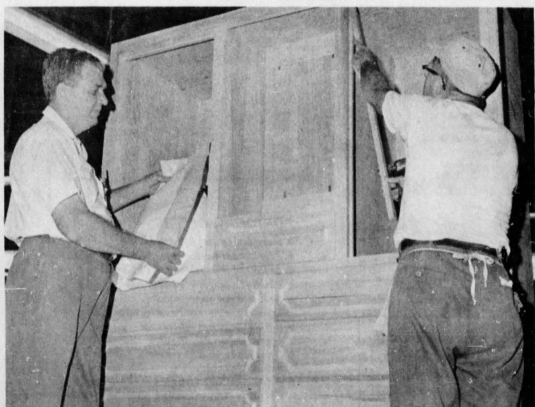


Fine Craftsmanship In Wood



ASSEMBLED IN SHOP — This elaborate doorway, crafted of pecky cypress for the Rotunda Restaurant in Washington, D.C., was made and

assembled in Blumer & Stanton's Georgia Avenue shop, West Palm Beach. The assembly was taken apart for shipment.



FINE CABINETS — Ray Sisson, left, foreman of Blumer & Stanton's cabinet shop, helps cabinet maker

John Hawkins interpret construction plans for a "built-in" wardrobe-dresser.

Staff Photos by Pete Gordon

**By PETE GORDON
Business Editor**

Blumer & Stanton Inc. started a business in the right place, at a good time with special skills which have made it one of south Florida's outstanding suppliers of finely-crafted wood interiors for residences and commercial institutions.

The firm's reputation for fine woodwork has resulted in the staff being increased from five to 40 since the three original partners cleared its site at 5112 Georgia Ave., 22 years ago for a lumberyard.

"Our intention was to start a lumber selling business," said W. V. Blumer, president. "We hired a couple of men and my partners, my son, C. G. Blumer, and son-in-law, A. K. Stanton, and I personally cleared the land of jungle undergrowth. We then built an office, workroom to hold a cut-off saw, drill press and 16-foot bandsaw, and

bought a couple of carloads of lumber.

"Then we found the selling was slow. We hung a sign with the words 'MILLWORK' outside. We hoped to keep busy."

Lumber for selling stock was in short supply in those postwar years for a new company. W. V. had about 15 years of millwork experience, 10 with his own firm in Washington, D.C. They knew the business.

"Coincidentally, one of the old established millwork firms nearby closed shop," said W. V. "We were able to fill a need."

Soon customers found them. First job was to prefabricate and erect six 14 by 14-foot houses. Then a millwork job for more than 100 wood shutters for a beach club came in. Then orders for lockers at the old Lantana Airport.

After a contractor had

them do fine interior work for a South Palm Beach residence, the firm was off and running like a well-oiled buzzsaw.

Cont. On F 2, Col. 4

enclosed by 600-foot frontage and is 530 feet deep.

Operation of the motor lodge and restaurant at this time will be by the parent company and not through a franchise holder. Construction is to begin first on the motor lodge, followed by the restaurant.

The service station will be operated through

Goodwin Corp., Merritt Island; Motor Lodge Properties, West Palm Beach; Polizzi Construction Co., Coral Gables; and Princeton Development Corp., Clifton, N.J.

Bid stipulations included an option for the builder to own the property and lease it back to Howard Johnson, or its franchise holder, for operation.



FAMILY TEAM — Blumer & Stanton Inc. has built a family team to produce some of the best-accepted millwork and interiors for architects and designers. Chief draftsman-estimator of the firm is,

left, W. K. Stanton, grandson of the president. Others, from left, are C. G. Blumer, son and secretary; A. K. Stanton, son-in-law and vice president; and President W. V. Blumer.



HEART OF THE BUSINESS — Mold-maker Kenneth Parker shows how the shaper blade produces an intricate design on molding to the architect's specifications. Parker, a

16-year B&S man, makes his own blades, can produce fine work up to 12 inches wide. Owners say good trim and molding is the heart of B&S work.

National Bank Charter Sought

PALM SPRINGS — A group of men headed by Mayor Edwin H. Emerson Jr. has applied for permission to organize a national bank in the vicinity of 10th Avenue N. and Congress Avenue.

Those signing the application include John Adair Jr., engineer and school trustee of Lake Worth; Melvin T. Stone, active in politics and a former vice mayor of Palm Springs; Milton V. Engstrom, former county chairman of the Republican Party, of Lake Worth; Alvin B. Zalla, attorney and former chairman of the County Democratic Executive Committee; and Edward W. Doherty, retired.

The group is asking that the bank be called one of the following names, in order of preference: First National Bank of Palm Springs, Palm Beach National Bank, or National Bank of Florida.

Authorization is being sought to issue 33,000 shares of capital stock. Of these 30,000 will be issued for a total value of \$480,000. The 3,000 shares remaining are to be held as unissued shares.

The \$480,000 raised by shares would be allocated as \$300,000 for capital; \$120,000 for surplus; and \$60,000 as undivided profits.

Special Skills Pay Off

Continued From F1

Since then the family organization (now the officers include the president's grandson, W. K. Stanton) has supplied interiors for gracious living in Palm Beach, Hobe Sound, Delray Beach and elsewhere.

Rich atmosphere and diffident decor in wood carving, panel and trim made in the Georgia Avenue plant graces banks, schools, hospitals, fine restaurants, churches and executive suites throughout the state and as far afield as Texas, New Jersey, New York, and up and down the Eastern Seaboard.

World famous dining establishments such as the Rotunda in Washington, Le Dome of the Four Seasons, and the Crashing Boar in Fort Lauderdale, Top O'Columbus in Miami, the Lamplighter rooms in many Howard Johnsons, and in Palm Beach Chesler's, and Petite Marmite and many other are decorated with Blumer & Stanton handiwork.

One of the largest jobs undertaken by the firm was the \$60,000 interior of the Palm Beach County Courthouse in 1955. Price can vary with wood requests as well as intricacy of design. An executive suite at \$5,000 to \$6,000 is not unreasonable.

"We never advertise and few people outside the trade know us," said President Blumer. "We work directly with the architects and designers. We don't design. The work is produced in our workshop. Then it is installed by contractors under supervision of the designer."

The firm's three draftsmen are key figures. Headed by Blumer's grandson, W. K. Stanton, they produce the detailed workshop drawings and estimate job costs, working closely with the designers.

A notable example is Le Dome in Fort Lauderdale produced in 1963. The entire 11th floor of an apartment building was converted to an elaborate dining complex with a French theme. Designer Wills Squier specified woods such as wormy chestnut, walnut, cherry, mahogany and treatment of gold and paint, which eventually won an Architectural Woodwork Institute Award for Blumer & Stanton.

& Stanton.

Rare woods such as teak, applewood, rosewood, Douglas fir, Florida cypress, Montana larch, Brazilian parana, pine, and pecky pecan are handled with care and consideration despite years of familiarity.

Not all woods come direct from the forests. Old materials sometimes have an age and aura making these desirable for decor. A well-known Palm Beach home has one room panelled from panels salvaged from an old English sitting room, and built by the firm. The *Crashing Boar* lounge in Fort Lauderdale used lumber salvaged from an old barn.

"We have remodeled old Mexican doors and assembled room panels from old Spanish cow barns," said the partners. "On the other hand we are today preparing mirrors inserted into laminated panels with intricate curved molding for an installation in New Jersey. There are formica-lined cabinets being shipped to Bermuda."

Recently the firm completed the decor of a 30-room Palm Beach residence with unusual and elaborate hand-carvings throughout, including doors, frames and panels. The shop had to work from a design produced in France. The measurements on the drawing were in metric figures, which the local workmen had to master.

Moldings and trims are the heart of the business. The shop makes its own knives and boasts of "maybe 5,000 to 6,000 different blades on hand."

The original three pieces of equipment have grown to include an extensive variety from power clamps to elaborate molding shapers. The firm has special devices to produce louvers and shutters with a speed and accuracy unheard of in the old hand-work days, or to fine-finish with the accuracy demanded of fine cabinet work.