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WATERING LAWRENCE'S GROWTH

BY SUSIE HANNA

Increased demand for water by the fast-growing suburban developments in the southern and western parts of Lawrence will more than double your water bill by 1981. The increase according to the City, is needed to build a new $8.9 million water plant and to offset rising water department costs.

Most of the rate increase, which will begin in April, will go to build the new Clinton Reservoir water treatment plant. The present water plant, operating from the Kaw River, has a 17 million gallon per day capacity. The new plant will pump up to 10 million gallons per day from Clinton Reservoir. Construction of the new plant will not only accomodate new customers already hooked into the water system, but will provide a second source of water to promote future growth.

Water rates will go up whether or not the new plant is built. Gene Vogt, utilities director, told PUBLIC NOTICE that some increase is needed to offset increased costs due to new customers. The water department acquired 450 new customers in 1976 in the housing developments and Vogt said the new customers placed a heavy demand on the system because they use large volumes of water for new lawns. Last summer, a record of 16 million gallons were pumped in a single day.

Vogt is pushing the new plant because he says the City is growing and will want to continue to grow. He said the new plant would "encourage" growth."

"We're like most everyone in that we want to continue to progress," he said. "This will also be saying to industry to come on in."

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Public Notice
In cooperation with the Community Mercantile
Vol. II, No. 3 February, 1977 Lawrence, Kansas
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INSIDE LCV

The people of this town are engaging in open insurection. With City elections approaching, groups throughout the community have begun to organize to elect representatives to the City Commission and Lawrence USD #497 School Board. The most prominent group to emerge is the Lawrence Citizens' Voice. Dissatisfied with the manner in which City business has been conducted in the past, the Voice has slated an entirely new method of selecting "peoples'" candidates for Commission. It's called "Convention '77," and aims to find three people to run on a slate for School Board and Commission. The main event is scheduled for Lawrence High all day, Jan. 22nd. It's bound to make the difference in Spring elections. Excerpted press material from the Voice appears on page 3 of the PUBLIC NOTICE.

The Community Mercantile co-operative movement is growing in strength and numbers. Lawrence now boasts a food store, a credit union, and a monthly tabloid newspaper (P.N.), all under the same roof. Highlighting this months Co-op section is a short history of the co-operative movement in Kansas. See page 8.

The PEOPLES ENERGY PROJECT is still a thriving local organization dedicated to returning our precious energy resources to the people, who need them the most. For Kansas Power and Light, the game is finally up. See page 12.

The Peoples' Journal features yoga, poems, travel stories, sports history, and a clam anthology. It begins on page four.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOOP KILLED

EAST LAWRENCE WINS

BY MARK KAPLAN

On the night of December 21st, the Haskell Loop roadway project, slated for the East Lawrence neighborhood, followed the winter sun to its lowest point on the horizon. A weary City Commission voted 3-2 to halt plans for Loop construction, thus reversing a long-held conviction to bowl through the eastern edge of the oldest section of the city.

Construction, as planned, would have meant a slow but sure death to many blocks of old homes; instead, the vote gave neighborhood opposition to the project an early victory in their two-year old fight to save East Lawrence.

Commissioner Barkley Clark, in an attempt to cool the pot before it boiled over, led the move to table plans to build the Loop. Taking a lesson from the 1975 fight over the location of the City maintainence garage, which dumped business candidates at the subsequent City Commission elections, Clark acted to nip the Loop furor in the bud. In lightening fashion, with Christmas drawing near, Clark moved behind the scenes, informing Commissioners of the problems in the planning and design of the road and of the dangers in fighting the neighborhoods with City elections again so near.

Commissioner Marnie Argersinger took the point well. Riding the crest of neighborhood ire at the placement of the City garage at 2nd and Indiana Streets in 1975, Argersinger knew well the power of angry neighbor folk on election day.

Clark did too. Having also supported neighborhood opposition to the garage from Old West Lawrence, he watched as the traditional winners from the local business world died on the vine, first in the primary, and then the general elections, to the benefit of maverick "neighborhood" candidates.

Now it became apparent to Commissioners, a bit more conservative, and entrenched at the top of City government, that a similar historical repeat might be in the making.

Obviously hoping for some kind of trade-off to quell the natives, Clark and Argersinger added their newly-found responsiveness to the trail of the cool and wiley Mibeck, and voted to table the loop. An opponent of the Loop from the beginning and now a heralded neighborhood hero, Commissioner Carl Mibeck finally landed the winning punch, garnering that elusive 3-2 margin against the Haskell Loop. Pro-loop hold-outs Donald Binns and Fred Pence displayed little more than contempt for neighborhood residents, and kept their votes in the "Build it" column.

For all the hoopla it had created, the Loop passed rather quietly. About ten neighborhood residents came to participate in the hour-long discussion that preceeded the pre-supposed Commission decision to table the road. Ignoring the substantive issues of "dollars and sense" surrounding the ill-begotten road project, the Commission instead chose to depict the neighborhood as bitterly divided, slobering, tumbling end over end, down the hill and into the river.

Indeed, Commissioners listened to charges and counter-charges of unethical practices employed by those working for and against the road. Many personal remarks were made, by neighbors, against other neighbors, with slanderous diatribe afforded those who worked most diligently to halt construction of the roadway. The love for the neighborhood and the hard work to halt the invading roadway could not be reflected in the absent faces of the many who could not find their way to City Hall that night. Yet the resignation with which the long-time loop boosters approached their grim task told their story.

The long-fought battle, eventually involving the hearts, minds, and voices of hundreds of people finally spent itself, emotionally, in the sterile, overly-lighted Commission chamber on the fourth floor of the tall bank at 9th and Massachusetts. Neighborhood folk quietly filed from the room, tired and happy, leaving the Commissioners to more mundane business.

GHETTO LIFE

BY GREG BASHAW

Get a running start at the top of 14th Street, up by the barricades, and slide down the icy pavement, bound off the curbs and coast as far as you can in any direction and you'll still be in the Student Ghetto, among crushed Coors cans and wooden two-stories.

But Tennessee Street, starting south from bright light Ninth and stretching past the movie set front fraternities near 17th is the mainline, the hot blood center, the Student Ghetto express.

By sundown, waves of traffic rush down Tennessee and whoosh without rhythm and the red and white Budweiser sign is aglow above the Bierstube. Out of the boisterous bar a man bundled against the chill January wind finishes his beer and walks to the Sunflower House at 1406 Tennessee.

The Sunflower, a cooperative living group with 25 members, was the CIA (Campus Improvement Assoc.) before a $25,000 operations gave it new insides, replete with electric yellow walls and fine carpets.

C. J. Conard, who's lived in the house since '72, sat stretched out in his third story "toy shop" and talked of the times. Conard's thick black beard, chest length hair, gold earring

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TYPICAL GHETTO DWELLING