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# Wingspread Over Meadowpark

In developer Ryland Kelley's office, there's a bronze bust of Pope John XXIII, who at the age of 83 brought the Roman Catholic church into the 20th century. Kelley says he keeps it there to remind himself he's never too old to get a decent job — an axiom more relevant now than ever, as Kelley's company, Hare, Brewer and Kelley, Inc., one of the largest and most seasoned development firms in the Bay Area, sinks into the worst financial crisis since its founding six decades ago.

In July, when the news of HBK's financial problems began to surface, more than one finger pointed at Ryland Kelley, the president of the firm and designated public figure behind Wingspread, the controversial 66-acre project that included 468 units, a conference center and performing arts complex on the ocean bluff Porter-Sesnon property. That project was rejected by Santa Cruz voters in 1988.

## The Saga of Ryland Kelley and Santa Cruz County or, the Story That Wouldn't End by Robin Schirmer

It was July. Kelley, mired in Friday morning loose ends and a plethora of lawsuits, sat hunched forward in his executive chair regrouping from an 11-year battle to transform one of Santa Cruz' few remaining open spaces into what would have been among Santa Cruz County's largest development projects.

The memorabilia that cluttered his office seemed incongruous to the upscale interior of the Hare, Brewer and Kelley building in downtown Palo Alto. Paintings, photographs and sketches from artist friends covered his walls. Extras sat on the floor. Shelves were stacked with file folders, binders and pictures of his family: a framed picture of Shirley, his wife of 43 years, and two more tacked to his bulletin board; a framed photo of his three sons and two golden retrievers, taken when I was their ace babysitter — more than twenty five years ago.

A fledgling consultant entered his office to touch base over a current project.

"When do I get a think piece from you?" asked Kelley.

He stammered an explanation.

"Don't tell me anymore. Write it down, god-damn it."

"I'll have it Monday."

"That's what you told me last Friday."

Welcome to the office of Ryland Kelley, whose short fuse is as familiar as his warmth. A shrewd businessman, a risk-taker, he's been labeled by friends, foes and the indifferent as both egotist and idealist, leaving many who have observed Kelley over the years to query what part — if any — of this multi-dimensional personality contributed to the firm's current financial problems.

After his successful endeavors with the Pajaro Dunes beach development in Watsonville, Kelley acquired the option to lease the Porter-Sesnon property for \$1.75 million from the University of California regents in 1979 on a 99-year lease. He exercised that option in 1981, naming the project Wingspread, and approached Santa Cruz county with a tunnel vision that left him ill-prepared for the powerful sidesweep of community opposition.

"I suppose that anyone who has an idea and seeks to have that idea come to reality is suspect if they continue to pursue it in the face of adversity," said Kelley. "In the case of Wingspread, we made a very participatory approach to gaining understanding and support from the arts community who so greatly need the facilities which were offered as part of the package."

### The Wars Begin

It was spring of 1981 at the Pajaro Dunes Grove House when Kelley hosted the two-day working conference of Santa Cruz art enthusiasts where con-

ceptual plans were announced. The event inspired the first of many antagonistic columns by Bruce Bratton that created the veneer of mistrust which continues to characterize the Ryland Kelley stigma, even after Wingspread.

"Bratton had a real fear of an artistically more important program taking place in Santa Cruz County," said Kelley. "He believes it must be small, provincial, totally indigenous. What that translated to me Bruce was saying 'I wanted things at a scale where me and my friends can control it, and I am the arbiter of what's good and bad in the arts.' He wanted to continue to be the big fish in the small pond."

Bratton responded by stating Kelley never asked him what he wanted. "I spend my life trying to build the arts organization in this community up to world class status," he said. "I would like to see people come here from all over the world to see the Shakespeare Festival, Cabrillo Music Festival, the Santa Cruz Symphony. I don't want it small."

In the decade that followed, Kelley went to the mat with the anti-Wingspread group Friends of Porter-Sesnon, the County Board of Supervisors and the Coastal Commission. He jockeyed four sets of plans, trimming the number of units, eliminating and creating new amenities. He turned down three offers from the state to purchase the property for parklands — offers that lagged millions behind Kelley's appraisals and the property's rising encumbrances.

At one point in 1986, he filed a lawsuit against the Board of Supervisors over "Wingspread Plan A," a scaled-down version consisting of a 197-unit hotel minus the performing arts center. Kelley stated he should be allowed to build that project because he had complied with county regulations. He put the lawsuit on ice when he received the 3-2 approval from the County Board of Supervisors for his larger project, which was put to a vote in the form of Measure A in 1988.

Wingspread supporters spent \$300,000 on that campaign, further alienating the electorate, who rejected the project by a two-to-one margin.

Wary of political controversy, but not broken, Kelley then rechristened Wingspread "Meadowpark," and recently announced plans to build a 130-room hotel and conference center which he said is "fully consistent with the exact requirements of the County's Local Coastal Plan."

"I have no apologies for having presented Wingspread," said Kelley, "and I have no ambitions for trying to foster it again on the community. What we are proposing now is what was already on the books as zoning for the property, and we are simply complying with what the County has chosen by a

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**'I've a considerable interest in the arts, but we went into Porter-Sesnon for profit ... The plan for a performing theater complex came from the obvious needs and aspirations of local groups.'**  
— Ryland Kelley

long series of hearings establishing the local coastal program, which was adopted unanimously by the Board of Supervisors."

Pat Manning, former chairperson of the Committee Against Measure A, recalled thinking that Wingspread was going to be passed, up until the last two weeks before the vote. However, she registered little concern over Kelley's most recent submittal.

"It's a moot point right now," she said. "Considering his financial problems, I don't think he'll get very far."

Over the past decade, Wingspread's accumulated debt has risen to \$13 million. Foreclosure proceedings began on the property when HBK stopped payments last August on \$3 million in loans from First Nationwide Bank.

"It's a Greek tragedy," said County Supervisor Gary Patton, a longstanding opponent of the project. "He didn't listen to anyone but a small group of people. Not to consider what a community wants, if you're asking it to do something for you, is not very realistic. He decided what the community wanted — a performing arts complex — and that was not what the community wanted."

### **Money and the Arts**

Those who supported the project, which Kelley said could have generated more than a million dollars annually for the county, continue to insist that the combination of commercial and cultural interests would have been a boon to the local economy. According to boardmembers of the Wingspread Foundation, the ability of the proposal to live up to its promise of a performing arts complex was insured by contract stipulations that secured

Kelley's agreement to subsidize the complex with \$500,000 annually, while assuring Kelley could not begin construction on the housing units until the arts complex was complete.

"There was always a lot of publicity concerning Rye, guarantees in contract and sharp people on the board to make certain we would've come up with a workable complex," noted Brian Payne, managing director of Shakespeare Santa Cruz and a former member of the Wingspread Foundation Board.

Kelley approached a spectrum of people from the community, most notably arts organizations, such as Shakespeare Santa Cruz, with his dream of a hotel and arts center. Some observers suggest it was foolhardy to choose support from this segment of the community rather than the more influential political players.

"I personally thought it would have been a good project for the whole community," said Jack Baskin, Santa Cruz philanthropist and developer noted for his low-income housing projects. "It's great to have a park, but 70 percent [of Wingspread] would have remained open space with playing fields and beach access. Whether it would have worked economically for Kelley, I don't know. He seemed to be giving a lot away. But it wouldn't have cost the county anything if it didn't. Processing would have been paid in fees. The art community's investment was zero. The worst possibility was that the bubble of that dream would have burst and cost the county nothing." Someplace along the line, Baskin stated, Kelley's public relations fell apart.

Other observers remarked that it wasn't a matter of *whom* Kelley approached, but *how* he approached the community, believing so fully in the weight of his own ideas, that sealed his fate.

"Unfortunately the whole dream was mismanaged," said Rowland Rebele, former president of the Wingspread Foundation.

Rebele, who was on the board of the Santa Cruz County Symphony when Kelley approached him, stated that the broad base of support was not as fully developed as it should have been, and supporters of the project failed to educate the electorate on its benefits.

"We should have spent money to better explain to people about the project — why it was environmentally sound and would benefit the community," he said. "They tried to do that, but [the campaign] was all too slick and not done locally."

Kelley stated that project advocates failed in taking their case to the electorate for a vote.

"What we had done was miscalculate the methods of getting to those voters," said Kelley. "Instead of having a series of educational coffee *klatches* and other meetings, we were advised to go for television and newspaper and brochure advertising, which in retrospect was a bad judgment on the part of the consultants and those who gave direction to the consultants, which was a committee from our Board."

Rebele criticized the amount of money Kelley spent on the election campaign.

"It was perceived to be a buyout from a guy over the hill," he said. "We misread the body politic in Santa Cruz, and I was naive about the depth of feeling and power of Gary Patton and his people to kill the project."

Rebele, however, backed Kelley's business acumen as well as his artistic commitment. "I really believe he has a heart for the arts," he said. "He also has a mind for the commercial."



Rick Yamada-Lapidés

out...*Let me throw so it feels right...*

Slightly off stride himself, Kelley looked pensive, then slightly miffed when asked to state in one paragraph how it felt for a prominent developer to come up against a small town with a strong environmental movement — and lose.

"That's the problem with journalism," he said, leaning back in his chair, rubbing his chin.

"You expect someone to come up with an answer to a question like that in one paragraph. Disappointment, in one word."

He scribbled on a scratch pad, tried to come up with an answer in haiku, crossed out a word, reworked it. Later, he elaborated:

"Of course I am very disappointed and more than a little disillusioned with the process," he said. "I've a considerable interest in the arts, but we went into Porter-Sesnon for profit. To pursue that objective we naturally looked to uses for the property which would be compatible with the needs of the community. The plan for a performing theater complex came from the obvious needs and aspirations of local groups. Sometimes community benefits match market opportunities, and this was the case with Wingspread."

Ironically, the effect of his assuredness has only stoked the fire of his most adamant adversaries.

"He keeps trying to shove down our throats [the idea] that he knows better what our community needs than we do," said Vickie Powell-Murray, former director of Friends of Porter-Sesnon and a disgruntled ex-employee of Hare, Brewer and Kelley.

"Rye's a hot-dog-town Donald Trump," she said. "He feels he's a cut above everybody, and when you come in with that mentality, you tend to turn people off. He needs to get some humble-pie. He needs to pay some dues."

### A Family Tale

Two of Kelley's favorite pieces were on the wall facing his desk: a graduation slip from first grade and a pen and ink drawing of his father, William "Red" Kelley.

Red, who was best friends with my grandfather — a Stanford track coach — came out to California from South Dakota where he had finished serving on the state legislature, a position previously held by Red Kelley's mother. He worked weekdays in Redwood City as a high school football coach, and weekends with a brokerage firm called Hare, Brewer and Clark. Soon, he was working for the firm full-time. When only heirs were left, Kelley bought them out and changed the company name.

Meanwhile, Ryland Kelley and his brother, Bill, attended Palo Alto High School, then went on to Stanford University. Rye received his degree in politics with a minor in journalism. He and Bill went into the service and came out choosing to join the family real estate business, which they inherited when their father passed away in 1964.

In the '50s both Bill and Ryland Kelley moved to Ladera, an undeveloped subdivision outside of Palo

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### Disappointed and Disillusioned

Kelley's office affirmed this attachment to the arts: the paintings; the sculpture; copies of Palo Alto Weekly for whom he writes a regular column; the bronze bust (which Kelley sculpted) of Pope John XXIII — or Walking John, as Kelley called him — that sat by his window. He had ordered maquettes made up from the original and he left the room to find them — a bit more stooped and heavier around the middle than I remembered.

He came back, carrying his unopened shipment and a copy of his new collection of poems — about 100 that he's written over the last 15 years. To that, he added a recent issue of pocket-sized *Spitball, The Literary Baseball Review*, that included his recent submittal about a baseball pitcher, titled "Late Relief." I glanced over a few of the more salient lines: *It doesn't feel right off the stride...It's tough enough up here in the ninth...the wind blowing*

The Kennedy-Rittenhouse interchange further underscored what many perceive to be Rittenhouse's biggest liability — namely his personal self-interest in the redevelopment process. Although Rittenhouse shocked many observers at a forum sponsored by downtown property owners when he claimed that he "didn't own any property downtown," the Rittenhouse Building and Investment Association, of which he is a small stockholder (0.5 percent), and for which he serves as a manager, owns nine parcels in the downtown redevelopment area. His family and a trusteeship in his name own two dozen other parcels inside the city and outlying areas.

Just how Rittenhouse would avoid a conflict of interest on the council is a question that remains paramount in the minds of many election observers, both progressive and conservative alike.

Following the Chamber forum, I ran into my conservative business buddy who in July had predicted a progressive defeat. "Who do you think was the best on business issues?" I asked him.

"Do you want my honest opinion?"

"Why not?"

"Alright, then: Coonerty, Mills and Quartararo."

"Is that who you're voting for?" I suppose I should have known better.

"Of course not. I'm voting for Ghio, Stockett and Rittenhouse."

You figure that one out. I decided to needle him a bit. "What about Kennedy?" I asked.

"He's very articulate," he responded, "kind of surprised me, but he's way too radical. Reminds me of Rotkin."

Anyone who thinks Kennedy is way too radical for Santa Cruz city politics has been sleeping in the Catskills for the past 20 years. We made a small wager on the election.

Just for the record, my bookie told me not to bet on too many changes come election day. And put all you can on Beiers. ■

## Wingspread

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Alto which they bought and developed. My family moved there out of friendship to Bill, my godfather, and the promise of a good place to raise a family.

Rye and Shirley Kelley still live in the same house they've always lived in, remodeling once or twice, raising the doorknobs and ceilings to accommodate their exceptional height.

Traditionally, the Kelleys dropped in on my family every Christmas and Thanksgiving. In the '60s the Kelley boys provided my parents with relief when they showed up with hair and beards as long as the hair and beards of my brothers.

By the '70s, I had moved to Santa Cruz to raise my own family, and bumped into Kelley at a Coastal Commission meeting. He was submitting additional plans for Pajaro Dunes. Even then, standing outside in the hallway at 6 foot 5 inches and over 200 pounds, he looked too big for this small town.

Of the two brothers, Ryland is the one who has remained out front in the public eye.

"He's bigger and makes a better target," said Bill Kelley, in a rare interview. "And I don't like being shot at. Secondly, I've made it a lifelong habit of not talking to the press. That keeps me out of the limelight."

While Bill Kelley harbors an aversion to the public eye, Ryland didn't claim to relish it. In fact, he said he was more or less "thrust" into the forefront of Wingspread, leaving Bill to manage other areas of the business. Together, the two brothers continued to build the company's reputation as a major regional real estate design firm through projects aimed at the high end of the market, including the now-defunct Mayfield Mall in Mountain View, the 15-story, 235-foot-high office building in Palo Alto (still the tallest structure downtown), the De Anza Plaza in Cupertino leased by Apple Computer, Pajaro Dunes and the Webster House retirement center in Palo Alto.

## Intentions Awry

Wingspread, a costly venture that created a sub-



stantial drain on HBK's finances, was one in a series of three high stakes failures, including the La Quinta project in Palm Springs (a 700-acre, two golf course, 450-home development that HBK sold) and the 172-unit Hermosa Beach Hotel. According to Bill Kelley, those projects took longer than they should have to get off the ground and markets were slow after development.

"People don't want anything happening next door to them, be it a two-story house next to a one-story, a subdivision or a hotel," explained Bill Kelley. "At the same time these people keep having children and their children drive cars while they complain about crowded highways. I think this conflict is perhaps one of the main reasons we have had problems."

To counter their slump, HBK began liquidating projects, paring down their overhead by cutting staff and office space. They remained outwardly optimistic in the face of extensive financial entanglements which began to surface last July when the *San Jose Mercury* disclosed that 37 suits had been filed against them by investors in HBK's Prime Plus Mortgage Fund.

It was also reported that some of their projects were mired in bankruptcy proceedings — the Fair Oaks Industrial Park in Sunnyvale, the Apple Computer midrise office buildings in Cupertino and a golf course project in Chico.

In July, Inky Amorosa, an investor in HBK's California Mortgage Fund partnership became the most recent plaintiff against HBK, filing for \$3 mil-

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lion in damages and claiming fraud, misrepresentation and conversion.

"Basically that type of business runs so much on trust," said Amorosa. "They had such a good reputation in the area. That's why so many have been taken in."

Kelley, who had not been served notice of Amorosa's claim, said "apparently they have prepared a claim anticipating some loss which we do not expect will happen."

At the time of this interview, he stated their financial problems revolved around two financial issues that were intertwined.

"The first is Wingspread," Kelley said. "And the question is, will the creditors cooperate during this period? And they are. That means they don't do anything. They wait until a new investment arrangement is completed. The other issue is the [37] lawsuits, and that'll be resolved in court," he said, referring to Prime Plus investors.

A significant amount of the Prime Plus partnership money was invested in Wingspread. Out of that partnership's 214 investors, 22 are currently represented by Santa Clara law firm Morgan, Ruby, Schofield, Franich, and Fredkin. Plaintiffs claim fraud, negligent misrepresentation of worth and conversion of funds. They have filed damage claims, in addition to their actual \$3 million investment, that amount to \$69 million rumored to include a one-third contingency fee to attorneys.

"The Prime Plus offering memorandum says the Kelley's were in a sound financial position and HBK Inc. was in a sound financial position," alleged Santa Clara attorney for the plaintiffs, Allen Ruby. "Since then they have admitted to their investors that's not true. It is fraud to make a material misrepresentation in connection with the sale of a security like Prime Plus."

HBK's legal response stated that the investors were fully aware of the risks involved in their financial transactions at the time of investing.

"We have carried out every single procedure required of us under the agreement with the exception of performance of payments," said Kelley. All of these are wrong statements and we expect to prove this in court. We have done everything absolutely in our agreements. [Ruby's] accusations are unfounded."

Both agree that the question of who's right or wrong will be settled in the courts. That suit goes to trial in November.

### The Wars Continue

Kelley, impatient when pressed about his company's financial problems, allowed that the firm has been "greatly strained."

"As a small, regional company we have never had very large capital reserves," he explained. "In today's world, projects are larger and often are delayed for years — Wingspread is a metaphor — and the combination of interest costs, overhead, and project pre-development expenses go on and on."

Kelley has an interest in several Santa Cruz properties, in addition to Wingspread: he owns a home in Pajaro Dunes, and has limited partnership interests in the Riverside Farm in Watsonville and the Greenhouse Farm Restaurant in Soquel.

In September, columnist Bruce Bratton tagged Kelley as the idea man behind the announcement of preliminary plans to build 36 single-family homes and 20 affordable apartment units on the Greenhouse Farm Restaurant property.

"He's arousing people's wrath again," wrote Bratton, referring to Kelley as "more tenacious than a pitbull."

"Here's a whole project," he said, "and people don't want it, and he just bowls them over and doesn't listen to their concerns. He still doesn't have that message."

According to Steve Boysol, owner of the restaurant operations and a limited partner in Green Farm (the limited partnership that owns the property), the decision to develop the property was not Kelley's, but, rather, a collective one.

Boysol has a 14 percent interest in the partnership, compared to Ryland and Bill Kelley's 10 percent apiece. Rich Kelley, the general manager, has 24 percent, while the remaining investors, comprised of

Boysol's high school and college friends, have the controlling 56 percent interest.

"People have a misconception that Rye's in charge," he said. "That's baloney."

Owen Lawlor, project manager for Green Farm Limited Partners, stated that the opposition to the project is, in part, an emotional reaction based on residual feelings about Wingspread.

"People make a tag deal any time Rye is associated with anything in the county," he said. "We're doing our best right now to listen to the community's concerns."

### Generations

Rich Kelley walked into the HBK office, towering over his father by seven inches, searching for a project file. After leaving his fulltime NBA career, primarily with the New Orleans Jazz, to attend Stanford Business School, Rich began to work out of the Hare, Brewer and Kelley building as an independent. As the Green Farm project's general manager, he is painfully aware of the effect of his father's image on his current efforts in Santa Cruz.

If he's learned anything from his father's trials and tribulations in Santa Cruz, it's the possibility of rejection.

"The main thing I'm always thinking about is how difficult the process is in Santa Cruz County and how volatile the politics," he said. "One thought we always keep in mind is preparing for total unacceptance from the community."

The Farm project reflects attempts to address specific issues of concern to the community. The 20 affordable apartment units will utilize government subsidies to set rents at \$400 per month. The historic Farm Restaurant building, another bone of contention, will remain on the property at its current site and serve as a child care center.

"If I had to sum it up," said Rich Kelley, "I'd say it's a fearful process."

Having grown up on the sidelines of the real estate business, he is, however, tuned into the cyclic nature of land development.

"It's pretty darn grim," he commented, referring to HBK's current situation. "But the firm has been on the edge before. A couple of times over the last thirty years there were some big scares. We're used to it. That's the nature of the business."

Forecasters predict that business trends will continue to decline for real estate developers through 1992 due to a combination of higher inflation, higher mortgage rates and a credit crunch in which banks and thrift institutions have pulled in their horns, reducing the availability of credit to developers. And on a nationwide basis, community no-growth movements contribute substantial obstacles to this down trend, magnified even more so in Santa Cruz due to the community's unique and effective level of activism.

Attorneys for disgruntled HBK investors contend that national trends and regional activism aren't to blame for the firm's current predicament as much as poor business judgements.

"We've alleged that Kelley defrauded our investors into investing in Prime Plus," claimed attorney Ruby. "I don't know how anyone can view that as national or regional trends."

Kelley countered this allegation by saying "Mr. Ruby seems to prefer trials in the newspapers rather than in courts. His charges are wild. We did not defraud anyone, and that will be proved in the proper place."

Through this crisis, Ryland Kelley has maintained a guarded optimism while staying close to his support system of friends.

### Great Society Man

Lew Butler, the executive director of San Francisco-based California Tomorrow, has known Kelley since they were 15. In the late '60s, the two teamed up to run the campaign of former congressman Pete McCloskey.

"Politically, Ryland is a very progressive, liberal person," said Butler, whose magazine is oriented toward preparing California to become a multi-ethnic state. "He's the most creative person I know."

Kelley's track record of liberal and creative causes is weighty, including a fundraising effort to post a full page advertisement in the Washington Post

denouncing the war in Cambodia, and founding California Leadership, an effort to empower a diverse group of Hispanics, blacks, Asians and women for leadership in the state.

He is on the board of directors for the Djerassi Foundation, a successful artist colony in Skyline, and supports Stanford jazz events while serving as a trustee for the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

A member of the California Theatre Board, he revived the downtown Stanford Theatre as a stage theater center. In the '60s, he encouraged the two youngest of his three sons to attend Ravenswood High School, which had a predominantly black student body, during the move to integrate schooling in East Palo Alto.

He has an affinity for the word *euthenics* — the art of advancing the human condition through improvements to its environment, the focus of a design awarded to Pajaro Dunes. He's proud of this, and the fact that two families can vacation at the Dunes for \$100 a night.

Is he an elitist?

"Elitist is a slang, baggage word," he said. "You mean am I exclusionary? I'm a white American businessman. I'm not poor. Does it mean I am less concerned about the poor? I don't think it does."

"Obviously we don't serve the very poor," he added, "and the very poor don't go anyplace. They don't even go to the end of the rail line. I'm not trying to say we provide for the poor — we don't and neither does anyone else."

(Later, he would send me a copy of an article he wrote for the *Palo Alto Weekly*, in which he shows how black Americans were excluded by prejudice from the huge postwar windfall that white Americans gained from large home equity benefits realized over 20 years, and how that financial exclusion has denied opportunities to subsequent generations of blacks.)

Pete McCloskey — the liberal Republican who won a seat in Congress in 1967 based on his anti-Vietnam platform — credited Kelley as the idea man behind his campaign against Shirley Temple Black.

"He's a J. Thaddeus Toad," said the former Congressman, citing the character from *Wind in the Willows*. "If he has a blindspot, it's his idealism. Sometimes, he overestimates that other people will see the future he sees."

McCloskey recalled a story during his campaign when a much younger Tom Brokaw, now NBC-TV news anchor, taped interviews at McCloskey headquarters, promising equal air time with his more famous opponent. When the segment aired, it focused entirely on Shirley Temple Black. Nonetheless, McCloskey experienced a landslide victory. Brokaw returned to his celebration party and hung around until the crowd had left, then needed a lift back to the airport. Kelley volunteered, then dropped Brokaw off in the parking lot of Stanford shopping center at 3 o'clock in the morning.

"That's the other side of Rye," said McCloskey.

Kelley, however, said that McCloskey "is incorrect on that. He wasn't there. Brokaw understands, as do I and the other seven people in the car. There was no hostility, just his expectation of hospitality which was not available."

## A Return Visit

I returned to Ryland Kelley's office in September. The firm had just moved out of their two-story building to the one-story building next door. The bulk of his staff had been shaved down from 120 to 40. His office space was reduced to half and his walls were still bare.

I thought back to the lines from "Late Relief," his adage attached to "Walking John," and imagined Kelley as some sort of fulltime writer — the profession is honorable, the investment personal and the overhead low.

"Nobody is a fulltime writer," he responded with a half-smile, before losing patience with this grownup godchild of his only brother. "How many times do I have to tell you. It's much more satisfying to bring things about that can create jobs and euthenic experiences. And that's why I do this. I may be a Pollyana, but I'm a realistic one."

Even so, a person wonders what it'll take for Ryland Kelley to fall back in stride and start throwing so it feels right, again. ■