



Why save it?

At the risk of over emphasizing a subject, we will reiterate encouragement of preserving local history. Interest is being aroused and we hope to help keep the interest active.

The cartoon above depicts a possibility we hope never occurs. The library is one of several buildings we think are worth retaining.

[Businessman and former city councilor] Cliff Alderson took two Leader staff members on a tour of E. Simpson St. in 1970. He was quoted, after having pointed to many of the old business section's buildings, as having said, "I still think that buildings like these should be torn down. A clean vacant lot would be a lot more attractive to people driving through than deserted buildings, perhaps the city could turn them into parking lots."

We agree with Alderson to a point. Some buildings are structurally unsound or their ugliness warrants removal. Others deserve preservation! Parts and pieces of useless structures deserve preservation!

Building new rather than remodeling is a common contention among businessmen. But our children have the right to see the fruits of the labors, craftsmanship and patience of their ancestors. Modern technology and machinery produce a wonderful array of products both beautiful and useful. We should not forget, however, that the technology evolved from the imagination of the men who produced the lattice work and leaded glass windows with their own two hands and a few crude tools.

Although we won't editorialize on the subject again, we will continue to encourage the awakening interest in the area's history.

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