

Local Funeral Home Marks Its 75th Anniversary Year

John McAlister, Inc., Charleston funeral home, is observing its Diamond Jubilee year in a building little more than a year old.

The two-story building at 150 Wentworth St. is on the site of the home of Christopher Gustavus Memminger, secretary of the treasury for the Confederate

States of America, and many of the stately trees planted to beautify the original garden remain.

Other plants have been added to the landscaped grounds of the funeral home, among them, azaleas and camellias.

PLANS TO SAVE the Me

minger home by converting it into a funeral home had to be abandoned when the old building was found unsafe for public use. The old English brick which the treasurer of the Confederacy used to build his home was saved, however, and used on the exterior of the new funeral home.

A chandelier, more than 150 years old, brings the brilliance of crystal and light to the new building's main foyer. In the old house, long a place where dignitaries were entertained, the same chandelier had shone on Presidents Taft and Coolidge.

Other antiques add the touch of centuries to the decor of the home — a grandfather's clock made by 18th century and gracefully curved, black French chairs.

McALISTER'S moved from its location at 169 Meeting St., Charleston, to the new building in February, 1960, and a three-day open house attracted 4,000 visitors.

The building, one of the largest funeral homes in South Carolina, has 18,752 square feet of floor space. It was designed by Augustus E. Constantine, Charleston architect; built by C. W. Blanchard, Charleston contractor, and plans for its interior decoration were drawn up by W. and J. Sloane of New York City. All furnishings were bought through local firms.

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Sylvia Porter

Why Ownership Of Stocks Soared



NEW YORK — In Syracuse a short while ago, the school system asked speakers from the New York Stock Exchange's Investors' Information Committee to present a series of nine lectures on "securities and investing." School officials were astounded when, even in violent snowstorms, audiences ranged from 500 to almost 1,000.

In Philadelphia, a leading department store put on a series of four talks for an expected maximum of 250 women shoppers. Over 500 showed up the first night.

In Boston, 30 Stock Exchange firms teamed up to supply speak-

ers for the employee stock purchase plan. It's a sound guess that close to one-third of these buying stocks for the first time these days are doing so through employee stock purchase plans. More than 1.6 million employees right now are purchasing stocks regularly under their corporation program.

THERE IS the tremendous expansion of the investment club movement; the estimate is the number of investment clubs today tops 250,000. There is the Monthly Investment Plan, also helping