

1788 CELEBRATE



CINCINNATI 1988
© 1983 Greater Cincinnati Bicentennial Commission

G R E A T E R
C I N C I N N A T I
B I C E N T E N N I A L

Volume 2, Number 3

Newsletter

May/June, 1985

Boathouse Concept Planned For Sawyer Point Area

In the last issue of the newsletter, the Bicentennial Commission announced its decision to raise the funds necessary to complete a recreational complex at Sawyer Point. Concurrently, a lead gift of \$2 million was secured from The Procter & Gamble Company to construct a performance pavilion and establish a trust fund to provide community entertainment. Since that announcement, the Bicentennial Commission has been pursuing other corporate sponsors for the remaining facilities at Sawyer Point, such as the skating/dance pavilion, tennis courts, fishing pier, children's adventure play area, river overlooks and entrance promenade.

In addition to the Commission's efforts to secure contributions for those individual facilities, it is working in conjunction with the City's Economic Development Department to attract a private developer to construct and operate a restaurant concession adjacent to Sawyer Point. Commission Executive Director Richard Greiwe explains that "a themed year-round restaurant would attract people to Sawyer Point, complement the other activities within the recreational complex and dramatically increase the use and safety of the area both day and night. Its design concept is so innovative that there is no doubt it will enjoy tremendous support

from residents and visitors to Greater Cincinnati."

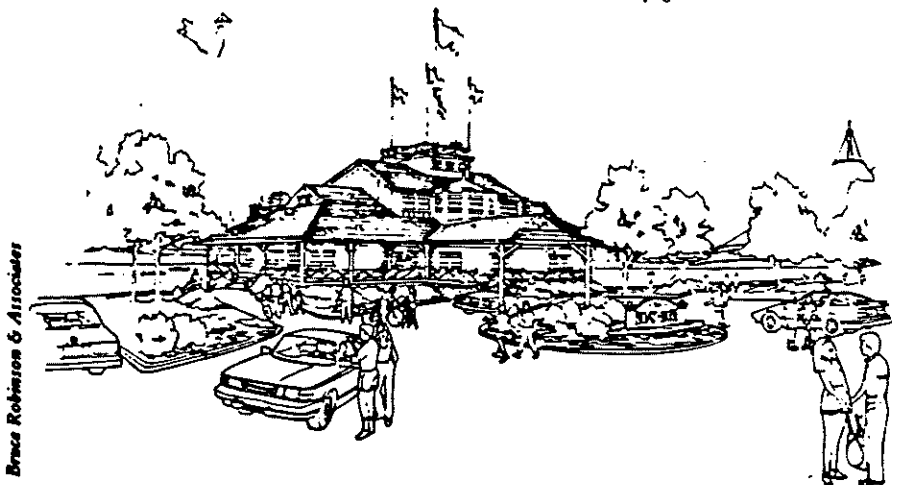
The idea is to construct a two-story structure reminiscent of an Eastern boathouse which would include a themed family restaurant and outdoor cafe combined with an Olympic rowing training center, recreational equipment rental concession and athletic wellness clinic. The impetus for this concept was the designation of Cincinnati as an Olympic rowing training center, and the subsequent responsibility of the city to provide such a facility for the athletes, who will live, work and train in our community. "Providing a 'home' for the rowing teams as they prepare for the Olympics is a unique concept, and its introduction in Cincinnati is a main reason why our city was chosen as one of five training sites in the country," said Bill Engeman. Engeman was involved in the city's designation as a training site, and is working to secure an Olympic rowing trials event in Cincinnati before the Summer Games in 1988. The center will

include stationary shells submerged in water canals in which the rowing teams practice; it would be open to the public so residents and visitors can learn about the sport of rowing and understand the tremendous determination and commitment displayed by these Olympics-bound athletes.

"Sawyer Point seemed like a natural location for such a center; it will be very convenient for the athletes working in the downtown area," said Greiwe. "The boathouse will create an atmosphere of excitement as we watch our team prepare for the '88 Games."

Wrapped around the training facility would be a themed 250-seat, moderately-priced family restaurant. The boathouse theme is derived from the exterior design of the structure and the interior display of the trappings of the sport. Walk upstairs to a pub filled with trophies and pictorial tales of rowing teams past and present. After a spirited game of tennis or a concert at the

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from front page)

pavilion at Sawyer Point, the restaurant or pub would be a perfect setting to relax and enjoy a spectacular view of the surrounding area.

Outdoor decks to the west will open to all the facilities at Sawyer Point, including the ice skating/dance pavilion and the children's adventure playland, and decks on the River side will be built out over the water, a perfect spot to view the athletes during their twice-daily workouts. Separate entrances around the boathouse will lead to the recreational equipment rental concession (boats, roller and ice skates, etc.) and the sports wellness clinic. The ground level orients to the River with a boat storage area and an open-air cafe at the water's edge. The Sawyer Point river walk will pass this area, creating an animated atmosphere as bicyclists, roller skaters and joggers pass by.

Deputy City Manager Phil Hawkey said of the design, "We are excited about the Bicentennial Commission concepts introduced for Sawyer

Point, and are actively pursuing proposals from developers to create a restaurant facility on the riverfront which would serve a broad customer base year-round in a way which would enhance the city's riverfront and attract tourists. Such a development would be an important contribution to our efforts to develop an increased tourism base."

Greiwe agreed with Hawkey saying, "It is imperative today that cities

inject such energy and animation into their downtowns. The Sawyer Point development presents an undeniable opportunity to create a lively gathering place that both area residents and visitors will enjoy."

"The boathouse concept will be successful here because it embraces a wide variety of activity," said Greiwe, "and because it takes advantage of our most valuable natural resource...the Ohio River."



Bruce Robinson & Associates

200 Gun Salute

Due to an expanding staff and increased volunteer activity, the Bicentennial Commission has expanded its office space into the adjoining room. Three full-time staff persons and up to five volunteers on a given day in one room required more than a little effort to keep from stepping on each other's toes! In answer to the Commission's request, the City generously provided the additional space.

If you have visited the office since the expansion, you probably noticed the new office furniture which has added a modern and very functional flair. The full line of desks, chairs, conference table, sorter, credenzas, filing cabinets, word processing/printer furniture and soon-to-arrive partitions were donated by the Hamilton Sorter Company, Inc. of Fairfield, Ohio. Company president Al Kwiecinski said, "When we discovered the Bicentennial Commis-



Al Kwiecinski

sion was looking for a local firm to work with them on their office requirements, we immediately responded and offered our services. All our employees and most of our vendors come from the Greater Cincinnati area...this is our home." The company is considered an innovator in office technology, having entered the industry in 1966 with the introduction of a line of manual sorting devices. Hamilton Sorter

now manufactures computer and mailroom furniture including workstations, security cabinets, acoustical enclosures, computer print-out storage devices, X-Ray film and cassette charts and manual sorters. Products are distributed through specialty office systems dealers throughout the United States; Hamilton Sorter is represented in the Cincinnati area by the Central Business Equipment Company.

In addition to the new office furniture, the Bicentennial Commission has received a donation of two IBM correcting electric typewriters, two Panasonic electronic typewriters, a Canon copy machine, a Sanyo telephone answering machine and a calculator from Scot Business Machines Company of Cincinnati. Scot is primarily a sales and service company specializing in "state of the art" electronic office equipment. The company was founded as a one-man operation by Larry Koesters in 1963 and has grown to 140 employees with four main divisions:



RIVERFRONT RECREATIONAL COMPLEX

Greater Cincinnati owes its beginning to the river, so it is only appropriate that the riverfront be its "front yard".

In Spring 1985, the Bicentennial Commission voted to sponsor the completion of that front yard — a 22-acre recreational complex that will make the riverfront more accessible, enjoyable and usable for the entire community.

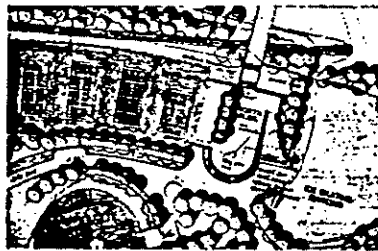
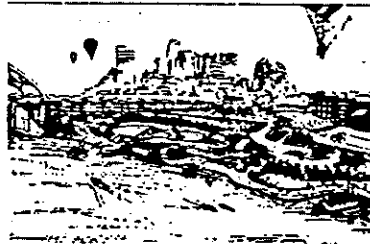
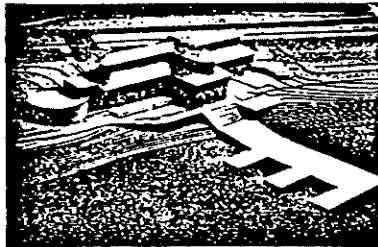
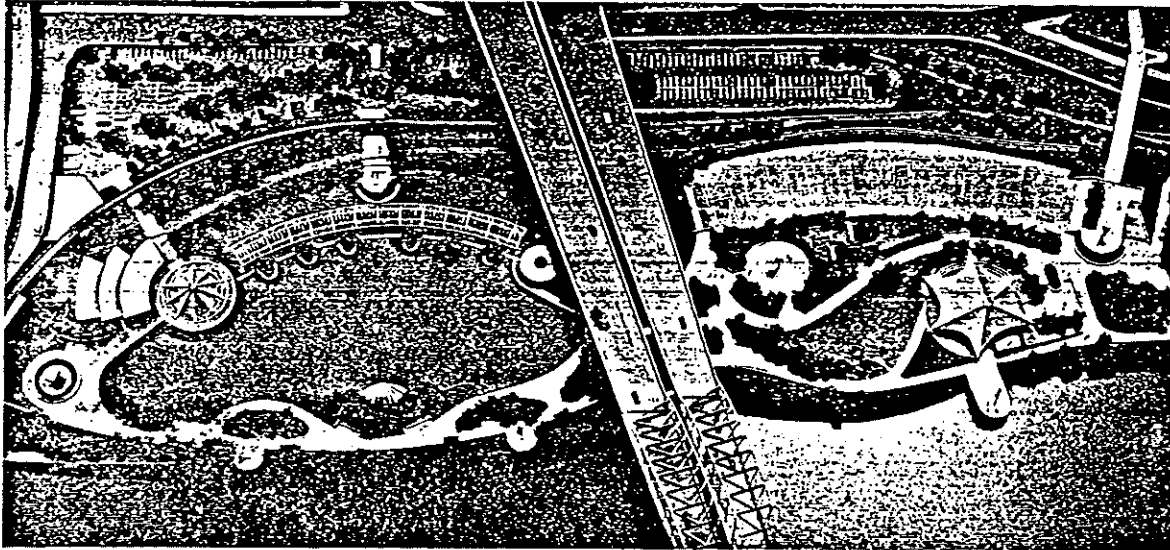
More than a park, this complex will be a center of entertainment, sports and relaxation for the whole family. It will capitalize on all the best attributes of the Greater Cincinnati environment: our river, hills and city skyline.

The major features of the complex will include:

- A boathouse restaurant and outdoor cafe, combined with an Olympic rowing training center, recreational equipment rental center, and athletic wellness clinic. It will give visitors a chance to share in our new status as an Olympic rowing training center;
- A performance pavilion for community entertainment;
- A "great lawn" for community festivals, balloon races, kite flying and family recreation;
- Tennis courts, jogging and bike trails, and locker facilities;
- Ice skating in the winter, dancing and roller skating in the summer;
- A fishing pier and several river overlooks;
- An adventure play area for children, with climbing nets, tunnels and slides;
- A sculpture, using water as a medium, to provide a dramatic entrance to the complex.

Construction will begin in Fall 1986 and is scheduled for completion by Spring 1988.

Location: Sawyer Point
Sponsored by: Greater Cincinnati Bicentennial Commission and
Cincinnati Recreation Commission
Cost: \$14 million
Funding sources: Private contributions; City of Cincinnati and
contracts with concessionaires



MAY 12, 1988

Rowing center on target

Hosting sprints stroke of luck

By Sharon Moloney
Post staff reporter

The \$3.5 million riverfront boathouse on the Ohio River at Sawyer Point — to be the only inland training center for the U.S. Olympic Rowing Team — is expected to open on schedule in mid-July.

The Montgomery Inn restaurant, which will share the training center building, is to open shortly after, possibly Aug. 1.

But the new rowing facility will host its first important event even before its official opening — the International Sprints, on June 9.

"It's called the Kentucky Derby of rowing," said Harry Graves, director of the boathouse.

It's quite an honor for the fledgling rowing club, Graves said, noting that Australian and Canadian national teams, as well as the United States', will compete.

A tent party adjacent to the boathouse will be open to the public.

The Cincinnati Rowing Center Team, composed of athletes selected by Olympic coaches, will also be making its first official trip before the opening.

The team will row in the Royal Henley in England and the Lucerne Regatta in Switzerland in late June.

The boathouse, including an indoor rowing tank for winter use, a Nautilus weight-lifting system and other training equipment, will open just about a month after the Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point itself opens June 4-5.

That the boathouse is opening at all is significant.

Construction was almost fatally delayed when Cincinnati's Urban Design Review Board turned down original plans for a rectangular boathouse and a parking garage.

Redrawn plans, resulting in the final, round boathouse design were submitted, however, and ground was broken in Oct. 28.

That was just four days before the deadline necessary to meet the Olympic rowing team's needs. The boathouse is being built by Cincinnati developer Charles Kubicki.

5/12/88
POST