

Beverly Hills Owners Consider Clubs Here

The family that owned the Beverly Hills Supper Club, which was destroyed in a 1977 fire that killed 165 people, may build two posh nightclubs in Franklin County.

The Richard Schilling family is considering two suburban sites near Columbus to construct clubs called "January's" and "Oodles." They would be patterned after clubs of the same name in Cincinnati.

The Beverly Hills Supper Club was located in Covington, Ky., near Cincinnati.

RON SCHILLING, 31, a son of Richard Schilling, declined Wednesday to identify the locations being considered. He said a final decision about building the clubs will be made within a month.

"It's 50-50," he said about building nightclubs here. If plans fall through this year, he said they will be revived next year.

The family also is considering franchises in Louisville and Lexington, Ky.; Dallas, Houston and Indianapolis, Schilling said.

He said the January's and Oodles clubs were opened last March in Cincinnati.

THE CLUBS are adjacent in downtown Cincinnati.

Oodles is a three-tiered restaurant with three bars. The cedar-paneled club has a Florida motif and features 1,000 tropical plants. Its menu offers light lunches but will be expanded to include dinners. It can handle 300 patrons.

January's, with a 13-piece dance band and four vocalists performing both Top 40 and older tunes, has an ultra-modern decor with tufted velvet walls and a ceiling with 1,000 lights. Waiters and waitresses are dressed in costumes and wigs and wear theatrical makeup.

"There is nothing to compare it with," Schilling said. "That's why it's franchisable."

SCHILLING SAID a limited partnership, made up of his family and a Cincinnati-based company, will finance the clubs here. Schilling would not disclose the name of the company.

In lawsuits filed by the survivors and relatives of those killed in the Beverly Hills fire, more than \$20 million has been collected from various defendants including the Schillings.



Firefighter Bill Reedus Comforts Dorothy Tinsley After She Was Rescued From Burning Apartment

Man Rescues Woman In Apartment Blaze

By Michael Norman
Of The Dispatch Staff

A woman was rescued Thursday from her burning 11th-floor apartment at Mt. Vernon Plaza, 1035 Atcheson St., by a young man who saw flames shooting from her balcony window.

Tyrone Capers, 19, dragged a shocked Dorothy Tinsley from her apartment just as firefighters arrived at the 13-story apartment complex.

No one was injured in the blaze. Other tenants, unable to use elevators, escaped down the stairs.

The fire was confined to Tinsley's living room.

"ME AND MY cousin were standing out in the parking lot talking to a friend who lives on the floor above her," Capers said. "We saw smoke coming out of the window and then it was like an inferno, the flames were shooting out the balcony."

Capers said his cousin ran to call firefighters and he took an elevator to the 11th floor. He said he saw Tinsley standing amidst flames in the living room of the apartment.

"The flames were all over the living room," Capers

said. "I dragged her out, but she kept saying, 'No, I'm all right. No, I'm all right.' She was just standing there in the living room," he said.

"There were low flames at first," Capers said. "But it just grew and grew and then there were flames everywhere. I carried her down the steps. I was knocking on all the doors on the floor and telling them to get out now."

COLUMBUS FIRE Division Battalion Chief Robert Smith said the fire began on a couch in the living room of the apartment. He said there are indications Tinsley may have started the fire by dropping a cigarette.

"It's lucky the door was closed or it would have been worse with the smoke and flames entering the whole floor," Smith said. "Luckily, the door was closed and the smoke detector was set off."

Smith said Tinsley told firefighters she had just gotten up and was making breakfast when the fire broke out.

Smith said he did not know the extent of the damage to the apartment. He said water from the complex's sprinkler system, set off by the smoke detector, caused some damage on the 11th floor.



Tyrone Capers

Traffic Flow To Improve, Officials Say

By Tom Sheehan
Of The Dispatch Staff

Parents of some private school students, angry about traffic congestion at two Columbus public grade schools, can expect a solution within a few days, public school officials said Wednesday.

Problems have occurred this week at Northgate Elementary School, 6655 Sharon Woods Blvd., and the closed Gables Elementary School, 1680 Beck-et Ave.

REVISED BUS ROUTES for non-public students bused by the district have irritated some parents, Columbus Public School officials said.

Instead of being picked up on street corners as in past years, most of the non-public students must board buses at the Columbus elementary or middle schools near their homes. They also are discharged at the schools at the end of the day.

State Sen. John R. Kasich, R-Westerville, who represents northeast Franklin County, was at Northgate Thursday morning and said something needs to be done about the situation.

"I've had at least 100 phone calls over the last three days about this," he said. "They (school officials) need to take a real good look at these bus routes."

KASICH, WHO talked with more than a dozen parents gathered at the school Thursday, said he was upset that buses picking up the children in front of the school didn't turn on their flasher lights and that the street (school zone warning) flashers also were not turned on.

He said he shared parents' concerns that a child might be hit by a car.

The route changes were made this year to shorten some routes and to save gasoline.

Ronald Smucker, public school transportation director, said parents driving their children to Gables and Northgate and buses arriving to pick up or drop off students created traffic problems.

"We're working on solving it," Smucker said. "We're going to spread

it out so we don't have a high concentration of students in one area."

ASSISTANT SCHOOL Superintendent Frank Maraffa said public school officials received a number of complaints Wednesday, the first day of

Related Stories — Page C-7

school for Columbus middle and elementary school students.

"We won't compromise safety," Maraffa said. "We have to make adjustments, but it will probably take about a week to sort it all out."

Parents, standing in a steady drizzle at Northgate Wednesday afternoon and again on Thursday morning, were critical of the new routes.

"The real problem is in the morning," said Gayle Green of 1328 Chesterton Lane. "We can't get the city to turn on the flashing lights."

"THEY SAY they're all on a computer and are set to come on about 20 minutes before the public school children arrive and they can't be changed."

"Our kids get here between 7 and 8 in the morning and this is a heavily traveled street. They won't provide crossing guards or lights."

Some children, whose parents cannot pick them up at the school, must walk along Sharon Woods through a ravine just south of Northgate Elementary. There are no sidewalks along the road.

Not all the complaints have been registered by parents of non-public students.

Sandra Knott of 6155 Laurelwood Ct., whose daughter Erica is picked up at Northgate to be taken to Douglas Alternative School, 43 S. Douglass St., also roundly criticized school officials.

"I think this kind of thing is crazy," she said Thursday. "I have to be at work at 8:30 a.m. and I just can't leave my daughter here (because of all the problems)."

Like the non-public students that are bused, the public school students attending alternative schools also must go to elementary and middle schools to ride their buses.

Landlord In Reynoldsburg Changes Payment Policy

By Kevin Kehres
Of The Dispatch Staff

Some tenants of Eastgreen on the Commons apartments in Reynoldsburg will not be forced to have rent and utility payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts.

Eastgreen owner Theodore Steilen said he will make the AutoRent Utility Billing System voluntary for per-

sons already living in the 310-unit complex, located on the south side of Reynoldsburg.

New tenants, however, will be required to join the plan, he said.

"IT'S UNFORTUNATE that this had to happen," Steilen said of tenants protests last week against the plan.

"AutoRent really has benefits for everyone."

Steilen said current tenants will be offered "inducements" to enroll in the plan. However, he gave no details.

"I expect that within a short period of time most of the tenants will be on the plan," he said.

The plan will keep rents from rising as quickly as at other apartments, he claimed.

Gene Damon, of the Columbus

Tenants Union, said the concession made by Eastgreen may be the first victory in a lengthy war against the automatic billing system.

"WE FEEL the system deprives people of certain rights," Damon said. "If the maintenance of the complex becomes shoddy, it would be very difficult for the tenants on AutoRent to

withhold their rent payments."

Withholding rent is allowed under Ohio's landlord-tenant law. It gives renters clout when demanding that apartments be kept in good repair, he said.

"Once you are on the plan, it would be very difficult to get off," Damon said.

The union also wants Steilen's

pledge concerning the current tenants put in writing, Damon said.

OHIO LAW prohibits an "unconscionable," unbearable clause in a lease agreement, "and we would be prepared to argue in court that AutoRent is just that," he said.

More than \$1,000 has been collected to pay for attorney's fees for a court battle, Damon said.

Burglar Steals Whiskey Mixed With Poison

An unidentified burglar got more than he bargained for in a break-in Wednesday. He may be glad to give it back — if he doesn't die first.

Columbus police said someone entered the apartment of Bruce Carey, 31, 5687 Ironwood Ct., between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. The burglar took a coin collection valued at \$155, four bottles of wine and a whiskey bottle that contained a mixture of bourbon and strychnine. The bottle, which measured 750 milliliters or just short of a standard fifth, was about one-third full, Carey told police.

Police said Carey had mixed the concoction after he had heard that rats would be attracted to the scent or taste. He thought he could use the mixture for rat poison.

A spokesman for the Poison Control Center said that the strychnine, even though diluted with bourbon, could prove fatal.

Police urged anyone with information regarding this theft to contact them.



REGENCY CARRIAGE Service owner Jim Herdman (back to camera) comforts his mare, Star, after the carriage the horse was pulling was hit from behind by a car.

Horse Carriage Hit By Auto, 3 Injured

The driver of a horse-drawn carriage, her two passengers and a 7-year-old mare escaped serious injury early Thursday morning when the carriage was hit from behind by a car on S. 3rd St., between E. Broad and State Sts.

"All I can remember is hearing screeching brakes on the pavement and watching myself going down," carriage driver Elizabeth McCrea, 22, 2188 N. High St., said as she stood over her injured horse, named Star.

The passengers, Rod Burns, 34, of Columbus, and a female companion who declined to be identified, suffered minor cuts and bruises but did not seek hospitalization. Burns declined to give his address. McCrea was treated for minor injuries at Grant Hospital and released.

It was the first such accident for Regency Carriage Service which began offering downtown Columbus carriage tours last May, according to owner Jim Herdman. Regency operates from the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 350 N. High St.

AFTER THE automobile, driven by Gregory Fritzsimmmons, 27, 2532 Wickliffe, hit the

carriage, the horse broke free, dragging part of the wrecked carriage behind her, police said.

The horse galloped down S. 3rd St. to Rich St. where McCrea said the mare apparently collapsed from exhaustion. Surrounded by on-lookers and attendants, the horse lay in the street for about an hour until she was examined and treated for neck cuts by a veterinarian. Herdman then led the mare away to the company's stables at 212 N. Sixth St.

The carriage was in the far righthand lane on 3rd St. opposite the Statehouse when the collision occurred. Fritzsimmmons told police he didn't see the carriage until it was too late.

WHEN HE braked and tried to swerve away, his car smashed through the rear of the carriage and carried Burns, his companion and McCrea along on the hood for a short distance until the car came to a stop and the three were thrown clear, according to police.

Police charged Fritzsimmmons with failure to allow assured clear distance.

Herdman estimated damage to the carriage at approximately \$2500.