

Denies Story of Projected Movie Theater in "L" Terminal District

Owner of Property Disputes Chicago Paper's Tale

Flat denial that a theater and apartment building project was under way for the property at the corner of Fourth street and Laurel avenue in Wilmette, as reported over last week end in the real estate section of a Chicago newspaper, was issued on Monday by Benjamin H. Ehrlich, owner of the tract of land in question.

According to the story, declared to be without foundation by Mr. Ehrlich, one Archie G. Spencer, acting for the "Theater Acceptance Syndicate," announced on Saturday that his group proposed to build at once a 1,000 seat novel "marine theater" with a 60-foot glass brick lighthouse and six stores. Possibly apartments would also be added.

It was stated that even the name of the theater had been selected. It was to be called "The Harbor." The site opposite the elevated terminal depot and yards at Linden avenue, is about 3,000 feet in a straight line from Wilmette harbor.

Nautical Design

It was said that the land was to be acquired for \$40,000, that the theater with its shores and its lighthouse would cost \$150,000, and that the residential portion of the building would cost about \$75,000 and would contain 12 flats.

The theater, according to the story which quoted Mr. Spencer, asserted that the new theater would have a nautical design throughout, with portholes for windows, with the auditorium resembling the main saloon of a ship, and the waves represented by artificial billows on the side walls.

The buildings would cover a plot if

ground 160 by 160 feet, with parking in an adjacent lot.

The tract involved, which is on the north side of Laurel avenue, and which is now vacant, was involved in litigation some time ago when Mr. Ehrlich, a former resident of Wilmette, successfully brought a mandamus suit to force the village to issue a building permit to him for an apartment building, although the tract had been zoned residential by the village board.

It was pointed out, too, that several village ordinances stood in the way of the plan as announced in the Chicago paper. A tower or "lighthouse" such as that projected would be forbidden by a law which prohibits such structures to rise more than 45 feet. Where plans as announced call for a parking space big enough to accommodate 500 cars across the street from the theater, it was pointed out that there is no commercially zoned territory near enough to be capable of being used for such purpose. Both parking lots and apartment buildings are confined to commercial or industrial areas.

Price of Lot

A question was raised in the village this week as to the price to be paid for the lot. As quoted in the Chicago paper, this was \$40,000, or \$250 a front foot. Property in that immediate neighborhood has been quoted recently at from \$100 to \$150 a front foot.

Other provisions of the building code which might be invoked, although the necessity for doing so had not become apparent under the plans as announced, were those which require a setback on the building line along Laurel avenue and one which, with or without a theater would limit the number of apartments on that size lot to 21.

Modern Basements Have Murals



Home owners who have installed automatic oil heat find the increased cleanliness makes it possible to greatly enhance the beauty of their basements. Interesting mural decorations are used to brighten the "playroom" in this north shore home. (Wouldn't the dogs in that mural like to get at that ball!) The modern oil burner may be seen through the door at left.

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