

Builder named to hall of fame

Clark's company has built more than 300 homes in county

By Keith Lawrence
Messenger-Inquirer

Benny Clark, who began his career as an apartment handyman and rose to the presidency of a company that has built more than 300 custom homes in Daviess County, was inducted into the Kentucky Housing Hall of Fame at the Home Builders Association of Kentucky convention Feb. 24 in Bowling Green.

Clark, 59, is the fourth Owensboro home builder to be named to the 27-member Hall of Fame.

Frank Wagner and Jim Shuck of Wagner-Shuck Builders and state Rep. Tommy Thompson, president of Thompson Homes, were previously inducted into the hall.

"None of Benny's houses are the same," said Richard Stallings, executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Owensboro. "They're very unique."

Probably the most unique of Clark's houses was his first — an old tobacco barn he turned into a custom home.

That was in the late 1970s, when Clark founded Frontier Construction Co./New Concepts with \$500 in his checking account and a pickup truck.

The barn-house is on Christopher Greenup Drive, part of the old Haphazard Plantation.

"It was a learning experience," Clark said. "But I haven't converted any more tobacco barns."

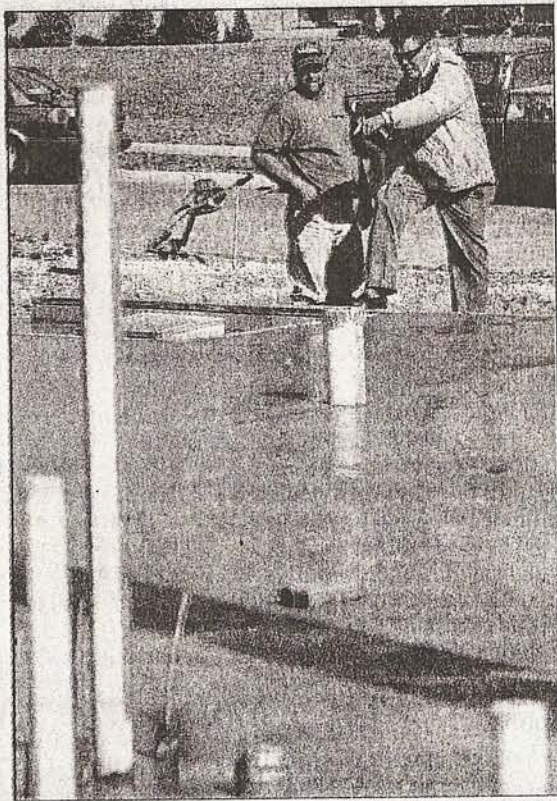
He partnered with attorney and later circuit judge Garland Howard in creating Clark-Howard Builders.

When Howard decided to retire, Clark bought his interest in the company and created Homes By Benny Clark 6½ years ago.

Clark estimates that in his nearly 30 years as a home builder, he's built between 300 and 400 houses in Covent Garden, Sycamore Square Condo Community, Lake Forest, Stonegate

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— *Richard Stallings*
executive officer,
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Owensboro



Jenny Sevcik, Messenger-Inquirer

Benny Clark, right, a local builder, talks with concrete finishing subcontractor Mike Alvey on Thursday at a building site in the Tanglewood Park subdivision. Clark was inducted into the Home Builders Association of Kentucky Housing Hall of Fame on Feb. 24. "Keeping everybody organized, that's my biggest job," Clark said.

Estates, Fox Chase, The Oaks Condo Community, The Alexandria Community and The Sanctuary at The Summit Golf Community.

"We built the first single-family detached condo in Owensboro at The Oaks," he said.

Now, Clark and his six-member team are working in Tanglewood Park on Millers Mill Road.

"It's a very unique subdivision," Stallings said. "It's one of the few here with old timber."

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