

A novel mail-order honor-system ticket sale plan working for the first-ever Old Naples historic homes tour is ~~executed~~ says Mrs. Dean Earl, tour chairman for the Collier County Historical Society.

"We had never had a historic homes tour before and we weren't sure about the amount of interest there would be," Mrs. Earl said. "We have found that a lot of people want to visit and view the odd houses in the place where Naples began. We have also had fine cooperation from owners and residents of the houses and from society members who will ~~aid~~ in the tour."

The walking tour will be from 1 to 5 p.m. on Easter Sunday, April 10. It will make a 10-block swing from the old hotel site at the end of 12th Avenue South down to the pier and back to end at the Old Naples Building, home of the Colonial Cheese and Gourmet Shop where refreshments will be served. Participants will receive a map of the tour to guide them and society members will be on hand at the seven homes and in other areas to explain their background and history.

To get tickets out ~~as wide a range~~ ^(of residents) as possible they were mailed direct to members of Naples civic associations on the honor system with a request that payment be made or the tickets not used.

"We've had a ~~wide~~ good response so far and more ~~payments~~ payments are still coming in," said Mrs. Helen Pardee, society secretary. "We have had a few complaints from people who were sent single tickets and wanted more, ~~and~~ ~~were~~ ~~had~~ ~~would be done~~ who sent a check but didn't signify."

More

George Huntoon, president of the society, said there is great interest among Neapolitans, many of them newcomers, in the people who were ~~the~~^{first} to come and the city they ~~had~~ founded.

"We hope that this interest, supported by the facts we have already uncovered in preparing for the tour, may create a continuing interest in the old Naples area and help in its preservation," Huntoon said. "This would be the best kind of living history for Naples, ~~and it's too early~~."

There was also interest in the tour from Bill McGowan, Naples Chamber of Commerce executive vice president, who sees it as an answer for visitors who want to know more about Naples but don't ~~quite~~ know where to start.

"This is the sort of 'Naples image' event which ~~can~~ could fill a real need for the city and the Third Street area," McGowan declared. "It is something that could be a great help to visitors and might lead to a permanent historic walk ~~marked~~ be with historic markers that would ~~make it~~ self explanatory without being obtrusive or out of character for our low-key community."

McGowan offered any aid the chamber could provide and placed a small block of tickets on sale in the office at Fleischmann Boulevard and the Tamiami Trail. Tickets have also been placed at the Beach Club Hotel, ~~the~~ Cove Inn, and Colonial Cheese and Gourmet, plus the Barnett Bank of Naples and First National Bank. The \$5 ticket covers the tour and the refreshments at the end.