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## From the Chair... Ben Walker

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## ***From the Chair...Ben Walker***

As many of you are aware, these are very exciting times for the Foundation. After several weeks of negotiation we have “offer and acceptance” with regard purchase of the Hundley Building at the corner of Southside Square and Franklin Street, the building next door to Harrison Brothers Hardware. The closing took place on Friday, January 9th, and we are now the proud owners of this fine and historic structure! Our mission now is to put the building to productive use in a manner that both meets the objectives of our foundation and provides income, allowing us to pay for this investment. Renovations will begin right away for that portion to be used as the HHF office with the balance following as soon as we have determined the adaptive use. If you have any thoughts as to perspective use/tenants or know of someone that might be interested in occupying space in our new building, please let me know as soon as possible. I can be reached at 881-5050.

While awaiting the completion of our new facilities in the Hundley Building we have established a temporary office for the Foundation at 4906 B Whitesburg Drive. This is the small building in the back of the corner lot, northwest corner of Whitesburg Drive and Airport Road. Our phone is being installed and the number for now will be 883-4544. A fax will also be available through this same number. We are currently making an effort to centralize our files and records at this location pursuant to our move into our downtown building.

As many of you are also aware, Diane Ellis has come onboard as of January 1st as our full-time director of the Foundation. She will be housed in the temporary office at Whitesburg and Airport Road pending the move downtown and is already busily trying to organize the boxes of documentation and establish for us some permanent files. If you are interested in some of the projects currently underway, you can contact her at the above noted phone number or, if out and about, just drop in to say “Hi!”

I know all enjoyed the membership tea as much as I did and join me in saying “thank you very much” to Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rhoades for their gracious hospitality. It was a delight to tour one of the most unusual and interesting houses in our city. The turnout was one of the best in recent years.

We have many worthwhile and exciting projects planned for 1998. It is the support of members like you that makes it all possible. Your continued efforts are certainly appreciated.