

# WEIMAR INSTITUTE BULLETIN

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## UNANIMOUS DECISION: MOVE AHEAD

Among the more than seventy people assembled in the Youth Chapel at the Carmichael Church on April 21, there was no uncertainty. After hearing a careful description of the Weimar Medical Center property, and an explanation of the program envisioned for the site, these first constituent members of the project submitted a unanimous vote to proceed with the purchase.

Seeking the counsel of a broad base of dedicated Christians, the Weimar Task Force sent out urgent invitations by phone and letter to a long list of persons who had previously expressed interest in this type of project. In spite of the short notice, more than seventy people responded from northern and central California. Teachers, students, physicians, housewives, attorneys, dentists, and many others—including a half dozen pastors—came to see whether a cherished dream was indeed about to be born.

Ken Baker, attorney from Chico, and chairman of the Task Force, led out in the presentations. Dick Winn, associate pastor of the PUC church, explained the prospectus which described the program planned for the Weimar Institute, then

narrated a photographic survey of the facilities and property at Weimar. Howard Voyles, a business and organizational consultant from the Educational Media Foundation, detailed the probable financial needs and potential for the project.

During the general discussion which followed, Dr. Denton E. Rebok, a much-respected veteran among Adventist educators, surprised everyone present by recounting his own interest in establishing a very similar program on this very property some two years earlier. He concluded his testimony with a well-reasoned appeal to move ahead, trusting the sure promises of God to bless such endeavors.

Dick Winn had emphasized that the meeting was not legal, financial, or organizational by nature, but was primarily spiritual, called so that we might know the will of God as expressed through His people. In keeping with this thrust, the people gathered into small groups to counsel together and to seek God's will in prayer.

Immediately following the season of prayer, blank cards were distributed with a request to indicate how each person believed we should relate to this

soberingly large project, voting "yes," "no," or "uncertain."

Without exception, every card that came in was affirmative! Many cards expressed special enthusiasm, such as "Amen," "Praise the Lord," and the abundant use of exclamation points.

Seeing this vote as the most significant mandate the project could receive, a preliminary operating board was authorized to proceed with the purchase and related developmental tasks.



## PROPERTY CONSIDERED EXTRAORDINARY FIND

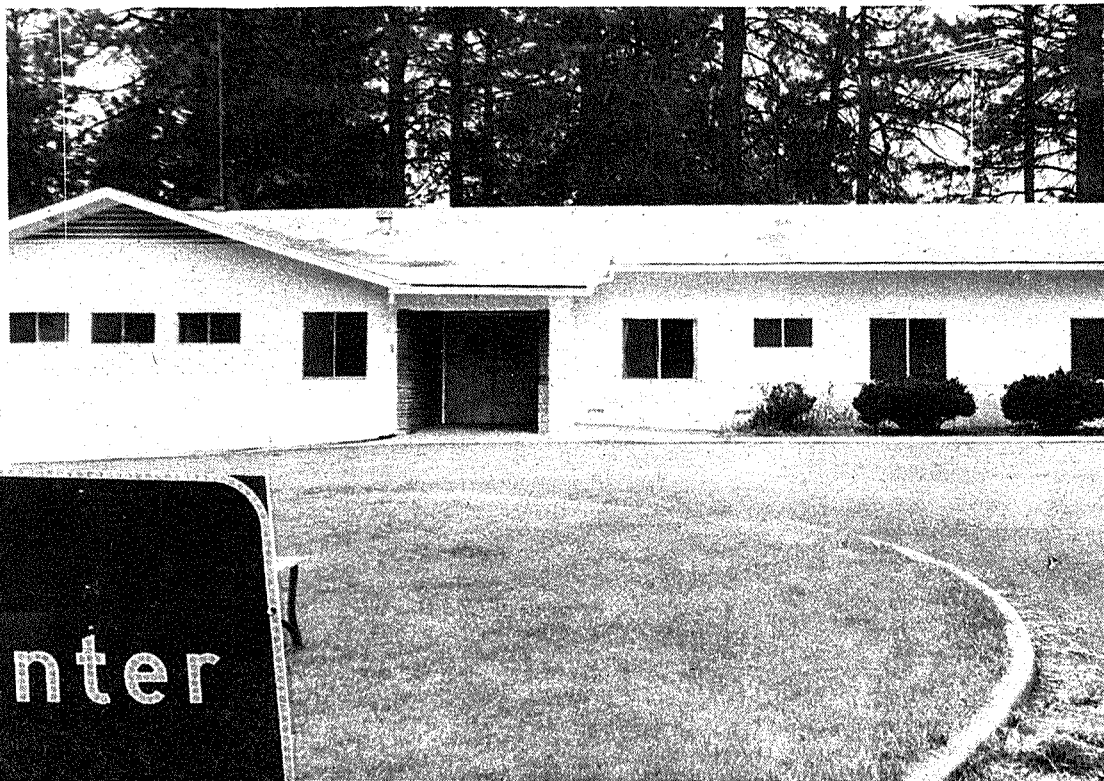
Located on 457 acres of forested land, in the midst of ancient oaks, cedars, ponderosa pines, and mountain streams, the Weimar Medical Center fittingly drew its name from a famed European spa. Begun in 1919, this noted upper respiratory sanitarium was operated by 15 California counties and the federal government, and eventually reached a capacity of 700 patients. It is situated at an average elevation of 2200 feet on the Western slopes of the Sierras, 44 miles east of Sacramento on Interstate 80.

The central campus area includes some 35 structures, which the Chief Building Inspector of Placer County states have been kept "up to code," and are generally "in excellent condition." Encompassing more

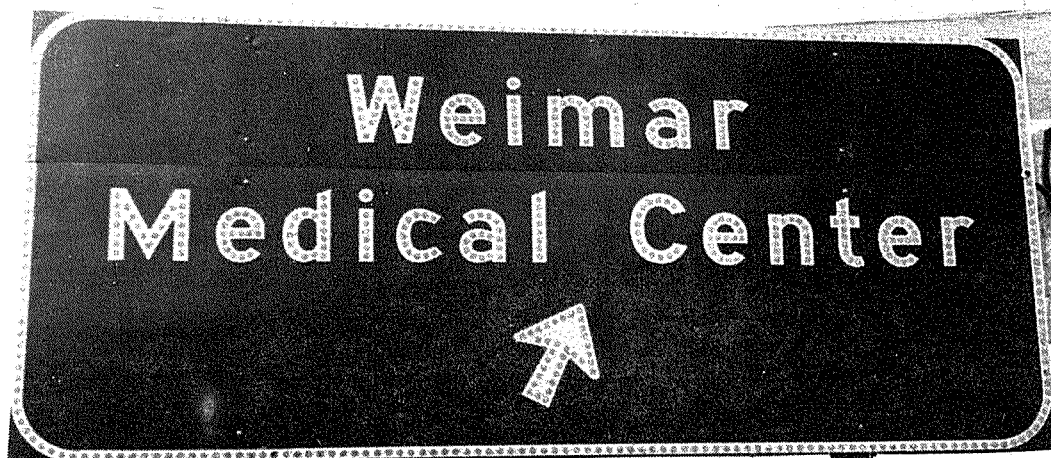
than 200,000 square feet, these buildings include a fully equipped dining complex, a 68-bed hospital, many private and open ward units, and auxiliary buildings such as maintenance, laundry, administrative, firehouse, and power plant units. Architect Thomas G. Lawson, AIA, from Taunton, Mass., a specialist in developing medical and educational facilities, has affirmed that the facilities and physical setting at Weimar are ideally suited to the envisioned program.

The water system begins with a PG&E flume which feeds a 50,000 gallon filtering plant. The water is then pumped to a 1,000,000 gallon concrete reservoir on the highest knoll of the

(Continued, page 2.)



The Glass House, one of the main buildings at the Center, is slated for use as the health conditioning complex.



Millions of motorists who travel Interstate 80 have already seen these highway signs identifying the Center.

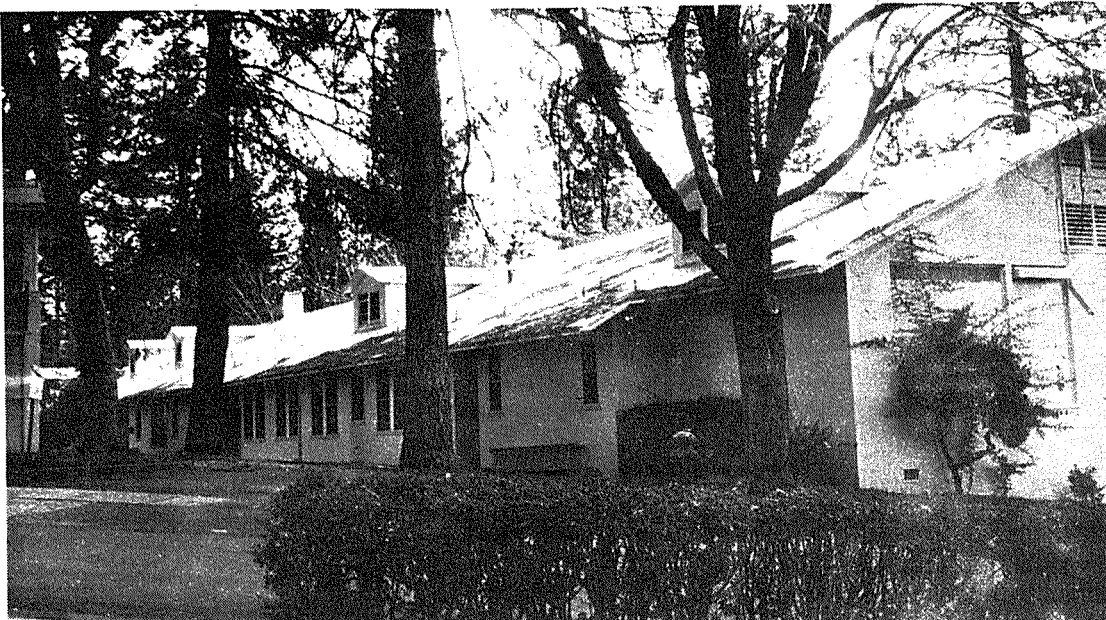
## Property Considered Extraordinary Find

(Continued.)

property. The entire facility is connected to a central sewage treatment plant. It is planned that the three evaporation ponds will be converted to an underground system.

The remaining 397 acres consist of hills and meadows, much of it being readily adapted to orchards and gardens. An interesting feature of the property

is that the sale includes all the equipment presently on the site. With large numbers of beds, desks, file cabinets, a full complement of cooking and dining equipment, large stocks of maintenance machinery, medical equipment and supplies, two fire engines (including an almost unused 1936 Ford), the whole project is that much closer to actually beginning.



Deceptively rustic on the exterior, this building houses a fully equipped and licensed acute care hospital, complete with two modern surgery theaters.



This ward unit, looking through the tops of the trees, is typical of several such buildings on the property.

## Architect Affirms Choice

During the frantic days of investigation prior to the decision to purchase the Weimar Medical Center, the task force felt the need of professional counsel from an experienced architect. The firm of John D. Latimer & Associates from Taunton, Massachusetts, came to our assistance and generously offered to send one of their key men out to spend a few days on location assessing the project.

Mr. Thomas G. Lawson, AIA, flew to California and visited the Center for two consecutive days. He reported that the main buildings on the property were very sound, and could be readily adapted to the needs of the Institute. Upon returning home, he sent the following letter to Dr. Raymond Moore of Hewitt Research Center, who has been assisting in the development of the Institute:

*I want to express to you personally my real pleasure in having taken part in the historic first steps toward the formulation of the Weimar Institute. I*

*was deeply moved by the depth of thinking and feeling that goes into such an understanding. From the first moment that I came into contact with the program being proposed and the physical setting of Weimar, it seemed so very right that these two elements should come together. I am confident the program will indeed flourish and become a model for others to follow.*

Sincerely,  
Thomas G. Lawson, AIA

Perhaps the title "outpost center" comes closest to describing the multi-dimensional program envisioned for the Weimar site. This term, familiar to all Adventist students of the inspired counsels, suggests a closely integrated program of learning and ministry located in a secluded, natural setting.

A health conditioning center leads the list of developmental priorities. The modern equivalent of what Ellen White called a sanitarium, this center will feature lifestyle re-education for about 30 live-in guests at a time. Its healing ministry will be targeted toward those whose health problems are lifestyle related. Through the scientifically controlled application of such remedies as dietary change, exercise, water, and other natural healing agencies, many chronic degenerative health problems can be reversed. And since the guests will actually live in a semi-controlled, supportive learning environment for about 30 days, they will adopt new lifestyle habits which will maintain them in greatly enhanced total health for years to come.

Also near the top of the list is a small retirement facility for Adventist Senior Citizens. One of the Weimar complex buildings adjacent to the cafeteria will be converted into comfortable apartments for active retirees. They will be offered the

## MULTI-PHASED PROGRAM TO BEGIN SHORTLY

benefits of a planned diet, housekeeping services, and the stimulating environment of the Institute. In return, many of these retirees will have the skills and understanding that come with years of experience to share with the students and guests nearby.

A major feature of the Weimar Institute will be a small college, though a target date for its beginning is yet to be determined. This school will seek to combine academic excellence with the learning of useful, service-oriented manual skills. Students and teachers will spend time together, not only in the classrooms, but also in the workshops, the fields and orchards, and the centers of need in the nearby cities. The curriculum will provide for short term study, as well as pre-professional courses and a limited number of four-year degree programs. But all students will have opportunities for useful service and practical work as a regular part of their schedules. The small campus size (several hundred at the most) the natural setting, the involvement in student industry (with agriculture being central), and the strong commitment to city ministry—all this should work together to produce students who are both

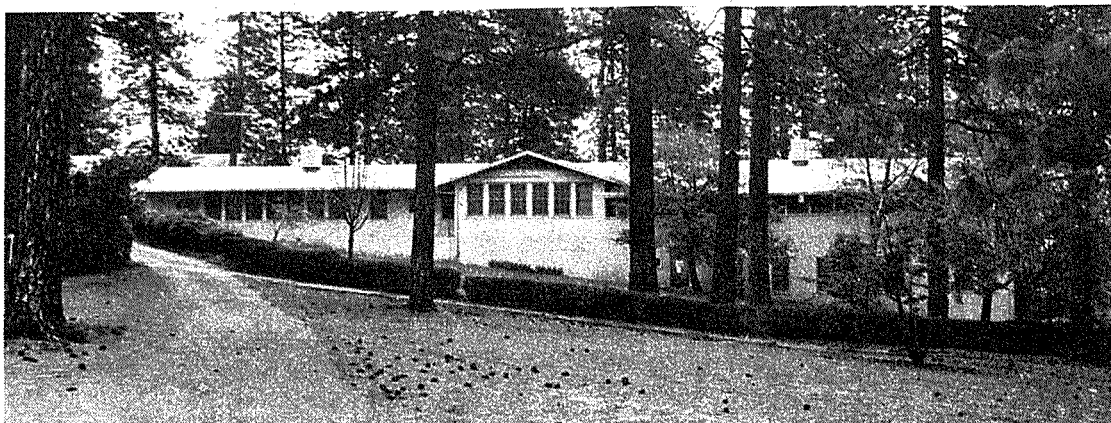
competent and Christlike.

The Weimar Institute will be closely connected with various service centers in the cities, such as the Sacramento Inner-city Center. In this way the students at the college will learn by practice how to integrate their academic learning with the real needs of people. At the same time, the Institute will provide housing and other support services for the inner city workers, in keeping with Ellen White's counsel to "work the cities from outposts."

As a means of introducing Seventh-day Adventist laymen to the concepts of education, healing, and service conducted by the Weimar Institute, a small retreat ministry will be conducted at the site. Using the dining and meeting facilities already developed at the Institute, groups of about 25 people will come for weekends of intensive study, pray, fellowship, and learning.

An important part of the Weimar philosophy is the inclusion of meaningful "industries," keyed not so much toward financial motive as toward client and student development. Students at the college will work with their teachers in maintaining the campus and its grounds, operating the farm, assisting in the work of the health conditioning, retirement, and retreat centers, and running a possible off-campus vegetarian restaurant. Guests from the health center will join with the students in their wholesome outdoor work, and in walking the many scenic trails, thus combining Christian fellowship and healing activity.

The name, "Weimar Institute," means much more than just a few words can adequately explain. It is hoped that, by the grace of God, it can come to be synonymous with the finest efforts of healing, learning, and redemption.



Named "Amador" by the previous owners, this building will become classrooms for the college.





Formerly used as a nurses dormitory, this building will be converted into apartments for active retired persons.

## CIRCLE MAY 28 ON YOUR CALENDAR

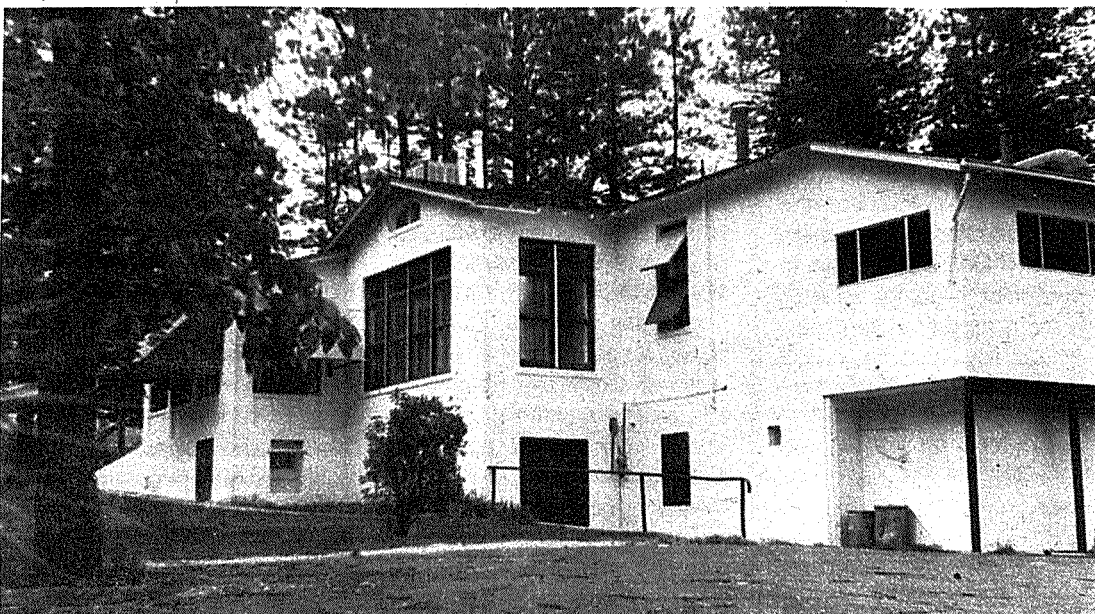
The first Sabbath after the close of escrow (anticipated to be May 23) will be a special day for the Weimar Institute. All friends of the project are invited to come to Weimar, wander among the trees and buildings, sing songs of rejoicing, pray prayers of dedication, shake hands with kindred spirits, ask a lot of questions, and dream big dreams of how this beautiful setting can exalt the glory of our

God.

It could well be called an Open House for Rejoicing. Beginning at 3 PM, and continuing until dusk, the gates and main buildings of the Weimar Institute will be open. Guided tours will be conducted at regular intervals from the Information Center near the front gate.

Take Interstate 80 east out of Sacramento, continue about 8 miles beyond Auburn. Watch for

the highway signs indicating "Weimar Medical Center." Exit to the right, cross over the freeway to the left, and park in the parking lots by the front gate. Come prepared for walking. And if the weather is suitable, you might even like to picnic under the big trees, down by the creek, or out by the gazebo on the lawn by the cafeteria.



The dining room and kitchen facility, nestled among mature trees, can feed about 500 people at a time in its several eating areas.

## Development Board Chosen

The Weimar "constituents" who came together at the Carmichael church on April 21 voted to authorize a board of six people to see to the development of the Weimar project. They also authorized that the board could be enlarged in the months ahead to an eventual membership of 21 persons, the board members themselves being empowered to select persons considered to be capable and in harmony with the philosophy of the Institute.

The Weimar Institute board, as it now stands, is comprised of the following persons:

Jim Alexander, M.D., an ophthalmologist from Ukiah.

Ken Baker, an attorney from Chico, and chairman of the board.

Sherman DeVine, M.D., a physician from Sacramento.

Bruce Ferrell, a real estate agent and developer, now living on the site at Weimar.

Bob Fillman, a college English teacher and building contractor, from Shingle Springs.

Paul Hawks, Ph.D., from the communications department of Pacific Union College.

Zane Kime, M.D., a physician practicing in Roseville.

Kelvin Lindgren, M.D., an E.N.T. specialist residing in Loomis.

Jeri Orr, housewife, teacher, and principal of the Maranatha Meadows School in Loomis.

Juanita Swan, M.A. marriage and family counselor, with special interests in clinical ecology, from Carmichael.

Marilyn Wilcox, mother, teacher, and coordinator of several laity ministries in the Modesto area.

## FINANCIAL PICTURE: URGENT BUT PROMISING

Those who have been examining the Weimar Medical Center project over the last few months are persuaded that the purchase price of \$1.15 million is a most reasonable price, in view of all that is included. Apparently others share that opinion, since another group had already opened escrow with a back-up offer of \$1.6 million in case our group chose not to exercise its option. The present owner, however, is very favorably impressed with the program which the Adventist group plans to operate, and has accordingly made some generous concessions.

But the needs are urgent. The project must have \$90,000 on hand by May 20 in order to meet the balance of the down payment and close escrow. In the few months following, an additional \$400,000 must be raised to prepare the buildings for use,

build inventories, and meet operating expenses for the first six months of operation.

Beyond the start-up time, however, the outlook is promising. Several phases of the program will be able to generate an income. And it is anticipated that, with the blessings God promises as we seek to do His will, and with wise management, the initial phases of the project should be financially self-sustaining within a year.

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization, under the name of Weimar Institute, is being formed to receive gifts and to hold title to the property. It is prepared to receive immediate donations toward securing the property, as well as financial donations or gifts in kind toward the development of the project in the months ahead. For more information, contact Attorney Ken Baker, P.O. Box 209, Chico, CA 95927.

## Conference Leadership Kept Appraised

It has been the purpose of the board from the start to develop the Weimar Institute in full harmony with the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist church. And as soon as they entered into serious purchase negotiations with the owners of the Weimar Medical Center, key board members established contact with Elders W.J. Hackett, Neal Wilson, and Leo Van Dolson at the General Conference. The goals of the program were outlined in careful detail. Elder Van Dolson sent a mailgram to the board in time for the April 21 meeting at Carmichael, encouraging the group to move ahead wisely, always in counsel with the local conference leadership.

Dr. Wilbur Schneider and Elder Miller Brockett of the Pacific Union Conference have also been appraised of the developments, and have indicated their willingness to counsel with the

Weimar board as they are needed. Through Elder Retzer, President of the Northern California Conference, the local conference administration will be kept informed of all developments. He indicated his willingness to have the health and education secretaries of the conference meet with the board on a regular basis.

It should be mentioned that, since the Weimar Institute is not seeking for direct conference sponsorship or support, it is not appropriate to either ask for or expect direct conference approval of the project at any level. But this does not stand in the way of a close philosophical tie between the Institute and the conference, nor prevent a close working relationship. This is what the Weimar board is requesting, and the conference leadership seems most willing to respond.

## What's In A Name

The name "Weimar Institute" was not chosen lightly. Indeed many hours of discussion over a period of several weeks led to the final decision.

To the residents of Northern California, Weimar (pronounced locally wee-mar) is a familiar word. The millions of motorists who travel this main east-west route across the Sierras have noticed the Weimar road signs for many decades. And its reputation as a fine medical facility has been well established through the years. So, it was concluded, why not capitalize on a well-established name? Especially in view of the fact that most people will call it Weimar

no matter what the facility might be formally named!

A multi-faceted program needs a title that is broad enough to cover all its phases. This facility will be more than just a college, more than just a medical center. Following the pattern of other reputable institutions, such as the Smithsonian Institute, the name for this program was completed as the Weimar Institute. It was felt that this name could carry with it the connotations of dignity and professionalism shared by other institutions of education, medicine, research, and health. Yet it will also continue to be familiar to its surrounding community.

## SACRIFICE NEEDED

"I'll go up there each Sunday until school is out, then I'll give my whole summer—just to see this project get going." The college student's comment is remarkable for two reasons. He meant it. And it is but an illustration of the level of interest expressed by many people from all walks of life, all over the United States. Letters and phone calls arrive daily, from persons with high degrees of competence and interest, expressing readiness to work with this project. Some are even offering to cover their own expenses for a summer, a year, even two years.

This type of interest in Weimar verifies some important principles. No true ministry in the Lord's work has ever begun without sacrifice. Yet that sacrifice comes willingly when Spirit-led people sense the value, the urgency of the goal.

Yet the needs, as of this date, are far from adequately met. Several college students have indicated their readiness to come for the summer on a Taskforce basis—with board, room, and minimal living expenses provided. More volunteers are needed. Agricultural

equipment—tractors, trucks, etc.—will soon be required. Skilled and semi-skilled carpenters, painters, and electricians will be in demand all summer as the buildings are readied for use this Fall. Qualified assistance in the kitchen, administrative offices, and gardens is high on the list of needs.

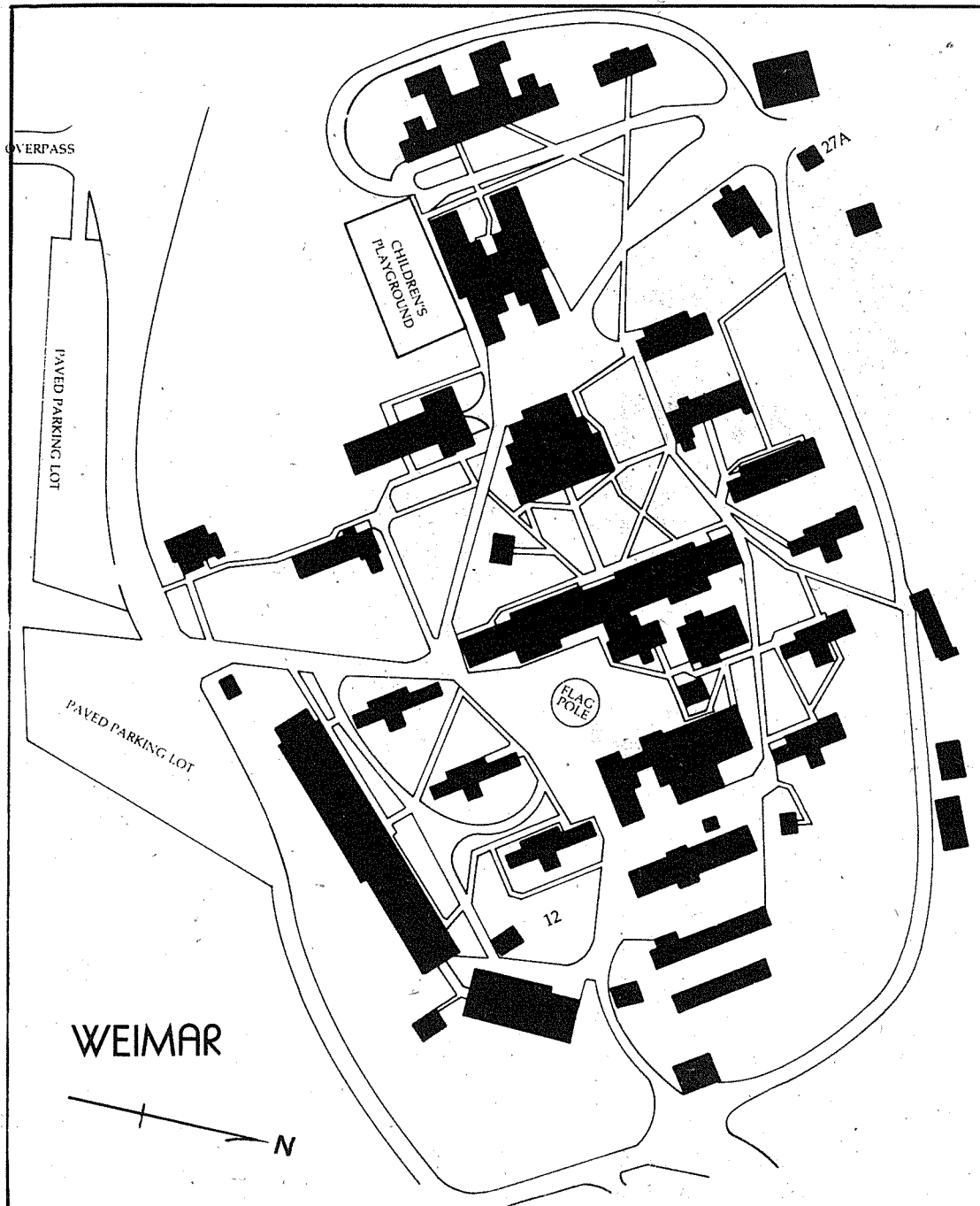
But all of the above will be of little value unless the land purchase is secured and the developmental costs assured. The Weimar Institute does need immediate financial backing from those who believe in what it is trying to accomplish. Gifts can be given directly to the Weimar Institute, P.O. Box A, Weimar, CA 95756. While the paper work for the tax-exempt foundation is yet to be formally completed, a full 50 percent deductible status for charitable donations is virtually assured. If, however, one wishes in the interim to give through a foundation with an existing IRS tax-exempt number, two such foundations have offered their services. Contact Hewitt Research Center, Berrien Springs, MI 49103; or Educational Media Foundation, P.O. Box 1058, Loma Linda, CA 92354.

## Ecologic Unit Considered

The setting and philosophy of the Weimar Institute make it an ideal place for establishing a unique type of healing activity: the Ecologic Unit. Today's heavily polluted, synthetic environment has taken a large toll on the well-being of large numbers of people who are allergic to many substances. And these people are finding that their

allergic reactions can come in many different physical—and even emotional—disabilities.

A somewhat new, but increasingly credible, style of treatment for such sufferers involves placing them in a controlled environment, as free as possible from the various vapors, food items, microparticles, and chemicals which may



An "aerial view" of the central area would reveal this well-planned compound. Early planning envisions uses for almost all of the buildings.

be afflicting them. Free from the constant bombardment of these irritants, their bodies begin to recover their capacity to cope with the allergies. At the same

time, the patients learn new patterns of eating and exercising which allow them to be more free from the assaults of the irritants.

Under the guidance of Juanita Swan, a board member whose personal study and training in this area is significant, one of the Weimar complex buildings will be developed as an environmentally controlled ecologic

unit. It is interesting to note that many doctors in the field of clinical ecology are prescribing for their allergy sufferers a regimen which sounds familiar to Adventists: natural wholesome foods, simply prepared, free from stimulants and irritants, and combined with a sound exercise program.

## I'M INTERESTED!

PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFORMATION ON THE:

☐ HEALTH CONDITIONING CENTER

☐ COLLEGE

☐ RETIREMENT FACILITY

☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

☐ PUT MY NAME ON THE MAILING LIST FOR THE BULLETIN

☐ I'M INTERESTED IN FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

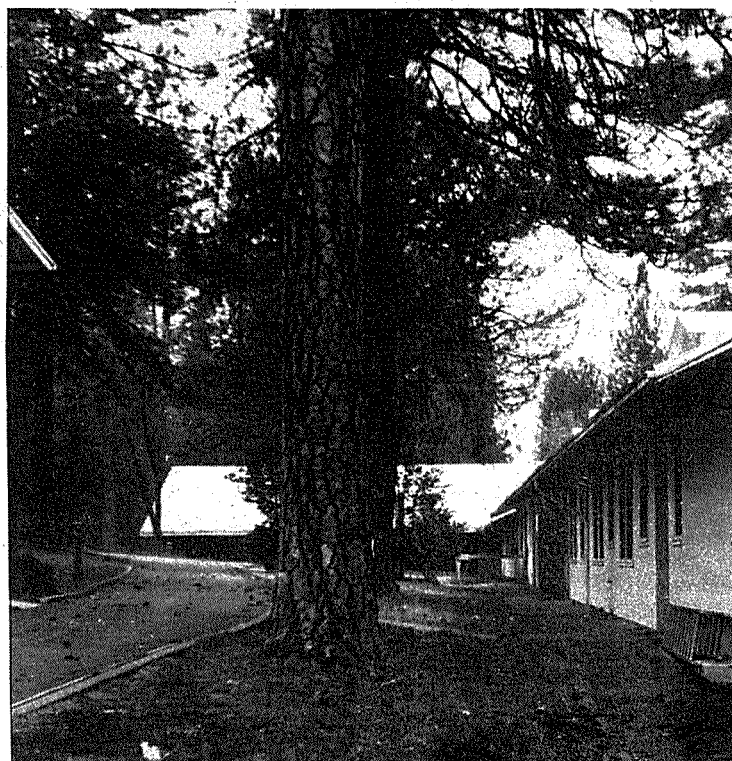
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State \_\_\_\_\_

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Send this form to: Weimar Institute  
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Majestic Ponderosa and cedar trees shade the buildings and concrete walkways, spicing the air with their aroma.