

# New Atrium center to open doors in fall

One of Lincoln's two new downtown developments, The Atrium, will be opening this fall, just as construction is scheduled to begin on the other one, The Centrum.

Atrium developers, the Hawthorn Realty Group of Chicago, bills the complex as "a new alternative in urban shopping and working space."

The \$4 million-plus project is housed in a sixty-year-old structure at the corner of 13th and N Streets, formerly the home of the National Bank of Commerce. The building, built in 1917, was originally occupied by the Rudge and Guenzel Department Store.

The Atrium will contain 90,000 square feet of retail space on the first four floors, with office space on the top four floors.

Sandy Campbell, a Hawthorn Realty vice president, said there will be about 30 shops. 13 shops have already leased space, including Ben Simon's; Joffe's, a women's sports wear shop; four women's clothing stores, Peck and Peck, The Limited, The Daisy, and The Wardrobe; Christell's, a

custom Jewelry store, and the Great Gyro Sandwich Shop.

Campbell said he expects The Atrium to be open in September.

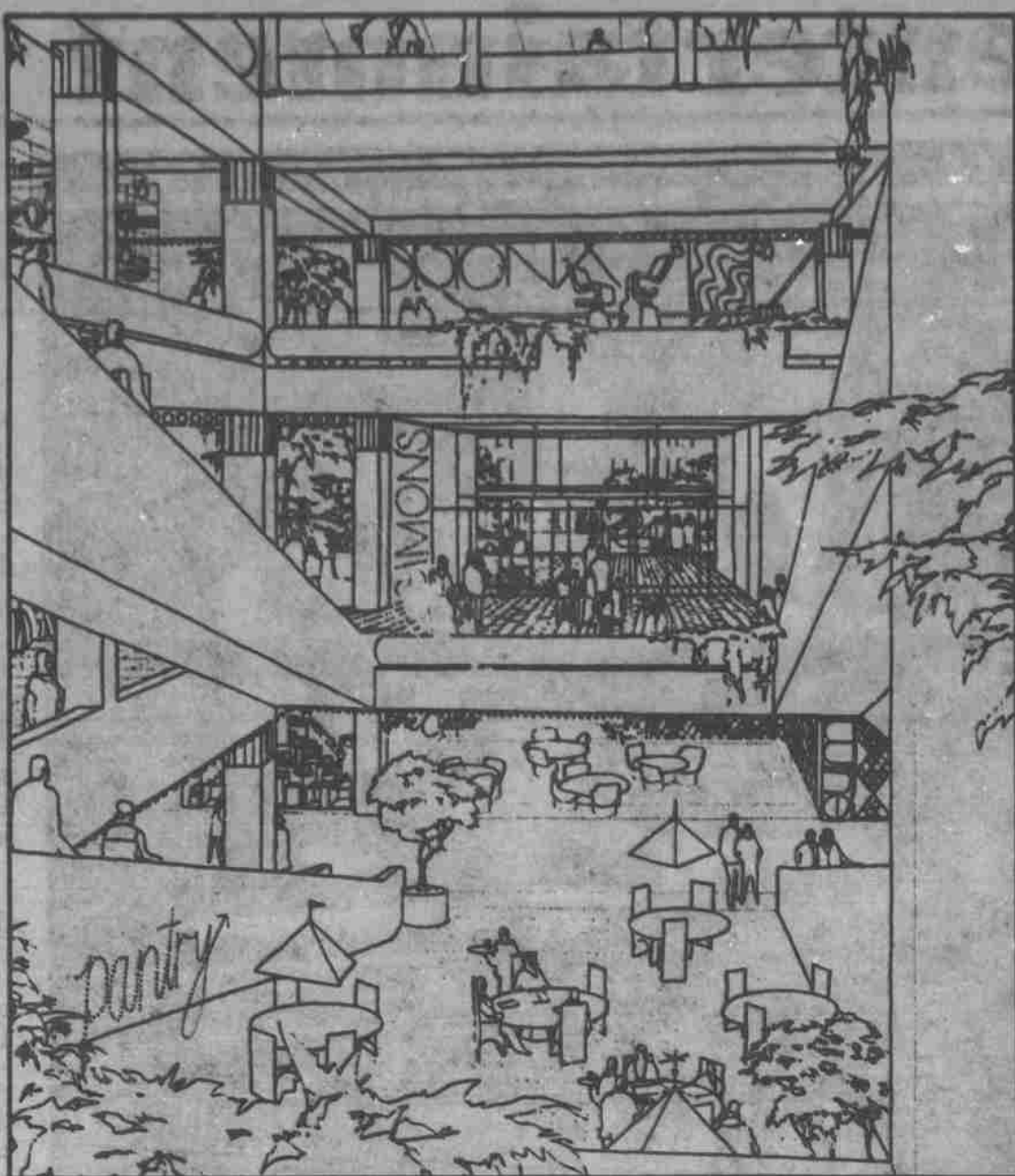
The Atrium design features "sunshine, unexpected views, plants and flowers," according to the developers. An eight-story-high open court at the center of the building will be lit by a skylight.

Just west across 12th St., The Centrum parking garage and retail development will begin construction in November, according to George Chick, director of the Lincoln Department of Urban Development.

The Centrum will contain about 30,000 square feet of retail space and parking for 1000 cars in a seven-story garage.

Preliminary drawings of The Centrum call for a two-story enclosed mall. An overhead walkway will connect it to Brandeis Department Store and Magee's.

Chick said the complex will cost the city about \$6.3 million, \$2.5 million for the shopping mall and \$3.8 for the parking garage.



Artist's conception of the Atrium interior.

# Burn treatment is painful but effective at local hospital

by Jim Schaffer

Six-year-olds aren't old enough to play with matches, but Jill Svenson didn't know that. When the match she held in her hand ignited and set fire to her pajamas, there really wasn't anything she could do.

Ten years ago Jill's chances for survival would have been small. The burns on her neck, torso and thighs were close to what doctors believed to be the upper limit for survival.

But rapid advances in the treatment of serious burns have nearly doubled the survival rate.

For example, a patient at St. Elizabeth's Hospital Burn Unit with burns over 72 per cent of his body is doing fine, according to Bill Wiley, public information director.

"The burn unit is one of the most advanced in the country," Wiley said.

Modeled after Shriners' Hospital in Galveston, Texas, the burn unit was founded in 1973 by Dr. Robert Gillespie, chief of staff at St. Elizabeth's.

"Dr. Gillespie has taught us all an awful lot," said Val Forney, a registered nurse assigned to the burn unit. She said

Gillespie has been a pioneer in burn research.

Gillespie's work has shortened the time burn patients must spend in the hospital. Jill Svenson, who was admitted April 7, went home in June.

Jill is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Svenson of Wahoo.

The chipper, blond, blue-eyed girl has been a brave patient, Wiley said. Part of the treatment burn victims receive includes many hours of painful physical therapy.

"The actual pain begins when the new skin begins to grow back," Wiley said. "The tendency for muscles is to contract when you're inactive."

The combination of tender skin and lazy muscles makes any movement extremely painful. Physical therapists work with patients daily to stretch the new skin.

"They encourage patients to yell and scream," Wiley said. "It gets it out of your system."

Big tears rolled down Jill's face as therapist Tom Homan gently pulled her arm behind her head to stretch new skin.

"Let me do it alone!" she screamed. "Let me do it alone!"

And sure enough, Jill did. Wiley said it's rare to find a child mature enough to recognize the need for the therapy.

Jill's petite body was hidden by a snug body stocking she wore from her ankles to the top of her neck. The stocking is actually a special elastic bandage that helps hold the pigskin grafts in place and keeps damaged skin areas moist.

An important part of modern burn treatment, according to nurse Forney, is to remove the dead tissue as quickly as possible.

As soon as a burn patient comes to the hospital, she said, he is taken to the tub room where technicians bathe the victim in a solution of water and chlorox.

The solution fights infection and helps loosen dead skin which is then removed by the "tub techs." Sometimes the removal of tissue, or debriding as it is called, is done with a surgical instrument.

"The faster it gets done, the less time the patient spends in the hospital," Forney said.

After the bath, a daily event for most burn patients, the wound is treated with an antiseptic cream created by the staff at St. Elizabeth's.

The cream is called silvadene and has been so effective a pharmaceutical company got permission from Gillespie to have the formula patented.

Burn patients receive psychological and emotional care, too. All the burn patients are grouped together in a special section of the hospital—not with individual rooms but in one large common area.

Forney said social contact is especially important because of the long rehabilitation period. She said the average burn patient spends 50 to 60 days in the hospital.

The nurses who staff the unit bear the burden of providing discipline with sympathy.

"A burn is a major catastrophe to the body," Forney said. "But we're really a bunch of hard nosers."

"We've got to make them do something. It's the only way some people will walk again."

Read  
SUMMER NEBRASKAN Classifieds

Diamonds...  
Your Investment  
in Love

Sartor Hamann  
JEWELRY AMERICAN RED SOCIETY  
Lincoln Grand Island

136 N. 14th

## The James Solberg Band

featuring Chicago Blues Star  
Jimmy "Fast Fingers" Dawkins

July 14-16 \$2 Cover