

the Kenilworth Land Company and was made up mostly of midwestern business men.

Chief partners with Chiles in the land development company were Roland A. Wilson of Tampa, Florida and E. G. Hester of Asheville. Chiles was the big stockholder in both companies. The new Inn was built of English architecture with a wide expanse of sun porches, ballrooms and lobbies. It was taken over by the federal government near the end of World War I and returned to the owner after the war was over.

When it was finally opened to the public in 1923, it was advertised far and wide for its convention facilities -- ballrooms, convention hall seating eight hundred, big lobby, glass enclosed promenades, ladies lounge, library, Asheville water, golf, horseback riding, motoring, fishing, tennis and mountain climbing.

Chiles also erected a dance hippodrome on the banks of the Swannanoa River (a tobacco warehouse stands there now). It featured a hardwood floor 200 by 100 feet. There was seating for 1000 spectators. Jan Garber designed it and played for its opening dance. He also played for dinner dances.

Meanwhile the separate Kenilworth Development Company had been busy since 1913 developing an exclusive residential suburb near the Inn. The Town of Kenilworth had been organized in 1891 but had been inoperative. The Development Company had become a huge affair with offices at the intersection of Caledonia Road and Biltmore Avenue.

Kenilworth was incorporated as a town, with Chiles as its first mayor. The town hall was in a log cabin on the left just up Caledonia Avenue from the Biltmore intersection. It was surrounded by parks of wild rhododendron. The new town grew fast. Luxury homes were built first on Kenilworth Road leading into the forest from the Inn. A new area was opened up around a little park with a gazebo in the middle of it (Lakewood Park). Lots were