

Expansion

Continued from page 1

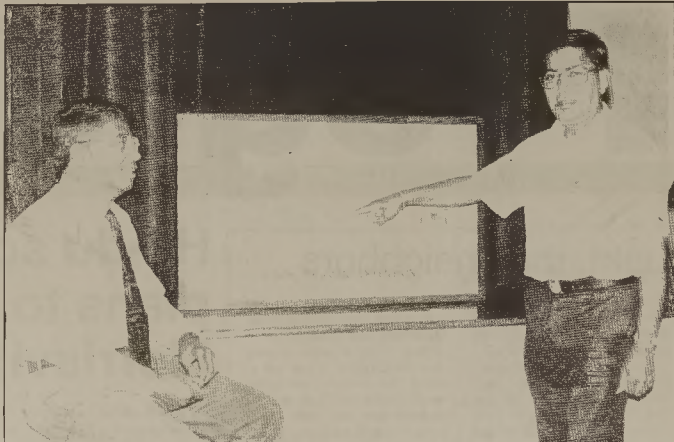
Plans are to begin construction on the new building by the end of September, said Hemant Majmudar. Majmudar, a member of the Society's board of directors, oversees all construction and real estate matters.

The new building, which will be built behind the current temple, will contain 18,000 square feet, he said, and will be linked to the old temple by a 50-foot covered walkway.

It will include a 6,400-square-foot multipurpose hall with a seating capacity of 800 people, a modern 25-foot-by-50-foot stage, a commercial grade kitchen as well as smaller one and storage areas.

The hall, which will have 25-foot ceilings, is designed so a mezzanine seating 200 people may be added in the future, Majmudar said.

The 3,900-square-foot education wing will include four classrooms, a library, a playroom, a meditation room, a game room, priest's quarters and an office.



TEMPLE EXPANSION PLANNED—Hemant Majmudar, left, and Arvind Shah look over the architects' drawing of the planned temple expansion.

Construction of the 18,000-square-foot cultural activities/education building is expected to begin in late September.

Watkins built Morrisville home with help of neighbors

Continued from page 1

For a moment, she'd ask if we didn't have something we could be doing," Watkins said.

The elder Watkins was the first in Morrisville to buy a radio. He in-

It wasn't long after Watkins married that he bought his 50 acres and started clearing it one tree at a time. He sent the logs to a mill to be cut into boards.

Watkins worked full time with the American Tobacco Company in Durham repairing and installing equipment. On evenings and weekends, he worked on his house.

He enlisted the help of co-workers and neighbors. No money changed hands. That was the kind of neighborliness Watkins says would be almost unimaginable today.

Watkins retired when he turned 60. And it wasn't long after that he was asked to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board. It's a job he says he has enjoyed.

The only man he paid (\$1 an hour) was a carpenter who could read blueprints and translate them into instructions Watkins could follow.

Back then in the old days, the church was an important part of Morrisville life.

And while new business and industry have thrived in Morrisville, Watkins has seen the congregation of his church, Sorrell's Grove, just up the road, shrink as older members have died and younger ones have moved away.

Still he remains faithful, attending services every Sunday. And about every two weeks, he takes a turn vacuuming the carpet in the sanctuary and dusting.

He also works in the garden, chopping and hoeing and picking. His 16-year-old grandson, Dustin, put a lawn chair at the each end of garden so his grandfather could rest.

Three of his children live close by, one lives next door, and another lives in Atlanta. The family remains close. The daughter who's far away calls every morning. Another who lives in Green Level stops every morning on her way to work to drink coffee.

The grandchildren are frequent visitors. The Watkins say they wouldn't have it any other way.

Stars attracted to Classic

Continued from page 1

Valvano says Krzyzewski introduced himself and stated his case for the foundation, asking Costner if he would be interested in participating. The coach received a call from Costner the next day saying that playing in the tournament was something he'd like to do.

Many of the celebrities who come for the tournament are closely involved with cancer research or have first-hand knowledge of the disease itself.

Atress Susan Anton, who was a participant in last year's classic, is a chairperson for the American Cancer Society. Comedian Joe Piscopo, best known as a member of the Saturday Night Live cast, also played last year. Piscopo has had treatments for cancer and currently is in remission.

Valvano explains how she came to invite Piscopo to play in the tournament. "I had seen him on the Entertainment Tonight show and he said some very nice things about my father and his courage," she points out. Shortly after that, Valvano met Piscopo at the ESPY Awards, an annual sports award show presented by ESPN which also benefits the Jimmy V Foundation.

Valvano introduced herself to Piscopo, an awards presenter at the affair, and thanked him for his acknowledgments. She took advantage of the meeting to invite him to the classic.

Rebecca Lobo, who led the University of Connecticut women's basketball team to the NCAA championship last season, will be at this year's classic with her mother, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is currently in remission. Valvano described how Lobo's mother came through her ordeal to make it to her daughter's tournament games.

Valvano adds that stories such as these make the classic a worthwhile event. Talking about the golf tournament, celebrity tennis match and other weekend festivities, she says the foundation "likes to keep the focus on fun, but we don't want people to forget why we're doing this."

To date, Costner, Barkley, Robinson, Laetner, Logo and 49 other celebrities in fields from soap operas to sports are scheduled to appear at the classic.

Tom Eplun, who plays the character of Jake on Another World, a popular daytime soap opera, will be making his second appearance at the classic. Soap opera actress Hunter Tylo, along with her husband, Michael Tylo, who plays Blade on The Young and the Restless, also are scheduled to appear.

Dan Jansen, the Olympic gold medalist in speed skating, is on the celebrity list, along with Joe Theismann, the former Washington Redskins quarterback who is now an ESPN commentator, and a number of others, including former Pittsburgh Steelers Franco Harris and Rocky Bleier.

The golf tournament starts at 10 a.m. Aug. 27, with the course opening to the public at 8:30 a.m.

Another Jimmy V event open to the public is "An Hour with Dick Vitale" at Cary High School on Aug. 27 at 1 p.m. The ESPN commentator will be giving a motivational speech and taking questions from the audience.

In addition, Hootie and the Blowfish will stage a benefit concert Aug. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Walnut Creek Amphitheater. The South Carolina-based quartet has earmarked half of the concert revenues for the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research. Band members also will participate in the golf tournament.

Street gets name change

Continued from page 1

as well. As an example, a panicked homeowner could dial 911 and declare, "I live on Dith Court and my houthie is on fire!"

That won't happen, however. A new street name, Hunters Glen Court, will be on the sign which

is expected to go up soon. The name change received the approval of Morrisville town commissioners in late June.

Cynthia Brinkley voices a sentiment undoubtedly held by her new neighbors when she says, "Anything is better than Dith."

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