



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING AND AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS, INC

Mississippi Valley Chapter

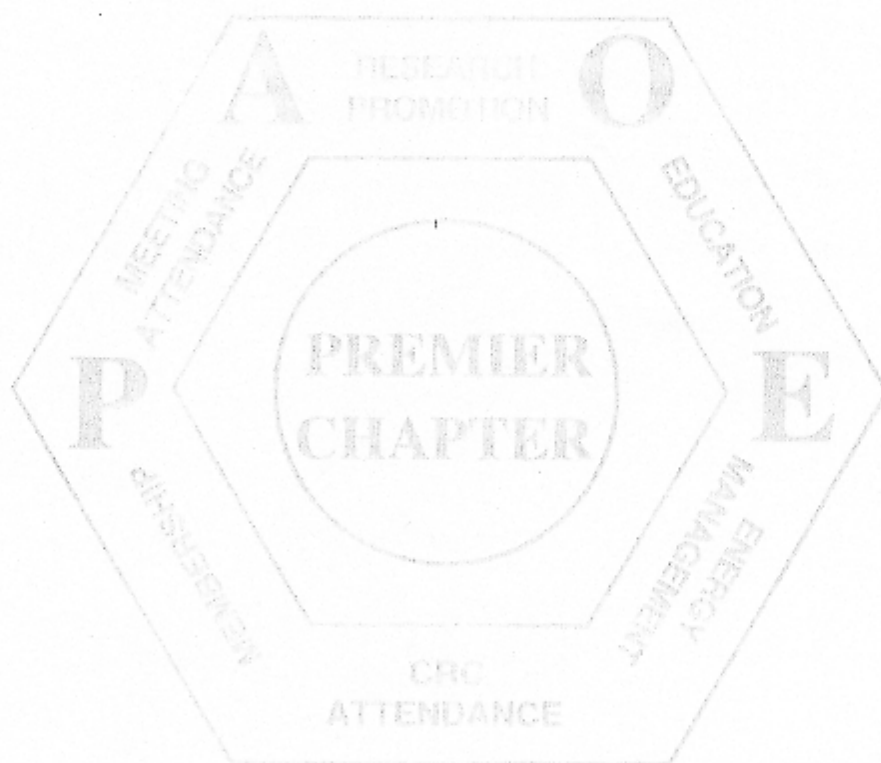
ASHRAE

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History of a System

Region VI CRC

1991



Presented by:

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Velie's Restaurant, Moline, Illinois

To the "real natives" of the area, Velie's is remembered as the "Villa Velie"; to the last generation, "The Plantation".

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Lamb Velie started construction of their "villa" in the fall of 1911. Mr. Lamb, grandson of John Deere, was president of Velie Motor Corporation and Velie Monocoupe Aircraft Corporation at the time of his death in 1928.

A newspaper article covering the new construction wrote "Ideally located, the new home of W.L. Velie will in the near future be one of the show places of the city. Topping the bluff it commands a view of Rock River, the most beautiful of Illinois rivers, for a distance of ten miles. When completed.... the construction of the mansion together with other buildings.. will be at least \$194,000. This is the environment that will surround a massive house one hundred feet long and nearly as wide. It will be a structure three stories high that looms up for miles and is built of material that will stand for years unmarred by the ravages of time. The sleeping quarters of the family and servants compose the upper stories, but the first floor is the most interesting. Extending across the entire front of the residence and looking south toward the river is an immense porch. At the rear of the house are the billiard room and hall entrance, at the front the dining room occupies the southeast corner, the library the southwest, and between them, opening on to the porch is the living room. With such a view it will truly be a living room in fact as well as in name."

Other articles indicate that it had forty-six rooms, not including storage areas and wine cellars; fourteen bedrooms and twelve bathrooms. The grounds were landscaped with trees and shrubs imported from Italy including twenty-one different species of grapes. It is said the mansions design was derived from Italy as well. It was a glorious place of never-again extravagance, and the Velies with their two children were never at a loss to enjoy it all. Lavish parties were a rule, and many a ball lasted until dawn.

At the brink of the Depression, the Velies closed their Villa in favor of a less dazzling residence. For years it stood eerily empty.

Its rebirth as the Plantation Restaurant with a half million dollars invested in redecorating and remodeling occurred in 1941 by its new owner, Mr. Stan Weidner. Mr. Nicholas J. Chirekos became manager in 1949 and owner of the Plantation in 1957. Mr. Chirekos was murdered in his office upstairs in the Plantation one evening after closing. The Plantation was sold to Messrs Al Johnson and Dave Koenig of Moline, Illinois and Mr. Gary Huysman of Iowa City, Iowa in October of 1981. At the time they expected to leave the Plantation's decor intact. By the end of 1982 they could see that the public of the 80s preferred a more relaxed type

of atmosphere and casual dining arrangement. They closed the Plantation in January of 1983 for major remodeling and reopened as Velie's that spring.

Although much was changed, much remained including some of the comfort cooling and refrigeration systems. With the guidance of Mr. Wayne Scalf, Maintenance Superintendent, we viewed those systems which we believe go back at least 1941 when the mansion was converted to the Plantation Restaurant. Unfortunately, we were not able to substantiate actual manufacturing dates of the equipment we inspected from the manufacturers. Because of changes in their serial numbering system and lack of records previous to that time(1960), Copeland can only say for sure that their compressors were built before 1960. With the Frigidaire dual compressors for comfort cooling, we couldn't find the right division of WCI who could even talk about them.

Two air handling units are still being served by a Frigidaire dual compressor system located in the basement of the restaurant. Both compressors, Model FE102 are belt driven by one Delco 20 HP, 1740 RPM, 208/416/3/60, 364 frame motor, Model B875. Only the model number, CH3, was available on the nameplates of the AHUs along with S/Ns 3483 and 3538. Coils are about 30"H x 48"W with 7/8" liquid and 2-1/8" suction lines. One other similar system was recently removed; the compressors were still there. Photographs of this system are included at the end of this article.

There are four of the six Copeland compressors originally installed for freezer and cooler use still in operation. Two were just recently taken out of operation; replaced by new McCray units. Probably the oldest compressor is a belt driven unit which services what is now a walk-in beer cooler maintaining a 32 degrees F temperature. A second unit serves a deep freeze walk-in for foods maintaining a -10 degrees F temperature. These two walk-ins are located in the basement of the restaurant. The other two Copelands along with the new McCray units serve walk-ins(5) and one reach-in cooler located in the main kitchen on the first floor. All six compressors are located in the basement adjacent to the two walk-in coolers mentioned above. Photographs are included at the end of this article.

General Info on Velie's HVAC and Refrigeration Systems, 2/04/91

1. Comfort Cooling: dual Frigidaire compressors driven by one Delco, 20 HP, 1740 RPM, 364 Frame, 53/26.5 Amps, 208/416/3/60, Model B875 motor:

Model FE102, S/N 28K4404 Dayton, Ohio.

Servicing two(2) AHUs, model CH3(mfr unknown), S/N 3483 & 3538.

Coils: 30"H x 48"W, 2-1/8" suction, 7/8" liquid

Another identical Frigidaire compressor system was replaced in the last few years.
2. Refrigeration: Has a bank of compressors, McCray(newer) and Copeland units; one belt driven; others direct drive:

Copeland Model 115WFC, S/N 1272176, belt drive.
Used with Kraemer coil and fan, model C86, S/N 20625(beer walkin cooler).

Copeland Model 3A4200, S/N A584772.
Used with Kraemer Thermobank Unit L10, S/N L12369(deep freeze).

Copeland Model KG75, S/N A664805.
Used with Bally coil and fan, model BA72, S/N 56024(produce walkin-main kitchen).

Copeland Model JL50, S/N A663213.
Used with American reachin Model SA70-3 Puffer Hubbard Refrigerator.

(2) New McCray Units for kitchen walkins(4).

Information provided by Mr. Wayne Scalf, Maintenance Supervisor.

