



Tarrant Business

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Eckerd building changes hands

Downtown space acquired

BY MARK S. LEACH

FORT WORTH — The downtown Eckerd Drugs building has been purchased by the landlord of the neighboring Goldstein Brothers jewelry store, giving the buyer a half-block of Houston Street retail space.

The 7,500-square-foot property at 611 Houston St. was acquired by Houston Street Investments L.L.C., a local group headed by Pangburn Candy executive James Harrison, according to county deed records. The building was sold by 11 entities, including the Southern Baptist Foundation in Nashville, Tenn.

The purchase price was not disclosed.

No changes are anticipated for the store, which was built in 1939 for W.T. Grant Co. Eckerd Drugs occupies the building under terms of a 1971 lease agreement with Ward Drugs, a drugstore chain purchased by Eckerd Corp. in 1973.

That lease is to expire in April 1996, raising the possibility that Eckerd might leave its longtime downtown home next year. Last month, Eckerd closed three

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Fewer full-time jobs expected at FedEx hub

BY STEVEN VONDER HAAR

FORT WORTH — Federal Express Corp.'s planned cargo hub at Fort Worth Alliance Airport will open a few months behind schedule and will have fewer full-time employees than originally expected.

Once scheduled to open in mid-1997 with 600 workers, Federal Express is now targeting an October 1997 opening with 324 full-time employees at its Alliance Airport facility.

The company's local employment numbers will be boosted significantly, however, by the hiring of 490 part-time workers. Federal Express also expects to add 100 full-time and 100 part-time workers in 1998.

Federal Express released its revised employment projections last week as part of a report to the City Council, which will vote this week on whether to des-



Joe Libowsky shows off some samples of Milwaukee Joe's ice cream.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram/GLEN E. ELLMAN

Former federal agent trades badge and gun to fulfill his

Ice Cream Dream

BY CARLOS ILLESCAS AND DAN PILLER

EDFORD — A month ago, federal agent Joe Libowsky was busy busting companies for bogus aircraft parts, earning the title of Special Agent of the Year at the Transportation Department.

Today, he chops almonds into a rich, creamy batch of rocky road ice cream.

Libowsky's Milwaukee Joe's Gourmet Ice Cream shop on Harwood Road in Bedford is just 2 weeks old, and the 35-year-old entrepreneur

"In law enforcement, everything that you do, you have to worry about repercussions," Libowsky says. "I didn't like the mistrust that went with the job."

"With ice cream, it's fun. I wake up and look forward to coming here and trying all different types of stuff. And you don't have to carry a gun."

But ice cream isn't just about having fun; it's also about making money.

With his \$100,000 initial investment, Libowsky has bought into a \$10 billion industry.

One day, he hopes to be as successful as ice