Community Progress Report

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Cape Coral Success Story

Ten years of progress at Cape Coral have been witnessed by the Rollin Gertenbach family, owners of a thriving gift and beachwear shop which today serves residents and tourists alike. For an insight into progress here, the Report tells one of the many success stories at Cape Coral:

Faunda had never seen the property, neither had her husband nor her son.

Her Christmas, 1960, gift to husband Rollin and seven-year-old Bruce, was airline fare to Cape Coral, Florida, where they had recently purchased land.

That Christmas gift ten years ago yielded the opportunity of their lifetimes, in terms of success and happiness, they say today.

"Bruce missed 32 school days that year due to sinusitis," Mr. Gertenbach said, "and our doctor had advised warmer climate, preferably near salt water.

"We had seen Cape Coral advertised on TV, sent for a booklet, and requested that a sales counselor come out to see us," reports 'Rollie,' as his friends call him.

"I remember he drove out in a snow storm, nearly slipped getting from car to house, nice fellow, mind you, not at all high pressure. He told us to take our time.

"Well, we thought it over, invested and then Bruce and I went down at Christmas. We liked what we saw, returned home, put our restaurant, then home, up for sale. The Gertenbachs lived in Freeport, Illinois, some 125 miles from Chicago.

"At that time there were a lot of lights here at night, you know, to show off the place, really kind of looked like a circus," Rollie said smilingly.

The family moved forward with their plans. Within two months they moved into their newly constructed home, and soon after opened the gift shop.

"We've done better and better each year," Rollie said, "we've been blessed with a good business here." The gift shop was expanded and relocated at 1320 Cape Coral Parkway about seven years ago.

Bruce is finishing high school now, and testimony to the decision his family made in pioneering at Cape Coral is his present interest in a career in oceanography and marine science.

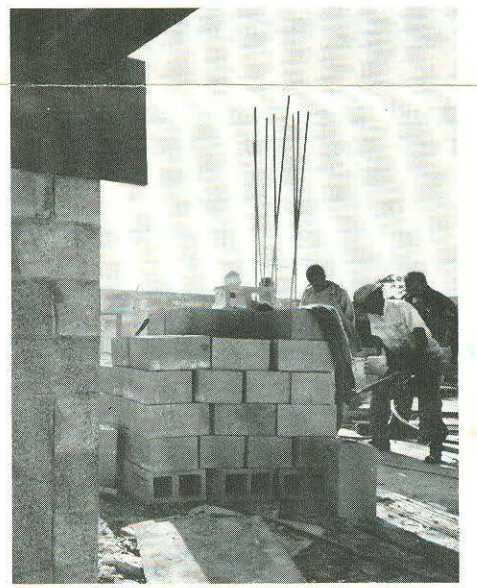
Mr. Charles Grunsten, owner of the Rib Restaurant here, agrees with Rollie. "Our receipts have shown an increase in each corresponding month every year since 1965."

"Another indication of progress here," Rollie said, "is that contractors are so busy (there are nine independent builders operating at the Cape) that I have to get on a waiting list to have my patio made into a Florida room.

"Growth? Just look at Sunday's newspaper," Rollie added, "listings of building permits alone will show you the pace of growth."

The first week of March set a new high for dollar value of building costs under permits issued, $447,870.

Total building costs of $11,701,-330.63 are listed under permits issued from Feb., 1971, through Jan., 1972, the Building Department reports.



Nine independent builders, as well as GAC, are kept busy at Cape Coral.

Bridge Payments Ahead of Schedule

Cape Coral is ahead of schedule on payment of the bond issue for the Cape Coral Bridge and talks are being held by Lee County Commissioners on the idea of building a second bridge to serve the city.

Traffic on the structure has reached proportions large enough to demand a third lane at the toll plaza and bids for such construction were to be opened this month.

Some 2,908,000 vehicles used the bridge last year, prompting officials to consider a third lane at the toll gate to ease traffic at peak hours.

Lee County Commissioners, meanwhile, were thinking beyond this stopgap measure and held discussions on the possibilities of constructing a matching bridge here.

The Cape Coral Bank, keeping pace with the city's growth.

Cape Coral Overview: An Update

Cape Coral is now a city of more than 17,800. Incorporated in August, 1970, it consists of more than 103 square miles, making it Florida's second largest city in terms of area.

The new city has grown to its present size in just 14 years.

Among the residents are more than 5,000 children. Growing pains here are reflected at the Caloosa Elementary-Middle school, as a look this month at the classroom portables here shows.

One bright sign of growth here is seen along Beach Boulevard, where the Ranarc Corporation is constructing a 40-unit condominium "yachting community."

A ninth church has been built within the 60,000-acre city limits, it's the Skyline Bible Church, Christian Missionary Alliance. Two other churches made new additions to the sanctuaries to accommodate growing congregations.

The more than 400 commercial businesses operating here are joined by 13 industrial firms occupying 24 buildings.

The police force now employs 17 persons, the fire department has four full-time employees and 23 volunteers, has a well equipped fire station.

Five new bridges out Burnt Store Road are in the process of construction by the developer at a cost of $1 million. The effort is part of the planned development of GAC Properties Inc.

Electricity is furnished by Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc. through two 30,000 KVA stations located in Cape Coral. More than 140 miles of power distribution lines provide current for more than 6,000 homes, businesses and industries.

United Telephone Company of Florida, a member of the United Telephone System, serves Cape Coral with a direct distance dialing service.

Water is provided by GAC Utilities Inc., as well as by private wells for sprinkler systems. The water facilities include a two-million gallon storage tank and a 200,000-gallon elevated storage tank. The Cape Coral Water Treatment Plant handles the needs of the city.

PROGRESS NOTEBOOK: Record high set, during first week of March, dollar value of building costs under permits issued: $447,870. Total building costs for the year here set at $11,701,330.63 (Feb., 1971-Jan., 1972).

NCAA Golf. — The NCAA Golf Championships will be held for the first time in Florida in its 75-year history, Cape Coral Country Club, June 19-24, University of Miami, host school

College.—An entrance marker at Edison Junior College, set with bronze letters, landscaped, costing $1,700, donated by GAC Properties Inc. Edison president David G. Robinson said: "Many residents of Cape Coral have been attracted to the area by virtue of the fact that there is a higher education institution in the area, and we in the college have benefited from the quality of individuals who have moved to Cape Coral and are now involved in the educational-cultural betterment of our community."

Chamber Report Reflects Steady Commercial Growth

There were 250 commercial enterprises here in August, 1968, and now there are more than 400, the Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce reports.

New businesses are constantly being opened to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing population rate of approximately 2,500 persons per year, the Chamber states.

The Cape Coral population count, recorded by city officials, shows a total of 17,830 persons this month, with weekly increases of 27, 44 and 59 persons recorded for the weeks ending Feb. 26, March 4 and March 11, respectively.

The Chamber's published list of 400 plus Cape Coral businesses includes retail stores, service stations, restaurants and laundromats, supermarkets, an 800-seat luxury cinema, a medical clinic and a 24-hour ambulance service.

The Cape Coral Bank, where a building expansion program is being considered by its board of directors, lists assets of more than $31 million (June 30, 1971), the Chamber states.

The First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Fort Myers, Cape Coral Branch, lists assets at more than $69 million, the Chamber's Membership Roster and Buyers' Guide reflects.

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A statement and offering statement has been filed with the Department of State of the State of New York. The filing does not constitute approval of the sale or lease or offer for sale or lease by the Department of State or any officer thereof or that the Department of State has in any way passed upon the merits of such offering. A copy of the offering statement is available, upon request, from the subdivider. NYA 72-354.

A prospectus has been filed with the registrar of the Real Estate and Business Brokers Act, Ontario. The acceptance of such prospectus filing does not constitute approval or endorsement by the Ontario Government of the lands being offered. OA 11-399-72.