

A TOAST TO THE OAKS

TODAY MARKS THE 8TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAKS, WHICH OPENED—SORT OF—ON 15 MAY 1987. I SAY "SORT OF," BECAUSE ALTHOUGH WE WERE ALLOWED TO MOVE OUR STUFF INTO THE FIRST TWO WINGS—THE REAR TWO WINGS DIDN'T OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER—NOBODY COULD STAY HERE YET, BECAUSE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HADN'T YET OK'D THE FIRE ALARM AND SPRINKLING SYSTEMS. SO THE OAKS PAID US MOTEL MONEY UNTIL WE COULD MOVE IN. IT WAS AN OFFER WE COULDN'T REFUSE. WE WERE DOUBLY LUCKY, BECAUSE ALTHOUGH WE HAD SOLD OUR HOUSE, IT WAS STILL OURS FOR TWO MORE WEEKS, AND WAS JUST THREE BLOCKS FROM HERE. SO WE TOOK A FEW PILLOWS AND A BLANKET HOME—WHERE WE HAD LIVED SINCE 1948—AND SLEPT QUITE COMFORTABLY ON A SOFT THICK CARPET.

WHEN THE OAKS WAS FINALLY TOTALLY RENTED OUT, IT HAD ABOUT AS MANY COUPLES AS IT DOES TODAY, AND WOMEN OUT-NUMBERED MEN BY ALMOST FIVE TO ONE. YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT 50 OF OUR 120 APARTMENTS STILL HOUSE THE ORIGINAL RENTERS—HAPPILY INCLUDING ME. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE YEARS. JUST THE OTHER DAY I HEARD A LADY SAY SHE LOVED THE DINNING ROOM FOOD—AND THIS DESPITE MANY TURNOVERS IN MANAGEMENT AND STAFF PERSONNEL. I HOPE WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

FROM JACK WRIGHT

6/14/1995