. I had a couple of Jobs finishing up, and when they were finished I turned my Architectural License back to the State of Nevada, and I was officially retired at the age of 79. Wasn't easy, stopping it that way, but as it turned out....."Right-On"! I am now 83.

The Remodel and Addition I did to Lester LaFortune's house turned out great. He was extremely happy. He would invite me to join him at the Haulapai Club on Fremont Street once or twice a week. This was a very large Club of businessmen, and I felt very privileged to be asked. Tom Foley, one of the Foly Brothers was also a member. The Foley Brothers Law Firm was the Law Firm for Silver State Disposal, and Tom Foley took me into his office one day and told me he had the finest office in the State of Nevada.

On one of the visits to the Haulapai Club, I mentioned to Lester LaFortune that my wife and I were thinking about getting a different house. He told me to buy his former house that was vacant. He took me there. It was in McNeil Estates, an older beautiful neighborhood. The house was about 1,800 sq. ft. In size, and was on a ½ Acre lot, filled with trees... It was beautiful. But I told him, I had only been in my Architectural Practice for less than a year, it was 1967, and I didn't think I could afford such a wonderful piece of property. He said let me handle that, and before you knew it, we had a bank loan, we sold our house that we had lived in for five years, our third child was born, I did some minor remodel work on the house and we moved in. A whirlwind! We went on to put a large addition on both ends of the house, a large redwood deck

in back and, a playhouse for our children, and we lived there comfortably for twenty five years.

A couple of years later Lester LaFortune called me to his office, and we drove to two vacant sites. One of which was on East Sahara. He said they were going to build an office building, and he asked my advice on the two Sites. Shortly thereafter, he gave me some idea of the size of building they were going to need.

The Silver State Building was conceived. A four story office building of silvery mirrored glass, (a new material for energy conservation). My architectural practice was truly, really launched. I had a lot of School District Projects, and other projects were coming in also.

My wife was very busy with our three children. We had joined the First Presbyterian Church in 1962, and we both held church offices there. In 1971, Sue decided to join a Women's Organization called "Service League", which had just been chartered as "Junior League". She was in a Provisional Class with Elaine Wynn. Sue later joined Assistance League, and rose to President of that Organization. In 1979 Sue joined PEO Chapter "V" Sisterhood. She was very active and held all the offices, and was President of Southern Nevada Reciprocity in 2003.

Our children attended West Charleston Elementary School. Each one spent one year at a Sixth Grade Center, before going to Hyde Park Jr. High School, and they all graduated from Clark High School.

Our oldest daughter, Pamela, went to Pepperdine University, and graduated. Our son, Michael, settled on the University of Oregon, the running headquarters of the Country (our son was a long distance runner in high school), and graduated with a degree in Molecular Biology, and he is a Scientist with Agilent Technologies in La Jolla, California. Our youngest, Cathleen, went to U.N.L.V. (with one semester in London, England), before transferring to Biola University in Southern California, where she graduated. They all seem to be successful in their lives.

Living in McNeil Estates was beneficial to our lives here in Las Vegas. The Mayor of Las Vegas, Bill Briare and his wife and family lived just a block away from us, and their oldest

daughter would baby sit for us. We became good friends with the Briare's, and joined them when they were hosting European Tours and Cruises. We had great fun on these occasions. Right next store to us was Jack and Margie Stuhmer, owners of a home building company called Security Housing Corporation. Right next to them and our back yard was Tony and Mary Drago, owners of Seton Academy, a pre-school that is still functioning today. Across the street from us was a scientist, Bernard Menke. Down the street the Ravenholt's lived, Otto and Brian. Across the street from their house was Tad Porter, an attorney. Gardner Jolley and his wife lived down the street on Strong Drive, and his partner Bill Urga and his wife moved across the street. Carlton Adair and his family lived in the area also on Mason Street. Carlton Adair was in my Kiwanis Club, and he had a large piece of property adjacent to Lake Mead. He tried to develop it into Lake Adair, but could never get it together. He finally sold the property, and it was developed into the "Lake Las Vegas". Carlton's daughter Valerie, and our daughter Pam were very close friends in school. Pam was also very close friends with Jane Adams in our neighborhood whose parents owned a number of Sizzler Restaurants. Our youngest daughter became good friends in grade school with Adam Efromson who lived in the neighborhood. Our son befriended Ward Wengert at school, who lived in an adjacent neighborhood called Scotch Eighties. My first Accountant, Clyde Turner, who later became partnered with Steve Wynn, and got in the Hotel business, rose to President and Chief Operating Officer, tore down a house in our neighborhood and built a house and moved in with his wife.

So, we had a wonderful life on Strong Drive in McNeil Estates. We hosted many parties in our large yard, always keeping our fingers crossed that the wind would not come up and ruin the occasion, which it never did. Sue had many birthday and other parties (some large, where she needed help to keep an eye on the many children). The property was so large that our children never had to play in the street. We always drove our children to school, and back from school, until they got to be older, and we would allow them to walk home from Hyde Park Jr. High.

I bought an office building in 1973, at 1009 Casino Center Boulevard. Remodeled it extensively and that served my purposes in downtown Las Vegas, until it was bought by a local developer in 2005, who was building high rise apartment/condominiums in the area.

During the first few years of my Practice, I was contacted by the City of Las Vegas to see if I could help them with a Landmark Ruin which the first inhabitants to Las Vegas Built. It was called The Old Mormon Fort. They asked if I would do some Pro Bono work on it to help the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. I agreed, and was contacted by Florence Lee Jones, and she put me in contact with a Nevada Author/Historian, Stan Paher. Stan came to my office with partial books that he had authored, marked up with pertinent references to the subject. Florence Lee also brought me many old written documents, and some old sketches and pictures. With that, we worked up a scheme of what the City of Las Vegas had asked me to do.

Lester LaFortune and his senior executive at Silver State disposal, Al Isola, sponsored me in to The Desert Inn Country Club on August 6, 1974. This was the only Private/Resort Country Club in Las Vegas. It was wonderful to be a member, and I was a golfer. The parties they had there were second to none, and you can't have parties of abundance like those anymore. Sue and I made many friends there, until it all came to an end, with the end of the Desert Inn Country Club in 2002.

When Sue joined Junior League, she met many women who all became close friends. One such person was Sharon Schmitt. Her husband was in the insurance business with Allstate Insurance. We became close friends, since our three children and Larry and Sharon's children were about the same age. Sharon was the oldest daughter of Ed and Evelyn Von Tobel, who we got to know, along with their close friends Fred and Mary Smith, and their two boys, about the same age as our oldest daughter, Pam.

Every year the Von Toble's, the Smith's, and the Schmitt's vacationed on Balboa Island for the month of July. After we got to know them well, we also joined them for two weeks,

I never did any projects out of State. However, when I completed the Silver State Building I got a call from the President of a large Company in Florida, who wanted me to do his corporate headquarters for him, but his staff finally talked him out of it. Maybe it was politics, but I was so new to the profession at the time that it never really bothered me. Dr. Maury Hack, a local dentist in the first dental clinic I designed on East Desert Inn Road bought a residential lot in Northstar, which is in the Reno Area. I designed a house that he and his wife were going to retire to after his successful dental practice. This house got the attention of the Contractor who built it and he commissioned me to design four other houses in this very nice Ski and Golf Community. These were the only Projects I did out of Las Vegas and vicinity.

All projects were very important to me, given the chance that all my clients had to take, upon themselves, to go forth with them. My very last project, I somehow know that I owe to my very long time friend, Dr. Jim Nave. This Project started out very small, as an addition to the Western Veterinary Conference Office Building I did about ten years before, on the southeast corner of Oquendo Street and Eastern Avenue. The Western Veterinary Conference is a very large organization of veterinarians. They have been holding their annual conferences here in Las Vegas for many years. Other architectural firms are in their Conference, to give conferences on the Design of their Veterinary Clinics. These are really good firms, some very large. We all spent a lot of time working to design something we didn't know where it was going. Dr. Randal Ezell, DVM, and Dr. Stephen Crane, DVM, were very close to the Project people I was working with. They were in consultation with other members of the Staff of Western Veterinary Conference. We started working on the small existing office building on the corner of this 5 acre parcel, and as the project grew in scope, we abandoned it and concentrated on the rest of the 5 acre Parcel. It took three years of design, but we wound up with a 70,000 square foot building, and everybody was comfortable with it. It is called the Oquendo Center for Clinical Education, 2425 East Oquendo Road, Las Vegas Nevada 89120. (www.wvc.org). The American Medical Association

renting a house on the beach with a private boat dock for our boat. We did this for twelve years, and the children sort of grew up together, took sailing lessons, and had much fun together.

A couple of years after Oscar and Carolyn Goodman came to Las Vegas, I think I was contacted by him. I'm not exactly sure. It was about 1976. I could have contacted him, being encouraged by a Veterinarian Client, Jim and DeDee Nave. I designed several Veterinary Clinics for Jim over the years, but that's another story for later. I set up a meeting with Oscar, he said that he and his wife wanted to design a house across the street from his partner, Jerry Snyder in Paradise Valley. It was a pretty large lot, and a very large house. When the plans were nearly complete (about 99%), he and his partner split up. Not knowing any of the details, Oscar and Carolyn sold the property, and immediately bought a house in Scotch Eighties. I remodeled this house, and designed a guest house in the back yard for his mother to stay when she visited them. They still live there. So, we've been just very delightful friends ever since. They are just very special talented people!

In 1979 the combined Kiwanis Clubs in Las Vegas hosted a prayer breakfast at the MGM Grand Hotel (on the southeast corner of Las Vegas Boulevard South and Flamingo Road. It is now renamed Bally's) and invited Billy Graham as the speaker. Three days later the hotel experienced a major fire that they determined was smoldering during our prayer breakfast. Many people lost their lives, and this changed the way Building and Safety Codes were to be assessed in Las Vegas. I was in my car, on I-15 heading out to play in a golf tournament. I saw smoke coming out of the top of the MGM. I pulled over to the side of the highway, got out of my car, and watched it, and further discussed it with my playing partners.

You meet a great many people during your years of private practice. I have had a great deal of work coming from both the private sector, and the government sector. Each is different, but both have their rewards, big and small, just keeping things going until the next project comes along, and a lot has to do with the economics of the times.

uses it most of each year. Western Veterinary Conference hosts a very large conference every year here in Las Vegas. Before the Oquendo Center was completed the conference was in the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. Now since the opening of the Oquendo Center, the Conference is coordinated to be in both places, with shuttle busses transporting the people the short distance back and forth. **The Project is a Total Success!**

During the time of this Western Veterinary Project, an Architectural Competition surfaced, one that any architect would want to enter. It was for the 911 Memorial.

Well, I entered it!

It was a great experience to "witness" all that took place in those three areas, not just "Ground Zero", but the other areas in Pennsylvania, and near our Nation's Capitol.

To dwell on a concept that might stimulate an answer to the devastation that took place, and the loss of lives and real property that took place on that day.

To be reminded of the police and fireman who put their lives at total risk, and coworkers also, and the total fright the passengers on those airliners had to endure, helplessly!

It makes me shutter to go back and think of this, and, early that morning when it all took place, at my office, **I watched it all unfold on live television as it was happening!**

I submitted my entry! I was satisfied!

I think there were 2,500 Entries (that met the requirements) in this competition!

There is one small but very important project for Clark County School District that I designed in 1981, it was simply referred to as the "Portable" A simple classroom that could be used individually, or clustered to form a whole school campus. This Portable, enabled the School District to keep abreast of the demand for classroom and also office space from 1981 through 1987, since bond funding for permanent schools was not authorized. The "Portable" also is very versatile; it can be clustered, interconnected, and installed on a grade level foundation to be designed as complete schools for remote satellite communities such as Sandy Valley School in

Sandy Valley, on the California/Nevada Border, and Laughlin School in Laughlin, Nevada. It is still being used today, to supplement school campus needs, since they can be used, then easily taken away and used on other campuses to meet the changing needs, or put in storage until they are needed. **The Clark County School District should have named a school after me for their extensive use of this small portable multiple use versatile building. Dr. Thurman White Associate Superintendent for construction, told me one day that the "Portable" was one of their most successful projects.**

Some of the whole Campus Projects I completed were:

Variety School for the Physically Handicapped

Ruby Thomas School for the Aurally Handicapped

Indian Springs Elementary School, Jr. High, and Senior High School

Laughlin School

Sandy Valley School

Harry Reid Elementary School in Searchlight, Nevada

And, numerous Additions and Alterations to many School Campuses. I had a lot of Clark County School District work from 1967 until early 2004.

I became a member of the Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas in 1966. Harry Whitely sponsored me into the Club. They had over 200 members, and I was privileged to become a member. service clubs such as Kiwanis (especially large clubs), were just invaluable for a person in business such as I was, and new to the community. Kiwanis helped me become active in the community, remember, this was a small town at that time, and Howard Hughes had not yet come here, or, had not yet began to exercise his influence here. We had some very important people in our club, such as Bob Griffith, who arrived here in 1905 as a five year old boy. Bob Kaltenborn, who Bob Griffith said walked over to Las Vegas from Bakersfield, California in 1925, and showed up at his doorstep. Among the many things that Bob Kaltenborn did was to create the

Rancho Circle Community. There were many more very influential people, some of whom became my clients.

Community Service:

Kiwanis: This Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas was Chartered in 1925, I joined in 1966. I became their 50th President in 1974-75.

Member of The Salvation Army Advisory Board. I joined in 1971. I was awarded Life Member Honor in 1998, and I continue participating as my only active membership since retirement.

Member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, Boulder Dam Area Council for two years, and was on the Advisory Board for seven years.

Charter Member/Past President of Southern Nevada Executive Council, a business persons organization of about 80 members. I was the second President of the organization. Accreditation Committee Chairman, Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce (This was the year our Chamber acquired National Accreditation).

City of Las Vegas 2000 and Beyond

In 1984 I was a committee member of the Clark County School District's Comprehensive Master Plan.

In 1985 I was appointed Director for the Nevada Society of Architects, which is our State Professional Association.

Member of University of Las Vegas Master Planning Committee

Served on the Board of the Lied Discovery Children's Museum (Membership #14)

Regarding Kiwanis, which was the first Service Club I joined, and was an active member for the entire time I was in practice as an architect. See on the following pages, as one of the Founders/Builders of the "Kiwanis Water Conservation Park", History and Details of this major community contribution to Las Vegas:

KIWANIS WATER CONSERVATION PARK

A HISTORY OF THE KIWANIS WATER SAVING LANDSCAPING PARK 1976 - 1986

PARK FOUNDER: THE KIWANIS CLUB OF LAS VEGAS (Chartered 1925)

The dream of a demonstration place to teach water conservation through the use of efficient watering and plants more acclimated to the desert was first expressed at a Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas meeting!

Lloyd Rooke spoke to the Club at the invitation of Tom Rice, then General Manager of the Water District (and also a long time member of our Club, the Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas). Lloyd Rooke was a horticulturist, soil scientist, and consultant, and had spent many years as a horticulturist in the desert areas. He had noted the ability of certain plants to survive, their use of shade of a rock as well as the water attracting ability of that rock. He felt that the natural plant survival could be translated into landscaping and still not use much water. He has studied many of our local desert plants and had collected seeds from some of them.

Len Yelinek was president of the Kiwanis Club that year. Len, and members, Vice-president Dr. Hugh Follmer and Tom Rice met with Lloyd Rooke after this Club program. Discussion ensued about the amount of water in the area, the wells that were not producing enough water in the valley. How the Colorado River Project was progressing and what the population growth was predicted to be. Lloyd Rooke had mentioned the hope of demonstrating all this some way. He had a general idea of some type of park that would show people about the Desert, with the use of soil mounding, rocks, trees and shrubs, and even grow some of the local native desert plants that he had collected seeds from and saved. The Kiwanis Club decided to go ahead and try to plan something.

The idea of a "Kiwanis Park" started in the Fall of 1976 when then Kiwanis President, Len Yelinek, and Kiwanis member, J.R. "Buck" McElhone thought it might be

feasible to create a Park to serve the community in the Kiwanis name. Tom Rice talked informally with the Las Vegas Water District Board, who also serve as Clark County Commissioners, who were all receptive to the idea. The Water District had land, and even water running close to a spot that was considered for the Park. The Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas decided to work on such a project with the Water District.

Several meetings were held with parties that Tom Rice or Lloyd Rooke thought might be interested. The Clark County Soil Conservation District was invited to join in because much of the Park development would be in their field of expertise to try to help us solve many parts of the puzzle. Karl Weikel, Chairman of their Board met with us. On October 26, 1976 the Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas, in cooperation with the Water District, held its first meeting at the Water District to promote the use of such landscaping in a Landscaping Park. Lloyd Rooke described a plan for demonstrating the things he felt should be shown, and it was the intention of the Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas to design and install ten exhibit plots simulating home fronts, so that the public can visually see and ACCEPT the more realistic approach to conservation landscaping. Those attending included Lloyd Rooke a Horticulturist and Soil Scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, Kiwanis President Len Yelinek, Tom Rice (Kiwanis) General Manager of the Water District, Art Pearson (Kiwanis) President of Nevada Power Company, Harold P. Foster Director of Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Las Vegas, Thalia Dondero Clark County Commissioner, Bob Broadbent Clark County Commissioner, Bud Albright (Kiwanis) Director of Construction Projects for Clark County, Linn Mills and Alan Boettcher of Clark County Cooperative Extension Service, Don Davis of Davis Nursery, Adelene Bartlett a Review Journal Newspaper Columnist, Versiellen the Editor of Vista in Las Vegas Sun Newspaper, and J.R. "Buck" McElhone (Kiwanis) a Realtor. This was one of several meetings to follow at the Water District that attracted many more in attendance as an interest grew in the potential community awareness of this effort.

The Water District located 2.4 acres of their property facing on to Alta Drive. Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas President Len Yelinek asked his Kiwanis Club member Leo Borns, Architect, to meet with Lloyd Rooke to develop plans for the "Kiwanis Water Saving Landscaping Demonstration Park." Over the next several months a Park Concept and Plan was developed with Lloyd Rooke being the Resource, and Leo F. Borns, the Architect for the Park. Scope of the project increased as it was determined to be an ongoing Project, with operation and maintenance to be provided by the Water District. Five years was the goal for establishing the Demonstration Project, refining irrigation systems and selecting the most successful plant materials, and Lloyd Rooke selected, to demonstrate, over 200 low-consumptive water use plants that look lush and green, but require only a fraction of the water used on conventional landscaping. Three soil pit demonstration areas would also show samples of three bench mark desert soils. Construction documents, including a dimensioned Site Plan indicating grading, contouring, mounding, walkways, and a 40'-0" diameter Dome Structure to house visitor information and directions at the entrance to the Park adjacent to the 84 space Parking Lot was completed and dated June 13, 1977. Soon after this a 1/16th inch scale Architectural Model on a 2'-0" x 3'-0" base showing the proposed development of this Project was built, and due to its "handy size", Dr. Hugh Follmer, following Len Yelinek as Kiwanis Club President, made great use of this architectural model taking it all over town to introduce the concept of the Kiwanis Park, in a "monumental" effort to try to raise funds for the Park construction.

Using this Park Site Plan, and the Architectural Scale Model of the Project, and under the direction and guidance of Lloyd Rooke, in the fall of 1977, the members of the Kiwanis club of Las Vegas began the physical examination of the Site we were given to use, and began the layout and determining the tasks of the construction work that was going to be necessary for us to do for this Water Conservation Landscaping Park that was to be in the Kiwanis name. We did start this on our own, mostly using our own Kiwanis funds, and individual members using their own money for gas and lodging on trips out-of-town to Arizona, Utah, and Northern California to purchase trees, plants,

and drip irrigation systems (nothing of what we needed for this Demonstration Park was available here in Las Vegas. Lloyd Rooke and Linn Mills of the Cooperative Extension Service researched plant availability in adjacent states. Most of the plant species were imported from Arizona. Dr. Bill Scheer (Kiwanis) and Stu Leslie (Kiwanis) began making several trips to Tucson Arizona to purchase plants, trees, shrubs, ground cover, drip irrigation system, and then trailoring them behind Dr. Scheer's motor home).

As we proceeded with enthusiasm and success in this manner, it became determined that a written document should be involved. In March of 1978 a Contract was signed between the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas. R. J. Ronzone, President was the signer for the Water District, and was attested by James R. Widner, Secretary. The Water District to furnish the land, water and maintenance of the property. The Clark County Soil Conservation District provided a soils investigation and Soils Report for that Parcel, and it was interesting to note that, by pure chance, this area shows all the soils that can be found in this valley, and so three soil pits would be developed in the design to demonstrate this. Another interesting fact is that it is right next to the pipe that comes through with water for Phase II of the Colorado River Project.

Tom Rice was leaving the water District, Al Barozzi became acting manager. Kiwanis Club President Len Yelinek, President-elect Dr. Hugh Follmer, and Stuart Leslie were representing the Kiwanis Club. Stu Leslie took over as Chairman of the Park Planning Committee in 1978, and remained in that position until 1981. Don Paff came to the Water District as Manager, and all continued to work together with Karl Weikle and Bill Dunning of the Clark County Conservation District.

Although we had wonderful cooperation and enthusiastic participation from a wide range of public agencies, our Project did not seem to fit for Federal or State moneys. We do not employ anyone, our labor is volunteer (which seems to be a disadvantage). We are a demonstration project

and public money from those sources was not available for demonstration projects.

We needed a large sum of money right away if we were going to make this Project a reality in an effective time-frame! Our club directed Stu Leslie to write a letter, dated March 6, 1979, to Governor Robert List. This resulted, ultimately, in great interest from the Governor (It turned out that the Governor was a conservationist from boyhood). Governor List noted that Nevada is one of four adjoining states that is a part of an organization called the Four Corners Commission. This Commission was getting ready to dissolve, and money may be available, and Governor List suggested we submit a grant for funding. Leo Borns, the Architect for the Park, was asked to provide a design for the Visitor Center for the Park. Lloyd Rooke was used by the architect as a consultant in the design of this 1792 s.f. Building. The plans were completed on June 12, 1979. The Grant was started at about the same time in 1979, and was six pages in length and filled with detailed information including costs (which we noted that in-kind amounts were as being more than half the cost of the projected cost of the Project), and we also noted that, very importantly, Bill Dunning, key person in getting the grant properly organized, that the grant was to be made to the Clark County Soil Conservation Service to administer the Project. The project as outlined called for a total project cost of \$346,620.00. The in-kind donations from the local and state people involved totaled \$219,000. Governor List was a strong supporter of the Project with his presentation of the Project to the Four Corners Commission.

The Grant was submitted with dollar sums, and other information as follows:

Total project Cost: \$346,620.00

In-kind:

Las Vegas valley water District.....	\$132,400.00
Clark County Conservation District.....	52,000.00
State of Nevada Agricultural Extension Service.....	5,000.00
Volunteer labor.....	9,000.00

(Kiwanis, boy Scouts, various Garden Clubs)

Leo F. Borns, Architect.....	9,500.00
State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of water Planning.....	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total In-kind.....	\$219,900.00

The Grant requested was the difference between the in-kind amount and the total projected cost. \$126,720.00, but we actually received \$270,000.00, probably as result of influence of Nevada Governor Robert List.

Project Directors Listed:

Stuart Leslie (Kiwanis), Park Chairman

Karl F. Weikel, Chairman of the Board, Clark County Conservation District

Project Personnel:

John R. McElhone (Kiwanis), Park Assistant Chairman, and Director of the Work Force

Consultant: Lloyd Rooke, Soil Scientist and Horticulturist. Many years of experience with private industry, government, with desert soils and plant materials.

He is often quoted in professional and lay publications. Author of soon-to-be published book "Resource Conservation Landscaping".

Advisor:

Donald Paff, Director of Las Vegas Valley Water District

State Agency Responsible:

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Division of Water Planning

Problem Area:

In Las Vegas, according to U.S. Government research, 70% of household water is used outside the home and 30% inside. Tucson Arizona is a town compatible to Las Vegas, but there the

figures are reversed, with 70% of the water used inside the home and 30% outside. As a result, Tucson uses half the water, per home, that Las Vegas does, and, the difference is in the type and style of landscaping.

The Las Vegas water supply will be greatly increased when the Southern Nevada Water Project is complete, but that will only postpone a water crisis for ten years or so, and obviously, the future economic growth of Southern Nevada is only limited by the size of our water supply, and how we will use it. Also, the Water Project will have to be paid for, which means that the average household water bill will at least double. Our Project will demonstrate foresight in leading the way to reasonable use of water around the home. In addition, economic stimulus will come as homes are retrofitted with water conservation landscaping.

Scope of Work:

This Project is designed to demonstrate lush green foliage in the form of trees, shrubs, and ground covers that use a small fraction of the water used by conventional landscaping practices. It will demonstrate the use of foliage for insulation, and it will demonstrate various water saving methods of irrigation for our common desert soil conditions.

This Project is designed to stimulate buying interest in drought-tolerant plants which will, in turn, encourage the plant nurseries to stock them and the wholesale growers to propagate them. Currently, these plants are hard and expensive to obtain. We also intend to demonstrate how water is being wasted now, and show how a lot less water can be used with greater effect through efficient irrigation, and demonstrate new equipment and systems that are available, to encourage retrofitting of home sprinkler systems.

The Kiwanis Water Conservation and Landscaping Demonstration Project will be publicized to the general public, and trips to the Site will be solicited. We expect to see garden clubs, service clubs, and organizations of all kinds visiting as a group. School children will visit on field trips, so parking for busses is provided. Homeowners will be able to use the Kiwanis Project as a living

catalogue, to pick out plants they would like to have growing at their own house, and learn how to solve their own watering problems, and so, reduce their use of water, and consequently, their water bill.

Project Coordination:

Participating Organizations:

1. Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas: Overall coordination and physical labor.
2. Clark County Conservation District: Administration, construction control, engineering and technical assistance.
3. Las Vegas Valley Water District: Landlords of the Site, provide water, fencing, and permanent maintenance.
4. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service: Planning, engineering design and layout, plant materials, and technical assistance.
5. State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Water Planning: Sponsoring State Agency, providing some funds.
6. State of Nevada, Agricultural Extension Service: Handout material.
7. Las Vegas Nurserymen: Actually two associations, both interested in education of their members in drought tolerant landscaping, and assisting in arrangements for acquiring and stocking plant materials.
8. Boy Scouts of America: Hard work.
9. Many other organizations are in contact with us desiring to participate, including other area Kiwanis Clubs, but no definite commitments have been made.

The Kiwanis Water Saving Landscaping Demonstration Park became a reality with its dedication on October 22, 1980. This would prove to be the first of three such ceremonies. Kiwanians maintained the gardens, planting new shrubs and trees, and repairing the drip irrigation system. Local

nurseries were encouraged to stock drought-tolerant plants and parts for the watering system. The Water District provided oversight, but the Park was only open a few days a week, Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until the hot weather starts. During the hot summer months the Park was open only in the mornings.

When the Grant was a possibility and was being reviewed for consideration by the Four Corners Commission, and when it was learned there might be Federal funding available to assist, total planning of the Project began to take on speed. When this became a reality, we were able to work in earnest.

As previously mentioned, the Las Vegas Valley Water District has been a part of the planning from the beginning. Tom Rice started things off when he was manager. Aldo Barozzi continued the work as acting director and Don Paff has been a guiding light to get details together to make the park run. The Water District Board (The Clark County Commissioners) has done many things to assist in the development. Commissioner Richard Ronzone was chairman and was involved with the major decisions. Commissioner Bob Broadbent guided our need for all type of correct moves through the various departments of city and county governments. Commissioner Jack Petitti (Uptown Kiwanis) and Commissioner Thalia Dondero have been helpful in guiding the project through the development of the three headed leadership (actually, Thalia just was an absolute personal guide on how to handle everything). Numerous employees of the Water District were in the continuing effort to develop the Park.

In addition to the agencies mentioned. There was help from Mayor Bill Briare and the City Council. (The park is in the city and under city zoning.) Their interest lies in a long term commitment through the City Beautification Committee. Don Saylor, Director of City Planning, assisted us with getting approval of the necessary departments, including the Planning Commission and several other departments for clearances to be able to proceed with proper Permits.

Many Corporations and Businesses have helped. Nevada Power, Centel, The Nevada

Nurserymen's Association, Jim Henderson (Kiwanis) owner of Las Vegas Building Materials, made it possible to get the parking lot and concrete areas at a very reasonable price. Bob McNutt Engineering (Uptown Kiwanis), provided the structural calculations for the Building. There were many others.

The Park has required an almost daily attention of the Clark County Conservation District. Karl Weikel Chairman of the Board, has attended numerous meetings and continues to give valuable guidance. Bill Dunning, District Conservationist, has been the professional leading his staff of professionals to develop all the technical parts of the Park. The Conservation District continues as one of the three members of the group managing the Park.

Volunteer work has been used to put in all the water system, contouring of land, planting of plants, spreading bark and continued work with the plants. There have been new additions. Some transplanting of native plants and many other chores such as construction of the work shed. Spreading manure was one of the great thrills.

This work has been done by the Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas with some assistance from the Uptown Kiwanis Club and The Strip Kiwanis Club.

Stuart Leslie was chairman of the effort from 1978 to 1981. Dr. Hugh Follmer has been chairman since that time through 1986. Several Kiwanis presidents that followed Len Yelinek and Dr. Hugh Follmer, in the succession of presidents have been involved in the planning and execution of the whole project include: Don Mills, John Gorman, Owen Lloyd, George Vasconi.

Buck McElhone has served entirely and continuously as the coordinator of all the work parties. The number of hours is way up in the thousands. However, there have been many contributions of money and making contacts to get the job done. Much of this can not be measured in dollars.

When the money became available to actually use from the Grant, the major work began by Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas members, noted as follows:

Not knowing the exact date, but it started with grading of the Site, unknown to Lloyd Rooke, and this broke his heart when he found out. Seems he had noted some rare and native plants he hoped to preserve. A front loader grader operated by Norm Stone, supplied at a reduced rate from Ahern Rentals (Mr. Ahern was a member of our Kiwanis Club many years ago) was utilized, however, every bit had to be finished by hand. The next step was trenching for the laying of the PVC pipe. That was an interesting and exhausting event. The trencher was heavy and shuddered when it hit rocks, and the caliche, that was so well demonstrated in soil pit number one. Great fun to wrestle with on the side of the slope. It (grader) finally broke. I think we were all happy about that. Regardless, the pipe was laid. Wally Kolberg, John Gorman, Buck McElhone, Owen Lloyd, George Vasconi, John Sievers (I'm sure some names are left out). We took two weekends. We also cleaned up a lot of junk laying around. Dr. Bill Scheer carted that off to the dump. Len Yelinek and Dr. Hugh Follmer spent a Sunday repairing the PVC piping that Norm Stone dug up with the tractor. Dick Krafve used a jack hammer to clean out the flower boxes - there was a huge mess of concrete. Bud Albright was working with Art Schlauder (Art Schlauder was the owner of a steel fabricating company) to get the steel tower moved (that the Water District gave us), and then welded back together, and then erected again. Many, many hours! The Tower was utilized in the following manner. We installed a Water Storage Tank which we located within the top of the frame. The Tower was located at one corner of the Parking Lot which all sloped to this corner, so, during a rain, all the water would go to a cistern which was located there to hold the water. Frank Scott (owner of the Union Plaza Hotel), donated to us a Solar Pump (designed by a local soils engineer, O.J. Scherer, P.E., owner of Nevada Testing Laboratories). This solar Pump would then activate, and pump the water up (via solar energy), to the Storage Tank above, which in turn would release the water via piping to irrigate the plants. This was MORE water conservation by collecting, storing, and directing the use of the rain water.

Buck McElhone always carried buckets of water to the trees we had planted about a year before and ended up outside the boundary fence. Don Mills kept forgetting to show up with the

refreshments. After the PVC pipe, we started on the black flexible pipe and the emitters. Stu Leslie became an authority on this because he had gained experience in the use of this system in his back yard. Trouble was that he waited until we had most of the pipe (5,000 feet laid all over the place), then he showed up.

The ground cover areas have pipe about every foot with an emitter about the same distance. These were all put together and planted. Then we started digging holes and planting stuff. Dr. Hugh Follmer ran "spaghetti" lines to everything. It seemed like he would get caught up. Then, he would miss a Saturday, and those crazy guys would plant about a million more things. Lloyd Rooke would run in during the week and plant some more. Dr. Hugh Follmer thought that we had about fifty thousand plants before we all got done. By the way, the emitters and pipe were donated by Globemasters.

Dr. Hugh Follmer rushed over on Sunday to plant roses that had been left out on the Site, that Lloyd Rooke thought might die if left too long. He planted them in a downpour of rain. The next week John Sievers and George Vasconi planted other roses that had been soaked by the rain for a day. Dr. Follmer's roses died, theirs looked great.

Then there were several tons of manure. It was hot manure. Boy was it hot! The day it rained there was a cloud of steam towering above it. It smelled as only nice "hot" manure can smell, and this was spread by wheelbarrow and shovels. Lloyd Rooke laid out all the planting. And note again, that all of the above was done by the Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas (most all of the members did something), and some members of the Uptown Kiwanis Club and the Strip Kiwanis Club did something.

With continuous working progress, the Building and the Parking lot completed, the Park was ready to open. The Conservation District developed the display in the North Room of the Building. They also had the responsibility of the slide show. Bill Dunning and Karl Weikle both worked hard

which are pure desert. There may be a desire to cover these areas. Many people use rock or bark. Actually, they are using materials that will help the plants. In the park are demonstrations of ground water movement to rock or concrete where the water collects and then "drips" back into the soil. Bark has the effect to a lesser degree but does help retain water in the soil. We also show the effect of shade from the sun. Each rock or layer of bark casts some shade which helps decrease soil temperatures. The earth mounds we use in the Park are to show the effect of shade. Mounds and uneven soil will also decrease water runoff due to heavy rainfall or thunderstorms.

What results from this Park?

We hope the community will slowly change to landscaping that uses less water. New house landscaping can be started with low water use plants and drip system. The cost may be more due to availability.

Established landscaping: this will not change quickly. We hope it will over a period of years. When landscaping is redone, low water-use plants and drip irrigation systems should be used. Public buildings, and similar private areas could slowly change their landscaping. Established landscaping can be slowly converted. A little area planned as low water use area. Over a period of time the landscape could change. Large trees and shrubs should not be torn out. However, drip irrigation may support them very well. Large trees give shade which should be retained.

Flowers and similar ornamentals fit into this type of irrigation. Small areas with larger water use can be developed.

In Summary:

The Park is interesting in many ways. It is a great example of cooperation of a volunteer Service Group, a County wide Water District, and a County Conservation District which is connected with the Federal program. The state and many state

departments have helped and continue to help. Members of the Garden clubs and of the Native Plant Society have made good suggestions, and will continue to be involved as the Park continued to develop. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas has been a consultant through several members of the faculty. There is a sense that this involvement may become greater with experiments in plant development and use of water in the desert.

Organizations who have been involved are interested, or who will be, if there is ever more money. One thing about organizations must be kept in mind. They are there for their own reason. They have their own projects and interests, thus they will become more involved as the Park illustrates something in their interest.

The Park developed into a resounding success story, and grew beyond the capacity that a volunteer service club of community business persons volunteering their time to this effort and function. This took ten years! The money has run out. This was and is a success story where volunteerism developed that "demonstration" turned the "spotlight" on, and enlightened the community awareness, and the Facility demonstrated that it needs to be expanded, staffed, and run on a full time basis. There are parts of the Park that are incomplete, and there is a huge need to expand it and tell our story.

The Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas has "Sewn the Seeds"

During 1986, due to growing concerns about the water supply, the Park was taken over by the Water District, and a Master Plan was developed for revisions and expansion. It was fully staffed, and reopened in May, 1990 under the name of:

The Las Vegas Valley Water District Desert Demonstration Gardens

Kiwanis retained a presence in the Park Facility with work parties involving our Key Clubs (Kiwanis sponsored High School student volunteers), to help with revisions during the

conversion (and after, through into 2001), Also, an open covered Amphitheater , with the Kiwanis Logo installed, was dedicated during the reopening ceremony.

In 2007 the Desert Demonstration Gardens was relocated by the Water District to be a major part of their new expanded Facility. In June of 2007 the Las Vegas Valley Water District opened the Springs Preserve, which developed the full extent of their vast Property, with a beautifully planned and designed Conservation, Educational and Cultural Complex.

On June 4, 2008, a place in this Complex will be dedicated to the Kiwanis Water Conservation Park, in the Gardens Area. It will be known as the **“Kiwanis Recognition Plaza” in the Desert Living Center Gardens at the Springs Preserve.**

February 11, 2008: This Kiwanis Water Conservation Park History was written by Leo F. Borns, Architect, from written, and newspaper print media information in our Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas Archives. We, as a committee of those involved in the creation of this Facility in the Kiwanis name, also remembered, and coordinated the sequence of the experiences since 1976.

2007/2008 Kiwanis Water Conservation Park History Committee Members:

Leo Borns, Architect Chairman

Len Yelinek

R.J. “Buck” McElhone

Stu Leslie

William Scheer, D.D.S.

Owen Lloyd

George Vasconi

Wally Kolberg

Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas, Park Founder (1976)

Current 2007/2008 Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas President: Joe Geregthy



**DEDICATION OF THE KIWANIS
Plaza & Interpretive Exhibit**

June 4, 2008

**Springs Preserve
Las Vegas, Nevada**

With Special Guests

Cal-Nev-Ha District Gov. Oscar E. Knight III
Former Nevada Gov. Robert F. List
Las Vegas Valley Water District General Manager Patricia Mulroy

Program Agenda

11:30 a.m. Arrival & Welcome at Conference Room

Noon Wolfgang Puck Buffet Lunch

12:45 p.m. Call To Order-President Joe Geregthy, KCLV

Pledge of Allegiance-Lt Gov. Elect Debra Solt

Prayer-Past President Bob Sidell, KCLV

America-Past Lt. Gov. Howard Naylor

Introduction of Cal-Nev-Ha District

Gov. Oscar E. Knight III

Introduction of Emcee George J. Vasconi,

Past President, KCLV

12:55 p.m. Program—George J. Vasconi, Past Lt. Gov. Div. 28

Water Conservation Park History

Introduction of Park Committee

Introduction of Former Nevada Governor

Robert F. List

Introduction of LVVWD General Manager

Pat Mulroy

Introduction of Horticulturist

Linn Mills

Nevada Proclamation

City of Las Vegas Proclamation

An Overview of the Springs Preserve

Beth Gayler and Marcel Parent

1:30 p.m. Walk to Desert Gardens

**1:45 p.m. Dedication of Kiwanis Plaza & Interpretive
Exhibit**

2:00 p.m. Self-guided Tours

Kiwanis Water Conservation Park Committee

Chairman Hugh C. Follmer, M.D.*

G.H. "Bud" Albright*

Leo F. Borns

John T. Gorman

Wallace C. Kolberg

Stewart L. Leslie

Owen J. Lloyd

J.R. "Buck" McElhone

Don Mills*

Lloyd Rooke*

William Scheer, D.D.S.

George J. Vasconi

Len Yelinek

***Deceased**

Acknowledgements

Jim Gibbons, Governor of Nevada
Oscar Goodman, Mayor of Las Vegas
Patricia Mulroy, General Manager of LVVWD
Jay Nichols, Curator of the Springs Preserve
Linn Mills, Horticulturist



Event Sponsorship



I have been included in several written books in Las Vegas

Las Vegas: A Desert Paradise. Copyright & Published in 1986
Author: Dr. Ralph Roske, a professor of history at the University of Nevada Las Vegas

Distinguished Men in Southern Nevada 2000 - 2001
Publisher/President: Carole Bellmyre

Distinguished Men and Women in Southern Nevada 2002
Founder/Publisher: Carole Bellmyre

A Statement of Architecture

All projects have certain needs and goals to be accomplished, and decisions are worked out and rendered by Leo Borns in my association with the client, along with the assistance of various specialized consultants, such as structural, mechanical, electrical engineers, and in some cases, specialized consultants for a particular project. Together, working your project in their expertise in an architecturally coordinated effort. This, of course, is a need of the goal we seek!

Sometimes decision making in the design development of the planning & design of a design concept may take longer than first anticipated, and more time should be given, in this very most important phase for the applied creativity required for the design. As the architect for all my projects I take the lead role, but a careful participation and presence by the owner is necessary for the planning and design of the project to create fine architecture, along with my consultant disciplines, through construction documents, governing agency approvals, and construction administration. All work will be performed by local professionals and staff, unless a project requiring specialized expertise of other consultants is deemed necessary by owner and architect.

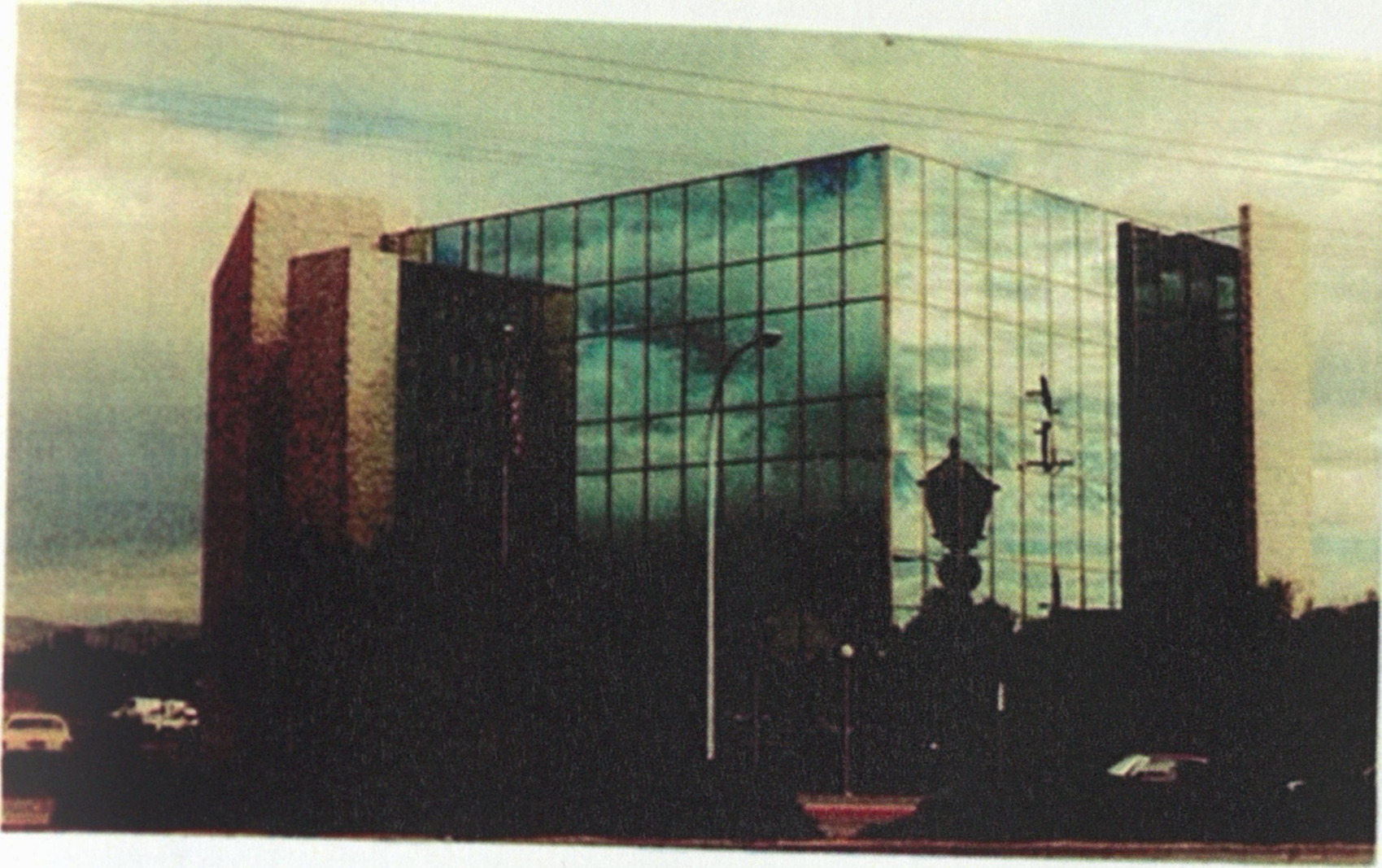
Investment of resources by the owner is a special commitment. Translation of this commitment to a well-planned, functional facility demands sensitivity, intelligence, and a profound dedication to outstanding planning and design. I believe the evaluation of the program, the selection of an appropriate schematic concept, the development of the design for a facility, and the completion of the construction process within the time constraints requires a clear, participatory and well organized planning approach. In my approach to designing "environments", it is important to encourage the participation of the individuals who will ultimately use the facility, and the experience of the community who could offer

some basic principals and assumptions which may help guide us through the process.

This design process is effectually team oriented. The owner, with personal involvement and through designated representatives, is a key team member and plays certain designated roles throughout the planning and facility development process. It is important to define an overall planning committee which will include those key representatives from all of the administrative and other disciplines involved in the operation and the use of the facility. So with key members together, and within this organization, the design is by team so that we can bring all the necessary skills and experience to a project. This does not imply that there is to be a large time investment on the part of the owner or designated representatives. This logically described collaboration with my engineering and any other specialty consultants will bring individuals with the ability to be constructive, positive-thinking, and imaginative contributors to the development of creative and successful concepts and approaches for the design of a project.

In summary, there is much diversity in the projects that I have been the architect for, including the programming, planning, and design of commercial, institutional, schools, medical, industrial, resort, recreation, churches, and multi and single family residential. Clean, unadorned lines and form are the thrust of my design, including simplicity of structural expression, in always striving for excellence in architecture. Energy conservation, along with technology in the use of materials of construction, have always been of fundamental importance in each concept as the design is developed.

On the following pages are some of the Projects I completed



SILVER STATE BUILDING

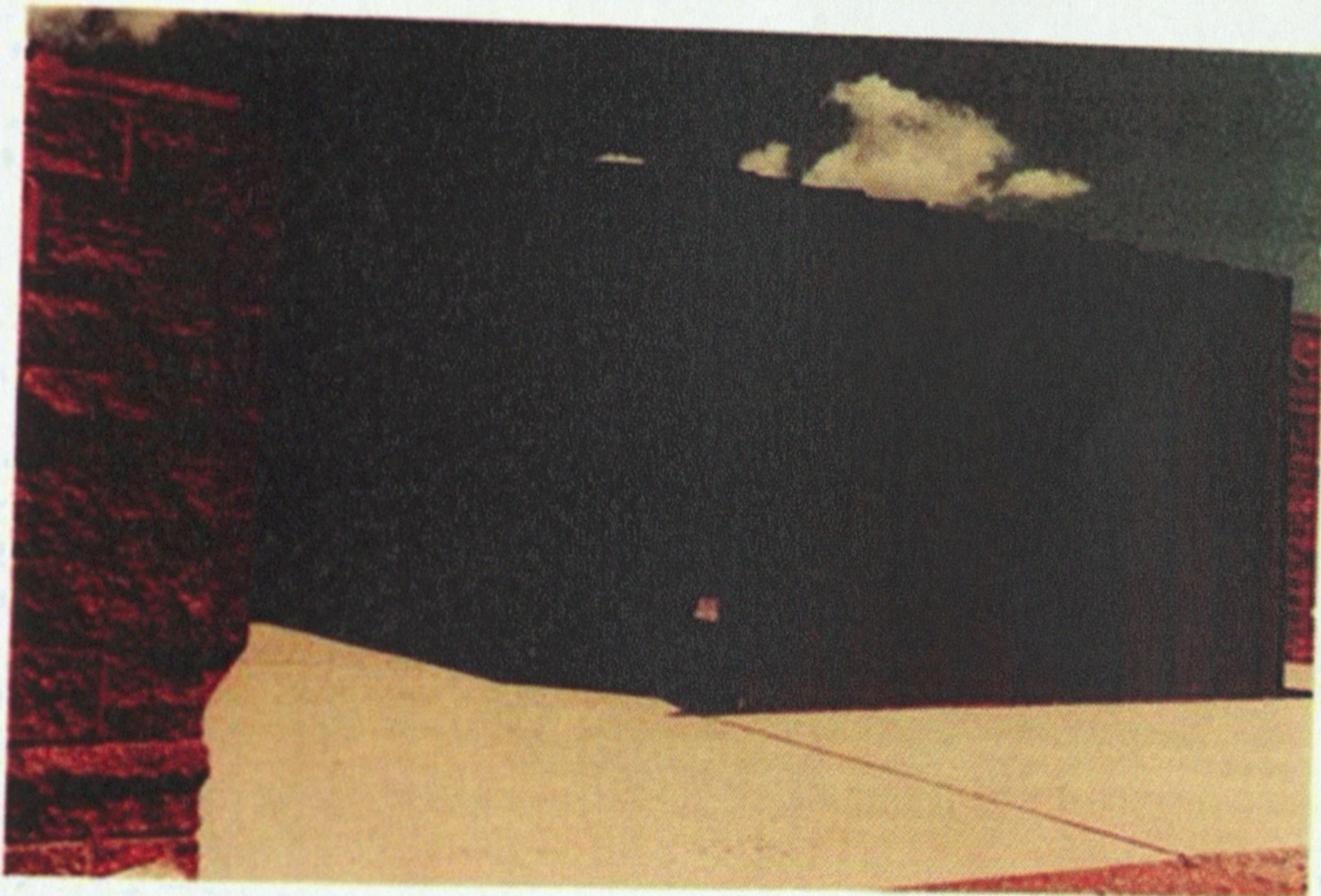
FOUR STORY OFFICE BUILDING. 32,000 Sq. Ft.

DESIGNED IN 1970, AND BUILT IN 1971

OWNER: IT IS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR
SILVER STATE DISPOSAL COMPANY.

ENERGY CONSERVATION WAS OF PRIMARY CONCERN IN THE DESIGN OF THIS
PREDOMINATELY DUAL GLAZED BUILDING, OF L.O.F. VERITRAN CHROME 108
INSULATED GLASS (THE FIRST OF THE INSULATED GLASSES) WAS USED.

THIS WAS FOUR YEARS BEFORE THE FIRST ENERGY CRISIS WHICH OCCURRED
IN 1974, AND THIS CHANGED BUILDING CODES, ORDINANCES, AND BUILDING
PRACTICES IN GENERAL, TO USE ENERGY SAVINGS METHODS IN DESIGN.



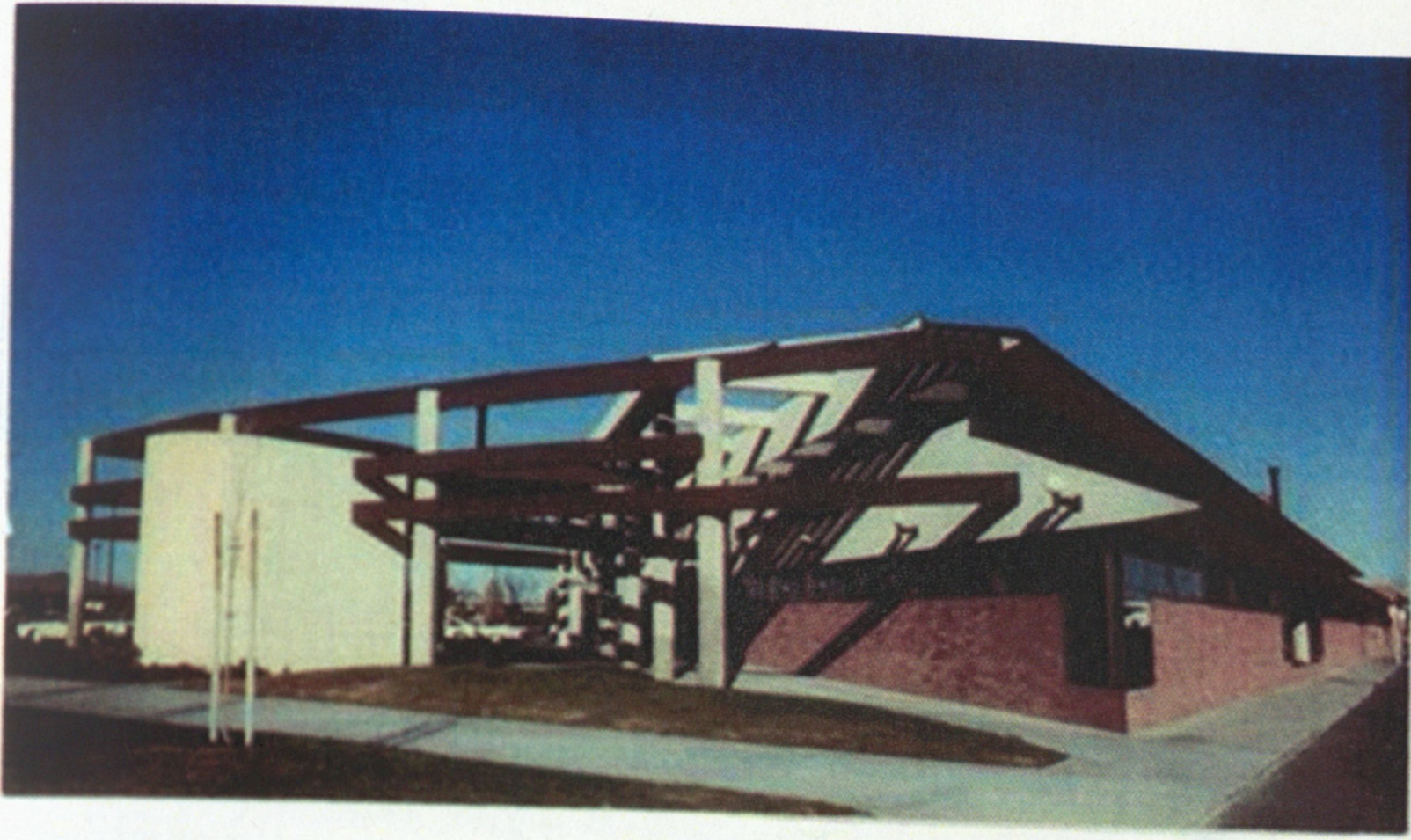
HENDERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PHASE ONE: 20,000 SQ. FT. OF A PLANNED 300,000 SQ. FT. CAMPUS

OWNER: STATE OF NEVADA PUBLIC WORKS BOARD

USING AGENCY: UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SYSTEM CLARK

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDINGS FOR
SIERRA HEALTH SERVICES**

78,000 SQ. FT.

FIRST BUILDINGS FOR HMO USE

IN NEVADA



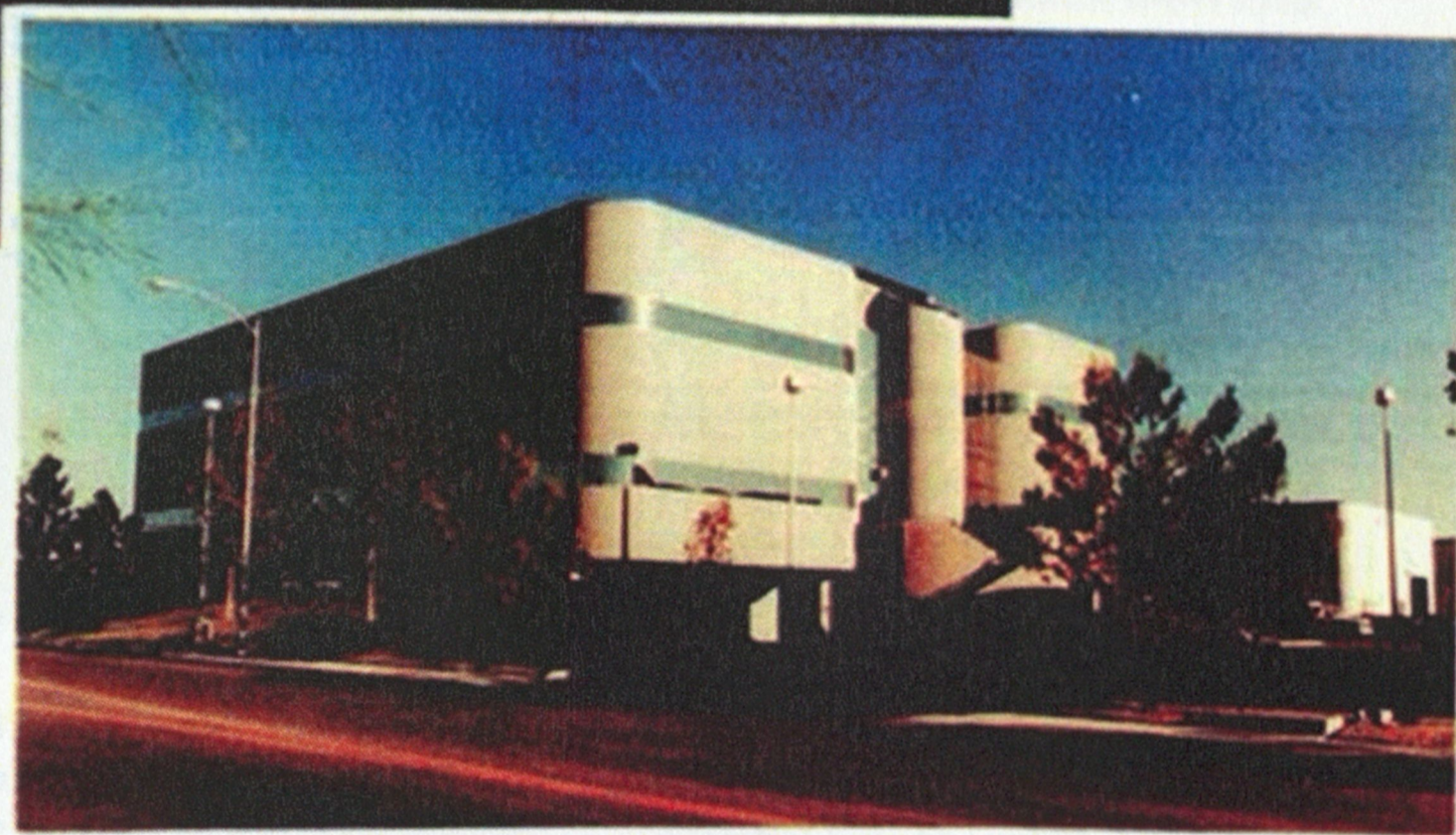
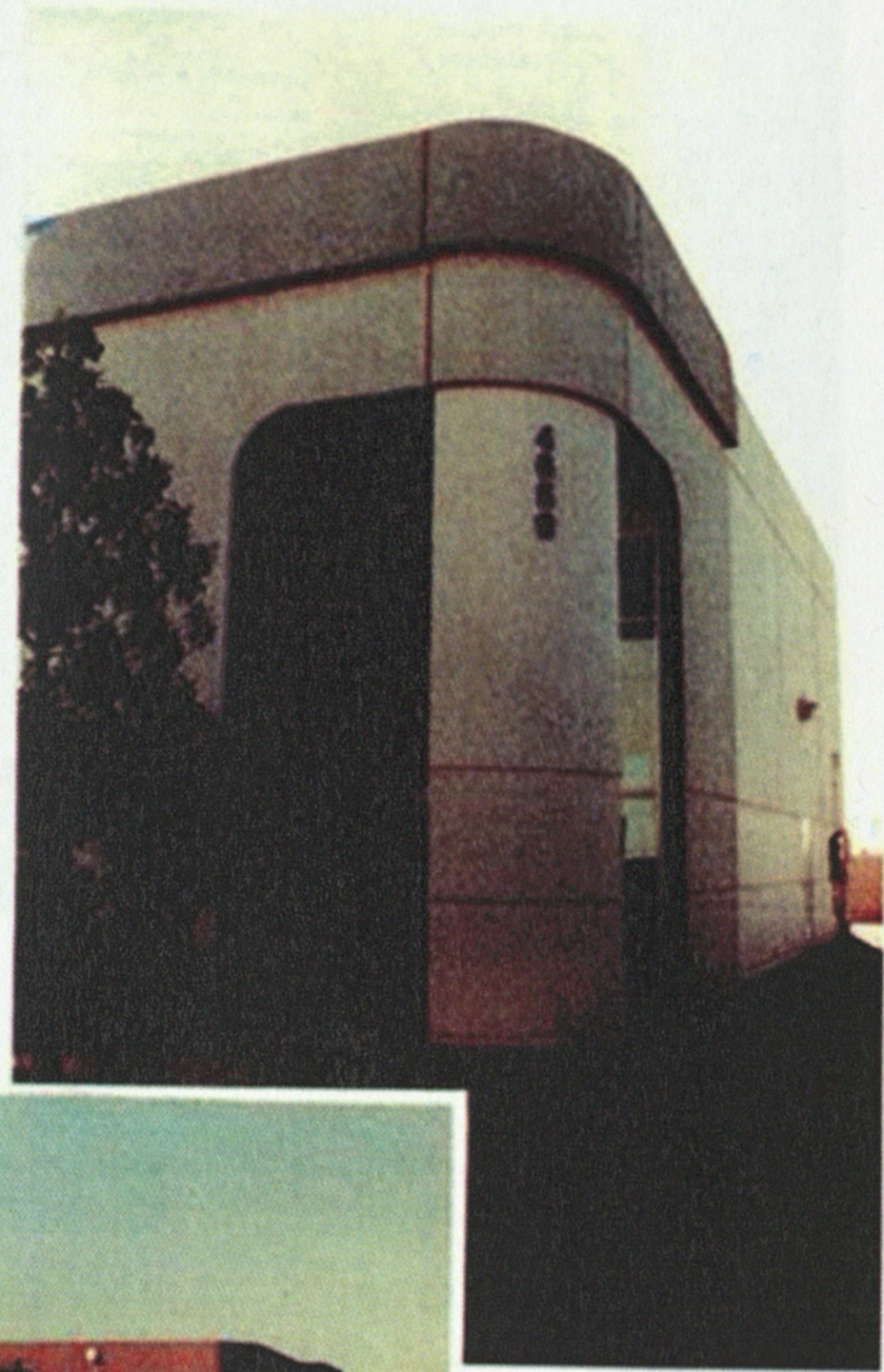
GROVE BUSINESS PARK

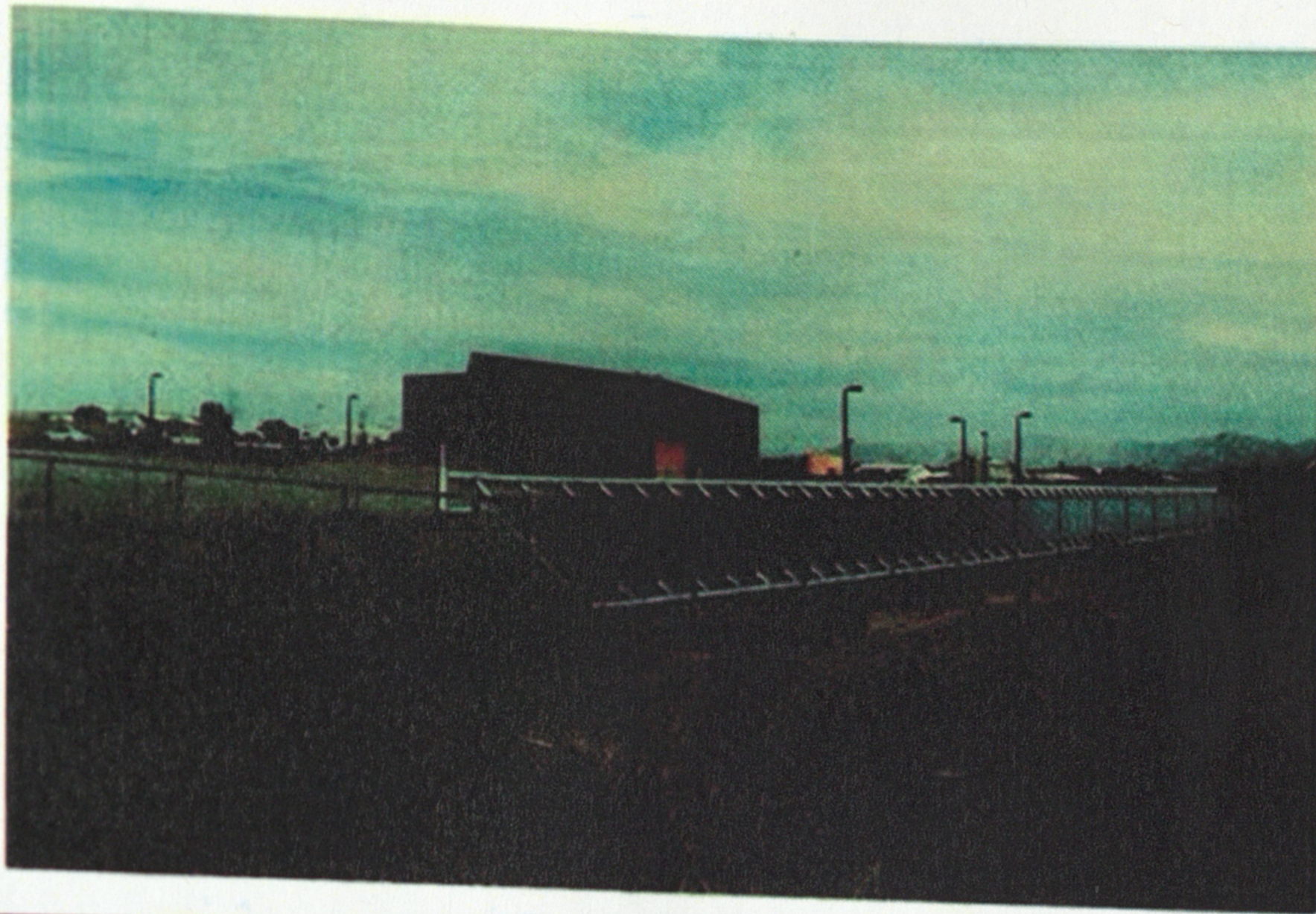
OWNER: GROVE, INC.

78,000 SQ. FT.

OFFICE BUILDINGS

WAREHOUSE BUILDINGS





SOLAR LABORATORY

BUILT IN 1976

OWNER: STATE OF NEVADA

OPERATING AGENCY:

THE DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

LOCATION:

BOULDER CITY, NEVADA

3,900 SQ.FT. SOLAR HEATED & COOLED

LABORATORY BUILDING

IT WAS THE FIRST HEATED & COOLED

STATE OF NEVADA BUILDING

THE LABORATORY WORK FUNCTION

WAS FOR THE DESIGN AND TESTING

SYSTEMS OF SOLAR ENERGY



BRANCH BANK

OWNER: FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN

3,000 SQ. FT.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS IN NEVADA



MAGNA EXECUTIVE CENTER

OWNER: BRUTOMESSO REALTY

64,000 SQ. FT. OFFICE BUILDING

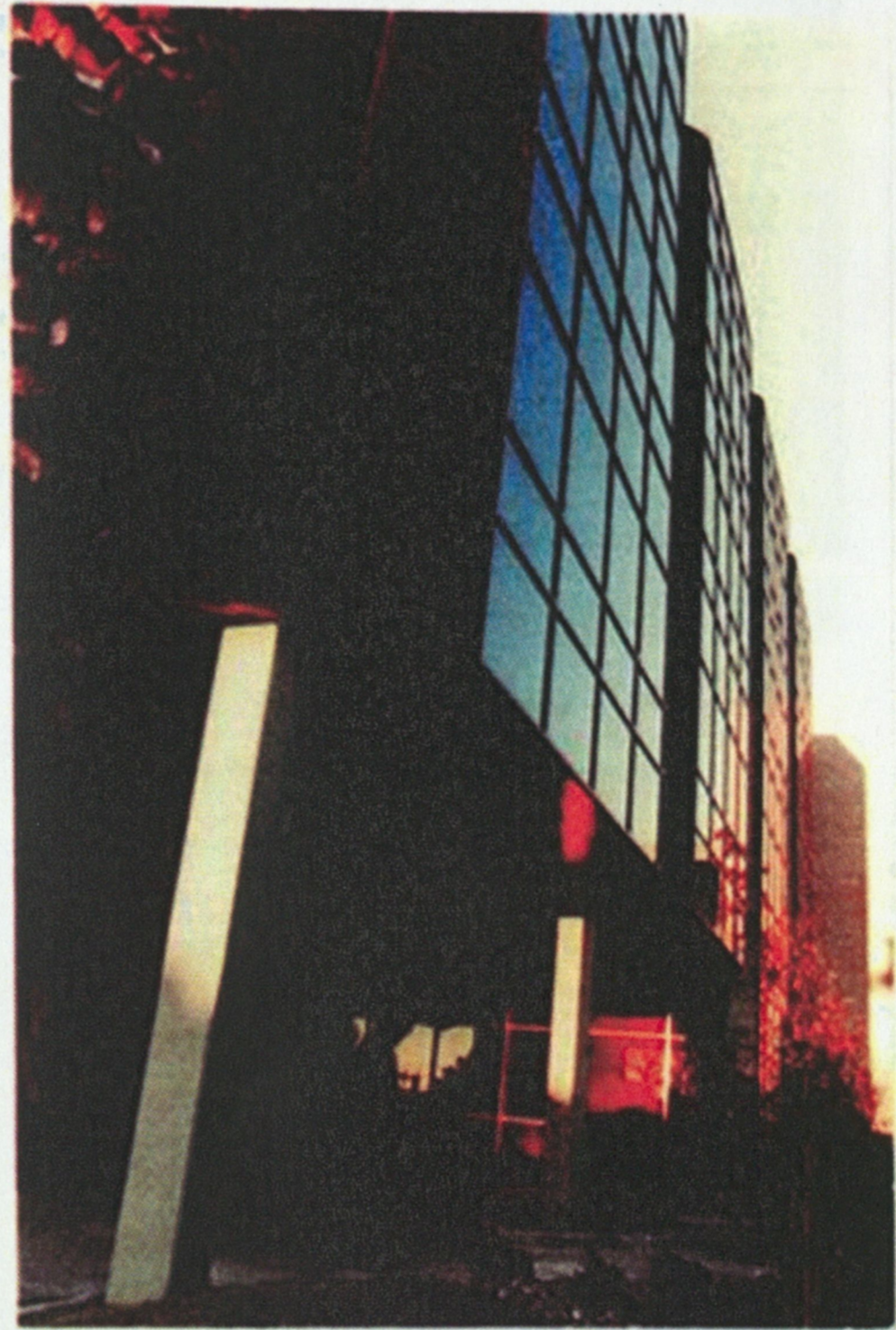
64,000 SQ. FT. PARKING GARAGE

BONNEVILLE SQUARE

76,600 SQ. FT. BUILDING & 61,000 SQ. FT. PARKING GARAGE

OWNER: ORIGINALLY DESIGNED AS A SINGLE PURPOSE
BUILDING FOR THE LAW OFFICES OF BECKLEY,
SINGLETON, DE LANOY, JEMISON AND LIST

THE ADDITIONAL EXPANSION INCLUDES THE CORPORATE
HEADQUARTERS OF SECURITY PACIFIC BANK, AND GSA
U.S. PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT





OQUENDO CENTER FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION

OWNER: WESTERN VETERINARY CONFERENCE 70,000 SQ. FT. On 5 acres

MISSION: THE OQUENDO CENTER FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION IS TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY, CLINICALLY RELEVANT, STATE-OF-THE-ART HANDS-ON CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE AND OTHER PROFESSIONS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF WORLDWIDE ANIMAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH. Oquendocenter.org

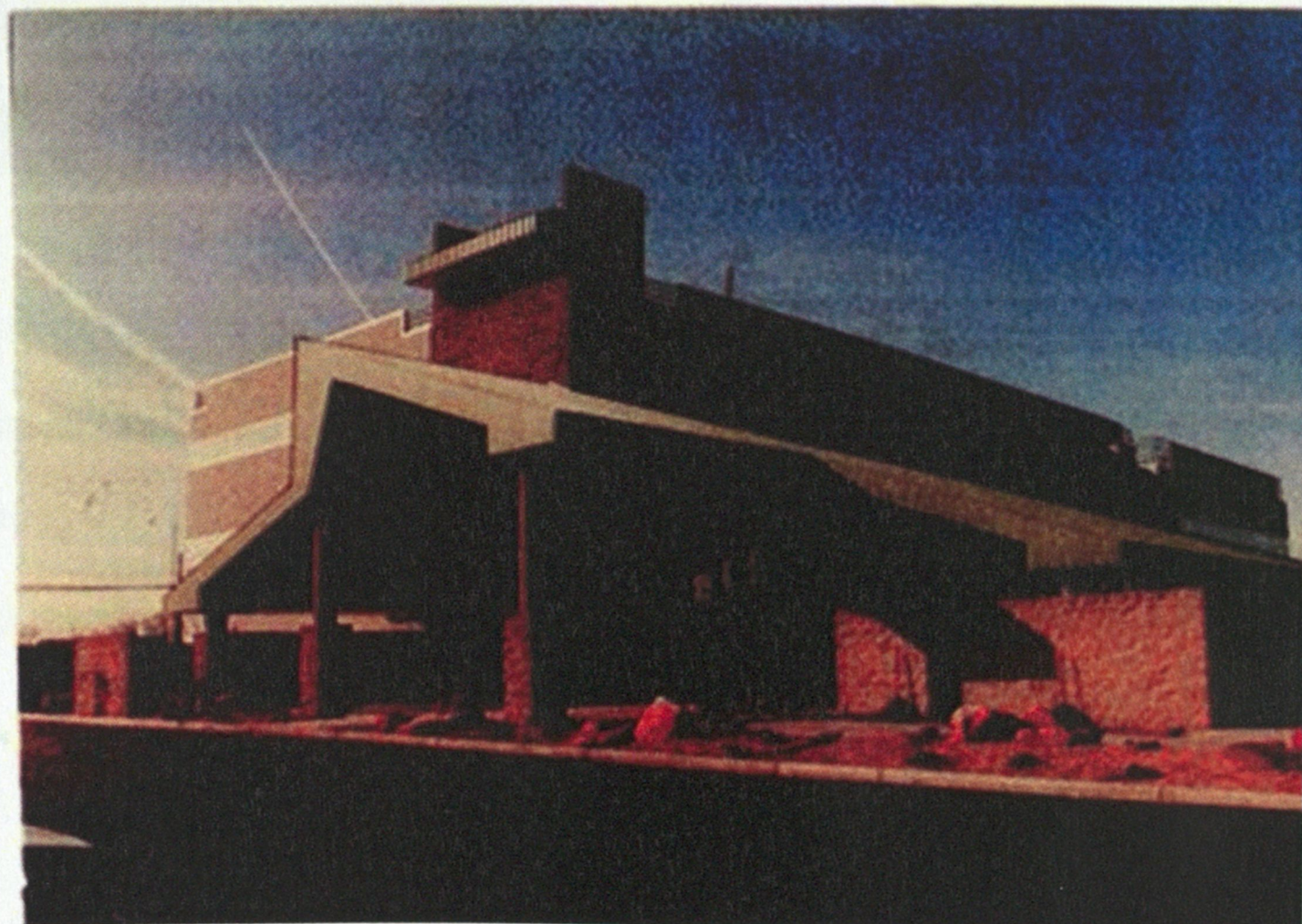


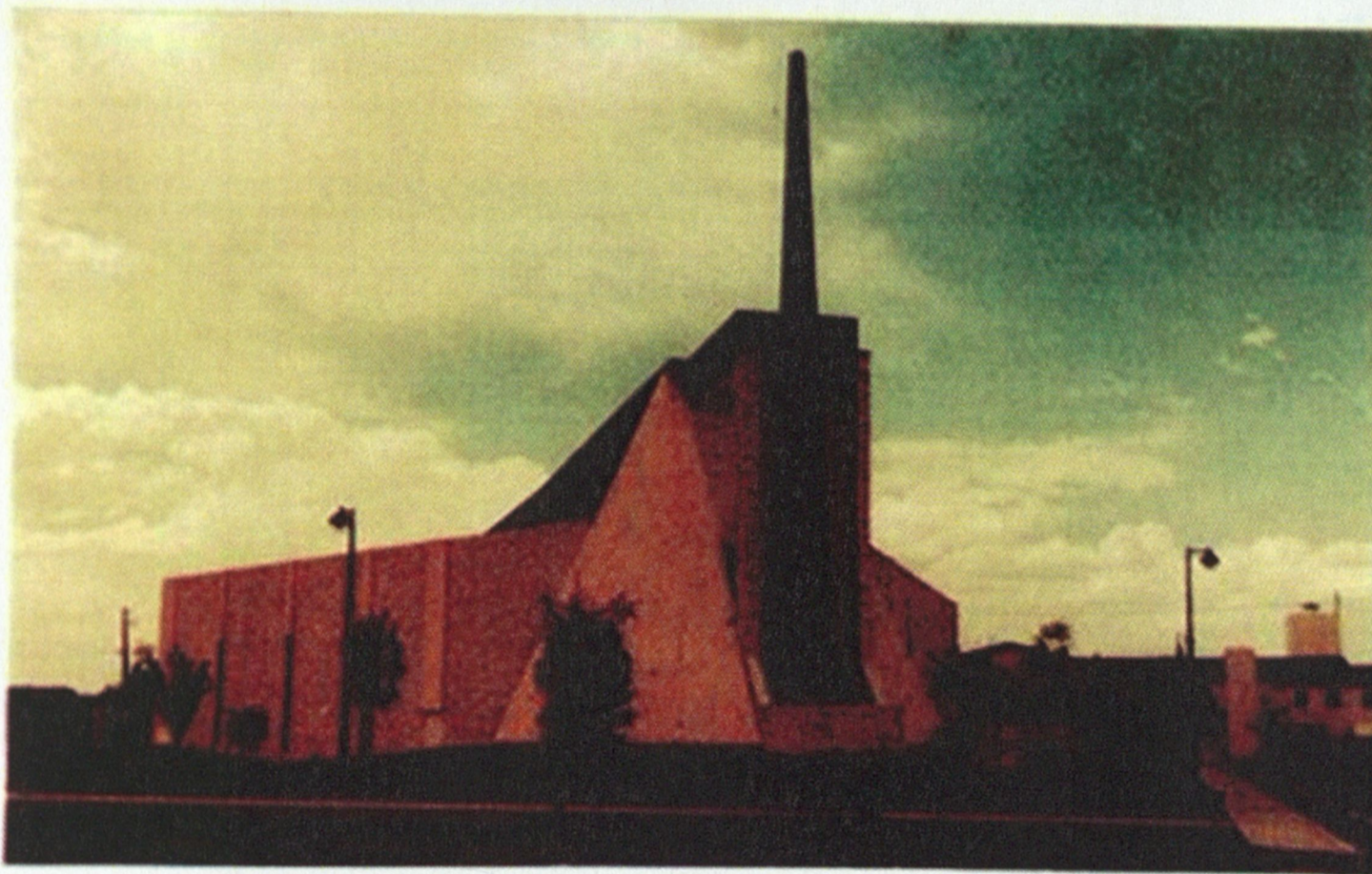
SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE BUILDING OWNER: CLARK COUNTY

34,000 SQ. FT. 3 STORY OFFICE BUILDING

PLANNED EXPANSION:

OFFICES: 16,000 SQ. FT., PARKING GARAGE: 25,000 SQ. FT.





11,000 SQ. FT. SANCTUARY BUILDING

OWNER: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Now renamed: GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seating for 770 people, and overflow to 1100 people



THE LAKES LUTHERAN CHURCH

SANCTUARY SEATING FOR 300

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