

Bryn-Alan joins UT in surveillance program

By DUNCAN WHITE
Staff Writer

The surveillance camera perched on the West Kennedy Boulevard side of Howell Hall watching the "street element" gets a passing grade from Captain Linda Hicks of the University of Tampa Police Department.

The camera was installed near the end of last semester as part of a neighborhood "clean-up" program initiated by the Downtown West Civic Association. UT President Richard Cheshire is chairman of the organization, which also includes area residents and local businessmen.

The surveillance camera was installed to discourage transient vagrants and prostitutes from the area. According to Hicks, "The camera has been doing everything that it's supposed to do."

The camera is capable of scanning Kennedy Boulevard, from the University Olympic Gym to Snow Park, and from the sidewalk to the top of Spartan Arms. The camera is operated from within the campus police department, and can zoom-in at any time.

Hicks said that the camera has been operational for a month, and "the UTPD has made two or three 'in progresses.'" Hicks explained that the incidents occurred when UTPD dispatchers monitoring the camera spotted burglaries occurring on city property. "UTPD officers detained the individuals until the Tampa Police Department came and made the arrests," Hicks said.

According to Hicks, the camera has a special iris that adjusts to light differences and amplifies light after dark. This feature provides night time clarity strong enough to see inside the Star Diner.

Hicks said the camera is not used just to watch the neighborhood "undesirables," but to "accompany"

fellow officers and get a good look at a situation so an officer does not go in "blind."

UTPD dispatchers watch through the camera and, according to Hicks, are aware of what to look for. "They know when they see it. It's rather obvious," she said.

Hicks said the reaction of the vagrants and prostitutes, especially in the Snow Park area, ranges from obscene hand signals to "a little jig" in front of the camera.

The surveillance camera cost UT \$7,500, including a \$3,000 donation towards the cost by Bryn-Alan Studio Photography. According to Frank Meier, vice-president of the Tampa-Miami division of Bryn-Alan, the money was donated with the stipulation that if the situation did not improve, additional surveillance cameras would be installed.

The concept of using surveillance cameras to watch over property has also appealed to Bryn-Alan. Meier said that one camera has already been installed and is monitoring an alleyway adjacent to Bryn-Alan. Trespassers spotted by the camera are warned through a loudspeaker system that they are trespassing on private property. He said that persistent troublemakers have necessitated a call to TPD.

According to Meier, TPD response time has been "tremendous."

A second camera in an alleyway on the Spartan Arms' side of Bryn-Alan will soon be activated by the studio. Meier said that the camera, positioned above UT property, will watch a parking lot across the street from the Church of Christ.

"The cameras have been installed on our own and at our own expense," said Meier, who added that a third camera might be installed to view the back of Bryn-Alan and point toward Snow Park.

Meier said the problems the studio has experienced have been no worse than before, and he sees the cameras as a step toward providing security for the Bryn-Alan customers and employees.

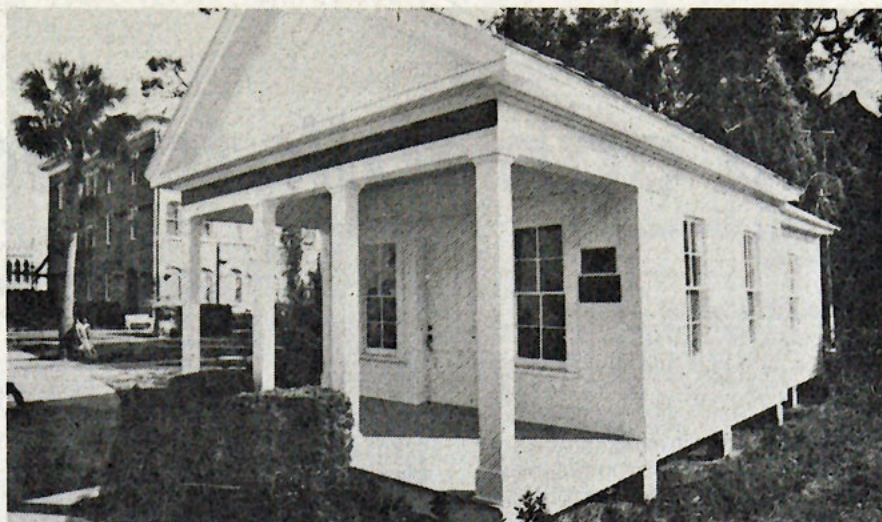


Photo by Kirby Ryan

Tampa's oldest schoolhouse restored

By TRACEY TUCKER
Staff Writer

The oldest surviving schoolhouse in Tampa, located on the property of the University of Tampa between Smiley Hall and Merl Kelce library, was recently renovated.

The renovation was sponsored by the DeSoto chapter of The Daughter's of the American Revolution (DAR), a group which recognizes and rewards patriotism. The DeSoto chapter of DAR owns the schoolhouse.

The historic schoolhouse was originally built around 1850 on the west bank of the Hillsborough River for children who resided nearby.

According to Mrs. Lester Olson, curator for the schoolhouse and a member of DAR, Henry B. Plant became owner of the school when he bought the property which is now

UT's campus. Plant used the schoolhouse as an apothecary shop for his hotel, as evidenced by the inscription "Tampa Bay Hotel" which can be seen above the front porch of the building.

After Plant's death the city of Tampa acquired the land and in 1931 gave the historic schoolhouse to the DAR. At that time it was transported to its present location.

The schoolhouse currently contains relics from the period in which it was built. It is on the national register of historic places of the United States Department of the Interior. DAR's DeSoto chapter holds approximately six meetings a year in the schoolhouse, according to Olson.

A plaque summarizing the history of the schoolhouse will be unveiled on George Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22. On that day the schoolhouse will also be open to the public.

Legal Advice

Borrowed or stolen?

Q 1: Scott, a pitcher on the UT baseball team, lent Heidi, a transfer student from Florida State, his stereo, valued at \$1,120, to use until he graduated. Upon his graduation, Heidi refused to give the stereo back. What legal means could Scott use to retrieve his stereo?

A 1: Because the stereo was valued at under \$2,500, Scott could file a claim to sue Heidi in small claims court. Because the rules for small claims under \$1,500 are written so they can be easily followed, there would probably be no need for an attorney. The rules for claims between \$1,500 and \$2,500 are somewhat more complicated.

Q 2: How would Scott file his claim?

A 2: Scott should go to the county courthouse and speak to the clerk of claims. The clerk would assist him and answer any questions but could not give any legal advice. It would cost Scott between \$5 and \$25 to file plus \$5 for Heidi to be notified of the suit by registered mail. Scott and Heidi would both be notified of a pretrial hearing. At this hearing, the judge would hear the dispute and ask Heidi and Scott if they would like to settle before going to court. If not, the case would go to trial.

**Minaret
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*All members
must attend*

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Roberta Dever has been named as the new director of the American Language Academy (ALA) at UT. Dever, who has served as chairman of the ALA curriculum committee for the past year, came to the local school four years ago as director of curriculum.

Photo by Robert Bovarnick