

Florida's Newest Town Is Christened At Venerable St. Petersburg's Side

By GEOFFREY DRUMMOND

More than 450 Kenneth City residents and their guests last night celebrated the incorporation of their city and witnessed the swearing-in of their mayor and city council.

Developer Sidney Colen, who conceived and built the city, presented the mayor the deed for the land on which a city hall and recreation center will be built.

Presenting the deed in return for \$1, Colen promised to construct the building and sell it to the city at cost.

Circuit Court Judge John U. Bird swore in Mayor Harold A. Mellinger and council members J. D. Bellows, Howard Roydhouse, Elmer Vierling and Miss Ruth Kahn.

Judge Bird told the newly-sworn officials they were officers of Kenneth City and thereby servants of the city.

Rep. Thomas Carney told the group, "The benediction has

been said and the officials sworn in. What remains to be done is to nourish this child-city. That is for you to do.

"I would leave you with one thought. Keep your homes in order. The basis of the city, county, state and nation is the cleanliness and morality of the individual home. Your homes are bright and clean and new. Keep them so."

"Hi Neighbor, My name is . . . helping to make Kenneth City the friendliest city on earth," read the name tags worn by residents. And the spirit of the party at the St. Petersburg Coliseum reflected the slogan on the tags.

The new Mayor outlined a community program to be centered around the City Hall and recreation building, to be near the corner of 62nd Street and 42nd Avenue North. The Mayor stressed the community feeling which could grow in a small city like Kenneth City where each resident could take part in city activities.

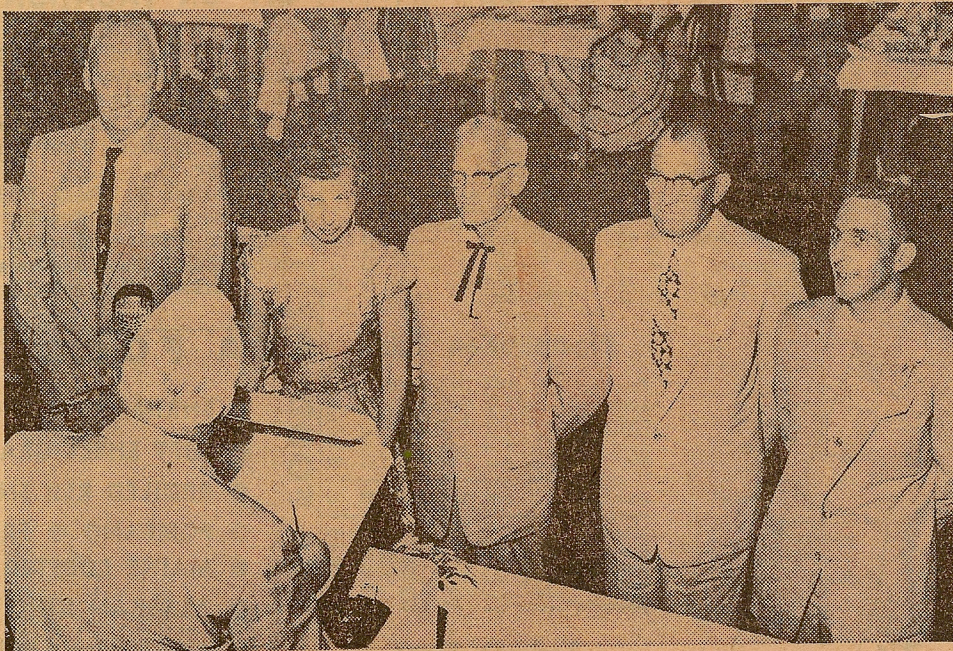
Mayor Mellinger said he wanted the council to act only as a guide for the city. "I want each homeowner to feel he owns one share to the city," he said. "I hope you will contribute your time and energy to the city and I hope you will have a feeling of belonging to a city with a heart."

Colen said Kenneth City was not founded to be entirely tax-free. "But," predicted Colen, "I feel when it becomes necessary for Kenneth City to exercise its powers to tax, the tax rates will be the lowest in the state and probably in the country."

Colen added, "The responsibility of the housing industry does not end with just building houses. It lies in the planning of cities and communities and providing them with the services necessary for gracious living."

Colen's young son Kenneth, after whom the city is named, unveiled a color sketch of the

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(Times Photo by Al Fischer)

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR

. . . so repeat the City Council members and Mayor of newly-born Kenneth City as Circuit Court Judge John U. Bird (back to camera) swears them in last night. From left are Council members Howard Roydhouse, Miss Ruth Kahn, J. D. Bellows, Elmer Vierling and Mayor Harold A. Mellinger. (See other photos, Page 3-B.)

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