

Dr. Allen

Well, that is an interesting point, John. I am going to tell you something that I have never said before publicly. When Harry P. Smith was superintendent of schools here they were building Liberty Memorial High School. I called on Harry Smith and said, "You are building a high school out there and right now I see that some houses are being moved over on that property east of the high school building. I think that is near criminal negligence, because it is the only possible place that the high school children could have for a playground space. I honestly believe that there is a man in this town who loves children so much that he would be willing to buy that area for the school children. And he has plenty of money, too. He is past-president of the Board of Education, and I am quite sure he was the man who first obtained Dr. A. J. Anderson to give physical examinations in our schools. I sincerely believe that if the school board members would go to this man and present the situation in its true light that he would be happy to buy that field." Now, understand, John, I was not trying to talk a man out of his money, but I saw what a wonderful opportunity it would have been for my boys and girls, as well as other boys and girls, to have outdoor play space adjacent to our fine new high school. Of course, you are wondering who this man is - well, I'll tell you. It was Mr. George Innes. And every student, every boy and girl loved him. He was a great old Scotchman. In my mental vision I saw "Innes Memorial Field" linked up with our own Liberty Memorial High School.

Mr. Jacobs

Well, what was done about your proposal, Dr. Allen?

Dr. Allen

Well, John, I was asked to present it to the school board members, and I did. And you know, one of the fellows on the Board said something that I will never forget. He said, "Listen, we have got more play space than anything else in Lawrence." And I said, "But it is not located in the right place." He said, "There is a big play space at Cordley School". I lost heart. That whipped me, to find a man in an important position who lacked the vision for the children of Lawrence. Those houses are still there, and the youngsters are still denied the use of that fine outdoor space. And, John, those poor high school footballers must trek over paved streets way out to Cordley for their gridiron practice, when they could have played in