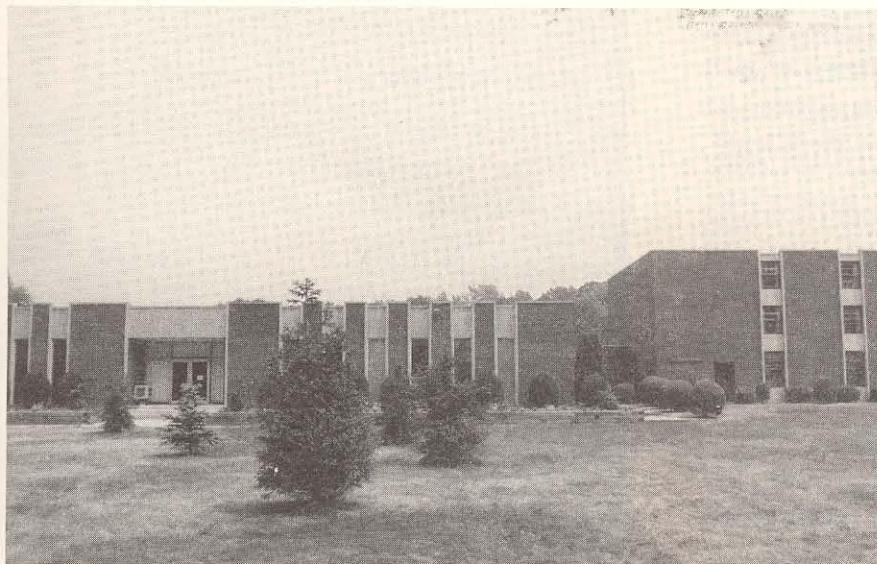


Mancuso's Bi-Rite store. They had plans to re-develop the center.

City Council voted to acquire the eight-acre site at Monticello and Belvoir from Cleveland Heights, by eminent domain if necessary. Council considered placing a one-half mill levy



Alumnae Hall (Dormitory)/Connelly Center (Dining Hall and Student Center) Notre Dame College
Photo courtesy of the Notre Dame College Archives and Records Center.

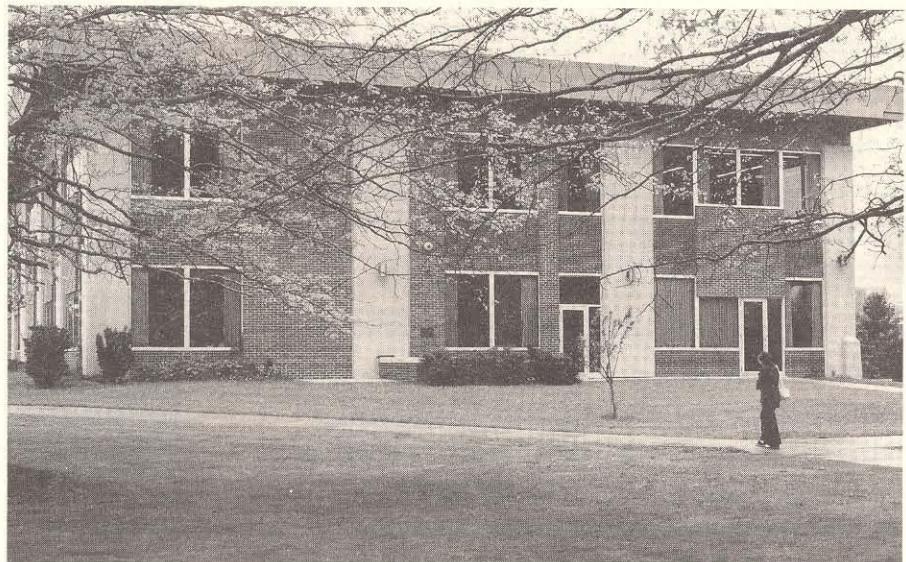
on the ballot to raise money for a city recreation center. The mayor had envisioned an enclosed structure with a recreation center, roller rink, and music rooms.

New proposals for development also came before council. Multiplex Inc. came forth with an idea for a townhouse and garden-type apartment complex on nine acres on the north side of Mayfield Road, west of the library branch. The owners of the property, Palermo Brothers Nursery, decided not to sell their property though.

A three-story medical office building that was proposed for the former site of Rainbow Hospital was under construction. Without Rainbow Hospital, the Memorial Day parade route was shorter this year. The parade traveled down Laurel, Dill, and Mayfield roads en route to Victory Park where observances were held. Later, Legionnaires crossed the street to decorate graves at St. John Lutheran Cemetery to the sounds of Taps and firing squad salutes. Refreshments were served at Memorial Hall, located behind city hall.

Notre Dame College dedicated three new buildings on their campus. Alumnae Hall, Connelly Center, and the Clara Fritzsche Library were completed. This year also marked the college's golden anniversary.

Notre Dame College wasn't the only one celebrating fifty years. St. Gregory



Clara Fritzsche Library, Notre Dame College
Photo courtesy of the Notre Dame College Archives and Records Center.

the Great Parish, also on Green Road, was celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

The South Euclid Boys Baseball League also celebrated its 50th anniversary. A new baseball field was named after Frank Snell, a charter member of the League.

South Euclid City Hall was planning for an expansion. The police department would finally get its new station, to be located behind city hall on a site occupied by Memorial Hall.

In other city news, the newspaper recycling effort was halted due to the glut of old newspaper on the market and falling prices.

On the school front, Dr. Marvin Maire left his post as Superintendent of the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Schools to assume a similar position at a school system in Minnesota. Dr. Thomas J. Powers was named to replace him.

The year 1973 began with the appointment of a new executive director, Edward Stiff. It ended with three of the four council ward seats filled with Mayor D'Amico's supporters. They were affectionately called "Arnie's Army."

The year was rather quiet as to developments and confrontation. Construction of the new post office began. Wanting to curb vandalism at city parks, the city hired a security guard to patrol.

Unusual events occurred because of crimes. A wild chase and a six-hour police search led to the arrest of a suspect in a burglary on Oakmount Road. In another incident, a young man was sentenced to thirty days in the Cleveland House of Correction and fined \$500 for shooting three holes into the mayor's automobile.

1973

Top Film: *The Sting*

Deaths: President Lyndon B. Johnson, Pearl S. Buck, Jim Croce, Noel Coward, Edward G. Robinson

Major Events:

- * Paris Peace Accords effectively ended the American combat role in the Vietnam War.
- * The military draft ended and the volunteer army began.
- * Rising fuel prices and long lines at the gas pumps were the result of an oil embargo by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
- * Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office as Vice-President, replacing Spiro T. Agnew who resigned before pleading no-contest to a charge of income tax evasion.
- * The Sears Tower was built in Chicago, becoming the world's tallest building.
- * NASA launched SKYLAB, the first U.S. space station.
- * Secretariat was the Triple Crown Winner.
- * The Cleveland Barons hockey team played their last game at the downtown Arena.

What's Hot: skateboarding, Uri Geller

Remember? . . . The Bank Heist That Failed. 1973

"One thing we know for sure, it was a well-planned bank robbery," Police Chief William Van Veghel said.

The robbery may have been well-planned but it was unsuccessful. Central National Bank, 4034 Mayfield Road, wasn't telling how much money the robbers didn't get.

A very unusual chain of events began with a 10:05 a.m. phone call to the South Euclid Police Department. An unknown male called, reporting that a policeman had been shot in the Metro Park near Monticello Bridge.

Patrolman Charles J. Herbst was sent to the Metro Park to investigate only to discover that the shooting was a hoax.

A young man and woman, Steve and Linda, entered Central National Bank. They talked to the secretary about opening a trust account for their children. The secretary was suspicious because normal trust accounts were over \$100,000. Most persons at such a young age hadn't accumulated that much in assets.

Shortly after, three gunman stormed into the bank. One screamed, "Freeze or I'll kill you." Steve and Linda stood. Steve moved to another part of the bank, strangely before being ordered to do so by the robbers.

One gunman ordered a teller to, "Fill the bag," while holding a gun to her head.

A gunman grabbed Steve and ordered him to get the money. Steve stuffed the bag with money from teller drawers and the vault.

"Be quiet and go into the back room, lie on the floor face-down and if anyone gets up I'll kill you," a gunman ordered. Employees and customers were herded to the back room and ordered to the floor.

At 10:09 a.m., a bank robbery alarm came in to South Euclid Police Station from Central National Bank. Police dispatchers ordered all police cars to the scene of the robbery.

Police arrived and blocked all bank exits.

Within seconds, a bank teller ran out of the bank, warning police to let the robbers go or else they would kill everyone inside the bank.

The three robbers exited the bank with four hostages. The hostages were Steve, Linda, and a young mother and her son. They yelled that if police interfered, the hostages would be shot. Police officers held their fire.

The hostages were shoved into a blue Chrysler automobile, owned by Steve. Steve was ordered to drive while the three robbers piled into the back seat with the other hostages. They drove around the corner of the bank and headed southbound on Genesee.

Police from South Euclid and Cleveland Heights were in pursuit as the car continued on to Warrensville Center Road to Wrenford and Cedar where University Heights police had set up a road-block.

During the chase, gunfire was exchanged between the robbers and police. The rear window of the Chrysler shattered. Two robbers pointed guns out of the window. Police responded by shooting out the rear tire of the Chrysler. The car turned towards the curb and stopped. More gunfire was exchanged.

Police ordered the robbers out of the car.

One gunman fell out of the car from gunshot wounds and was taken to Huron Road Hospital. The other two were handcuffed and taken to the police station.

In the meantime, two more robbers had been discovered inside the bank and subsequently arrested. A pillowcase stuffed with money and a sketch of the bank's layout were left behind.

All four of the hostages were interviewed and released. Shortly thereafter, it was discovered that two of them were not hostages at all. They were in on the robbery. Linda and Steve had lengthy records and warrants were issued for their arrest.

Linda was apprehended in Akron. Steve was a fugitive at-large in Southern Ohio.

1974

Top Films: *Godfather Part 2, Chinatown*

Deaths: Charles A. Lindbergh, French President Georges Pompidou

Major Events:

- * In San Francisco, Patty Hearst, the kidnapped heiress, helped her radical captors rob a bank.
- * President Richard M. Nixon resigned from the Presidency. Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office. Ford pardoned Nixon.
- * Daredevil Evel Knieval failed his daring motorcycle leap across the Snake River Canyon in Idaho.
- * The Coliseum in Richfield, Ohio opened.

What's Hot: Swedish pop group ABBA

Concerns over a recreational facility for the city and zoning and housing code changes occupied the minds of the mayor and council members in 1974.

South Euclid and Cleveland Heights continued heated negotiations over the property at Belvoir and Monticello. South Euclid Council voted to sue Cleveland Heights which, in turn, sued South Euclid. The court was asked to establish the zoning at the site. Cleveland Heights maintained it as a "higher use." South Euclid considered it "single family/residential." The city offered to buy the property but claimed that Cleveland Heights' asking price was "unconscionable." Court action continued.

The proposed construction of a new recreational facility for the city seemed doubtful. For a year, a study had been conducted on the feasibility of an indoor ice rink and a swimming pool, now promoted as a joint South Euclid-Lyndhurst project. The school board had added a swimming pool because of the failure of two bond issues to build a pool at Brush High School. A site was selected at Mayfield and Dorsh roads.

Other forms of recreation were added in the city. A new bocce ball court was added at Victory Park and a tot lot at Bexley Park. They were financed by the Lions Club and Jaycees, respectively.

A rezoning proposal that could have led to the demolition of 24 houses on Francis Court for the construction of high-rise apartments was defeated.

A proposal was made to build a nursing home, Anthony-Mary Manor, on property at the rear of Glengate Shopping Center. Concerned neighbors, objecting to the development, formed the "Save Green Road!" committee.



"Tot Lot," Bexley Park

A proposal was made to build an addition to Maymore Shopping Center.

The city's plans for a new police station moved ahead, along with plans to refurbish the existing city hall. Included in the plans were a police firing range, training rooms, an area for juvenile prisoners, an expanded council chamber, and municipal court chamber.

To preserve the integrity of housing stock, the city implemented a new housing code that provided for the exterior inspection of single- and two-family homes with the owner's consent and mandatory interior and exterior inspections of multiple dwellings. A strict business code was also passed.

Change was also in the air as new executive director for the city, Walter Stiff, resigned. He had accepted a similar position in New Castle, Pennsylvania, for "more money, more challenge." Reports were circulating that a move was underway to elect a full-time mayor and to eliminate the executive director's post.

As 1975 rolled in, there had been hope to salvage plans for a recreation facility for South Euclid-Lyndhurst. The school board dropped its request for a swimming pool. The plan failed, though South Euclid still wanted to build its own facility on the land at Belvoir and Monticello. Tentative plans for the property did not include an ice rink. Mayor D'Amico felt that the northernmost area of the city was not the best location for an ice rink. If one were built, he thought it should be more centrally located. Also, an ice rink would call for additional funding and neither the mayor nor his committee were interested in increasing taxes to fund it. The

1975

Top Films: *Jaws, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Nashville*

Deaths: Josephine Baker, Jimmy Hoffa

Major Events:

- * Americans were evacuated as Saigon fell to the Communists.
- * President Gerald Ford declared the turbulent "Vietnam Era" over.
- * Women were admitted to the U.S. Military Academy.
- * The Cleveland Transit System (CTS) was sold to the Regional Transit Authority (RTA).

What's Hot: disco, reggae music, dances like the bump and hustle, skateboards, mood rings, pet rocks, Sony VCR's, the rock group Queen

land, he felt, was really better suited to baseball, nature trails, and tennis. The property was still tied up in litigation.

After a five-year court fight, Burger King won in its bid to build an outlet at Cedar Road and Miramar Boulevard. Thousands of dollars had been spent trying to prevent its construction.

Residents complained about commercialism taking over their city.

The Cuyahoga County Grand Jury indicted a Richmond Heights man and a Euclid man on three counts of arson in connection with a fire May 6th that destroyed a three-store business building. Destroyed were Drapery Interiors (4487 Mayfield), Nationwide Travel (4485

Mayfield), and Pedal Power Sports Center (4491 Mayfield).

South Euclid was designated as a Bicentennial Community by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of the federal government. The city won the right to fly a special white Bicentennial flag at city hall. Residents also ordered the flags to fly at their homes. A Bicentennial Committee was formed to collect donated or loaned memorabilia and planned on restoring the old red schoolhouse on Richmond Road. This was a joint effort between South Euclid and Lyndhurst.

A group of South Euclid residents who lived in the "Warrensville West 5" (the five streets behind Cedar Center) complained about their children having to attend Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools. They wanted their children enrolled in the South Euclid-Lyndhurst schools.

In November, South Euclid entered into a new era of government. Mayor D'Amico, who had run unopposed for mayor, was elected as the city's first full-time mayor. The post of executive director was eliminated.



1976

Top Films: *Rocky, Network*

Deaths: Howard Hughes, Agatha Christie, Alexander Calder

Major Events:

- * Apple Computer was established to make and sell small computers for personal use.
- * The nation celebrated 200 years of independence.
- * Georgian Jimmy Carter was elected President in one of the closest elections in the century.
- * The mysterious "Legionnaires" flu killed 28.
- * Author Tom Wolfe called the 1970's the "Me Decade."
- * U.S. District Judge Frank J. Battisti ordered busing to integrate Cleveland's city schools.
- * The Cleveland Ballet made its debut.

What's Hot: CB radios, punk music and style, LCD watches

The country was in a festive mood over the Bicentennial. South Euclid had its own reasons to celebrate in 1976.

Councilman Lawrence Tucker had been meeting with Cleveland Heights officials outside of court to discuss the disputed property at Belvoir and Monticello. He had predicted that the matter would be settled outside of court and it was. Cleveland Heights finally agreed to sell the eight-acre site. However, a jury was empanelled to make the

action official. After hearing testimony from appraiser Sam Canitia, the jury decided that the land could be sold for \$79,000.

Deciding how the land would be used for recreation depended upon monies available. The sum of \$37,000 had been transferred to a special land acquisition fund to be used as a down payment for the land. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources had promised \$30,000 in matching funds to the city for the land. The mayor traveled to Columbus to try to convince them to up the figure to \$39,500, half of the sale price, and succeeded. He also investigated ways to acquire funds for developing the land.

Preliminary plans for the Belvoir-Monticello property called for a covered recreational facility. Stanley Keller, a trustee for South Euclid's Boys' Baseball League, made a plea for additional recreation space for his teams. He suggested that the land be converted to two ball fields after construction of an indoor facility. SELREC suggested its own ideas for the site, in addition to the redevelopment of Quarry Park across the street. Their plans did not include an indoor ice rink (deemed too costly). They suggested that the land lent itself to baseball diamonds, nature trails, and tennis courts. Architect William A. Behnke and Associates was selected to prepare plans for the proposed recreation area.

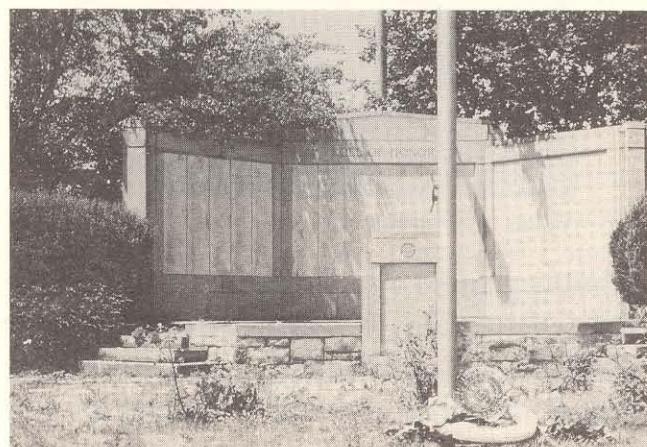
A bit of nostalgia was removed from the Belvoir-Monticello property. The old wooden huts, once used for voting booths, were hauled away now that the property was to be used as a recreation facility. Since voting was now conducted in churches and schools, the old portable booths were no longer necessary.

The May-Green business district underwent revitalization. A Royal Castle on the

corner of Mayfield and Green was completely remodeled to be re-opened as a Zip Ice Cream Shop. The former Franklin Ice Cream store was being converted into a pizza and donut shop. Winter Radio's property was being shared with Jason's House of Carpet. In the Ross-Noble Building, a deli was moving in. These new businesses joined Jantiques, Celler Ceramics, International House of Pancakes, Quality Printing, and Cleveland Sport Goods. Mancuso's Bi-Rite was also undergoing major store remodeling.

Ray Quiggan, owner of the Quiggan Building (once used for his heating and air conditioning business) and other property owners on the southwest strip of Mayfield and Green hired architect Jerry Weiss to develop a mini-mall in the area. Mr. Weiss had developed Coventryard and had redesigned Cedar Center Plaza in University Heights. His plan called for changing the design from a strip of shops into a pedestrian walking square using the parking lot as a focus. He proposed converting the Quiggan Building into specialty shops. Council supported the plan.

Across the street, three civic groups joined in the refurbishing of the Victory Park Memorial, built in 1949. The Lions Club installed a new walk from Mayfield Road to the memorial. Jaycees put up a new flagpole.



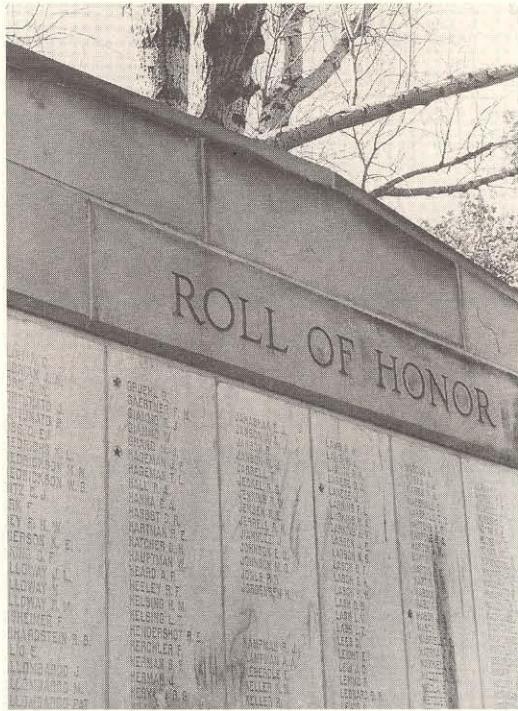
William Fibich, Jr. Chief, The South Euclid Fire Department 1955 - 1976

William Fibich, Jr. was appointed fire chief in 1955. He had gone directly from lieutenant to chief.

"My dad was one of the organizers of the volunteer department back in May of 1922," he recalled in talking about his years with the fire department after his retirement.

During his tenure as chief, he had many accomplishments. Changes in department procedures and operations were made, molding the department into a very efficient fire fighting force. He also headed a committee which successfully obtained legislation to restrict the use of red flasher lights in Ohio.

After 21 years as chief and 26 years and nine months of service, he retired. He moved to Central Ohio where he worked for the state as the southeast area fire coordinator.



Victory Park War Memorial

Kiwanis planted shrubs and sod and restored some of the Civil War Veteran plates on the trees.

As part of South Euclid-Lyndhurst's joint Bicentennial celebration, the little red schoolhouse on Richmond Road was renovated by residents. Former Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton participated in the dedication ceremonies and the laying of a memory box.

South Euclid and Lyndhurst had a joint "Star Spangled Celebration." Festivities began with a parade originating at Mayfield and Green, progressing to a reviewing stand at Mayfield and Richmond, and onward to Lyndhurst Park behind Lyndhurst City Hall. Local dignitaries joined cheerleaders, majorettes, Girl Scout troops, floats, unicycles, and bands. The combination homecoming-civic pride festival was held in Lyndhurst Park where food and game booths were set up by South Euclid and Lyndhurst youth and civic organizations. Baseball games and a swim meet concluded the activities.

Not everything was worth celebrating. South Euclid's service department had gone

on strike and garbage had piled up for five weeks. Construction on the new police station was halted when members of the building trades union left the project in sympathy of strikers.

"Bomber" Steven Stern was apprehended by police without blowing up himself or the Sunoco Gas Station (578 Green Road) with dynamite as he had threatened. He had parked his truck directly over the gasoline storage tanks at the gas station. He had a box with a bottle of gasoline in it and had dynamite taped around the outside of the box. After hours of coaxing, Police Chief Van Veghel and other officers were able to subdue him. At his living quarters in an abandoned construction trailer near Green and Monticello, police found more sticks of dynamite.

After 21 years as fire chief, William Fibich resigned from the fire department. Assistant Chief Charles Gardner was named as interim chief of the fire department.

The year 1977 began with the police department's move into its new, much anticipated headquarters. The *Sun Messenger* newspaper devoted an entire page to the new, Richard Fleischman-designed facility. The old headquarters were remodeled and absorbed by city hall, now called the municipal center.

Some of the new space was allocated to the new Commission on Aging, headed by Linda Azoff of Beachwood. The purpose of this office was to provide services to help senior adults remain independent. Programs offered included outreach services, free blood pressure testing, home repair help, and social activities. Their first social activity was a brunch and matinee of *Peg O'My Heart* at the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival.

1977

Top Films: *Saturday Night Fever*, *Star Wars*, *Annie Hall*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

Deaths: Elvis Presley, Charlie Chaplin, Bing Crosby, Joan Crawford, Guy Lombardo, Groucho Marx, Anais Nin

Major Events:

- * The space shuttle *Enterprise* made its first test flight.
- * Seattle Slew won the Triple Crown.
- * The Alaskan pipeline was in operation.
- * Dennis J. Kucinich was elected mayor of Cleveland.
- * The last passenger train service left Tower City.

What's Hot: disco, foreign cars, *Roots*

Other changes were also taking place at city hall. The mayor assumed the title and responsibilities of safety director, formerly a part-time position, to save money.

Acting fire chief, Charles Gardner, was named the new fire chief. Sworn in by the mayor, the gold badge of chief was proudly pinned on by his son, Greg, who had cerebral palsy.

On the development front, the former caretaker's quarters at the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library became the new location of the South Euclid Historical Society. The Historical Society had been founded by Mayor Urban's wife during the city's Golden Jubilee but hadn't

Charles E. Gardner Chief, The South Euclid Fire Department 1977 - 1980



Charles E. Gardner joined the South Euclid Fire Department on April 1, 1952. He was promoted to lieutenant on November 1, 1955 and captain on July 1, 1958. He moved up to assistant chief on May 1, 1961, and finally to chief on July 3, 1977.

Accomplishments during his time in office were many. Chief Gardner developed a commercial and a residential fire inspection program. Through his efforts, all department members received certification as Emergency Medical Technicians-Ambulance. With the assistance of city officials, he purchased and placed in service a new fire department rescue squad on March 6, 1980.

He retired in October of 1980.

had a permanent home. The Society was able to use the quarters for nominal rent.

Grand plans for the May-Green shopping district fell through. Merchants who paid for

the plans were left with hopes and blueprints. Plans deteriorated when a prime restaurant tenant, critical to the development, didn't surface. Only new doorways, a canopy over rear walkways, and steps from the rear parking lot were added for customer convenience.



South Euclid Municipal Center Interior

