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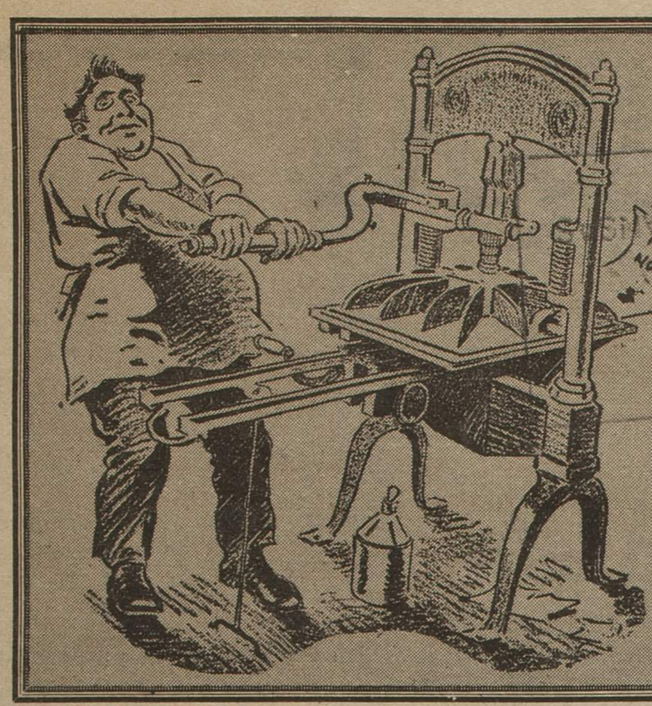

COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNITY MERCANTILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

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Vol. 2 No. 2 DECEMBER, 1976 25¢

FROM THE FLOOD PLAIN TO SUBURBIA

BY CHIP JONES

LAWRENCE MOVES SOUTH

Bob and Sue lived in a small house in the country-like atmosphere of North Lawrence until recently when they decided to make a drastic change in their life and move to the suburban environs of Indian Hills. PUBLIC NOTICE interviewed this couple to find out why they wanted to live in a newer home and what impact the move had on their lives. They had some insightful comments to make. We encourage our readers to explore their own communities and to write about them.

In 1965, Four Seasons Inc, began construction of a housing development called Indian Hills in the cow pastures south of 23rd Street. Eleven years later, a young married couple, expecting a baby, tired of a roach-infested North Lawrence home whose faulty wiring inspired visions of immediate conflagration and an apathetic landlord who refused to make any repairs, began combing these relatively flat "Hills" for a suitable home. For $36,500 and a thirty year mortgage, they found one. It has three bedrooms, one and a half baths, wall to wall carpeting, and a front and back yard bald as their baby's behind.

Sue and Bob (at their request I'm supplying ficticious names) talked at length recently about their reasons for moving from North Lawrence to Indian Hills, their impressions of both neighborhoods, the present and future of Lawrence, and anything that came to mind.

When asked why they bought a new house, Sue said, "That house we were living in wasn't safe for Brad (the baby) or us. We looked for a place to rent, but a clean, decent place costs a lot of money. So we looked into it and found we could get a pretty good deal on this house. We figured if nothing else we're not losing money because we can always turn around and sell it. Just due to inflation we should make money.

"We figure we got a pretty good house, "Bob interjected. "There are a few things that need fixing, but it's hard to get the builder over here to fix them because they stopped building houses. Now they're into commercial stuff. But I'l get them over here some day."

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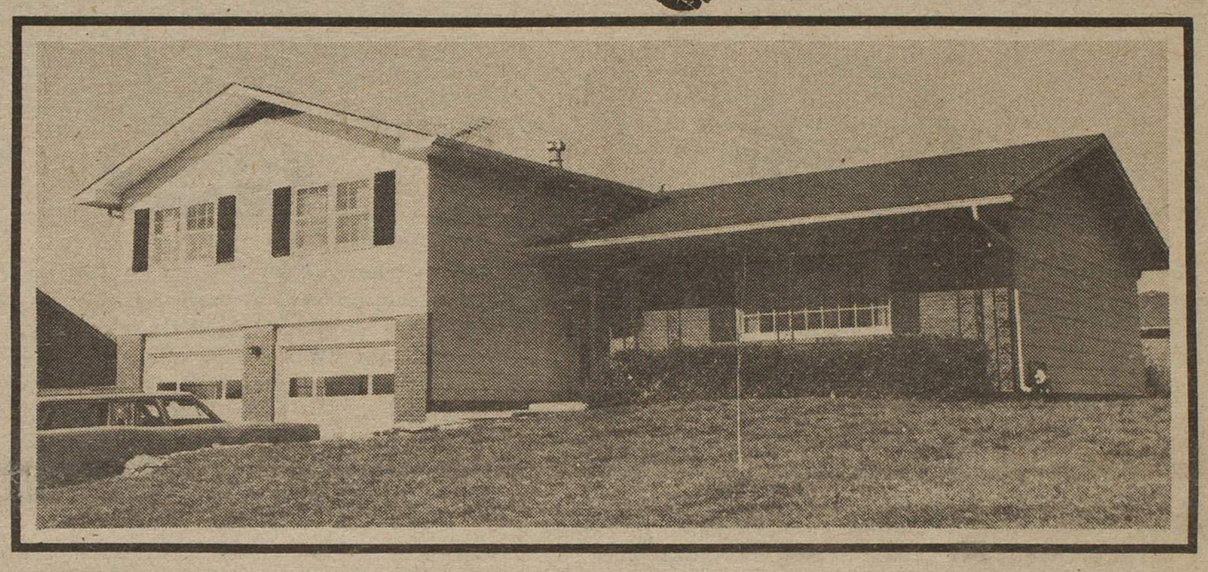

ARE THE PEOPLE OF LAWRENCE TOO IGNORANT TO RUN THEIR TOWN?

Citizens of this town were outraged last month when a Journal-World editorial (Nov. 9) referred to the people of Lawrence as "50,000 political amatuers," in a scathing attack on the current effort to place a "return to Mayor-Council" proposition on the City ballot next Spring.

The crux of the question seems to be whether the City is to be run by the 5-member oligarchy, called the City Commission, or a Mayor-administrator, elected at large, and a Council, composed of members elected from districts.

PUBLIC NOTICE urges citizens to take note of this controversy. Judging from the obvious over-reaction of the local press, it's sure to stir a heated debate, provided the issue is placed on the ballot. Seems anytime you talk about letting the people get in on the runnin' of the town, somebody comes up to say that it can't be done... See page 12 for more.

"OUTTA THE WAY BUDDY, 'CAUSE WE'RE COMIN' THRU!"

THE HASKELL LOOP

east lawrence in a battle for survival

By The Staff

Over 175 people jammed into the East Lawrence Center, 10th and Delaware, on the night of Nov. 8. It was the largest crowd ever gathered at one of the monthly meetings of the East Lawrence Improvement Association. Consideration of the pros and cons of the proposed Haskell Loop was the only item on the agenda.

The Loop is a roadway planned for the eastern and northern fringes of the East Lawrence neighborhood. It's designed to connect Seventh and Conneticut with the intersection of 11th and Haskell Avenue. The road bowls over 27 homes while leaving 26 others on the industrially-zoned area to the north and east. It eliminates the neighborhood's park facilities on the 1000 block of Delaware. Housing will be torn out and neighbors will be relocated with $845,000 in Community Development Act money granted to the City by the Federal Government. The City justifies such urban renewal by pushing the roadway as a boon to neighborhood rehabilitation. Proponents claim the road would take traffic off neighborhood streets and buffer industrial uses in the area from residences. The controversial nature of the project stems from intense interest on the part of the business and industrial firms in the East Lawrence area. They were the first to jump on the Loop bandwagon, and were subsequently recognized by the City as the legitimate voice of the neighborhood.

But residents of East Lawrence were not to be had so easily. After two hours of spirited debate in the smoke-filled quonset hut at 10th and Delaware, more than 110 dues-paying members of the ELIA prepared to take a vote on whether to support, as a group, the Haskell Loop. As non-members scrambled for the rear of the building, including several City officials, the vote was called for. Thirty-six stood in favor of the road--primarily businessmen and their relatives, members by virtue of property-ownership, while sixty-eight stood opposed--all but one were residents of East Lawrence.

Since the City has constantly harped at the overwhelming support the neighborhood has given to City plans to build the Loop, it became apparent at this meeting that those plans were in jeopardy.

Indeed, two years ago, the construction of the Haskell Loop was a foregone conclusion. The City Commission gave a blanket endorsement of the project. The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce gave a standing ovation to the idea of an industrial thru-way dumping traffic and dollars into the north end of downtown. Even the ELIA itself had voted for the road, on recommendations of the City,

PAGE TEN

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THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

By Steve Otto

Soon, there'll be nothing left

Next year the Wakarusa Valley will be flooded to create 82 miles of shoreline and Lake Clinton. The project was originally intended to provide flood-control along the Wakarusa. Yet it's hard to understand how the government can flood miles of useable farmlands expecially in an area as scenic as the Wakarusa Valley. The Wakarusa has never posed a serious flood problem and, in fact, minor flooding sometimes brings useful topsoil to the farmland.

The Army Corps of Engineers, who designed the project, have already built 16 dams in Kansas and more than 250 throughout the U.S. The reasons for building these dams vary from flood control to powering electric generators. But there's an even greater reason: the Government makes big money on these dams, often at the expense of the environment, and always at the expense of the taxpayer.

When the Corps decides to build, it's the people who pay.

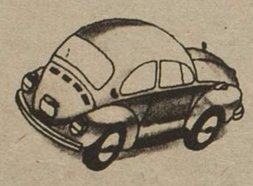
And often the public must pay twice for recreation privileges. You can spend a quiet night in a state park after you've forked over for a permit to camp. You can fish and boat, but usually need a permit for these too.

Some of the larger lakes, such as the Chaney Resevoir and Fall River, charge admission fees. If you have enough money to buy a house in these areas, you get these privileges for free, but the average Joe must pay again for facilities which his tax money built.

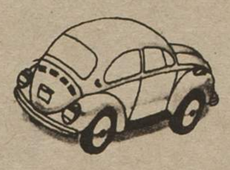
Clinton will be a bit different than the usual lakes in Kansas. Much of the area will be set aside as a wildlife refuge. There will be no lakeside homes because of sewer problems.

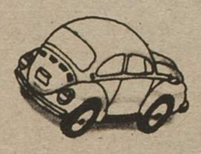
There are already plans to build Corbin Resevoir along the Chikaskia River to provide water for Wichita's expansion. Once again, environmentalists are hotly battling the dam proposal. Many people in the area use the river for swimming, boating and camping, but if the dam is constructed they may well end up paying for these now free priveleges.

A natural park is a neat alternative to the Army's raking around the earth digging dams. It's about time Kansas had a natural park for recreation, like some of the national parks given to other states. The Flint Hills in eastern Kansas seems a logical and feasible choice. If you'd like to have a park which provides a natural atmosphere for camping and recreation now is the time to speak. Too many voices were silent when the plans for Clinton dam were finalized but it's never too late to create a park that could be enjoyed, for free, by you and me.



Welcome





By Kate Duffy

The price of operating a car has steadily gone up while people's trust in their mechanics has steadily gone down. But now Volkswagen owners have an alternative to high prices and bad feelings.

Since May, Greg Wilkerson and Mike Gortenburg have been the owner-mechanics of Lawrence VW, 1326 W. 9th. Besides the usual garage services, they have some extras to offer. Their prices are about 20% cheaper than other garages in town. They generally charge even lower rates for small preventative maintenance jobs to inspire their customers to take better care of their cars. If there's a chance that an old part can be fixed and is still useable, Mike and Greg will spend the time fixing it rather than buy a new part to hike up the bill. But most important is their attitude. They are not in business to reap in bushels of money. Instead, they feel that VW's are worthwhile products and should be treated thus. Their customers are treated well also. Greg and Mike are always available to talk to and listen to their customers. In the future, they would like to hold VW workshops and teach people how to do tune-ups and valve jobs.

Lawrence VW is a friendly and fair small business which has good services to offer the Lawrence community. As a Volkswagen owner, I appreciate the care they give my car and my head. I hope others will give them their support.

Lemon, Lemon, Lemon, Lime
Let's ask Congress to make love a crime
So people would break the law and do it all the time,
Lemon, Lemon, Lemon, Lime.

A Gemini

★★ THE LAWRENCE PUBLIC NOTICE ★★

The PUBLIC NOTICE is published on or about the 1st of each month, by the Community Mercantile food cooperative, with main offices located on the top floor of the Stubbs Building, 1101 1/2 Mass. CALL 842-5657

People contributing to this issue: Pat Sullivan, Chuck Magerl, Kate Duffy, Paul Hughes, Mark Kaplan, Susie Hanna, Dick 'Tater', Roger Martin, Paul Johnson, Patti Plamann, Greg Eashaw, Diane Luber, David Hann, Steve Otto, Helene Pesche, Tim Miller, Frank Addington, John Naughton, Chip Jones, George Konetsky, Judy Kroeger, Dorothy Springer, Christine Leonard, Laurie Schwarm, Thom Leonard, Boyd Evans, Floyd Cobbler, ISit, Molly VanHee, Patty Spencer and the People's Energy Project.

OVERHEARD IN LAWRENCE

Boyd Evans, local astute sociologist said recently in one of his more outstanding lectures, "A country with any kind of government is barbaric".....

Recently the mayor of Lawrence was asked his opinion about the proposed switch back to mayor-council form of government during a rather spirited question-answer period in a local university's class. He responded thusly: "NO, I don't favor a change to mayor-council and I'll tell you why not. I know that in one Iowa town where they had that type of government, they ended up with drunk railroad workers in the city council."

"Bruce Lee is poetry in motion."
Rod Runyan----- Noted Local Librarian

"I want bloody violence, not just fractures."
Ma Barvin

"Kansas is space" ----

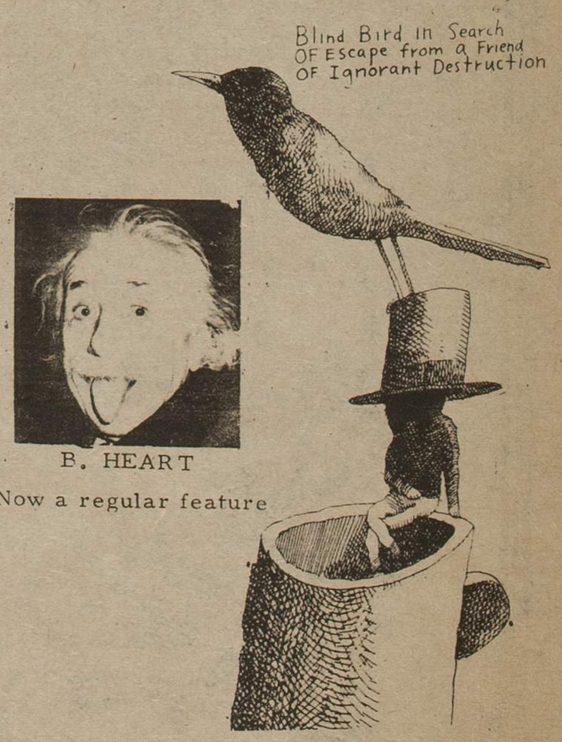
a local spacedog

Travel Stories

This is a feature column on travel experiences of Lawrence residents. We invite you to tell your on-the-road tales in this space.

TRUCKING IN NEPAL

I blew my nose once. In front of a gurhka. This happened in Gurhkaland, in the west of Nepal. There was an older gurhka man there who was squatting in the kitchen of his inn. We were staying in his inn. The kitchen was a little room with no utensils except for a little oven, made of mud. He had a big black teapot, and he was squatting by the teacup on his haunches, squatting in the dirt, preparing a cup of tea for us. Out on the porch, a man was butchering a goat. We were waiting in the shade. We'd walked a long ways up a stone trail. Steep mountainsides and terraced fields of red dirt. There was a young girl next to the old man. Young Nepalese girls are beautiful, well proportioned classic beauties with large brass earrings, bracelets, spangles, rings in the nose. When I sneezed, the man thought I was saying hello in Tibetan. In Tibetan, a stifled sneeze is how you say hello. He picked his nose as a return in the conversation. This means, "What do you want?" He says, "I am waiting." I blew my nose, announcing that I wished to marry his daughter. He stood, picked at his ass, rolling the little anus jamball and flicking it into the fire. This symbolized disfavor to the tea.



B. HEART

Now a regular feature

THE OLD WINDMILL

There it stands--
The lonely windmill,
All bent and twisted,
All else is gone.

The old peach trees
Desolate and deserted
Stand with their gaunt arms
Reaching for the sky.
The family who picked
The peaches
Gone, all gone, all gone.

The fine three-storied brick house
With its red velvet sofa
And bric-a-brac of other days
Home for two generations
Of the same Swedish family
Center of social life
In the neighborhood
But now--all gone, all gone.

The huge, dilapidated barn
Battered by winds and storms
Finally sagged down--
First the shed, then the barn
Filled with hay.

With a crackling noise
The tongues of lightening
Licked at the roof
Consumed the hay and harness
Buggy and horses
Fastened to the stanchions.
Gone, all gone, all gone.

Only the creaking wheel
of the Windmill
Complaining in the wind
Stands alone,
On this forsaken homestead--
Alone, all alone, all, all alone.

Dorothy M. Springer

Watching People

I play a game in classing the people who pass by. There's a certain fraternity of highly sensitive people apparent in the way they walk, their movements, their attitude in addressing the world. But the window of knowledge is the eyes. I discern the temperment by the timid alertness, the unshielded hope shining thru. Their eyes are aware.

But what use are these easily hurt, these small ones with tender nerves? The small ones are never the beautiful people, rarely large or strong, seldom adroit or loud, unachieved and non-descript.

We have this ideal of self-reliance, the shy smiles and searching eyes bother us. The sensitive impose high standards on friends and roar with the spite of their small souls when stepped on. They are too quiet even for others of their number, seeking a sure adroitness never found in themselves.

Perhaps our conscience is reflected in their eyes. We are bothered in their inability to hurt others. We become angry with the lack of defense to our insults, it spurs us to fresh taunts.

Yet the sensitive understand our weaknesses, our tender egos are never stepped on. We are thankful they are around, happy to be helpful when we need them. It's their honor to give us aid. We soon forget though, it is such a small thing.

Pinto
(Written in the laundromat, watching people.)

CAKE

As the snow falls to
melt in a gray layer
The wastes of the faithless rulers
choke the toiling masses.
Yet the tossed crumbs so sweet
lull us in silent solitude.

IS. it

A TALE OF POWER

BY DAVID HANN

George Pierson Morehouse was a Kansas State Senator who unsuccessfully defended the Kaw Nation from being exiled to the Oklahoma territories in 1873. The Kansa chose Morehouse to be their official historian and reportedly gave to him several historical records and artifacts. Some of these may be seen at the Kansas State Historical Society Museum in Topeka. The following is an address he gave to the Society on October 15th, 1929.

Nearly everyone who has driven past the intersection at Sixth and Massachusetts has noticed a large red rock which sits in the northwest corner of that crossroads. During the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Lawrence (October, 1929) one of the interesting ceremonies was the dedication, in Robinson Park, of that large red granite boulder or monolith which so permanently marks the place.

This venerable Rock of Ages was recently taken from from the Kaw River bank at the mouth of Shunganunga Creek west of Topeka. Geologists say it was transported from the far North with that vast deposit of boulders and gravel which mark the moraines in this part of Kansas 40,000 to 100,000 years ago.

Our Lawrence friends were not aware that this great rock has an interesting history in Indian religion and mythology; that it was one of the leading lesser gods or objects of worship of the Kaw or Kansa nation; and it marked a sacred spot and shrine where that tribe regularly offered sacrificial prayers and offerings.

This ancient prayer rock of the Indians is an impressive block of red granite, about eleven feet high and some twenty feet in circumference. Its weight is probably twenty-five tons and it is a very fine specimen of its kind. On one side a bronze memorial tablet has been inset, containing the names of the first two companies of pioneers who came and founded Lawrence, in 1854.

Over fifty years ago the Kansa tribe possessed and still used a prayer-song chart of much interest and which referred to this old red rock. The tribe had this chart at the time they were removed from their reservation near Council Grove, Kansas, to the Indian territory; and no one knows how long before that time it was used; or when compiled.

It was probably owned by the tribe contemporaneous with the possession of the sacred sea shell, which was brought from "the great water eastward" (the Atlantic Ocean) and was kept with other sacred objects. It was probably 200 years old at that time, and it had been handed down the line of the war captains of the tribe.

Probably certain groups of the song-prayers have been added in more modern times, such as those to the big rock near Topeka. However, this rock was known and worshipped by the Kansa Indians since they first occupied the Kaw Valley, which was about 150 years ago; and even before Topeka was known as a place name.

Along the Kansas River there were several spirit villages of the Kansa, where the souls of the dead warriors and all good dreamers went at death. This big rock was left at the mouth of the Shunganunga Creek by the glacial drift and marked one. Its vicinity was sacred ground and this rock was an alter. When this monument was recently taken to Lawrence, according to Kansa belief it destroyed this spirit village and the spirits fled away.

These spirit villages were usually established by the tribe's migrations. When the Kansa left the Kaw Valley for their Council Grove reservation in 1847, their spirit villages still remained along the Kansas valley; but when the tribe was moved from Council Grove to Oklahoma in 1873, their spirit villages were considered to be along the Neosho, where they still remain. The spirit villages were always located at or near old former villages of the tribe, and not their modern burial places.

Report given by George Pierson Morehouse in October, 1929.

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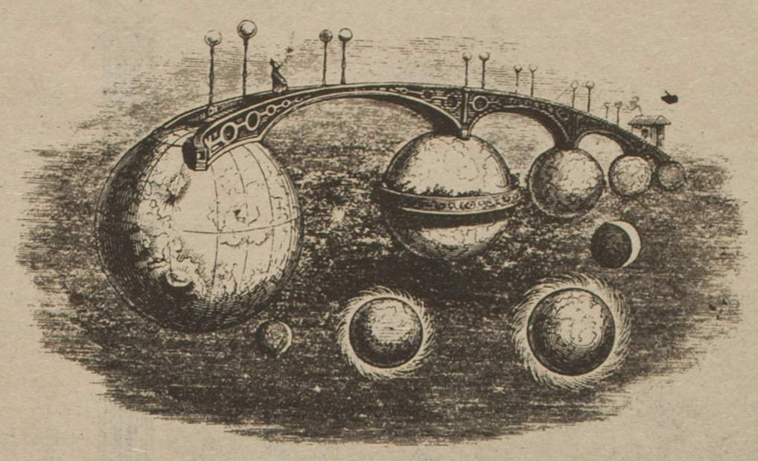
Stop Press News

The presses are still rolling for PUBLIC NOTICE. In fact, we're over a year old now and going stronger than ever! We started in October 1975 with a four-page blurb on the Haskell Loop; an issue put together by three people and containing no advertising. This issue was brought to you by 29 in cooperation with the Community Mercantile and the People's Energy Project whose paper supplements the Notice now. But we need your support. Talk to us.

Stop Press News



COOP NEWS

By Patti Spencer-----for the work collective

I thought that the recent reorientation program at the Mercantile was a resounding success. The work collective was in a down place about the store when we initiated the program, and people have justifiably criticized us for the negative way in which we presented the idea.

But the response was great. Over 270 households attended the 12 sessions. While some meetings were definitely better than others, and some people attended merely to maintain their memberships, I think the store (meaning all of us) has benefited greatly from the program. There has recently been more interest in the store, more energy for the co-op.

We had lost sight of what we're doing. We're co-operating to change our lives. Sure it's often frustrating- we're certainly no batch of angels and we're having to deal with each other. Sure, the change is often fairly subtle, but we just have our toe in the door. We'll keep growing if we keep talking to each other, exchanging ideas and criticisms.

We're doing something pretty solid - providing good food for ourselves, paying attention to the ecology of how we get that good food, and paying a reasonable price.

The future can be even more important. See you at the December 2nd general meeting.

THEY EAT HORSES, DON'T THEY?

By Diane Luber

For those co-op members who give of themselves above and beyond the call of duty, the co-op is seldom a dull undertaking. As if the process of reorienting most of the membership during October didn't shake things up enough, another controversial topic crept quietly into the store and landed with both feet (or should I say "drumsticks") in our ice cream freezer. No, you weren't hallucinating last Saturday when you saw a frozen chicken next to that pint of Holy Cow Carob Mint. CHICKEN in our CO-OP!?! How did it get there? And, perhaps more importantly, should it be there?

In this particular chicken and egg case, the eggs came first. The co-ops organic egg supplier serves only our co-op. In an attempt to keep up with our demand for eggs, he has at times in the past obtained more chickens. In spite of his attempts, the almost over 170 dozen eggs he delivers every Friday seldom last until the following Tuesday. Chickens do not lay eggs forever. There comes a time when the cost of feeding and caring for chickens outweighs the benefits (or eggs) produced. When our egg supplier reached that point with some of his chickens, he approached the work collective (store coordinators) with the idea of passing these organic stewing hens onto the meat-eating members of our co-op. The work collective responded by placing a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Pre-ordered frozen chickens would be delivered with our eggs on Friday (beginning October 22). They would be picked up and paid for on Saturday by those members who had ordered them. No sooner had the first frozen chicken passed through the portals of the Community Mercantile than a special steering committee meeting was called to discuss co-op meat policies at 3:30pm on November 31 in the Public Library.

Fifteen co-op members participated in the meeting. Bob Burford, one of the initiators of the meeting, presented four questions to be discussed:

1. Shall we carry, store, disseminate, promote chicken meat in or through our co-op?
2. Shall we be involved in the procurement, storing, and distribution of any meat or meat product through our co-op?
3. Shall we stock, provide, and promote other items (sugar, packaged goods, canned goods, non-food items, etc.) through our co-op? Should we actively seek suppliers, producers, brokers, or dealers who can provide such?
4. Should we be actively engaged in consciousness raising concerning food (more so than at present), in research concerning the items we currently stock or pre-order (their content, use and alternatives), and in research concerning proposed items?

Bob advocated the co-op be a "granary rather than grocery store that stocks items that can't be found elsewhere" keeping "the time-bound custom" of not stocking meat. He then made the following proposal:

> "As of today (November 31), no work collective time, members' energies, store equipment or space be spent in special stocking of these chickens. The Community Bulletin Board and the Public Notice (free classified ads) are available for any individual information and should be used."

Annabelle Nelson added that it is inconsistent for the food co-op to educate people to eat natural foods low on the food chain and to stock chicken at the same time.

"It is one thing to educate, but another thing to dictate," responded Anna Berger. Besides, Anna pointed out, "this topic is passe" since the co-op already stocks milk, cheese, and potentially fertilized eggs. Since people can't get "clean meat" elsewhere (unless they have contacts with organic farmers), the co-op is doing its members a service by stocking these chickens.

Patti Spencer admitted the work collective may have been operating outside the boundaries of its authority when it set up the chicken ordering system. However, handling the chickens was not seen as an effort by the co-op to carry meat. Rather, it was an effort to be ecologically responsible for our actions. Carrying (or eating) eggs entails dealing with the chickens. Too often, she said, this society allows us to pass on our responsibility for decision-making, pollution, etc. to someone else.

Chuck Magerl put forth the work collective proposal that a chicken-buying club be substituted for the present pre-order system. Persons wishing to order chickens would pay $2.00 per chicken in advance. If the chickens cost less, people would be reimbursed when the chickens were picked up on Saturday. Any chickens not picked up by closing on Saturday would by given to Penn House. This procedure would minimize the work collective's involvement and also limit the time the chickens would be in the store.

Several members expressed feelings ranging from uneasiness to outrage at the idea of handling the chickens. Some, while approving of the chickens as a special case, were concerned about setting a precedent for handling meat. Others considered not carrying eggs as a way of not having to deal with chickens. One person suggested that those

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Molly Van Hee

Some say we have the best, freshest produce in town. Some think it's so bad, they buy their's at other stores. Both sides have a point. If we start comparing our produce to the supermarkets, a few issues come to light. Supermarkets have a full time produce manager. We have a mostly volunteer labor system. Because we offer a large variety in a small space, frequent restocking and re-arranging is necessary. If our people don't show up to work, this doesn't get done, and our produce shows it. At the supermarkets, as soon as a minor "bad" spot is noticed, the whole piece is tossed out. Let's all re-educate ourselves to be less spoiled, to create less waste. Certainly nobody should buy rotten food. A fresh bunch of lettuce with one brown leaf however, is a different story. Go ahead, buy it! On the plus side, we turn our produce over faster than the supermarkets due to our lack of storage space. Faster turnover should mean fresher produce. Unfortunately, due to the problems mentioned, this isn't always the case.

When the co-op began, weekly 2am runs to the K.C. Farmer's Market in a borrowed truck sufficed. Marilyn Roy, then our produce co-ordinator, could easily fill the $50 or $60 worth of orders made by the first 30-40 members. The goods were distributed on one day of the week only. As we grew, weekly runs became necessary. Before too long, our orders were so large that two trucks per run were needed. At this point, it was decided to check out having the produce delivered.

Borrowing trucks was getting difficult, sometimes impossible. So the search was on to find a good company to deal with. A. Reich and Sons, a wholesale company out of K.C., was chosen. They offer tri-weekly delivery, reasonable prices, they take back bad produce, get first pick of a truckload because they are delivered to before the K.C. Farmer's Market, and best of all, their Lawrence salesperson, Marion Crawley, treats us great.

Since deciding on A. Reich and Sons 1 1/2 years ago, we have checked out other possibilities. We are still convinced that A. Reich and Sons is the best source of commerical produce available to us now.

Everyone agrees that buying local produce is a good idea certainly from an ecological standpoint. And whenever possible, we buy locally. Energy has been put into starting a producer's cooperative. If successful, it could provide for a wider variety of local goods. Folks might put energy into other schemes as well, such as large scale greenhouse growing, etc. Often local produce is organically grown. At this time, local suppliers are our only source for produce grown on naturally balanced soil without pesticides.

Hopefully, this article has cleared up some misunderstandings about produce at the co-op. Most complaints are based on problems created by lack of time, energy, and space. Those interested in solving them might take a few minutes for tidying up the case when messy or stocking it from underneath when low. We offer a wide variety of commercial produce at fair prices. This is what many people want. To stay in tune with our co-op's ecological ideals, however, we might put more energy into finding new sources of local, naturally grown produce.

I'm a co-op member and I'd like to say how wonderful the October issue was. Everything was so interesting it took me 45 minutes to read (and I'm a fairly fast reader). Now I'd like to contribute something on one of my favorite subjects: food. I hope you can use it.

When we plant our garden every year, we always forget how many potatoes we planted the year before--and always, to be safe instead of sorry, we plant far too many and end up harvesting about four bushels. This year however, I wrote it all down so next year we should have a harvest we can handle more easily. But potatoes are easy to grow. For all of you who have a lot of 'em on your hands that you want to use up before they start shrinking or sprouting, here are some delicious recipes for this humble vegetable.

It sounds complicated but it isn't and its worth the effort:

Gratin Dauphinois

1 c. grated Swiss cheese (Jarlsberg!)
1/2 c. chives
1 tab. dill weed
2 tab butter
2 tab. flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1 c. half and half cream
1 c. sour cream
6 to 7 cups thinly sliced cooked potatoes (about 5)

Boil potatoes in salt water 15 to 20 minutes until tender. Toss together the cheese, chives, and dill. Set aside. In a saucepan, melt the butter, stir in flour and salt. Remove from heat and slowly add half and half. Cook over medium heat until thickened. Cook 2 more minutes. Remove from heat and add sour cream. In a baking dish, layer sour cream mixture and cheese mixture several times. Cover with potatoes. For topping, combine 1/4 c. dry break crumbs with 1/4 c. melted butter and 1/2 c. more of shredded swiss cheese.

Sprinkle on top. Bake 30 minutes at 350. Serves 6.

Potatoe Pancakes

2 c. grated raw potatoes (squeezed and drained)
1/4 c. milk
1 egg, well beaten
Combine these and then add:
2 tab. flour
1 tab. grated onion
1 tsp. salt, some pepper

Mix well and fry on a hot greased griddle until brown and crisp.

Laurie Schwarm

A delicate balance

The discovery of DNA and RNA as the master molecules that control cell metabolism was the most exciting scientific development of the 1960's. Among other things, it gave a vital link between our understanding of life as a chemical process and life on a multicellular level.

We now know that the double helix of DNA RNA is in effect the nervous system of each cell, and that poor nucleic acid chemistry is the key to the aging process and to overall health.

Yet it has occurred to few scientists to inquire into the role these nucleic acids might play in nutrition, especially human nutrition. One exception is Benjamin S. Frank, M.D., who did a technical study of the subject in 1975, Nucleic Acid Therapy in Aging and Degenerative Disease. After a number of years of administering therapeutic doses of DNA and RNA to laboratory rats and to patients suffering from diseases ranging from diabetes to cancer, Dr. Frank has shown a remarkable success rate in mitigating the effects of disease and aging by improving systemic health.

Dr. Frank is all in favor of the nutritional wisdom one can gather from, say, the writings of Adelle Davis or Frances Moore Lappe's Diet for a Small Planet: any diet should contain essential vitamins, minerals, roughage, and above all a good balance in each meal of the Eight Essential Amino Acids which the body cannot produce. But in his popular work on the role of nucleic acids in nutrition, Dr. Frank's No-Aging Diet ($7.95, Dial Press), he recommends that nucleic acids are elements in diet that should be watched as closely as proteins.

His most startling results have come in the curing of the aged, but for the young and healthy, DNA nutrition is also important as a preventative measure against disease and general poor health. Essentially, Dr. Frank's recommendation boils down to eating 4 cans of sardines a week and some other fish or shellfish on the other 3 days. For some unknown reason, canned sardines have an RNA content factor of 590, compared with, say, tuna at 5. Some other high-RNA foods:

chicken liver	402	garbanzo beans	356
beef liver	268	blackeye peas	306
fresh anchovies	341	small white beans	305
fresh salmon	289	large lima beans	293
canned oysters	239	great northern beans	284
pinto beans	485		
lentils	484		

(all beans are measured dried)

Other foods which have never had their RNA content measured (the above figures were arrived at only this year), but which should be rich in RNA as indicated by their purine content, are: nuts, spinach, oatmeal, wheat germ, bran, mushrooms, and onions. In addition to replenishing the body's RNA supply, Dr. Frank also recommends beets as a supplier of an essential brain chemical.

This book gives us yet another reason for avoiding the muscle-meat gutbombs purveyed down Fast Food Alley, because hamburgers and chops simply don't do much to keep the body's RNA content restored. However, I don't recommend buying the book, at least until it comes out in paper. Except for the above information, most of the rest of it is fifth-grade level ghost-written pulp. There are some tasty recipes which an imaginative cook could probably arrive at without the book (Sardines and Rice, Peppers Stuffed with Sardines, Sardine and Melted Cheese Sandwich).

Kemp Houck

POTATO MAN says

STRENGTHEN YOUR CO-OP

A delicate subject

Pat Sullivan

One of the purposes of the re-orientation meetings was to once again remind Mercantile members that our store is a co-op, not just a nice natural foods store. Unfortunately people often forget this and it is displayed in the manner in which they treat the members of the work collective. Next time you're in the store, go to the back room and watch how people interact with the store coordinators. While trying to figure out orders and books, three members will jam their membership cards in the coordinators face while they are already answering a question, the phone is ringing (which no one answers), the Hiller's Dairy man comes through the front door, and then another member will complain that the store is dirty or that his product is not in yet. Basically, being a member of the work collective can be a very thankless job. As members of the co-op, if we see a mess on the floor, we should get a broom and sweep it up. If the phone is ringing and the coordinator is obviously busy we should answer it. Just putting in your two hours a month is not enough, when you see something that needs to be done and you have some spare time, take a minute and do it. Finally, it would be a good idea to let the work collective know that you appreciate the work they do. If you see something that looks nice or if the store is carrying a new product that you think is useful, let the collective know it. This would not only make the work collective members feel better, it would also strengthen the co-op.

NOTICE

The next co-op members' meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Lawrence Community building, 11th and Vermont. The meeting will begin with a potluck supper at 6:30, with the discussion of business scheduled to start one hour later. Issues to be decided at this quarterly meeting include the status of meat at the store, methods for member education, renewal or revision of the work collective agreement, and the decision-making structure of the co-op. All interested members are urged to take part in this important meeting. Information on these issues will be posted in the store prior to the meeting, for a greater background understanding of these matters. Look for the notices on the front board.

THE COMMUNITY MERCANTILE
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

COMMUNITY MERCANTILE CO-OPERATIVE
615 Massachusetts Phone 843-8544
Hours; 10-6, Mon, Weds, Fri; 10-7, Tues, Thurs
10-5, Sat.

Our regional co-op warehouse will sponsor another general meeting early in December, in Tulsa. Our warehouse has grown in scope and efficiency over the past year and is now a vital link in the nationwide, anti-profit, people's food network. Our commitment to the warehouse focuses on the need for an awareness of the total food system that sustains our lives, and the never-ending role of education in the co-operative process. The operation of the day-to-day business of the warehouse has been well attended to, and allows more time for information sharing among mid-America co-ops.

Co-ops from at least four states will take part in the meeting during the first weekend in December. Several people from Lawrence are going to Tulsa for this gathering. If you are interested in traveling to Oklahoma and visiting with other co-op members from our region, contact a work collective member at the Community Mercantile.

A surprise in every dish

By Thom Leonard

Christine Leonard, in her article on beans in the October issue said, "Soya beans never get tender and, in my opinion, never get edible." The peoples of East Asia have, for at least two thousand years, grown and eaten soybeans and have thrived on soy protein, paired with rice and other cereals. A food neither tender nor edible could not have survived the test of centuries."

One contributing factor to Christine's dislike (if I may put it so mildly) of soybeans and the Asians thriving on them is that most soybeans grown in this country have been bred and selected for oil and feed production. The varieties are small, do not readily or uniformly absorb water, and, thus require lengthy soaking and cooking to become tender. Pleasant taste has not been taken into account in their selection. The varieties of soybeans of China and Japan however, have always been grown for human food. They are generally larger, contain less oil, and don't have that strong "beany" flavor we associate with soybeans. Their flavor is bland, yet nutty; they cook more quickly than our "field" variety soybeans. A few of these oriental varieties have been used as parent stock to develop "vegetable" or "edible" soybeans adapted to American climates, soils, and farming techniques. Vegetable soybeans are vastly different than field varieties.

Perhaps more importantly, soybeans traditionally have rarely been eaten as "boiled beans." They have been transformed into various easily digestible tasty, and versatile foods. Chief among these are tofu, miso, and shoyu (soy sauce), but there are other molded and fermented soybean foods as well.

The various processes used in making these foods serve not only to break down the complex proteins and remove other inhibitors to thorough digestion, but also to create new textures and flavors.

I will deal with only cooking and eating whole unfermented soybeans, turning to tofu, miso, shoyu, and some of the other soybean foods in future issues of PUBLIC NOTICE.

Soybeans taste best and are most digestible if thoroughly cooked--a bean should mash easily between your tongue and the roof of your mouth. In a pressure cooker, this takes 25-35 minutes; boiling without pressure can take to 5 hours. Even if pressure cooked, the beans should be soaked a couple of hours. Some sources recommend discarding the soaking water and cooking the beans in fresh water to remove the oligosacharrides responsible for flatulence.

PRESSURE COOKING: 2 cups water to each cup soybeans should be sufficient. A teaspoon or two of oil will help prevent loose bean skins from clogging the steam escape valve. After the cooker comes to full pressure, reduce heat to low and cook for 25-35 minutes; remove from heat and allow pressure to return to normal.

What of Tomorrow?

BOILING: Soak beans overnight. Drain, add 4 cups water for each cup of dry soybeans, bring to a boil, simmer with lid slightly askew until tender, adding water as necessary. The cooked soybeans can be simply seasoned with salt, miso, or shoyu and briefly (10-15 min.) simmered uncovered. Nut butters, especially sesame, or sea vegetables go well with soybeans. Or simmer onions, carrots, celery and mushrooms with the tender beans. A bit of fresh ginger with shoyu is nice, or maybe a little sweetener?

Cooked soybeans make an excellent base for delicious, high-protein spreads and dips.

To a cup of mashed or pureed soybeans, add a minced or crushed clove of garlic, 1/4 c. ground, roast sesame seeds, season to taste with miso, shoyu, salt, and perhaps a subtle herb or two. A touch of lemon? Or maybe a few raisins? Mix it all together to make it spreadable. Try it on grain bread: an excellent sandwich, featuring those now famous complementary protein patterns of grains, beans, and seeds.

Of course whole cooked soybeans are excellent in soups, stews, with grains and in stir-fried vegetable dishes, and casseroles, croquettes, soyburgers, with tortillas (refried soybeans with onions and cumino). For best results, use "vegetable" or "edible" soybeans.

Coming next month in the continuing saga of glycine max: Tofu, general information and a few simple tofu preparations.
P. S. Your Community Mercantile has vegetable soybeans!

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View from the Country

ORGANIC FARMING

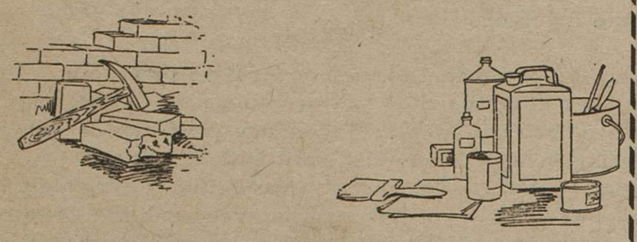
Chuck Magerl

Organic farming has survived in Kansas during an era of increasing dependency on chemical boosters. For years, the few organic farmers who persisted were regarded as amusing incompetents. But the numbers have greatly increased in recent years as chemical products skyrocket in cost and farmers recognize the soil-depleting effect of the fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides they've been sold.

Recognizing the need for a cooperative effort among organic producers, a coordinating organization was initiated during the fall of 1975. Since the original meeting, the Kansas Organic Producers' Assn. has worked to set certifying standards for organic products, developed marketing aids for producers, and established a network for information-sharing among members. The Association is composed of grower-members and supporting members paying $10 - $25 annual dues to finance group projects. Regularly scheduled board of directors meetings are announced to members to invite participation. An annual membership meeting, tentatively listed for February, was announced in their latest newsletter.

The group's newsletter, a bi-monthly mimeographed pamphlet, lists products for sale, suggests possible buyers, and provides personal notes from farmers across the state. Also in the newsletter are articles on bio-dynamic agriculture, yogurt making, reports from meetings and conferences, and reviews of magazines and books pertaining to the organic lifestyles. For information about this new group, or to subscribe to the newsletter ($2 per year), write Kansas Organic Producers' News, c/o Jim & Sue Lukens, Rt. 3, Beloit, Kns. 67420.

THE PUBLIC MISINFORMED!



A REGULAR FEATURE OF THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION

By Judy Kroeger

Wow! A check for $200 made out to you arrives in the mail! It looks just like a cashier's check, and at first glance it seems that you have won a contest or something. At second glance, it is revealed that in order to cash the check, you must buy some cookware or a sewing machine valued at $269.99 or $299.99 respectively. Along with the check is advertising showing colorful pictures of the cookware or sewing machine. It looks as if you are being offered the opportunity to buy highly valued items at a $200 savings.

Guess again. The International Co. (or the International Sewing Machine Co.) from Norman Oklahoma has not been able to substantiate their claims that the cookware is really worth $269.99 or that the sewing machine is worth $299.99. Their come-on is one of the oldest in the books: make something appear to be of higher value than it is, then offer a large "discount."

A variation of the same game is: offer something at a sale price and state a regular price so the customer thinks he is getting a bargain. When you notice that the same item is "on sale" every week, you know this game is being played.

If you notice these games being played by local or national businesses, call the Consumer Affairs Association, and we will investigate. We can then let the businesses know that we don't appreciate their "playfulness."

MORE CHICKEN cont.

people interested in getting the chickens be on hand for the slaughter. It became apparent that the issue was too important to be decided at a steering committee meeting, and a final proposal was made. All persons who had ordered chickens prior to the meeting would still obtain them according to the schedule. The decision as to whether or not the chickens will be carried in the future will be made at the quarterly general membership meeting at 6:30pm December 2 at the Community Building (11th and Vermont). A time-limited debate and discussion will take place with Thom Leonard and Patti Spencer responsible for presenting the pro side and Bob Burford and Annabelle Nelson responsible for presenting the con side of the issue.

Many members felt that this controversy pointed out the need for more concrete guidelines, or a better defined purpose for the co-op. Perhaps the rights and responsibilities of the work collective and the steering committee, as well as the general membership, need to be more clearly set down. In any case, the Work Collective Agreement is up for annual review and the structure of the co-op will no doubt be a subject of discussion at steering committee meetings for months to come. All members are encouraged to attend steering committee meetings. Keep an eye out for the times and places posted on the Meetings Board at the Co-op.

DON'T FORGET THE DECEMBER 2 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

COOPERATE, PROLITERATE, EDUCATE!!

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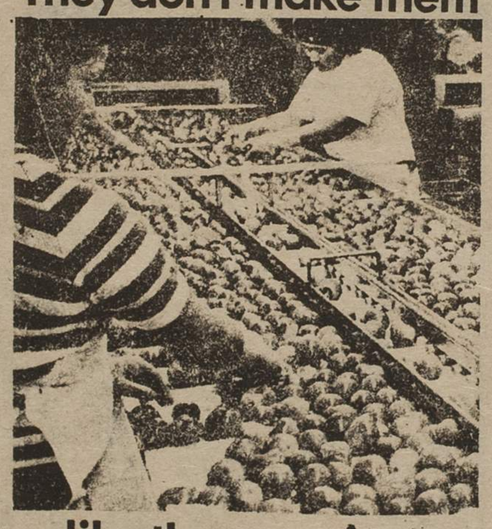

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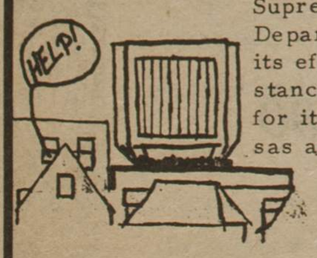

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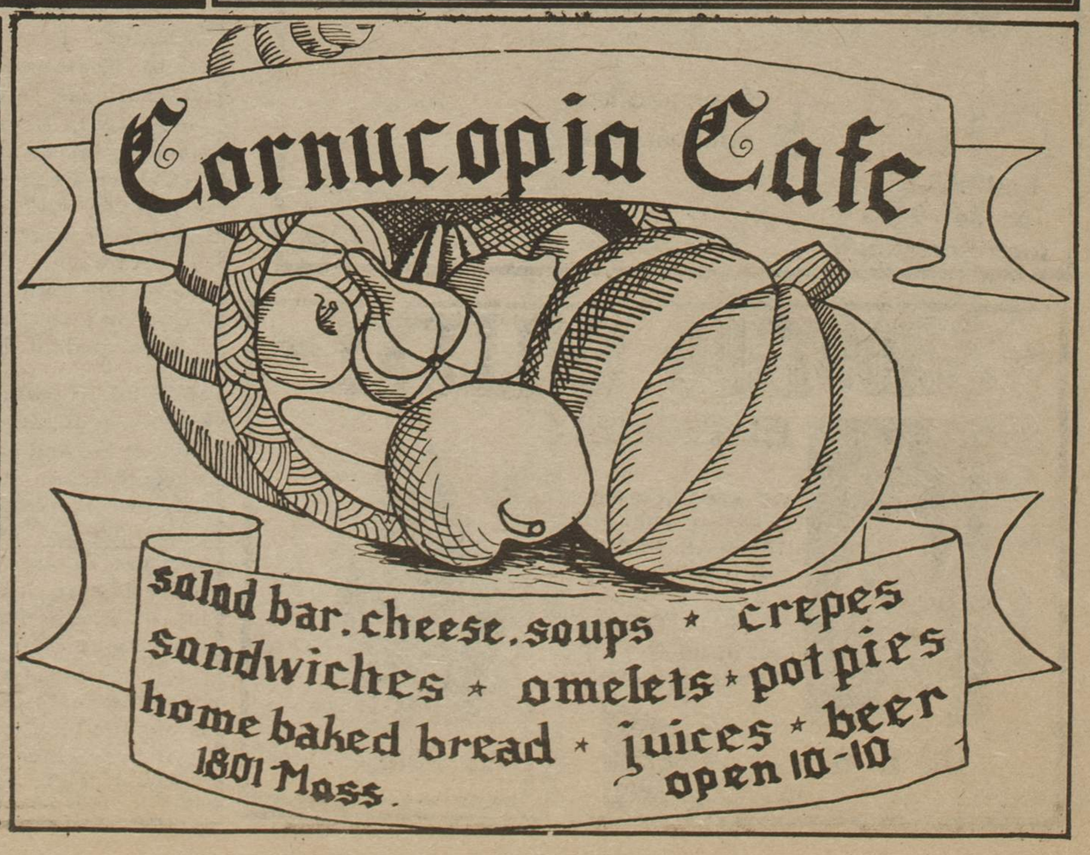


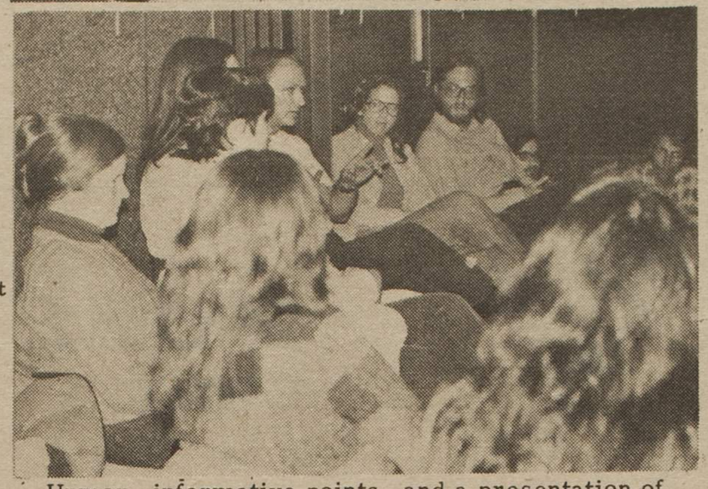
THE CREDIT UNION

Nearly 30 people attended a lively meeting of the Community Mercantile Credit Union Thursday evening, November 11. Clustered in a meeting room at the Public Library, we discussed various aspects of our first year of operation and pondered suggestions for the near future.

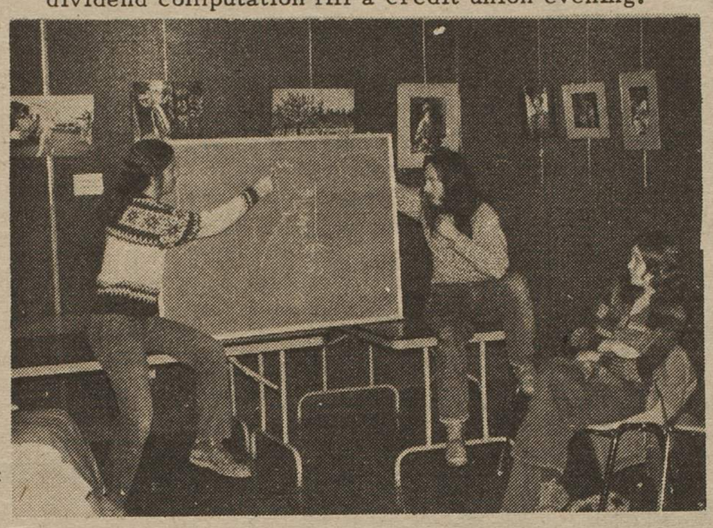
Our guest for the evening, Bob Nixon, manager of the Lawrence Government Service Credit Union, kept the meeting well paced, and kept us well informed as he interjected comments on the status of credit unions in Kansas. Bob was also generous in his praise of the hard working commitment of officers and members that has brought us so far in our first year.

And as Dick Dunhaupt recounted the credit union's history, ten months laying the groundwork, and almost one year of member service, we realized the impressive fact of the work we've done. We've solidly shaped a system of financial co-operation based on social needs, not temporary monetary profits. This is the basis of the radical populism that brought credit unions to Kansas in the 1930's and has fostered them to this day.. The spirit of our credit union was shown in the committee reports and the interest expressed by members by their comments and questions.

With the meeting drawing to a close, dividends were discussed and volunteers were heard for committee positions. Paul Johnson, Marilyn Roy, Kathy McGee, Judy Bailey, and Rob Bailey were approved as new workers at the end of the two hour meeting. Through the informal presentations and general discussion, a greater feel for the value of the credit union was attained.



Humor, informative points, and a presentation of dividend computation fill a credit union evening.



Cash Stash

By Pat Sullivan

Certainly one of the main ideas behind the formation of the Community Mercantile Credit Union was to help finance cooperative and collective projects. So far, Sister Kettle Cafe has been the only group to take advantage of this service.

We've seen that cooperatives and collectives can work. The Mercantile Food Coop and the Credit Union are steadily growing, and Sister Kettle and Kaw Valley Craft Exchange are now getting off the ground. It would be great to see an individual or group of people start working on another cooperative project for Lawrence.

The possibilities are endless (bike repair, housing, bookstore...) and this would not only expand the cooperative network but it would supply new energy and new people to a community that is suffering from existing projects that have only a handful of people involved.

If you are commited to the cooperative principle but don't have the time to work on a new or existing project, you can help by depositing your money and starting a regular savings habit with the Credit Union. It's a good deal. You have money put aside for emergencies, a trip or whatever, and the Credit Union can use your money to loan out money to individuals in the community. We can only lend money on the shares we have, and right now, we are very close to our loan limit. Tell people about the Credit Union and get them to open up savings accounts. With your help, we can do many positive things in Lawrence.

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By Boyd Evans

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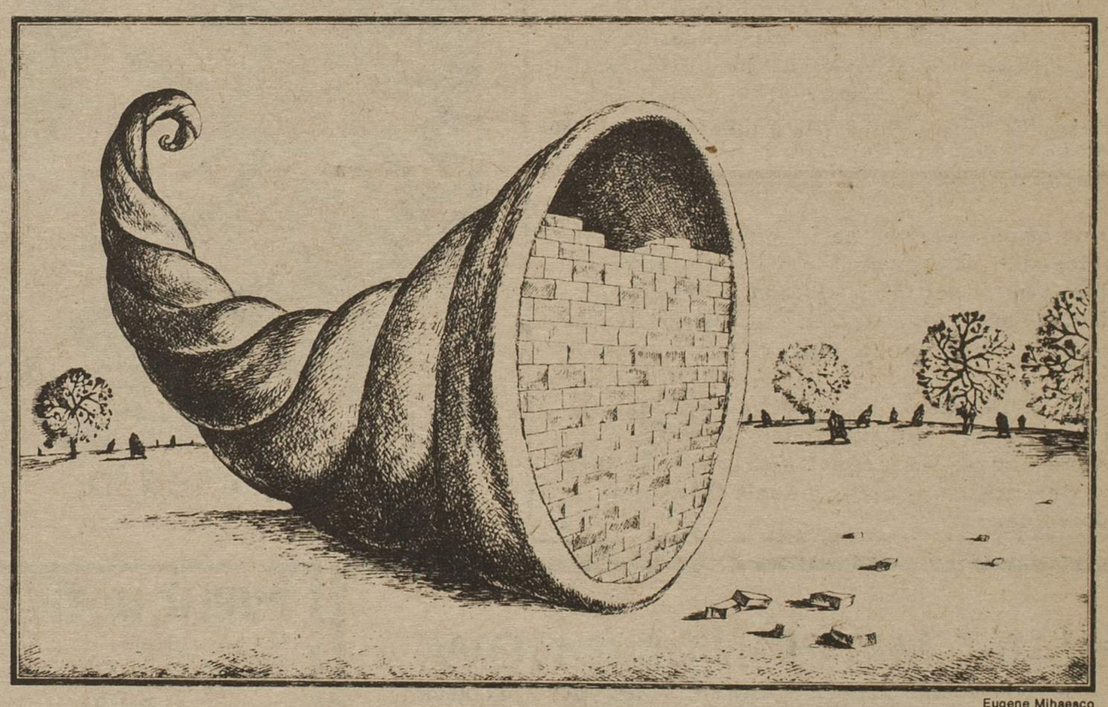
Our hopes that it's you we've seen,

I have freaked when I've heard your late night
gut-shaking call,
To be a Frog (pig if you wish)
To walk and crawl,
To be the ones who don't know at all.

"Has anyone seen my nose?"
Snorting cocaine is thought to be a gas,
But sometimes I wish I could just fucking relax,
Never got so jumpy so much,
Hare Krishna, Hare Hare, Am I getting
out of touch?



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ARE TWINKIES DIGGING AMERICANS AN EARLY GRAVE?

(CPF) Apparently, millions of Americans are hooked on Twinkies. Produced by workers at Hostess (owned by International Telephone and Telegraph), 700 million or more Twinkies are being gobbled down a year. One Twinkie plant in New Jersey employs 19 workers to operate a giant 190-foot oven. The oven turns out 50,000 Twinkies an hour or 3 million a week. Consumer groups condem the health value of Twinkies, which are made mainly of sugar, refined flour, shortening and chemicals. Nevertheless, the Twinkie craze is growing. According to Forrowed Times, an annual international Twinkie festival is held in Rochester Minnesota featuring a Twinkie derby where contestants equip the cakes with toothpick axels and wheels. Perhaps the derby is a mobile metaphor for the "road to ruin" your body embarks upon when you feed it Twinkies.

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Sue and Bob FROM PAGE ONE

The subject of North Lawrence brought into both of their voices traces of wistfulness, regret, and, occasionally, bitterness, especially when their landlord was mentioned.

"As far as the general atmosphere of how the people act, we really enjoyed North Lawrence a lot," remarked Sue. "But there were some disadvantages to living there, like rusty water and a lot of loose dogs that get into trash and stuff. It seemed like whenever there was a storm, North Lawrence was the last to get the power turned back on. Over in North Lawrence we could take our dog and cat for a walk, but over here it's too busy--too much traffic and no sidewalk. It's just not the kind of atmosphere like North Lawrence. But it's just the busy street we live on. If we lived in the house behind us we'd be alright.

"In my opinion," she continued, "That house on Elm Street in North Lawrence should be leveled. The heater heated one room; it didn't have a fan, so there was no circulation. The whole house was running on a 30-watt fuse, the plumbing froze every winter, there was no insulation--you name it--the roof leaked."

Looking at the overall picture, Bob maintained that the citizens of North Lawrence have a feeling of impending doom for their community.

"I was told that the City Commission, during August when everyone was out of town, sneaked through a new zoning ordinance that marked certain areas (of North Lawrence) that are now residential to be made industrial. This means that once you term something industrial, then no improvement of any long-term value can be made in the houses. It's against city ordinance. So all you can do is maintain the house at its current level. And the banks won't give loans for improvements either. They (the city commission) want to turn that whole area into heavy industry. A lot of people think that's the only reason the levee was built there, along that side of the river, because they figured it'd be a good place for heavy industry. It's really a good idea, once you get down to it..."

Sue interrupted, "Except for the people who live there."

"Yeah," Bob conceded, "I've talked to some of the people who live there and they're kind of bugged by it. A lot of people think it's a bum part of town, which it's not. A lot of the people there don't have much money but they're good people. They pretty much mind their own business. They don't tend to be real civic-oriented because they've kind of been hung out to dry all these years."

Summing up the dilemma of deciding which part of town to live in, Sue said, "The atmosphere was much nicer in North Lawrence but the living conditions are better here. I would have been willing to stay in our old house just to save money if our landlord would have fixed the electrical system, or fixed the roof, but she wouldn't put a penny into the house. Her philosophy was that somebody will always want it, no matter what shape it's in. If she would have fixed it up to what I consider safe standards we would have stayed over there. We liked it, but it just wasn't safe."

Among the qualities that Sue and Bob mentioned that North Lawrence has that Indian Hills doesn't were, "trees, quiet, and safety." They never had a lock in their house in North Lawrence. Now after the theft of their carpet and several other incidents, they feel compelled to lock-up every time they go out.

Asked about their plans for the future, Bob, who commutes to K.C., said, "I'd like to get a job in this town, but they're hard to find. KU screws that up."

Lamented Sue; "We have a surplus of workers here and the businesses get away with murder. My last job I got $2.25 an hour and I'm a college graduate."

"That'll never change in this town," Bob said. "There's a lot of sham in this town...lotta good people too, but..."

Directions Lawrence should take?

Sue: "I wish they'd meet the needs of the people. Take shopping: it seems like everyone goes to Kansas City or Topeka. All those downtown stores are geared for the rich co-eds only. Anybody who's a working person can't afford their astronomical prices. So unless you want to shop at Gibsons or TG&Y for your clothes, you gotta go out of town. There are no good restaurants, either, just a lot of fast food places. Oh, there's a few good ones, like the Cornucopia..."

Bob: "I'd kinda like to see the city stop expanding in size. It's gonna gobble up all the surrounding country. Look where it's gone...the only reason the Clinton Dam was built was so the city could expand out into the Wakarusa flood plain... The name of the game in Douglas County is real estate development. You can take that to the bank. Out there around Clinton the price of that land is gonna..... (Bob made the sound of a bottle-rocket taking off.)

Sue and Bob looked into buying a solar home, but found the price as well as the city ordinance prohibitive.

Bob: "They need to change the building codes so you can build solar homes from existing structures. Why the hell build a whole new home? You can read a book on how to do it. It may take you a while but what the heck? Architects already have this stuff figured out. It's just a matter of getting the powers-that-be to admit that people shouldn't pay that much money (for a brand-new solar home) when they don't have to. The power companies could get in on it but the thing is, like Ralph Nader says, 'Nobody has a deed to the sun yet.' So solar energy scares the shit out of them because people are getting something for nothing."

Sue, with her gift for summation, said, "Lawrence is big enough. If we get many more people, it's gonna be a mess."

Addressing their position in a suburban ambience, Bob said, "I'd like to see more landscaping done around this town than what there is. Our house is a case in point: right now it looks like somebody parachuted us down in the Badlands."

"They go in and just level the places where they build," complained Sue. "Instead of leaving the trees and vegetation, they just plough it under. Our first money is going to go into getting some trees in. This fall we'll spend two hundred dollars, and then in the spring we'll spend more."

In spite of their complaints about life here, Sue and Bob are genuinely fond of Lawrence and of their new home in Indian Hills. They've found the few neighbors they've met very cordial and like the economic security of being homeowners. But there's a pall over their basically happy world, perhaps best explained by Bob's final remark of the interview: "We need to get hedges in to stop the noise from the passing cars... Everybody would like to own a ranch, but those days are over."

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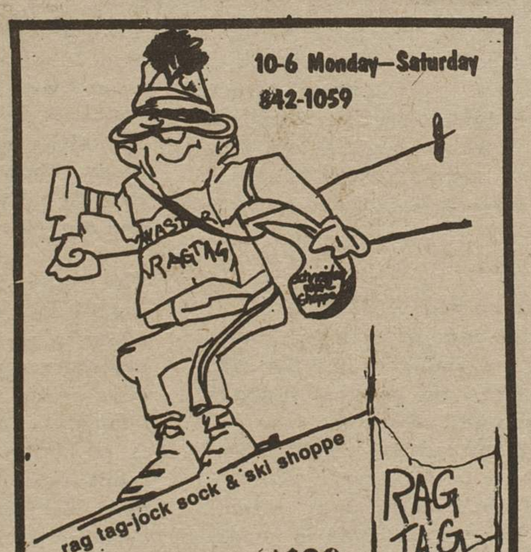

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Haskell Loop...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

26 to 4. It seemed apparent to anyone following the course of events, that support for the road was general and well recognized.

Yet, even in the midst of what seemed to be consensus support for the Loop, a few neighborhood residents in November 1974 were circulating a petition against demolition of homes in the 800 block of Pennsylvania. More than 60 residents, all within a couple of blocks of the Loop right-of-way, signed in just a few days. Monthly meetings of the neighborhood association were marked by small verbal skirmishes; the Loop opponents were still bitter over the way in which Association members were fed information on the road.

Throughout the period in which the Association discussed the project, it seemed City officials and consulting planners and developers dominated the floor of disucussion. Negative impacts on the neighborhood were not talked about. Instead, those interested were subjected to a barage of maps and statistics which purportedly proved the need for the road, and demonstrated the positive changes which would take place in the neighborhood when it was completed. At one point, a City Commissioner threatened Association members with a blockage of all funds for improvements if they didn't stop bickering and get behind the Loop. Opponents simply felt that intimidation, subtle and not-so-subtle, had played a major role in obtaining a favorable vote of support of the road. The vote in 1974 had been particularly important in the face of federal regulations dictating cooperation between City officials and neighborhood residents involved in federally-funded projects.

Despite opposition, it seemed that the Loop was a dead issue. City plans were moving ahead as land was acquired and houses torn down in the 800 block of Pennsylvania. Opposition was discouraged. But by March 1975, City elections were coming up, and a wealth of so-called "neighborhood" candidates were on the ballot. In the general election, two outspoken Loop opponents were elected to the Commission. Discussion about the Loop continued, mostly low-key, for several months. By early July, heartened Loop opponents managed to see the issue again placed on the Commission's agenda. Since the governing body was now dominated by strong advocates of neighborhood preservation, it seemed certain that the bulldozers would be called off.

But, expections of Loop opponents proved to quite naive. On the evening of July 29, at a so-called "public hearing" on the Haskell Loop, the Commission voted, following two and a half hours of debate, to build the roadway as planned, 4 to 1.

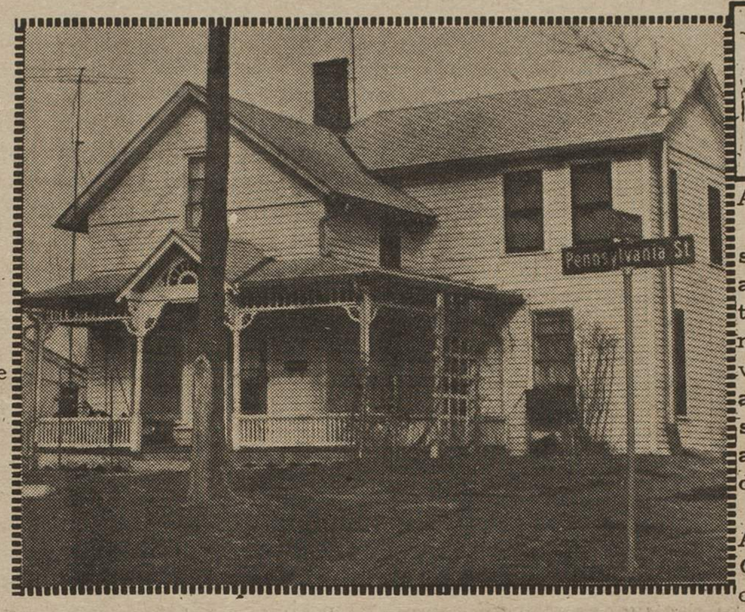
Loop opponents were crushed. Only days before, more than 240 signatures against the road were collected along a two-block-wide corridor abutting the project site. Led to believe that the new Commission was going to be more responsive to people's needs than in the past, Loop opponents were unprepared for their quick change of heart. It was obviously time to shore up for a long and hard fight.

That fight began with the organization in December 1975 of the Citizens Opposed to the Haskell Loop, now called East Lawrence Citizens For Housing Preservation. The group formed around the nucleus of petition carriers and signers. The process of beating the pavement in the petition drive turned up nearly unanimous opposition to the roadway. Although many people were basically ignorant about details of the planning for the road, it was clear that nearly everone was against tearing down so many houses, and replacing them with rivers of car and truck traffic.

It was clear that there was no way to reach the hearts or minds of City government with neighborhood concerns. Business and industry had too many dollars on the line. Backed by the general support of the neighborhood, spoken and otherwise, the East Lawrence citizens' group quickly rounded up 80 to 90 interested opponents to the Loop. The group sent out letters and requests for help to federal and state agencies. Representatives in congress were notified and asked to help. Within a couple of months, the campaign began to pay off.

Does this 'blight' need cleaning out?

THE HOMES ABOVE & BELOW WILL BE TORN DOWN FOR THE LOOP. THE HOMES AT RIGHT WILL BE LEFT WITH THE ROAD IN THEIR FRONT YARD.



When you're in trouble there's no place like home

All along, the City knew that it would have to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. The statement is required by the federal government of all cities and states using federal funds on construction projects. The City planned to have this statement finished by late spring of this year, until intervention by Washington forced the City and its consultants to consider, in writing, the effects of the destruction of the East Lawrence park system. The addition to the study incurred several months of delay.

At summer's end, things were at a stand-still. The City was anxious to release the Impact Statement in order to get its land acquisition program rolling down the 900 block of Pennsylvania. Facing an October 1978 deadline for committal of federal highway money with which to build the road, the City was very concious of the time element involved. Neighborhood opposition was also anxious to get a handle on the study, knowing that here was their best shot at deflating the City's efforts to build the road before time and money ran out.

The Statement was finally released on Oct. 8, following another delay in which City officials returned the study to the drawing boards for a few last-minute cosmetic changes. As interested parties all over town began to examine the Statement, the winds of change were blowing stronger through East Lawrence. At the October meeting of the East Lawrence Improvement Association, long dominated by East-side business interests, the business slate of candidates was being ousted in the annual election of officers. The warm Monday evening brought more than 70 people to the East Lawrence Center to engage in the battle for

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Loop...

THIS HOME WILL BE LEFT IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE TORN DOWN

control of the Association. Packed by both pro-and anti-Loop forces, the meeting tottered to the brink of dissolution. The pro-road forces had pre-planned several moves to ram-rod handpicked candidates to head the Association board of officers. When anti-Loop floor strength became apparent, one attempt was made to call of the meeting entirely. All of these efforts, however, failed and roadway opponents carried. Barbara Willits, long a Loop opponent, was elected President 28 to 23. This action set the stage for the great neighborhood victory of Nov. 8, where the Haskell Loop was dealt a resounding defeat by neighborhood residents.

But the fight will not stop here. Even now, East Lawrence Citizens For Housing Preservation is baraging state and federal agencies such as the Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity with information and plans for intervention in the courts. Confident of victory, these East Lawrence residents ask for the support of people all over the City of Lawrence. Having come out of the woodwork to take a strong stand against the neighborhood invasion, East Lawrence now welcomes increasing letters and calls for support from the City at large.

PUBLIC NOTICE is obviously heartened by the turn of events on the East side. Having cut our teeth on the Haskell Loop issue more than a year ago, it's been satisfying to see the public discussion continue.

The issue is heated. People on both sides of the argument can make points and introduce facts to justify their respective positions. PUBLIC NOTICE flatly demands that those in power in this town begin to consider the problems of traffic flow and expansion of the industrial tax base secondary to the housing needs of its citizens. While the City trips over its shoelaces to see that plenty of expensive suburban homes are going up south and west of town, residents of 50 and 60 years are watching as the older neighborhoods crumble. Stealing Community Development money intended to help these neighborhoods is not the answer. And roadways don't keep the rain off anyone's neck. Only thoughtful and responsive government can meet human needs. Folks on the East side are still waiting.

The following are edited excerpts from the press release recieved at the PUBLIC NOTICE on Oct. 26, from the East Lawrence Citizens for Housing Preservation. It outlines their involvement with the Environmental Impact Statement which was released by the City early in October. They were the first group to review the document, which may prove crucial in the battle over construction of the Haskell Loop.

***

HOW THE CITY WORKS

BY MARK KAPLAN

How is the City of Lawrence governed? Who runs the town, and how is it managed? What are the problems, and how could some of these problems be solved?

These are all important questions for a town of 50,000 people, a town whose future may lie in the path of unheralded growth and development. The form that this growth takes, and the degree of control which the citizens can exercise over it are important matters to all who consider Lawrence their home.

These questions become even more important in the light of a petition drive currently underway which would bring to a vote of the people the question of the form of government Lawrence should operate under.

Following is a summary of the structural design of Lawrence's present form of local government, and an interview with an active proponent for change.

To start with, the Lawrence City Hall is located at 9th and Mass., in the First National Bank Tower, on the 3rd and 4th floors. It's obviously quite invisible. It's the place where you go to pay your water bills. The two floors rent for $5,000 a month..

The City of Lawrence operates under the Manager-Commission form of government, granted to the City by the State of Kansas. Five Commissioners make up the policy-making board of the City. Every two years, in the Spring, elections are held to fill three new seats. Any number of people may file for office. First, there is a primary election which narrows the number of candidates, who run from the City "at-large," to six. A general election is held four weeks later, with the three candidates getting the highest vote-totals winning seats. First and second-place winners get four-year terms and the candidate who comes in third gets a two-year term. Commissioners are paid a salary of $100 a year, increasing to $900 a year in 1977.

There is no real "Mayor." The Mayor's position is simply the chair of the Commission meetings. He has a few ceremonial jobs. The Mayor is rotated in and out of office every year and has absolutely no political power whatsoever beyond that of the other Commissioners.

The Commission meets each Tuesday night at 7:00p.m. at City Hall in public session. Attend a meeting and find out what's going on.

The Second division of local government is the City Manager and City Staff. The manager is responsible for administration of the City. The manager is hired by the Commission as a business manager and serves for an indefinite time-period at the pleasure of the Commissioners. The City-Manager's office, including an assistant and two secretaries, is salaried at more than $65,000 a year.

All departments of City government fall under the jurisdiction of the City Manager's office. This includes technical and service functions, such as sewer, water, streets, police, fires, as well as planning and zoning, community development, and finance. Each of these departments is run by department heads and supervisors, all responsible only to the City Manager. They comprise the City Staff. The administrative positions are full-time, well-salaried.

In addition, there are various boards and commissions, such as human relations, planning, traffic and safety. These positions are filled with unpaid appointees each year by the "Mayor." They make recommendations to the City Commission but have no real power of decision-making.

At the present time, the five City Commissioners are Carl Mibeck, Donald Binns, Marnie Argersinger, Barkley Clark and Fred Pence.

The City Manager is Buford Watson.

Towards a DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE

BY CHIP JONES

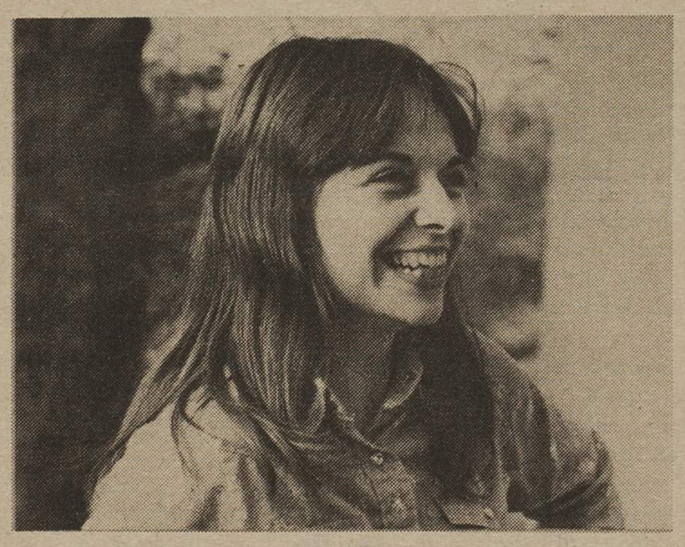
Chanette Mastin, 15 year resident of Lawrence, described the current change-of-government petition drive as a grass roots effort of "people who are concerned with the lack of voice they have in their government."

The petition, she said, is an attempt to put on the March ballot the question of withdrawing the present form of government (City Commission-City Manager) for a City Council-Mayor form.

Ms. Mastin thinks democratic representation is the crux of the problem. "The main thing that bothers me is that the government is non-representative of the citizen's wishes in this town. That's illustrated by the Haskell Loop opposition, by the city garage opposition, by continual small agenda items that come up on the City Commission agendas without advanced public debate and without enough time for the public to come up with alternatives. The commissioners are at-large and it's hard to deal with a random sample of opinion and not a special constituency. But if a representative comes from a certain neighborhood, he or she is already going to have a special feeling for what the neighborhood needs and what it doesn't need, what priorities it has, what attention it isn't getting. Just by living in that neighborhood, that commissioner would already have a general consensus."

The current City Commissioners do the best they can, she says, but under the current set-up it's not good enough. "A city of 55,000 can't be run by part-time commissioners. It needs a qualified, professional staff of full-time paid commissioners."

Decrying the current form of government as one dominated by the city manager (who's not an elected official) and the many consulting firms he employs, Ms. Mastin offered her vision of a government with checks and balances. "Non-representation would turn to representation by wards. Possibly six, possibly eight. There would be two representatives



per district elected for two year terms. A mayor elected at-large, also for two years. The mayor would act as an overseer of the city government. He'd have no vote in council decisions except in case of a tie. He can also veto a vote by the council. Then there could be a 2/3 majority override of his veto. It's a check and balance system which we don't have now."

She then asserted that the council, operating on a full-time, salaried basis, could do much of the work that is currently done by consulting firms.

Another advantage of the Mayor-Council government is the council would have to live with their decisions, since they would be elected from their own neighborhoods. With the at-large system, she said, the commissioners are more likely to act in bad faith. "Often in times past, a commissioner has given the public their feeling on an issue, but when that commissioner has voted they've changed their mind. So when they have asked the public to support them, the public has given them support, but the commissioners have turned their backs on them."

The city garage is a case-in-point of this kind of back-turning, Ms. Mastin stated. "At the time, I was living in Far East Lawrence and I went to a FELIA meeting, where the issue was brought up after having been rejected in the Pinckney area. We were led to believe that a 17 acre park would be built as kind of a consolation for losing the Delaware park. We were told if you vote for the city garage, the city will try to get you a 17 acre park. Result? Within two months there was no mention of the park. It dwindled down to 3 acres, then to nothing. And the park had never been discussed or mentioned until that meeting. It was a dream they threw out and the people fell for it."

Ms. Mastin had a marked-up Journal World (Nov. 9, 1976) editorial page lying before her on the dining room table. She glanced at it and said:

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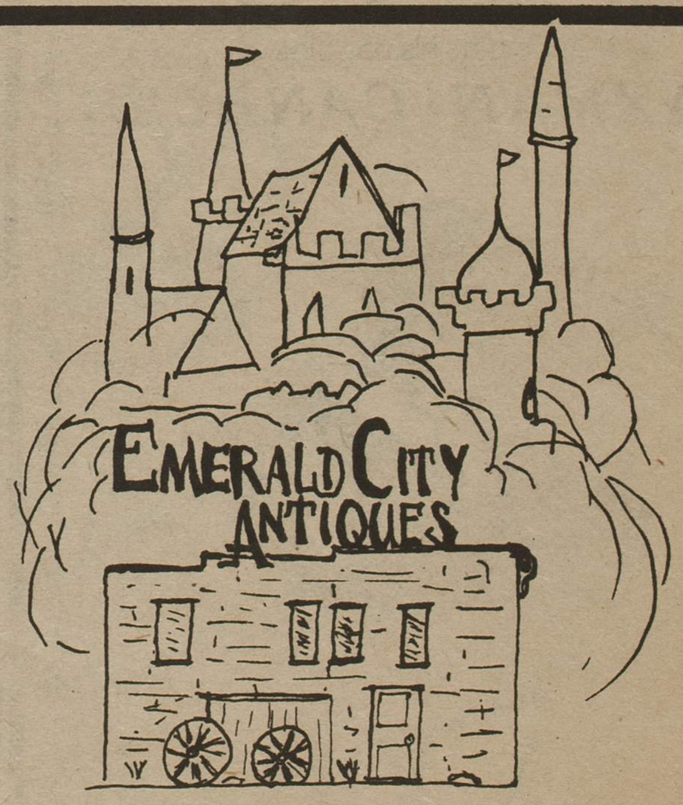

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"Bossism? A good example of bossism is Buford Watson. Take the group of architecture students he had build models for the potential city hall that he wants built at the 600 Mass. site. That's his idea, not the people's. Political amateurism? With neighborhood organizations already, the very fact that they exist shows the people care."

These organizations are remarkable, she added, for their perserverence in the face of city commission indifference. "They only come around at election time," she said. "Under a council form of government, they'd have to listen to their constituents or they wouldn't be re-elected."

Addressing one of the J-W's headier charges--that giving the people a representational form of government would result in "disaster," Ms. Mastin scoffed, "Disaster? I think a disaster has already occured. 23rd Street is an example. When I moved here fifteen years ago, it was a nice street ...Now it's ugly. And as long as the city manager keeps formulating all the policy, things will continue to go in that direction."

Ms. Mastin was asked for her impression of City Commission meetings. "Disorder. A lack of pre-planning, pre-thought. The City Commissioners are unprepared for issues. The City Manager dominates meetings. And the audience isn't well enough versed nor are they given enough time to ask valid questions. The agenda is published the night before in the paper without any references or background to the topics...A lot of the time background information isn't available so you don't know what questions to ask. Over the years I've seen the City Commission meetings become very impersonal. They seem like railroad jobs. Buford Watson is the engineer of almost all the city planning I've ever seen."

She made it clear that she thinks the fault lies not in the individual City Commissioners, but in the form of government Lawrence is now using. "I really respect the City Commissioners," she said. "It's not that I downgrade them. It's just that they can't do an adequate job when they're not full-time, when they're not salaried, and when they don't live in their voting ward."

How does your vision of Lawrence differ from the city manager's? "I see some historical preservation and a culturally balanced city. One that has history, recreation, business, industry, education, and the arts. One that's environmentally protected with thinking and forethought about what the impact of industrial parks is going to be. How are those things going to effect Lawrence in 20-30 years? We pre-suppose the planners are considering the environment. But obviously, with the cases of 23rd St. and Iowa they haven't."

Ms. Mastin had some acute insights into the psychological effects of city planning. "In all those mass areas (23rd St., Iowa) the identity of the individual is lost. But the identity of the individual is preserved in downtown Lawrence. I personally like what they've done to downtown Lawrence, in general. I like the way they've been able to preserve the different styles of architecture and periods of history. Part of the idea of a city is character, and you've got to have history to build character. The type of history that's instilled in the Malls Shopping Center is of a limited character. Not negative, necessarily, just limited. People feel isolated when they can't attach themselves to past periods of time. It's like someone who doesn't have any family to eat Thanksgiving dinner with. The same thing goes for someone who goes downtown to shop and doesn't have any old, familiar buildings they can relate to."

Ms. Maston termed the petition drive to change Lawrence's city government the action of an "unorganized group of people who are dissatisfied with the deaf ear the City Commission turns to the desires and needs of citizens time after time. Many of the petitioners have never been politically involved. But they're sick and tired with the way things are and think it's time the people have a voice in their government."

From what she's seen, the odds are good that the referendum will pass on the March ballot. After that, there will be an orderly change of government lasting six months. Then an election for mayor and council will be held.

Under the bright light of her dining room table, Ms. Maston smiled and said, "We'll have a better government for a better town to live in."

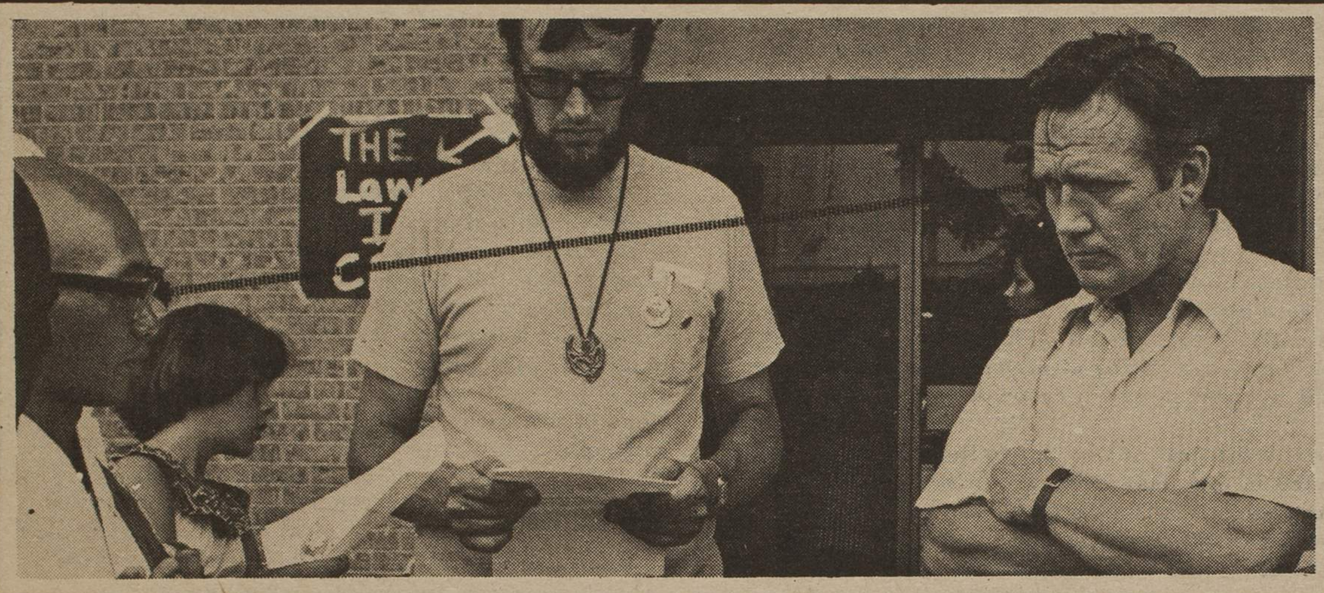

Photo Feature of the Month

EAST MEETS WEST

Lawrence Mayor Fred Pence studies a Buddist member of the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice as he reads a letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima appealing for world-wide peace. Fred wrinkled his brow and chewed his jaw back and forth as he heard both the Japanese and English version. Said Fred, "I thank you, even thought you and I might differ on some of the things you read there in that letter..."

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