

January 1969

IT'S TIME TO BUILD
THE MACHINERY IS SET UP

You are cordially invited to attend a special meeting for all Shufflers at the Shanty on Sunday, February 16, 1969, at 3:00 p.m.

Purpose of the meeting is to be completely explained what will be done, show what the new Shanty will look like, where it will be located, and start taking subscriptions for stock to raise the necessary capital. If you want to continue as a club, to have the fun that we have always had, it is vitally important that every member be at this meeting, if at all possible. So bring your checkbook and come on out; can't tell, we may even talk Harold into calling a tip or two.

Dan Siemens

Chairman-Building Finance Committee

BACKGROUND INFO

- Fall 1963 – Shufflers moved from Richland Community House to Highlands Skating Rink – 4th & 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. *(27 Possibilities Explored)*
KC HALL ONLY VIABLE
\$150 PER MONTH
- 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 Leaser, 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’ – copy attached.
- 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) ! Meeting agenda attached.
- Mar 22, 1969 – Based on the confidence displayed at the meeting of the general membership, subscriptions had reached \$13,000, and a ground-breaking ceremony was held this date.

see notes

BUILDING THE SHANTY

To build the hall, the Prairie Land Company sold stock and borrowed money to buy the land and pay for materials. The Shufflers donated all the labor...and there was a lot of that required. The exception being, that erection of the block was done by a contractor...can you imagine umpteen volunteers following a *level* line !

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 29, 1969. Five busy months and many snack breaks and potlucks later (furnished by OUR GALS), the hall was ready in August to “dance in” our new hardwood floor. Another two months were spent finishing touches on the interior; such as, doors for the restrooms & cupboards and installing the suspended ceiling.

On October 18th a full day GRAND OPENING was held and SHUFFLERS SHANTY was officially in business....fifty one (51) squares in attendance.

“A LABOR OF LOVE”

For more details of the background, planning, organizing, securing use permits, “milestones” of the project, snapshots taken during construction and the “Sharing Our Story”, refer to the HISTORY BOOK prepared for this 35th Anniversary.

