

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER AND SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX HARVEY S. HOSHOUR, ARCHITECT

A multi-purpose neighborhood facility has been designed to service the needs of the South Valley population of Albuquerque. Designed by Harvey S. Hoshour, AIA, the neighborhood center will include a bathhouse and swimming pool, a multi-purpose meeting room and social center, plus offices for counseling and advisory services.

Mr. Hoshour explained the architectural concept of the center: "The South Valley area of Albuquerque has a long and rich tradition of Spanish culture dating back several centuries into history. The present day population still remains predominantly Spanish. Traditionally, the plaza has been the central focal point of every Spanish community in New Mexico. The plaza has served as a central meeting place with which all citizens of the community could identify, both physically and symbolically. It was a living space which was in constant use and which could be claimed by all members of the community as their own."

"The South Valley Neighborhood Center has been conceived as a

group of buildings which will create a similar type of plaza and which will offer all of the virtues traditionally associated with the Spanish plaza. It is intended to provide a central, open space with which all present day members of the community can identify just as the traditional plaza did in the past.

"The plaza will replace the usual long, austere corridors as a means of circulation between the inter-related activities of the Center. It is intended also to serve as an outdoor gathering area where people may meet, play, or simply rest.

"Ample landscaping, brick paving and a small decorative fountain will recall essential elements of the traditional Spanish plaza."

NEW SUBDIVISION REQUIREMENTS

A POLICY STATEMENT OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPT.

The development of fringe areas and subdivisions that are not provided with municipal water and sewage facilities is creating a con-

tinuously growing problem in proper protection of the public health and management of the environment in these areas. The situation has been accentuated due to the increased use of water, installation of garbage disposal and other automatic equipment, and the results of the accelerated use of detergents. Septic tanks and leaching systems were never intended for use in closely built-up housing areas, and it is the policy of this department to require, where authority is granted, the installation of public water supply and waste water collection and treatment systems.

As a result of the above situations public health agencies are establishing minimum lot size requirements where individual water and/or sewage installations are concerned. Therefore, the New Mexico Health and Social Services Department has established a policy that is essentially in conformance with the recommendations of the American Public Health Association, the American Society of Planning Officials, and the Conference of State Sanitary Engineers.

Briefly, the policy for inspection or approval of all new subdivisions, including two or more lots, involving individual water and/or sewage installations by Health and Social Services Department personnel shall be based on the following minimum lot size requirements for each individual house:

- a. One-half acre (21,780 sq. ft.), or larger, where both a private water supply and a private sewage disposal system are to be located on the same lot.
- b. One-fourth acre (10,890 sq. ft.), or larger, where a public water supply is available but a private sewage disposal system is located on each lot.

It should be noted that the above requirements are minimum sizes of lots, as some conditions can very well require larger lots for adequate facilities.

In order to obtain approval

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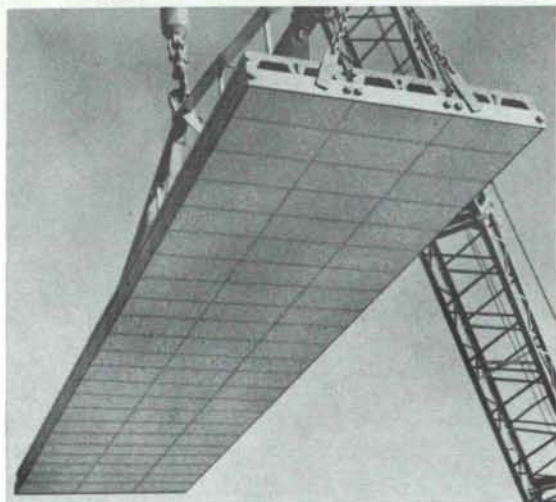
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of this agency, data must be submitted which demonstrates the level of the ground water table, and percolation tests must be conducted at a rate of at least 1 per ten lots (6 per lot are needed for final septic system design) to demonstrate the suitability of the soil for the construction of private sewage disposal systems.

It is the responsibility of municipal and public health officials to administer available laws and regulations to protect the environment from deterioration, and the public from undue expense, inconvenience, and disease. The Health and Social Services Department strongly urges health and municipal officials to exert every effort to provide sanitary sewer service and municipal water supply to fringe areas even if the above minimum lot sizes are provided. This service to all new subdivisions is needed in order to prevent disease, inconvenience, and duplication of construction of temporary installations which will eventually have to be replaced by municipal facilities.

It is also desirable in order to prevent satellite communities and single-purpose districts surrounding our towns and cities, and in order to qualify the home or the subdivision for federally insured loans.

Issued by the Environmental Services Division

HIGHWAY MONSTERS -- AGAIN

It must be said for the trucking interests—they feel nothing succeeds like excess.

Last year they had a bill in Congress which would have allowed the operation of bigger, heavier trucks. This measure was shelved when there was an outcry of public indignation—expressed both in letters to Congress and editorial opinion in the nation's press.

Now they are back trying again. The new bill, H. R. 11870, is exactly the same as last year's measure, except that this one has a length limit. But that limit is set at 70 feet—a length that (except

by special permit) is outlawed in all but two states. This would permit the operation of double-bottoms—truck-trains made up of a tractor and two trailers.

Exactly as in last year's bill, the new measure would permit heavier axle weights and wider trucks, despite the fact that it is known that heavier weights pound the pavement to pieces prematurely and put dangerous overstress on the nation's bridges, many of which were not designed to carry loads as heavy and as numerous as are put on them today.

Most of our traffic today continues to operate on two-lane roads. Passing a 70-foot truck train on such roads is virtually impossible—or, at least, highly dangerous. And to have a multi-ton monster tailgating you down a mountain road can be a thoroughly frightening experience.

The truckers' urge toward gigantism is understandable because it would mean more profits. But huge truck-trains must share the road with the millions of motorists who for the most part have paid for those roads and bigger, heavier trucks simply are not compatible with the mainstream of today's traffic. They should be kept within limits and AAA believes the limits should be kept just where they are today.

Letters from constituents to their Congressmen played an important role in defeating last year's bill. We suggest that if you don't want to be crowded off the highways by bigger, heavier trucks you write promptly to your Representative in Congress.

Our readers should express their opinion on this legislation by writing to Rep. Ed Foreman, Room 1721, House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20515; or to Rep. Manuel Lujan, Room 1317, House Office Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20515.

H. B. Mallory, General Manager
American Automobile Assn.

(Reprinted from *New Mexico Motorist*.)

NOTICE TO OUR READERS

NEW MEXICO ARCHITECTURE MAILING LIST BEING UPDATED

The mailing list of New Mexico Architecture is undergoing revision and re-organization. In the process we find that some names have been dropped from the list and that other names which should have been receiving New Mexico Architecture were not on the list.

Therefore, if you wish to receive New Mexico Architecture regularly, and have not been doing so, please contact Mr. W. M. Brittelle, Sr., Post Office Box 7415, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104.



A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE "STAFF"

As another volume, No. 11, of New Mexico Architecture is completed, the editor would like to express his gratitude to the two gentlemen who work to keep this magazine on a sound financial footing. W. Miles Brittelle, Sr., AIA Emeritus, and Robert Malloy, AIA, devote a great deal of time and effort to the securing and servicing of the advertisements which make the editorial pages of the magazine possible.

Miles took over the task of Advertising Director in 1960. Bob joined the magazine staff last year, to be exact with the July-August 1968 issue.

I hasten to recognize one other person, a charming lady who has carefully and diligently kept the accounts receivable in a remarkably even balance with the accounts payable. Mrs. Miles Brittelle, Sr. has been our level-headed bookkeeper for the past 10 years.

As editor, and friend, I wish the magazine staff a merry-merry Christmas and a prosperous *New Mexico Architecture* New Year.

John P. Conron

