

Executive Inn Rivermont Owensboro, KY

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY



Robert E. Green (1911-1991) builder and owner of the Executive Inn Rivermont

Messenger & Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 5 December 1991 p.2C:

Robert E. Green, 80, of Vincennes, Ind., died Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1991, from injuries received in an automobile accident south of Vincennes. He was born in Freelandville, Ind.; was a developer and owner of a construction company, coal company and hotels; and was a 33rd-degree Mason and a member of Hadi Shrine and Shrine Jesters in Evansville, Vincennes Elks Lodge No. 291, Harmony Society men's club in Vincennes and First United Methodist Church in Vincennes. He owned Green Construction Co., Green Coal Co. and the Executive Inn Rivermont in Owensboro; Executive Inn hotels in Vincennes and Evansville; and Green Broadcasting, which operates radio stations WAOV in Vincennes and WRTB in Washington, Ind. He built and operated the Executive Inn Riverfront in Paducah before selling it in 1987. He was a member of the Board of Governors of Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes from 1983-87, a member of the board of trustees of Vincennes University from 1951-76 and an associate member and active supporter of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Among the honors he received were honorary degrees from Vincennes University, Kentucky Wesleyan College and Indiana State University; a distinguished alumni award from ISU; a story in Life magazine in 1953 which rated him one of the top six young self-made businessmen in the country; and a Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement in 1969. He graduated from Freelandville High School, where he played varsity basketball. He graduated from Indiana State Teachers College in Terre Haute and formerly taught and coached basketball at schools in Oaktown, Graysville and Cory in Indiana.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Agnes Durham Green; two sons, Robert D. Green of Vincennes and Thomas Green of Owensboro; and five grandchildren.

Services are at 1 p.m. CST Friday in Bob Green Auditorium at Vincennes University. Burial in Memorial Park Cemetery, Vincennes. Visitation from 1-8 p.m. CST today and from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. CST Friday at Gardner Funeral Home in Vincennes, and from noon to 1 p.m. CST Friday at Green Auditorium at Vincennes University. The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of donations to Vincennes YMCA; Vincennes University Foundation, Robert E. Green Scholarships; or the Wendell Foster Center in Owensboro.

Abstracts of other articles about Robert E. Green appearing in the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer:

- 15 October 1977 p.1B: "Dream come true"
- 16 October 1977 p.4A: editorial on opening of the Executive Inn
- 16 October 1977 p.1E: "When you stand still, you're going down", section E, 24 pages, special edition on the opening of the Executive Inn Rivermont
- 18 June 1978 p.1A: "Academy of Achievement: Celebrities are coming"
- 4 December 1991 p.1A: "Green, builder of success, dies", after college, he began teaching and coaching basketball; during the summers, he & his brother worked hauling dirt, they bought a truck & kept finding hauling jobs, that enterprise eventually turned into Green Construction Co. and he left teaching for the business world; "I started business in 1940 with \$1,500", he recalled, "\$750 of it borrowed, and I've made a success of it"; World War II brought work building air bases, depots and barracks, Green Construction built many of the roads near Owensboro and has mined coal in Daviess

County for four decades; in the late 1960s he bought the Ramada Inn hotel in Evansville, IN & renamed it the Executive Inn, he added hotels in his hometown of Vincennes, IN, Owensboro and Paducah

- 4 December 1991 p.8A: "stunned friends remember Green's charity")
- 5 December 1991 p.7A: "Green's life an American success story"
- 5 December 1991 p.1C: "funeral for Green is Friday"
- 7 December 1991 p.1A: "friends recall Green's full life he 'left this world, as always, in a hurry to get things done'"
- 6 June 2008 p.2A: "Important dates in Executive Inn Rivermont history", May 1975 - Indiana developer Bob Green, who owned Executive Inns in Evansville and Vincennes, Ind., along with Daviess County's Green Coal Co., submits the high bid of \$250,000 to Daviess Fiscal Court for the 3.29 acres along the riverfront at the end of Locust Street where the county garage and fire station had been located, he says he plans a \$5 million high-rise convention center, motel and marina with 250 rooms; Oct. 14, 1977 - the Executive Inn opens with a gala featuring country singer Charlie Rich and comic Woody Woodbury in the International Rooms, the Showroom Lounge isn't finished, by now, the hotel has grown to 366 rooms on 15 acres; Dec. 30, 1979 - the Executive Inn reports 22,005 people attended 132 conventions since March 1, when it began keeping records; the city's five largest hotels report a 68.3 percent occupancy rate for the year; Dec. 3, 1991 - Green, 80, is driving to his home in Vincennes, Ind., from Evansville about 2:25 p.m. when his 1991 Cadillac leaves U.S. 41 and overturns in a field, he is pronounced dead at the scene; June 20, 1996 - a group of 16 Kentucky and Indiana banks starts foreclosure proceedings against the 641-room hotel that is operating as a Ramada Resort & Conference Center. The lenders ask that the property be sold to repay debts of more than \$9.5 million; July 22, 1997 - Nearly 10 months after it first announced plans to buy the Executive Inn Rivermont, Servco of Kentucky finally wins a clear title to the property, Servco turns out to be a subsidiary of Florida-based Greater Ministries International; August 1999 - Greater Ministries is thrown into bankruptcy when federal agents seize its assets for securities violations. Summit Hotel Management is appointed to run the hotel until it is sold at auction; Oct. 27, 1999 - Illinois entrepreneur John Bays buys the hotel for \$5.5 million at a bankruptcy auction in U.S. District Court in Tampa, Fla., he will spend an estimated \$14 million on renovations over the next five years; June 2, 2005 - Bays announces to a record crowd of 541 people at the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce's Rooster Booster Breakfast in the Big E's International rooms that he is selling the hotel, Minnesota/Owensboro Executive Inn LLC pays \$10.75 million for the hotel with plans to add an indoor water park on the property; Sept. 2, 2006 - a fire, set by a teenager, damages 240 rooms in the hotel; April 2007 - Marshall Investments Corp. asks Daviess Circuit Court to foreclose on the hotel, saying the owners owe \$11 million and aren't making payments; April 14, 2008 - Daviess Circuit Judge Tom Castlen appoints Steven H. Baer, managing member of Chicago-based Rally Capital Services LLC, to oversee the operations of the financially troubled hotel and protect the assets until the property can be sold at a foreclosure auction at the Daviess County Courthouse; April 21, 2008 - Marshall Investments Corp. is the lone bidder at \$5.6 million when the Big E goes on the auction block. A spokesman said the company intends to keep the hotel open but declined further comment; May 30, 2008 - Baer asks the court for permission to notify employees that hotel may close within 10 days, saying

there's not enough money to make the payroll; June 3, 2008 - Castlen gives Marshall Investments until Monday to complete its purchase of the hotel by paying \$182,000, the bulk of which will go to back taxes owed to the city and county, Castlen delays action on Baer's request regarding employee notification until Thursday; June 5, 2008 - Castlen says he has been assured that the sale will be completed by 3 p.m. Monday, he denies the motion to close the hotel in 10 days but allows it to close within 60 days

- 10 June 2008 p.1A ("City's largest hotel closes Agencies scramble to help visitors, employee")
- 26 February 2009 p.1C: "Big E deserves one more chance"
- 8 November 2009 p.1A: "Executive Inn Implosion: 'We Felt Like We Were Part of Something Big'" & "Stars aligned to put hotel, Owensboro, 'on the map'", Executive Inn Rivermont opened its doors on Oct. 14, 1977, it wasn't long before the expansive 366-room facility with its star-attracting Showroom Lounge became Las Vegas on the Ohio River; the hotel closed on June 9, 2008, after a stunning 31-year run and will become rubble after a 9 a.m. implosion today a long list of stars had visited & performed there - Trace Adkins, Jason Aldean, Bill Anderson, John Anderson, Eddy Arnold, Chet Atkins, Frankie Avalon, Count Basie, Beach Boys, Dierks Bentley, Clint Black, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Pat Boone, Foster Brooks, Garth Brooks, James Brown, Jim Ed Brown, Buckingham, Johnny Cash and June Carter, Ray Charles, Charo, Cheap Trick, Chubby Checker, Kenny Chesney, Chiffons, Jerry Clower, Joe Cocker, David Allan Coe, Natalie Cole, John Conlee, Bill Cosby, Billy Ray Cyrus, Charlie Daniels Band, Mac Davis, Sammy Davis Jr., Diamond Rio, Bo Diddley, Phyllis Diller, Dixie Chicks, Fats Domino, Fabian, Freddy Fender, Fifth Dimension, Foreigner, Four Tops, David Frizzell and Shelly West, Annette Funicello, Larry Gatlin, Montgomery Gentry, Vince Gill, Micky Gilley, Robert Goulet, Grand Funk Railroad, Grass Roots, Lee Greenwood, Guess Who, Merle Haggard, Tom T. Hall, Emmylou Harris, Joey Heatherton, Florence Henderson, Al Hirt, Dr. Hook, Bob Hope, Englebert Humperdink, Ink Spots, Waylon Jennings, Jerry Lee Lewis, George Jones, Wynonna Judd, Kansas, Toby Keith, Sammy Kershaw, B.B. King, Amazing Kreskin, Kris Kristofferson, Miranda Lambert, Brenda Lee, Lettermen, Jerry Lee Lewis, Liberace, Little Richard, Little River Band, Loretta Lynn, Barbara Mandrell, Reba McEntire, Ronnie Milsap, Liza Minnelli, Bill Monroe, Rita Moreno, Gary Morris, Jim Nabors, Vince Neil, Willie Nelson, Aaron Neville, Wayne Newton, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Oak Ridge Boys, Donny and Marie Osmond, Osmond Brothers, Patti Page, Brad Paisley, Dolly Parton, Carl Perkins, Ray Price, Charlie Pride, Boots Randolph, Jerry Reed, REO Speedwagon, Paul Revere & the Raiders, Charlie Rich, Jeannie C. Riley, Kenny Rogers, Soupy Sales, Blake Shelton, Ricky Skaggs, Red Skelton, Smothers Brothers, Starship, John Kay and Steppenwolf, Ray Stevens, Temptations, B.J. Thomas, Three Dog Night, Tower of Power, Randy Travis, Marshall Tucker Band, Conway Twitty, Keith Urban, Van Dells, Jerry Van Dyke, Village People, Bobby Vinton, Vogues, Don Williams, Edgar Winter, Woody Woodberry, Tammy Wynette, Trisha Yearwood, Henny Youngman, [ed. note by Jerry Long - the following are some others who visited the Big E and were not listed in this article - Ed Asner, Erma Bombeck, Debbie Boone, Gen. Omar Bradley, George H. W. Bush, Glen Campbell, Vikki Carr, Steve Cauthen, Bill Clinton, John Davidson, Michael DeBakey, Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Armand Hammer, Olivia de Havilland, Helen Hays, Gordie Howe, Burl Ives, Jesse Jackson, Tom Jones, Tom Landry, Cloris Leachman, Colleen McCullough, Dan Quayle, Harland

Sanders, Tommy Sands, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., John Sirca, Admiral James Stockdale, Marty Stuart, Edward Teller, Lowell Thomas, Pam Tillis, Travis Tritt, Tanya Tucker, Dionne Warwick, and others]

- 9 November 2009 p.1A: "The Big Bang: Implosion brings down Executive Inn Rivermont"
- 1 February 2018 p.1B: "Celebrities filled city during '78"
- 7 June 2018 p.1B: "Big E died inglorious death 10 years ago"

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Note by Jerry Long: The Executive Inn Rivermont opened on 14 October 1977 and closed on 9 June 2008. The building was razed on 8 November 2009 by a dramatic implosion. Soon after the opening of the Executive Inn Rivermont hotel in Owensboro I went to work there. During 1978-1986 I was employed in the room service department there. It was quite an experience. While there I served many of the stars, who performed there. The most personable and impressive being Johnny Cash, the man in Black! and his wife, June Carter Cash. He shook my hand and engaged me in conversation; everything he was dressed in was black. Donny Osmond and Burl Ives were two other celebrities who were very affable. In addition to the celebrities who I served a couple of my strongest memories of the Big E were Hydrofair weekend and Dolly Parton's abbreviated visit. During Owensboro's Hydrofair the main floor was solid with people elbow to elbow; there were so many people in the building room service had to be shut down. Shortly after Dolly Parton's arrival she received a death threat and I saw her on her departure from the building.

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Executive Inn Rivermont entrance hallway



View overlooking dining room and lobby in the Executive Inn Rivermont



Messenger & Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 18 June 1978 p.1A:

Academy of Achievement Celebrities are coming

By KEITH LAWRENCE
Messenger-Inquirer

If some of the people you pass on the streets of Owensboro this week look like celebrities, it's probably because they are.

Forty-three famous personalities from various fields along with 350 "outstanding" young people including Leslie Griffiths (Miss Teenage America) and Kim Crosby (America's Junior Miss) will begin arriving Thursday for the American Academy of Achievement's 17th annual "Salute to Excellence" weekend retreat at the Executive Inn Rivermont.

Traffic into the Owensboro-Daviess County Airport is expected to increase dramatically with 50 to 100 private jets expected.

Security around the Executive Inn — and wherever the celebrities go — will also increase dramatically.

One reason for precautions will be the presence of both FBI Director William Webster and CIA Director Stansfield Turner, who will each receive the Academy's Golden Plate Award at a banquet Saturday night.

The Owensboro Police Department and Daviess County Sheriff's Department plan to increase their normal security and FBI and Secret Service personnel will be guarding the federal officials.

The organization, founded in 1961 by Brian Reynolds of Vienna, Va., has never before held its annual weekend retreat in a city as small as Owensboro.

It was developer Bob Green, a 1968 honoree, who brought the gathering here by putting up \$40,000 to host the affair. His

Executive Inn in Evansville hosted a similar gathering in 1975.

Although a few of those previously scheduled to attend this year's gathering had to cancel in recent days, the list of those coming is no less impressive.

Past honorees who will be in town to present this year's Golden Plate awards include Helen Hayes, "First Lady of the American Theatre;" Lowell Thomas, broadcaster and explorer; Stephen D. Bechtel, director of an international construction empire; Edward Asner, winner of four Emmy awards; Col. Harland Sanders, founder of the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain.

Gen. Jimmy Doolittle; Louis Nizer, attorney and author; Cloris Leachman, Oscar and Emmy winner; Edward Teller, nuclear physicist; Michael DeBakey, heart surgeon; John D. deButts, chairman of AT&T; Admiral James Stockdale; and Judge John Sirica.

Sirica will also be honored with the Academy's seventh annual Founder's Medal during the banquet.

Those slated to be honored at this year's "Salute to Excellence" event include:

Olivia de Havilland, two-time Oscar winner as best actress; hockey star Gordie Howe; former Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford; jockey Steve Cauten; singer Debby Boone; activist minister the Rev. Jesse Jackson; Hanns Kornell, winemaker.

Dorothy Kelly, stewardess heroine of an air disaster in the Canary Islands; humor columnist Erma Bombeck; Tom Landry, coach of the Dallas Cowboys; author Colleen McCullough; historian Arthur M.

Schlesinger Jr.; editorial cartoonist Tony Auth; U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford.

Gen. Omar Bradley, America's only living five-star general; Col. Ulrich Wegner, West German commando leader involved in the rescue of 86 skyjacked passengers in Somalia; Robert O. Anderson, chairman of the board of Atlantic Richfield Co.; Fred L. Hartley, chairman of Union Oil Co. of California.

Edgar F. Kaiser Jr., president of Kaiser Resources; Dr. Armand Hammer, chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corp.; J. Robert Fluor, head of a multi-billion-dollar international construction firm; Frank M. Johnson Jr., chief judge of the U.S. District Court in Montgomery, Ala.; Sean McBride, 1974 Nobel Peace Prize winner; Howard Jarvis, author and crusader for California's Proposition 13 tax rollback.

Dr. Andrew V. Schally, a 1977 Nobel Prize winner for research on the hypothalamus — the body's master gland; Dr. Phillip W. Anderson, a 1977 Nobel Prize winner in physics; Carl Linder, chairman of American Financial Corp.; and George Mitchell, a Texas oilman known as "Houston's master builder."

Participants in the weekend's activities will begin arriving in Owensboro Thursday. Activities that day are mostly geared to the student honorees.

A students' reception begins at 7 p.m. followed by a dinner at 7:30 for all guests who have arrived by that time.

Lowell Thomas, co-chairman of the awards council, will address the gathering on that night.

Friday morning a symposium featuring

short addresses by the honorees will be conducted for the students in the Showroom Lounge. The luncheon program will include a celebrity speaker.

Friday night the honorees will travel by bus to Tom Green's home on U.S. 60 West where Col. Harland Sanders will host an informal fried chicken dinner.

The evening is billed as a "Salute to Debby Boone." Miss Boone will receive her Golden Plate award that night because a previous engagement will not allow her to attend the Saturday night banquet.

Saturday morning will begin with another symposium followed by a "Golden Eagle Awards" lunch saluting champion American students.

An afternoon symposium will feature short talks by various presenters of this year's awards.

At 7 p.m. the Banquet of the Golden Plate will begin. It will be followed by a reception and dance. All celebrities except Miss Boone are scheduled to attend this event.

The dinner is open to the general public and a few \$100-a-plate tickets remain to be sold.

Guests will begin leaving Sunday morning.

The Academy was initiated with three aims, according to Reynolds — to inspire youth, to broaden the recognition of men and women of exceptional accomplishment, to salute all men who give their best efforts to their daily tasks and to foster an international spirit of understanding.

Beverage List

COCKTAILS BY THE DRINK

Bar Brands	1.75
Call Brands	2.00
Cream Drinks & Cordials	2.50
Budweiser	1.00
Michelob	1.25
Busch	1.00
Millers Lite	1.00

WINES

Rose', Burgundy, Sauterne, Sherry	4.00	7.50
Domestic Champagne	7.50	15.00
Lancer's Rose'	6.25	10.00
Mateus.	5.00	8.50
Chablis, Medoc, Beaujolois	4.75	9.25
Piper-Heidsieck (Vintage)	10.00	20.00

PACKAGE GOODS MAY BE PURCHASED
FROM OUR GIFT SHOPPE ON LOBBY
LEVEL OR THRU ROOM SERVICE

MIXERS	1.25
ICE & GLASS SET-UP.....	1.50

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Executive Inn Rivermont

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OWENSBORO, KY 42301

Room Service Available
7 A.M. To 11 P.M.
Daily

HOT HORS D'OEUVRES

2 Egg Rolls,	2 Meat Balls,
2 Chicken Livers in Bacon,	2 Bar-B-Que Ribs
Per Person	.....3.50

BREAKFAST

Chilled Juice .....	.60 & 1.00
Half of Grapefruit .....	.75
Half of Melon (in season)	1.00
Cereal Assorted .....	.75
Two Eggs Any Style - Toast	1.50
(with Bacon, Sausage, or Ham)	2.50

"SERVED FROM 7 A.M. TO 12 NOON ONLY"

Hot Cakes, Waffles, French Toast	1.50
(with Sausage, Ham, or Bacon)	2.50

ALA CARTE

Bacon, Sausage, Ham.	1.35
Rib Eye Breakfast Steak	2.95
Country Ham, Center Cut.	3.25
Homemade Danish Roll. ....	.60
Doughnut .....	.35
Homemade Bread (Raisin or Plain - Toasted) .....	.60
Regular Toast .....	.45
English Muffin. ....	.60

HOT *BEVERAGE* COLD

Coffee	Tea
Siesta	Milk
Hot Chocolate	Buttermilk
Soft Drinks	
	.50

DESSERTS

Pies & Cakes .....	.75
Ice Cream & Sherbet .....	.75
Cheese Cake .....	.95
Strawberry Shortcake	1.75

ROOM SERVICE CHARGE .50 PER PERSON
ADD .25 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON
GRATUITY NOT INCLUDED
PLEASE CALL ROOM SERVICE TO HAVE
TRAY REMOVED THANK YOU.

COLD HORS D'OEUVRES

3 Shrimp with Sauce,	Assorted Relish,
Assorted Cheeses,	Deviled Eggs
per person	.....3.50

SOUP & APPETIZERS

Shrimp Cocktail	3.95
Fruit Cup Supreme	1.25
Onion Soup	1.00
Soup Du Jour	1.00

SALADS

Chef's Salad Plate	2.75
Fruit Salad Plate	2.75
Crabmeat Louie Plate	5.50
Tossed Salad	1.25
Sliced Tomatos	1.00
Cottage Cheese .....	.75
(with Fruit)	1.25

Choice of Dressings Roquefort (40 cents Extra)

HOT & COLD SANDWICHES

Bacon, Lettuce, & Tomato	1.75
Deluxe Turkey Club	2.85
Baked Virginia Ham	2.00
(with Cheese)	2.25
Hamburger & French Fries	2.00
Cheeseburger & French Fries	2.25
Rib Eye Steak Sandwich on bun, garnished.	3.50
Hot Roast Beef Open Faced Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, garnished	2.95

ALA -DINNERS- CARTE

Sirloin Steak	8.50
Filet Mignon	8.50
Pan Fried Chicken	4.50
Chopped Steak	4.50
Breaded Fried Shrimp	5.75

Roast Prime Rib of Beef

Served Only After 5 P.M.7.50

VEGETABLES

Baked Potatoes	1.00
French Fries .....	.85
Hash Browns	1.00
Mashed Potatoes .....	.75
Asparagus Spears	1.50
Corn or Green Beans .....	.75
Onion Rings	1.25

Chef Clifton Williams (1941-2014)



**UNBELIEVABLE!!!
CHEF CLIFTON'S
SUNDAY BRUNCH SUPREME**

A black and white photograph of Chef Clifton Williams in a professional kitchen. He is wearing a white chef's coat and a tall white toque. He is smiling and looking towards the camera while standing behind a long counter filled with various dishes and ingredients. The background shows a kitchen environment with other staff members visible in the distance.

**SERVED OUT OVER THE OHIO RIVER
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IN THE
EXECUTIVE INN RIVERMONT
SHOWROOM LOUNGE
OVER 30 DELICIOUS DELIGHTS**

\$5.95 *Adults (includes beverage)*

\$3.00 *Under 8*

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