

# Battle Brewing Over Park!

BY BARBARA WILLITS

The history of the Hobbs Park bequest is long and confused. Mrs. Hobbs donated the money to dedicate a park in her husband's memory. The park is to be located roughly within the East Lawrence boundaries, north of 15th St. and west of Haskell.

Fred DeVictor, city parks and recreation director, first drew up an elaborate plan to destroy 11 houses in the 900 block of New Jersey. This plan was presented to interested citizens and soundly disapproved. Mr. DeVictor still defends this disastrous idea, even though low cost housing is practically nonexistent and these folks have nowhere to go if their houses are destroyed.

The ELIA AND FELIA cooperated to plan a use for the money. They asked the city to purchase some acreage of wooded land to make a natural park area. The plan was approved by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and presented to the city commission, who decided that the money was not intended to be spent east of Haskell.

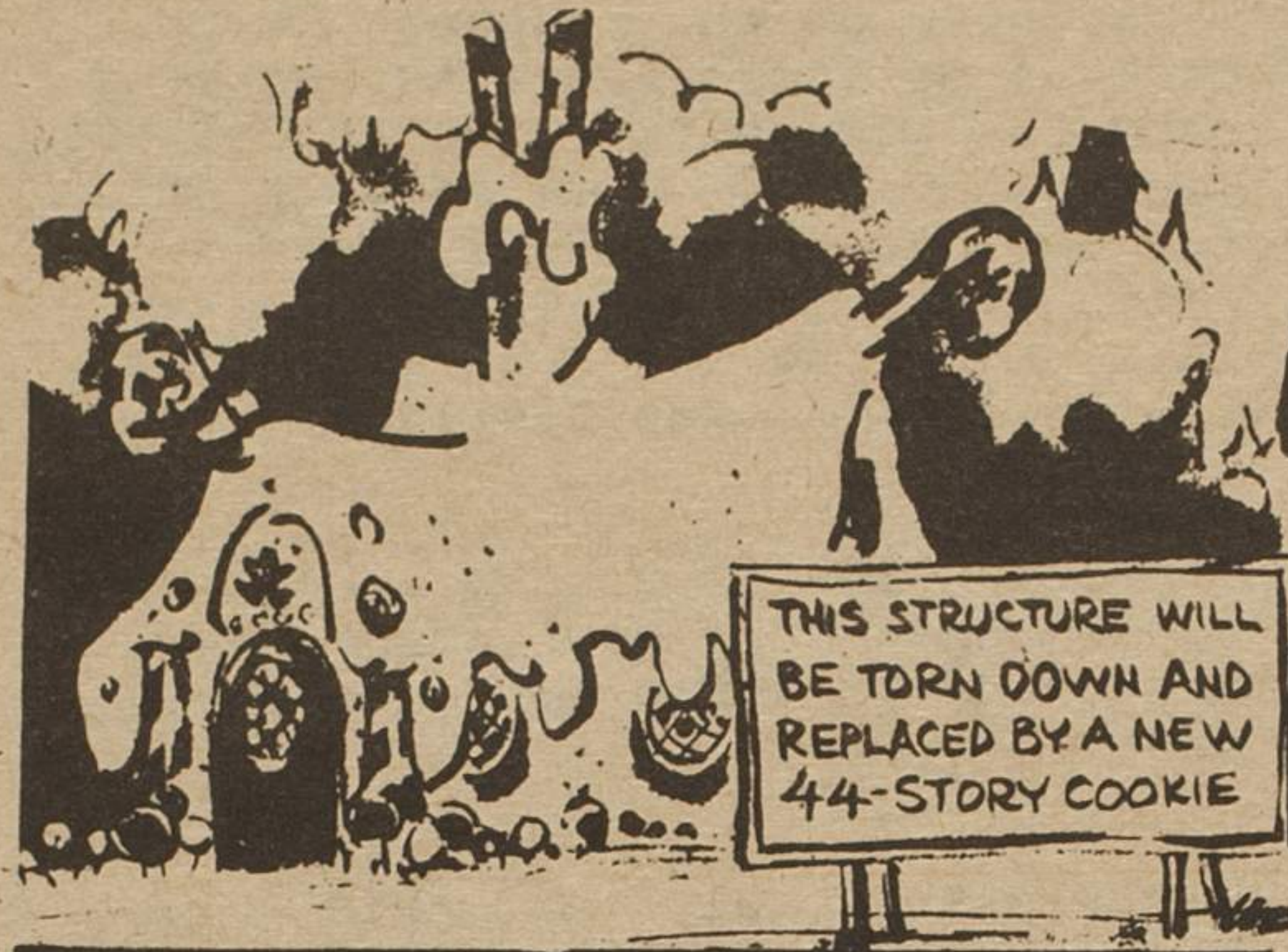
The ELIA then began to develop plans to upgrade the park area at 11th and Delaware. This is the only park area within East Lawrence's borders. Mr. DeVictor has long advocated razing the unusual stadium bleachers in the park and replacing them with brightly colored plastic bench seating. He feels the stadium attracts serious violent crime, even though none have ever been reported there.

Recently, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board approved using the Hobbs bequest at 11th and Delaware. The plans were presented to the City Commission. Lo and

and behold, the city staff asked the commissioners not to approve the plans. The staff wants to use the Hobbs bequest at the Far East Lawrence Center, soon to be built at 15th and Brook. They need the funds to bail them out because not enough money is available to finish plans for this high priced center. (Coincidentally, Mayor Don Binns is a Far East Lawrence resident).

The new center is directly south of the wooded area the City Commissioners refused to buy earlier because it was east of Haskell Avenue. Commissioner Barkley Clark now thinks we can'ticker about being a "few feet" east of Haskell.

The Hobbs Park Bequest is an excellent example of how city staff and commissioners manipulate events so they spend funds exactly as they wish without any regard to citizen input. The only response to citizens is legal and the commissioners spend our money to fight us.



As of June 20, Council on Aging is sponsoring a job counseling and placement service for those folks over 55. Robert McCoy, a retired local businessman is organizing Project Earn. If you are interested in using this service, give him a call at 842-0543.



## Clean Up On June 24

BY KATE DUFFY

Good news about the future VISTA project in East Lawrence was announced by Barbara Willits at the May general membership meeting. We are one out of fifteen new projects in the four state area chosen to send in a final application. The VISTAs will be doing community work in East Lawrence, building the ELIA membership and providing helpful information to residents. So far three people have expressed interest in the jobs: two ELIA members, Kate Duffy and Mike Manley, and Cindy Hagg, a Penn House staff member. Any other interested applicants should talk to Barbara Willits, the VISTA supervisor.

The first phase of the annual clean up was June 3 for the folks that live north of 11th St. The second phase will be June 24 for those who live south of 11th to 15th St. You will be receiving flyers in your doors with all the information. Everybody is encouraged to come and help.

Barbara Willits has checked with the Community Development Office and there's money left for dead tree removal. If you would like to use this fund, please come to the next meeting on June 12th.

The ELIA gave its approval to Kate Duffy to act as official outreach worker this summer. She will be dealing especially with housing problems: landlord-tenant rehabilitation, winterization, etc. Please call 1035 Pennsylvania, 842-0440, in the afternoons.

John Hamilton was voted in as treasurer for the remainder of the term. We're glad to have him back. He's not only a good neighbor but an experienced officer as well.

The next general membership meeting will be June 12, 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room at New York School. See you all there!!!!

## Early Days In Lawrence

BY FAY C. MOYS  
620 Kentucky



In this age, it seems hard to understand how early settlers came to reach this land. When Grandma came from Quindaro nearby in steamboat "Lightfoot", with a smoke-stack high.

The wind blew a gale every night and day, It took three days to bring them on their way. Her brother thought to put her at her ease, "Beautiful Kansas always has a breeze!"

When they arrived on the bank of the Kaw Settlers were there, though the weather was raw. With cannon salute, all started to sing An, oh, how welcome their voices did ring.

The "Kansas Emigrant" they knew so well, Each deep note sounding but never could tell How thankful they were to meet a new friend. It helped so much from beginning to end.

With two children, word came uphill and down, That Quantrill was coming to wreck the town. She planned in a hurry what she should do, Turned the pig loose, pushed baby-buggy through.

Grandma went to see her brother; now grown, In bark-covered house, she was not alone. When she married, with four children to raise, He joined the army during war-time days.

The open gate, put the babies in place To start on journey, through big open space. She pushed the children uphill west of town Where she stayed in hiding for word around.

She heard Quantrill had left; she hurried home And there was the pig, who never did roam. But waited to hear the family call... The tale has a happy end, after all.

**LOVE**  
**FLORIAN**

Quality Used LPs  
At Reasonable Prices.

WE BUY AND SELL  
LPs AND TAPES  
BEST PARAPHERNALIA  
SELECTION IN TOWN  
842-3059

**J. HOOD**

Quality Used Books

**BOOKS**

25,000 PAPER BACKS  
(1/2 ORIGINAL PRICE)

HARDCOVER PRINTS  
MAGAZINES RECORDS

Tues-Saturday 10am-6pm  
Sunday 1pm-6pm  
Closed on Monday

**1401 MASS**  
841-4544

**ELLER**

**sister kettle cafe**

cheese sandwiches  
pancakes  
waffles  
salads  
soups

icecream  
granola  
grainburgers  
sautéed vegies  
rice and beans  
omelettes

there is a difference at  
**SISTER KETTLE!**

It is collectively owned and operated, serving wholesome vegetarian meals prepared from scratch. Daily specials.

\*air conditioned comfort

14th and Mass. 10am-9pm Wednesday thru, Sunday  
Closed Monday Tuesday Coffeehouse 8-11pm

lawrence's best friend

i Coming Soon!

the  
**PENTIMENTO**  
CoffeeHouse-Cafe  
611 Vermont