

Friday
October 1,
2004

Waiting

Columnist Jim Mullen looks at the pains of waiting for doctors.

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The Plain Dealer

Volume 146, Issue 47

Everyday People Every Day • Wabash Co

Wabash landmark to

Red Apple Inn to be auctioned Oct. 20

By **ROBERT BRYAN**
Plain Dealer Reporter

Like to buy a Wabash landmark?

You'll get a chance to bid Oct. 20 when The Red Apple Inn property at Miami and Market streets will be on the auction block.

The complex of apartments, retail stores and tavern (Jonathan's) has been in the Dekau family since 1946.

The present owners, Bernie and Doadie Dekau, who took over in 1974, are leaving the business because of his health problems. They will retire to property they own on Lukens Lake.

"It was a little hard," Dekau said of the decision to sell. After all, he said, the Red Apple has been his home, or one of his homes, since he was three.

The auction will be at the site, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with Wiegmann Auctioneers, Fort Wayne, in charge.

An open house to show off the property to prospective bidders has been set for 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The property offered for sale is 45,000 square feet, consisting of 27 apartments, 10 guest rooms, and 12 offices or retail spaces, plus Jonathan's with its three-way liquor license.

Built in 1919-20, it opened as The Hotel Indi-

ana on May 6, 1920. The opening banquet, complete with dinner, speeches, band music and dancing, was one of the city's red-letter events of the year.

The hotel managed to feed 300 formally attired guests in and around a banquet room built for 250, according to the account next day in the *Wabash Plain Dealer*.

The lead story opened, "Prevailing throughout last night's speeches at the formal opening of The Hotel Indiana was a sentiment of optimism for the future of Wabash."

The hotel's very existence testified to that optimism, for it was the creation of

local businessmen and civic leaders who perceived that "the city needed a fine hotel."

The Wabash Hotel Corporation, 134 stockholders strong, put up the capital for the building and at its opening it was leased to the Red Apple Inns Company of Saginaw, Mich. The first manager was A.B. Riley.

Apparently, the hotel did not become "The Red Apple Inn" until Dekau took over in 1974, obtaining it from his parents.

His grandfather, A.W. Dekau, had purchased the property in 1946 from a Wisconsin-based chain, Schroeder Hotels.

Columnist Jim Muller looks at the pains of waiting for doctors.

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Everyday People Every Day • Wabash County's Newspaper

50 cents



The chase continues

Ryan Newman was victorious on Sunday in the second race in the Chase for the Nextel Cup.

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Wabash landmark to be sold

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The present owners, the Dekaus and Donnie Dekau, took over in 1974, are selling the business because of his health problems. They will retire to property they own on Kents Lake.

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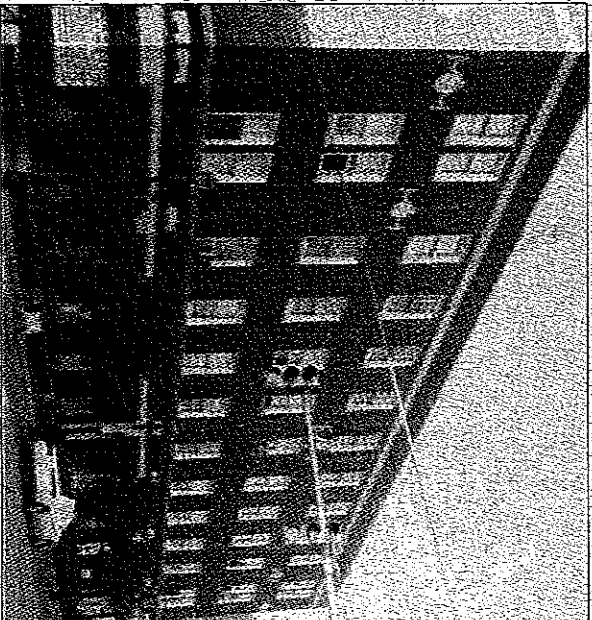
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The Red Apple Inn. Plain Dealer photo by JOSEPH SLACIAN