

# EXPANSION Cont.

a high-rise for the elderly or a major retail center in the 700 block of New Hampshire, and new multiple-family dwellings east of Mass. A restaurant and retail stores along the Kaw were suggested to accompany Lawrence's new Riverfront Park, now being developed.

The City and the Chamber have been quite vocal with their plans, but little has been heard from neighborhood groups and residents.

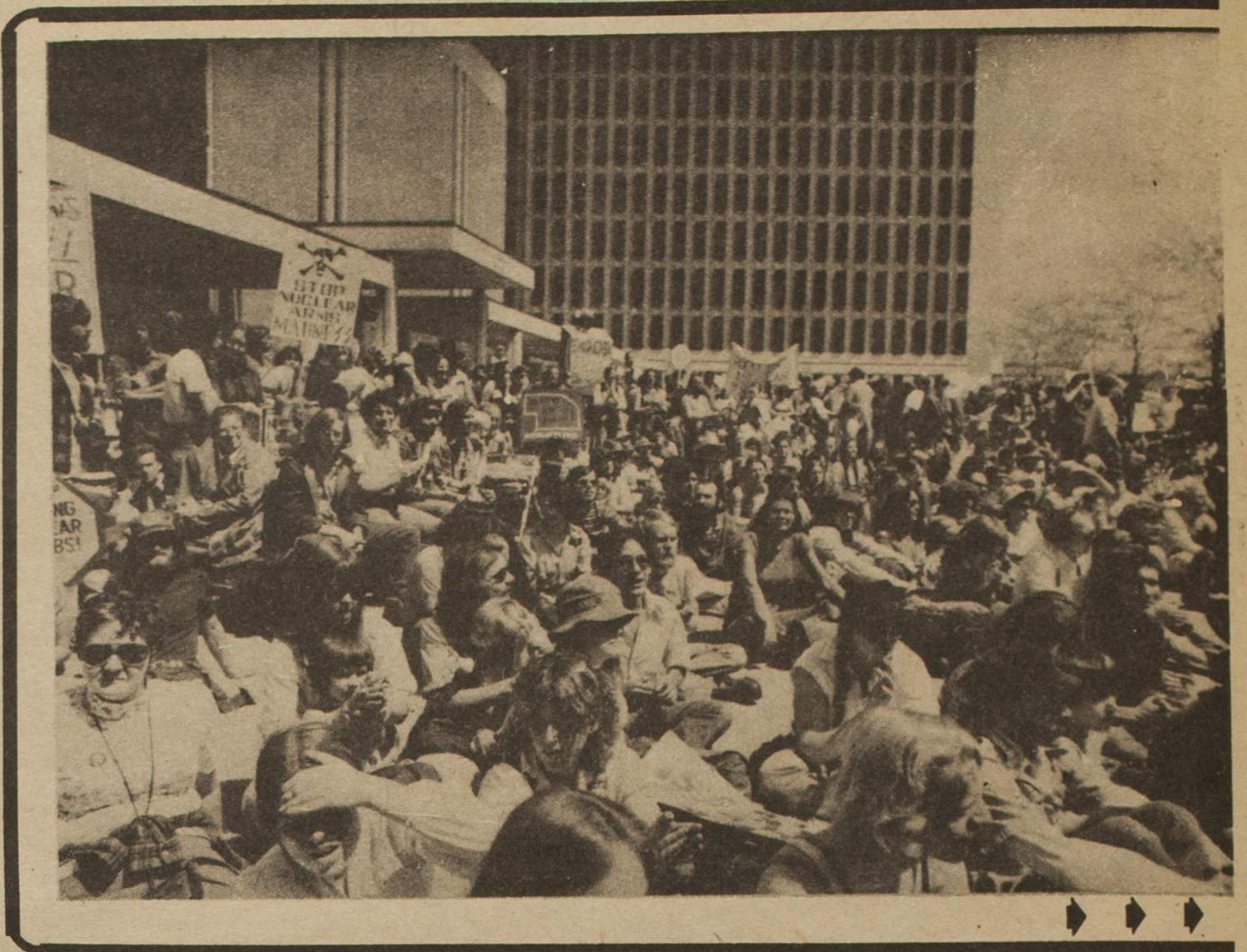
Clearly the priorities of the neighborhood associations clash with the commercial redevelopment plans. The East Lawrence Improvement Association has repeatedly emphasized that housing preservation and improvement is their chief concern.

During recent Community Development hearings, the City Commission was once again reminded by neighborhood representatives serving on the CD Review Committee, that quality housing is one of the main needs of Lawrence residents.

The City's priority is to boost business by subsidizing large developers and investors.

The question now is whether this conflict will erupt in confrontation between those pushing commercial redevelopment and neighborhood residents.

Asked what he's most concerned about as a Lawrence resident, Commissioner Barkley Clark, author of tax-increment financing (an ingenious plan for government subsidy of redevelopment in the 600 block of Mass.) replied, "rehabilitation of Lawrence's older neighborhoods."



# Beer Spirited Lawrence Summers

By Chuck Magerl & Don Zavelo

I don't know much about old J.D. Bowersock. The Lawrence histories of the 1870's and 1880's simply title him as "a capitalist", a leading civic figure with a finger in nearly every major industry. He was a member of the upper crust undoubtedly, but when it came time for relaxation and enjoyment, he joined the rest of the townspeople of Lawrence and headed to John Walruff's brewery and beer garden.

In 1867, a certain C.J. Walruff built a small brewery near a

spring fed stream at the north end of Maine Street. C.J. was an experienced brew master from Germany, and his "Walruff's Health Beer" caught on in the dusty, young town. The springs and stream also gave him a chance to open a "Bathing House" in the grottos near the stream, "hot and cold baths to be enjoyed all hours of the day."

But in July of 1870 the brewery complex was ravaged by a fire. C.J. turned for help to a relative, John Walruff, a banker in

Ottawa.

The Lawrence brewery was rebuilt in grand style. Along with the brick and stone brewing buildings, a maze of underground storage tunnels and caves, and a private residence, the new brewery hosted two floors of drinking parlors and five acres of shady groves, lawns, and gardens for lawn bowling, swings, croquet, shooting gallery, and canopied tables for sipping beer. Early sketches show peacocks and prize birds wandering the grounds.

The German population of Lawrence was first to respond. But soon, to accommodate the visitors, the brewery and beer gardens were opened all day, every day, the busiest time being Sunday afternoon for family outings.

Walruff's Beer held a virtual monopoly in Lawrence, served in many establishments and sold by delivery wagons through the streets of the town. In addition, as news of its quality spread, Walruff's was shipped to every station on the Leavenworth, Lawrence, and Galveston Railroad.

Then in 1880, Kansas voted in prohibition, the first state to do so, and John Walruff was faced with the fact that it was illegal to make beer except for medicinal purposes. In the winter of 1880 John Walruff was busy making mysterious improvements at his brewery. A different process was required to make beer for medicinal purposes, he said. He leaked news of improvements to the local papers and in the spring introduced his "medicinal beer," not a single drop different at all.

Outraged prohibitionists challenged Walruff with a long series of legal battles. Few people wanted the brewery stopped, and Walruff's patrons included judges, lawyers, and Mayor J.D. Bowersock. Though Walruff was arrested several times, his charges were either dropped or lightly passed over.

Five years after the prohibition law, Walruff's beer was still a favorite in Kansas and the con-

tinuation of the brewery was becoming a state-wide laughing scandal.

At Walruff's third trial, a United States Circuit Court judge in Topeka by the name of Brewer ruled against the State of Kansas. He claimed the State could not close the brewery without compensating Walruff for loss of business income. This decision was highly approved by the citizens of Lawrence and Walruff optimistically printed thousands of new labels for his bottles. The labels for "Extract of Malt" instructed; "Keep it very cool. Take a wine glass full at meal time and before retiring at night."

Prohibitionists were aghast at Walruff's pluck and persistence, but they weren't about to admit defeat. They appealed Judge Brewer's decision all the way through to the United States Supreme Court. Late in 1887 the court in Washington D.C. reversed Brewer's decision, ruling the State was not depriving Walruff of his property, but merely abating a nuisance and prohibiting the injurious use of that property. The Lawrence Brewery must close.

The Lawrence Tribune lamented "John Walruff must go. There are a great many other Lawrence establishments which our citizens would prefer to see moved than this."

Walruff, admitting his loss in Lawrence, but continuing his dedication to brewing, moved to Weston, Missouri, establishing his reputation once more.

The brewery property changed hands many times and was the site of three different tanneries, was used for farm storage, apartments during World War II, and was periodically abandoned. With the development of a mobile home park in 1964, all but one of the buildings were destroyed. The trailer park and the adjacent softball field at Woody Park leave little reminders of the pleasure park and beer garden that was once the toast of Lawrence.



The former stable remains at the brewery site, 2nd & Maine.



# Public Notice

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Those contributing to this issue: CHUCK MAGERL, SUSIE HANNA, KATE DUFFY, JACOB FLAKE, PENNY DAVIES, ANN BEMIS, STEVEN SKOLNICK, PATTI HACKNEY, SHEREE WELCH, PAUL JOHNSON, STEVE TREASTER, LAURIE SCHWARM, KATHY CLARK, JENNIFER SHAW, BARRY SHALINSKY, JOYCE KENDRICKS, DON ZAVELO, DAVID HANN, JOLENE BABYAK, DIANE LUBER, TERRI TORK, ED BOLES, KATHY MCGEE, LARRY WALLMAN, BARBARA BOWERMAN, JIM DAVIS, KELLY LYNE, BOB MARVIN, MARK KAPLAN, RICHARD KERSHENBAUM, AND KUDOS TO IN THESE TIMES.

# MAD

# DOG

Dog enjoying a subtle sense of the miraculous

