

The wave of the future is washing away what we have in our memories, and it's moving a little faster every day.

Lake Park school is an example, the elementary of which we all were so proud when it was built in 1956, just 34 years ago. In fact we were so proud in neighborly Naples that parents worked to get the grass started and, since the school board couldn't afford sod, we parents went up nights and weekends to water the seeded grass.

Now we all, parents and graduates, had better ~~get~~ a good final look because plans now are to demolish Lake Park at the end of this school year since a new school is already nearly done ~~there~~.

Of course there may be a ~~delay~~ ^{fallout} Lake Park's office warned the demolition could be delayed "until funding is available."

There has never been a place so determined to destroy its past as Naples.

Along that revisionist line there is a renewed assault on the county's famous turkey seal, which has never been a favorite of County Manager Neil Dorrill, who has been quoted as saying "It makes us look like turkeys" in county government. He couldn't claim all the credit for turkey opposition, which supposedly began with then Manager Don Lusk, also noted for being the only official, city or county, to wear a Mickey Mouse wristwatch.

I like that bit of history that ^{the} late Margaret Scott, clerk of circuit court, confided about the seal's origin. "We took it off a bottle of Wild Turkey whisky," she said, but knowing her sense of humor I wonder.

In any case, the new county services building on Horseshoe Drive, over by River Reach, has a lobby dominated by a magnificent white heron seal, which is explained as "just for this building." Let's see if it turns up anywhere else.

I checked out the ^{new} ~~building~~ after somebody claimed it was worth a look "because it runs forever and two weeks."

Cabbages..2

It isn't actually that big but it is impressive with a lobby
~~alone~~ larger than both floors of the original courthouse in Everglades and so
big you have to take a number and wait to be waited on. The lobby
center ~~has~~ a magnificent table loaded with 19 different ^{application} forms and a
phone to call for help.

Unlike the Naples-Marco Philharmonic, this hall does have a
readily available floor plan but it doesn't identify many offices.
Maybe that was because the whole thing was dedicated April 1, 1989.

The seal question hasn't been pushed at city hall but there
are a lot of ^{city} signs now carrying the pier-and-sunset logo I helped
design for the Historical Society. Could that be slated to replace
the boat and fishing design originated by Betty McLennon?

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The new fire chief Rand-Scott Coggan is pushing ~~again~~ for a
"South Naples fire station" which we already have on Eighth Avenue,
South. The chief is following the lead of City Manager Fred ^{Jr} Jones
who would like to take over the ^{original} station for more office space.

I have a suggestion for both of them. Leave the fire station
where it is and use some of the vacant space in city hall which has,
still, five parallel east@west hallways. If space is still short, what
about the oversized office of the mayor or the very large space occupied
rent-free by Rep. Mary Ellen Hawkins?

If worst comes to worst, they could wall in that train station
~~like~~ plaza out front, although the roof may still leak.

There's one thing about moving a fire station. You have to
get the new neighbors used to ear-splitting but necessary sirens wailing
at odd hours day and night. That might not go over so well in Port Royal.

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Cabbages...3

Lost in the backwash of history out at the courthouse is the time capsule so ceremoniously planted at its center for the 1976 centennial. The flagpoles for the U.S., state and county flags have been moved over to the highway's edge and the time capsule, to be opened July 7, 2076, 100th anniversary of Collier County" is now forlorn and alone, marked only by an abandoned Budweiser can.

They have to leave the flags up night and day. The ~~dangerous~~ narrow stairs to their bases have no guard rails and the walkways are awfully narrow. That could be improved.

One of the conceptualizing studies for improving Naples calls for "opening access from Cambier Park to Fifth Avenue" which I figure means removing either the Barnett Bank or Merrill-Lynch unless they use the narrow walkway next to the big real estate firm sometimes happily referred to as Swinger, No-Doze Easily.

Fortunately that's only a concept like the new city park up at Alligator Lake on Gulf Shore Boulevard just south of the Beach Club Hotel.

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