

# Politicians, Plain Folk Dedicate Core Skywalk

By GEORGE PALMER  
Enquirer Reporter

Rock music, including a new number called "The Skywalk," several serious, brief addresses and a finale of roaring laughter when the drape on a statue failed to fall away marked the dedication Monday of the city's second-level Skywalk, extending from Fountain Square Plaza to the Convention-Exhibition Center.

Ceremonies began at 11:30 a. m. when "Borrowed Thyme," the rock group, attracted a sizable crowd to the Plaza. At noon, the rock stopped and the 100-man Roger Bacon band marched across the Skywalk to the Plaza Area.

"NOW THAT'S MORE like my kind of music," commented City Manager Richard L. Krabach as

the school band marched into view playing a martial melody.

Other dignitaries gathered on the Skywalk Podium, a balcony that overlooks the Plaza, included Councilman Gordon Rich, Thomas A. Luken, Timothy A. Garry, William J. Chenault, and Guy C. Guckenberger; Arthur Bird, public works director for the city; County Commissioner Robert F. Reckman, and U. S. Rep. William J. Keating (R-Cincinnati).

"This has been a very exciting day," Mayor Willis D. Gradison Jr. told the assembled crowd, "especially for us who were in on the early planning of downtown projects. Not too many years ago this was just an idea."

"I think in many ways this can help to encourage all of us citizens

to work together for other important projects which are needed by our city," he said.

Noting the importance of downtown, the Mayor called it "our largest shopping center... largest center of employment... largest concentration of the tax base which we must draw from to pay for municipal services."

"In a very real sense, downtown is part of every one of our neighborhoods. Although very few people live in the downtown area, we all depend upon the jobs, the shopping facilities and the events that take place down here."

"Representing the City of Cincinnati, it is a great pleasure to participate and to dedicate this new crosswalk to the citizens of the metropolitan area of Cincinnati for whom it was built."

Preceding the mayor, William J. Whittaker, president of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsor of the dedication with the Cincinnati Urban Development Department, said, "Few big cities have anything like this, and no other city in the nation has anything quite as extensive."

"It's going to help the downtown area," Keating said. "And, of course, I'm in love with Fountain Square. I think the way it has drawn people, young and old, of all different persuasions, is one of the greatest things that has ever happened to the community. I hope we continue to build on this base."

Following the address, the mayor and Whittaker used large hedge clippers to cut the four-foot-wide

red ribbon leading to the walkway.

THE DIGNITARIES then proceeded to the Skywalk Plaza above Opera Place and between Vine and Race Streets. Gradison left the ceremonies at this point to make an appearance on a local television program.

Vice Mayor Ralph B. Kohnen officiated at the almost non-unveiling of the statue called "Traveler's Column," by Italian sculptor Pomodoro.

"On behalf of the mayor and city council," he said, "we are delighted to have the opportunity to dedicate this beautiful statue here at the crossroads of our second floor walkway. I think this is a marvelous thing."

Kohnen and Whittaker then pulled the ripcord that was sup-

posed to release the two large sheets covering the column. Nothing happened. The crowd broke into loud laughter.

An 11-year-old girl, Mary Lou Guidi, Florence, Ky., volunteered to step into the pool of water beneath the statue and pull the sheets off.

However, before she could remove her sandals two nearby workmen brought a step ladder and one of them scrambled up and freed the sheets. They were cheered but left before they could be identified. Mary Lou stepped into the pool and pulled the sheets out.

Following the unveiling of the statue, the Roger Bacon band led a crowd of citizens along the Skywalk to the convention center at the other end.



—Enquirer (Mark Treitel) Photo

## Every Shroud Must Have A Silver Lining

... Kohnen and Whittaker pull the cord to no avail, photo at left, as nearby workman comes to the rescue, photo at right

## Candidate Hits Spending Limit

Wayne F. Wilke, Republican candidate for Cincinnati City Council Monday objected to a proposal that City Council set a limit on Council campaign spending of \$16,000 per candidate.

Wilke proposed instead that a limit be set on the amount of money any candidate could receive from any one contributor. He suggested the limit be \$480—5% of a councilman's two-year salary.

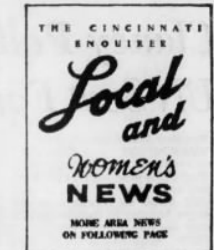
The \$16,000 limit was proposed by Councilman Thomas A. Luken (D) and is being considered by Council Finance Committee.

"Certainly," Wilke said, "the idea of a maximum, to prevent in a few instances the purchase of political office by wealthy individuals sounds good. But the advantage gained in a few instances works unfairly to favor incumbency in public office. In a world of change the status quo is given the advantage."

WILKE ADDED that the source of a candidate's funds is more important than how much is spent.

"A candidate," he also said, "who receives thousands of dollars in small contributions from an interested public is less committed to any special interest than the candidate who receives a few thousand dollars from a single individual."

Here's how the Cincinnati City Council race shapes up today with



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denburg, Rev. Morris Fleming, Timothy Garry, Willis D. Gradison Jr., Guy C. Guckenberger, Ralph B. Kohnen Jr., Gordon Rich, Robert C. Smith, Wayne F. Wilke.

CHARTER-DEMOCRATS — Theodore M. Berry, Thomas B. Brush, William J. Chenault, James C. Cissell, Richard L. Kiley,