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## BACKGROUND INFO

- Fall 1963 – Shufflers moved from Richland Community House to Highlands Skating Rink – 4<sup>th</sup> & Union-Kennewick.
- Fall 1965 – Skating Rink closed – Shufflers assumed full-time lease with owners of the building, Highland Improvement Assn. -- the Shufflers board named the building “Shuffler Shanty”, because that’s what it looked like.
- Oct.3, 1968 –Notified by H.I.A. that road widening project by Benton County would cause condemnation of the Shanty building. President Don Doescher asks “Past Presidents Committee” (fortuitously established the previous year) to explore possible dance sites – see attached listing of places contacted.
- Nov 1968 – Since the foregoing contacts indicated that it was very probably going to cost \$200 or more per month to rent, the group said, “we might as well put that much money into our own hall”.
- Dec 1968 – President appoints a ‘Building Finance Committee’, consisting of Dan Siemens (chrmn.), Bob Bush (incumbent treasurer), Nester Wise (past president), Kurt Leeser, Harold Little and Jim Vetrano.
- Jan 1969 – Building Finance Committee sends notice requesting all Shufflers attend a special meeting to be held Feb 16 at the ‘Old Shanty’.
- Feb 16, 1969 – With the aid of flip charts, each member of the Building Finance Committee made presentations to club members present. The Bldg. Fin.Comm. stated that if the plans just presented met with approval, the goal was to raise \$15,000. By the conclusion of the meeting, \$8,000 had been subscribed (pledged) !
- Mar 22, 1969 – Based on the confidence displayed at the Feb. meeting of the membership, subscriptions had reached \$13,000, and a ground-breaking ceremony was scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. Eventually \$20,000 of shares in the corporation were purchased; this amount plus a \$10,000 mortgage completed the building.

## CONTACTS for POSSIBLE DANCE LOCATION (During the Winter/Spring of 1968-1969)

1. Bldg. at "Mad Turk" lot-Roy Davis/Phillips Real Estate—already leased.
2. Bldg. by Richland Thriftway grocery/Brinkley Invest. \$300 mo./ 3,300 sq. ft.
3. Old Col. Basin News bldg. -Pasco/Jess Mast- available-\$450 mo/ 4,500 sq. ft.
4. Bleiler bldg on No. Stevens Blvd/ rents for \$75 mo to Jo-Jo (part of dorm.) Oct. 24/68
5. Western Roping School-5 miles west of Rich Wye-available \$10 night/ 24X50 ft Oct. 24
6. Richland Plumbing (old Chevy garage)/nothing/referred to old liquor store
7. Liquor store-Richland/T.G. Austin 60X62 \$300 Oct 24/68 (lease could be less)
8. Richland Flying Service/Buck Wheat-nothing/referred to empty shop/no floor Oct. 24
9. Bleiler contacted about leasing spot of land near JoJo bldg.....possibility
10. Port of Benton ref: airport shop bldg; suggested contact City Mgr./bldg belongs to Hanford Piping.....supposed to remove building from site.
11. Richland School District....rental schedule depends on weekday vs. weekend; not available during summer or basketball season; e.g. L&C Elementary cafeteria and gym for 4 hrs.....wkdays \$9,.80 Sat. \$51.30 total, but only when available.
12. Richland Marina (by Rivershore motel)..talked to City Engr.....no rates.....looking for some group that is conducive to community.
13. West Richland city clerk / ref: W.R. Women's Club bldg...can have free if we move it.. Quonset hut in bad shape.....is this "The Barn" that Shufflers began dancing in?
14. West Richland city clerk / ref: bldg at 4330 Van Giesen..2,400 sq. ft..owner Fusman
15. " " " " /long stucco bldg on Van Giesen....owner in Sitka, Alaska
16. " " " " /garage bldg. by bridge....owner in Seattle
17. Coopers Meat and "Grocery, West Clearwater.....not available Nov. 6/68
18. Richland YMCA /Stinson probably can rent 1,200 sq. ft. plus adjoining room
19. Kennewick YMCA/ Bare can rent gym monthly \$10 night for 4&1/2 hrs, subject to approval by Mr Kiser (out of town)
20. Mineer Bldg-West Richland \$100 night
21. Dietrichs Foodliner-West Richland \$200 night
22. Kiwanis Youth Bldg.-Columbia Park
23. Knights of Columbus Bldg..By-Pass Highway.....\$150 for L-shaped dance floor/bar open

The above scouting around the Tri Cities for another place to dance was occasioned by the following: Jerome Clarke, Treasurer of HIGHLAND IMPROVEMENT ASSN phoned Bob Bush, Treasurer of Prairie Shufflers on October 3, 1968, stating the following: Benton County is securing 'right of way' on all property around the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> & Union streets....15ft off of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 10ft off of Union, extending 200 ft from the corner of Union (towards our hall), ending approximately 30ft from the west end of the Shanty. The county has negotiated with other adjoining property owners and has offered H.I.A. \$4,000; after H.I.A. refused, the county came back with \$6,000... H.I.A. holding out for the \$7,000 appraised value Per Ike Lampson, Pres. Of H.I.A. making overtures about taking money for 'condemned land area and improving on land they own across ditch on South Union. In any event we have to move somewhere.

Don Doescher, President Prairie Shufflers asked me to contact Jerome Clarke for update on the acquisition/condemnation.....Clarke said he had found out this morning (October 4<sup>th</sup>) in talking to Ezra Pahl, Asst. County Engineer that the road work would be done by a contractor and probably would not happen until next Spring (1969).

Bob Bush, P.S. Treasurer  
October 4, 1968