

N.Y. Times
12/28/88

Lewis Swyer, 70, Dies; Arts Center Chairman

ALBANY, Dec. 27 (AP) — Lewis A. Swyer, the chairman of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and owner of a construction company that built some landmarks, died at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany on Sunday after a long illness. He was 70 years old.

Mr. Swyer, born in Hoosick Falls, N.Y., and raised in Coxsackie, was a founding member of the New York State Council of the Arts.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, Mr. Swyer returned to the Albany area in 1947 and founded his construction company.

He sat on the boards of several colleges and organizations, including the State University of New York at Albany, Skidmore College and the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation.

His company built synagogues, churches, hotels and office buildings as well as the Saratoga center.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Sayles Swyer; a son, Edward P. Swyer; two daughters, Susan Earle and Carol Noble; a brother, Paul Swyer, and two sisters, Mrs. Harry Wolberg and Mrs. Herman Wolsky.

SWYER

Continued from A-1

District's first federally subsidized housing for the elderly, Schenectady's Southgate, in 1964.

The L.A. Swyer Realty & Management Corp., headed by Swyer's son, Edward, runs the Twin Towers and four of the senior citizens complexes.

Swyer had said that the buildings that gave him the most satisfaction were those involving architectural creativity. He listed those as the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, the Richard Gilman Folsom Library at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy and the Unitarian Church in Schenectady.

He also said that one of his proudest achievements was the conversion of a vacant Department of Motor Vehicles building on Central Avenue in Albany into the DePaul Residence, which provides one-room apartments for the homeless.

Swyer was born on June 9, 1918, in Hoosick Falls and reared in the Greene County community of Coxsackie. He graduated from Coxsackie High School and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he majored in English and philosophy. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, reaching the rank of commander. He was the commanding officer of the destroyer *Herzog*.

Swyer settled in Albany in 1946 and took a job in a construction company that built inexpensive, prefabricated homes in the Whitehall Road area. That same year he founded the L.A. Swyer Co.

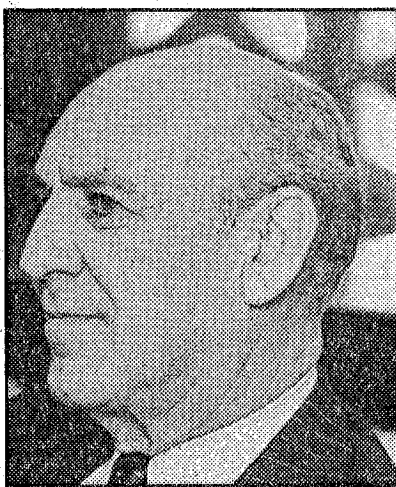
In the early 1950s, the company built an office building for Continental Insurance Co. at 107 Washington Ave. "Subsequently, for the next 10 years I'd say, I built every major office building in the city of Albany," Swyer recalled in a 1981 interview.

By 1969, L.A. Swyer was listed among the top 400 construction firms in the nation. The firm evolved into something unique in local construction. Not strictly a general construction contractor, Swyer often served as the catalyst for major development projects, conceiving plans and drawing together investors and potential tenants.

"I like to be a shaker and mover," Swyer said in the 1981 interview. "I don't like to be a follower."

In 1985, Swyer expanded into a new venture when he joined in partnership with his son, Edward, to start a television station in the Hudson Valley, WTZA in Kingston.

Swyer also was known as a champion of civil rights and is credited with founding the local equal opportunity program for the construction industry in the late 1950s. Throughout the 1960s



LEWIS A. SWYER
... in 1986 photo

and '70s, he fought for equal opportunity for blacks and other minorities. In 1963, for example, he led a floor fight at the annual convention of the Building Industry Employers of New York State to hire more minorities. He later helped start an annual job fair to promote minority hiring.

Swyer said in an interview that he had turned down offers to work out of town, preferring instead to devote his energy and ideas to the rebuilding of his beloved Albany.

"I think there are two people who contributed most to the architectural landscape of Albany: Nelson Rockefeller and Lew Swyer," said Whalen, his longtime friend. "His buildings uptown and downtown have a uniqueness and a special quality."

Swyer's love of building, a business that provided him with an affluent lifestyle, was matched, if not surpassed, by his love of the arts.

Swyer — who dabbled in acting after college, and once performed on stage opposite Kitty Carlisle in a Washington, D.C., revival of "Tonight or Never" — devoted boundless energy to nurturing the arts in the Capital District.

His artistic and business acumen dovetailed when he was chosen in 1964 to build the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. He counted the SPAC amphitheater, set among trees beside a deep gorge, among his finest work.

Its success as a concert hall and dance theater is high on Swyer's list of achievements. He was elected to the SPAC board in 1968, becoming president in 1973 and chairman in 1982.

"Lew Swyer was a giant in the development of the Capital District," said SPAC President Herbert A. Chesbrough. "His influence on the growth of the arts in our region was astounding."

Swyer was active in several other Capital District arts organizations, including the Albany League of Arts, of which he was a founder in 1956. He also helped start Shakespeare in the Park in Albany.

He was also one of the first members appointed by then-Gov. Nelson Rockefeller to the state Council on the Arts when it was formed more than 25 years ago.

Whalen credited Swyer for his role in the revival of the Palace Theatre and his support of Live at the Lakehouse, the Capital Repertory Company and the Empire State Institute for the Performing Arts.

"I think Lew's legacy will be one of substance," the mayor said. "He made a distinct contribution to the quality of life in the capital city that will last for many generations."

One of his proudest achievements in recent years was his co-founding of the National Museum of Dance, which opened in Saratoga Springs in 1987, the first of its kind in the country. Swyer collaborated with socialite Marylou Whitney to raise funds and national interest in the museum, which is housed in a converted bathhouse. He was chairman of the museum's board of directors.

Chesbrough called Swyer's involvement with the museum an example of his "rare ability to envision an idea, develop enthusiasm within himself as well as others for the idea, and see it carried to completion."

One of Swyer's more recent and major undertakings was as chairman of the city's Tricentennial Commission. Appointed to the position by Whalen, Swyer spent three years planning a schedule of events and festivities to celebrate the city's 300th anniversary during 1986.

An avid environmentalist, Swyer had a fondness for nature and founded the Hudson River Club. He remarked during the city's first regatta on the Hudson that his fondness for the river could be traced to his youth in Coxsackie, where he spent his summers on its banks.

Though an urbane, sophisticated man who appeared comfortable at black-tie receptions, Swyer nonetheless was an avid hiker and enjoyed life in the rough.

His interest in wildlife was exemplified by a courtyard he maintained outside his office window at 85 Watervliet Ave., where he would use binoculars to study the birds who visited the sanctuary.

Swyer floated down the Colorado River on a raft but never fulfilled his longtime goal of walking the Khyber Pass in Nepal, said Duane LaFleche, former city editor, managing editor and then editorial page editor of *The Knickerbocker News*, and friend of Swyer for more than 40 years.

His affiliations were numerous. He served on boards of banks, colleges, schools, charitable organizations, environmental groups, civil rights organizations, business and labor councils, and civic organizations, as well as

helping to organize the lay board of St. Peter's Hospital in Albany.

He was a founder of the Cerebral Palsy Telethon and the Albany Human Relations Commission, and participated in the creation of the Historic Albany Foundation.

He also belonged to the Fort Orange Club, a prestigious private club in Albany.

Born and reared in the Jewish faith, Swyer had an ecumenical approach and had close ties to the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese. In 1973 he was named Man of the Year by a Catholic laymen's group. That was one of many awards and accolades he received.

Swyer's friends regarded him as a Renaissance man, an aficionado of dance, opera, literature and modern art, yet someone who was as much at home in a board room as in a gallery.

"So many entrepreneurs — and that was what Lew was — would set goals in life that were usually money-oriented. But he was never money-driven," said developer John Picotte. "His score card wasn't his bank account. But don't get me wrong: He loved very much doing those large buildings."

Remembering Swyer's devotion to both the arts and high capitalism, developer Picotte said, "You'd leave the job and shut off construction and turn to ethereal things. We'd go from talking about steel and concrete to a conversation on the arts and literature. He was a real individual. I guess you could say he marched to the beat of a different drummer."

Novelist and businessman Bernard Connors is another admirer of Swyer's work. "His projects are truly beautiful," Connors said. "While he had to make a profit to stay in business, he gave them an artistic dimension."

"Although he wasn't on every board, he was sought after by virtually every board for his keen insight into both business and artistic matters," Connors said.

LaFleche, an early backer of SPAC, credited Swyer with organizing efforts to build the center. "He and Nelson Rockefeller were the first I turned to, and they didn't disappoint me."

He described Swyer as an "omnivorous reader" who in recent years kept longtime pledges to himself to read Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past" and Virgil's "Aeneid."

A Democrat, Swyer managed to stay out of the political limelight but kept close ties to those in power, particularly the late Albany Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd. He never ran for public office and never expressed an interest in doing so, though in earlier years he was eyed as a potentially attractive candidate.

Swyer also maintained cordial ties with Corning's successor, Whalen. De-

spite a raft of good publicity throughout his career, several articles raised questions in 1987, however, about the close relationship between Swyer and the mayor. The stories pointed out that Whalen's law firm had represented Swyer before city agencies and that the mayor had approved low-interest loans for Swyer projects.

Swyer received many honors during his long business and civic career. The state chapter of the AFL-CIO recognized his contributions to labor when it gave him its annual Business Award in 1987. That same year he also received awards from the Sons of Italy, Travelers Aid Society, Jewish War Veterans and the state Legislature.

Earlier this year, he received the Community Renaissance Award from the College of Saint Rose. Praising his "enrichment of the human spirit" in Albany, the college cited him for his work on behalf of the homeless and the jobless as well as his work in the arts and architecture.

In addition to his son, Edward, of Albany, survivors include his wife, Ann Sayles Swyer; two daughters, Susan

Earle of Weston, Conn., and Carol Noble of Albany; a brother, Paul Swyer of Albany; two sisters, Mrs. Harry Wolberg of Albany and Mrs. Herman Wolsky of Anchorage, Alaska; and four grandchildren.

The funeral will be private and there will be no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lewis A. Swyer Shelter for Homeless Youth (Project Strive); the Swyer House of Catholic Charities (transitional living for the homeless); the Consultation Center of the Albany Catholic Diocese; St. Peter's Hospital Foundation; the Saratoga Performing Arts Center; the National Museum of Dance; the College of Saint Rose Lewis A. Swyer Community Renaissance for Minority Scholarships; and the Skidmore College Lewis A. Swyer Scholarship Fund.

Contributions may be mailed in care of Lewis A. Swyer Charities, Stuyvesant Plaza, Administration Building, Albany, N.Y. 12203.

Staff writer Harvy Lipman contributed to this report.

Lewis A. Swyer dies at age 70; developer, patron of the arts

By Carol DeMare

Staff writer

ALBANY — Lewis A. Swyer, an influential developer whose buildings helped shape Albany's skyline and whose zest for the arts enriched the Capital District's cultural scene, died Sunday at St. Peter's Hospital after a long illness. Swyer, who had cancer, was 70.

Swyer, who lived on Pine Tree Lane, leaves a dual legacy — buildings that architecturally enhance the Capital District and artistic institutions that have become fixtures in the cultural life of the region.

"The death of Lewis Swyer deprives our community of a true humanitarian, a bridge builder whose personal love

for the arts and a profound commitment to interracial justice and equal opportunity motivated him to give of himself for the betterment of all people," said Howard L. Hubbard, bishop of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese.

"I have lost a very close personal friend, in addition to Albany losing a champion," said Albany Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III. "Whether it was his care and compassion for the disadvantaged, his love and devotion to the arts or his involvement in the building and business community, he seemed to have touched every fabric of this community."

As chairman of the board of L.A. Swyer Co. Inc., a contracting firm he

started in 1946, Swyer spearheaded major development projects, such as shopping centers, senior citizens housing, low-income housing and office complexes.

His projects include the Hilton Hotel, Ten Eyck Plaza, Twin Towers, State Street Centre, Bleecker Terrace Apartments, Albany Law School library and Temple Beth Emeth, all in Albany; the renovation of Stuyvesant Plaza in Guilderland; the Northway Mall in Colonie; the Mohawk Mall and O.D. Heck Developmental Center in Niskayuna; and several housing complexes for the elderly throughout the region.

Swyer's company built the Capital See **SWYER** / A-8



A TOAST — Tricentennial-Commission Chairman Lewis Swyer, right, and Albany Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III celebrate Albany's 300th anniversary at a party on July 26, 1986.

501 Cae
F45

Swyer
L.A. SWYER CO., INC.
Engineers and Construction Managers

December 14, 1988

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1988

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

Mr. Vincent O'Leary
President - State University of
New York at Albany
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222

Dear Vince:

I was so very sorry that I was in the hospital during the time of the reception on December 2nd to celebrate "The Second Century of Rowing in Albany." It would have meant a great deal to me to have been there.

I think it has been at least over a period of ten years that I tried to enlist Peter Kiernan's help in instituting rowing in Albany. I finally managed to succeed when I told Peter I would purchase a shell and oars if he would. I must tell you, for my own pleasure and sense of accomplishment, this is one of the things I have managed to do that has meant the most to me. After the purchase of the University shells, I enlisted the support of Tom Whalen to put up a boathouse and with the drive of William Cromie and his associate, Neil Kaye, the first regatta in 100 years took place. There were many interesting experiences that seemed to come out of the woodwork. My friend, Julian deF. Hills came to see me with a collection of the gold medals that his grandfather and fellow oarsmen won at Henley when they captured the world championship for a four man shell. They were not students at Harvard, Yale, or Princeton, and the great University of the State of New York at Albany would have been beyond their wildest dreams.

Dr. Cromie called me the other day as I had been talking to Tom about the necessity for another boathouse. He spent considerable time dreaming with me on the telephone about the opportunity of building a University boathouse if the character and personality of the old Harvard boathouse on the Thames could be placed just North of where the present Albany boathouse exists in an area where the pathway along the Hudson widens into a lovely grassy area.

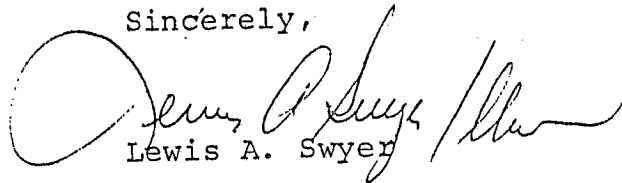
I am grateful to you, Vince, for responding to my zeal and eagerness to have our great university involved in Crew and I am deeply appreciative that it has taken on such interest and commitment to the future.

I can say in all candor that without your responsiveness and the enthusiasm of our Mayor, Tom Whalen, none of this would have ever happened.

I am enclosing a contribution in the amount of \$1,000 for the 1989 season. By copy of this letter, I am also informing my son, Ed, of my interest in seeing that our contributions and support continue.

With all good wishes to you and Lihua during this precious time of the year. I miss the University and saddened that so many of the plans I had hoped to advance will, of necessity for me, remain but a dream.

Sincerely,



Lewis A. Swyer

LAS:llw

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Thomas M. Whalen III
Dr. William Cromie
Edward Swyer

Copy to K. Kersten
T.

DRAFT/LPW

Mr. Lewis A. Swyer
85 Watervliet Avenue
Albany, New York 12206

To Sec
/

Dear Lew:

We missed you at the celebration of rowing in Albany. It was a fine turnout and visitors from afar were properly impressed with the great history of rowing on our river. You would have been especially pleased to learn of the plans of the University and the Foundation to sponsor the first upstate intercollegiate rowing championship -- the Knickerbocker -- next Spring. With the Empire State Regatta and now the Knickerbocker, Albany will capture the rowing spotlight each year.

I am told that the annual meeting of the United States Rowing Association went so well here earlier this month that Albany has been invited to submit a multi-year bid to host the event into the future. That should put us on the map!

We're just so grateful to you for getting us started in crew. Football aside, it's the biggest athletic program on campus and runs all year long. It has certainly added a lot to the campus and to student life. It's very kind of you to send us another gift for the crew program next year. We're looking forward to another good season, thanks to your inspiration and help.

The notion of recreating an authentic boat house on the Hudson is an exciting prospect. My guess is that in time new boathouses will spring up on both sides of the river as the number and enthusiasm of rowers grow and as the riverfront develops. That will remind one and all of the vision you have nurtured for our city, and its setting and people, over these years.

We think of you often as plans for the future go forward on campus and in Albany. You have helped us all to see more clearly what could be, with imagination, taste, and energy. We are in your debt.

All best wishes to you and Ann, always.

Sincerely,

Vincent O'Leary

RECEIVED

DEC 22 1988

Christian G. Kersten

L.A. SWYER CO., INC.

Builders and Construction Managers

August 12, 1988

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Alan V. Iselin
Cowen & Company
80 State Street
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Alan:

Sorry I cannot be at the 1988 Conference of ACT scheduled at the Albany Marriott October 7 - 9, 1988.

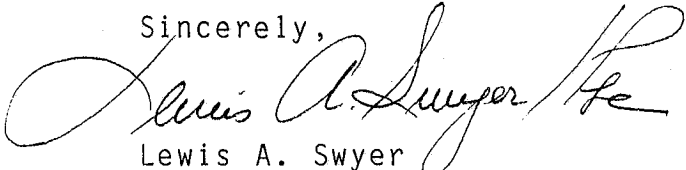
I am currently out of circulation and I don't know what the future holds. I have been at St. Peter's Hospital for the past few weeks and I expect to be confined at home for awhile so I thought I would let you know early in the game that I regret not being able to attend this annual conference.

I don't know whether Lew Welch talked to you about naming the new residence halls at SUNYA, but I did talk to him shortly after our last meeting at the Rockefeller Institute and it seemed to me that we were quite hasty about coming to a decision even though it had been on the agenda for some time. I feel there ought to be a model established for the naming and, indeed, it is my conviction that a model has already been established; thinking of the names that have been chosen for the buildings in the past.

While I don't want to make a big thing of this at the present time, I do feel that we ought to give more attention to this kind of action instead of just adopting a decision that is influenced by the moment and the impressions of a few students who do not have the feeling for either tradition or historical importance. This sounds a little stuffy, I know, and it may be either my age or my illness showing, but I felt I had to express my feelings in this regard once again.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,



Lewis A. Swyer

LAS:plc
cc: Lewis Welch

* Dictated by telephone this date.

To: Madelyn Cicero

Date: June 9, 1987

Info on Lew Sywer's reappointment as
requested...



Martha J. Downey
Secretary of the University

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
STATE CAPITOL
ALBANY 12224

COPY

WV
MSD
Swyer to
Reappt 1992

JAN 5 1984

Dear Comptroller Regan:

I have the honor to advise you that today, Governor Cuomo reappointed Lewis A. Swyer, of Albany, as a Member of the Council for the State University of New York at Albany, for a term to expire July 1, 1992.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael Del Giudice

Honorable Edward V. Regan
Comptroller
State Department of Audit and Control
Alfred E. Smith State Office Building
Albany, New York 12225

cc: Honorable Gail S. Shaffer, Secretary of State
Vincent O'Leary, President of the State University
Thomas M. Whalen, III, Chairperson of the State University
Martha Downey, Secretary, State University of New York

Bob Sawyer

State University of New York at Albany

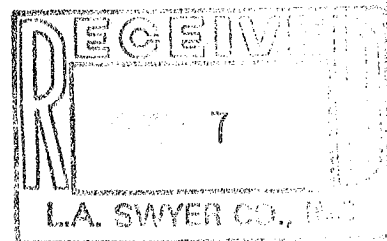
Administration 231, Albany, New York 12222

TO: University Council Members
FROM: Sorrell E. Chesin
DATE: May 5, 1987
SUBJECT: May 12 Meeting

Enclosed is the preliminary agenda for our May 12 meeting and the Minutes of the March 24 meeting for your review. May I ask that you call my office if you are unable to attend.

As usual, it will be held at 4:00 p.m. in AD 253. Best regards.

SE

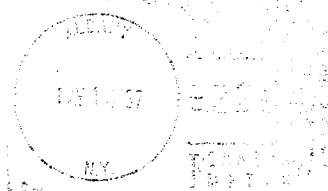


SEC/mrc
Enclosures

Dear Sorrell:

*Regret I was unable
to inform you about my
inability to attend the meeting
on the 12th. I had hoped to
be there but I ~~didn't~~ ^{couldn't}
~~make~~ wasn't possible. Sincerely,
Bob Sawyer*

L.A. Swyer Co., Inc.
Builders and Construction Managers



Mr. Sorrell E. Chesin
SUNYA - Administration 231
1400 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12222

85 WATERVLIET AVENUE ALBANY, N.Y. 12203



Barnes & Noble Bookstore

S.U.N.Y. AT ALBANY
1400 WASHINGTON AVE.
ALBANY, N.Y. 12222
TEL. (518) 457-7510

Date: _____

FACULTY ACADEMIC REGALIA ORDER FORM

Name: 489-4726
Lewis A. Sawyer Female: _____ Male: ✓

SUNYA Department: University Affairs Phone: 442-3001

Degree: BA From: (College or University) John Hopkins

Hat Size (or Head Circumference) _____ Height: _____

Please Check Appropriate Boxes Below:

- Bachelor Cap & Gown \$ 7.50
- Bachelor Hood 7.50
- Master Cap & Gown 11.00
- Master Hood 11.00
- Doctoral Cap & Gown 12.50
- Doctoral Hood 12.50

CHARGE TO ACCOUNT # _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of _____

Please make checks payable to: BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSTORE

← reduce to 9 picas →

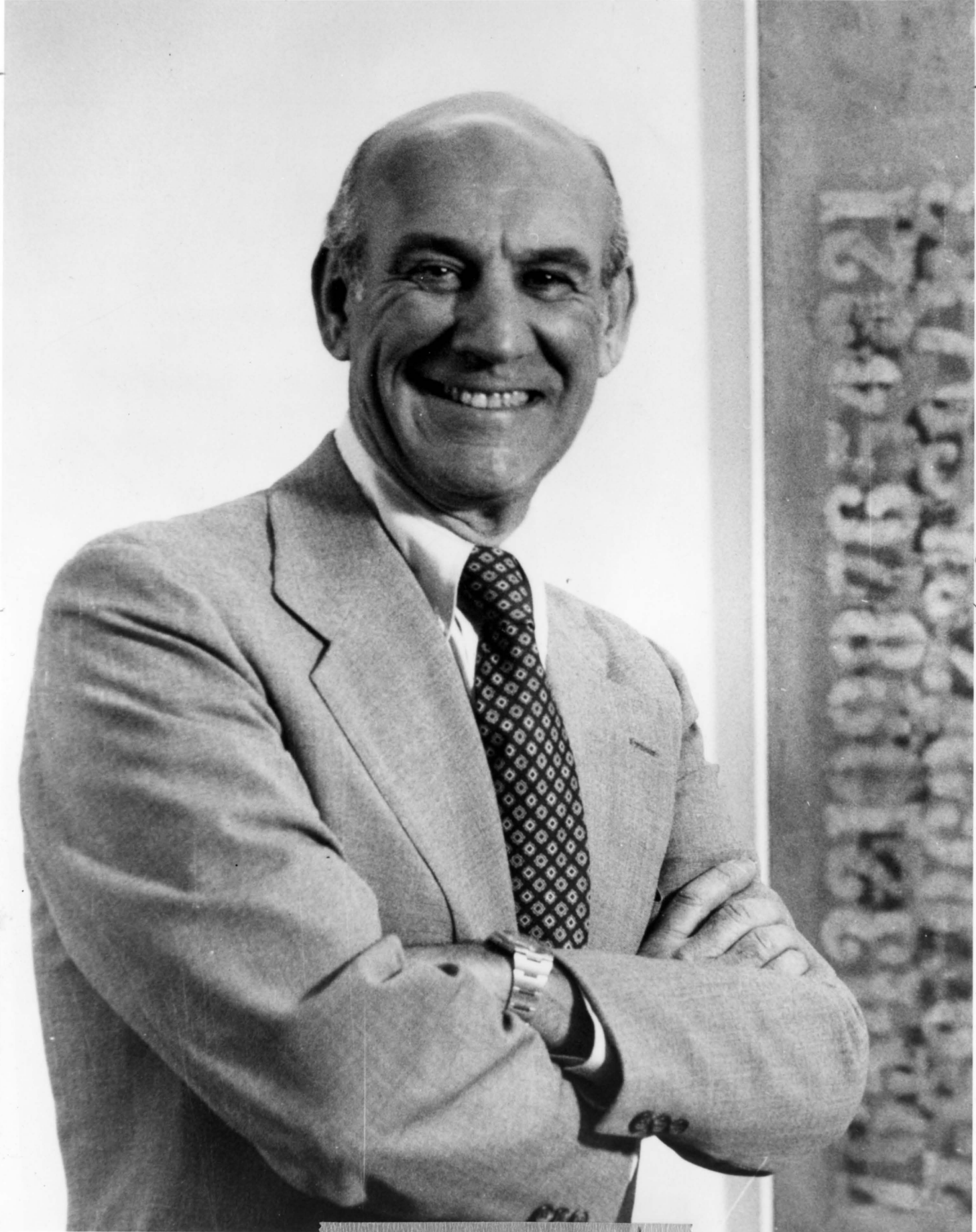


PHOTO 13

← centre to 13 picas →

SC
RMS

State University
of New York
memorandum

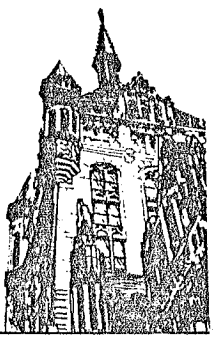
To: Vince
Date: 3/28/84

[Handwritten scribbles and signatures]

I am sure you will be pleased by the attached. Please keep it confidential until we know whether Lew will be able to attend. Please do me a favor ~~not~~ noted, belatedly, that the starred sentence on the letter was omitted on Lew's letter. Would you please call him and give him this most important information?

Martha J. Downey
Secretary of the University

Thanks and
Best regards,
Martha



C231 3-677



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
STATE UNIVERSITY PLAZA
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12246

THUR
3:30
DONALD M. BLINKEN
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES
277 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

March 28, 1984

Mr. Lewis A. Swyer
30 Pine Tree Lane
Albany, New York 12208

Dear Lew:

In 1981, the Board of Trustees of State University of New York inaugurated a Distinguished Citizen Award in order that the University might annually honor five New York State citizens who exemplify the highest standards of public service.

It is my privilege to invite you, on the recommendation of President Vincent O'Leary, State University at Albany, to accept one of the Board's 1984 Awards. The Award will be presented* in Cooperstown, New York. It is a condition of the Award that you be present to receive it, and we sincerely hope that you can do so. The affair will start with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.

Once we receive notice of your acceptance, Miss Martha J. Downey, Secretary of the University, will be in touch with you concerning the arrangements. I would appreciate having your response as soon as possible. At an appropriate time, a public announcement of the Award will be made.

Please accept my personal congratulations on being selected to receive one of the 1984 Distinguished Citizen Awards. The Board of Trustees of State University will be honored if you are able to accept.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Blinken

cc: President O'Leary

*by the Board at a dinner to be held on May 7 at the Hotel Otesaga



State University of New York
State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246
Office of the Chancellor

File; Swyer

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
February 2, 1984

Mr. Lewis A. Swyer
30 Pine Tree Lane
Albany, New York 12208

Dear Mr. Swyer: *Lew*

I was delighted to learn of your reappointment to the Council of the State University at Albany. Your interest and efforts in behalf of the College are deeply appreciated, and I am pleased we will continue to have the benefit of your advice and support in the years ahead.

I extend my congratulations to you and look forward to your ongoing association with the State University of New York.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.
Chancellor

cc: ✓ President O'Leary

File: SWYER
FILE

[Handwritten signatures and scribbles]

December 23, 1983

Mr. Gerald C. Crotty
State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Mr. Crotty:

I am returning herewith the Pre-Appointment Financial Questionnaire in connection with my proposed re-appointment as a member of the Council for the State University of New York at Albany.

I regret the delay in returning the enclosed. If there is any additional information required, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lewis A. Swyer

LAS:plw
Enclosure

cc: Vincent O'Leary
Sorrel E. Chesin

24
11/21/83

File: Swyer
Folder

December 23, 1983

Mr. Gerald C. Crotty
State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Mr. Crotty:

I am returning herewith the Pre-Appointment Financial Questionnaire in connection with my proposed re-appointment as a member of the Council for the State University of New York at Albany.

I regret the delay in returning the enclosed. If there is any additional information required, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Lewis A. Swyer

LAS:plw
Enclosure

cc: Vincent O'Leary
→ Sorrel E. Chesin

State University of New York at Albany

TO: President O'Leary
FROM: Sorrell E. Chesin
DATE: November 14, 1983
SUBJ: University Council disclosure statements.

Per our discussion, I spoke with Betty Hay. She did fill out the disclosure statement and had a BCI background check done. I've received the attached note from Swyer.

Alan Iselin mentioned to me earlier today that he was planning to chat with you about this later this week. Shall I hold off drafting a letter from you to the Chancellor on this requirement?

Thanks.

Sorrell

L.A. SWYER CO., INC.
Builders and Construction Managers

November 8, 1983

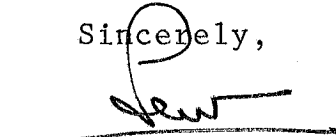
Dr. Sorrell E. Chesin
State University of New York
at Albany
Administration 231
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222

Dear Sorrell:

I am putting aside the Pre-Appointment Financial Questionnaire reference my reappointment to the SUNYA Council. I have tried to fill it out on several occasions, but it would require so much time and research to be sure that I have it adequately covered (particularly Item No.16) that I just don't see how I can devote the time or energy to comply.

I will let it mellow in my file for awhile, and possibly time will take care of it.

Sincerely,



Lewis A. Swyer

LAS:plw

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION _____

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL X

BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION _____

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION _____

OTHER _____

(Please Print/Type)

NAME Lewis A. Swyer

Profession/Position pres. L.A. Swyer Co. Inc.

Business Address 85 Water Street Ave.

Street Albany N.Y. 12206

City Albany State N.Y. Zip 12206

Telephone 489-4226

Date/Place of Birth June 9, 1918 ^{***} Housick Falls, N.Y.

Home Address 30 Pine Tree Lane

Street Albany N.Y. 12208

City Albany Street Albany Zip 12208

Telephone 438-4011 Marital Status Married

Education Johns Hopkins BA 1938 English lit.

School Johns Hopkins Diploma/Degree BA Year 1938 Major English lit.

Honors/Awards (Use reverse, if necessary) 1977 Albany League of Women award for Special Service to the Arts
1971 Philadelphia/Philadelphia Literary Society award
1970 Catholic Business - First Friday Award for Efforts in Promoting Social Justice
1969 New York State Business Man of the Year Award for community service

Memberships & Affiliations (Civic, Corporate, Philanthropic, etc.) (Use reverse, if necessary) Pres. Seneca Falls Performing Arts Center
Vice-Pres. Albany Adm. Council for Girls
Vice-Pres. Concerned Citizens for the Arts of N.Y. State
Board member: Niagara Mohawk National Commercial Bank & Trust Co.
Gov. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Council
Gov. Rockefeller Empire State Corporation for the Performing Arts

(FAMILY INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE)

FAMILY INFORMATION

SPOUSE'S NAME ANN Swyer

Profession/Position housewife

Business Address _____
Street

Telephone _____
City 438-4011 State _____ Zip _____

Date/Place of Birth _____

Education _____
School RPT Diploma/Degree _____ Year _____ Major Bio-chemistry

Honors/Awards _____

Memberships & Affiliations (Civic, Corporate, Philanthropic, etc.) _____

CHILDREN (Name, Age, School/ Occupation, etc.) _____
Edward / Engineer 30
Susan Earle - Museum of Folk Art, N.Y.C. 29
Carol - singer / artist 26

Additional Information _____

May 1979

Biographical Data:

LEWIS A. SWYER

Born in Hoosick Falls, New York June 9, 1918. Grew up in Coxsackie, New York. Graduated from The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

During World War II served at sea with the United States Navy. Held rank of Commander. Served as Commanding Officer of U. S. Destroyer Herzog.

In 1946 started L. A. Swyer Co., Inc. Currently president of L. A. Swyer Co., Inc., engaged in construction and construction management having constructed a number of the outstanding buildings in the Albany area over the past thirty years.

1950 - 1960

Served as a member of commission and special study groups for governmental agencies involved in urban renewal, housing rehabilitation, senior citizen housing, inner-city problems.

1956

Founded Albany League of Arts. Used as model for Community Arts organizations around the country as it was first of its kind in the United States.

1957

Initiated first efforts to integrate minority employment in the construction trades in New York State.

1960

Appointed by Governor Rockefeller as a member of plan formation of New York State Council on the Arts. Served on Council for six years.

Founded Equal Opportunity Program for the Construction Industry with a fully staffed office used as model for other cities throughout the United States.

Initiated efforts to provide opportunities for minority hiring in banks and utility companies.

Founder

- Founder - Hudson River Club
- Founder - Organized Historic Albany Foundation for architectural preservation in the City of Albany.
- Founder - Albany League of Arts.
- Founder - Cerebral Palsy Telethon.
- Founder - Human Relations Commission of the City of Albany
- Founder - Equal Opportunity Committee for Building Construction
- Founder - Teamster Scholarship Committee (College scholarships for sons and daughters of local Teamsters)

Present Board Affiliations

- President - Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs, New York ✓
(Summer home of the New York City Ballet and The Philadelphia Orchestra)
- Vice-President - Albany Academy for Girls
- Vice-Chairman - Concerned Citizens for the Arts, New York State
- Honorary Member of Board of Albany Institute of History & Art
- National Commercial Bank & Trust Company
- Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
- Institute on Man & Science - Rensselaerville, New York
- Empire State Plaza Council
- Nature Conservancy

Former Board Affiliations

- Chairman - St. Peter's Hospital
- Chairman - Equal Opportunities Committee for Building Construction, State of New York
- Chairman - Human Relations Commission, City of Albany
- Chairman - Hudson River Club
- Vice-President - Albany Institute of History & Art
- Vice-President - Capital District Chamber of Commerce
- Vice-President - Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
- Vice-President - Cerebral Palsy Association of the Capital District
- Member - Diocesan Commission on Racial Injustice
- Development Chairman - Institute on Man & Science - Rensselaerville, New York
- Member - SUNYA Foundation
- Member - Siena College Board of Trustees
- Member - Board of Urban League
- Member - Community State Bank
- Member & Founder - Street Academy (Educational facility for problem students (High School))

Awards

- 1977 - Albany League of Arts Annual Award for Special Service to the Arts
- 1971 - Philadoxia Philalugia Literary Societies Honorary Award
- 1970 - First Friday Club (Catholic Diocese) for efforts in promoting social justice and community understanding
- 1969 - New York State Businessman of Year Award for Community Service
- 1967 - Chamber of Commerce Man of Year Award for contribution to community improvement
- 1964 - Community Service Award - United Cerebral Palsy Association

State University of New York at Albany

May 16, 1983

Miss Martha Downey
Secretary of the University
State University of New York
State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

Dear Miss Downey:

Lewis A. Swyer has been a member of our University Council since 1979 and we strongly recommend to you and the Governor's Appointment Office that he be reappointed for another term.

Several months ago the University submitted Mr. Swyer's name in nomination for the Board of Trustees Distinguished Citizen Award. That letter of nomination so clearly demonstrates Mr. Swyer's leadership role and achievements in the community that we are enclosing a copy of it to support his reappointment to the University Council. Any university obviously needs people of such stature and we are fortunate in having such a person as Lew Swyer connected with this University.

Each member of the University Council has one particular area of responsibility: Lew's has been campus development, with emphasis on physical facilities. He has been very active in our efforts to improve the athletic facilities and very concerned with the housing of students on campus and in the community. Because of his great love for the arts, he has also been involved with the arts program at the University.

In Lew Swyer we have a Council member of stature, talent, and effectiveness. We strongly urge his reappointment.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Whalen, III
Chairman, University Council

Vincent O'Leary
President

Enclosure

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
AT ALBANY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ALBANY, N.Y. 12222

February 28, 1983

Miss Martha Downey
Secretary of the University
State University of New York
State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

Dear Miss Downey:

It would certainly be simpler to recommend to the Trustees a person who had devoted all energies and commitments to a single cause. Recommending Lew Swyer is enormously complicated because he has been involved as a leader, catalyst, and activist in so many causes and arenas. In spite of the difficulties, it is a great pleasure for me to nominate Lewis A. Swyer for the Board of Trustees' Distinguished Citizen Award.

I will not repeat the many organizations, boards, and commissions which Lew has formed, led, or served, for most of them appear on the enclosed vita. I will rather reflect on the impact he has had on this region and, ultimately, on the State.

I would be hard-pressed to name one other person, here or elsewhere, who has been so deeply involved in so many aspects of people's lives -- the arts, urban life, human relations, employment, health, education, ecology, and architecture. And these have been his volunteer concerns. As one of the foremost builders and developers in the area, he has also shaped the physical environment in which we live.

The arts, which have been his first love, have thrived enormously under his leadership and influence. From his early years in Albany in the 50s when he brought performers and companies of international caliber to this area (which then had very little artistic activity as compared to the current scene), to the present day when he heads the Board of the prestigious Saratoga Performing Arts Center, summer home for the New York City Ballet and Philadelphia Orchestra, Lew Swyer has successfully devoted himself to promoting the arts, creating audiences, and assisting performers. The Albany League of Arts, which he founded, became a model for state and national art organizations. As Vice President

Miss Martha Downey
February 28, 1983
Page 2

of the Albany Institute of History and Art, he was responsible for the major change in philosophy as to membership and community involvement, thus opening the Institute's doors to wider, more diverse audiences. Not only has he given generously of his time and talents, he has been a very generous financial supporter of the arts. What makes him unique among benefactors is that he frequently will subsidize the less visible items that generally do not appeal to donors but are critical to success. The arts and artists have never had a better friend or supporter, and the public has benefited from this alliance.

His efforts to assist minorities in locating jobs, particularly in the construction trades, date back to 1957, long before the equal opportunity concept became enshrined in law and practice. He founded the Equal Opportunity Program for the construction industry with a fully staffed office, which also became the model for cities throughout the United States. During the 60s he initiated efforts to provide opportunities for minority hiring in banks and major corporations through training programs and promotional activities. He was one of the founders of the local Job Fair, held annually to promote minority hiring. He has worked with the Roman Catholic Diocese's Commission on Racial Injustice, and today he is actively involved with the Diocese's program to build shelters for the homeless.

Nor has he neglected education. Lew Swyer was one of the founders of The Street Academy (a school for special students); he has served, or is currently serving on the Boards of the Albany Academy for Girls, Siena College, the State University Foundation at Albany, and the State University Council at Albany.

In the area of health, he was honored with the Community Service Award by the United Cerebral Palsy Telethon. As Chairman of the St. Peter's Hospital Board, he guided the transition from a religious board to a lay one. During his tenure, the hospital built an eighteen million dollar addition and expanded its services in innovative, dramatic directions -- establishing a South End Clinic, an Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center, and a Meals on Wheels program.

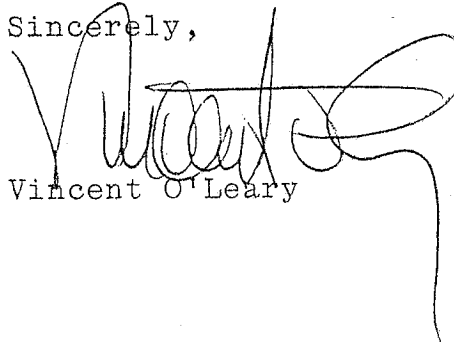
He has served on numerous commissions and study groups dealing with ecology, urban renewal, housing rehabilitation, senior citizen housing, inner-city problems, and architectural rehabilitation. He was one of the organizers of Historic Albany Foundation, founder of Albany's Human Relations Commission, and one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Erastus Corning 2nd Ecological River Front Park.

Miss Martha Downey
February 28, 1983
Page 3

Economic development of the area has been another major concern of Lew Swyer's. For many years he has worked with the local Chamber of Commerce, represents Albany on the Regional Overall Economic Development Committee, and served on the University's METRO 2000+ Planning Committee.

For over thirty years Lew Swyer has given unstintingly of his time, energy, talents, and money for the improvement of life for the citizens of this area and this State. There are many volunteers who are either good workers or good leaders -- Lew is one of those rare people who combine both talents. In addition to his leadership abilities, he possesses enormous creativity, concern, commitment, and humanism. Without question, he stands as one of our great civic leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vincent O'Leary". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Vincent O'Leary

Enclosure

U.C.

L. A. Swyer Co., Inc.
Builders and Construction Managers

Lewis A. Swyer,
President

April 16, 1980

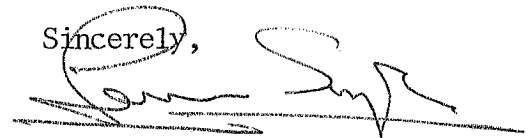
State University of New York
at Albany
Administration 231
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222

Attention: Mr. Sorrell E. Chesin

Dear Mr. Chesin:

Regret I will be unable to attend the Council Meeting on April 24th due to another commitment.

Sincerely,



Lewis A. Swyer

LAS:plw

cc: Thomas M. Whalen III

L. A. Swyer Co., Inc.
Builders and Construction Managers

November 1, 1979

Mr. Sorrell E. Chesin
Secretary
State University of New York
at Albany
University Council
Albany, New York 12210

Dear Mr. Chesin:

I am returning herewith Biographical Data form sent me along with a biography that is slightly more legible for your file.

I am looking forward to the first meeting of the Council on November 16th.

LAS:plw

Lewis A. Swyer

Enclosure

L. A. Swyer Co., Inc.

Builders and Construction Managers

November 1, 1979

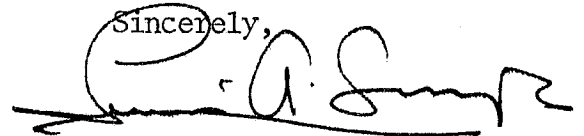
Mr. Sorrell E. Chesin
Secretary
State University of New York
at Albany
University Council
Albany, New York 12210

Dear Mr. Chesin:

I am returning herewith Biographical Data form sent me along with a biography that is slightly more legible for your file.

I am looking forward to the first meeting of the Council on November 16th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. A. Swyer", written over a horizontal line.

Lewis A. Swyer

LAS:plw

Enclosure

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

University Council Members
November 14, 1979

Campus Visit - Dr. Laman H. Bruner
- Mrs. Martha W. Miller
- Mr. Lewis A. Swyer

11:00 a.m.	Meet with President O'Leary and Vice President Martin	President's Office Administration Building Room 246
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Tour	Vice President Martin
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Patroon Room) Room 222	President O'Leary Vice President Hall Vice President Hartigan Vice President Martin Vice President Welch

Date Nov. 12, 79

Memo from
Lewis A. Swyer

Revised Biography
included.

Lewis Swyer

File: UNIV, Council



L.A. Swyer Co., Inc.

Builders and Construction Managers
85 Watervliet Avenue/Albany, New York/12206

OCT 24 1979

L. A. SWYER CO. INC.

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Council Members

FROM: Sorrell E. Chesin

SEC

DATE: October 23, 1979

The next meeting of the University Council will be held on Friday, November 16, 1979 at 3:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, Room 253. Enclosed are the minutes of the October 5 meeting for your review.

Additionally, may I ask that you complete the enclosed Biographical Data form and return it at your early convenience.

In order to find a convenient meeting day, may I ask that you make note of a particular day of the week that would be best for you. Please return this portion to my office or bring it with you at the November meeting. Would you contact my office (457-7517) if you are unable to attend the meeting. Thanks.

Enclosures

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

University Council

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Name: Lewis A. Swyer

Biographical Data

LEWIS A. SWYER

Born in Hoosick Falls, New York June 9, 1918. Grew up in Coxsackie, New York. Graduated from The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

During World War II served at sea with the United States Navy. Held rank of Commander. Served as Commanding Officer of U. S. Destroyer Herzog.

In 1946 started L. A. Swyer Co., Inc. Currently president of L. A. Swyer Co., Inc., engaged in construction and construction management having constructed a number of outstanding buildings in the Albany area over the past thirty years.

1979

Appointed by Governor Carey to State University of New York at Albany Council.

Appointed to serve on the temporary State Commission on the Restoration of the Capitol.

Appointed to the Nelson E. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center Corporation.

Appointed to Regional Overall Economic Development Committee representing Albany.

1978

Appointed to Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Council to develop and supervise activities at the Plaza complex.

Consultant to the Committee for the Adaptive Re-use of Union Station.

1970 - 1978

Served as a member of a number of commissions and special study groups for governmental agencies involved in urban renewal, housing rehabilitation, senior citizen housing, inner-city problems.

1960 - 1970

Appointed by Governor Rockefeller as a member to plan formation of New York State Council on the Arts. Served on Council for six years. (1960)

Founded Equal Opportunity Program for the Construction Industry with a fully staffed office used as a model for other cities throughout the United States.

1960 - 1970 (Continued)

Initiated efforts to provide opportunities for minority hiring in banks and major corporations through training programs and promotional activities.

Participated in the founding of Annual Job Fair to promote minority hiring.

Undertook responsibility for West Albany Industrial Park Development for the Albany Chamber of Commerce.

1950 - 1960

Initiated organization of Albany League of Arts. Used as state and national model for Community Arts organizations. (1956)

Promoted appearance of outstanding performing artists and performing arts companies in Albany - Arthur Rubinstein, City Center Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Joseph Papp's Shakespeare in the Park, and others.

Initiated first efforts to integrate minority employment in the construction trades in New York State. (1957)

Founder

Founder - Hudson River Club

Participated in the organization of Historic Albany Foundation for architectural preservation in the City of Albany.

Founder - Albany League of Arts

Founder - Cerebral Palsy Telethon

Founder - Human Relations Commission of the City of Albany

Founder - Equal Opportunity Committee for Building Construction

Founder - Teamster Scholarship Committee (College Scholarship Committee (College scholarships for sons and daughters of local teamsters)

Present Board Affiliations

President - Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Saratoga Springs, New York
(Summer home of the New York City Ballet and The Philadelphia Orchestra)

Vice-President - Albany Academy for Girls

Vice-Chairman - Concerned Citizens for the Arts, New York State

Honorary Member of Board of Albany Institute of History & Art

National Commercial Bank & Trust Company

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Institute on Man & Science, Rensselaerville, New York

Empire State Plaza Council

Nature Conservancy

Former Board Affiliations

- Chairman - St. Peter's Hospital.
- Chairman - Equal Opportunities Committee for Building Construction, State of New York
- Chairman - Human Relations Commission, City of Albany
- Chairman - Hudson River Club
- Vice-President - Albany Institute of History & Art
- Vice-President - Capital District Chamber of Commerce
- Vice-President - Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
- Vice-President - Cerebral Palsy Association of the Capital District
- Member - Diocesan Commission on Racial Injustice
- Member - SUNYA Foundation
- Member - Siena College Board of Trustees
- Member - Board of Urban League
- Member - Community State Bank Board
- Member - Participated in foundation of The Street Academy (educational facility for special students)

Awards

- 1977 - Albany League of Arts Annual Award for Special Service to the Arts
- 1971 - Philadoxia Philalogia Literary Societies Honorary Award
- 1970 - First Friday Club (Catholic Diocese) for efforts in promoting social justice and community understanding)
- 1969 - New York State Businessman of Year Award for Community Service
- 1967 - Chamber of Commerce Man of Year Award for contribution to community improvement
- 1964 - Community Service Award - United Cerebral Palsy Association

October 17, 1979

Mr. Lewis A. Swyer
Stuyvesant Plaza, Inc.
Executive Park
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Mr. Swyer:

On behalf of the University Council and my colleagues at the State University, may I extend a warm welcome on your new appointment.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of Section 356 of the Education Law which outlines the duties of the Council. Under separate cover, I am mailing some general information which describes the campus and some of its programs. As time goes on, I will be sending other relevant material.

The Council meets monthly during the academic year, usually during the third week of each month. The next meeting will be Friday, November 16 at 3:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, Room 253 (Conference Room). If you have any questions or if I may be of immediate assistance, I hope you will feel free to call: 457-7517.

We are pleased that you will be joining us in this new capacity. With all good wishes.

Sincerely,

Sorrell E. Chesin
Secretary

SEC:vb

Enclosure

BUSINESS ADDRESS

Lewis A. Swyer

85 Watervliet Avenue

Albany, New York 12206

489-4726

HOME ADDRESS

30 Pine Tree Lane

Albany, New York 12208

438-4011

Lew Swyer replaces Goldie L. Watkins

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
STATE CAPITOL
ALBANY 12224

COPY

OCT 11 1979

Dear Comptroller Regan:

I have the honor to advise you that today, Governor Carey made the following appointments:

A Member of the Council for the State University of New York at Albany:

Lewis A. Swyer of Albany, to succeed Goldie Battle Watkins, resigned, for a term to expire July 1, 1983

A Member of the Board of Trustees of Herkimer County Community College:

Mrs. Virginia L. Reina of Frankfort, to succeed William E. Cotter, term expired, for a term to expire June 30, 1983

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert J. Morgano

Honorable Edward V. Regan
Comptroller
State Department of Audit and Control
Alfred E. Smith State Office Building
Albany, New York 12225

cc: Honorable Basil A. Paterson, Secretary of State
Miss Martha J. Downey, Secretary, State University of New York
✓ Mr. Vincent O'Leary, President, State University of New York at Albany
Thomas M. Whalen, III, Esq., Chairman of the Council for the State University of New York at Albany
Mr. Robert McLaughlin, President, Herkimer County Community College
Mr. James S. Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Herkimer County Community College