

Where there's a will there's a way !!

TORONTO (CUP) — The Eaton Family has a wrinkle in their Eaton Centre development plans, and the University of Toronto is doing its best to smooth it out.

The problem can be traced to lady named Naomi Bilton, who carried a grudge against the Eatons to her death bed when she willed a very important property at 188 Yonge Street to the U of T back in 1922.

The U of T has little or no need for this small property and the Eatons are itching to grab the lonely Reitman's store that stands there to use in Phase 2 of the mammoth Eaton Centre. The catch is contained in the wording of the Bilton will.

The university received the land under the stipulation "that the same never be sold or leased to John C. Eaton or the T. Eaton Company or any person or firm in any way representing them, or to any person or corporation carrying on the business of a departmental store surrounding the property."

The clause was aimed at the company that during the twenties was swallowing up many small businesses in the area and which now controls all of the property in the immediate area. This little problem has had lawyers from both the U of T and Fairview Corporation (the firm looking after the development of the Eaton Centre) working for the past couple of years looking for a loophole.

The University went to the Ontario Supreme Court about two years ago to contest the wording of the will but it was upheld. Yet Fairview is revising an offer for the property to be presented to the U of T Board of Governors, October 12. Even after the refusal by the Supreme Court to change the will, U of T officials have been informed by their solicitors, that the sale is legal and it appears that the university will accept the offer.

As to how this is possible, U of T Business Affairs refuses to tip their

hand. But, Fairview, as a development company building for the Eaton Centre, does not necessarily have to represent the Eaton family or department store. The land collected and developed will belong to Fairview, not to the Eatons.

Fairview is an independent company with no Eatons on the board of directors. Their money and influence comes from the Bronfman family of Distillers Corp., Seagrams and Kemp Investments Ltd. which has been involved in the same sort of downtown-eating in Vancouver.

This, however, does not mean that the Bronfmans and Eatons aren't behind the conference table working out the deal.

Gus Abols, vice chairman of the U of T Executive Committee of the Governing Council, theorized that it is possible for Fairview to buy the land without breaking the word of the will provided they don't actually build any part of a department store on the property. This means that they might build a parkette to lure shoppers in from the street or a parking lot to accommodate shoppers driving from the suburbs without contravening the stipulations of the will.

The sale to Fairview of the former Bilton property does away with the last holdout in the area and will certainly take a load off the minds of both U of T and Fairview lawyers. Even when there's a will, there's a way.

Nervous, frantic?

Become a potter

By JUDITH NEFSKY

For those among us who have a tendency to get bogged down delving into text-books and frantically whipping up last-minute essays, it would perhaps be a good idea to channel those frustrations into creative activity. Vanier Pottery Club supplies that opportunity.

Beginners are assured that pottery-making is not a difficult craft to learn. Though workshop lessons were given this weekend, another workshop period can be arranged if there is enough interest.

The display of beautiful vases, mugs, and other ornaments in the room is an effective incentive. Last year the local artisans held a very successful Christmas sale of their own works, hoping to raise enough money to buy a new kiln. Unfortunately, they ran out of pieces, so they'll be trying again this year.

Members of the club use the facilities in 013 Vanier College Residence when ever they please. Supplies are paid for out of the \$5.00 membership fee. Clay costs 40¢/lb.,

and if a student turns out one item a week, the \$5.00 account should last until February or March. Members are only charged for the clay in items that are fired in the kiln. Otherwise the clay is recycled.

For information about the club, call Susan Prokopenko at 667-3481, Audrey Robinson at 667-3673, or Geoff Hunter at 667-3852.

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