

Developer raps Halton and Halton Hills planning and NEC

The Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), Halton Hills planning board, and the Halton Regional planning committee all got their knuckles rapped at an appeal hearing Friday for the secretive and high-handed way in which they dealt with a building permit application from Reltuc Dev-

elopment and Construction Corporation this summer. Jack Cutler, the president and owner of the company whose application to build a 160-bed retirement lodge a mile north of Limehouse was turned down by all three bodies, told hearing officer J.W. Duncanson that his application was dealt with at in camera sessions and he was given no opportunity to speak to committee members or answer questions which they might have had about his proposed home.

Mr. Cutler himself a member of the Ontario Building Code Commission and the Ontario Building Materials Evaluation Commission, said that the NEC is the only commission in Ontario which holds in camera meetings. He also said that the commission is not accountable to the public or to any government body.

He accused the NEC and the two planning bodies of creating a "chicken and egg" situation with his application. Both Halton Hills planning board and Halton Region planning committee termed it

"premature" to make any recommendations or decisions about his application until they had received direction from the NEC while the second of the NEC's five reasons for rejecting the application was that "the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Town of Halton Hills are opposed to the proposal," he said.

Mr. Cutler said that he had a problem with getting a land separation and building permit approved by the NEC before. The reasons given for refusing his application were totally reversed at the second hearing on the matter, he said, and thus he now wonders at the consistency of the commissions thinking.

Mr. Cutler said that from the ecological value on NEC

seems to put on his property and the various other statements they make about it "I must own one of the most valuable pieces of property in Ontario. In that case, maybe they should buy it."

One of the stumbling blocks to approval of his project, Mr. Cutler felt, was the fact that the Halton board of health and the ministry of environment had simply rejected his proposal for lagoon sewage treatment without making counter proposals.

He noted that he had expected to have dialogue with the bodies considering his application during which time he could explain that this was just a suggestion and he would be willing to work out some meth-

od of sewage disposal which would suit all parties concerned.

However, since the matter was handled without him having an opportunity to speak to

the people considering his application he had no opportunity to make this point clear.

NEC planner Marian Plaunt told Mr. Duncanson that the application had been turned down because of concern that construction would destroy many trees and the sewage system would pollute water in what she termed "a significant" aquifer recharge area.

Miss Plaunt said that the shallow soil on the site makes a septic system unworkable and a lagoon large enough to handle the 160-bed home would require 10 to 15 acres and thus

tree cutting could not be minimal.

Putting up a residence for 160 people would be the same as installing a high density use on the area, she said, and that was a policy which the NEC frowns upon.

Miss Plaunt also said that while Mr. Cutler's original application termed his project a nursing home, by the time

the NEC considered it the body was aware of the fact a retirement lodge was in fact a retirement lodge and thus the residents would not be confined to the building through age or

infirmary.

The fact that the residents might be active people raised his problem of car parking and extra traffic on the Fifth Line, she said.

Halton Hills assistant planner Brian Kropf and regional planner John Ghent said that both planning bodies had considered the application in the light of it being a nursing

home. Both men felt that had they known the proposal was for a retirement home the planning bodies would have been even more opposed to locating it in

the country away from urban services.

Jim Stansbury, a neighbour of the proposed retirement

home, told Mr. Duncanson that he opposed the application on the principle that such a building would change the rural character of the area. It is already changing gradually,

he said, and each application that is approved makes the next one's approval that much easier.

Meunier undergoes surgery

Art Meunier, the ex-convict who has gained international recognition after spending 42 of his 52 years in prison, undergoes surgery in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, today.

Mr. Meunier is a diabetic, has had three heart attacks, and has cancer. He says his doctors tell him the cancer is dormant.

Now the doctors want him to have exploratory surgery.

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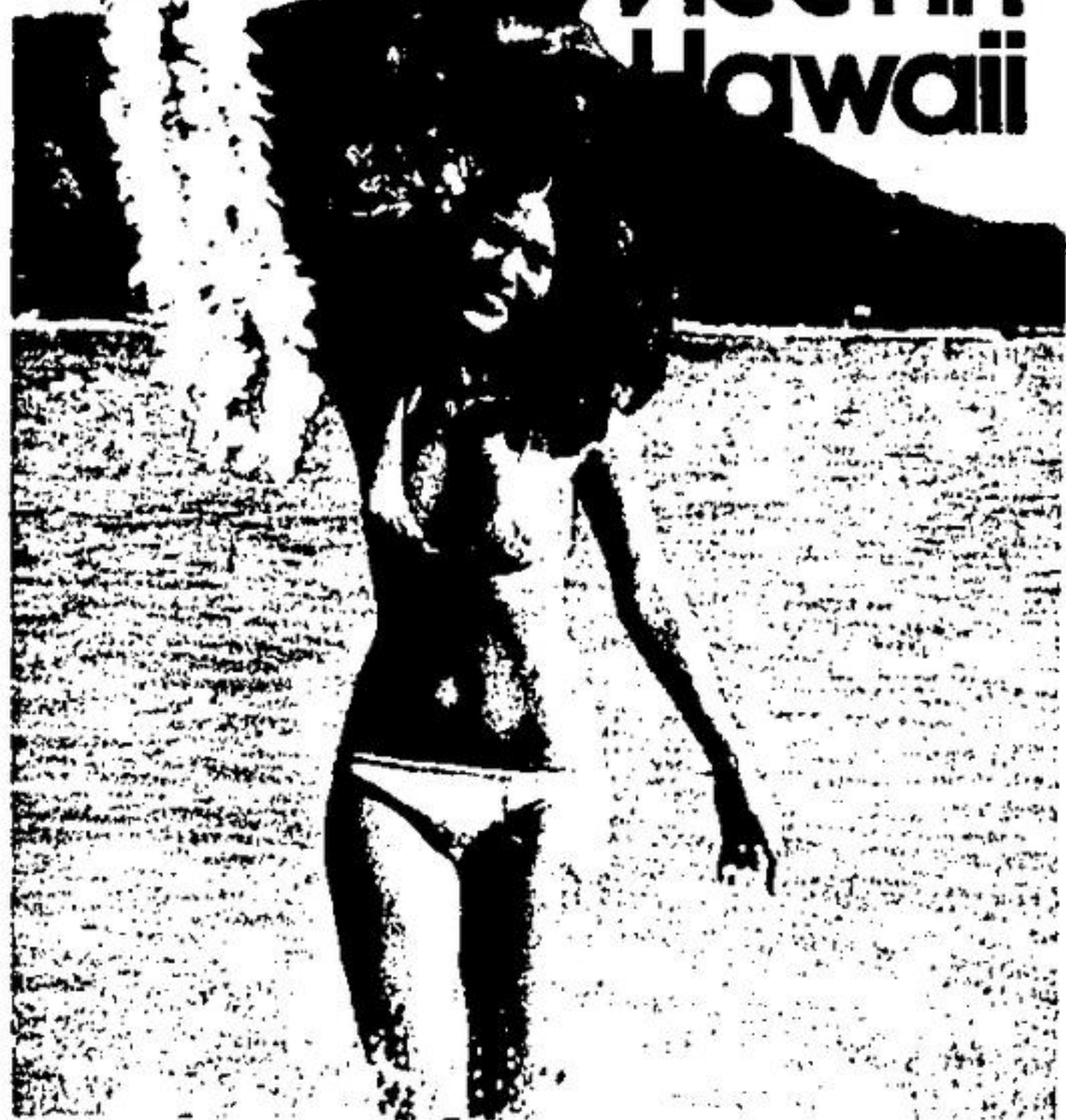
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Historical sites in Honolulu

For the do-it-yourself sightseer, downtown Honolulu offers attractions dating back to the early 19th century.

Oldest of the existing buildings in the civic center is the wooden Mission House. Although timbers were cut and fitted in Boston in 1819 and arrived in Honolulu in 1820, permission was not granted by the king to have the house built until 1821 as it was said to be so much finer than his palace which was then a grass house.

Adjoining the frame mission house is a coral block building which was erected in 1823 to house the mission printing press. A third building, known as the Chamberlain House, was constructed from coral blocks in 1831.

The buildings, now the Mission Houses Museum, are open to the public daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Nearby is Kawahao Church.

The stately coral block structure was dedicated in 1842 and replaced a thatched church built in 1821. Sometimes called the Westminster Abbey of Hawaii, it was built on the site of a sacred spring and was named after the Queen of Oahu.

Services are held in Hawaiian and English. Honolulu's first Catholic church, Our Lady of Peace Cathedral, was built in 1843 and is located within a few blocks of the civic center.

Washington Place, presently the gubernatorial mansion, has the distinction of being Honolulu's oldest building to have been used continuously as a dwelling. It was built between 1842 and 1846 by Captain John Dominis whose widow operated it for a short time as a boarding house. Upon her death it became the property of John Owem Dominis and his wife, the ex-Queen Liliuokalani, who lived in it after the overthrow of the Monarchy until her death in 1917.

The next stop is in Ali'iolani Hale which now houses the courts. Originally built as a palace for King Kamehameha V, but never occupied as such, it became an administration center for his governing body.

A statue of Kamehameha the Great stands in front facing Iolani Palace, America's only royal residence. A National Historic Landmark, it was built in 1882 for King Kalukaua.

The architectural style of Iolani Palace, the only palace in the U.S., is frequently called American Florentine as it is reminiscent of the renaissance Italian. The last

King of Hawaii, David Kalakaua, and his beloved Queen Liliuokalani lived there briefly but her reign was overthrown.

Nearby on the palace grounds is the Barracks, constructed for the royal army in 1871. This fortification was originally located across the street from the palace, but in 1965 the coral blocks were moved onto the grounds and reconstructed.

Leaving the palace, you walk under a canopy of old banyan trees, across an open court to Hawaii's State Capitol, an ultra modern building rich with the symbolism of Hawaii and her people.

The rectangular five-story capital is supported by 40 fluted columns that represent the graceful coconut palm trees, old Hawaii's prime source of food and materials.

The balcony that surrounds the upper floor provides a view of Punahoa, an extinct volcano that serves as a memorial cemetery.

The 112-acre cemetery was officially opened September 2, 1949 - the fourth anniversary of V-J Day.

From the makai (sea) side, you will see Blahop Museum's Falls of Clyde, a four-masted square-rigged ship docked in Honolulu Harbor at Pier 5, just off Ala Moana Boulevard near the Aloha Tower.

Visitors can view the ship, which served Hawaii in the early 1900's, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nearby Aloha Tower, the landmark in downtown Honolulu, provides a vantage point for viewing many points on the island. From the 10th floor observation deck, the visitor can see the Waikiki and downtown Honolulu skylines.

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