

# Shell to lease 14 floors in United Gas Bldg.

Shell Oil Co. plans to lease 14 floors in the United Gas Building at 1200 Milam and will use the 330,000 square feet of office space as the new regional headquarters for its Western Exploration and Production Division.

The Houston corporation has signed a letter of intent on a 10-year lease that will bring occupancy up to 92 per cent for the 800,000 square

feet in the 35-story building owned by Century Development Corp.

Over 1,000 exploration and production executives and other personnel will move to the new headquarters from Midland, Denver and Los Angeles and from the present headquarters in Two Shell Plaza.

The moves will begin some

time this summer, continuing until early next year.

Most employees involved in the previously announced plan to centralize the various offices at one site in Houston will be moving here from Midland, Denver and Los Angeles.

Robert L. Ferris, Shell vice president, who heads the regional organization, said the centralization is designed to

increase efficiency and economy in exploration and production operations.

"We selected the United Gas Building as the location of our new region headquarters because it has sufficient high quality office space to accommodate our needs and is in close proximity to both One and Two Shell Plaza," Ferris said.

Century Chairman Kenneth

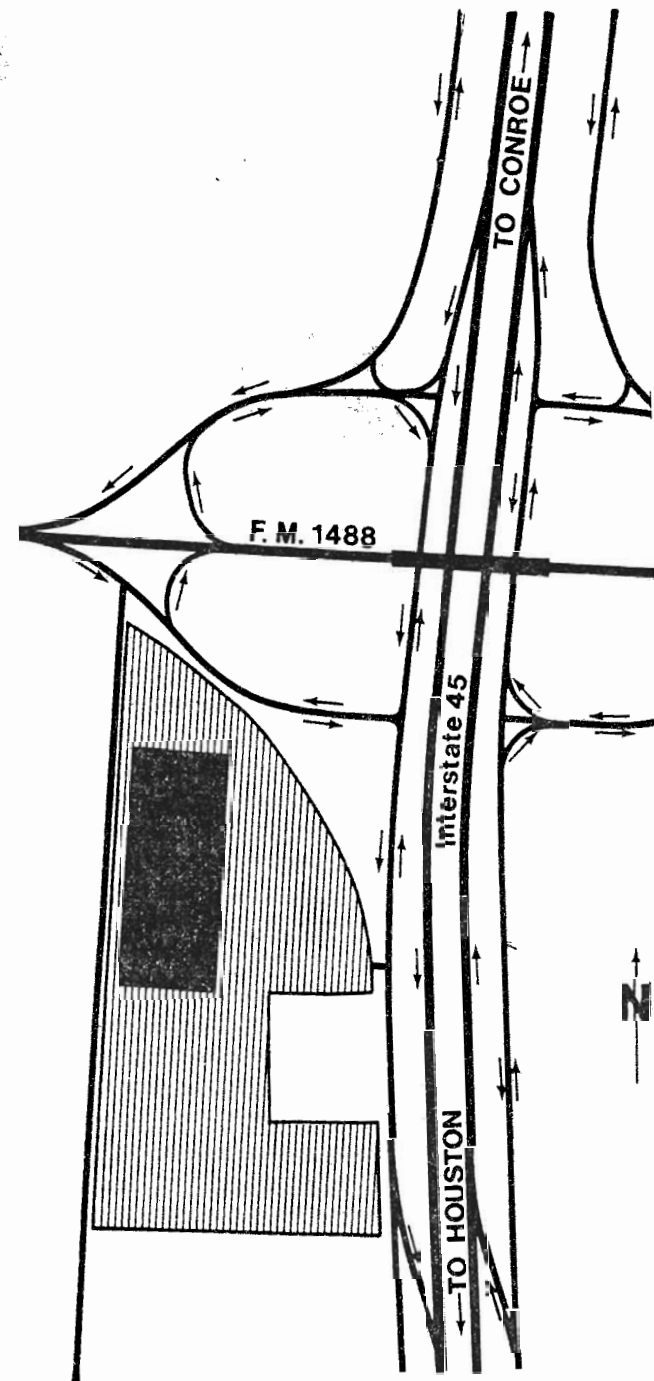
L. Schnitzer said the lease will be the largest in the history of his firm as well as the largest ever negotiated for a speculative building in Houston.

He said the two largest previous leases on speculative space built without a specific tenant in mind were also negotiated by Century.

Those leases provide 275,000 square feet for the Continen-

tal Oil Co. and 200,000 for the M. W. Kellogg Co., both in Greenway Plaza at the Southwest Freeway and Buffalo Speedway.

The United Gas Building is a glass-walled skyscraper completed in February 1972. Century is also the owner and developer of Greenway Plaza, a \$1 billion commercial and residential development to be completed in the 1980s.



The Brass Nail home center is shown as a black rectangle on the gray area representing an eight-acre site bought from Tex Thornton by Robert S. Wilson Investments.

## Home, retail center planned at I-45, Farm Road 1488

## Westheimer, Gessner site chosen Houston Jewelry to build suburban facility

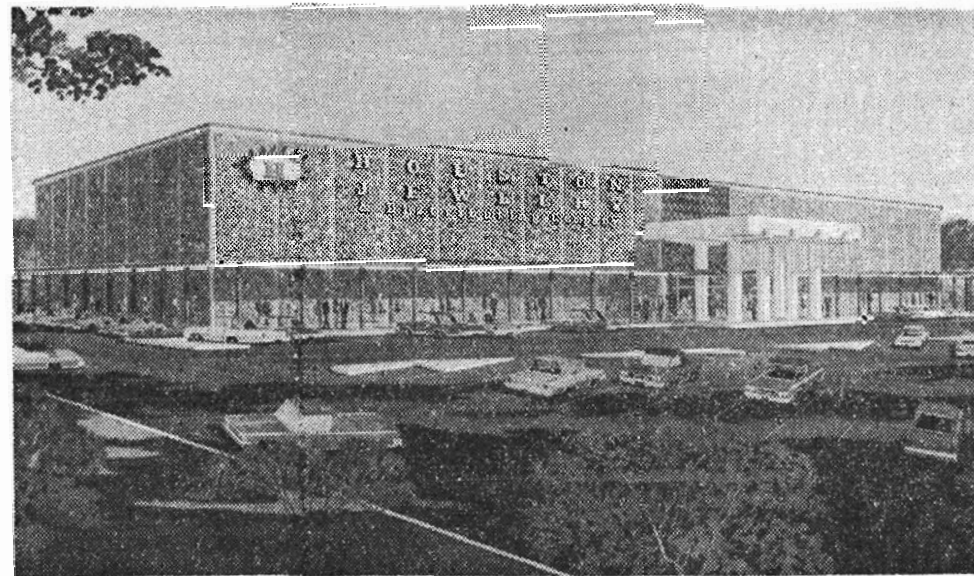
Houston Jewelry & Distributing Co. will open a suburban store at 9633 Westheimer in November besides continuing to own and manage the downtown store in operation for more than 20 years at 802 Milam.

Arnold Hendler & Associates is designing the suburban store planned to contain 81,000 square feet of floor space in a two-story building on a 4.5-acre site at Westheimer and Gessner.

Construction will start in a few days.

The store will contain drug, toy, sporting goods, power tools and baby furniture departments, all to be offered by the company for the first time on a full line basis.

The present departments dealing in jewelry and photo-



New Houston Jewelry store shown in sketch

graphy will also be featured and are planned to contain

twice as much space at the suburban location as they are

now occupying in the downtown store.

## Equipment firm changes hands

TAM International, a manufacturer of inflatable down-hole packers for the oilfield production industry, has been purchased by Larry Sanford, previously executive vice president of A-Z International, it has been announced.

Sanford, who acquired control of the firm for some \$100,000 in exchange for stock, will be president of the firm.

TAM has completed a move to larger quarters at 4047 Hollister. Sanford said the firm's inflatable packers are used in well testing, remedial work and other applications.

A television theatre will display merchandise in a home-like atmosphere.

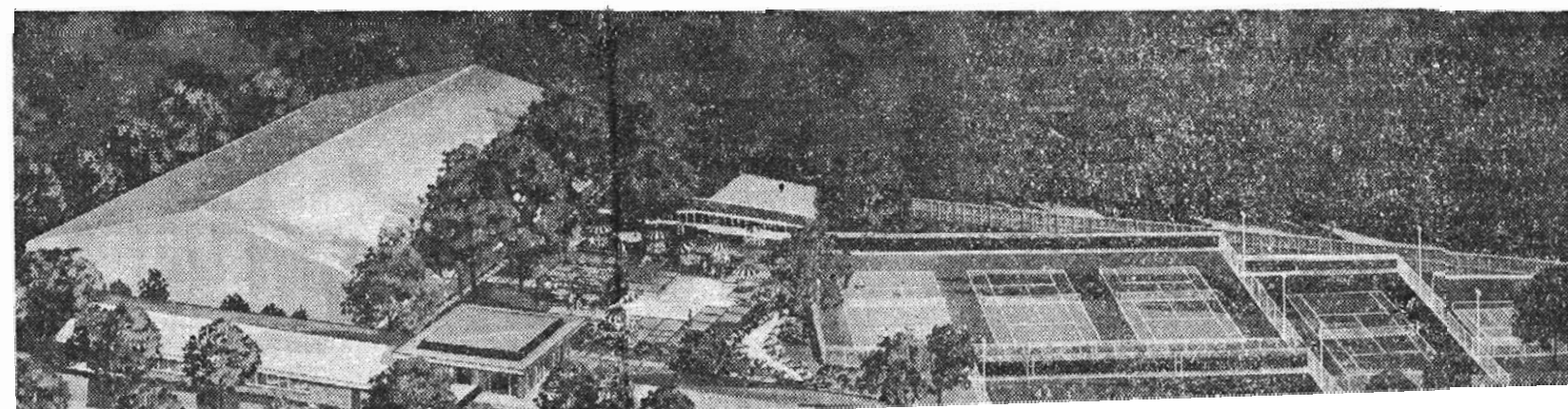
A snack bar will also be provided for customers.

Merchandise will be delivered to service desks and car ports by pneumatic tubes, five elevators and three vertical conveyors.

A 375-car parking lot illuminated by night lighting will surround the tilt wall building to be built of flagstone from Arkansas.

White columns of onyx marble will flank the entrance canopy over a main entrance carpeted in Astro-turf.

A. H. Donsky, executive vice president of Houston Jewelry, said electronics, housewares, gifts and other items will be sold amid vinyl walls, exotic wallpapers and unusual graphics.



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