

# Kitchen added to shelter complex

By CAMERON TEW  
City Editor

The InterFaith Council Community Shelter underwent many changes during the past 11 months, and with the completion of renovations, the shelter can meet its main goal of helping Orange County residents by providing adequate shelter and food for the homeless, said IFC Community Services Director Chris Moran.

The shelter, located on the corner of West Rosemary and Columbia streets, opened in mid-June and comfortably accommodates 32 men and 18 women, not including volunteers, said Art Cleary, IFC president.

The renovated shelter has several new features. The greatest improvement is the integration of the soup kitchen into the complex, Cleary said. The new dining room holds approximately 60 people, and 130 to 150 people eat daily at the shelter, he said.

The addition of the kitchen means guests do not have to walk across town after dinner to get to the shelter as was necessary when the kitchen was located on Merritt Mill Road.

Cleary said now the kitchen serves a different population since the move because more shelter guests take ad-

vantage of its availability. The shelter does not serve as many people who do not stay in the shelter as before because of the change in location.

But kitchen service has not decreased because of the move, Moran said. "We thought that people would come gradually after the move, but they came all of a sudden." He said the kitchen changed locations June 27 between breakfast and lunch and 25 people still ate lunch at the shelter on the first day.

Another change included the installation of a walk-in freezer. It allows the kitchen staff to accept larger donations from restaurants, Cleary said.

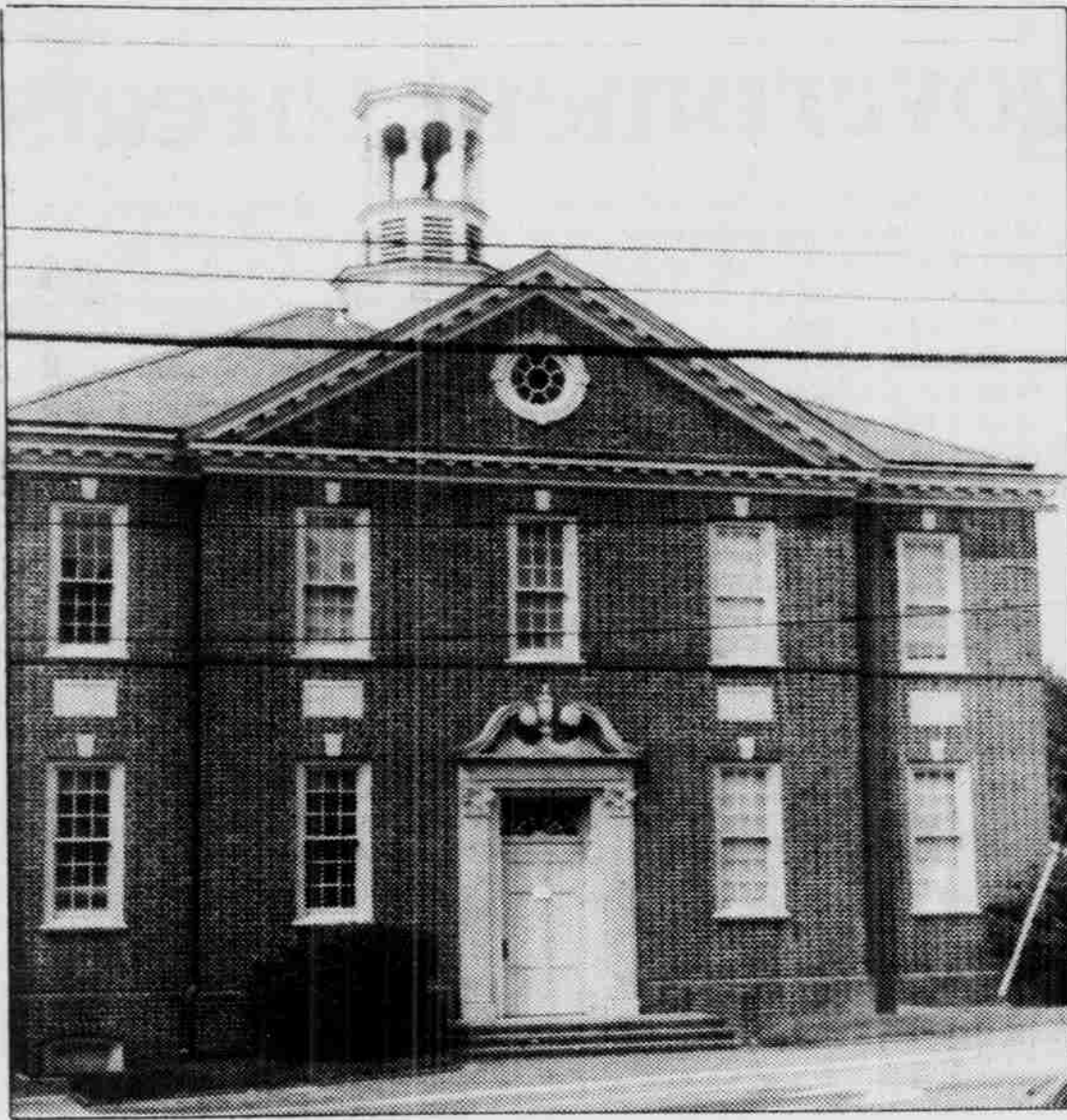
The kitchen is staffed by many different groups, including churches, families and volunteers, and a lot of meal preparations take place at homes, Cleary said.

"It is a real strange situation to run a kitchen with different staff everyday at every meal," he said. "But the volunteers help a lot and they are needed to serve meals. We never turn people away."

Shelter guests have two television lounges and more bed space since the renovations, he added. The guests were moved out last September and had been staying at temporary locations. The men

stayed on the second floor of the Merritt Mill Road soup kitchen. The women stayed at the United University Meth-

odist Church and then at Granville Towers before they moved into the shelter June 5.



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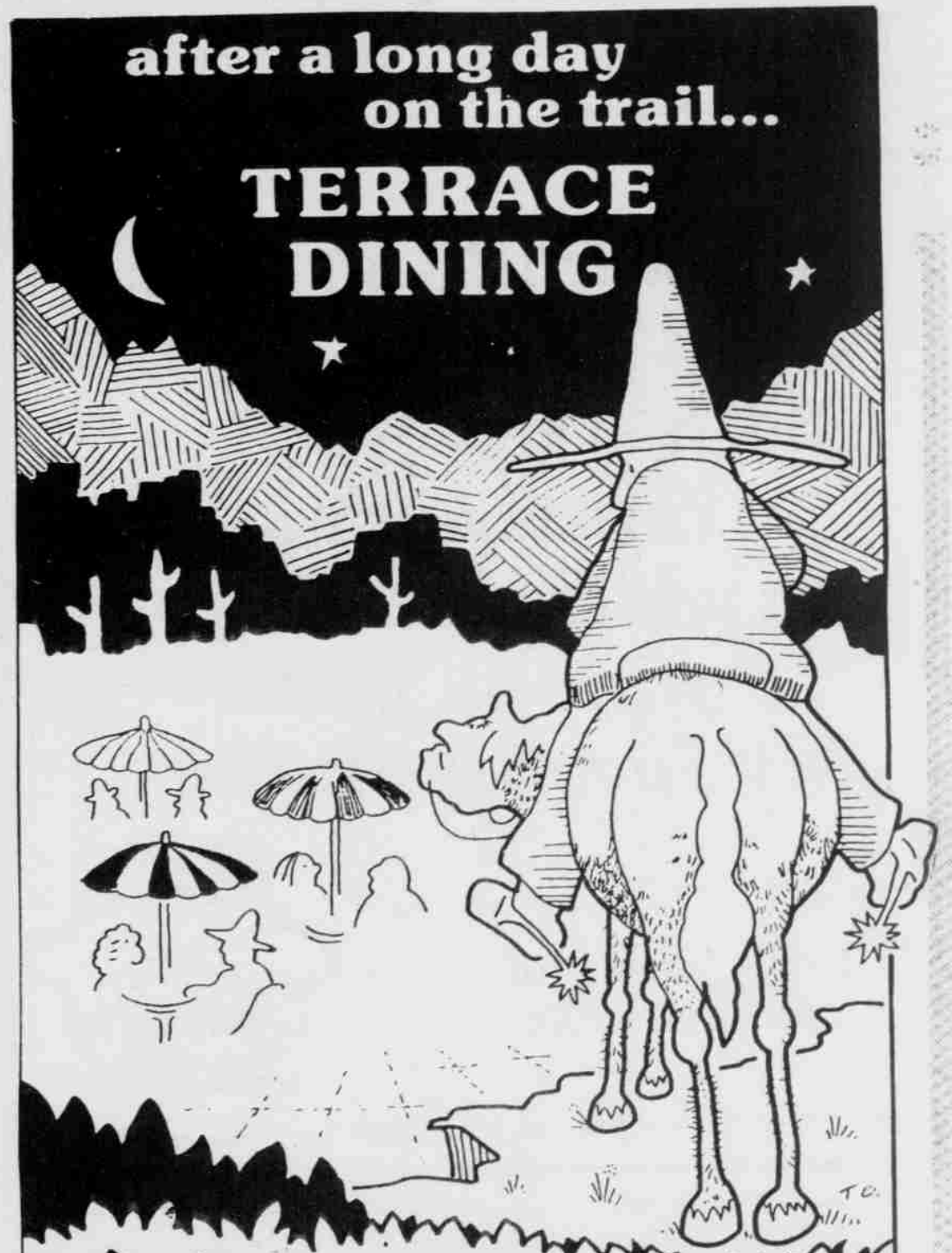
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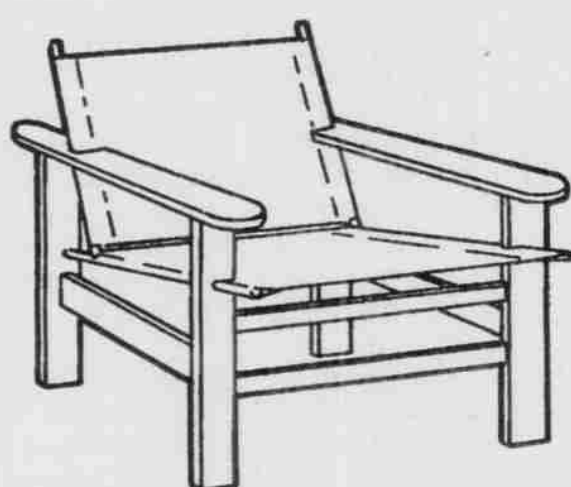
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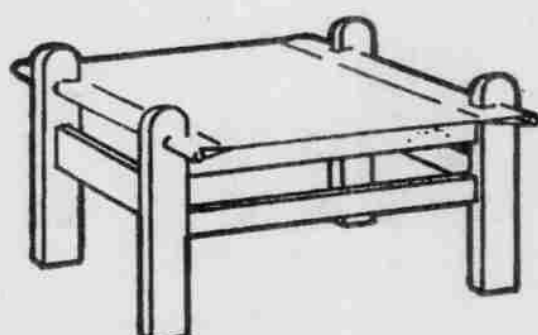
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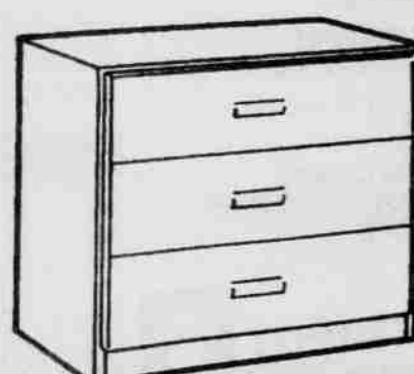
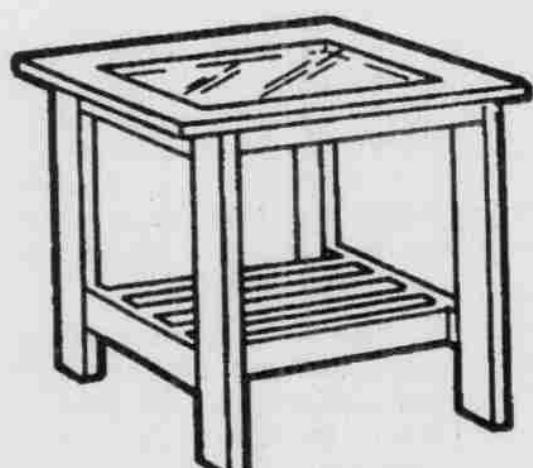


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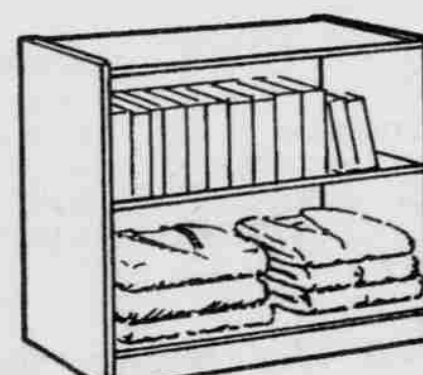
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