

WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The First Funeral Home in Wilton Manors

by Ron & Mary Ulm

In 1947 Wilton Manors entrepreneur John Pedersen built a unique home at NE 21st Ct. and 5th Ave. Pedersen and his family moved away in the early 1950s to a larger copy of the house at his Africa USA theme park.

Over the years there's been a rumor that the house later served as the City's first funeral home. Pedersen's daughter said, "Absolutely not!" Decades-long neighbors of the property agreed. But, the rumor resurfaced with the recent demolition of the house.

So, was there a funeral home in Wilton Manors before Kalis Funeral Home opened in 1959? Yes, there was. It was located further north at 2301 Wilton Drive at the site of the original home of Wilton Manors pioneer, James Dean.

After Dean and his family had moved to the new Coral Gardens Subdivision, his Wilton Drive house became a rental. In December 1957 the City Council declared an emergency and passed in one session an amendment to allow operation of mortuaries in the Business 1 zone where the house was located. About a year later the property was sold to Marie Seacord, who was already operating a funeral home on N. Federal Highway.

The Seacords were beset by legal issues. Marie Seacord was arrested and acquitted of a charge of running an illegal ambulance service in 1960. In 1961 the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers charged that the Seacords had no funeral directing embalming license. The Seacords held that as funeral home owners, they relied on a licensed employee to perform the funeral directing and embalming work.

In 1963 the Seacord Funeral Home business but, not the property or building, was sold to a New York licensed funeral director and embalmer, who renamed it to Manors Funeral Home (see ad at right). Despite the publicity, it appears that the business never actually operated in Wilton Manors and remained closed. Perhaps due to legal baggage associated with the Seacords or competition with nearby Kalis Funeral Home, Soderquist instead reincorporated the business in Hollywood, Florida under a different name.

The property still owned by Marie Seacord appears to have remained vacant for 7 to 8 years. In 1970 a church-sponsored coffee house (described as a "hippie hangout" by neighbors) operated there for a couple of years. In January 1972 Spectrum House purchased the site for \$80,000 to be converted to a 42-bed residential drug treatment center. Spectrum House operated on Wilton Drive for almost 25 years. The property seems to have once again sat vacant—this time for about 8 years—until developed as Island City Lofts, which opened in 2007/2008. (rev 01/2025)

Ft. Lauderdale News, Nov 2, 1963

Mr. D. Dale Soderquist

Formally Announces

the

COMPLETE PURCHASE

of

SEACORD FUNERAL HOME

As of March 7, 1963

It Will Be Known As

**MANORS FUNERAL
HOME, INC.**

**With Complete New Management
and Personnel**

**FULLY LICENSED BY THE STATE
OF FLORIDA**

- Air Conditioned
- Homelike Atmosphere
- Moderate Prices

Manors Funeral Home, inc.



R. A. GAUTIER - Licensed
Funeral Director and Manager

2301 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors
Phone LO 6-1321

COUGHLIN FUNERAL HOME, Inc.

Robert G. Sapp, Licensed Funeral Director

Phone 3-6045

430 N. Federal Hwy.

Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

DANIEL F. COUGHLIN

Member of Knights of Columbus

Miami Herald, Aug 22, 1954

SEACORD FUNERAL HOME, Inc.

Robert G. Sapp, Licensed Funeral Director

Phone 3-6045

430 N. Federal Hwy.

Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

MARIE W. SECORD, Owner

Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **SEACORD FUNERAL HOME INC.** intends to register the said name with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Broward County, Florida.

COUGHLIN FUNERAL HOME INC.
Sept. 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 1954

Miami Herald, Dec 1, 1957

Wilton Manors Amends Zoning

WILTON MANORS — The city council declared an emergency last week and passed on all three readings at one meeting an amendment to the new zoning ordinance permitting the operation of mortuaries in a business 1 zone.

The change followed a request from James Dean, a former councilman, to alter his former residence at 2301 Wilton Dr. for use as a funeral home. Mortuaries previously were not specified in the ordinance.

JAMES J. O'DEA

James J. O'Dea, 62, died to-day at his home, 320 SW 14th Ct.

A native of Brooklyn, N. Y., Mr. O'Dea came here 18 months ago. He was a retired auto engineman for the New York City Board of Education.

He was a member of the Holy Name Society, St. Anthony's Catholic Church and the Third Order of St. Francis. Surviving is his wife, Mary.

Rosary services will be said at 8 p.m. Monday at the Seacord Funeral Home, 430 N Federal Hwy. Requiem Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Anthony's Church with Msgr. John J. O'Looney officiating. Burial will be in Lauderdale Memorial Gardens.

yesterday at Holy Cross Hospital.

Born in Manchester, Md., she came to Ft. Lauderdale nine years ago from Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

She was a member of the All Saints Episcopal Church of Ft. Lauderdale.

Surviving are her husband, Vernon, of Ft. Lauderdale, and an aunt, June Loats, of Manchester, Md.

Services will be at All Saints Episcopal Church at 11 a.m. Saturday with the Rev. Samuel Fleming officiating.

Friends may call at Seacord Funeral Home, 2301 Wilton Dr. tomorrow afternoon and evening.

CORINNE S. CULVER

Corinne Sherman Culver,
65, of 648 NE 16th Terr., died

Mother, Son Free On Bond Pending Trial

A mother and son, both officials of the Seacord Funeral Home of Wilton Manors, are free on bond today pending trial on separate charges in Ft. Lauderdale Municipal Court Sept. 23.

The mother, Marie W. Seacord, 65, of 2301 Wilton Dr., was arrested last night on a charge of running an ambulance service without having a city occupational license.

The son, Peter E. Seacord, 23, was arrested yesterday on a charge of giving false information to Ft. Lauderdale police. He posted bond of \$150.

Mrs. Seacord spent the night in jail. Police said that although she had sufficient funds to post bond of \$100, she refused to do so until this morning.

Both entered pleas of not guilty before Associate Judge Richard T. Shankweiler.

Mrs. Seacord Freed In City License Case

Round two in the running battle between Seacord Ambulance Service and the Ft. Lauderdale Police Dept. went to Mrs. Marie Seacord today when she was acquitted in Municipal Court on a charge of violating a city licensing law.

Assistant Judge Floyd V. Hull directed a verdict of acquittal against Mrs. Seacord, 65, of 2301 Wilton Dr.

Mrs. Seacord was arrested Aug. 19 and spent a night in jail before posting a \$100 bond.

A warrant for her arrest was issued after a Seacord ambulance was called to the Jefferson Super Store, 2500 Federal Highway, at 9:55 p.m. Aug. 19, to take a sick man to Holy Cross Hospital.

Judge Hull ruled the city failed to show that Mrs. Seacord, secretary-treasurer of Seacord Funeral Home, dispatched the ambulance to the scene.

The judge further ruled the city failed to show the Seacord ambulance involved in the Aug. 19 incident was owned by the Seacord firm named in the complaint.

OWNERSHIP DOUBT

"For all we know, there might be six Seacord Ambulance firms in the city," said the judge. "The city has failed to show who owned the one in question."

Round one went to the city last Friday when Peter Seacord, 23, son of Mrs. Seacord, was convicted in Municipal Court of driving without a license in his possession.

Under city ordinance, a driver may be arrested and fined if he does not have a license in his possession.

Under state law, a driver who can produce a license in court which was valid at the time of his arrest, cannot be convicted.

As a result of her arrest and imprisonment in August, Mrs. Seacord has filed a complaint with the Federal Bureau of Investigation charging the Ft. Lauderdale Police Dept. with violating her civil rights.

She contends the department is harrassing her because the company's ambulances make calls within the City of Ft. Lauderdale without being called by the department.

State Asks Injunction On Embalmer

The State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers today accused Seacord Funeral Home Inc., 2301 Wilton Dr., Wilton Manors of unlawfully practicing funeral directing and filed a Circuit Court suit against its owners.

Marie W. and Ellsworth P. Seacord are charged by the state board with operating without a license.

The suit, filed in the Division of Judge Otis Farrington, claims the Seacords have never been licensed in Florida to direct or supervise funerals but have been doing so in violation of state law.

The board asks that the firm be permanently restrained from further practice of funeral directing and embalming.

Seacords Deny Charge By Florida

Owners of a Wilton Manors funeral home today denied all of the charges leveled against them in Circuit Court yesterday by the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

Peter Ellsworth Seacord and his mother, Mrs. Marie W. Seacord, owners of Seacord Funeral Home, 2301 Wilton Dr., said:

"We are not involved in embalming and funeral directing. We are funeral home owners. We have in our employ J. C. Berry, who is a licensed funeral director and embalmer."

The state board, in its injunction suit, charged the Seacords with operating without a state license and asked Judge Otis Farrington to permanently restrain them from funeral directing and embalming.

Seacord Has New Owner

Seacord Funeral Home, Inc. of 2301 Wilton Dr., Wilton Manors, announced new ownership with its purchase by Delbert D. Soderquist, of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Soderquist took his formal training at The New York School of Embalming and Restorative Art and became a fully licensed embalmer and funeral director in New York in 1949.

He was employed by Fairchild Sons, Inc. of Brooklyn, for a period of 15 years.

He resigned that position in order to complete his purchase

of the Seacord Home.

R. A. Gautier, a Florida licensed funeral director and embalmer since 1925, is the new manager of Seacord Funeral Home, Inc.

Mr. D. Dale Soderquist
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Funeral Director and Manager

Phone LO 6-1321

House of Icthus: We Never Put a Kid Down

By ELIZARETH RHODES
Broward Women's Editor

FORT LAUDERDALE — "We never put a kid down, and we never tell a kid not to use drugs.

"Everybody is telling them this and it's the hassle they are trying to get away from."

The House of Icthus doesn't hassle; it helps, clarified Glenn Bondurant, the young director of Broward's only voluntary drug clinic run by and for kids.

Bondurant looked sleepy. He'd been up all night helping a guy so badly strung out, that shortly after dawn Glenn had to hospitalize him.

NOW, LATE in the afternoon, Bondurant leaned wearily on a rough wooden table at Icthus.

The former funeral parlor turned kids hangout primarily is a coffee house, he explained.

It's sponsored by a brace of churches: Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Nazarene. There are religious overtones, but if a kid doesn't want religion, he isn't obliged to buy.

On Thursday nights, the coffee house, located at 2301 Wilton Dr., become's a drug clinic. It began last July.

Or as Glenn (who's straight) says, "This is place where you can spill your guts out instead of letting them eat on you.

"Kids rap here who won't talk anywhere else. We're into honesty here . . . we don't lie to each other."

ANYWHERE from five to 25 kids might turn up for the session which Bondurant calls a "soft encounter group.

"It's soft in comparison with a hard encounter group where everyone turns on to one guy and jumps on him.

"Here the group doesn't jump on one guy. Kids just talk about their problems, and ex-users talk about how they found the inner resources to kick the stuff. Lately we've been having five or six ex-users attend.

While Bondurant talked, kids wandered in and out. It was a loose atmosphere, easy, casual, gentle.

Their meeting room is beige — walls paneled in beige wood, beige carpeting that changes textures in



—Herald Staff Photo by BOB EIGHMIE

Rik Carlson and Glenn Bondurant Rap . . . during session at House of Icthus

starts and spurts as it goes from one remnant to the next.

The ceiling is opened beamed and hung with beige fishnetting.

THERE ARE no chairs — the room is furnished with low round tables made from telephone cable spools.

On each rough-surfaced table is a crude cross painted in Day-glo orange.

No one is forced to come to the House of Icthus, Bondurant continued, "but they know if they support this place, they have somewhere to come when they're having a problem."

Many of the problems he sees involve hassles with parents, and Bondurant makes it clear to all who come that, "Nobody here goes to the parents and tells them, 'We have records on your kid and he's a head.' Many times we get a kid off drugs and his parents never even know he's been on."

No one goes to the police either.

county right now, nor does there seem to be any one favorite.

"**DIFFERENT** groups are into different scenes. Sniffing is coming on real heavy right now with the younger kids. They are into (automobile) transmission fluid.

"It's 61 cents a pint. Twelve to 14 kids can get strung out on one pint.

"There's lots of grass . . . no shortage of it at all. Lots of heroin, too, and speed is coming up very heavy right now.

"Lately," he reflected, "we've been having more guys than girls come on Thursdays.

"Usually girls don't have too much of a hassle. Guys will give them stuff free. And girls don't seem to get busted as often by the police.

"We don't have any age limit; we see people from 12 through 28, 29, 30. I helped one person in her 60s."

In the past month, the House of Icthus opened a half-way house in Wilton Manors. It is a private residence with 10 kids who are former users and two counselors.

"We've never had any problem with the police," observed Bondurant. "No one is allowed to carry, sell or make a contact on the premises, although we do allow people who are tripping.

"**OUR STAFF** of ex-users can spot a deal; we've had to throw three or four people out.

"About the only hassle we've had has been with some of the neighbors who don't like the traffic problems."

Although Bondurant, who looks super straight but raps the lingo of the drug world, works hard at maintaining a free atmosphere, he does have one hard rule.

"If you come into our program you can pull out of it once and only once.

"Otherwise, we'd have kids strung out on heroin or blues who just want us to bring them down to where they can afford their habits."

Bondurant has found there is no shortage of drugs in the

"At the house, these kids are learning to live together. They have responsibilities to be certain places at certain times — something many of them never learned at home.

"Some of the kids work during the day, some of them go to school.

"A 16 or 17 year-old gets busted for pot, and his parents throw him out. He does time, then goes back to dealing because that's the easiest way to make money.

"**MAYBE HE** lives in a commune. His friends are shooting up and they turn him on. You can just about figure that one person will turn on three others.

"Grass? That's like bread at the table. You can be sure

if they have grass, they have a main dish too.

"We really need a half-way house for kids like this. We need a big one in this county; my aim before the year is out is to have a half-way house for 60 to 70 kids."

Bondurant shook his head sadly. "The community isn't really behind drug problems. They talk about it, but they won't give a dime to help.

"We really need a half-way house with a staff that's available 24 hours day. You can't run a drug rehab center

between 9 and 5. I've never had a call then.

"**IT'S 2** in the morning, or 3, when a girl will call and say she's on a bummer. What can an office do for her then?"

Ft. Lauderdale News, Apr 19, 1970 p1

news
ABOUT Women

FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS
and SUN-SENTINEL

SUNDAY

1970

SECTION G

THE HOUSE OF ICTHUS

By MARTHA WOHLFORD
(Staff Writer)

Rumors have called it a "house of prostitution," a "hippie haven," a "dope parlor."

The House of Icthus can't be judged from the outside.

An old building, long hair and mod clothes camouflage both the meaning and purpose of the place and the people.

One has to go inside the building and inside the people who go there to understand what it's all about.

Original purpose of the House of Icthus was to reach ordinary teenagers who had stopped going to their respective churches. Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, and a "with it" couple, the Glen Bondurants, discussed the idea of a coffee house ministry for over a year before it got started.

"We had the coffee house with the church for about a week," Barbara Bondurant said. "It was so successful we decided to seriously look for a place. We found this location two weeks later."

They thought if 20 or 30 teens showed up the first night it would be a success, but with-

out any advertising 85 young people came. Now between 250 and 300 youths come every Friday and Saturday night to the Wilton Manors location.

"There is no charge. We serve coffee, sundaes, cakes and brownies for 10 to 45 cents. The kids can sit all night without buying anything if they want," she said.

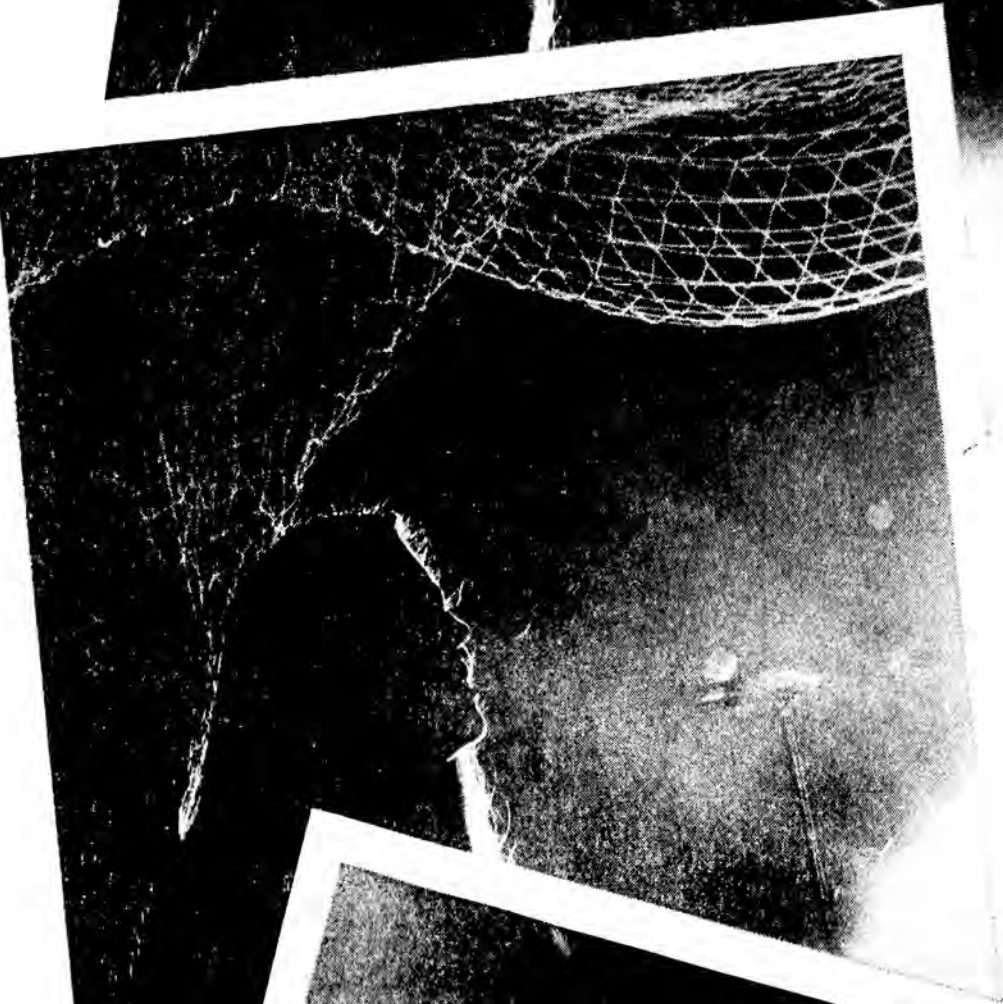
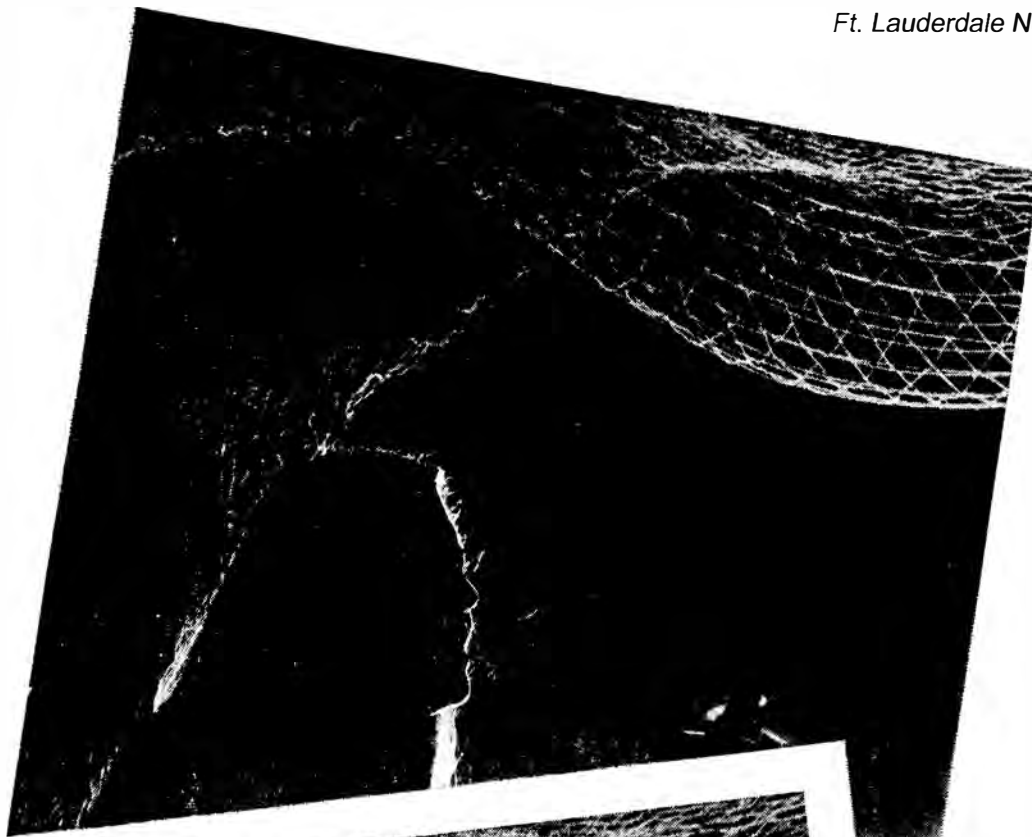
There is live entertainment, all donated.

The young people come from all over — area high schools, local colleges, from Miami.

Although the House of Icthus was affiliated with a church the first week, it is now

(Continued on Page 2)

There's no generation or communications gap at the House of Icthus where young people come to drink coffee, listen to music and offer help and hope to each other.



House Of Icthus Attracts Teenagers

(Continued from Page 1)

a state non-profit organization with a board of directors comprised of ministers and laymen of all faiths in the community. The Bondurants are directors of the coffee house.

Looking at the financial end, one can't help but feel there is "divine intervention" somewhere along the line to keep the facility going.

"Our expenses run between \$600 and \$700 per month. Income from food is only between \$200 and \$300. Somehow, between anonymous donations from the community, from churches and from the kids who come here, we always end up in the black," Barbara said. As expenses mount, the money always seems to be there. "We work on faith, pure and simple!"

The teenagers keep the place clean. They also did all the decorating.

"It's a joint venture between adults and young people working together without any communication or generation gap. The kids know we'll try to help them with their problems without getting up-tight or turning them in. Kids with a drug problem come here because they can trust us."

No drugs, weapons, fights or foul language are allowed on the premises. There are patrols, comprised mostly of teenagers who check the cars in the parking lot and keep watch inside the building. Everything is on the level.

Originally, the Bondurants had no intention of getting into the drug problem. They wanted to get to the straight, respectable teen who thought church was for hypocrites. They had no idea hip youths would even come to the House of Icthus.

"After we were open for two weeks we had our first drug user. We talked to him and he recognized we wanted to help him. He slipped back to marijuana a couple times, but he's been completely off drugs for over four months. Since this boy, we don't know how many we've helped," Barbara said.

She maintains if a person has the desire to help one person on drugs and he does, he can't stop with only one. "There are always more waiting," she said. "And you don't necessarily need a fancy clinic to do it."

One of the methods for dealing with teenagers on drugs is the encounter group, where drug users come together to talk with each other.

"It is a self-help program," Barbara said. "We thought we might get two or three kids at the first one, but we had 15, five of whom returned the following week." The next week there were 18.

Denver Smoot, who worked with drug users for three years as part of an experimental ministry in Miami, helped start the local group.

"Some kids have dropped out, but returned at later dates. When they need help they know they can get it. Even if it's 2 a.m., they know



MARTHA

we're available. We have concern, compassion and love for these people."

The encounter program grew, and the staff expanded from Smoot and the Bondurants to include Vince Guerra, "the junky turned minister" and Eston Hunter, who works almost strictly in Dade County.

Because of the need, a small half-way house was set up, donated by a woman until Turning Point, as it is called, can get larger facilities. It is named after Guerra's book coming out in June on his life prior to coming to Florida.

Eight boys live in the four bedroom, two bath house. No women are allowed in the house except Barbara, who cooks the evening meal and visits when she has time. Sunday afternoons at certain times, visitors are allowed. The "housemother" is male.

"The people in the neighborhood don't understand the house, especially since it's integrated," Barbara said. "Some boys have long hair, some short. I think the neighbors feel they'll be murdered in their beds!"

The boys have tried to show neighbors they are responsible, by keeping the house and yard clean.

"They want to show they are really nice kids, that it doesn't matter if a person has long hair, a mustache, or that his clothes are different. Each one had the problems of any teenager, plus some he couldn't handle. This is why he turned to drugs."

The "housemother" keeps the boys on their toes. No drugs are allowed. Residents have formerly been on everything from glue sniffing to heroin.

Smoot and the Bondurants are the only ones who have never tried drugs who work with the young people.

"We have no problem reaching them, though," Barbara said. "They talk to us as easily as to an ex-user."

The secret is not to jump on the drug user or, on the other hand, ignore him.

"You can't say quit using drugs and it'll go away. You have to work at it with them."

She said sniffing is one of the worst drug dependencies and can be considered "hard core." This person needs a live-in situation to return to normal. Heroin addicts come off the drug "cold turkey."

Barbituate addiction requires medical supervision in the hospital, as the person has to come off slowly. With the right facilities and community backing, Turning Point will eventually be able to rehabilitate all types of drug users.

"Petitions around town are

in our favor for getting a facility, and the city is behind us. We don't necessarily want something in the best section of town. It has to be where neighbors won't care if it's integrated.

Kiwanis Club and several civic organizations have said they would help with the funding.

"The drug problem is so acute in this county, we feel the public will help us get the building if nothing else," Barbara said. She feels the money will come just like it has for the whole program so far.

The Bondurants are on the payroll of an "exceptional Christian" who recognizes the need for this type of ministry. "This is the way he serves the Lord," Barbara smiled. "His family is wonderful."

Before becoming part of the "God Squad," as many of the teens call it, Bondurant had a marine construction business, then later worked in sales for a drug firm. He didn't like many of the things he saw. Eventually, through work with teens in their church, the Bondurants decided to devote their lives to them.

"Our salary dropped, but our needs are supplied. It's funny how you can work 40 to 60 hours a week in sales and be exhausted. This is an 18 to 24-hour a day job and we're happier and busier than we've ever been," she said.

Turning Point and the House of Icthus are treated separately, because people tend to think the coffee house is only for drug users. "Only

eight to 15 per cent who come have been or are on drugs. The rest are completely normal, straight kids."

Barbara tells the story of a man who came up to her husband after he gave a talk on the House of Icthus to a civic

group.

"The man said every day on his way to work, he'd drive past and pray God would close 'that hippie hangout.' But after learning about it, said he'd now pray it stays open!"

Ft. Lauderdale News, Feb 8, 1971

**FORMER SEACORD FUNERAL HOME
2301 WILTON DRIVE
ON LARGE CORNER LOT, ZONED
B-1**

**Call V. Prescott, Assoc. 566-5974
Pesek Realty, 564-2348.**

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Spectrum House Gets Home

Broward County Sheriff Edward J. Stack said today his Narcotics Guidance Council has closed an \$80,000 deal for a former Wilton Manors funeral home that will be the new home for Spectrum House, the council's live-in drug treatment center.

Stack said the house, formerly the Seacord Funeral Home, will be ready for use by about 30 Broward County youths under treatment by mid-February.

The youths have been living at a like facility in Dade

County since their temporary home on South New River Drive in Fort Lauderdale was razed by the county to make room for more courthouse parking.

Stack said the new house was bought by Spectrum House of Broward County Inc., a non-profit corporation formed for that specific purpose. He added that the house will be leased to another non-profit corporation, Spectrum Programs of Broward County,

Quiet, Little City Goes Into Shock On Drug Center

By JAMES KERR
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — "It hit me where I lived," said Wilton Manors Mayor Gerald Thompson two years ago when his 18-year-old son got into trouble with drugs.

Now it's hitting the mayor and a lot of other people right where they live again. This time it's called Spectrum House, a drug rehabilitation center for former hardcore heroin addicts that will open in just a few days smack in the middle of quiet, residential Wilton Manors.

The Narcotics Guidance Council under the leadership of Broward County Sheriff Edward Stack has bought, for \$80,000, the old Seacord Funeral Home at 2301 Wilton Drive. By Feb. 15, Stack expects the center will be in operation and about 20 former addicts who are Broward County residents will be moved in from a Spectrum House in Dade County where they are being housed on a temporary basis.

Indications are that Wilton Manors city officials and residents alike will search hard for legal snafus to prevent the center from opening. The issue will come up for examination and discussion at a special workshop meeting of the city council next Tuesday night, Feb. 17, two days after Spectrum House opens.

If last Tuesday night's council meeting is any indication, opponents of the center will seek methods of closing or at least harassing its operation with parking ordinances, fire code inspections, health permits, and whatever else can be thought up.

Several city residents at last Tuesday's meeting conjured up visions of long-haired youths rampaging through the neighborhood on motorcycles in their predictions of what will happen once the center opens.

Spectrum House is actually "a drug free community," according to Stack. That means Spectrum House residents are entirely off drugs which are not used even therapeutically.

"I can't believe that the vast majority of people in Wilton Manors would find this objectionable," said the sheriff.

"If I was living in the area, I would prefer this to a funeral home, but that's just a personal opinion."

The only person to lend support to Spectrum House in Wilton Manors last Tuesday night was Mayor Thompson.

"I'd rather have it someplace else," said the mayor, "like a sewage treatment plant. But everybody wants it someplace else."

Later in the week Thompson added that he felt the opposition was "a typical reaction" to something people always want, but in somebody else's neighborhood.

It may not be popular, but Thompson is sticking to his belief that drug rehabilitation is important and that it can't always be forced into somebody else's neighborhood. Those who oppose it in Wilton Manors should do some soul-searching, Thompson suggested.

"They can't pray in church at the same time they're trying to get these people out," he said.

Thompson's own son, Jeff, was convicted of marijuana possession two years ago and served more than a year in prison. He is now out and has been working for his father since last March.

Council Chairman Marcia Stafford, who suggested the city might try stalling the Spectrum House operation with possible parking ordinance violations, said her main objection was "the fact it's all residential houses" near the center.

The lots at that address are zoned for business, however, and if a funeral home or nursing home could operate there, so can Spectrum House, Stack said.

The as yet unopened Spectrum House was compared unfavorably with The Seed in Fort Lauderdale and the old Spectrum House, which was located at 430 S. New River Drive.

"There were drug addicts lying around, some with bags over their shoulders," complained Frank Dronzek of 321 NE 22 St. in Wilton Manors. "It was a totally depraved atmosphere."

"This is a county problem," said Dronzek at the council meeting. "This will give our city a stigma we won't be proud of."

Another resident suggested that Spectrum House should be put out in a vacant lot in northwest Broward County. Still another suggested it be put near the proverbial sewage plant nobody wants in their neighborhood "where it belongs."

"All I know," said one irate citizen, "is that where you have drug addicts, you have drug pushers. We don't want drug pushers in our city."

"We have drug pushers in our city," countered another member of the audience.

Stack explained that Spectrum House deals only with former addicts who have gone through a "detoxification program" at Coral Ridge Psychiatric Center, also financed by the Narcotics Guidance Council with a \$325,000 federal grant.

The therapy for Spectrum House residents consists mainly of remotivation on a psychological basis.

"They lean on each other for strength," Stack added. "It can be done (rehabilitation) and this has been demonstrated throughout the country."

Wilton Manors In Tizzy Over Spectrum House

By JAMES KERR
Staff Writer

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The Narcotics Guidance Council under the leadership of Broward County Sheriff Edward Stack has bought, for \$80,000, the old Seacord Fu-

nerai Home at 2301 Wilton Drive. By Feb. 15, Stack expects the center will be in operation and about 20 former addicts who are Broward County residents will be moved in from a Spectrum House in Dade County where they are being housed on a temporary basis.

Indications are that Wilton Manors city officials and residents alike will search hard for legal snafus to prevent the center from opening. The issue will come up for examination and discussion at a special workshop meeting of the city council next Tuesday night, Feb. 17, two days after Spectrum House opens.

If last Tuesday night's council meeting is any indication, opponents of the center will

seek methods of closing or at least harassing its operation with parking ordinances, fire code inspections, health permits, and whatever else can be thought up.

Several city residents at last Tuesday's meeting conjured up visions of long-haired youths rampaging through the neighborhood on motorcycles in their predictions of what will happen once the center opens.

Spectrum House is actually "a drug free community," according to Stack. That means Spectrum House residents are entirely off drugs which are not used even therapeutically.

"I can't believe that the vast majority of people in Wilton Manors would find this objectionable," said the sheriff.

"If I was living in the area, I would prefer this to a funeral home, but that's just a personal opinion."

The only person to lend support to Spectrum House in Wilton Manors last Tuesday night was Mayor Thompson.

"I'd rather have it someplace else," said the mayor, "like a sewage treatment plant. But everybody wants it someplace else."

Later in the week Thompson added that he felt the opposition was "a typical reaction" to something people always want, but in somebody else's neighborhood.

It may not be popular, but Thompson is sticking to his belief that drug rehabilitation is important and that it can't always be forced into somebody else's neighborhood. Those who oppose it in Wilton Manors should do some soul-searching, Thompson suggested.

"They can't pray in church at the same time they're trying to get these people out," he said.

Thompson's own son, Jeff, was convicted of marijuana possession two years ago and served more than a year in prison. He is now out and has been working for his father since last March.

Council Chairman Marcia Stafford, who suggested the city might try stalling the Spectrum House operation with possible parking ordinance violations, said her main objection was the fact



Staff photo by Henry Fichner

WILTON MANORS ON EDGE ABOUT SPECTRUM HOUSE
... new location will be old funeral home

Wilton Manors Hearing Reaction Pleases

Spectrum House Support Grows

By JAMES KERR
Staff Writer

'Most people realize you can't put a drug rehabilitation program out in the boondocks because it's part of today's scene'

—MAYOR THOMPSON

WILTON MANORS — More than 100 persons turned out to voice their views on a controversial drug rehabilitation center, scheduled to open here soon, and Mayor Gerald Thompson today called the response "heart warming."

"When you take what you think is an unpopular issue around election time, you expect the response to be bad," said the mayor. "But then you suddenly realize people have a greater concern for the problem in the community."

The Rev. Fred Harrison of the Narcotics Guidance Counsel explained the new Spectrum House, to open soon at 2301 Wilton Drive, is a "drug free" program which would not attract undesirable elements into the neighborhood.

A number of residents expressed fear the program

would result in large numbers of youths congregating at the facility much as they did when the building was used for a coffee house about a year ago.

Youths near the church-sponsored coffee house made themselves a nuisance to nearby residents, it was

charged.

Father Harrison said the Spectrum House operation involves a basically psychological therapy program in which between 20 and 30 former addicts live in the building.

All have been through a "detoxification program" at Coral Ridge Psychiatric Center and no drugs are used in therapy, he pointed out.

The guidance counsel recently bought the building, a former funeral home, for \$80,000. The old Spectrum House, at 430 S. New River Drive, was closed last year and the Broward residents living there were temporarily moved to a Spectrum House in Miami.

A DEFENDER

Robert Curtis, chairman of the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee, also came to the meeting to testify in favor of Spectrum House.

Curtis, who lives only a few door from the old Spectrum House in Fort Lauderdale, said the people who lived and worked there were good neighbors.

Mayor Thompson, who

seemed alone in his earlier support for the rehabilitation center, appeared to pick up substantial backing at last night's meeting.

"Most people realize you can't put a drug rehabilitation program out in the boondocks because it's part of today's scene," said the mayor.

Although a full explanation of the Spectrum House operation calmed some anxiety, there was still apparent apprehension on the part of a number of residents.

In ending the discussion, Thompson asked that Father Harrison and the Spectrum House director maintain regular contact with the mayor and city department heads once the center opens.

He also asked neighbors to report any problems regarding the center to the mayor's office.



BEFORE



AFTER

Will The Neighbors Let Them Stay?

By Mindy Elledge
Staff Writer

... **WILTON MANORS** — For a good many years, none of the neighbors has been particularly fond of the big house at 2301 Wilton Drive.

It has served variously as a private home, funeral home and part-time coffee house and religious center. Now it houses drug addicts.

When James Dean built it as his home in 1952, most of the neighbors weren't around. They moved in anywhere from one to 12 years later.

They claim a funeral home brought too many mourners' cars into the area, and the coffee house, too many hippies.

A few months ago, Wilton Manors residents read in their newspapers that the Narcotics Guidance Council had purchased it for \$80,000 and planned to turn it into a drug rehabilitation center.

Many figured that was the last straw.

"All I know," one irate citizen complained at a City Council meeting, "is that where you have drug addicts, you have drug pushers."

Another assured the council:

"This will give our city a stigma we won't be proud of."

With some gentle coaxing from Mayor Gerald Thompson, who assured residents he would keep close watch over the program, 2301 Wilton Drive became Spectrum House, a drug-free rehabilitation program with capacity for 35 persons.

For several weeks, its 14 occupants commuted from Miami's Spectrum Houses to make the neglected building livable. Two weeks ago, they moved in.

Even the neighbors say they're surprised at the change in the place, which was abandoned in March, 1971, by the House of Ichthys, a church-sponsored coffee house.

"To be perfectly honest, we've been pleasantly surprised," said Mrs. K. R. Swinea, 2411 NE Seventh Ave., who lives across the street from Spectrum House.

"We were pretty concerned at first. We have small children, and we were worried about the effect it might have on them."

Mrs. Swinea, and others on the street, complained that the House of Ichthys had been an eyesore and brought a lot of hippies into the neighborhood who parked on their lawns and kept them awake until 3 and 4 a.m.

Her next-door neighbor said he preferred Spectrum House to the old Seacord Funeral Home, which he said brought even more cars into the neighborhood and onto his lawn than the hippies.

Marie Seacord bought the home in 1958 for her funeral business and owned it until January of this year.

At the time Spectrum House moved in, the place was indeed an eyesore. It needed refurbishing, inside and out, and since that was perhaps the quickest way to show they were good neighbors, it got top priority from Spectrum House staff and residents.

They borrowed a bulldozer and replaced an old parking lot with a blanket of new sod; they painted dingy white walls and the roof, cleaned out trash and underbrush which had overrun the place, contacted the county Health Department to check and conform with regulations and then started on the interior.

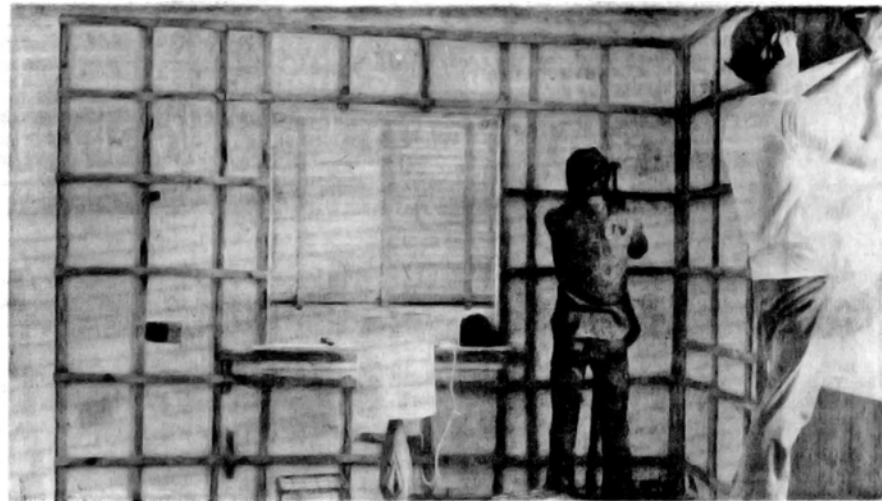
Parents from Dade County groups came up with stamp books, linens, a meat slicer, drapes, tableware and dishes.

M. J. Jackson, 2405 NE Seventh Ave. who has lived across the street from the house for 14 years was the first neighbor to make contact with its new tenants. He offers his tools and advice.

Spectrum House personnel hope their work isn't for naught. It has been before.

SPECTRUM HOUSE

*They
Worked
And Worked
And Now
They Hope
To Stay*



Photos
by
Mel
Kenyon

A Broward County extension of Miami-based Spectrum Programs Inc. opened Sept. 16, 1970, in a two-story home owned by the county at 430 S. New River Drive E.

The program was forced to vacate a year later when the county decided it needed the land for a parking lot.

Before that, it was supposed to have gone into an abandoned agricultural station in Plantation, but action was blocked by then County Commissioner Earle Kraft who found that the county could not sub-lease under its 25-year lease.

So, it was back to Miami.

"This time we'll make it," Norman Levinsky says assuredly. "When it gets too easy, it's time for me to get out."

Levinsky, a 28-year-old former New York addict, is coordinator of Broward County programs. He can glance at his watch and tell you to the day how long he's been "clean."

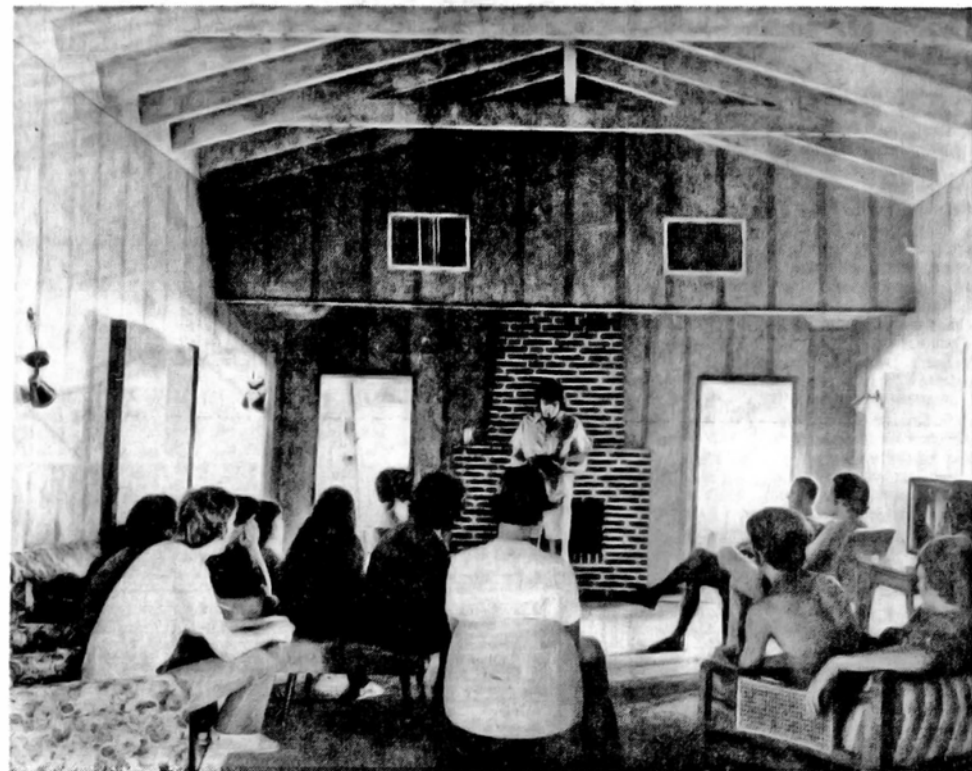
"Five years and three days," he calculated one day last week.

Director of the Wilton Manor facility is Artie Reuss, also a rehabilitated addict from New York. His wife Lauren helps out in the office.

Both Levinsky and Reuss are busy seeking good community relations: Speaking engagements, audiences with the mayor, an open house May 21.

"SOS" — Sponsors of Spectrum — meets every Thursday evening in city hall. About 75 per cent of its members are parents of Spectrum residents.

Within the next several weeks, they hope to put together a board of directors from the Wilton Manors area.



Artie Reuss Speaks In Spectrum House

New Tenants Add Life to Former Funeral Home

By MARY COPELAND

Herald Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — A former funeral home has become a livelier place with the help of some youthful tenants and some community-minded citizens.

Once the Seacord Funeral Home at 2301 Wilton Dr., the building is now Spectrum House, a rehabilitative residence for former drug addicts.

When Spectrum House held its grand opening May 21, there were 26 tenants living in the bare but spotlessly clean facility.

ON THE walls of each room, lists were posted with furnishing needs. Visitors came by and dutifully signed up to donate a bedspread, some towels, a used chair and other household items.

Newspapers carried the story of the Spectrum House opening and more potential donors learned of the growing home's needs.

Thursday, Spectrum House Director Norman Levinsky reported that a \$15,000 expansion on the building will be completed within six to seven weeks at almost no cost. The expansion will increase capacity of the center to 50 residents.

LEVINSKY SAID that William Mathews of local Labor Union 698 called a few of his fellow construction tradesmen together at Spectrum House Wednesday. Carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and air conditioning men all agreed to donate their time and solicit materials for the project.

Mangurian's Furniture Store sent a decorator out to look at the living room at Spectrum House and

provided decorating tips and materials to renovate the room. When the expansion is completed on the living quarters, Levinsky said Mangurian's will provide more furnishings.

The furniture store's contribution has already exceeded \$5,000, according to Levinsky.

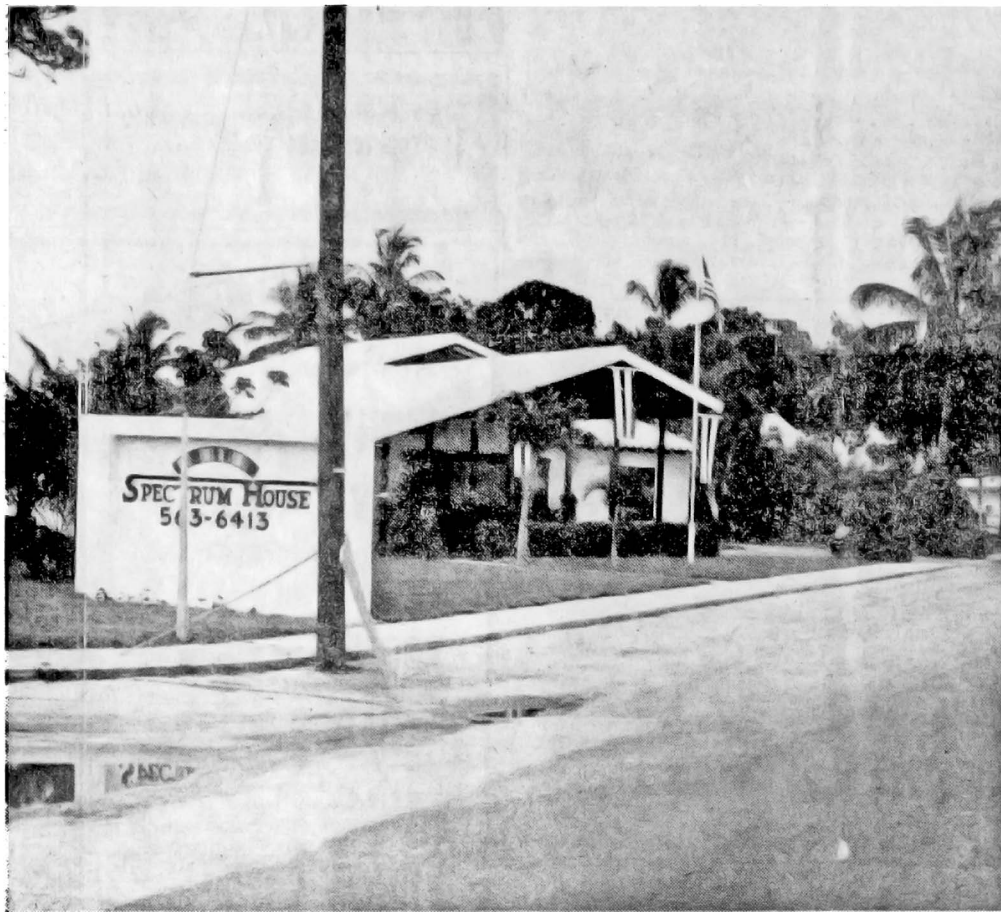
WHEN DONATED materials and furniture need transportation, Ryder Truck Company is moving them at no cost.

High on the list of furnishing needs at the facility now is office equipment, desks, typewriters and filing cabinets.

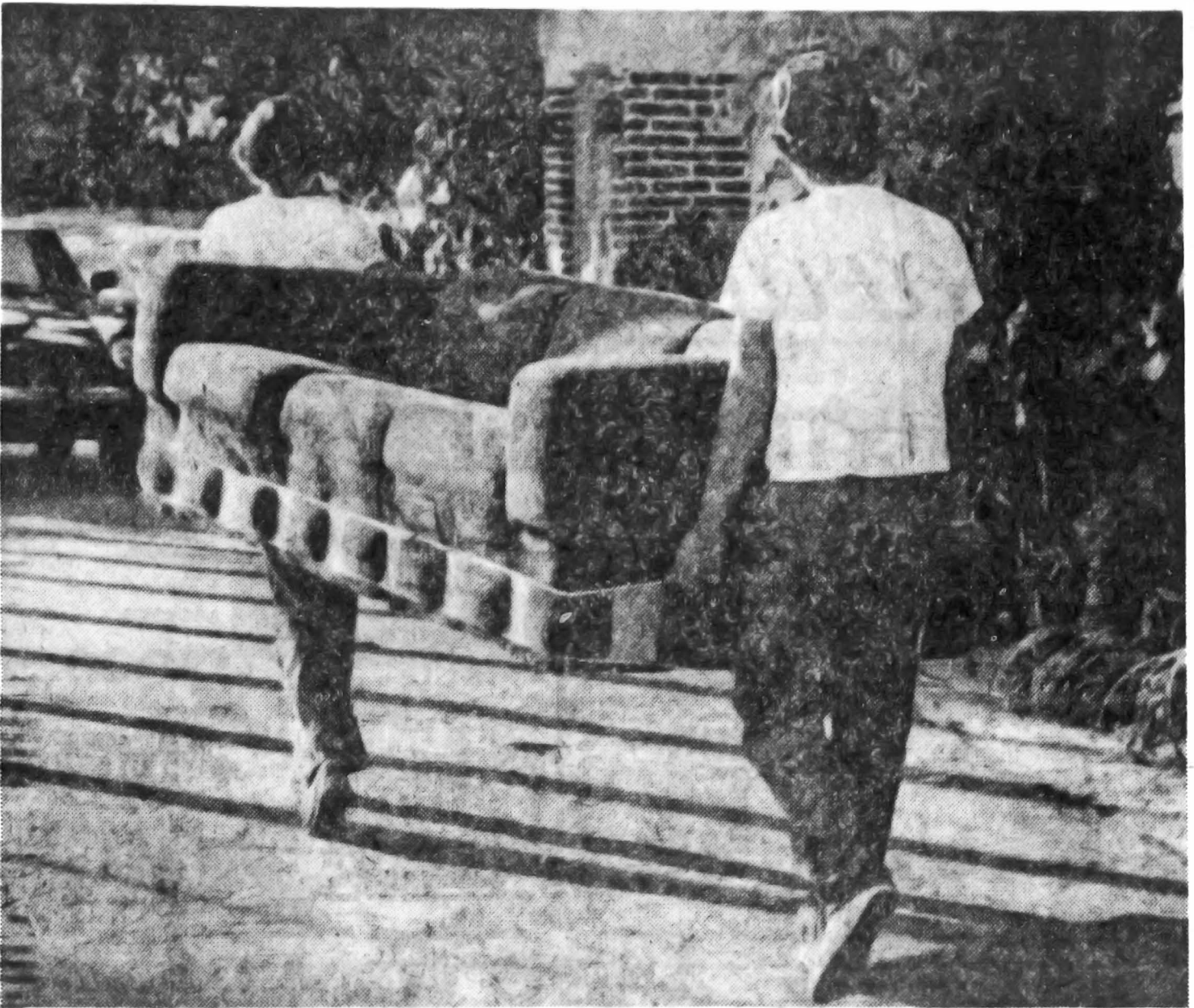
But even more pressing, Levinsky said, is the demand for donated medical services.

A policy at Spectrum House requires each resident to undergo a psychological and physical examination before entering the program. But there's no money in the budget to pay for them.

Levinsky is hoping the medical community will go to the need of residents and volunteer the service. The director can be reached at 563-6413.



New Spectrum House Is Located at 2301 Wilton Dr.
... drug rehabilitation facility has received several contributions



Staff photo by TIM RIVERS

Two Spectrum House residents move furniture back to main building of drug treatment center.

Neighbors stymie drug center

By Robyn Feldman

Staff Writer

Barbara, a former nurse trying to kick a drug habit, is used to being treated like she has a contagious disease.

"The attitude is, 'Sure, we understand, but take your problems somewhere else,'" said the 23-year-old resident of the Spectrum House drug rehabilitation center in Wilton Manors.

Her feelings were reinforced this week when Wilton Manors residents blocked expansion of the 42-bed residential treatment center at 2301 Wilton Drive.

"Our No. 1 objection is that it doesn't belong here. There must be a better place for it. If we ever carried on the way they do over there, we'd all be in jail," said Arthur Broughman, who at 2415 NE Seventh Ave. lives two doors down from the Spectrum House.

Neighbors complained the center

has been a nuisance and a bad influence on the community's children since it opened eight years ago.

"I don't feel it belongs in a residential neighborhood. And they've proven they don't belong in a residential neighborhood by showing no concern for neighbors, by the way they have taken care of their property and the noise level.

"There is nothing we can do to make them move, but we can be against encouraging them to expand," said a neighbor who asked for anonymity.

Wilton Manors police have filed six complaints since 1973 against the Spectrum House. "They haven't caused anybody any problems. They are well-behaved and haven't violated the law in any way," said Lt. Perry Hempstead.

Spectrum officials had not expected the objections to the expansion into two adjacent houses

fronting busy Wilton Drive.

"I just don't understand what happened," said Jody Rosen, supervisor of the Broward center.

Rosen said he has had few complaints from the community about the program. He also said he thought Spectrum had passed the stage where it was necessary to dispel fears of wild-eyed, crazed drug addicts.

"We were lulled into a false sense of security," said Dr. Richard Garnett, Spectrum's director. "We thought we had dealt with those unfounded fears. We thought we had community support. I guess that was our mistake."

To use the homes at 2319 and 2325 Wilton Drive, Spectrum had to obtain approval from the Wilton Manors Board of Adjustment. The board unanimously denied the request Monday night after listening to neighbors complain for more than an hour. Any appeal would have to be taken to circuit court.

HELP FOR ADULTS

Here are some of the centers in Broward that offer help for adults.

BROWARD METHADONE MAINTENANCE RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION FACILITY in Hollywood, 922-0522. Outpatient only. Fifty dollars for first visit and evaluation, then \$45 a week.

CAREUNIT OF CORAL SPRINGS, 753-5200 and 893-4030 in Miami. Fifty beds. No outpatient. A \$275-a-day fee includes lifetime aftercare.

CORAL RIDGE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL in Fort Lauderdale, 771-2711. More than 20 beds. Outpatient costs \$75 per session. Four weeks of residential treatment and two years of aftercare cost \$10,000.

FAMILY INSTITUTE OF BROWARD in Fort Lauderdale, 527-1388. Outpatient only. Sliding scale, but first session usually costs \$110.

FLORIDA MEDICAL CENTER in Lauderdale Lakes, 735-6000. Fifty-four beds. No outpatient. Fees confidential.

FORT LAUDERDALE HOSPITAL, 462-5326. Twenty beds. Outpatient costs \$300 a week. A \$245-a-day fee

includes two years aftercare.

HENDERSON MENTAL HEALTH CENTER INC. in Fort Lauderdale, 791-4300. Outpatient only. Sliding scale.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S Share program in Pembroke Pines, 435-2860. Fourteen beds. No outpatient. Four weeks residential and two years aftercare cost \$6,700.

POMPAÑO METHADONE TREATMENT CENTER in Pompano Beach, 782-9774. For opiate addicts only. Outpatient only. Initial fee is \$50, then \$45.50 weekly.

SPECTRUM HOUSE in Wilton Manors, 563-6413. Forty-seven beds, including those for adolescents. Outpatient and aftercare. Sliding scale.

THE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER at Humana Hospital of South Broward in Hollywood, 966-8100. Twenty-two beds. Outpatient. A \$300-a-day fee includes two years aftercare.

THE OCTOBER CENTER in Fort Lauderdale, 523-8600. Outpatient only. Free.

For referrals and advice, call:

Narcotics Anonymous, 537-0507.

The Crisis Information and Referral Hotline, 467-6333.

1-800-COCAINE or
1-800-621-SNOW.

Fourth annual Pumpkin Patch,
noon, through Saturday, Kiwanis Club
of Wilton Manors, 2020 Wilton Drive,
Wilton Manors. Proceeds from the
Pumpkin Patch benefit Thanksgiving
Baskets for the Elderly, Foster
Children's Christmas Party, Spectrum
House, Boys Scouts Troop 190, Wilton
Manors Volunteer Fire Department,
Cops n' Kids Fishing Tournament,
Every Child A Swimmer, Horses And
Handicapped, Broward County
Humane Society, Wilton Manors
Elementary Multicultural Festival,
Lens Crafters Gift For Sight
Foundation, American Legion Boys
State, Hugh O'Brien Youth
Foundation, Wilton Manors Baseball,
Girls Scouts Troop 476, D.A.R.E.
program at Wilton Manors
Elementary and St. Clement schools.

Changing Manors



STABLE PRESENCE: Scott Hargreaves of Pompano Beach has owned Wings and Things in Wilton Manors since 1978. As new luxury projects and high-end businesses become more common, the city strives to keep its homespun charm. **Staff photo/Andres Gonzalez**

Growth, history seek balance in evolving city

BY DANIELLA AIRD
STAFF WRITER

WILTON MANORS • Paul Holland offers his customers bottled water and fashion tips as they peruse racks of \$110 designer jeans and displays of imported Italian shoes in his two-year-old boutique on Wilton Drive.

Across the street, Diane Hutcheson offers her customers seed packets and gardening advice as they browse orchids, herbs and halyconias that fill her 30-year-old nursery.

Zoo Two Clothing Company, Wilton Manors Nursery and other shops along Wilton Drive are both in vogue and old-fashioned, a sign that this fast-developing city hasn't cut ties with its humble beginnings. Some older businesses are closing shop as cash-ready developers approach while other long-standing merchants are staying put despite the area's rapid transformation.

Old and new collide at 2360 Wilton Drive, where developers are building a luxury residential project called Belle Isle. By 2005, the property, which used to be a worn-down trailer park, will offer 51 town homes starting in the mid-\$300,000s, along with nine \$400,000 live-work units, which are lofts atop commercial space.

The buildings flank a long-standing salmon-colored shop called Tani's Hair Designs, which the owner, Tani Davis, refused to sell.

"We would have liked to incorporate the salon, but we can't make someone want to sell. They weren't interested," said Tim Hernandez, principal planner at New Urban Communities, the Delray Beach-based company developing the site.

As new luxury projects and high-end businesses reshape the city, Wilton Manors, population 12,000, strives to keep its homespun charm.

"Wilton Manors offers two ends of the spectrum," said Bill Mattax, president of the Wilton Manors Business Association. "The old businesses exemplify that small-town feeling, where you walk in and say, 'Hey, didn't that guy coach me in Little League?' The newer businesses are helping change the face of [the city]."

But Wilton Drive's mishmash of styles is what gives the area character, said Community Services



LONG-LASTING FLAVOR: Fermin Rojas and David Giglio, both of Oakland Park, visit Dairy Queen in Wilton Manors. The ice cream parlor is one of the oldest businesses on the stretch of Wilton Drive between Sunrise Boulevard and Oakland Park Boulevard, where a set of newer businesses has been opening recently. **Staff photo/Andres Gonzalez**

Director Harold Horne.

"I don't think there's a problem with mixing the old with the new," said Horne, who added that Tani's Hair Designs is a 1950s building that was originally a hangout called Manor Bar. "I think for a lot of residents, having some sort of familiarity is important. When I go downtown, I like seeing buildings I knew when I was a kid."

Longtime resident Dawn Walker, who moved to Wilton Manors with her family when she was 12, remembers walking down Wilton Drive to a drugstore where she would twirl around on bar stools as she sipped cherry-flavored Cokes. When the drugstore became Tropics Restaurant, the change stole some of her childhood memories.

"I have no connection to that establishment," said Walker, who is now administrative assistant to City Manager Joseph Gallegos. "There are not a lot of buildings left from when I grew up."

One longstanding structure that's about to change is a modest-looking home at 701 Wilton Drive where James Dean, one of the city's pioneers and former city officials, once lived with his family. Dean built the house soon after he and his wife, LeWayne, married in the 1950s.

But developer Robert Jolley has other plans for Dean's house. The site is slated to become 42 Europe-

an-style lofts selling for as much as \$500,000. The new project, called Island City Lofts, is set to open in 2006.

A few blocks south of Jolley's development, an aging mechanic shop is also on the verge of a chic makeover. Zoo Two owner Holland, who bought RDR Auto Repair for \$650,000, plans to demolish the shop and build a four-level mixed-use site that will include a rooftop sundeck, jogging track, \$500,000 lofts, a private gym and a glass-encased tropical cafe. The proposed site will include a new triple-sized Zoo Two store.

"This will be something that nobody's seen in this town," Holland said. "When I finish this project, people are going to say 'Wow.'"

The stark changes worry Virginia Flaherty, who opened her locksmith business, About Town Lock & Safe, in 1984. Flaherty said she remembers a corridor lined with service-oriented, mom and pop shops, like a watch repairman, drugstore and printer shop.

These days, she said, Wilton Drive is shedding its modest appeal as more businesses catering to a well-heeled clientele move in.

Daniella Aird can be reached at daird@sun-sentinel.com or 954-572-2024.



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Events

WINTER FUNERAL CHAPEL, INC.

Document Number 135063
Date Filed 09/22/1937
Effective Date None
Status Inactive

Event Type	Filed Date	Effective Date	Description
INVOLUNTARILY DISSOLVED	12/08/1980		
NAME CHANGE AMENDMENT	12/31/1968		OLD NAME WAS : MANORS FUNERAL HOME, INC.
NAME CHANGE AMENDMENT	09/26/1963		OLD NAME WAS : SEACORD FUNERAL HOME, INC.
NAME CHANGE AMENDMENT	03/05/1955		OLD NAME WAS : COUGHLIN FUNERAL HOME, INC.
NAME CHANGE AMENDMENT	05/24/1954		OLD NAME WAS : ALEXANDER FUNERAL HOME, INC.



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