

## A COMMUNITY ADVOCACY DEPOT FOR CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

### Introduction

The poor communities of Champaign County, and particularly the Black community of North Champaign-Urbana, are concerned that they should have a significant voice in the rebuilding and redesigning of their environment. However, many of the problems that are faced by such people require technical knowledge in the fields of architecture, urban planning, engineering and even law and commerce. Such expertise is not normally freely available to poor communities and without it they are unable to propose new solutions for the problems of their environment or even to criticize solutions that are offered to them by outside agents.

The purpose of the Community Advocacy Depot, (C.A.D.) is, in very broad terms, to fill this need for professional and technical expertise. In Champaign-Urbana the greatest source for technical knowledge is quite clearly the University of Illinois and it is this resource that the C.A.D. intends to involve in the solution of the poor community's problems. There are three approaches that are central to the role of the C.A.D. It is an initiative that has come from the poor community itself and, since these are the people who will be most affected by any solutions to urban problems, control of C.A.D. must remain with the urban poor and minority groups. This will ensure that those who best know the problems will have a significant hand in molding the total environment to their particular needs and as an expression of their own life styles and aesthetics.

Secondly, to further ensure the appropriateness of technical solutions, those who supply such help will work within the C.A.D. in close collaboration and interaction with members of the poor community. This work will be carried on within the community at various depots set up within the districts considered for design. The first depot funded by C.A.D. is at 118 N. First Street, Champaign. By being actively involved with these problems the professional and technical experts will become more aware of the relationship of their expertise to human needs.

Thirdly, because the members of the poor community will be involved in the processes of redesigning and rebuilding their own environment they will become aware of the relevance of various technical skills. It is the intention of the C.A.D. to perform an educational function to help members of the poor community both to understand their environmental problems and the solutions and also to encourage interest in the courses available at State Universities.

The C.A.D. is deliberately unbureaucratic and flexible in that it intends to respond to whatever needs the poor community may have. It is, of course, a non-profit organization which can only survive if it is responsive to those it is trying to serve, can supply the necessary technical aid, and produces effective results.

A brief introduction can only serve to give the flavor of such a flexible and broadly based organization. The following pages will consider in greater detail the goals and functions of the C.A.D. and the methods it intends to use. There the relationship of the C.A.D. to the poor community and to the University will be amplified. Finally the projects with which it is presently engaged will be described together with possibilities for future work.

The goals, functions, and methods of the C.A.D. are closely interrelated and interdependent. Consequently a description of its activities is in some senses bound to be repetitive. In order to clarify, as well as possible, the C.A.D.'s philosophy and approach we shall consider its actions in six roles.

- 1.) The C.A.D. as "problem finder".
- 2.) The C.A.D. as consultant in problem solution.
- 3.) The C.A.D. as consultant in solution implementation.
- 4.) The C.A.D. as "Teacher".
- 5.) The C.A.D. as it relates to the poor community.
- 6.) The C.A.D. as it relates to the University.

### 1. The C.A.D. as "Problem Finder".

It should be clear that the promises of the C.A.D. are such that it considers that the setting of priorities between problems is the prerogative of the communities affected by the problems. Indeed the C.A.D. will at all times play a consultants role to the poor community. However, it will be one of the tasks of the C.A.D. to make itself aware and the poor community aware of the range and variety of problems with which it is faced.

Much of this aspect of communication between the C.A.D. and the poor community will be discussed in section (5). Here, however, we may note that there are specific ways in which C.A.D. will become aware of problems.

- 1) The C.A.D. is at present involved in presenting design solutions for one of the most pressing problems of north Champaign-Urbana. Through involvement with this problem, and the people it concerns, the C.A.D. automatically becomes aware of many related difficulties in the urban environment. It is one of the functions of the C.A.D. to be aware of and note any problems that it meets in the course of its work.
- 2) The C.A.D. will be run by a coalition of representatives from the poor community. Through these people problems will be presented to the C.A.D.
- 3) As part of its staff the C.A.D. will have a number of indigenous experts whose work will be to continually represent community points of view to the C.A.D. This work will necessarily entail the expert in developing contacts throughout all levels of the poor community.
- 4) As part of its activities the C.A.D. will conduct house to house canvassing to establish grass-roots involvement. It is at this level that C.A.D. may be able to learn of or perceive whatever problems there may be.
- 5) It will be part of the role of the C.A.D. to point out to the poor community the problems that are seen to be arising. The C.A.D. will also be able to offer its services in helping the community to decide upon priorities and problem solution. This role will be carried out through all channels of contact with the poor community.

Thus it can be seen that by being controlled by the poor community, the C.A.D. is part of that community and it will confront people on their own level with their local problems. In this way C.A.D. and the poor communities will develop a greater awareness of the problems that exist.

In the face of these problems groups from the poor community might approach C.A.D. to help them find solutions. Alternatively C.A.D. might advocate solutions to various problems and organize people around these issues in an attempt to overcome theirs.

## 2. The Role of C.A.D. in problem solving

The C.A.D. will at all times be concerned that any of problem solutions that it may help to find should be solutions that are acceptable to those for whom they are proposed. Thus part of the apparatus for problem solving is the community jury. If the C.A.D. is involved in suggesting solutions to problems it will wish to have these solutions commented upon by a jury from the poor community. Here the C.A.D. can be seen in the consultant type of role acting for its clients, the poor community.

There will be three major functions of the C.A.D. as a problem solver. Firstly, various groups and organizations from the poor community may request that C.A.D. act as consultants to them on various projects. Secondly, the C.A.D. may be employed to review solutions that are proposed for community problems by agencies outside of the poor community. Finally, the C.A.D. may, in the course of its work perceive problems and needs in the poor community and it will present solutions for these to the minority groups to stimulate comment, discussion and possibly action.

Solutions will be found by creating an environment within which technical experts and representatives and members of the black and poor white communities can interact to tackle problems.

- 1) Much of the technical and professional expertise will be recruited from the University of Illinois in that graduate students and faculty members will be attached to the C.A.D. If a specific skill is not immediately available from the staff of the C.A.D. they will be able to enlist the services of someone who has the necessary training.
- 2) The C.A.D. will also have knowledge of the other resources and services available to members of the poor community. Thus individuals or groups with specialized problems may be referred to existing social agencies etc..(e.g. legal aid).
- 3) The C.A.D. will have personnel from a broad range of fields: architecture, law, recreation, urban planning, social work, engineering, commerce, and so forth. The people will be available to work on any problem that comes up - in interdisciplinary teams if necessary, - and will thus be able to provide a comprehensive approach to problem solving.
- 4) In the process of problem solving these people will at all times be aided by, and be in consultation with, the indigenous experts and other members of the black or poor white community.
- 5) In order to produce meaningful solutions two processes of education must occur. Firstly, the professional and technical experts must be made aware of the particular needs, desires and life styles of their clients.



Secondly, the members of the poor community will be able to make a more significant input to solutions (and thus have greater control) if they understand the work and approach of each expert.

### 3. The Role of the C.A.D. in solution implementation.

Since the Black community and poor white community should have control over their own environment it is they who decided whether or not to implement a solution and make it reality. Thus implementation is a responsibility of the poor community. However, the C.A.D. is available to act in whatever role the poor community may require in order to further implementation. The C.A.D. can help in the following ways.

- 1) Identify Federal, State, or local agencies who might be responsible for providing requested services or who might be able to provide needed financial support.
- 2) Assist the poor community in making applications to agencies etc. for funding or other help.
- 3) Identify various means of getting action towards problem solution.
- 4) Assist the poor community in making contracts with private or public bodies to do work for the poor community.
- 5) To review and evaluate work done by contractors and other groups for the poor community.
- 6) It will also be part of the C.A.D. to advocate to the poor community the resources that are within the poor community itself and may be available to tackle problems.
- 7) In the course of implementation the poor community will need expert statements and advice for its dialogues with agencies, contractors, and others. The C.A.D. will be able to provide this.

### 4. The C.A.D. as "teacher".

As an entirely new venture the C.A.D. will provide a "learning experience" for everyone involved. It will, however, be aware of this process and try to enhance it in every way. There will be three broad sides to this activity. The first is to educate the technical and professional people in the desires and needs of poor black people and poor white people. The second is to help the poor communities become aware of the problems they have and the means available for their solution. The third aspect is to actively interest members of the urban poor in the various professions and in means of acquiring this expertise through school, college, and university.

Much of this training will occur as members of the poor community and the professions work together to produce problem solutions. More broadly, the C.A.D. newsletters and open meetings (discussed in (5) below) will be informative.

The C.A.D. will provide these specific educational services:

- 1) Members of the poor community may become involved in internships and job training programmes working on C.A.D. projects.

Thus high school students may find that men can contribute as draftsmen, participants in surveys, research assistants etc.

- 2) Curricula will be developed for introductory courses to various professions as they relate to urban problems. These will be available to schools and will be taught in classes within the community advocacy depots and the schools.
- 3) There will be class rooms at the C.A.D.'s where indigenous experts can discuss problems with professional and technical experts.
- 4) There will be presentations and lectures to community boards and juries.
- 5) Much of the publicity of the C.A.D. will be informative of the problems that exist and possible solutions.

5. The C.A.D. as it relates to the Poor Communities.

The success or failure of the C.A.D. depends to a large extent on its ability to be an agent of the poor Black and poor white communities - and to be effectively controlled by men in their own interests. Thus the C.A.D. will be concerned to develop contacts with all types of representatives in the poor communities. This will be accomplished in a number of ways:

- 1) The C.A.D. will establish a community newsletter to inform the poor community of problems that are arising, actions that are being taken, and C.A.D. activities.
- 2) The C.A.D. will advertise itself through social service agencies, local fraternal organizations, educational institutions, local news media and community papers and so forth
- 3) In establishing a broad based representation for itself in the poor community the C.A.D. will be concerned to contact all those groups that are presently engaged in activities in solving urban problems. C.A.D. will hold open meetings to which such groups will be invited.
- 4) CAD. will also conduct door-to-door canvassing to elicit support from the poor white and poor Black community.
- 5) C.A.D. will encourage the formation of a board in the poor community to oversee its work.
- 6) The C.A.D. will always present any solutions it may find to meetings and forums. In this way it will be open to suggestions from any member of the poor community.
- 7) The role of the indigenous expert in opening and maintaining communication between Black people, the poor whites and the C.A.D. has already been expressed.
- 8) The C.A.D. will establish its depots in the areas within which it is working (i.e. scattered in North

Champaign-Urbana, Wilbur Heights, Barr Addition, etc.

In this more intimate contact can be established between C.A.D. and those people specifically concerned with the problems under review.

ix) Community juries and representatives will at all times judge the suitability of projects and solutions and decide upon action to implement etc. Thus, the consultant role of the C.A.D. is made clear and the position of the technical expertise in that it is controlled by the poor community.

#### 6. The C.A.D. as it relates to the University

In the community of Champaign-Urbana the University of Illinois is the largest resource of expertise available. While the C.A.D. does not rule out help from other sources of expertise, its immediate interest is in the University. Clearly the C.A.D. cannot function unless students and staff from the University are available to provide knowledge.

In order that the C.A.D. should be a permanent organization some permanent lines of communication have to be established with the University. Also, to answer a consistent effort from professional and technical experts. There has to be some method in which these people work for C.A.D. on something more than a volunteer, spare time basis. The C.A.D. is approaching various colleges and departments within the University to obtain specific commitments from them related to their particular fields. However, some general mechanisms can be proposed.

i) Students who work on C.A.D. projects should be getting academic credit for their at the depots. This will ensure a consistent effort.

ii) Certain members of faculty within each department should be detailed to act as permanent liason with C.A.D., supplying students etc. as the years go by.

iii) The University may be able to assist C.A.D. in writing proposals for research funds, funds for project studies, and internship or assistantship salaries.

The University will find that the C.A.D. can provide an extremely valuable learning experience for students. They will become directly involved in real life projects, the assesment of human needs, and the difficulties of putting theory intopractice. They will also become involved in interdisciplinary activities where they will learn the relationships of their specific discipline to others.

It will be clear that the success of C.A.D. depends on the type of commitment that the University makes and onthe suitability of this commitment as it fits in with the aims and philosophy of the C.A.D. In broad terms a commitment in terms of personnel and ever, perhaps, money is needed. Yet this must be made in such a way that control of what the C.A.D. does, and of those who work there, remains firmly with the black and poor white communities. In this sense it is felt that those students who work for C.A.D. should work in the C.A.D.'s which are close to the community and not within the academic atmosphere of the University and its classrooms and studios.

Present and Future Projects of C.A.D.

Many of the projects that C.A.D. is presently involved with are of a physical nature, however, there is a need for work in social areas and it is not intended that the work of the C.A.D. should exclude such projects. It will be noted that the list of future work includes projects on public parks & recreation, comprehensive planning, and other social services. The list of present and future projects presented below is intended purely as an indication of the type of work - it is not comprehensive.

Present Projects:

The C.A.D. has reviewed proposals for various housing projects in North-East Champaign:

1) Bradley Park Apartments - 116 units of housing for moderate income families under FHA 236 program - sponsored by the Northern Progressive Development Corporation and Interfaith.

ii) Turnkey I proposals for the development of 120 units of Public Housing by seven developers.

iii) Single family housing units under FHA 235 program.

All of these projects have been reviewed in the light of the needs of those families that will occupy them. The results have been made available to various financing agencies and sponsors involved.

On Going and Future Projects

i) The C.A.D. is making proposals for incorporation in the design of low cost housing units made with factory produced components.

ii) C.A.D. is to prepare a comprehensive plan, (physical, social and economic) for the Northern Section of Champaign-Urbana.

iii) C.A.D., in conjunction with facilities and expertise from the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Illinois, will produce a PERT analysis for the construction of a community shopping center.

iv) C.A.D. has advised and will advise tenants of housing projects on the formation of groups for self-help.

v) C.A.D. will prepare proposals for needed urban recreation centers and local parks.

The list of projects could go on but these serve to indicate the type of work that C.A.D. is presently involved with. The scope of operations of C.A.D. is limited by only two things. The interest that poor black and poor white communities have in tackling the problems of their environment, and the expertise and help that is made available by the University of Illinois. The concern of the poor community itself is well demonstrated by its existing groups and projects and by the establishment of the C.A.D. All that remains is the need for a firm and continuing commitment from the University of Illinois to support students and faculty if their part in C.A.D. Only with this can



C.A.D. go on to undertake the many and varied projects that the poor community will present to it.



PROGRESS ASSOCIATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MINUTES

April 16, 1970

The Board of Directors for Progress Association for Economic Development met in the office of PAED - 116 North First street - 7:30 pm.

Those present were:

Messrs: J. Johnson, Dick Davis, Willie Gordon, Ted Adkinson  
Mmes: Rev. Mullens, L.M. Sankey, J.M. Barbee

Corrections to the April 8 minutes are; paragraph eight (8) should read " The PAED Board"

Mr. Johnson made a motion that Mr. Ted Adkinson be a member of the PAED Board, motion seconded and passed.

Mr. Johnson stated that: Mrs. J. Barbee contacted Mr. Robert Byrd in Philadelphia in regards to the letter sent to this Affiliate a week ago (written by Mr. Campbell, signed by Gus Roman) \*see minutes of April 8, 1970. Mr. Johnson explained our needs re: our EDTC program, and wrote a letter to follow up the telephone conversation.

Mr. Johnson made a motion that the Developers, using whatever Technical Assistance required to identify Programs for Black businesses in our community other than managerial or our EDTC program and identify fund resources for our PAED Board.

Mr. Hansbrough stated that we do have a list of Black owned businesses in Champaign-Urbana on file. Mr. Johnson stated that a letter should be sent to all small businesses, letting them know our concern. Mr. Johnson suggested that a form letter be sent out to businesses, employing Blacks, in hopes that those Blacks would be sent to us to take advantage of our Managerial Training Classes. Mr. Hansbrough explained that we have only two (2) months left to organize; the allotted time for an EDTC program is 24-26 weeks. Enrollees should be 20 per class. Total enrollment should be no more than 40. Mr. Johnson moved that the Secretary be instructed to write a letter of introduction to businesses in Champaign County, accept those identified by the developers and personal contacts, motion seconded - passed. Mr. Hansbrough explained that the usual time limit for the EDTC program is 24-26 weeks, and that pupils enrolled should number 20 per class, no more than 40 - which means two (2) classes.

PAED Minutes

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4/16/70

The President, Rev. Mullens ask that each board member give a report on persons contacted for the PAED board.  
Reports as follows:

1. Contact by Mr. John Johnson:
  - a) Mrs. Jones - yes *≠ Mrs. Edward Jones*
  - b) Rev. Burks - ?
  - c) George Pope - interested
  - d) Ellis Washington - interested
  
2. Leonard Mason:
  - a) Prof. Charles Quick - interested, will give answer later.
  
3. Willie Gordon:
  - a) Tommy Drish - yes
  - b) Taylor - yes *, Joe Lee*
  - c) Rev. Keaton - ?
  
4. Rev. Mullens:
  - a) Kathryn Humphrey - yes

Charlie Johnson, Evelyn Burnett and Loretha Harmon have already made commitments to the Board.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine M. Sankey, Secretary



COMMUNITY ADVOCACY DEPOT

Proposed Budget - 1971 (Minimal)

I. Personnel	\$4,000
4 quarter-time assistants at \$1,000 Students, University of Illinois Architecture Engineering Law Urban Planning	
6 Urban Development Interns at \$500 Students, Parkland Community College and High School Seniors	3,000
*Note: We are not asking salaries for staff.	
II. Expenses	400
Travel (Basically to Chicago and Springfield)	
III. Facilities	1,500
Rent & Utilities at \$125 per month Custodial services provided by Neighborhood Youth Corps	
IV. Office Supplies and Equipment (1st year)	1,000
This includes some non-recurring items such as parallel bars, luxo lamps, rapidio graph sets and illustration boards	
V. Telephones at \$25 per month	300
VI. Postage, xeroxing and mimeographing	300



THE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY DEPOT PRESENTS A NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH DESIGN DEPOT  
PROJECT

To offer the following educational and vocational programs:

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

To establish a concern for the increased problems found in neighborhood life and methods to resolve them.

BLUE PRINT READING AND DRAFTING

Establish a vocational ability among young people to read and draft blue prints.

HOME MANAGEMENT

The art of interior design of home, how to get the best from a house.

BASIC MATH

A refresher course for some an educational course for others in the techniques of basic math.

READING AND WRITING

Building the art of self expression and written communication.

CULTURAL VOCATION

Black history and arts. Developing a greater understanding of the past and future among Black children.

WHERE:

Boy's Club -- Second and Park street.

Willard Elementary School -- Church and Fifth Street.

CAD -- 118 N. First Street

Washington Elementary School -- Grove Street

EVERY CHILD IS WELCOME

Ages: 6-15

CONTACT THE CAD - 118 N. First Street

HOME MANAGEMENT

The art of interior design of home, how to get the best from a house.

BASIC MATH

A refresher course for some an educational course for others in the techniques of basic math.

READING AND WRITING

Building the art of self expression and written communication.

CULTURAL VOCATION

Black history and arts. Developing a greater understanding of the past and future among Black children.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY DEPOT  
 C A D  
 118 SOUTH FIRST STREET  
A PROGRAM FOR HOME OWNERSHIP  
 FHA SECTION 235

The typical procedure for buying a home is:

- \* a family borrows money to buy a home and lot;
- \* the family pays back the money and the cost of borrowing the money (interest) over a period of time;
- \* FHA insures the lender that the money will be paid back, if FHA requirements are met (regular FHA);
- \* FHA pays part of the cost of borrowing the money (interest), if the family qualifies as a lower-income family (FHA Section 235).

The Section 235 program is complex, but flexible. This pamphlet, therefore, will only generally describe the program. A family that is reasonably close to the eligibility requirements should consider the program.

The Section 235 program is a supplement to the open market. To be ineligible on the high side suggests that a family is able to afford a home without a supplement. To be ineligible on the low side suggests that a family should consider rent or public housing.

The home can be an existing, rehabilitated, or new unit. The home can be single-family-detached, a duplex, a townhouse, a condominium, or a cooperative. For the Section 235 program, eligibility, the family must be buying ownership in a standard unit.

Eligibility is a balance of four requirements:

- \* Family is defined as any of the below:
  - two or more related by blood, marriage, or law;
  - one who is handicapped;
  - one who is older than 62 years of age.
- \* Family income should be limited to:
  - maximum gross income over the last twelve months allowed:

Children	2 Parents	1 Parent
0	\$ 6,400	\$ 4,550
1	7,421	6,710
2	8,447	7,736
3	9,331	8,763
4	10,215	9,647
5	11,110	10,531
6	11,842	11,415
7	12,510	12,157
8	13,026	12,826

- minimum adjusted income required for given loans:<sup>1</sup>

Adjusted Annual Income	Maximum Mortgage
\$ 4,300	\$ 13,000
4,600	14,000
4,900	15,000
5,200	16,000
5,500	17,000
5,800 <sup>2</sup>	18,000 <sup>2</sup>
6,100	19,000
6,400	20,000
6,700 <sup>2</sup>	21,000 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted income equals 95 per cent of the gross income minus \$300 per minor child.

<sup>2</sup>Indicates the maximum mortgage allowed for Section 235: \$18,000 for a family of four or less; \$21,000 for a family of five or more.

- if the family has irregular or seasonal income, ask about FHA Section 237.

- \* Family assets should be limited to: (assets include cash, savings, stocks, and bonds; assets do not include personal property as cars, furniture, televisions).

- maximum assets for a family whose head is under 62 years of age: \$2000 plus \$500 per minor child plus 20% adjusted annual income.

maximum assets for a family whose head is over 62 years: \$5000 plus \$500 per minor child plus 20% adjusted annual income

- minimum assets required are \$200 for the downpayment. With sweat equity, the downpayment may be less. The downpayment may not be borrowed.

- \* Family credit history should indicate ability and willingness to meet monthly payments. Family debts should not be exceedingly large. If credit is a problem, ask about FHA Section 237.

Monthly mortgage payments are equal to 20% of the adjusted family income. For a 30 year mortgage a family will pay the principal amount borrowed plus the cost of borrowing (interest). The cost of borrowing that the family will pay will be from 1 to 8½%, depending on the ability of the family to pay. FHA will subsidize the rest.

The amount paid on the principal is equivalent to the amount of the home a family owns. The family may sell the home after five years and get back the principal amount paid in.

The Community Advocacy Depot is a non-profit group of community members offering technical advice and service to the people of Champaign County. The CAD will help you with your housing and other needs.

# MUSIC



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniell



# No blues about neighborhood's future

By J. Philip Bloomer

Classics are defined by their staying power, which is why the little white block building on North First Street in Champaign may be destined for success.

Candy's Lounge, at 206 N. First St., has been an idea waiting to happen for a long time. Now Candy Foster has pulled together the elements to keep it around a while.

With blues singer Mary Clark managing the bar, two of Champaign-Urbana's (and Danville's) best-known musical "fronts" are doing what they do best — entertaining.

Candy's Lounge opened officially last Friday, packing people in with word of mouth the only advertising. He's planning a grand opening for Labor Day weekend.

From there, Foster hopes the lounge will be another factor in prompting a North First Street revival, a return to the way it used to be — a place for folks to gather, see familiar faces, do their business, and have a good time.

"When I came here 30 years ago, First Street was the place to be," recalls the 52-year-old Foster. "I started at a place up here called the Rainbow Tavern. Sang the blues for \$7 a night.

"They had a barbecue place, a market. I know what First Street means to people around here, and it can be that way again," Foster said.

Foster came to Champaign from Danville when he was 18 years old, got involved in

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"When I came here 30 years ago, First Street was the place to be. I started at a place up here called the Rainbow Tavern. Sang the blues for \$7 a night."

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the music business and has sung for and managed bands such as the Soul Brothers, Faces, and Candy and the Tan Band.

He said he always wanted his own place, but four or five years ago got discouraged about the rough character of the North First Street neighborhood. But there are indications that is changing, and that feeling of identity returning.

A couple of blocks north, Poplar Street, once legendary for its crime, is gone, and the new Martin Luther King Subdivision is risen in its place.

Foster credits people like local DJ Pete Bridgewater, and places like Buddies Bar, 120 N. First St., and Jackson's Restaurant, 116 N. First St., with setting a positive tone.

The growing Champaign-Urbana Ethnic Day at Douglass Park on Aug. 11, the new black-owned radio station WBCP, and now Candy's Lounge are also encouraging signs.

The city of Champaign could be making a difference too. The city this year set aside \$130,000 seed money to assist with

commercial development on North First Street if a private developer can launch a plan.

"The last two years or so, people have really been trying to get that family feeling back," Foster said. "I hope I can help. People have wanted a comfortable, laid-back place, somewhere they can bring their wives, and that's something we haven't had in a long time."

One reason there hasn't been a place like that is that the liquor license wasn't available. With Champaign's lottery system of awarding licenses, applicants wanting a license for the Campustown area submitted applications under multiple names to improve their chances of getting drawn.

But that changed when the council reserved one license for the area north of Springfield Avenue and east of the Illinois Central tracks. In March Foster got his license, and work began on the little club.

Candy's Lounge is small by most club standards. With about 20 tables, it has a capacity of around 65. Friends, fellow musicians, and relatives helped remodel the interior of the one-story, concrete block building.

Eventually he hopes to have soloists or trios play on occasion. And he said he might have a "Danville night" for all his old friends.

One old friend, a musical protege of Foster's, manages the bar.

Mary Clark is perhaps best known local-

ly for stints singing with Wild Wind, WJF Blues Band, Blues Benders and Fresh Air. She's now with Straight From The Street, a new rhythm and blues band that, while it's been around the Midwest in various forms since 1981, is fast gaining popularity with some new sounds and faces.

Clark's been singing blues since she was a teen-ager. She remembers being inspired the first time she got to see Candy Foster and his band perform.

"I was 16 and I snuck in the old Blue Island to see the Soul Brothers," she recalls.

After moving to Champaign in 1968, Clark bounced around the country a bit, singing and bartending, but now appears to be comfortable at Candy's and playing gigs with Straight From The Street.

One local critic said she possesses "one of the richest, fullest, and most soulful voices around . . . you can't help but love this woman for what she can do with a song."

Or with a drink. She's been bartending for 17 years, starting at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Va. But she's moved on to bigger and better things in the meantime, like Nature's Table Saturday, or most other evenings at Candy's Lounge.

"She's great," says Foster. "Mary doesn't meet any strangers."

Like a classic, this place is likely going to be around for a while. ■

The News-Gazette

# Residents Share Loyalty To North Urbana

## Bad Image 4/20/82 Exists Only 1/82 For Outsiders

By ANNE WEINSTEIN  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

When Don and Madelyn Harlow moved to North Urbana shortly after they were married, they intended to stay just "until we got on our feet and could afford to move somewhere else."

It is 50 years later, and they have never moved from the house they built on Hill Street. Their daughter still manages the store Don opened in the neighborhood. And the neighbors who live in the comfortable, carefully tended homes nearby have been their friends for years.

The neighborhood has a bad reputation among those who live outside it, and a good one among those who live within. It encompasses some of the city's poorest areas — and is among the most racially mixed. But it is stable, dominated by owner-occupied single family homes, and cohesive.

In many ways, the Harlows are symbols of a spirit that seems to unite residents of North Urbana. People in the area know Harlow as a man who, until recently, took daily strolls around the neighborhood to visit with his friends, black and white, young and old.

They call him "Mr. Don," and many of them recall how he loaned them money when times were hard or kept an eye on their children at his Goodwin Avenue service station.

### Incidents Tarnish Image

Residents see North Urbana as a section of the city where those kinds of community loyalties flourished, but during the past year there have been strong signs that change is taking hold in ways the residents do not welcome. Incidents are tarnishing an image perceived by much of the city as not altogether shining already.

Harlow, now 72, provides one of the most vivid examples.

The morning of March 19, an unidentified man gunned Harlow down in the street a block from his home, wounding him twice in the leg and once in the chest. Harlow survived the unexplained attack, but spent two months recovering in Mercy Hospital and is now encased in a cast from his chest to his ankle.

When the Harlow shooting occurred, memories of the wave of terror inspired by three "Choker" attacks in the area last summer were just beginning to fade. In a three-week period beginning June 28, 1981, three elderly women were attacked and choked, and neighbors launched a campaign to safeguard their streets from the invader.

Realities of urban living have been brought home to North Urbana residents in other ways. Pizzeria parlors have declared they will not deliver to the area because their couriers have been regularly robbed.

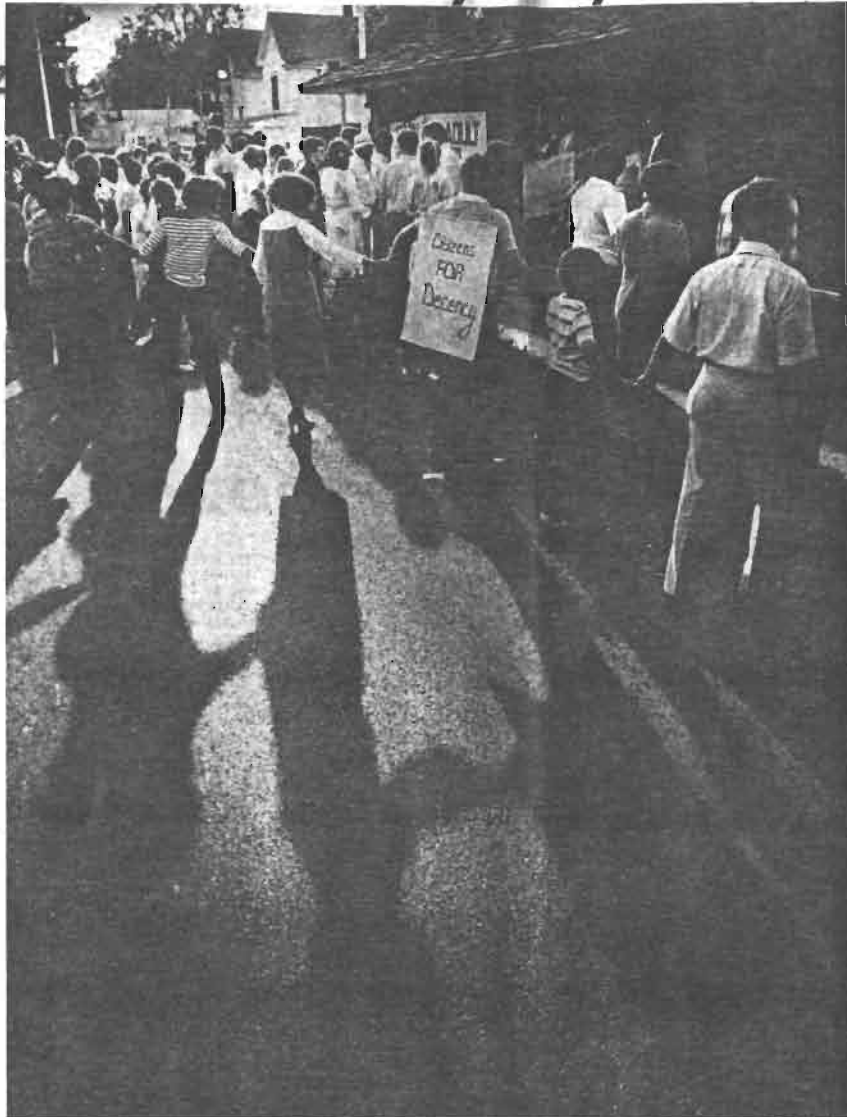
And most recently, a store selling adult books, movies and "sexual devices" opened on the University Avenue commercial strip that adjoins the neighborhood, a move residents believe will further taint the area's image and bring in outsiders potentially dangerous to women and children who live there.

### Working On Improvements

Community leaders in the area revolving around King Elementary School acknowledge that North Urbana's public image has been anything but improved by the latest developments. But they have proven unusually vocal in their effort to do something about it, to preserve their neighborhood and to improve it.

They view North Urbana as a place where homeowners are working to improve their properties, and they're backed by an influx of more than \$1.5 million in federal Community Development Block Grant funds invested there since 1976.

Residents are staging peaceful picketing protests and prayers to let the adult bookstore owners know they are not welcome at the University Avenue location, and they're working through an organization named the North Urbana Concerned Citizens Development Corporation to set up programs designed to help



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marized one long-time resident who lives near King School. Ironically, she would not disclose her name, because she said she lives alone.

### North End's Boundaries

On a map, the north end of Urbana includes an area that is roughly bounded by University Avenue on the south, Bradley Avenue on the north, Wright Street on the west and Broadway Avenue on the east. Statisticians define it as Census Tract 53.

The latest census figures show a population of 3,295, about one-tenth of the city's residents, living within that census tract. Black residents number 1,856, while white residents number 1,411. According to housing figures just released by the census bureau, rental units comprise only about a third of the 1,223 housing units in the area.

When the community development block grant work began six years ago, Census Tract 53 was one of the two city areas targeted for improvements. Income per capita there was lower than in any other census tract in the city, except the one southeast of the downtown area.

The other criteria qualifying the two areas for improvements included the number of residents who belong to minority populations and the condition of existing housing, according to Community Development Services Administrator Bruce Walden.

Walden said the more than \$1.5 million in federal grant funds have helped relocate families living in substandard housing and underwrite improvements to existing dwellings. The city has also paid for reconstruction projects on Romine Street, Beech Street and Fairview Avenue and has put in new street lights, sidewalks and landscaping with the

street and know everyone." According to Michael Robb, the Major Case Squad investigator assigned to the Harlow shooting, the cooperation police received from residents in the area following the shooting demonstrated their concern about the brutality of the crime and their respect for Harlow.

"North end residents were deeply shocked and saddened by the incident, and they extended their total cooperation to investigators in the case," he said.

### Public Perception Poor

But the public still tends to think of North Urbana as a crime-ridden area, and many residents and city officials say it's because the Harlow shooting and "choker" attacks were so spectacular they tend to distort public perception.

"It's that mystique about living in the north end of town," said Kay Burk, who lives with her husband and daughter just down the street from the Harlows. "We feel as safe here as anywhere else."

"I think maybe the people who live here chose to live here because they could buy a house cheaply, but I think they chose to stay because they like the neighborhood," she added.

Frieda Wascher, who holds the seat on the city council held previously by Harlow and Hursey, has lived in the Fairview Avenue area for 28 years. She describes the racial blending in her neighborhood as "a good, healthy situation."

"The people I know aren't any more afraid in our area than in any other area in Urbana," she said. "Families watch out for each other here, and that's been going on for years, well before the 'Choker' attacks. That kind of cooperation is very essential to cut down on crime in neighborhoods."

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**MADelyn HARLOW GIVES HER HUSBAND ... Don, 72, was gunned down last March**

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Gordon said the north side residential area accounted for only about 2 percent of the crimes recorded in the entire city, a figure consistent with that in other city neighborhoods.

"I think some people have a misconception of the general area," Gordon commented.

Gordon acknowledged the crime rate is somewhat higher in Lincoln Mobile Home Park on the east side of the area, where slightly less than 100 incidents were reported last year, but he attributed that to the fact there is "a high concentration of people in a smaller, confined area there, similar to a student residential area."

### Adverse Publicity Hurts

Vernon Brown, Urbana's human relations officer, pointed out that "the perception of crime is not necessarily the same as reality," and he contended the public believes "North Urbana is a bad place to be" because of recent adverse publicity.

"That's not the case, and crime statistics bear it out," he said.

Armed with Gordon's statistics, Brown plans to meet with local businessmen who have refused to deliver pizzas and other merchandise to the area to convince them their apprehensions about being robbed are based on faulty perceptions about the situation there.

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Plans for the center are currently on hold while members of Gerron's group, the North Urbana Concerned Citizens' Development Corporation, collect money to match a grant of up to \$20,000 from the city's community development block grant money. The

officials to take adult bookstore to their neighborhood.

Gerron said the bookstore was in compliance with all regulations illustrating "lack of respect."

A resident of the area for 19 years, leading the new bookstore, it represents a hood stability.

"The thing that are working on their value is education like this, out what you've Clark said.

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### Services Needed

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Hursey, who's housing before block grant Urbana's public roots in the disregard for interests.

"Historically, Campaign and been a black area are concerned, there were a lot up there, and how the areas Residents in the dirt streets, no inadequate services but that situation the 1960s. Here



# Residents Share Loyalty To North Urbana

## Age Only Outsiders

**WEINSTEIN**  
Staff Writer  
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ter, and they have in the house they let. Their daughter store Don opened in the neighborhood. And the life in the comfortable homes nearby friends for years. Don has a bad reputation who live outside the area among those who compasses some of the areas — and is racially mixed. But it is owned by owner-family homes, and

the Harlows are proud that seems to be of North Urbana. They know Harlow as a recently, took daily in the neighborhood to friends, black and old.

"Mr. Don," and call how he loaned in times were hard on their children at bus service station.

## Slush Image

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On March 19, an unnamed Harlow down from his home, twice in the leg and arm. Harlow survived the attack, but spent over a year in Mercy Hospital in a cast for his ankle.

Harlow shooting on the night of the wave of three "Choker" attacks last summer were to fade. In a three-night June 28, 1981, men were attacked by neighbors launched to guard their streets

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tion, a tidy neighborhood north of King School that is predominantly black. Paul Hursey, an Urbana city alderman in the 1960s and 70s, remembers that when the subdivision was built in 1962, some significant changes took place in the area.

He said young black families moved in and the result was a change in the racial balance in Hays School, which was renamed King School in 1970 in honor of civil rights leader Martin Luther King. Hursey and other parents successfully campaigned for busing to restore the balance at Hays, Webber and Washington schools.

Don Harlow believes his neighborhood is stable, well-tended and relatively trouble-free because a high percentage of the residents own their own homes. Many have passed from parents to their children. And community development projects that have enabled low-income residents to fix up their homes are an important factor contributing to neighborhood pride.

## No 'Big Problems'

A Ward 3 alderman from 1949 to 1965, Harlow described his neighborhood as a place where "there have just never been any big problems."

"We have blacks living on the street and whites living on the street, and there's never been any trouble because people up here don't know color," contributed Mrs. Harlow.

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officials to take action against the adult bookstore that moved into their neighborhood.

Gerron said the fact that the bookstore was able to move into its University Avenue location and comply with all existing zoning regulations illustrates the city fathers' "lack of respect for our area."

A resident of Dr. Ellis subdivision for 19 years, Lonnie Clark is also leading the campaign against the new bookstore, because he believes it represents a threat to neighborhood stability.

"The thing that upsets me is people are working on their properties and their value is appreciating, but a situation like this comes in and wipes out what you've worked so hard for," Clark said.

He said black and white residents of the area are campaigning together and picketing on weekends to discourage patrons of the shop and "make an impact on the owner's pocketbook."

"Racial problems, those types of things, just don't happen here, but I wouldn't be surprised if they did with that bookstore bringing people into the area," Clark concluded.

Gerron charges many of North Urbana's current problems can be chalked up to official apathy about the area.

## Services Neglected

"One problem is, services have not grown with the neighborhood," he said. "For example, we pay taxes to the park district, but we need a stronger program for children than they offer here. It seems like the only concern for the area is when federal government funds are available."

Hursey, who led fights to improve housing before the days of federal block grant funds, agreed North Urbana's public image problem has its roots in long-standing official disregard for the neighborhood's interests.

"Historically, the north end of both Champaign and Urbana have always been a black spot as far as the cities are concerned," he said. "It was as if there were a bunch of animals living up there, and for many years, that's how the areas were treated."

Residents there had to put up with dirt streets, few police patrols and inadequate snow removal services, but that situation began to change in



## CHURCH ADDITION

This new two-story addition to Northside Gospel Center, 301 E. Thompson St., will be used for the first time Sunday in conjunction with an eighth birthday and rally observance. There

are 6,000 square feet of floor space in the three rooms of the addition. Downstairs portion will be used as Sunday school rooms for the teen-age classes

and for missionary meetings. Upstairs includes a nursery and Sunday school room for boys. The Rev. Oran Shoemaker is pastor of the church.

# Gospel Center Addition Open

## North Side Church Marks Eighth Anniversary.

FILED NOV 2 1956  
Eighth anniversary of North Side Gospel Center, will be observed Sunday with a Rally Day and opening of the new two-story Sunday school addition.

Organized as an undenominational church to serve residents of northeast Urbana, the church was used for the first time Nov. 7, 1948.

At that time the congregation included only the pastor, the Rev. Oran Shoemaker, Mrs. Shoemaker and their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shoemaker.

Two corner lots were saved for the church when the minister's son, Robert Shoemaker, developed a subdivision in the vicinity of the church. The Rev. Mr. Shoemaker,

who was ordained at the North Side Gospel Center in Chicago, is also a building contractor.

The Rev. Mr. Shoemaker has continued as pastor of the church through the eight years and has seen it grow to the present attendance of 187. Increasing numbers in the Sunday school classes necessitated building of the three

FILED NOV 2 1956  
At Sunday's service the young people's choir will sing and the Rev. Mr. Schiavo will deliver the sermon.

# Gospel Center 10 Years Old

North Side Gospel Center at 301 E. Thompson St., Urbana, will celebrate its 10th anniversary Sunday during Rally Day services.

There will be an all-day program and a basket dinner at noon.

Harry Richards, a chalk artist from Jefferson Park Baptist Church, Chicago, will entertain at the Sunday school hour beginning at 9:45 a.m. Children will sing several numbers. Miss Shirley Weatherald and Vicky Conley will play an accordion duet. Pianist will be Ruby Kay Covert and organist, Brent Nicely.

At the worship service, Evangelist Ray Reutz of Michigan City, Ind., will present a special number. The Rev. Oran Shoemaker will speak on the subject, "Heaven and Its Inhabitants."

Program at 2:30 p.m. will include singing by The Christian Businessmen's Quartet, composed of John Faulkner, Robert Faulkner, Willard Anderson and Russell Massanari. The Rev. B. E. Snowden, pastor of Twin City Alliance Church, will sing.

There will be a missionary service at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. John Krieser will read greetings from missionaries sponsored by the church. Mrs. Robert Shoemaker will sing. Leonard Reed and Steve Shoemaker will play a brass duet. Slides will be shown by the Rev. Marshall Williams who is minister at St. Anne.

C-4  
"North End"

Courier 7 August 1974

## Everything's in the name

What's in a name?

Not much for most persons in Champaign-Urbana. But it can be everything for those who live in northeast Champaign.

Two simple words: North End. To too many persons it has meant the end of an already short line. Just a few years ago, according to some who still live in the area, it was enough to make an employer turn down a job application, for example.

Though white and black persons alike often refer to the section of Champaign where the largest concentration of blacks live as the "North End," no one seems to know how or when the term originated.

Kathryn Humphrey, a Champaign school board member, who has never lived anywhere else, says it was a term imposed by local news media. She said blacks living in northeast Champaign picked the term up after seeing it repeated on news pages.

But a neighbor says the development was from inside out. Black job seekers, supposedly reluctant to name the deteriorated street on which they lived, evasively answered "the north end of town." In time, it became the North End, and reporters later picked it up.

Mattie Burch, 69, has lived in Champaign-Urbana for more

than 30 years. She once lived on the fringes of the North end, but in Urbana. The area was being called the North End when she moved here, she said.

But it apparently goes back even further. Charles Phillips, now 86, can remember the term being used "years ago." He does not, however, remember when its use became widespread.

What do you think of when you hear the name North End?

Many persons take offense and feel it is a derogatory label.

This comment from one North End resident, however, probably summarizes feelings for those who live in the area:

"Well, it depends on the con-

versation that a person is involved in and also the connotation that an article may be implying. Geographically located, that is correct. And I cannot have any qualms about it.

"Sometimes, I guess I have a defensive attitude about it because I live in the North End and I think that the person that is making the remark may be trying to make a derogatory comment of some sort. How else can you describe it — geographically — as anything but the North End?"

"Newspapers put it that way. Our saying had always been 'across the tracks'."

# Talk Of North End Crime

Champaign's north end, where violence and crime has been increasing at a rapid rate, prompted a spirited discussion at the Champaign City Council's study session Tuesday in the city building.

It was initiated by city Councilman William Kuhne, who reported hearing from Bud Finney, Chairman of the Champaign County Housing Development, that "good people were moving out of the public housing area of Burch Village because of fear."

The statement by Kuhne ignited a conversation which drew comments and suggestions from just about every councilman on the controversial subject.

Kuhne pointed out:

"There is a fear among the good people in the north end, concerning the continuing violence which has been going on. Those people are scared and it is easy to understand why. What are we going to do to restore peace and quiet

in the area?"

Councilman Dwyer/Murphy added: "I do not think it would do that much good to increase the police staff in the area. I do not know what the solution is."

City Manager Warren Browning crystallized the thinking of the police department and his own by saying:

"The answer is very simple. All it takes is for the people in the area to sit down and control those people who are doing all the trouble. The people should come in and help the police department instead of hindering the department the way they are doing now."

Browning's suggestion was not universally accepted by all present.

James Ransom, the only black councilman on the body, said:

"It is not quite that easy. If the people come in and inform to the police, what protection is the city going to give them when the person they informed

on gets out and starts looking for them? The people up there are scared because the violence is continuing and is set. If someone informs on someone else, the informer's life is in danger.

"When the public housing was set up, there was not a provision made for the black people to have a voice in the way it was run. The proposal was rejected. That is part of the problem now."

Councilman Murphy interjected: "That is one of the problems. You can not expect them to always take the short end of the stick. They should have a voice in the running of the show if we are to give them responsibility for the control of the people."

Robert Pope, offered a solution: "I think we should de-annex the north end and let them run themselves. Governments are too big and the government should be given back to the community where it belongs. We fought to get the old justice

of the peace people out and now look what we have. I would rather have uneducated injustice rather than educated injustice.

"The people have lost the confidence of the police and the judiciary. Why, I know of a man who is continually under arrest. He gets arrested and before long he is back out on the street. No wonder the people do not want to inform. I wouldn't either because the man would be back to get me in no time at all.

"The problem is not just in the north end either. Other people have to take responsibility including the members of the Champaign Country Club and other blue ribbon people in this community. If they would be as concerned about this city and where it is going as they are about their golf scores, we would all be better off," Pope declared.

The council closed its study session without acting on the problem.

9/9/70  
APPROX

~~CHAMPAIGN~~ NEWS GAZETTE



# Harsh Outlook For A Black Man

By BONNIE BLANKENSHIP  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

The lurching of the boxcars awakened Jim, and he moved quickly to the half-open door to get his bearings as the train slowed to a stop.

Two men jumped from the car ahead and ran down the bank along the track.

Jim jumped, too.

He kept the men in sight as they walked through the tall grass, crossed the dirt road and headed toward a cluster of houses not too far away. Where else would black men be going than to seek their own kind in this Illinois town?

Jim was bound for the house of his wife's sister, Odessa, who had come north a year ago to pick fruit, had taken up with a man and settled near his kin in Champaign.

It was a gray spring morning in 1949. The mud clung to Jim's shoes as he walked past the small, unpainted structures which sprouted like weeds from the black soil.

The community was small enough so that it took no more than two or three inquiries before he was directed to the house he sought. Odessa, her man and their baby lived in a one-room made-over coal shed which had been made relatively snug from the rain by lodging gunny sacks into the cracks in the board walls.

Jim was expected, and was welcomed warmly. He would live with Odessa until he could find a job and send for his family in Mississippi.

The end of his second week in Champaign, Jim was hired as a dishwasher at \$95 a month. The salary wasn't great, but a black man could feel lucky finding any work at all.

He gave a few dollars a week to Odessa, and occasionally sneaked a bit of meat or some leftover vegetables from the kitchen where he worked to supplement their simple diet.

Jim continually kept his eye out for a place for his family to live. Crowded conditions were a fact of life all the Negroes accepted, but he didn't want to move his large family into Odessa's one-room house.

The war had caused a housing shortage in most towns, but the

effects were felt more keenly in the black settlements. Immigration from the south added to the normal population growth, but the geographical areas available for Negro homes did not expand. As a result, makeshift dwellings were constructed on lots already containing houses, and the crowding reached staggering proportions.

Two months after his arrival in Champaign, Jim located a place to live — a three-room shack which rented for \$22.50 a month, plus utilities. He sent bus fare for his wife, their 10 children and his wife's mother to join him in their new home.

The 13-member family set up housekeeping in the tarpaper-covered dwelling which had been constructed directly on the ground, without a foundation. In one of the rooms were two chairs, a double bed, a table and a coal stove. A double bed and chair filled the second room. The third room, the kitchen, was so small that it could hold nothing more than a stove and an ice-box.

Clothes were hung on nails driven into the walls. The few family possessions were kept in cardboard cartons.

Cooking and drinking water was carried from an outside faucet, which was shared with the residents of two other shacks. The shacks, like Jim's, were built on the rear of one city lot which also contained the owner's house.

One of the shacks on the same lot sheltered three families, five adults and four children. The third shack, a converted chicken coop, housed an elderly couple.

The outdoor privy which stood five or six feet from Jim's front door was shared by all the residents on the lot — 26 people, including the two from the owner's house.

As the weather turned cooler, Jim found it hard to keep his family warm in the poorly-constructed dwelling. He had to pay \$12.50 for a ton of coal, and had to burn nearly two tons a month.

Refuse from the four dwellings on the lot accumulated continuously, for private garbage companies frequently refused to drive their trucks into the polluted, mud-rutted alleys and streets.

Rats, roaches and other vermin thrived in the squalor which grew from the overcrowding of persons and the lack of adequate sanitary facilities.

Jim and his family, like most of their neighbors in the north end community, continually wished for a better place to live. But the housing shortage was being felt everywhere, and Negroes had to find quarters within a restricted area.

They ended up feeling lucky they had a roof over their heads at all.

Jim is a fictitious name.

But the specific conditions portrayed did exist in Champaign in 1949.

The descriptions of families contained here are from firsthand observations and interviews made during a housing survey by the League of Women Voters over 20 years ago.

And they were typical.

At that time, of 220 families studied, 19 were homeowners.

Nearly three of every 10 renters were paying one-third or more of their income for rent; over 11 per cent were paying one-half or more. The Small Homes Council considered the normal budget figure for total shelter then — rent plus utilities — to be one-fifth to one-fourth of income. Of the 200 renting families, 70 per cent did not have heat included in rent and half had no utilities at all furnished.

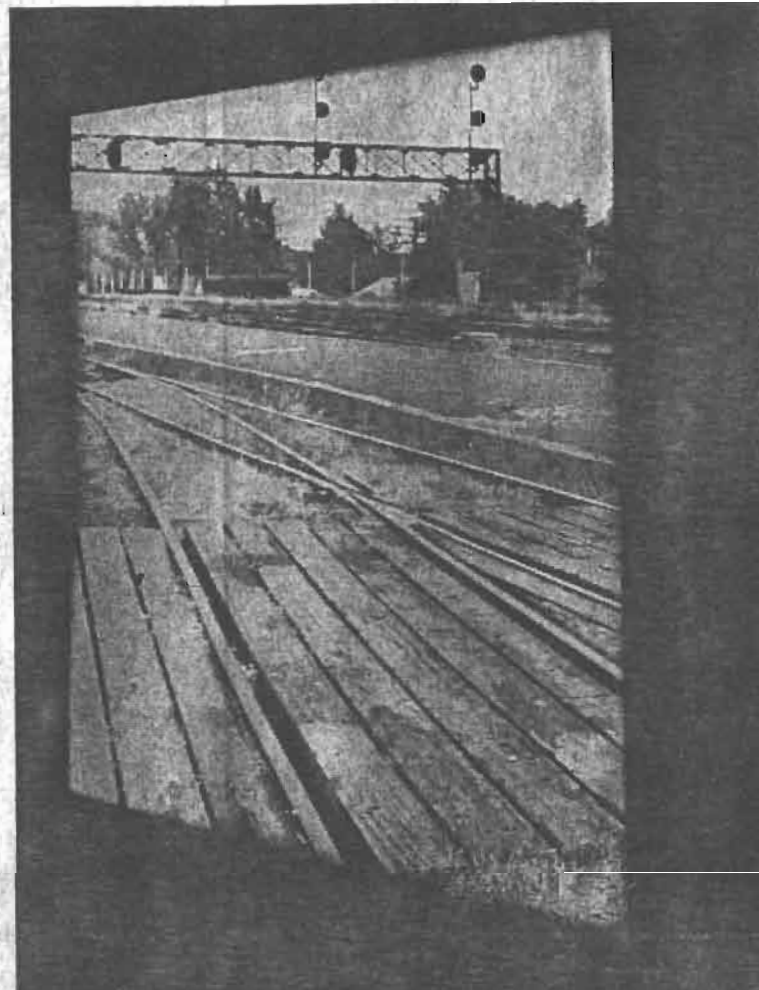
The area which by tradition had been designated for Negroes was bounded on the west by the Illinois Central Railroad tracks, on the north by Bradley, on the east by Goodwin and on the south by Washington.

The non-white population in the twin cities had reached 3,617 by 1950.

In the next 10 years, between 1950 and 1960, the number of black persons living in Champaign-Urbana increased nearly 60 per cent, to 5,773.

The white population of Champaign-Urbana increased 19 per cent — from 58,870 in 1950 to 69,980 in 1960.

While the non-white population in the twin cities increased substantially, it was not as great a gain as experienced in five



News-Gazette Photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

### VIEW FROM A BOXCAR

... first view of Champaign-Urbana for some

of the other nine Illinois cities which contain 86 per cent of all the black citizens of the state (Chicago, Rockford, Peoria, Moline-Rock Island, Springfield, East St. Louis, Evansville, Decatur and Champaign-Urbana).

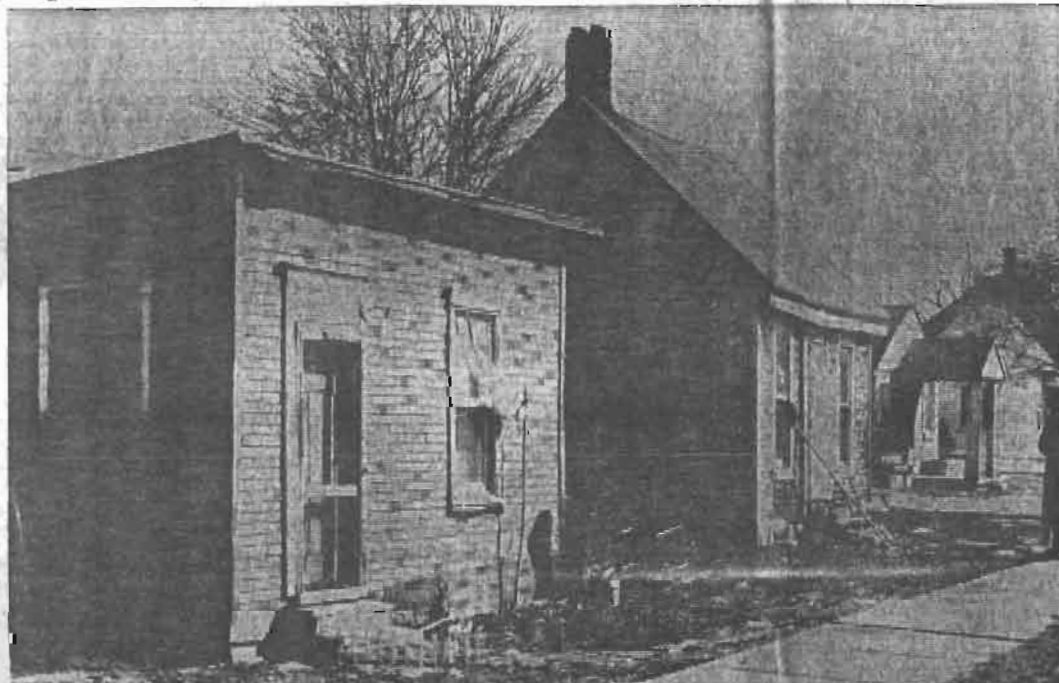
The construction of additional or replacement housing for blacks did not keep pace with the population growth. As a result, single family dwellings

were converted to apartments, and the crowding worsened. In the mid 1950s, minimum housing standards were established by the cities, but were not enforced.

In 1964, the Champaign City Council established a housing ordinance with more teeth in

it. It would be four more years, however, before a major effort would be made to demolish shacks in Champaign and tempt to relocate families in standard housing.

(Next: The mighty move Urban Renewal)



News-Gazette Photo by Robert K. O'Daniel

HOUSES IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN 1949

The North End: Despair And Hope

# Lack Of Family Life Among Chief Black Problems

By BONNIE BLANKENSHIP  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

"You knew it was after curfew—why didn't you make your son stay in the house?" the juvenile officer asked.

"He doesn't pay any attention to me—I tell him to stay home, but he just walks right on past me," replied the mother.

She and her 14-year-old son had been called to the city's juvenile office after the boy had been arrested for curfew violation.

Another mother admitted she was afraid to discipline her young teenage son. "He'll kill me," she protested.

Parents who cannot—or will not—control their own children are a contemporary phenomenon.

The problem appears to be acute in Champaign-Urbana's black community, where a high percentage of the children grow up in families where no father is present.

In fact, the middle-class concept of "family" is not understood, or is meaningless.

"To this day, we haven't gotten over the traditions ingrained by slavery," one social minister says. "The black man was nothing more than a stud; the black woman was concerned only with having children, not raising them."

Segregation and limited educational and employment opportunities for blacks have contributed to the weakening of the Negro family.

"Studies of a variety of lower-class populations emphasize that, for the man, self-respect, status and self-esteem is intimately bound up with the ability to support one's family," notes one sociologist.

"The man's role is financial and his status in the household depends rather strongly on his ability as a breadwinner; his self-respect is closely tied to his financial independence.

"A man who is unable to carry out his breadwinning role falls a great distance in the estimation of himself, his wife and children, and his fellows."

As a result of being relegated

to the lowest educational and financial strata in society, the Negro man cannot provide the economic support which is a principal male function in American society.

Therefore, the woman becomes the head of the family, and the man either deserts or is rejected by his wife.

With the father absent and the mother either working, or busy with younger children, the teenagers spend the bulk of their time on the streets, where the image of success isn't that of the solid, upright citizen, but rather that of the hustler, who takes care of himself by exploiting others.

The pattern reinforces itself from one generation to the next,

creating a culture of poverty and an ingrained cynicism about society and its institutions.

The personal insecurity and tension generated by such an environment leads to increased anti-social behavior, which is evident in the north end of Champaign-Urbana.

The rate of illegitimate births has increased.

Narcotics addiction has increased.

Juvenile delinquency, venereal disease and school truancy has increased.

The crime rate in the north end has increased.

The public aid rolls have increased.

A child growing up in the

## Fourth In A Series

become more a candidate for crime and civil disorder than for a job which could provide either his escape from or the improvement of his surroundings.

Black youth believe they are being exploited by the white power structure. They have a deep sense of powerlessness when it comes to changing—or even having access to—the institutions which control their lives. The result is increased alienation and hostility towards all institutions—including law and government.

They feel and believe what white Americans find it hard to accept, and what the U.S. Riot Commission put into words—"white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto."

"White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

The disorganization of the family is one of the basic factors affecting the lives of young black people. Strengthening the family, however, is a complex task which can be accomplished by nothing less than a major effort to improve social conditions in general.

The Champaign County Committee for the 1970 White House Conference on Children and Youth concluded, "though many

of the functions of the family are now shared with other institutions and groups in our society, we suggest that certain crucial roles still remain with the family.

"They are: to provide love and psychological support to all family members; to teach the children inner controls (discipline and self-direction), and to provide an atmosphere which will help children develop to their full potential as individuals.

"Though no social service can take over this function from the family, we suggest that certain kinds of programs, especially prevention oriented programs, are more useful than others in helping the family

perform these functions.

The committee suggested: Programs to reduce unemployment and underemployment by teaching job skills appropriate to current demands and by opening up employment opportunities to all who need them.

Programs to increase the general and social education levels of all people of all ages.

Programs to provide a decent income to all who are either unable to work or unable to find jobs as our economy changes.

Programs to improve the physical and social environment for all people.

Programs to provide adequate public health services and ade-

quate medical care to all.

Programs to promote or develop family supportive social services as needed.

Development of further remedial social services, as needed.

Strides towards these goals HAVE been made in Champaign-Urbana, especially in the last 30 years.

Yet, there are those whose lives have been affected little by the changes the black community, with the support of the white community, continues to produce alienated, hostile citizens with little faith in the future.

(Next: a conversation with north end youth)



HOWARD JOHNSON INN SITE. Aerial photo shows the former parking lot which will become the site of the new motel, first in what city fathers hope to be a series of redevelopments in downtown Champaign. Looking west, the West Side Park is shown at the top with the motel site stretching from Park Street to Church Street facing the city park. A new multi-level parking deck will also be constructed midway between the Robeson building and the motel site facing Church Street. Neil Street stretches from left to right across bottom of picture. Paralleling it are Randolph and State Streets successively.

## Urbana Foresees Crisis In Lack Of Adequate Space For Waste Disposal

The city of Urbana will be faced with a waste disposal crisis in the near future, according to Public Works Director John Goodell.

Goodell said Wednesday that he is anticipating a letter from the state prohibiting the city from burning brush and trees at the sanitary landfill

thus compounding the space problem.

Not only do city pickups of brush cause a disposal problem, Goodell said, but loads of trash from other area agencies are adding to the problem.

Goodell said the state highway department, Champaign County, the Urbana Park District and

the Urbana 116 School District were dumping wastes at the landfill without paying.

A fee is supposed to be charged anyone dumping at the landfill.

Public Works Committee member Robert Johnson remarked that the state and county trucks "should either pay

their freight or they don't get in."

Goodell explained the problem is compounded with the city providing pickup of brush from Urbana homes.

With the anticipated prohibition of burning at the landfill, as has been done in the past, Goodell said the available land will be used quite rapidly. Adding brush and trees brought in by other agencies, he said, the problem is even worse.

The committee talked about purchasing a "chipper" which would reduce brush to small chips. These chips, Goodell said, take up less space than brush and can be easily handled.

The committee authorized Goodell to seek bids on the machine for presentation at the next city council meeting.

Free brush pickup by the city will be ended next month, Goodell said.

Unless this fall will also cause the city problems, Goodell warned the committee.

As Urbana has a "no burning" ordinance prohibiting the burning of leaves this fall, the problem of where to put them and how to do that, has arisen.

Goodell suggested perhaps limiting the burning ban during the fall season, but Alderman Bernadine Stake remarked, "No, let's not do that."

"It would cause pollution," she said.

## Ask More Rec Area, Police Protection For North End

"More recreational facilities and better police protection" were listed as potential problem solvers for Champaign's north end at the Champaign Human Relations Commission meeting Wednesday.

At a sparsely attended conclave by both Commission members and audience, Howard Mitchell, Champaign's Director of Community Relations, told the commission members he had been visiting with people in the north end and felt his conclusions would help the situation.

While everyone deplored the violence which has been predominant lately, Mitchell suggested an increase in recreational facilities and more police protection as two key items which, if implemented, would serve to inhibit the spreading of more violence.

at length about the problems which have been going on. They seem to think if there was more for the kids to do there would be less trouble," he said.

"They also think there should be better police protection. There is no reason why they should have less than other parts of town," Mitchell added.

The other commission members agreed and later in the meeting made public their reply to City Manager Warren Browning's letter which asked for a study and comments on the situation.

Rev. Raymond Fleming read the letter, which in part said:

"We, too, share the concern about our policemen being shot at and deplore the situation. We still feel, however, that the city should implement some of the suggestions which we made

institute change, and we feel these steps should be a beginning."

The Commission also discussed the proposed rumor center and indicated there was a need for volunteers to man the phones and do other work necessary to make the program a reality.

The members also felt the need for more in-depth study of problems instead of always acting in a crisis situation. Each member was planning to have his own research problem.

Harry Hilton, chairman of the Council for Community Integration, pointed to his efforts and those of CCI in getting the improvements initiated in the Champaign County Jail.

After ripping the County Board of Supervisors for not cooperating, Hilton pointed out that he had gone to Springfield and had the Bureau of Dis-

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PFYT! A small volume

## Final Agreement Reached



# Park forums end on starting note

By Darlene Napady  
Of The Courier

Renewed requests for expanded recreation facilities in Champaign-Urbana's black community were discussed at a forum of the Champaign Park District board Thursday.

This brought a series of community forums to an end exactly where they had begun more than four months ago.

The forums stemmed from a recommendation in July by Robert Tolson, the district's general manager, that the district call bond and tax increase referendums to finance additional park and recreation needs.

The recommendations came from Tolson's study of the long-

discussed multipurpose center for the predominantly black northeast area of the city.

The five-member park district board is expected to go over the presentations made during the forums, set priorities and schedule the referendum.

Vernon Barkstall, executive director of the Urban League of Champaign County who stressed he was not representing any group, said the North End needed a greater variety of facilities.

This included an auditorium or some place to stage functions such as the Urban League talent show which recently drew several hundred persons at the Ramada Inn.

"None of us claim that additional recreation will end lawlessness or that the majority of crimes are committed by black youngsters," Barkstall added. "But if there are other things to do, youngsters are less likely to engage in anti-social behavior," he added.

Mrs. Erma Bridgewater said the Douglass Center program at present does not include enough physical activities for girls and suggested that a track could help bring adults and youngsters together since both groups would be likely to use it.

Bruce Nesbitt, a U of I staff member, said a task force was trying to work out plans to open

certain university facilities, such as Men's Old Gym, to community activities to take the pressure off Douglass Center.

Later Nesbitt charged that the park district had not actually spent all that it had budgeted for activities at Douglass Center, claiming that a summer tennis program there never materialized.

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At an earlier forum representatives of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce had urged the park district to study possibilities of taking over Willard Airport.

Under Illinois law a park district can operate an airport, Willard at one time was faced with a reduction of state funds. But at Thursday's forum Ralph Flexman, the institute's director, repeated his earlier statements that the airport must first come up with a master plan.

"Just today (Thursday) we went over the first draft of our proposal for such a study," Flexman said.

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rate airport authority, possibly including several counties, since this would provide a much larger tax base and spread costs more evenly over the entire area served by the airport.

## North End center funds asked of city

By James Krosmer  
Of The Courier

WEB OCT 2 1 1970

A former Champaign member who is now a student at the University of Illinois Tuesday night asked the Champaign City Council to pledge \$40,000 toward the construction of a multi-purpose center in the North End.

"I was a gang member," Terry Townsend told the council. "We started gangs because we had nothing to do."

Townsend told the council it could donate the \$40,000 to get the multi-purpose center started, and use its position to urge private and public groups to donate also.

"You have done nothing for black people, you have let the university take all the initiative," he charged. "I am prepared to bring you 1,600 black students from the U. of I. and the community if you think I'm joking."

Councilman Seely Johnston took exception to Townsend's statement that the city had done nothing.

"We have spent thousands over the years on Douglass Center," Johnston said. "We have done a lot and we intend to do more."

But Townsend said Douglass is not sufficient. "It is only a building with a gym, and there aren't but two basketballs down there now," he said.

"You think we could send all of those 1,600 black kids to Douglass Center?" he asked.

Councilman James Ransom, in support of Townsend, said the \$40,000 request was "modest."

"The city is in excellent financial straits," he said, "and this would be a good opportunity for the council to show it is concerned for all citizens."

Councilmen Dwyer Murphy and Bob Snyder appeared responsive to the request, but both told Townsend they would not hand anyone \$40,000 without a lot of study and discussion.

Both argued that the city had delegated recreational responsibilities to the park district, and perhaps appeals for a multi-purpose center should be made before that body.

"There must be a systematic approach," Snyder said. "We would have to have a plan. We won't hand you \$40,000, but we will sit down and talk about it," he added.

"We are asking the city to react to a problem," Townsend said.

"We will, but we would like to react to an organized group," Murphy countered.

"Fine, now get together on the \$40,000," said Townsend as he sat down.

"We haven't said 'no' yet," replied Murphy.

## Meeting Set To Seek North End Center Funds

By Darlene Napady

Early next year 20 persons are scheduled to sit down to plot strategy for obtaining an increasingly elusive quantity: the federal dollar.

Most participants are likely to agree on the group's central objective: preparing an application for federal funding for a multi-purpose neighborhood facility in the North End.

Such a facility would provide a variety of services, ranging from recreation to various kinds of education, depending on what area residents felt was needed.

The gathering probably will be relatively placid, but the project has had a stormy history.

Last summer, representatives of SOUL, a Negro group, inquired about the feasibility of building such a facility at several meetings of the Champaign Park Board.

Park District officials, consequently, arranged for Woodrin Kee, a facility specialist from the Chicago regional office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Renewal Assistance Office, to attend a public meeting to explain and answer questions about HUD's neighborhood facilities program.

SOUL and the Economic Opportunity Council of Champaign County joined the Park District in calling the meeting for Sept. 23 at the former St. Mary's of school, which had been leased by EOC for a multi-purpose center.

After heated debate a group of North End youth angrily walked out.

The following night a four-member steering committee was appointed to get the project off the ground.

One of the members, Rev. James Offutt, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, volunteered to survey area residents with the help of various youth groups. Two such meetings were called out what kind of services these people wanted.

"Each of the 18 items on the questionnaire drew an affirmative response from at least as many as the more than 500 persons who were asked 'what should be included in the facility,'" said Vernon Barkstall, executive director of the Urban League of Champaign County and member of the committee.

"Recreation drew the largest support, with more than 90 percent of the people favoring its inclusion," he added.

Other items included housing and job training, child care, and health services.

Barkstall, meanwhile, wrote to various community agencies, asking for a tentative commitment to provide their services at the facility if asked to do so by area residents once the structure is completed.

"Out of more than 25 agencies, only one or two said they would not be in a position to participate in such a facility," Barkstall said.

The four original members of the steering committee — Barkstall, Offutt, Paul Hursey, director of the University of Illinois' Affirmative Action Program, and Ken Allen, director of Volunteer Illinois Projects — were joined by three others.

The new members, Booker Ford, director of Douglass Center; Lonnie Clark of SOUL, and Henry Curtis, executive director of the school, helped organize a mass meeting to expand on the information gathered in the survey and form a representative policy advisory committee (PAC) to prepare the request for federal funds.

"We decided to start with a 20-member PAC, with 12 members, including two youths, some from the community to be served and the other eight from various public bodies," Barkstall explained.

Two such meetings were called, one at Douglass Center and the other at Washington School.

Neither drew a large response. "Since the people apparently were not willing to come to the people," Barkstall said.

Ford and Curtis, consequently, joined Lewis Blackmore, Me Mitchell, Eddie Campbell, Ler Jamison, and Marshall Britt in speaking at Sunday services at various churches in the area.

Through these talks area representatives for the PAC were recruited.

Meanwhile, letters were sent to Legal Services Agency, the Department of Public Aid, Champaign and Urbana Park District, VIP, the Social Security Administration, Adler Zone Center, and Family Services asking them each to name a PAC representative.

"So far, Social Security, VIP and Adler have said they will participate," Barkstall said. "As soon as we hear from the other five, we will set up an organizational meeting and then get to work on the proposal."

Barkstall will be leaving at the end of the year to become executive director of the Lake County (Ill.) Urban League and would like to see the PAC assume control of the project as soon as possible.

Even after the PAC becomes operational, several other problems will remain. These include financing the local share of the project as well as convincing federal authorities to part with increasingly limited funds.

DEC. 2 3 1968

# Culture Committee Plans Programs for Youngsters

THU APR 17 1969

THU APR 17 1969

By Darlene Napady  
After - school music, dance, and drama programs for North End youngsters are expected to begin as soon as space and schedules can be arranged.

Representatives of the University of Illinois Division of University Extension said Wednesday that instructors in most of these areas could meet with groups immediately if they could find space.

The extension officials met with representatives of the area culture committee and instructors from last summer's programs to discuss ways to begin such activities now and carry them through the summer and the next school year.

Virginia Essex, a teacher who has continued last summer's visual arts program through her own efforts, urged that priority be given to such activities.

"You will need space, but you also will have to get the kids involved," she said.

But most of the instructors in the programs already know several children who want to participate, said Mrs. Betty Zamora, temporary secretary of the group.

"Our most immediate problem is space," she said. "In the past all these programs have been directed at Douglass Center, which is not large enough to handle all of them"

The committee is expected to meet next week to arrange for space in area schools and the St. Mary's complex, now leased by the Economic Opportunity Council for a multi - purpose neighborhood center.

"We could start guitar classes next week if we had someplace to meet and store our instruments," said John O'Connor, assistant professor in music extension.

"Such programs probably should start some place like Washington School, which is near Douglass Center," Miss Essex suggested.

They then can branch out to other locations once enough participants become interested, she said.

THU APR 17 1969

**Carew Observes**  
Colin "Topper" Carew, director of the New Thing Art and Architecture Center in Washington, D. C., agreed that recruiting through a focal point such as Douglass Center would be a good idea.

Carew, who was to lecture 4 p.m. today at the Illini Union, sat in on the meeting as an observer. He also suggested that black instructors should be used for such a program.

"But if not enough black instructors can be found, "sensitive whites with the right attitude could be used," he said.

The role of churches in providing participants was discussed. One member suggested that programs also should be scheduled for after school hours rather than Saturdays because many youngsters are busy with other things Saturdays.

## Improved Culture Project For North End Children

FRI APR 4 1969

By Darlene Napady  
Plans for a permanent committee to oversee cultural enrichment activities in Champaign-Urbana's North End were revealed Thursday night in a meeting between area residents and the University of Illinois Division of University Extension.

"Our major problem in the past has been that there has been no carry-over," explained Booker Ford, director of Douglass Center.

"People come here and set up activities, such as music lessons, for a certain period of time, then leave. The kids naturally feel disappointed, especially those who have developed an interest, so someone must see to it that these things don't end with summer."

University Extension members seemed somewhat skeptical about their relations to such a committee, and many details apparently will have to be worked out.

But all agreed to a second meeting of the committee, extension representatives, and instructors in last summer's programs to determine what kind of activities interest children in the area.

Extension representatives said they tentatively had considered music, visual arts, dramatics, and dance as components of a summer project of the area.

Last summer's program included instrumental and vocal music as well as visual arts.

But only the visual arts program was successful because it was continued through the year, Ford said.

"The area needs this kind of committee to make sure that such programs are brought in on a sporadic basis and that they relate to needs and heritage of the black community," said John Lee Johnson, a community organizer for the Community Service Center.

"Right now most people in this area do not know what

culture is, not even black culture."

"Blacks need to understand musical instrument and how to read and stage a play before they can develop a genuine knowledge of black music or theater."

A major problem in providing such activities evidently will be facilities.

Douglass Center does not have room to accommodate such programs as music lessons, and noise from recreational activities would be distracting.

Schools in the area probably will be available in summer but, Ford said, many children do not like the idea of going back to school for such activities.

University facilities also are available, but they are too far for children to walk and transportation always has been a problem.

A multi-purpose facility to accommodate all such activities is still in the discussion stage.

FRI APR 4 1969



Urban League, Chgo  
WED FEB 18 1976

# Few spoke for Census Tract 2

Commonly known as northeast Champaign or the North End, it is referred to as Census Tract 2 in the technical language of the day.

The area itself is not much more than a mile square.

Yet the housing conditions, and the other markings of poverty there, are almost unique in an otherwise comfortable city. The conditions, in fact, warrant enough attention for the U.S. government to give Champaign a half-million dollars a year for urban renewal.

The target of that efforts is Census Tract 2, represented on the city council by John Lee

Johnson. So when the city council sat down Tuesday to decide how next year's half-million would be spent, Johnson stood alone—or almost.

The only other voice of the neighborhoods came from John Smith, who lives at 203 E. Columbia Ave.

Smith, an older man, said nothing about major demolition or housing rehabilitation projects for the neighborhood, although they were going to use the bulk of next year's community development budget.

He spoke, instead, of a social service counseling program,

proposed by the Champaign County Urban League.

He has been doing some of the same work himself, Smith told the city council. On a day-to-day basis, he said he helps neighbors fill out forms, file for pensions and the like.

"A lot of the colored people here came up from the South and can't read or write," he said. "I try to help them when they come to me."

For those who don't come to him, Smith said the Urban League counselors would be an asset in teaching people how to manage their budgets and their homes.

"It would be quite a bit of help to the public and quite a bit of help to the community," Smith declared.

Aside from Johnson, who supported the concept of the counseling service, Smith is one of the very few North End residents to comment in any way whatsoever on Champaign's renewal plans for the neighborhood.

His voice was joined, at a public hearing two weeks ago, by three women who asked the city to move their homes rather than tear them down.

A handfull of neighborhood residents also attended a second public hearing on the com-

munity development program. The project budget, however, was largely the work of city staffers.

Ironically, those who spoke out Tuesday night for a restoration project—as an alternative to the counseling service—were exclusively white. None of them lived in Census Tract 2.

But they had ideas for community development, and they wanted to save the old Cattle Bank building as a kind of neighborhood inspiration.

No one who was black, or who was a North Ender, particularly liked the idea. But if all goes as planned, the restoration will go on.

WED MAR 25 1970

staff members of the Urban League of Champaign are in the foreground, out correspondence to remind League members to renew their memberships. In the photograph at the left, Vernon L. Barkstell,

right, executive director, assists two staff members, Mrs. Lorraine M. Sankey, left, assistant to the director and in

## Urban League membership drive in operation

charge of the program, and Mrs. Emily M. Weary, secretary-receptionist, seated, with bringing the membership list

up-to-date. In the center, Miss Gladys Fraser is busy sending out reminders, while in the right photograph, two

WED MAR 25 1970

young women, Estella Poole, foreground, and Jacqueline Stewart, seated, are receiving

secretarial aid, under the supervision of Mrs. Sankey and Mrs. Weary, while also re-

ceiving a salary for their work.

(Photos by Phil Gree-

## Girl injured in North End gang shooting

By JIM HOPWOOD  
Daily Illini City Editor

A Champaign girl was shot and seriously injured Monday night in the latest of a series of shootings involving members of rival gangs in the North End.

Debbie Brown, 11, of 508 N. Poplar, was shot twice in the head as about 20 shots were fired into her house. No report on her condition was available Monday night as she underwent surgery in Mercy Hospital.

Police said all the windows at the front of the house were broken by the firing, which according to Mrs. Gertrude Brown, came from several directions. None of the other five persons in the house at the time of the shooting was injured.

### Fired at brothers

Police Sgt. William Neuman said the shots were apparently fired at the girl's three brothers, who are members of the gang the Panthers. Members of Mighty Peace Stones were listed as suspects in the shooting.

Champaign and Urbana police received several reports of sporadic firing in the North End throughout the night and an extra shift of Champaign police was called out to patrol the area until 11 p.m.

Monday night's incidents followed a weekend of shootings in the North End, though only one person was slightly injured Saturday night.

### Part of war

According to Neumann, the incidents are part of war between members of the Peace Stones and a splinter group, the Panthers. The gangs were formally aligned in one organization before the split, which occurred this August.

# Park forums end on starting note

By Darlene Napady  
Of The Courier

Requested requests for expanded recreation facilities in Champaign-Urbana's black community were discussed at a forum of the Champaign Park District board Thursday.

This brought a series of community forums to an end exactly where they had begun more than four months ago.

The forums stemmed from a recommendation in July by Robert Tolson, the district's general manager, that the district call bond and tax increase referendums to finance additional park and recreation needs.

The recommendations came from Tolson's study of the long-

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## North End multi-purpose center funds asked of city

By James Kroemer  
WED OCT 2 1970

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"You think we could send all of those 1,000 black kids to Douglass Center?" he asked.

Councilman James Ransom, in support of Townsend, said the \$40,000 request was "modest."

"The city is in excellent financial straits," he said, "and this would be a good opportunity for the council to show it is concerned for all citizens."

Councilmen Dwyer Murphy and Bob Snyder appeared responsive to the request, but both told Townsend they would not hand anyone \$40,000 without a lot of study and discussion.

Both argued that the city had delegated recreational responsibilities to the park district, and perhaps appeals for a multi-purpose center should be made before that body.

"There must be a systematic approach," Snyder said. "We would have to have a plan. We won't hand you \$40,000, but we will sit down and talk about it," he added.

"We are asking the city to react to a problem," Townsend said.

"We will, but we would like to react to an organized group," Murphy countered.

"Fine, now get together on the \$40,000," said Townsend as he sat down.

"We haven't said 'no' yet," replied Murphy.

## Meeting Set To Seek North End Center Funds

By Darlene Napady  
DEC. 2 3 1968

Early next year 20 persons are scheduled to sit down to plot strategy for obtaining an increasingly elusive quantity: the federal dollar.

Most participants are likely to agree on the group's central objective: preparing an application for federal funding for a multi-purpose neighborhood facility in the North End.

Such a facility would provide a variety of services, ranging from recreation to various kinds of education, depending on what area residents felt was needed.

The gathering probably will be relatively placid, but the project has had a stormy history.

Last summer, representatives of SOUL, a Negro group, inquired about the feasibility of building such a facility at several meetings of the Champaign Park Board.

Park District officials, consequently, arranged for Woodrin Kee, a facility specialist from the Chicago regional office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Renewal Assistance Office, to attend a public meeting to explain and answer questions about HUD's neighborhood facilities program.

SOUL and the Economic Opportunity Council of Champaign County joined the Park District in calling the meeting for Sept. 25 at the former St. Mary's school, which had been leased by EOC for a family multi-purpose center.

After heated debate a group of North End youth angrily walked out.

The following night a four-member steering committee was appointed to get the project off the ground.

One of the members, Rev. James Offutt, pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, volunteered to survey area residents with the help of various youth groups.

Two such meetings were called, one at Douglass Center and the other at Washington School.

"Each of the 18 items on the questionnaire drew an affirmative response from at least 60 per cent of the more than 250 persons who were asked 'what should be included in the facility?'" said Vernon Barkstall, executive director of the Urban League of Champaign County and member of the committee.

"Recreation drew the largest support, with more than 90 per cent of the people favoring its inclusion," he added.

Other items included housing, job training, child care, and health services.

Barkstall, meanwhile, wrote to various community agencies, asking for a tentative commitment to provide their services at the facility if asked to do so by area residents once the structure is completed.

"Out of more than 25 agencies, only one or two said they would not be in a position to participate in such a facility," Barkstall said.

The four original members of the steering committee — Barkstall, Offutt, Paul Hursey, director of the University of Illinois Affirmative Action Program; and Ken Allen, director of Volunteer Illinois Projects — were joined by three others.

The new members, Booker Ford, director of Douglass Center; Lonnie Clark of SOUL; and Henry Curtis, executive director of EOC — helped organize the next part of the campaign: calling a mass meeting to expand on the information gathered in the survey and form a representative policy advisory committee (PAC) to prepare the request for federal funds.

"We decided to start with a 20-member PAC, with 12 members, including two youths, coming from the community to be served and the other eight from various public bodies," Barkstall explained.

Two such meetings were called, one at Douglass Center and the other at Washington School.

Neither drew a large response. "Since the people apparently were not willing to come to us, we decided to go to the people," Barkstall said.

Ford and Curtis, consequently, joined Lewis Blackmoor, Mel Mitchell, Eddie Campbell, Len Jamison, and Marshall Britt in speaking at Sunday services at various churches in the area.

Through these talks area representatives for the PAC were recruited.

Meanwhile, letters were sent to Legal Services Agency, the Department of Public Aid, Champaign and Urbana Park District, VIP, the Social Security Administration, Adler Zone Center, and Family Services asking them each to name a PAC representative.

"So far, Social Security, VIP, and Adler have said they will participate," Barkstall said. "As soon as we hear from the other five, we will set up an organizational meeting and then get to work on the proposal."

Barkstall will be leaving at the end of the year to become executive director of the Lake County (Ill.) Urban League and would like to see the PAC assume control of the project as soon as possible.

Even after the PAC becomes operational, several other problems will remain. These include financing the local share of the project as well as convincing federal authorities to part with increasingly limited funds.

Ask more facilities for black areas

NOV 5 1971

# Park forums end on starting note

By Darlene Napady  
Of The Courier

Renewed requests for expanded recreation facilities in Champaign-Urbana's black community were discussed at a forum of the Champaign Park District board Thursday.

This brought a series of community forums to an end exactly where they had begun more than four months ago.

The forums stemmed from a recommendation in July by Robert Toalson, the district's general manager, that the district call bond and tax increase referendums to finance additional park and recreation needs.

The recommendations came from Toalson's study of the long-

discussed multipurpose center for the predominantly black northeast area of the city.

The five-member park district board is expected to go over the 46 presentations made during the forums, set priorities and schedule the referendum.

Vernon Barkstall, executive director of the Urban League of Champaign County who stressed he was not representing any group, said the North End needed a greater variety of facilities.

This included an auditorium or some place to stage functions such as the Urban League talent show which recently drew several hundred persons at the Ramada Inn.

"None of us claim that additional recreation will end lawlessness or that the majority of crimes are committed by black youngsters," Barkstall added. "But if there are other things to do, youngsters are less likely to engage in anti-social behavior," he added.

Mrs. Erma Bridgewater said the Douglass Center program at present does not include enough physical activities for girls and suggested that a track could help bring adults and youngsters together since both groups would be likely to use it.

Bruce Nesbitt, a U of I staff member, said a task force was trying to work out plans to open

certain university facilities, such as Men's Old Gym, to community activities to take the pressure off Douglass Center.

Later Nesbitt charged that the park district had not actually spent all that it had budgeted for activities at Douglass Center, claiming that a summer tennis program there never materialized.

Toalson replied that those working with the program had put a lot into it, although it did not work out as well as had been hoped.

Representatives of the U of I's Institute of Aviation Institute described existing facilities and outlined requests for runway extensions, and other improvements.

At an earlier forum representatives of the Champaign Chamber of Commerce had urged the park district to study possibilities of taking over Willard Airport.

Under Illinois law a park district can operate an airport. Willard at one time was faced with a reduction of state funds. But at Thursday's forum Ralph Flexman, the institute's director, repeated his earlier statements that the airport must first come up with a master plan.

"Just today (Thursday) we went over the first draft of our proposal for such a study," Flexman said.

Possibilities include a sepe-

rate airport authority, possibly including several counties, since this would provide a much larger tax base and spread costs more evenly over the entire area served by the airport.



9/11/70  
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# 'People Come, Take Notes But Nothing Is Changed'

By BONNIE BLANKENSHIP  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

"They see what others got, they see what they got, and it makes them mad.

"They're not going to be satisfied with dirt roads, and no street lights and no jobs and no money.

"When they look at each other, they see all the badness they've had to live with, and it makes them madder, and when the littlest personal thing comes up between them, they start to fight, and all the bad feelings come out."

The speaker, J, leaned back in his chair and scrutinized the other persons in the room. Both he and T, a member of the Peacestones, had had a few run-ins with the law . . . not an unusual ingredient in the backgrounds of young black activists.

E, a young woman graduate student, was working with youths from the northend for the summer. They had interrupted the day's routine to discuss their views on the problems of the young black people in Champaign-Urbana.

The second young man, T, spoke up. "It's time something was done. They been out studying us with their little notebooks for 10 years, and everything's still the same.

"There's enough wealth and people here to start solving the problems right away, if they just wanted to."

"There are some you can't reach now, because you've lost them," added the girl. "The older kids would understand having a place for basketball, and swimming, et cetera, but you can really reach the younger kids.

"Every girl wants to be a ballerina. Where are the ballet classes in the summer? . . .

the modern dance? . . . the karate classes? . . . the talent shows on Sunday afternoons? . . . the dances on the weekends

"If I'm an 8-year-old girl and my 15-year-old brother is always saying he doesn't have anything to do, and is in the habit of hanging around in gangs, then when I'm 15, I'm going to think that's the thing for me to do, too."

The Peacestone member declared, "the kids want someplace to go," then added in a mimicking, condescending tone, "Oh, but then, we got the Elks and the Legion, and

## Fifth In A Series

that's good enough for the black kids!"

He shook his head in disgust.

"These kids look at Douglass Center and then they look at Centennial Park, and all the other parks in other parts of town, and they know where they stand."

The young woman continued, "These kids need someplace nice to go, someplace where the young teens are separated

from the older teens.

"Why don't they open up the Chances R one or two nights for a soul dance — or the Red Lion, or someplace like that? We're interested in results NOW. . . in action NOW."

T praised the University of Illinois' sponsoring of teen-age dances during the spring and summer. He said peace was maintained during the dances through the cooperation of the gang leaders, who agreed to control their own members.

"Champaign-Urbana can't (Please turn to Page 5, Col. D.)

SUB-DIVISIONS

## THE NORTH END: Despair And Hope

# Blacks Have Leaders, But Most Shun 'Leader' Label

By **BONNIE BLANKENSHIP**  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Groups of young black men sat in various parts of the room, their postures communicating aloofness and disinterest.

Members of the press found seats among the group gathered around the long table in the center of Hayes School gymnasium. The occasion was a routine meeting of the Concerned Citizens Committee.

John Lee Johnson was speaking.

"Black kids have to be taught black history in the community, not in the schools.

"They need orientation in urban planning, in community organization, in political science. They need to understand the dynamics of American politics.

"Poor people don't even know what a school board is. They're not being taught the basics about American government — about municipal government.

"You can't tell a black kid what a mayor is. Take him downtown and sic him on Zipprodt. He's got to know who the people are. Then he'll know who to kill.

"Instead of running down the street throwing bricks indiscriminately, he'll know what to throw the bricks at.

"He'll go after Zipprodt or Wikoff or go down to The News-Gazette and burn it down 'cause he'll know those are the institutions that are exploiting him."

The young men looked impressed and amused by Johnson's speech, which continued another half an hour.

Members of the press were unruffled. They had many times before heard Johnson and other CCC members verbally assault every individual and institution considered "establishment" in Champaign-Urbana.

At previous meetings they had seen invited visitors chastised, humiliated and accused to the point where any positive communication and cooperation was made impossible.

Yet, in the past three years, the Concerned Citizens Com-

mittee has been one of the most effective organizations in bringing about changes to benefit the black community.

CCC members were active in the campaign for the integration of Champaign Schools (although some are now preaching separatism). They established a summer tutoring program for black youngsters and conducted counseling workshops for school teachers with the aim of helping them relate better to black youth. They have worked in school board and city council elections.

With the help of the University of Illinois architecture and urban planning students, CCC pushed for more efficient and aesthetic plans for public housing, and was instrumental in having the sites changed so that not all the units would be constructed in the Urbana Renewal area.

The committee also, in conjunction with representatives of area churches, formed a non-profit housing corporation and secured financing for a housing project in north Champaign.

(Please turn to page 6, col. 4)

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## Those Among Us

How can we find justice when those Blacks among us  
Who aspire politically and have seated themselves  
In the Afrq-American movement  
Are as foul as the dusty old men  
Who aspire to keep us in slavery.  
Is that damn pride  
In the well-being of the poorest of us  
So unimportant that we bicker among ourselves  
Accuse and intimidate one another  
To see who can buy the grey flannel suits  
At Karoll Kaufmanns, the pretty cars from Parkhills  
The long shoes from Reeds.  
Where do we get off  
That every question of employment  
And who's going to help the people  
Is decided by what he has done  
Or the number of times he makes ink.  
Or simply who he's willing to agree  
Or disagree with among ourselves.  
Is the distance from Bradley to University so short,  
Are the people therein so un of need  
That those who step out for them  
Falsify the purification of our efforts  
By conniving to enter in that realm  
Of white middle class which is destroying his people.  
All those who are in the range of my voice,  
Be it walker of the street, Black Professional,  
Doctor of Spiritual Medicine,  
The enhancement of thyself  
Is that of the Black People of Champaign  
Regardless of the money tree that we pick from.  
If you are out there to gain personally  
On my behalf regardless of my status,  
Damn you. We don't need you.  
Baby, look back once in awhile!

— John Lee Johnson

NORTH END

# Black 'Leaders' Object To

(Continued from Page 3)

Some CCC projects have not met with such success. For instance, the Champaign school district vetoed a CCC demand that the committee be given decision-making authority in the hiring of black public school teachers. The committee tried unsuccessfully to block zoning changes in the north end which would allow apartments in a single-dwelling neighborhood.

While Johnson and Chairman Richard B. (Dicky) Davis are the most vocal — and active — members of CCC, a small core of volunteers lend support in most of the projects.

Another organization which has provided leadership in the black community is SOUL (security - organization - unity - love). With its membership of relatively young men, it backed the establishment of the Frances Nelson Health Center, encouraged changes in the administration of public housing and was successful in having its candidate, Howard Mitchell, appointed community relations director for the city of Champaign.

The Black Coalition has been engaged in equal employment projects, but has been relatively inactive recently.

BACUP (Black Action Community Unity Program) received church funds to coordinate all organizations working on race-related problems so that more effective action could be taken when problems arose. The funds were not used for the prescribed purpose, however, and BACUP dissolved.

Membership in most of the organizations mentioned is overlapping. Though individuals are frequently issue-oriented and leadership will change with the activity, any project of much importance will likely involve many of the following persons: Vernon Barkstall of Urban League; Phil Walker of Parkland College; William Smith, a graduate of the UI law school who is working with community organization for the Urban League.

Also, Paul Hursey, former personnel officer at the UI and director of the Neighborhood Youth Corps; Ernest Westfield, president of the

NAACP; Ken Stratton, Champaign school administrator; James Ransom, Champaign city councilman and UI affirmative action officer; Howard Mitchell, Champaign community relations director; Dicky Davis, production coordinator at WILL-TV; and John Lee Johnson.

Most object to being labeled "leaders" but they repeatedly represent the viewpoint of black citizens — or at least claim to — at public meetings.

Other individuals, such as Evelyn Burnett, Joan Dorsey, Charlie Johnson, Anna Wall Scott, Frank Hansbrough, Leonard Mason, Bruce Nesbitt, Harold Bradley, Tony Zamora, Robert Gillespie, Edgar McKnight, Toby Kahr, Lonnie Clark, Roy Williams, Jewel Butler, Rev. James Offutt, Rev. Benjamin Keaton, Fred Walden, Robert Eubanks, Maurice McKinley and Ivan and Henry Matthews are active and generally have acknowledged leadership roles in different areas.

The involvement of indigenous personnel in problems of the black community is seen by many as one of the most important developments in the past 10 years.

Lack of cooperation between groups and undefined or inconsistent goals appear to have hampered progress to some extent. Unwillingness to compromise has won some victories; it has destroyed many opportunities for change.

Competition for influential positions is keen, and those who obtain a degree of power outside the black community are subject to accusations of "tomism."

Outside cooperation, advice and expertise is sought by all black organizations, yet they are suspicious of aid given by most whites. Students with useable skills and knowledge are generally more sympathetic to black political motives, are more easily controlled, and are used widely.

As one University administrator put it, "They want their demands met in such a way that they can establish a power base. They want demands met, yes; they want expertise, yes; but they want your mind, body and soul, too."

(Next: education and the black citizen)

Label  
Thurs, Sep  
17, 1970

## Here's My Share

I want to help the Opportunities Industrialization Center to continue. Here's my \$ ..... contribution.

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(Please make checks payable to OIC-News-Gazette Fund. Mail to The News-Gazette, Champaign, Ill. Contributions are tax deductible).

OIC TOTALS \$36,772.86. Donations to the Champaign County Opportunities Industrialization Center continue to be received at both The News-Gazette and the OIC office at 804 N. Fifth. The fund has reached \$36,772.86. Additional contributions are being sought while continued efforts are being made to secure federal financing. New classes began recently at OIC and registrations are still being accepted.

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Others Disagree . . .

# Chief Says Riot Non-Racial

(Editor's Note: This is the final part of a two-part series investigating possible causes of last Saturday's disturbance at the Spotlight Cafe in Northeast Champaign.)

By DENNIS SODOMKA

Despite Champaign Chief of Police Harvey Shirley's assurance that the near-riot at the Spotlight Cafe last Saturday had no racial overtones, many people believe otherwise.

There is currently a nationwide feeling that slum conditions, segregated ghettos, and poverty cause many slum dwellers to turn to crime and violence because of their seemingly hopeless situation.

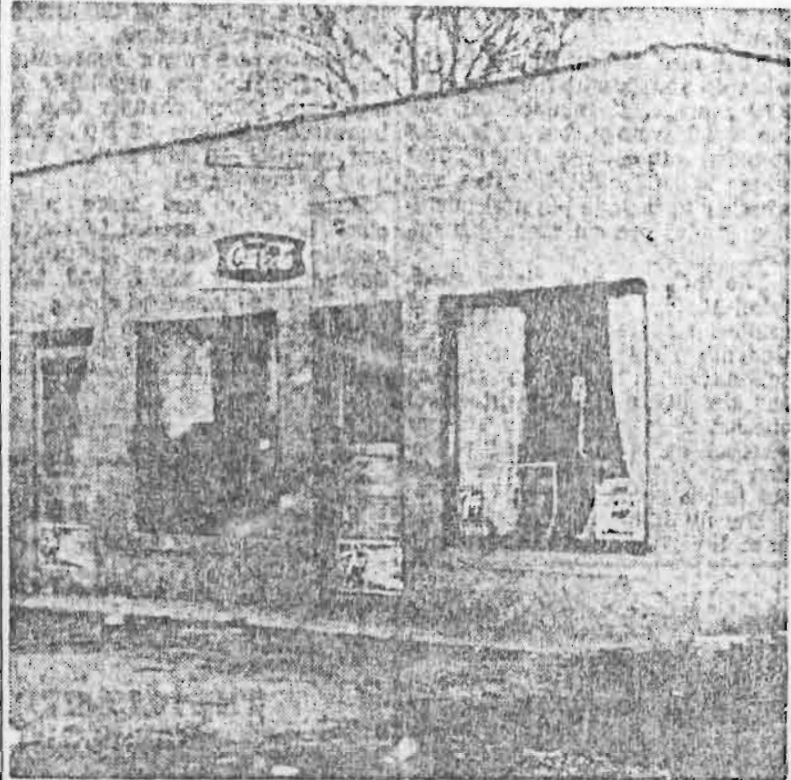
The area around the Spotlight Cafe, 205 E. Vine St., is such an impoverished Negro ghetto.

Urban renewal programs have been established across the country to eliminate the deplorable conditions, and hopefully to eliminate the crime and violence often found in these areas. The city of Champaign is currently in the planning stage of such a program.

When asked for his opinion on the Spotlight incident, however, Urban Renewal Director David Gensemer refused to comment. "The Spotlight Cafe is not in our Urban Renewal area, and I do not have anything to say about the situation," he said.

One lady who did have something to say is Mrs. M. E. Burch, who organized a fund for patrolman Robert F. Jones, whose skull was fractured by a thrown brick during the riot.

"This is just something that's



THE SPOTLIGHT CAFE stands idle after last Saturday's near-riot. Champaign Mayor Emmerson V. Dexter ordered the cafe closed after the battle in which Patrolman Robert F. Jones was critically injured. Although Champaign Chief of Police Harvey Shirley claims the near-riot had no racial overtones, other people disagree.

been going on all along," explained Mrs. Burch. "People are blaming the police for brutality, but what do they expect the police to do? Kiss them?"

People who hang around in a bad place must love that kind of thing, or they wouldn't drink there, she continued.

"If I drank, I sure wouldn't drink in a place like that where anything might happen.

"People go to those kind of places and live any old kind of way and nobody closes those places or does anything until something bad happens."

Mrs. Burch realizes it is a bad situation, but she is not quite sure what should be done about it because of the "complexities of human nature."

"I don't know whether it's better to close those places or not. As long as there's some place else to go, those people will go there. Some people just want to keep going on in filth," she said.

As a Negro woman Mrs. Burch feels that incidents such as the

one last Saturday do hurt the civil rights cause.

"I just can't understand why they have to do something like that; there's so many good things they can do to help our people. There's night school, NAACP, or the rights movement, so many good things.

"I have friends in every race, and I just can't see why my people aren't trying our best to better ourselves," she concluded.

Getting back to the fund for Officer Jones, Mrs. Burch told how she happened to think of the idea.

Primarily set up to help the Jones family, the fund also has another purpose.

"The minute I read the story in the paper it just set me afire, I was so hurt. Christmas is a time for happiness and a time to be sweet."

"We shouldn't let the police think that we're deserting them," explained Mrs. Burch. "We should stop this trying to intimidate the policeman; his life is just as valuable to him as yours is to you."

NORTH END

# Hursey criticizes North End repairs

By ED DALLY  
Daily Illini Staff Writer

Paul Hursey, former Urbana alderman, criticized the city for repairing a North End street with oil and gravel chips at the council meeting Tuesday night.

Hursey said, "This is the same kind of slap in the face as in 1965 when the city permitted the moving of 20-ton homes on our streets (in the Dr. Ellis subdivision) and the streets buckled.

"It means to me that the city doesn't give a damn about the North End," he said. Hursey described his street as a mess and he added that children could no longer play in the street and that residents would be bringing mud and dirt and oil from the street into their homes.

#### Work deters deterioration

Urbana Mayor Charles Zipprodt said the work was done to help slow down the deterioration of the streets and he added that oiling and chipping is done on a number of Urbana streets every year.

John Goodell, public works commissioner, said the asphalt streets had been improperly built by a developer who has since declared bankruptcy and who cannot be held liable by the city.

Hursey, who said he paid \$1,800 for the asphalt street in front of his home, told the council the city might have good streets if they had installed hard paving over time.

Presently, the city uses oil and chips to repair most streets, which Goodell estimated to be six or seven times cheaper than hard asphalt paving. Goodell was requested to prepare cost comparisons on various types of paving for

the council.

#### Improvements not installed

Goodell also told the council of two cases where subdividers had failed to install proper public improvements and he called for a policy direction regarding the performance bonds they submit to relieve the city of the costs of repairing defective work. The city has not accepted public improvements and released some 80 outstanding subdivision bonds.

## Sniping continues in North End; police arrest 5

Five persons, including one University student, were charged this weekend with firearms violations as sporadic sniping and vandalism continued in the North End.

Steve Jackson, 25, sophomore in LAS, Joe Cooper, 25, and two juveniles were charged in state complaints with illegal use of weapons after they were arrested late Friday night by Urbana police.

Police reported they found a rifle, a shotgun, a pistol and toy pistol in a car the four were entering at Wascher Street near Lincoln Avenue. The car was searched because of a telephone report of several armed men in the area, police said.

Champaign police also Friday arrested James Powell, 25, of 203 E. Hill St., Champaign, charging him with possession of concealed weapons.

Police were Monday investigating 12 separate reports of vandalism in which the windows of cars and trucks were broken late Saturday or early Sunday by rocks or sticks.

A meeting Saturday afternoon between members of rival groups believed involved in the disturbances apparently failed to produce a truce.



5 August 1974

# Champaign-Urbana's North

## End is people

By Millicent Fauntleroy  
Of The Courier

First of four parts

Most cities are divided into at least three parts. Some are even lucky enough to stretch it to four. But in Champaign-Urbana, there is only North — the North End.

No other community in either city is delineated as sharply. No other is as well known. No other is as studied. No other is as talked about. No other is as black.

And while black may be beautiful elsewhere, it often is not in the North End.

Sometimes it is harsh, like the gray paint of substandard buildings. Sometimes it is soft, like the fine, silver-gray hair of an old man who has lived to see his dreams flourish in his grandchildren.

It is the color of the red-hot action along First and Poplar streets where, as one teen-ager remarked, "everybody . . . carries a gun." It also can be the rich, red blood which flows

through the veins of vibrant, active youngsters.

The North End is short paychecks or no paychecks and not enough green. It is comfortable, middle class affluence.

It is quiet, contained — and almost cool. It is loud, rebellious and about to erupt.

The people, though, are what make the North End what it is.

And they, though sometimes white, are mostly black.

In the Champaign-Urbana area, blacks and other minorities make up 7.9 per cent of the total population. And most of those 10,677 live in the North End, an area loosely bounded by Neil, Bradley, University and Wright streets.

If one were to meet a North End resident by chance, that resident would most likely be a woman. In fact, 2,767 of the 5,282 black persons who live in Champaign are women.

She has probably just attained that magic age of maturity — for in Champaign, census figures show more black females as age 22 than as any other age. Another 1,043 of them are under 18-years-old. The North End is a young community.

Though she may list Bradley Street or Beardsley Street or Poplar Street as her home address, it is not really "home." Home for the typical resident of the North End is likely to be another city, often another state. Some 2,090 black residents of Champaign were born in a different state, 1,802 of them in the South.

Our North End "fox" probably hasn't completed high school, for most females in the area age 25 or older have not. Only 37.4 per cent of all blacks in Champaign-Urbana are high school graduates. And for Champaign, the figure drops to a miserable 25.1 per cent.

Black women in Champaign — those who are lucky enough

to have jobs — often spend their days in a service occupation. About 571 of the 1,951 black women in Champaign employed in 1970 said they worked in cleaning, food, health, personal or protective service jobs.

And if their tasks are often menial, so too are their salaries. Census data shows median earnings for black men in Champaign are \$5,112 per year. For a woman, the figure drops to less than half that dismal amount — \$2,010 a year.

For clerical workers, the figure drops to \$1,855, for operatives, including transport workers, it climbs to \$3,419. But the median family income for all of Champaign is \$11,323 per year.

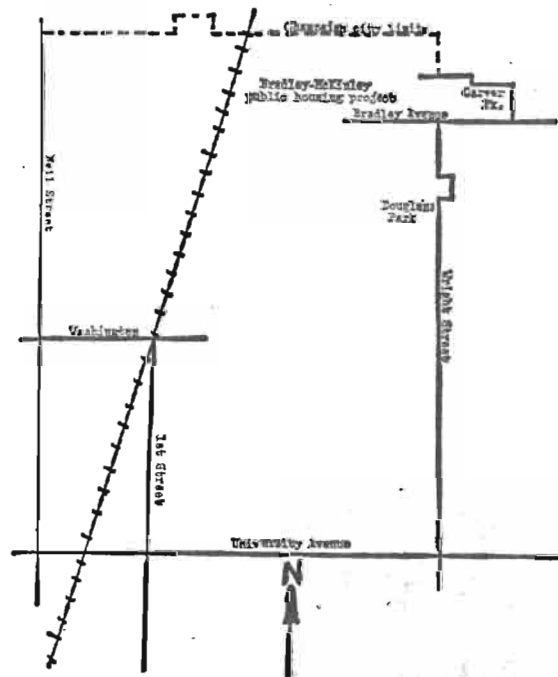
This is Champaign's North End and, by extension, the black community in Champaign-Urbana. Data outlines the typical "North End" as a woman about 22.1 years old who probably was born in a Southern

state. She spends her days working for barely subsistence pay in a service occupation and probably has not completed high school.

By comparison North End male blacks number 2,515, about 250 fewer than the female population. On the average, he is slightly younger than his female neighbor at 20.5 years and dropped out of school a year earlier. He earns his income, about \$5,112 a year, as a service worker, laborer, clerical worker or operative.

But statistics have no color — they cannot paint a true picture of Champaign-Urbana's black community. Figures do not breathe or speak or cry or die. People do.

Next: An 86-year-old man, who has spent most of his life in the North End community, talks about what it means to have grown up there with "his people."



The North End