

# Inquiring reporter

By GEORGIA ANGEL

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR SOLUTION TO THE COURTHOUSE PROBLEM?



Dell Jernigan

'A new one . . . same place!'

Dell Jernigan, 720 NW 23rd Blvd. postal clerk: "Build a new one in the same place. It's the logical place for the courthouse to be . . . right in the center of town. Don't ever sell a piece of the Square. It is not big enough to divide up and still have a courthouse of adequate size and ground. If we used one of the alternatives offered by the county commissioners and sold sixty per cent to commercial interests, the Square would look like a hacked up mess! I am a county taxpayer, and it's worth my while to pay more money for a new courthouse on the Square than to see the Square ruined! As for the old jail site . . . it's all wrong for a new courthouse location . . . The town is growing in the other direction. Why . . . there has been very little change in the old jail site section in the last fifty years!"



John Montesano

'Build on the Tebeau square.'

John Montesano, 923 NE 7th Ave., assistant manager: "Sell the square . . . Build a new courthouse on the county-owned Tebeau property which is about the same size as the present square. There's nothing to knock down . . . it's cleared flat and ready to go! We would reap at least \$700,000 from the sale of the present square . . . Improve our business district by allowing competitive business to come in . . . use the proceeds from the sale to substantially pay for the new building, and still have a square almost kitty-corner from the old one! What's wrong with that? . . . I object to the old jail site as a county activity center. It is a deplorable area with outhouses, shacks, and extremely unsanitary conditions. I don't see the county keeping the Square as a park. Only Gainesville would benefit. It's up to the city to develop a park area if Gainesville needs one."

Dr. I. I. Weintraub, 108 NW 7th St., physician: "I don't believe there is any problem. The present courthouse is inadequate in all respects. Since it is located on probably the most valuable land in town, the most logical answer would be to sell the land to private interests and collect taxes. Let it become all business! Use the proceeds from the sale to build a new courthouse. That would just about pay for a new building without any added financial burden on the taxpayers of this county. There is plenty of land to put it on. For one thing, the jail site is good because it's adjacent to the new public library and it's near the center of the city. The Square is too valuable a property from the standpoint of potential revenue to utilize it as a park . . . or for parking. I think I've said enough."



Dr. I. I. Weintraub  
 'Sell square and collect taxes.'

Miss Joyce Cason, 111 NW 7th Terrace, cashier: "I don't think the land should be sold. If they are to build a new courthouse, why not build it in the same place? We should rely a little on the judgment of the early residents of Alachua County. They put it there for a reason and Gainesville grew around it. Why should we change it? That's the only place it belongs! Business sections in other cities make you feel cooped up. Here, you can walk down town and not feel crushed. I think that's very important. I've been in and around Gainesville all my life, and I think selling the square would be taking something away from Gainesville. The city would never be the same . . . The square is what makes it . . . even to newcomers . . ."



Miss Joyce Cason  
 'The Square makes Gainesville'



Mrs. Gertrude Jeffries

'It's more valuable than money.'

Mrs. Gertrude Jeffries, 851 NE 7th Place, homemaker: "I prefer a new courthouse on the square. If it was purchased it would be by big business which would seriously affect the small independent stores around it . . . The Square is an attractive symbol of a small town with its easy, slow way of living . . . than the hurrying way of the world. To me it is very sad that the courthouse square of small towns is being replaced by fast moving business. The square should not be considered in terms of dollars and cents. The effect of the open green space on our lives each day is far more valuable than money. We are going forward so fast, we desperately need a sentimental, attractive spot which can offer us relief from tension and give us momentary pleasure. The very openness and green of the square gives that to us every time we pass it even if we never stop to analyze our emotions."

Mrs. dren left Sa in Wa. Miss sonvill G. E. W. Grego Jackso Billy visitin ta Wa Gored hor attend odist c the M Mrs home had si Mrs visit h weeks Mr. receiv birth Mach Dist tin p award in Ga in Ha to St gett Bailey 12th award The guests Paul ville sponsed ening invite "Ha-F ation midn them Home iors. Mr

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