Shakey's Opening Extends Downtown Area Project

The first step in commercial development of a large downtown Cheyenne section of property has been taken with the opening of Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 507 E. 16th.

Shakey's will stage a grand opening of the new facilities Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Included are the pizza parlor, pub bar and lounge and Pub liquor store which are all in the same building.

The property is a development of Murray Corp., a leasing division of Ed Murray and Son Realty Co. Shakey's, a franchise of Blakely Enterprises, Lakewood, Colo., leases the facilities.

Ned Murray is president of both Murray firms. The only other stockholders and officers are two brothers, William M. and Donald F. Murray.

Ned Murray said he learned a year ago that Shakey's was interested in having a Wyoming franchise. He contacted the firm in Denver and a man was sent to Cheyenne.

Sites were checked in and around the city with an area west of Cheyenne favored at first. This was later turned down because of the high cost of utility development.

The Shakey's representative then viewed the Foster Lumber Co. site on 16th St. Murray said, and decided it would be the best location available.

Murray contacted the owner, the Burlington Northern Railroad, which would sell only if the purchaser would buy the complete parcel of land along 16th St.—800 feet in length.

Murray Corp. decided to purchase the entire plot and the ensuing sale was the largest purchase of downtown real estate in many years. It involved an undisclosed amount of money, but in the high six-figure bracket.

"We developed this for the convenience of Shakey's," noted Murray. "We have so much faith in the economic development of Cheyenne that we felt it would be relatively simple to develop the balance of the property, even though a considerable amount of money was involved."

Murray Corp. is presently in contact with several other national chain businesses concerning continued development of the property. This would involve more building and leasing.

Murray said the old bakery building next to the Green Door Lounge, 301 E. 16th, is currently being dismantled for this expansion program. The balance of the land is presently being rented by Ray Snow Dodge for vehicle display.

The lumber company was operated for many years by Grier Lumber and then Black Lumber Co. before Foster took over the business. Foster..."