

BUILDINGS NAMED IN HONOR OF THREE CITIZENS

Foundation Gives \$1 Million to Music Center Fund

BY TOM GOFF

Times County Bureau Chief

A gift of more than \$1 million by the Ahmanson Foundation to the Opportunity Fund of The Music Center's Performing Arts Council was announced Tuesday by Mrs. Dorothy Buffum Chandler, president of the council's Board of Governors.

The gift swells the fund, started less than three months ago, to nearly \$2 million, Mrs. Chandler said.

Her announcement came as the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to name the three buildings of The Music Center complex in honor of three persons who made major contributions to the success of the project.

The Pavilion, largest of the center's three theaters and the only one completed, will

be known as The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

The Mark Taper Forum was named in honor of S. Mark Taper, financier and philanthropist, in recognition of the gift made by the Taper Foundation.

The Center Theater now is designated as The Ahmanson Theater in recognition of the gift of the Ahmanson Foundation.

These structures are scheduled for completion in 1967.

The entire complex will be called The Music Center of Los Angeles County.

Mrs. Chandler was cited for her "tireless and courageous activity" in bringing The Music Center dream to fruition and for her continuing efforts in behalf of the cultural advancement of the community generally.

Taper was cited for the

donation by the S. Mark Taper Foundation of \$1.5 million to the construction fund of the building which bears his name.

The Ahmanson Foundation, in pledging more than \$1 million to the Opportunity Fund of the Performing Arts Council, brings its total commitment to The Music Center to more than \$1.5 million, the largest single contribution to the project.

The Opportunity Fund of The Music Center's Performing Arts Council has as its goal the raising of \$5 million in five years to underwrite cultural endeavors which otherwise would be beyond the budgetary means of the groups accepted for resident status in The Center.

Some of its objectives include:

1 — Commissioning new

works by playwrights, composers and choreographers;

2—Providing funds for the presentation of experimental drama, new productions of opera and ballet and festivals of the performing arts;

3—Assisting in the presentation of the finest guest artists and companies;

4 — Establishing fellowships at Southern California institutions of higher education to let gifted students gain practical experience at The Music Center;

5—Expanding apprenticeship programs in connection with resident companies;

6—Sponsoring a theater of the highest professional standards for children.

The naming of the various buildings in The Music Center complex came after a period of study and consultation by supervisors and others concerned with the project.

The motion to make the new names official was introduced by Supervisor Warren M. Dorn who with Supervisor Ernest E. Debs had been given the task by the board of recommending names for the buildings.

The names chosen, he said, are "well deserved."

Debs stated that he long had wanted to name the Pavilion for Mrs. Chandler, "but she has resisted."

"Her dedication and tireless efforts not only made that building but the entire Music Center complex possible," he said.

"Mrs. Chandler's efforts raised more than \$19.5 million from private sources to build The Music Center," he said.

"It gives me great pleasure to honor a great and gracious lady.

"In naming The Ahmanson Theatre we are naming it after a man who has given freely of both his time and his money to our community," Debs continued. Debs referred to financier Howard F. Ahmanson.

Debs continued: "And we are most grateful, too, to Mr. Taper.

"These truly are three distinguished citizens of our community."

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn pointed out that he has worked with Mrs. Chandler since 1952 on the project.

"Los Angeles," he said, "would still be talking about a Music Center if it were not for Mrs. Dorothy Chandler. Without her wisdom and un-

selfish dedication, Los Angeles County would still be second-rate in the field of cultural affairs.

"Mrs. Chandler is the first lady in the United States as far as cultural affairs and making the community and the nation aware of the need for the development of musical and cultural events and providing facilities for musicians and artists to present their talents for the enjoyment of all the people are concerned.

"I know of no other person who has virtually given all her waking hours, her very spirit and life, in developing for the citizens of California the world's finest Music Center."

He said he had suggested as early as 1952 that the cen-

ter be named for Mrs. Chandler.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace, chairman of the board, asked that the record be made to show that the supervisors "enthusiastically support the naming of these buildings as proposed here today."

The board also paid special honor to Mrs. Henry Salvatori, described by Debs as "Mrs. Chandler's right hand and arm" during the long struggle to build The Music Center.

He asked that the board set a special time in the near future to pay special tribute to Mrs. Salvatori and "all of the dedicated volunteers" who made the center possible.