

As I compare Kenneth City today to the many problems in Kenneth City in the past, I can't help but reflect and perhaps feel a great deal of pride in that which is now in existence.

It took about a year and three months before we were able to first break ground. Many changes were made in the original plans, as far as detail was concerned, to try to come up with the ultimate plans, as we know them now.

When Kenneth City was first started there wasn't even a road and that which we know as 58th Street was a foot path and inaccessible by automobile. The only way into Kenneth City was 47th Avenue. In the process of bringing in the concrete for the curbing, after roughing in the streets, there was a crusade of women on 47th Avenue, who desired that the trucks keep off their streets, and consequently, prevented our entry from that direction. The only thing we could do was force through on 58th Street in terms of a shell road. No one on that street, or potential street, at that time, would give any right of ways. So in sheer desperation alone we did put in the street and were able to get our concrete back to the roads.

I remember when we first started the lake, which is now Lake Charles, the problems we had in getting the lake underway, hauling the dirt to the various low areas, and the shape that Lake Charles started to take. It then truly began to show the outline of Kenneth City.

As I reflect back at the progress that we had in Unit One, I think of the tremendous enthusiasm with which Kenneth City was accepted by the residents at that time. Mr. Fost, our first purchaser, who has now passed away, and his wife were not even able to get back to any part of the site. They simply took our word for it and many times told us that they were perfectly happy that they had bought at that time.

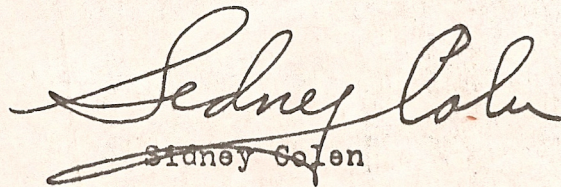
The day of our opening, after we had finished the models, I was out in the parking lot directing traffic in an old hat and a pair of sun glasses and we had thousands of people come through Kenneth City. Consequently, there was an avalanche of sales and problems in production. We finally did overcome all of this, then Kenneth City truly began to grow.

I remember the night of our first meeting in Friendship Hall, in which the feelings of those present were to incorporate Kenneth City. We did, at that time, elect the various people to office. The first mayor was Harold Mellinger, to whom I will always be personally grateful for the job he did in taking up the reins of what was then just an idea and developing it into the governmental force which you now live under and enjoy.

I can say in all due honesty that I am thoroughly content with the progress of Kenneth City. Sure, we have had our ups and downs, that is true, but that is part of any growing entity. There were those who criticized and criticized unduly and those who criticized and criticized constructively, we do appreciate both and as a result I think a better city has come into being.

Kenneth City reminds me more of the old town meetings in terms of its governmental force than it does the large impersonal type of government that we all know and that we probably lived under. The council meetings seem to be personalized, the will of the people is listened to and consequently that will will prevail.

This is how Kenneth City grows. This is the sum total of Kenneth City. It is the people, not one man, not one person, not whatever dreams any one individual may have, but the constructive thinking of all the people. I think that in the future Kenneth City, as we know it today, will be one of the models for the country at large to follow and to learn from. It is true democracy in force. If I could impart any thought to the people of Kenneth City I feel that it would be, partake of your government, be a part of it, help it to grow, be constructive and thereby have a better city and a better community in which to live.

  
Sidney Cohen