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History

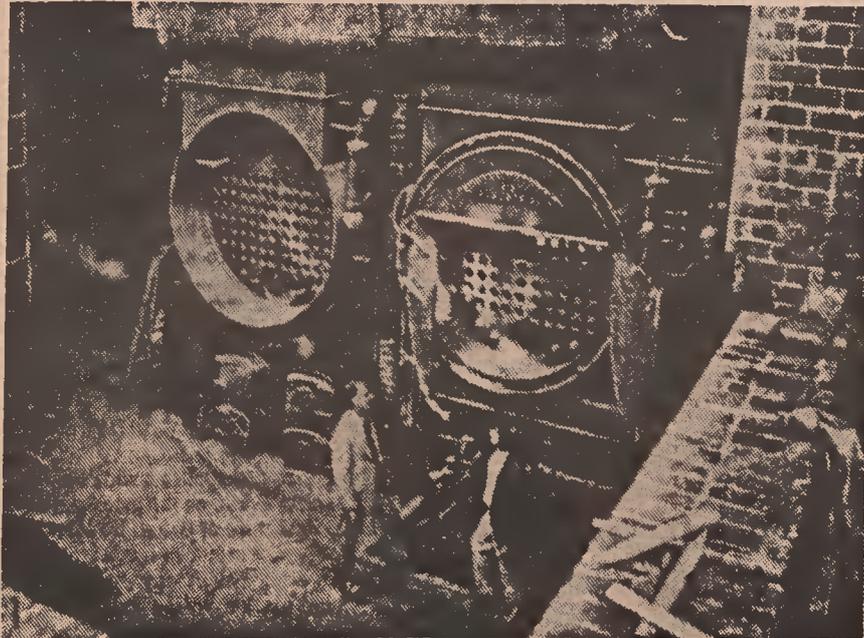
The Brookstown district of Winston-Salem is an area ready for revitalization, and the core of the project is the Brookstown Mill, formerly the Salem Cotton Manufacturing Company. This 5 million dollar project will link the historical past of Old Salem with the city's business district, thus giving fresh life to the Frances Fries Company.

Walking through the Mill, you feel as if you are back in the 1800's. You may encounter a tuft of cotton, hand-laid sidewalks, old wooden crates, and even the original floors are visible. In 1837, Frances Fries ventured into mass production of textiles on Brookstown Avenue. There he began the Salem Cotton Manufacturing Company. This was the first cotton mill established by the city of Salem. During the 1840's-1850's, Fries and his brother, Henry, formed the F&H Manufacturing Company, which was a flour mill. It soon became one of the industrial leaders of the south.

During the Civil War era, Brookstown Mill manufactured yarn for the Confederate Soldiers' uniforms. But the war eventually hurt the growing industry. In 1863, Frances Fries died and the union soldiers confiscated or destroyed the wool and cotton inventory.

After the war, descendants of Fries revitalized the industry. It was the first cotton mill in the south to use electricity; formerly the mill had been steam-powered. Between 1900-1925, the mill complex expanded to include the Wachovia Flour Mill, an ice plant, a cotton warehouse, another cotton mill, and a transformer station. The enterprise also expanded to areas such as banking, railroads, and hydroelectric power. As these grew in importance the mill slowly diminished.

Donna Smith



Giant boiler casings dwarf developers Billy Packer and Chris Knight.

Reprinted from The Sentinel

Rewards of Renovation

Interest and awareness of one's heritage have sparked restoration projects in older cities all over America; San Francisco's Ghirardelli Square, Boston's Quincy Market, and Richmond's Shockoe Slip. Now it's Winston-Salem's turn!

The Brookstown district, between downtown Winston-Salem and Old Salem, is being revitalized. By April 1, the former Salem Cotton Manufacturing Company will be completely transformed into a unique mix of specialty retail shops, office and professional space, and two eating establishments.

The five million dollar Brookstown Mill project is owned by four limited partners; three local and one Chicago based. The developers purchased the historic buildings late in 1978 and renovation began about a year later. The restoration process will leave intact the original windows, wood ceiling beams, industrial lamps, and the exposed brick walls of the old factory structure. Brookstown Mill will retain touches of

yesterday with a rustic mill atmosphere; and will gain contemporary style with the quality shops and restaurants.

A major attraction in the complex, The Salem Cotton Company, a restaurant, will occupy the central mill building. The restaurant will seat 250 and include five areas for elegant food and beverage service. The entry-way, bar, and mezzanine will overlook one unique dining area - a former boiler room. The iron boiler facings will remain as a "sculptural element". Other dining areas include a glassed-in "greenhouse" (a former coal bin), an atrium, an open courtyard, and an intimate dining area with individual eating rooms.

The developers have signed five-star chef John De Beus for the Salem Cotton Company. De Beus, a native of the Netherlands, is now executive chef at the Pinehurst Inc. resort in North Carolina. He has previously served as executive chef at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, The Cloisters Hotel at Sea Island, Ga., and the Polynesian Resort Hotel at Walt Disney World, Fla. De

Beus describes the foods as "semi-continental and a cross-section of American and local fares."

Brookstown Mill will also provide a more casual, family-style restaurant called The Drum and Monkey. This will be located on the opposite side of the complex from the Salem Cotton Company.

Brookstown's retail shops will occupy areas on the first and second levels of the mill's eastern building. The first level will have open shed areas for "performing shops" such as arts and crafts and bakery operations. The second level will contain about six retail areas for clothing boutiques and gift shops. Office space will be available on the third level of the eastern building and on all four levels of the western building.

When Brookstown Mill is completed, it promises to be one of the finest and most unique dining and shopping facilities around. Winston-Salem can join the ranks of the other historical cities that have completed successful restoration projects.

Missy Littleton

Fields Sees Bright Future

Louis G. Fields, Jr., of the U.S. State Department, made some optimistic projections about the future of American-Soviet relations, when he spoke to a small group at Salem, December 1.

Fields said one of the major problems in dealing with the Soviet Union is that the USSR "is playing chess while the Americans are playing checkers." In other words, Fields explained that the Soviet Union knows the American strategy well, while American diplomats must guess at Soviet intentions.

He said both countries have modern philosophies toward each other, and added that the Soviet Union has a "new and different group of rulers" since World War II. Fields called the United States "the new boy on the block" in global affairs.

Turbulence will continue, and "surrogate confrontations" will occur, he said, but "we won't see a global war." Fields explained that there will always be efforts to define a "sphere of influence," and protection of rights will always be present. He added that the Soviet Union will probably be "testing" the Reagan administration for the next few years, "as they have tested every other incoming administration."

Fields said that because of this anticipated "testing," Soviet relations will be among the top priorities when Governor Reagan takes office in January.

One of the major problems of the Carter administration, according to Fields, is that it was "overconcerned

with human rights ...Reagan will be more pragmatic" in this area. Fields added quickly that Reagan will not abandon the concern for human rights.

Fields said that both the U.S. and the USSR are interested in the limitations of arms, although he added that the SALT agreement as it stands now is obsolete. He said Reagan will be looking closely at the military standing of the U.S. and will make adjustments.

Fields said the U.S. submarine force needs to be updated. The waste in the defense budget will be looked at closely, he said, and the programs which are not workable or essential will be done away with.

In foreign policy, Fields said Reagan will depend on the more experienced people in government, instead of bringing in "inexperienced" statesmen into the White House. Fields added that one of President Carter's problems has been that "he brought in too many new people," who had to formulate a policy before they could carry it out. He said Reagan will look for "seasoned people who can work within the bureaucracy."

Reagan is also interested in a "hemispheric alliance," according to Fields. He said efforts will be made to use assets on this side of the globe to dispel our dependence on the Eastern hemisphere. Countries like Mexico and Canada could be of great help to the U.S., he said.

Fields added that a solid alliance in this hemisphere might also dispel Central America's threat to peace in our

hemisphere.

Reagan was unhappy with Carter's dealings with China and Taiwan, but Fields says the president-elect acknowledges that the U.S. cannot "retreat from China." Fields doesn't see that we will gain much from China, and believes Japan may hold more promise.

Fields explained that because of rising costs, the thousands of American troops stationed in Europe is becoming a burden to this country. He said "it is clear that our allies will have to chip in and help defend themselves."

As for Poland's future, Fields said the USSR will probably not intervene "until they have a better feel for the Reagan administration."

Fields accused the Carter administration of not talking enough with the allies before it acted, and this upset some of our closest friends. He predicts Reagan will work closely with American allies and consult them before taking action which will affect them.

The statesman is optimistic; "We have lived through four years of a young president with high expectations. He tried his damndest." He failed in some ways and was a success in others, he said.

Louis Fields attended the University of Florida, and received his law degree from the University of Virginia. He has worked for the State Department for many years, and has chaired several committees in the Cabinet. He is experienced in international law and business.

Carolyn McCollum