

# RENTS

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The LHA also express dismay as to how to determine fair market rent prices for Lawrence. At the meeting, Phillip Kissam, board member and KU law professor, told Smith that LHA just didn't know where to go to get housing statistics, and that neither the board nor Peters, their director, should be expected to conduct a study of rental prices.

If the Authority really wants to make the program work, Purney countered, they'll find out what ever is necessary.

A HUD economist will be visiting Lawrence soon and although he is not supposed to conduct the study, he will be available to advise LHA, according to Purney.

The LHA has also complained that they don't know where they'll get funds to hire someone to set up the program. Kissam suggested they ask the City Commission for money to hire a director.

But this isn't really a problem either, according to Purney. HUD provides for initial administrative money--\$200 per unit, which would be \$8,000 for Lawrence. Once the program is rolling, the Authority will receive \$15 per rented unit for operating expenses.

The need for some housing assistance is very apparent in Lawrence where rapid growth and the economic pressures of the University have forced rent prices up. The shortage of reasonably-priced, decent housing has been documented in the City government's own housing study published last year. That study states that 110 non-student renter households who spend over 25 per cent of their incomes for rent and who live in average or better dwellings would benefit from this program.

And, the study didn't even cover the entire city, but was of only four neighborhoods.

Section 8 Rent Subsidy is just a partial solution to the total housing problem, but it's a beginning and would at least help 40 lower-income families. And, unlike public housing projects, qualified persons could choose housing anywhere in the city, avoiding the problems involved in concentrating low-income persons in a single area.

And, despite the LHA's skepticism, the program shouldn't be too difficult to start. According to Leitha Bailey of the Topeka Housing Complaint Center, it was fairly easy to start the Section 8 program in Topeka, because the program is such a good deal for landlords.



The program offers a landlord security. For example, if a tenant breaks the lease, HUD will guarantee payment of up to 80 per cent of the rent for up to 60 days after the tenant leaves.

The only problem, according to Bailey, is the paper work which discourages some landlords. But, she said, the housing authority should assist them with the forms to avoid problems.

In future issues of the PUBLIC NOTICE, we hope to explore the scope of Lawrence's housing problems and propose some solutions for both renters and home buyers.

# Group Helps Women in Crisis

By Ann Schmidt

A year and a half ago Women's Transitional Care Services was organized as a volunteer program to help women in crisis situations. Even though the organization has grown and changed since its origin, their goal to give emotional support and practical help to women in transition, is still the same.

WTCS is designed to deal with women who have undergone some type of crisis situation, such as violence in the home toward them or their children, divorce or separation, bereavement, and other radical lifestyle changes. There is a twenty-four hour a day number which women seeking support and help may call. Direct referral to a WTCS counselor or advocate can be obtained by calling the Headquarters number, 841-2345 or through KU information, 864-3506.

The type of women who make up WTCS come from all types of backgrounds. They are women who care about other women and are willing to give their time and support to help.

Women who wish to become advocates with WTCS undergo a six week training session which meets twice a week. Some of the subject problem areas which are covered include battered wives, legalities, alcohol, drugs, sexuality, and poverty. Once the women have been exposed to problems they might be dealing with and a basis for understanding has been established, they learn how they can assist their clients in dealing with their problems. Advocates learn which agencies clients can turn to for further help. Such agen-

cies include Legal Aid, Social and Rehabilitative Services, and Bert Nash Mental Health Clinic. Advocates are also trained in counseling skills.

Other services Women's Transitional Care have provided are emergency housing, emergency food and a peer support for separated or divorced women.



WTCS does not currently have a house or place of their own from which they can operate but this is one of their goals in the future. There are no paid staff in WTCS. As with any organization though there is a cost involved in running the organization and for providing services. Funding for the program comes from donations and some government funds.

# BEER

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lost a Dixie and a Pearl Light when the maid cleaning his motel room mistook them for trash. Burns later got a Dixie. In Austin, he got hold of another Pearl Light, but set it down to trap off to the restroom. "When I got back, it was gone, ripped off. And to make it worse, it was a full can. Pearl Light is one that escaped me for a long time," Garth said.

**Black Label!**



Garth has collected many of his cans personally in his travels, often en route to political events. Last summer, he got an Anheuser-Busch National Light can in northern Georgia. The can is empty with the seal unbroken. It is a demonstrator.

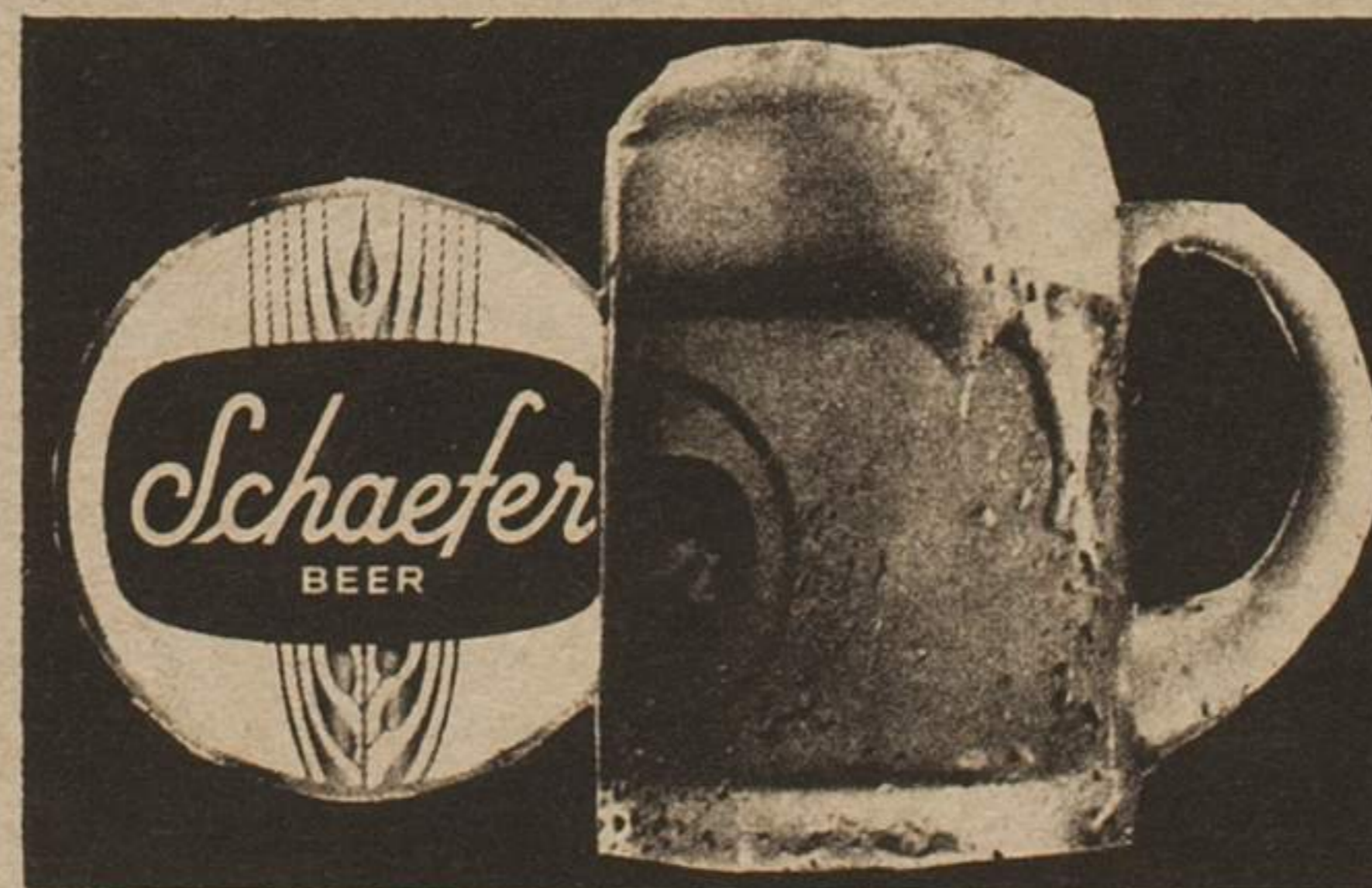
But some of the cans he collected personally were from places other than liquor stores and conventions. One day last fall, Garth and Debbie Burns were returning to Lawrence from KCI airport and stopped at a liquor store. Burns spotted a six pack of the new seven ounce Schlitz

cans, something not in his collection. He purchased two other cans, but said of the Schlitz, "I wouldn't drink that stuff, so I couldn't see buying it. But as we were driving down the entrance ramp to get back on I-29, I saw a seven ounce Schlitz can in the ditch off to the side of the road. I stopped the car on the shoulder and ran back along the road to pick it up. That was one of my more daring cans."

Burns has not collected his cans alone, however. One of the most rewarding aspects of his collection is that there are many friendships represented by it. Many people have contributed to the collection by picking up cans in their travels. Garth has two friends who live in Alaska with whom he periodically exchanges cans. Debbie used to work next door to a liquor store. They came to know her and saved unusual cans for her to buy for Garth. Terri Tork, a neighbor, recently gave Garth a Budweiser can with the flip tab on the bottom. Garth claims, "That one is like a rare stamp. It is almost priceless."

Of the over 300 different cans, not to mention the duplicates he keeps to trade, Garth's favorites are his more rare cans. He picked

up many cans from the now defunct Walter's Brewery on a trip to New Mexico. These cans are valuable because they are not renewable. "The Bicentennial year was great for beer cans because many brewers especially Falstaff, came out with special issue commemorative bicentennial cans. Falstaff planned a whole series with pictures of presidents. I got a George Washington, but after they issued George, the Treasury Department said they couldn't distribute John Adams cans, even though he isn't even on any currency. The government even interferes with beer can collectors."



Other commemorative cans in Garth's collection include Sterling's series of Kentucky Derby winners, and Iron City's picture of the Pittsburgh Steelers after they won the 1975 Super Bowl.

Garth seeks to collect any cans he doesn't have, but there are some

he really wants. Since he recently obtained a Billy beer can, Garth now wants a John Adams Falstaff which was produced but not issued, and a 1976 Steeler's Super Bowl can from Iron City.

Garth tries to keep up with trends of brewers when collecting cans. He tries to obtain steel cans since most brewers, except the Pittsburgh Brewing Company, are using aluminum cans. He has also started collecting quart beer bottles since their days are numbered by the advent of the metric system.

Large breweries are quickly buying up the smaller ones. Falstaff and G. Heileman have bought out many. Although Burns is somewhat pleased that this makes many of his cans more rare, he is distressed that beer is going the same route as energy, agriculture and other commodities over which control is becoming centralized.

But even this unfortunate economic trend has its good points. When Brown Derby was brewed by Walter's Garth and Debbie both agree it was the worst beer they ever tasted. When Pearl bought the Brown Derby label, it improved greatly.

For all the empty cans on New Jersey, there are usually a couple six packs of cold, full cans that say "Budweiser." I've said it all.



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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