Moreover, he said, without the building work undertaken by the Federation and its trainees, the eight completed cottages would have remained artists’ impressions drawn on fine paper.

Quoting from BIFSA’s confirmatory letter to the Mayor’s Office, Magid said that this work was being undertaken as “an expression of community co-operation and good-will.”

That letter has been framed and will remain on permanent exhibition at the Children’s Home.

And, a special plaque commemorating the assistance given by Lou Davis, John Addis and Basil Coombes has been erected at the site.

Note: Reprinted with permission from South African Builder August, 1986 by the Building Industries Federation of South Africa.

AWCI-SABISA Convention Report

Last August, a group of AWCI contractors and suppliers visited Sun City, Bophutwatswana to participate in the first ever conference arranged by AWCI’s sister association in South Africa, SABISA (South African Building and Interior Systems Association). The convention was a part of a 17 day visit to Southern Africa that included the BIFSA training college, Inter-Bou ’86 (the largest construction exposition in the Southern Hemisphere), and several meetings of AWCI’s Continuing Study Council in Botswana.

Sun City, consisting primarily of three resort properties owned by Sun International in the middle of the African bush, served as a superb site for the conference. It is similar to Las Vegas with its casino gambling and spectacular nightclub shows.

The three day conference was marked by several excellent educational sessions and social functions. A small table-top exposition was offered in the conference area of the headquarters hotel.

Following remarks by SABISA President Lee Lombard and AWCI President Jimmie U. Crane, the educational program began with Frank Morsilli, an acoustical engineer from Minneapolis led a short session on sound control. AWCI members Jimmie U. Crane and William A. Bell then led a discussion on in-house labor training in the US.

That afternoon, a panel of three successful AWCI contractor members (Steve Watkins, Carmen Paterniti and Dick Martin) led a very well-received session on loss control, which examined areas ranging from minimizing material waste and damage to preventing job-site theft.

Later that day, Sully Rammala, a...
black South African government official in the township of Atteridgeville, gave participants his views on the nation’s internal problems. Mr. Rammala stated that visible progress toward dismantling apartheid was being made, and that American sanctions against his government would only cause black South Africans greater unemployment.

The concluding session the following morning consisted of a presentation on “Getting Control of Your Business,” led by AWCI General Counsel McNeill Stokes, and Philip Loots, a respected South African attorney who also specializes in construction law. Topics included contract documents, bidding practices, personnel management and job site supervision, among others.

The program concluded that evening with a final night banquet. At the banquet, AWCI’s Executive Vice President, Joe M. Baker, Jr., was presented with a token of appreciation by SABISA’s Lee Lombard for his role in organizing AWCI’s participation in the conference.

**AWCI Participants**

| Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie U. Crane, Fulton, Mississippi | Mr. Howard Tiemann, Dallas, Texas |
| Mr. William A. Bell, Lexington, Kentucky | Mr. and Mrs. Dick Martin, Gardena, California |
| Mr. Steve Watkins, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida | Mr. and Mrs. Carmen Paterniti, Far Hills, New Jersey |
| Mr. Frank Morsilli, West Warwick, Rhode Island | Mr. and Mrs. Peter Grimm, Far Hills, New Jersey |
| Mr. Kingston Cable, Los Angeles, California | Mr. and Mrs. William Knopf, Washington, DC |
| Mr. McNeill Stokes and son, Ford, Atlanta, Georgia | Mr. Joe M. Baker, Jr., Washington, DC |

Participants at one of several educational sessions during last summer’s SABISA/AWCI conference in Southern Africa.