

Research Triangle Guest's Idea

BY CONRAD PAYSOUR
Daily News Business Editor

In recent weeks, several national magazines have published major stories on North Carolina's "Research Triangle."

And at 915 Sunset Drive in Greensboro, a retired contractor is compiling some of his personal papers.

There's a connection between the two things. The retired contractor is Romeo Guest, who is by all accounts the "Father of the Research Triangle."

In fact, Guest even gave "The Research Triangle" its name.

That was on Dec. 31, 1954, at 10 a.m. in the office of then Gov. Luther H. Hodges.

Actually, Guest had the idea for the Research Triangle many years before. But it was not until he was able to enlist the support of people like Gov. Hodges, textile executive Karl Robbins of Robbins, Bill Saunders of Robbins, Banker Archie K. Davis of Winston-Salem, University of North Carolina president Gordon Gray and others that the idea became a reality.

The Research Triangle is almost equidistant from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University and N. C. State University.

That's how Guest came up with the name "Research Triangle."

"I looked at a map and noticed that the three universities formed a triangle," Guest recalled recently.

What Guest envisioned when he started collaring people for support for the idea was a park in which private business, governmental agencies and the three universities would locate research facilities.

Mrs. Elizabeth Aycock, secretary-treasurer of the Research Triangle Foundation, has been with the Research Triangle since its birth.

"I'm not sure he has received the credit he should have," Mrs. Aycock said of Guest. "At the time, many people thought it was a wild idea."

Guest, himself, recalls, "It was difficult to get anyone to envision what could happen over there."

Even Guest admits that he didn't think it would be as successful as it has been.

The first two buildings—a Monsanto Research facility and the Robert M. Hanes Memorial Building which serves as the administration building—were completed in 1960.

Today, some 25 businesses and a number of governmental and educational institutions have facilities in the Research Triangle Park.

Presently, some five new buildings are under construction. The new construction has a value of about \$100 million.

There are now 5,400 acres in the park.

Since retiring as chief executive officer of Romeo Guest Associates last year, Guest has been spending his full time compiling his personal papers relating to the Research Triangle Foundation. He plans to present these to one of the universities in the Research Triangle area.



Romeo Guest, 'Father Of The Research Triangle'

Casino Deals Are Rife In Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) - Rumors of big casino hotel deals made by the high rollers of finance float around this island resort day and night like gulls over the beach.

"You know, this is almost like playing chess," said state Sen. Joseph McGahn, D-Atlantic County. "It's a game of matching up what's available and who's in town."

Casino gambling in Atlantic City was approved by New Jersey voters in a state referendum last November. The first legal casino is expected to open early next year.

But in the meantime, rumors abound about

who's buying what property and for how much.

The earliest rumors circulated last summer around Resorts International Inc. as it went about buying the former Chalfonte-Haddon Hall hotel, 56 acres of vacant urban renewal land and other property.

Bally Manufacturing Corp., Playboy Enterprises Inc. and Caesar's World Inc., have announced casino hotel investments, and they've been in the rumor mill at one time or another too.

One city official, attempting to explain the rash of rumors, said: "I'll tell you why it hap-

pens — it's very brutal and you'd better not use my name — but this is a town of nobodies and by announcing the latest rumors, it makes them a somebody in the know.

"I think it's indigenous to this town. A couple of years ago, we started a couple of rumors on purpose and waited a couple of weeks until they came back to us. It made the circle fast."

"But, on the plus side," the official added, "you could say that people in this area have suffered through so many years of lean times that they're happy to hear of anything good and happy to spread it."



Burroughs-Wellcome Building In Triangle Park

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