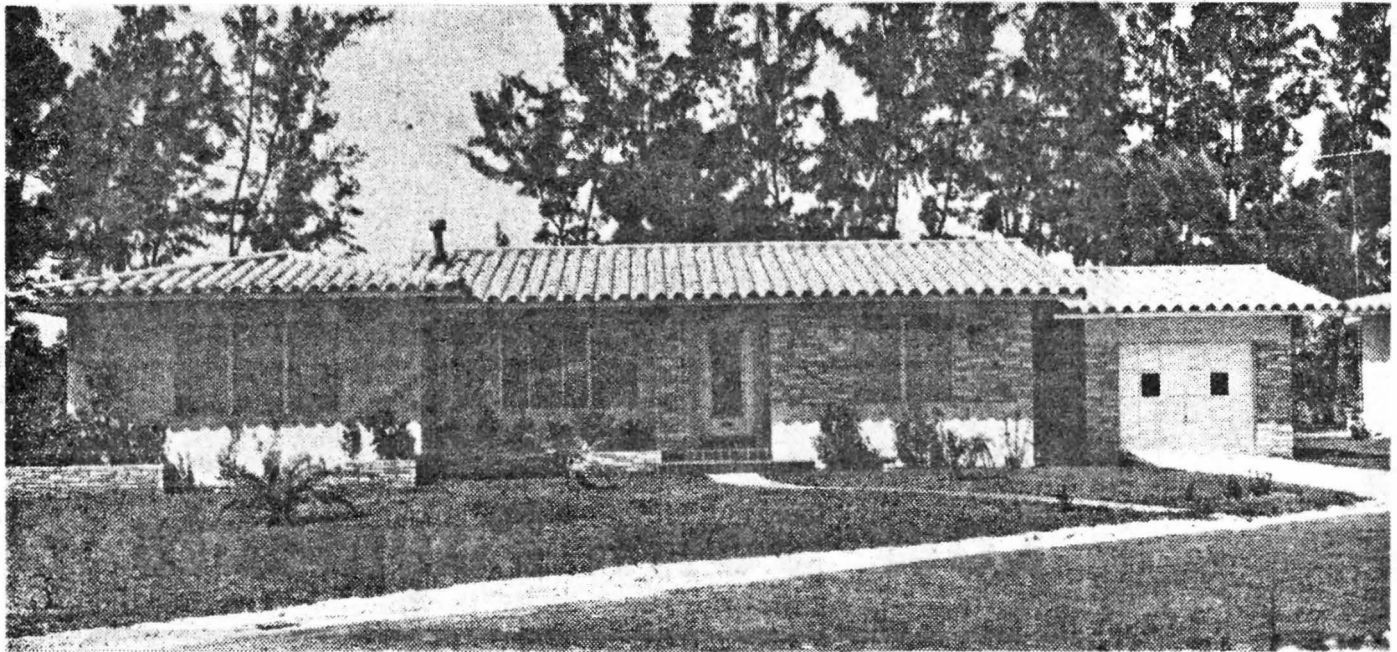


## Wilton Manors Home Recently Completed by Clayton R. Leaver of Tropical Construction Co.



This attractive home at 210 N. E. 21st Street, Wilton Manors, is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Diamond. It was designed and built by the Tropical Construction Company, which is owned and operated by Clayton R. Leaver, with offices at 2006 Wilton Drive.

Mr. Leaver has been a licensed general contractor in the Fort Lauderdale area for the past twelve years. He has built a number of residences and commercial buildings in all parts of the city as well as in Pompano Beach and Wilton Manors.

He was the builder of the Emerald Tides Apartments, and the Seagrape Apartments, both new ocean front apartments on A-1-A in Pompano Beach. He built most of the stores in the modern shopping center in Wilton Manors.

Before coming to Fort Lauderdale, Mr. Leaver was in the construction business in the Miami area. He comes originally from Connecticut.

Right now, Mr. Leaver is completing two new homes in the southwest section of Fort Lauderdale, and two more in Wilton Manors. He was for four years the building inspector in that community.

Tropical Construction Company is a consistent user of

# Concrete Mixed the *WRIGHT* Way

**R. H. WRIGHT & SON** **TELEPHONE 2-1464**





*Wolff Photo. Fort Lauderdale, Florida*



































Office of Clayton Leaver's Tropical Construction Company at 2051 Wilton Drive, ca, 1960s

Leaver was associate of and contractor for Al Hagen

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection-permission/attribution required for re-use

This image digitized and edited/enhanced by, and © Wilton Manors Historical Society. Permission/Attribution required for re-use.



*Ft. Lauderdale News, Jan 10, 1961*

## ***New 'Playmate' Key Club***

**Tom Yoder and Clayton Leavin** are preparing the final touches on their new "Playmate Key Club" at the site of the old Flame restaurant on Wilton Manors Drive. The boys have held pretty much to the initial key club format. They will use "Baby Dolls" as their hostesses. "Musical comedy and variety acts" is the way they describe their entertainment policy.

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection permission/attribution required for re-use



# Playmate Club Switches Operation, Caters To All Now

The Playmate Club in Wilton Manors is turning into one of the nicest ways to spend an evening. The club, under the direction of Clayton Leaver, his wife Lou, and Tom Yoder, started out as a private key club, but quickly switched its operation and now caters to the general public.

The original idea is still in many minds, but the public is gradually realizing the Playmate's excellence as a dining and dancing spot. A long hall-like entrance way gives the missus a chance to arrange her bouffant and her escort a minute to fix his tie. You're not blown into the main room immediately.

The bar is handsome, the dance-floor spacious, and while a large room, the Playmate Club manages an intimate feeling with low-lighting and clever seating arrangements. The Tempos, currently holding down the bandstand, are a quartet of talented musicians. Bobbie Le Feber swings a mean Hammond, Lou Gomez

plucks the bass, and Chuck DaManti is one of the best drummers around, formerly with Andy Barth's bunch.

Ginny Kay is the femcee and sings for your supper. Ginny wanders from the bandstand occasionally to curl the gentlemen's hair with "I Wanna Be Loved By You" a la Helen Kane. The dance portions are well-backed by this group, and they present a goodly supply of show-tunes, outstanding in their workover of "Lover."

The Baby Dolls, who provide service and good viewing, engage in an impromptu twist number, led by Marie Martin, whose costume, ringed in fringe, gives the dance extra dimensions. The gal also shakes a cocktail while she twists, and serves it at ring-side. Marie is joined in her twirling by Mary Kay Bennett, Maureen Sebastian, Barbara Berger and Fay Swain.



**MARIE  
MARTIN**  
... twister



**GEORGE  
SISTRUNK**  
... directs



**BILL  
GRAHAM**  
... loss



**HUGH  
MARTIN**  
... Pit



**WOODY  
WOODBURY**  
... Today



**DAVE  
GARROWAY**  
... missed

The Playmate Club offers dining facilities for private parties, for civic clubs and organizations. The list of such patrons is growing. There's a buffet hour every day, 11:30 to 2:30, with dinner served from 6 to 11. Lou Leaver has so many ideas for the place, that next time we visit this news will be old. The Tempos play through next Friday night, being replaced Saturday by the Jade Trio, with Don Hayes, Bob Wetzel and Hank Peletiere.

## *Another Round Table In Motion*

Had a nice cha and dinner with George Bacher at his Round Table the other night. George is looking fit and bronze after a Nassau hiatus. Bacher is widening his circles—that is—he's building another Round Table. The local one has been such a success, says George, he's starting work on a duplicate version in Orlando. Actual construction will start in about a month.

Commenting on the Round Table's garlie dressing, unlike any we've sampled, led George to divulge he's having the mixture bottled for sale in super-markets. So many people who've dined at his King Arthur-inspired restaurant have written or phoned

for the recipe. George has decided to make it available, with the ingredients still a secret.

Dan Baitcher (same pronunciation as the boss), who has been managing the Round Table here, moves to managemanship of the new Orlando place. Fred Neumann continues in Ft. Lauderdale as one of the most attentive and impeccable of Maitre D's.

George is offering a plan this week that beats all others in how far people will go to get free movie tickets. In honor of "Knights of the Round Table," at the Gateway, George will give passes to anyone arriving at his restaurant in armor atop a real horse. Line forms at the drawbridge.

## *Symphony Chorus Sings "The Creation"*

Music-lovers accustomed to hearing "The Messiah," and only that, in the oratorio field, will be happy to know the Ft. Lauderdale Symphony Chorus will present Haydn's "The Creation" at the First Methodist Church in Ft. Lauderdale this Tuesday at 8 p.m.

The group will be augmented by eight soloists for this presentation. George Sistrunk directs, and organist is Robert H. Nelson.

Soloists include Sigrid Grantham, Vanorma Tozzie, Jack Hutcheson, Charles Lewis, Herbert Hinton, and Allen Potter. The church is at 505 SE Sixth St.

Bill Graham reports a sad state of affairs. Several books, containing his songs and material, were stolen from his car while it was parked in front of the Red Carpet last Wednesday A.M. Whether an act of vandalism or a prank, it's a great loss to Bill. If the thief realizes what he stole is of no possible use to him, please contact JACKSON 2-2033 or this columnist.

Being slightly new to this beat, and assuming when persons call in information, they are speaking the truth, we may be subject to a few in the business who'll put anything over on a newcomer. A person named Larry Maturi called this office with information about himself and his upcoming summer activities. This man said he had been at Cafe Society. The management informed us riday this was not true. What possible gain can a informed us Friday this was not true. What possible gain can a person, in this case a bartender, realize with information so easily proven false? No more calls please, Mr. Maturi.

## *Orange Mayors At Pal's*

Hugh Martin opened this past week at the Charcoal Pit. Hugh's a popular musician around town, and joins forces at the Pit with Vincent Lawrence. Comparing oranges at Pal's recently were the mayors of East Orange and West Orange, N. J. Mayors Kelly and Sheeran found quite a few specimens in Pal's abundant fruit bowl. Pupils of Bettye Barr give an accordion recital this coming Friday at the Masonic Temple in Holiday Park.

Woody Woodbury does a shot on NBC's Today show Monday, May 28. Woody should jazz up a show that has recently become a dirge. Dave Garroway is a sadly missed factor. Blanche Wallace, the local "red-hot mama," booked into the Bonanza Room Wednesdays through Saturdays. Blanche's buxom talents should fit right in to the Gay 90's room.



You are here: SunSentinel.com > Collections

## Clayton Leaver, Builder

### *Of Houses And Condos*

November 05, 1993 | By MARY C. WILLIAMS Staff Writer

Clayton R. Leaver, a contractor and developer who built hotels, condominiums and houses in Broward and Palm Beach counties for more than 25 years, died at his Fort Lauderdale home on Monday of a heart attack. He was 77.

---

Mr. Leaver, a native of Orange, Conn., was a graduate of Yale University and served as a Navy Seabee during World War II.

---

In 1947, he opened his business, Tropical Construction Co. in Wilton Manors, and began building custom homes. Within the year, he became one of the first developers to begin building condominiums along the Intracoastal Waterway. He then expanded to building hotels, such as the Bahama Hotel, and warehouses along the East Coast.

Mr. Leaver retired partially from the business at age 50.

"He was a such a warm and wonderfully talented person," said Louoma Leaver, his wife of 50 years. "He had a lot of imagination and foresight. He would draw a picture in his mind of what he wanted and then create it. He had a real artistic eye."