



PHOTO BY DON RHODES

TAKING SHAPE — Homestead businessman Jack Levy used Old City Hall, far right, as a model for his store's new facade.

Rebuilding Homestead Rebirth on Krome

By **ROBERT JENSEN**
Special to the News Leader

This is the first part of a series.

Perhaps downtown Homestead was at its most attractive in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Picture postcards of that era show an attractive and vibrant downtown shopping scene much like the ones which merchants and professionals are now building.

What we are seeing right now in the downtown area is a rebuilding that will surpass the past in attractiveness and in the blending of architectural style and color never before seen there.

You can expect to see more shaded sidewalks, attractive signage and informative sandwich board signs.

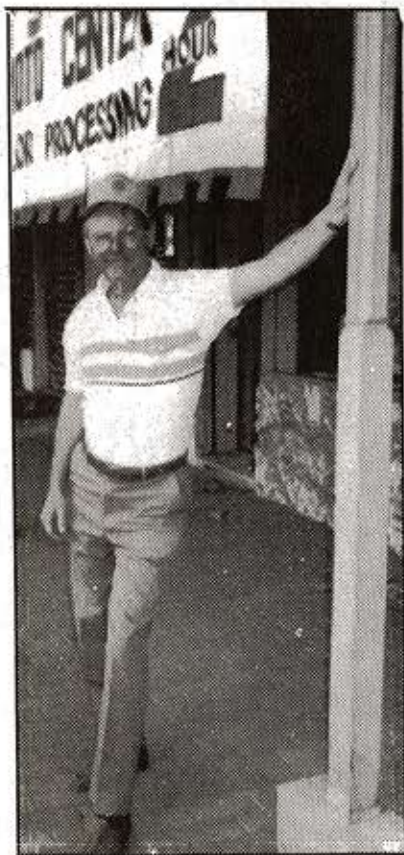
Neva King Cooper School, built

in 1913, Redland Elementary School, built in 1916, and Old Town Hall, which went up in 1917, are all providing historical inspiration for rebuilding our downtown.

For his part, architect Robert Barnes is working to reestablish and redefine our heritage in his design of new facades of our downtown business district. He is convinced that doing so will enhance our values.

Barnes grew up here and has incorporated a strong sense of place in much of his work.

The changes now being seen had their beginnings with the staff of the City of Homestead Community Development, Planning and Zoning Department shortly after Hurricane Andrew passed through. The Enterprise Foundation and local architects



Jack Levy

See **DOWNTOWN, 3A**