606 Greendale Rd.

Glenview, IL 60025

847-657-0958

orpheus@ohfs.org

Dear Guests,

The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society (OHFS) welcomes you. The theme of tonight's event, "Bridging Generations through Dance, Song and Music" underlines the mission of OHFS over the last seventeen years. The mission of the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society is to perpetuate the rich history and traditions of Greek folk dances, songs, and music. Orpheus fulfills its mission by educating its members and audiences through dance and music performances, workshops, lectures, publications, and its web site.

Our organization has experienced a steady growth of its cultural programs and participants. The adult dance group has established itself as one of the premier ethnic folk groups in the Midwest. It has been participating and performing at national dance conferences every year, and the concert series for the "Festival of Greek Music and Dance", which included notable artists from Greece, were hailed as some of the most successful cultural presentations in the region. The youth dance group has exploded, as registration reaches its maximum capacity of 85 children annually. The music group has assembled a talented and dedicated group of mainly self-taught individuals who often compliment the dance presentations. The addition of a professional choral instructor has expanded the group's singing abilities.

The OHFS newsletter "Lyra", now in its 10th year, is a publication sought by many folk enthusiasts as well as the general public. The organization's web site has been a vehicle of communication throughout the world and an invaluable tool for sharing ideas about Hellenic folk culture. We are fortunate to have a rich costume collection, which currently includes hundreds of pieces and accessories, unique in their craftsmanship.

As we looked toward the future, the development of a strategic plan was necessary to assure that OHFS successfully continues its mission in the years to come. The establishment of an apprentice instructors program; the acquisition of a central costume storage facility; the expansion of practice facility space; the continued financial support from the community; the delegation of roles and responsibilities to board members and the general membership; the expansion of the group's repertoire while maintaining a high standard of quality are just some of the current initiatives of that plan.

There are many opportunities that lie ahead of us and we are excited to see the wide participation and interest of the new generations of Greek Americans, particularly in keeping their Hellenic roots and culture alive.

We thank you for your generous support and continued encouragement.

Regards,
Yannis Economou
Director

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

October 27, 2005

Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society
606 Greendale Road
Glenview, IL 60025

Beloved in the Lord,

As you gather for the special benefit, *Bridging Generations Through Music, Song and Dance*, we greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. While we regret not being able to be present for this exciting evening, we certainly pray for every success in support of your special and important role in the life of the *Omogeneia*.

We are most appreciative of all the excellent work that has been accomplished in the preservation of our rich cultural traditions. For in preserving and offering to the world our cultural history, the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society indeed maintains and extends the joy of our Hellenic spirit to all in the present. We extend our gratitude to those who are present supporting you at this magnificent presentation. May our Lord grace the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society with many, many more years.

With Paternal Blessings,

† Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago

40 East Burton Place - Chicago, IL 60610-1697 Telephone: (312) 337-4130 - Fax: (312) 337-9391

ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΞΕΝΕΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ
ΣΤΟ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

κ. Ιωάννη Οικονόμου
Διεθυντή
Λαογραφικού Ομίλου ΟΡΦΕΑΣ
606 Greendale Road
Glenview, IL 60025

Σικάγο, 20 Οκτωβρίου 2005

Κύριε Οικονόμου,

Επιτρέψτε μου κατ' αρχάς να συγχαρώ τον Λαογραφικό σας Όμιλο, εσάς προσωπικά και τα υπόλοιπα μέλη του για την πολύτιμη προσφορά σας από τις ιδρύσεώς του πριν απο 17 χρόνια μέχρι και σήμερα. Μία προσφορά σημαντική γιατί είναι πρωτοβουλία νέων παιδιών.

Είναι πολύ ενθαρρυντικό να βλέπεις ελληνόπουλα πρώτης, δεύτερης και τρίτης γενιάς με υπερηφάνεια να διατηρούν την ελληνική παράδοση και πολιτισμό αλλά και συγχρόνως να προάγουν και να παρουσιάζουν στην αμερικάνικη κοινωνία τους ελληνικούς παραδοσιακούς χορους μας, την ελληνική μουσική και το ελληνικό τραγούδι.

Σας αξίζουν και τους αξίζουν θερμά συγχαρητήρια.

Θέλω να σας ευχαριστήσω για την πολύτιμη παρουσίαση του Ομίλου στις Δεξιώσεις του Γενικού Προξενείου για τον εορτασμό της 25ης Μαρτίου για πολλά χρόνια τώρα. Μια παρουσίαση η οποία προσθέτει μία ξεχωριστή λαμπρότητα στην εκδήλωση αυτή του Προξενείου.

Με τις καλλίτερες εύχες για πολλές μελλοντικές επιτυχίες.

Με εκτίμηση

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NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA REGION

An Illinois non-profit organization - 501(c)(3)

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hellenes@saeworld.org

* * *

Chris P. Tomaras
ΣΑΕ Vice President
Regional Coordinator
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* * *

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October 10, 2005

Mr. Yanni Economou
President/Principal Instructor
ORPHEUS HELLENIC FOLKLORE SOCIETY
606 Greendale Road
Glenview, Illinois 60025

Dear Mr. Economou;

With the steadfast commitment of your troupe's members, and under your talented leadership, the ORPHEUS HELLENIC FOLKLORE SOCIETY continues to shine as one of America's pre-eminent exponents of Hellenic Heritage and Culture. As such, the World Council of Hellenes Abroad recognizes your group as an important player in achieving its own broader Mission here in the United States and around the world.

Your group's theme this year, "Bridging generations through music, song and dance," is most appropriate. Because our traditional folk music, song and dance connect not only one current generation of Hellenes to another here in the U.S., but they also connect all of us to our forebears in centuries past… from Anatolia in the early 1900s, to Greece's War of Independence, all the way back to the mythical Muses who inspired Homer.

Both personally, and on behalf of our Regional Coordinating Council, please accept my congratulations for the contribution you and the members of your Society make to the life of our *omogenia* and to the cultural richness of America as well. *Bravo!*

With best wishes for a successful affair,

Chris Tomaras

Chris P. Tomaras
Vice President / Regional Coordinator
World Council of Hellenes Abroad (ΣΑΕ)
North & South America Region

ORPHEUS HELLENIC FOLKLORE SOCIETY

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Marianna Gudmundsson – Artistic Director, Vice President
Vasiliki Kouchoukos-Grosso – Youth Group Coordinator
Harry Georgakopoulos – Music Group Coordinator
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Jenny Melahoures

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Vasiliki Kouchoukos-Grosso
Niki Rigas

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Dimitris Dallas
Kostas Dovas
Harry Georgakopoulos
Dimitris Peroulas
Jim Stoynoff – Advisor

Vocal Instructor
Eftihia Papageorgiou

Graphic Designer
Christina Kakavas

ORPHEUS HELLENIC FOLKLORE SOCIETY

One of the first practices, Chicago, IL

World Cup Opening Ceremonies Performance.
Soldier Field, Chicago, IL

First Performance with live music,
Pan-Macedonian Convention, Chicago, IL

Christmas Around the World,
Museum of Science and Industry,
Chicago, IL

First Dance Conference
participation and
performance, Chicago, IL

1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994

First dance performance, Chicago, IL

North American
Dance Conference,
Montreal, Canada

First benefit
at Cairo night club,
Chicago, IL

First State Fair performance,
Springfield, IL

First issue of "Lyra" newsletter

1st Annual Celebration of Greek Artists Abroad at the Odeon of Herodus Atticus at the foot of the Acropolis

ORPHEUS
HELLENIC FOLKLORE SOCIETY

A logo is born

Establishment of Federal Exempt status

First Vasilopita Celebration

Establishment of Orpheus Youth Group, Chicago, IL

1995 1996 1997 1998 1999

Establishment of Orpheus Web Site www.ohfs.org

10 Year Anniversary Benefit

Performance at the Macedonian Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki, Greece

First SummerDance participation, Chicago, IL

PBS Channel 20 appearance

Festival of Greek Music and Dance - Greek Islands

Visit from Hara Deligiannis of
Lykeion Ellinidion from Athens,
Greece during performance
at Evanston Arts Fair, Evanston, IL

Appearance on Oprah Show
with "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
star Nia Vardalos

Hollywood House, Chicago, IL

2000

2001

2002

Addition of Glenview
Youth Group branch

Switch practice site
to Northbrook

Performance in
Epiphany Day Celebration,
Tarpon Springs, FL

Performance at
Hellenic Museum
10 year Anniversary
event, Chicago, IL

Festival of Greek Music and Dance - Macedonia and Thrace

Festival of Greek Music and Dance - Easter Traditions and Customs

Greek Star Newspaper
100 year Anniversary,
Chicago, IL

First year musical group performs
at Spring Balkan Festival,
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Guest Vocal Instructor
Eftihia Papageorgiou
joins Orpheus

ABC Morning News performance
at Artopolis, Chicago, IL

Appearance
on WGN
Morning News

2003

2004

2005

Establishment of
Orpheus Music Group

Appearances on NBC,
ABC, WGN and FOX

Visit from George Kotsos
and Nancy Harmanta
of Lykeion Ellinidion
from Athens, Greece

Youth Group performance, Christmas Around the World,
Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL

In Memory of Mrs. Dina Sianis

The journey with the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society has provided us with the opportunity to meet many remarkable people from every part of the world. One special woman affected us in a unique way. Her name is Mrs. Dina Sianis. She passed away recently and this dedication offers us a small window to express our gratitude, sadness, love and admiration towards a very beautiful person. Mrs. Sianis loved and lived Greek culture in many ways. She was known for her craftsmanship of Greek jewelry, Greek costumes, stage settings for theater plays and her willingness to assist in any activity that promoted Hellenism.

Most of all she loved the Greek folk dances and she took us under her motherly wing. She made many costumes for our youth group, baked numerous vasilopites for our annual event, assisted us in countless events and accompanied the group on several trips. She liked to be called "the aunt of Orpheus" because we all felt so close to her. Apart from all the tangible items she offered us, it is the Greek spirit of self-sacrifice, true friendship, perseverance, honesty, pride, modesty, love and support for one another that will remain with us forever. Mrs. Sianis would join us at Greek dance conferences and parades wearing the costume of the Greek female hero of the revolution known as "Bouboulina." The costume fit her so perfectly, as she was always optimistic, determined and would not back down, even when faced with the most difficult circumstances.

Our mission at the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society is inspired by her work. We are certain she is still looking over our shoulder with encouragement as well as motherly anxiety so that our actions are still guided by the same principles she instilled in us. Even as our tears dry from her loss, we feel a greater sense of determination and commitment to continue down the same path and make her even more proud!

The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society

ORPHEUS
HELLENIC FOLKLORE SOCIETY

The following letter was sent to the Orpheus Dance Troupe's Newsletter from Mrs. Dina Sianis in January of 1998

A Letter to the Editor

The days around the holiday season and especially Christmas are a family affair for the Greek culture. The festive character of the season touches both young and old. We feel the necessity to receive and offer wishes to everyone we care about. Thus, I felt the urge to send my wishes to a very special Greek family that I love and respect -- the ORPHEUS family. Allow me, before I extend my wishes, to offer a few thoughts to you. I know most of you one way or another. I have watched Orpheus' steps relatively closely. I saw the troupe make its first but steady steps and with great effort has reached the level of quality that distinguishes it today! Allow me to make another parenthetical note. Most of you are aware of the number of big organizations and associations which exist in our region. None of them have what you possess!

You are a unique group of young people who for years now, have contributed the best part of the Greek tradition to the Greek community. You present the beautiful Greek dances which trace their roots back many centuries into history. And you do it with love, respect and hard work. By mentioning hard work, I recall the Thursday nights when you conduct your dance practice. I have seen both the instructors and the rest of you come to practice after work, school and family obligations for an exhaustive three hour practice. In particular, what moves me the most is the love you display for the Greek dances and even more, the love and respect you have for each other. I feel so proud when I see you work together or when you sometimes kid around and other times when you help each other.

Be assured that when you wear those beautiful folk costumes during your performances, you make everyone proud. It is my opinion (and I am certain it is shared by many members of our community) that you are the best ambassadors of Greece. You have such an extraordinary presence, not only at Greek functions, but also in your participation at other significant events in the American community at large. There is no material reward for all that I have mentioned. Your only reward is the knowledge that you acquire about the Greek culture and traditions, along with a sense of satisfaction with the knowledge that each of you has contributed to the group's mission with his/her own effort.

I feel an overwhelming affection for anything Greek and especially the Greek dances, so allow me to offer some advice. Always maintain the bond and love that brought you together so you can continue to work with the same dedication. Try to make your great contribution even greater. The Orpheus Dance Troupe is the most beautiful group of young people of our community, one which the Greek community has adopted with respect and admiration.

I wish Orpheus all the best, and let 1998 be a productive and happy year. In addition, I wish you all personal and family happiness.

With patriotic and motherly greetings,

Dina Sianis

Remembering Dina...

I was most pleased to learn the Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society had decided to dedicate a section of its Program Book this year to an exemplary Hellene and someone I am priveleged to have been able to call my friend: Mrs. Dina Sianis. Her enthusiasm and devotion to our Hellenic Culture, and the transmission of that Culture to future generations was, and remains even now, an inspiration to all who knew her, including myself.

Some of you reading this may think you never met Dina Sianis. But every time you see another Greek-American child reciting a poem, or bringing a Greek play or traditional dance to life, Dina is always present through her unfailing encouragement, dynamism and many contributions.

Chris Tomaras
SAE Vice Peresident
N. & S. America Region

ΣΕ ΑΙΩΝΙΟ ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΟ

Της Παναγιάς εμίσεψες
για παραδείσιους τόπους,
κει που δεν έχει στεναγμούς
κει που δεν έχει πόνους,
κει πούναι όλα φωτεινά
και η ζωή αιώνια.

Πολύ πόνο εσκόρπισε
ο γρήγορος χαμός σου
στο λατρευτό σου σύζυγο,
στα όμορφα παιδιά σου
και στους πολλούς τους φίλους σου
που σ' εκτιμούσαν τόσο!

Συνέχεια μια προσφορά
υπήρξε η ζωή σου.
Μ' αγάπη πλέρια αγκάλιαζες
παιδιά ξένα, δικά σου.
Πολλών νέων μας άγγιξες
τις τρυφερές ψυχές τους
και μέσα τους εστάλαξες
το μαγικό βοτάνι,
για να νοιώθουν περήφανα
για την καταγωγή τους,
λεβέντικα να στέκονται
εμπρός εις το καθήκον.

Με περισσά σε προίκισε
τάλαντα η θεία φύση.
Με οξυδέρκεια του νου,
με βούληση κι' ευφράδεια,
διαύγεια στο λόγο σου,
ορθότητα στην κρίση,
ιώβεια υπομονή,
με ψυχραιμία πάντα
κι άπειρη αγάπη τρυφερή
για ελληνισμό και τέχνη.

Στα προκομμένα χέρια σου
το κάρβουνο χρυσάφι
μεταμορφώνονταν με μιας
σ' εξαίσιο έργο τέχνης.
Δημιουργούσες κι έφτιαχνες
θαύματα, Παρθενώνες
και τα παιδιά μας έντυνες
με φορεσιές εξαίσιες.

Μα πιο ψηλά απ' όλες σου
τις χάρες τις σπουδαίες,
που σε ξεχώριζε πολύ
και σ' έκανε γιγάντια,
ήταν η ανεξάντλητη
αγάπη, η μεγάλη
για την πατρίδα τη γλυκιά,
την όμορφη Ελλάδα.

Την φορεσιά που έφτιαξες,
με τα χρυσά σου χέρια,
της Μπουμπουλίνας της τρανής
γυναίκας, ηρωίδας,
σαν την φορούσες άστραφτε
ολόκληρη η μορφή σου
κι έτοιμη ήσουν να ριχτείς
σε πόλεμο, σε μάχη
για ν' αμυνθείς τα πάτρια
ήθη και εθιμά μας,
για να κηρύξεις άφοβα,
πώς θα κρατήσει η γλώσσα
και δε θα καταλήξουμε
βάρβαροι του Καβάφη.

Σαν αδελφή σου μ' έλεγες
ένοιωθα περηφάνια
και μια σταλιά απ' τις χάρες σου
επιθυμούσα νάχω.

Αγαπημένη Ντίνα μας
κουμπάρα, αδελφή μου,
με την ελληνική καρδιά
και τα χρυσά τα χέρια
με τα ταλέντα τ' άπειρα
και την πλατιά αγάπη
για την Ελλάδα την τρανή
και για τις παραδόσεις,
θα μείνεις μέσα στις ψυχές,
στη θύμηση για πάντα.

Κι εσύ εκεί από ψηλά,
ακράδαντα πιστεύω,
με τρυφεράδα μητρική
θα μας κοιτάς μ' αγάπη
με τα λαμπρά, τα έξυπνα
της ελαφίνας μάτια
και θα οδηγείς τη στράτα μας,
στα χνάρια σου να πάμε.

Ας είναι όλο το έργο σου
και όλη η προσφορά σου
και πρόκληση και πρόσκληση
και πρότυπο για όλους,
που τις ψυχές μας άγγιξες,
για να σε μιμηθούμε.

Ας είν' το χώμα ελαφρό
της γης της Αρκαδίας,
που δέχτηκε το σώμα σου
μέσα στην αγκαλιά της
κι' αιώνια νάναι η μνήμη σου,
ΑΡΧΟΝΤΙΣΣΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΗ

Τζούλια Καραδέδου-Πατριανάκου
Διευθύντρια του Ελληνικού Σχολείου
"Κοσμάς ο Αιτωλός"
Αγίου Γεωργίου Σικάγου

The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society

wishes to extend its gratitude to

Mr. Jim Stoynoff

for all his support towards the implementation of the OHFS strategic plan as well as his assistance with the OHFS Music ensemble and other endeavors.

Thank you, Jim!!!!

The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society
would like to extend a
heartfelt thank you to instructors

Nancy Harmanta
and
Giorgos Kotsos

of Athens, Greece

for their invaluable guidance over the last twelve years.
Their contribution has been instrumental in the development
and success of the Orpheus Dance Troupe.

BEST WISHES

to the

ORPHEUS

Hellenic Folklore Society

2005

"Annual Benefit"

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for always being at the

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for their ongoing enthusiasm

and for sharing their talents

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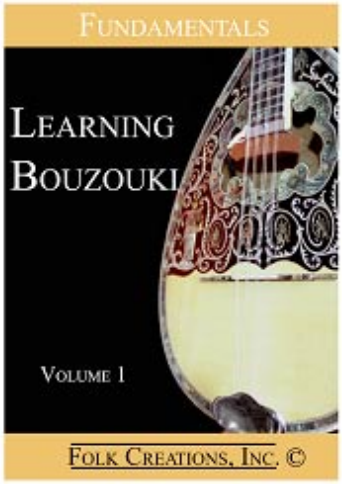

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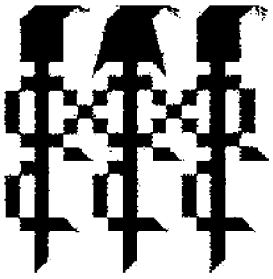
Jim, Kristie, Nicholas & Laura Stoynoff



CONGRATULATIONS

We are so fortunate to have John, Kosta and
The entire Orpheus Dancers as good friends and
colleagues in the art of Greek Folk Dance.

We are all very proud of our ethnic heritage and along with the Orpheus Dancers; we too strive for authenticity in Greek Folk Dance and costumes.

Wishing you many more years of dancing and
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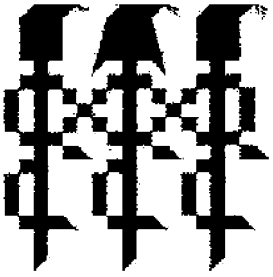

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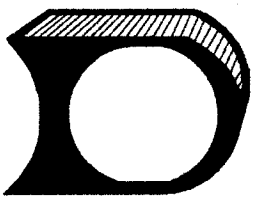

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Founded in 1981, by Kostas Sotiropoulos, the Hellenic Five specializes in music for the traditional cultures of Greek people. Their extensive repetoire includes traditional folk dance music to the contemporary music heard in Athens today.

The Hellenic Five has performed throughout the United States, Canada and was invited to perform on a ten day tour of Greece by the late Melina Mercouri, former international actress and Minister of Cultural Affairs in Greece. Other venues of note include The International Festivals of Music in Vancouver, Chicago and Rockford, The Chicago Cultural Center, The Art Institute, The Medinah Temple, several major colleges and universities throughout the United States, the Democratic Convention in Atlanta, fundraising and celebratory events for Greek-American political figures, entertaining fans of the Chicago Bulls at the United Center pre-game ceremonies, live performances on WLUP 98 FM and WNUR 89.3 FM, several Carribean Cruises, The Museum of Natural History, The Hellenic Museum, The Governor's Mansion in Springfield.

The Hellenic Five has also appeared on CBS's Early Edition in an episode entitled "Run, Gary, Run" and on the Food Network with Bobby Flay. Their original music was also featured in both appearances.

Locally, the Hellenic Five plays for many "Greek Nights", festivals, night clubs and restaurants. Venues include Grant Park's Summer Dance, Park West, Excalibur, a long stint at Cairo every Wednesday night for 5 1/2 years was one of the Club's most popular evenings, Pegasus Rooftop for 3 years, Kallisto, Byzantium and Barrel Café. At the Chicago Cultural Center, The Hellenic Five gave performances in tribute to Melina Mercouri, Yiannis Ritsos and Stelios Kazantzidis.

The Hellenic Five is in demand when it comes to backing up singers and dance groups that come to the United States from Greece.

The Hellenic Five has also played for many charitable organizations and benefits such as The Leukemia Society and The AIDS Foundation. They are also especially sensitive when it comes to helping raise money for children, who come here from Greece and other countries abroad, needing operations and or transplants.

Instrumentation includes bouzouki, clarinet, guitar/bass guitar, keyboards, drums, percussion and vocalists.

The Hellenic Five has a CD of eleven original songs. Members of the group can also be heard on Jim Stoynoff's " Return to Our Roots", numerous recordings by other recording artists and are now in the studio for their next album.

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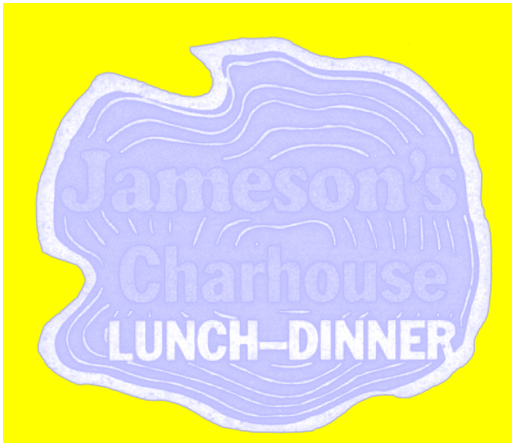

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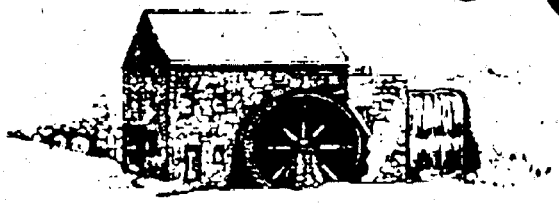

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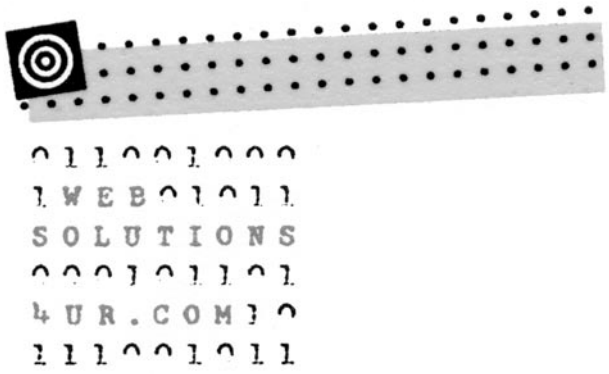

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