



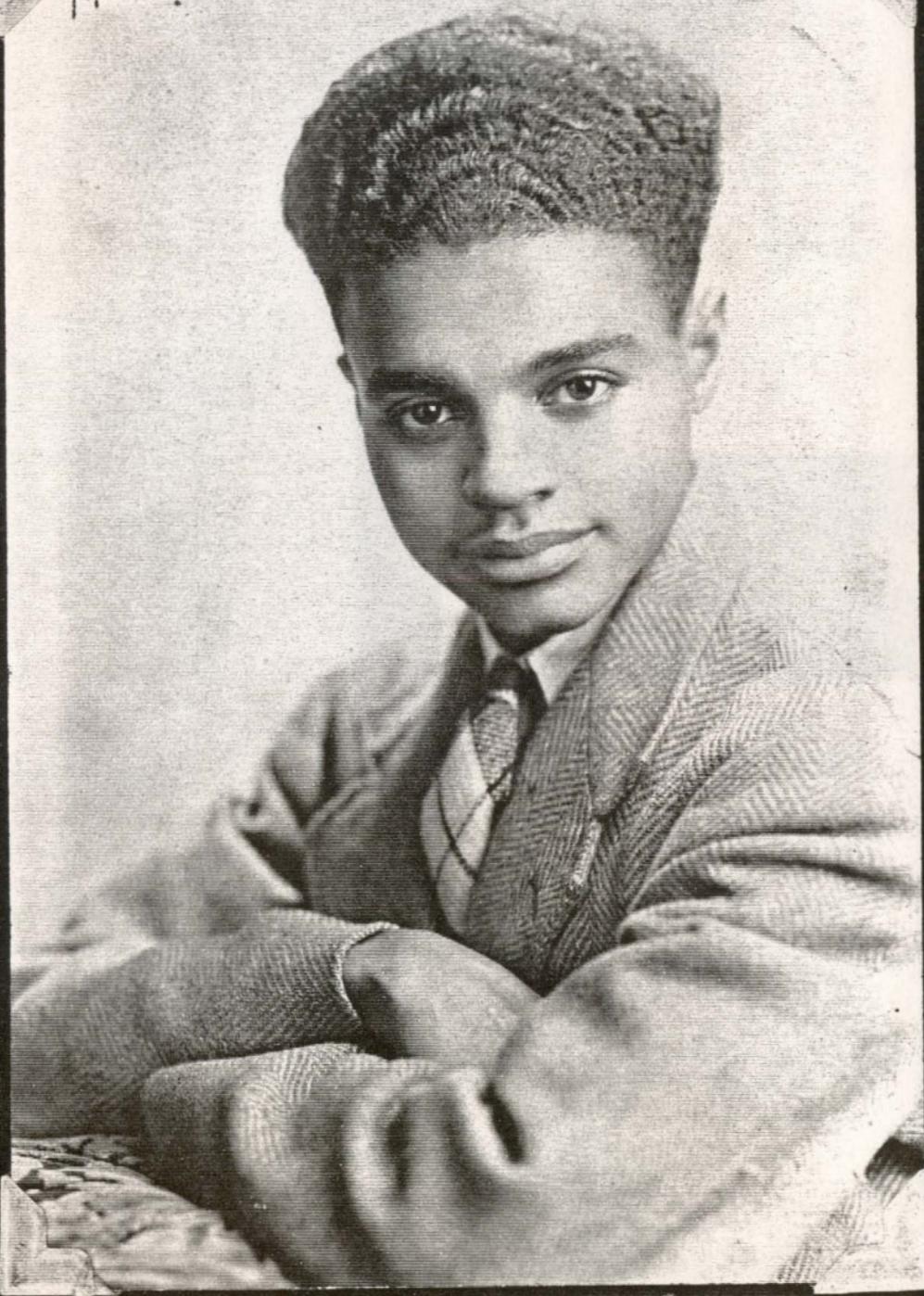
Ronald M. ...  
117 ...

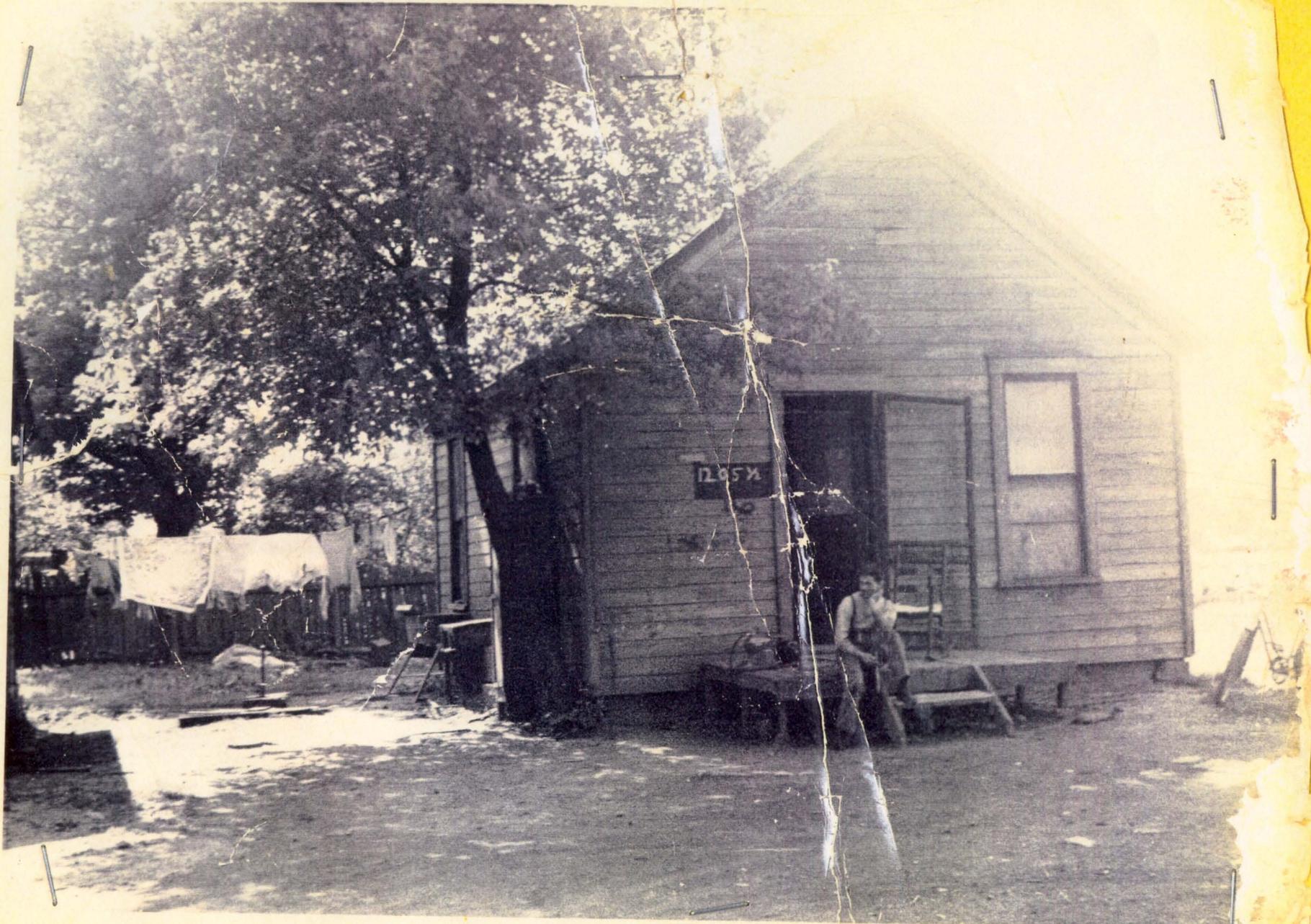


613 N. Ash  
1940



1943





N. Romine St  
Before Ellis Subdivision  
Urbana 1/2 off of Eads St



# Making the dream affordable



Photo courtesy of Doris Hoskins and Malcolm Green  
Romeo Green Jr., left, surveys housing in north Champaign in 1946. The efforts of Green and others led to the construction of Burch Village.

## ■ Replacing C-U housing projects is less disruptive than their start

By J. PHILIP BLOOMER  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Burch Village, the public housing complex on Bradley Avenue at Fourth Street, has seen a lot of living in its 52 years.

It has not aged gracefully.

The wear and tear is beginning to show on the institutional-style, tightly compacted apartments that squeeze some 200 poor people into its 66 units.

The Champaign County Housing Authority and the city of Champaign are now planning for its replacement. Government officials hope to do it on an expanded site, with a variety of housing styles for people to choose from.

It is an expensive and disruptive proposition, but at this stage, far less disruptive than the discord that accompanied the many earlier phases of urban renewal and fair housing movements that have checked the community's history.

"Some of the people are excited about the move," said Burch Village manager Karen Hite. "Some are just happy to have a roof over their heads. That's the most important thing to them."

Residents will be offered alternative housing or Section 8 housing vouchers during the



News-Gazette photo by John Dixon

The Lakeside Terrace public housing complex in Urbana is scheduled for demolition in the summer of 2004, with a new mixed-income development planned to replace it.

## Lakeside's fate set; redevelopment still at issue

By MIKE MONSON  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

URBANA — Lillie Walker, 72, has been a resident of Lakeside Terrace apartments in Urbana for 22 years.

For the most part, it's been an enjoyable time. Walker lives in a three-bedroom apartment with her 21-year-old grandson, Dale Burton. Her living room is a testimonial to her love of family, with dozens of pictures lining the walls, along with several

medals she has earned for her superior ability at fishing.

"I love this neighborhood," Walker said. "I love fishing. I can walk to Crystal Lake and go fish. I can't see myself living anyplace else."

Walker has followed reports of the Champaign County Housing Authority's plans to raze Lakeside Terrace, located just east of Broadway Avenue, in the summer of 2004 and replace it with a new mixed-income devel-

opment. She says she'll "roll with the punches" when she has to move, but she adds that she hopes she will be among the residents who get to live in the new development once it's finished.

"I think it needs replacement," Walker said. "This is not up to par."

The demolition timetable for Lakeside Terrace is contained in the housing authority's pro-

NEWS / EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS



News-Gazette photo by John Dixon

Burch Village manager Karen Hite walks through the Champaign public housing complex Friday. The Champaign County Housing

Authority and the city of Champaign plan to raze the 52-year-old complex later this year and replace it with new housing.

# New Burch won't look like old

By J. PHILIP BLOOMER  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Burch Village will not look like Burch Village of today when its replacement is complete.

There aren't a whole lot of specifics beyond the fact that Burch will be torn down later this year.

Larry Davis, director of the housing authority, said a mix of housing styles is planned. Though the ratios aren't set, it will include a mix of low-income housing, tax-credit-assisted or moderate-income housing, and market-rate housing. That translates into apart-

ments, townhomes, duplexes and single-family houses.

Davis and city officials hope to acquire farmland to the north and perhaps a Champaign Asphalt Co. satellite plant to the east to expand the footprint of the Burch Village. The existing footprint would only allow about 50 units under current federal Department of Housing and Urban Development standards, he said.

Sixty-six units are currently occupied, and four have been declared unsuitable for housing.

"Reduced density is required by HUD," said Kerri Forsyth,

the city's housing coordinator. "Reduced density, a mix of housing and attention to the broader neighborhood are all criteria we need to address to qualify for HUD funding."

Depending on the mix of housing styles, the land acquisition required and a host of other factors, the price of Burch Village's replacement could run anywhere from \$7 million to \$20 million. While most of the financing is anticipated to come from HUD's HOPE VI grants, the city has already committed \$400,000 from its federal housing money to the project and could lend its bonding authority

to the developer as well.

Officials are working with the development firm of Brinshore-Michaels Development of Chicago to do the redevelopment. Brinshore-Michaels did the redevelopment of Robert Taylor Homes and Henry Horner Homes in Chicago. Forsyth said the key staff member of the project also worked on redevelopments in Peoria and Springfield.

By contrast, in 1950, the housing authority hired the John Felmley Co. to build both Bradley-McKinley and Burch Village, each 70-unit complexes, for a total of \$1.2 million.

Continued from A-1

posed 2003 annual agency plan. Demolition is proposed to begin in August 2004 and be completed by December 2004, the document states.

But for redevelopment to happen, the Urbana City Council and the county housing authority will have to come to a firm agreement about how many subsidized housing units should be set aside for extremely poor families throughout Urbana, once Lakeside Terrace is gone.

Lakeside Terrace includes 99 two-story apartments spread over nine acres of tree-lined grounds. Though some residents say they like living there, the housing project's time is clearly past.

Lakeside Terrace "was built in the early 1950s, and we, as a society, have basically outgrown most things built in the 1950s," said Elawrence Davis, executive director of the county housing authority.

For example, apartments at Lakeside Terrace lack individual laundry facilities. There is inadequate storage space. Bathrooms are inconveniently located on the second floor. Windows are drafty, and residents must use window air conditioners in the summer, which create high utility bills.

But the Urbana City Council is worried that redevelopment of Lakeside Terrace into mixed-income housing still would lead to significantly fewer subsidized-rent apartments for poor families.

To that end, the city council, led by Alderwoman Esther Patt, D-Ward 1, incorporated into its five-year consolidated plan the requirement that 80 percent of the Lakeside Terrace units for families of "extremely low income" must be replaced by the housing authority. A Champaign County family of four making \$17,880 annually or less would fall into the extremely poor category.

As Lakeside Terrace has 99 apartments, that would mean providing about 80 permanent new housing units throughout Urbana for extremely poor families.

The housing authority has agreed to that goal in its annual action plan — but housing authority officials concede that accomplishing it within the mixed-income housing concept will present a formidable chal-

lenge.

Mixed-income housing is being pushed nationwide by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a way of avoiding concentrating the poor in a single area and as a method to revitalize obsolete public housing projects.

Locally, Oakwood Trace, a 50-unit mixed-income development, was developed last year where Parkside Manor used to be in northeast Champaign. Eleven of the apartments at Oakwood Trace are rented at market rates, while tenants in the remaining 39 units receive varying levels of rent subsidies.

Under the concept being considered for Lakeside Terrace, one-third of the new apartments would be likely offered at market rent, one third of the units would be offered at reduced rents to families making between 50 and 60 percent of the area median income (between \$29,800 and \$35,760 for a family of four), defined as "low income," and one third of the apartments would be reserved at reduced rent for families making 30 percent or less of the area median family income (\$17,880 or less for a family of four).

A private developer, Brinshore-Michaels Development Partners of Chicago, has been selected by the housing authority board to redevelop Lakeside Terrace and Burch Village in Champaign.

The firm would likely use a variety of funding sources, including federal Hope VI grants, city contributions and federal low-income housing tax credits, to pay for the project.

The new development would be privately owned and managed, though it would be required to meet federal Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines about housing quality and income levels of tenants.

Several tentative redevelopment concepts have been shown to the Urbana City Council, but even the largest proposal only calls for having 105 units over 12.7 acres at the Lakeside Terrace site. That means just 35 units would be set aside for extremely low-income families.

Patt said the housing authority has been slow to come forward with plans and provided no cost estimates to meet the city's goal. It's clear the housing authority needs more sites for development than just Lake-



News-Gazette photo by John Dixon

Lillie Walker sits in the living room of her apartment at Lakeside Terrace in Urbana on Friday. Walker, 72, says she has lived in the public housing complex for 22 years and loves the neighborhood, but agrees the complex 'needs replacement. This is not up to par.'

side Terrace, she said.

"We see no evidence there has been any thought or investigating of a site besides Lakeside Terrace," Patt said. "They can't accomplish the goal of mixed-income housing, reduced density and replacement of 80 percent of public housing units without going to other sites."

Patt said she suspects the housing authority wants to "get out of the business of providing housing for families with children. I think it's wrong."

However, Davis said the housing authority has agreed in its annual agency plan to provide the 80 housing units for extremely poor families and intends to work with the city in meeting the goal. He said the housing authority is considering developing other scattered sites throughout Urbana for low-income housing. A variety of options and cost estimates should be ready for the city council in several weeks, he said.

"We want to provide to them as much solid information as we can, so they can see the dollar signs," said Davis.

Though Urbana isn't required to contribute financially to Lakeside Terrace's redevelopment, in practical terms, obtaining HUD approval for demolition and obtaining federal grants and tax credits for financing all will require city financial support, said Steve Clark, president of Professional Development Group Midwest of Peoria. Projects get higher ratings from HUD if there is city support and financial participation, he said.

Clark managed the housing authority for about three months this past summer while Davis was on leave. Clark would become the project manager for the redevelopment of Lakeside Terrace and Burch Village if HUD clears him of a conflict of interest involving the fact that the housing authority board selected his firm to be project manager while he was acting as executive administrator of the housing authority.

Clark said HUD is less likely to award the housing authority a Hope VI grant, which can be used for demolition, acquisition or redevelopment, if there is too large a concentration of poor residents in a proposed mixed-income development.

He said it's likely the housing authority and Brinshore-Michaels might move ahead with redeveloping Burch Village first if an agreement can't be reached with Urbana.

"If we've got an aggressive partner, that's probably where we'll lean," Clark said.

But he said the redevelopment of Lakeside Terrace remains an attractive project.

"Lakeside is a gorgeous site as far as the land and overlooking Crystal Lake Park," said Clark.

For her part, Walker said she doesn't ever want to live too far from her favorite fishing hole, Crystal Lake.

"I take my fishing pole and my radio and listen to the Cubs," she said. "I meet a lot of people. I put my catch in the freezer, and I have fresh fish all winter."

# OLD BUS--SOME CALL IT HOME

(Fifth in a series describing local housing problems and conditions, suggesting the need for low-cost rental housing).

By WILLARD HANSEN  
News-Gazette Staff Writer

Almost everything the mind can devise as a place to live is being used for housing in various sections of Champaign-Urbana—

Sheds, transformed chicken coops; shacks made from crating wood, covered with tar-paper; dilapidated structures abandoned as store or shop sites; old bus and freight car bodies, nooks in attics, and barns.

Families in the low-income brackets are the hardest hit. Many above the marginal or sub-marginal categories, however, are living in quarters far below decent standards. Rental charges, even in this inflationary period, often are way out of line.

### Colored Sections Worse

From my observations, the most miserable conditions are in the areas most heavily populated by colored residents. Housing available to many white families is in some cases just as bad, though numerically a little less severe.

Checking my own observations, generally and specifically, against a report by the League of Women Voters earlier this year on housing conditions in the colored residential areas, I find almost parallel facts.

The league's report covered the period October 1946 to May 1948. In addition to interviews with colored citizens, tenants, and social workers that survey incorporated other information obtained from surveys by the Champaign County Housing Authority, local health department officials, local municipal officials, and other sources.

As a picture. Many of the streets are not paved, becoming mud holes or dust bins with varying weather conditions. Some streets have no sidewalks . . .

### Coal Bins As Houses

"Now the housing shortage is so severe that sheds formerly used as coal bins or other storage places are now used as dwellings, and flimsy tar paper shacks have been built out of odds and ends. From one to five of these makeshift dwellings can be found in the rear of one small lot.

"At a Beech street address, 18 individuals (12 of them children) occupied four shacks. On Beardsley street, 21 people occupied five shacks, served by one outside privy. The lot was so small that the shacks were almost touching. At a Dublin street address, four families (seven children) occupied the main house and shack in the rear, with one outdoor privy. There are blocks on Beech, Hill and Oak streets where clusters of shacks are found in the rear of every lot."

That's true. In the alleys between quite a few other streets, too. In some cases, you don't see these places by a drive along the streets. One must ply the alleys to get the full, distasteful picture.

The league committee cited this example:

"We talked with a mother living in one of the shacks. She, her husband, and six children occupied a three-room shack, the rent of which was \$17.50 a month. The rooms were so tiny that double beds nearly filled them, so low the hat of a person five-feet, two, touched the ceiling.

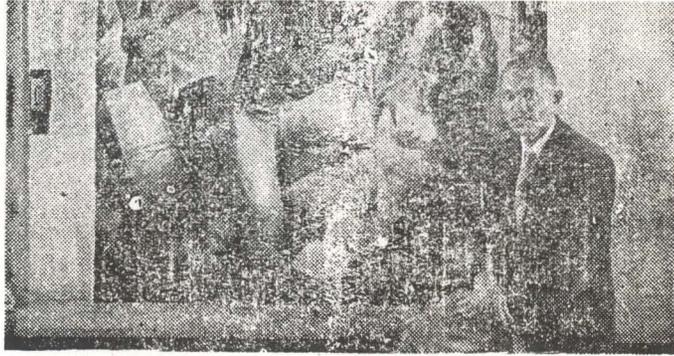
### Fire Hazard

"Where the stovepipe passed through the old splintery boards there was only a small circle of tin to serve as fire protection. There were no closets or cupboards. Water had to be carried from an adjoining house; there was no provision for disposal of waste water other than to dump it out of doors.

"In spite of these handicaps, the mother and two youngest children, the only ones at home, were shining clean as to clothes and person.

### PRIVATE SAMUEL T. SERVING IN

Private Samuel Taborn, 1 Mr. and Mrs. F. Taborn, 1 th Fourth street. Is serving the occupation forces in K pan. Private Taborn, a member 546th fire fighter company ded Douglas high school be tering the army at East St 1947. He arrived in Japan in 1947.



### AT HOME FOR HOLIDAYS

Mr. Albert Thomas of Racine, Wis. visited with his father during the holidays. Mrs. Della Thomas formerly of Urbana who has spent two months with her son and brother at Ravine, Wis. has gone to the home of her sister in St. Louis Mo.

The mother said her husband was making \$40 a week, so that they could afford a better place to live if one could only be found. Life was very difficult there; the children were restless and quarrelsome because they had no place to play and couldn't sleep at night with so many packed in one bed. The children stayed away from home as much as they could. Formerly, they had had a house 'with a real bathroom' so they found it very hard to get used to living like this. It was almost impossible to keep the place free of vermin and rats, which gnawed their way through the boards of the shack."

Hard to believe? No, it's a situation multiplied many times over. I know, from personal inspections.

The conclusion, "life was very difficult there . . ." is putting it mildly. Stronger words would be more fitting.

(To be continued)

### Historical Society Commission to U. I. Man

An eight-foot decorative mural showing the resources and cultural development of Liberia has been completed by Cecil Dewey Nelson Jr., 1012 North Fifth street, Champaign.

The panel commissioned by the Illinois State Historical library for the republic of Liberia as part of a freedom exhibition, will be shipped to Springfield this week, then on to Liberia.

ITS A FORMAL composition, vigorous in pattern and predominantly grey-blue, green and brown, symbolizing Liberia's past and present culture, its predominately Christian religion, agricultural experimentation and peaceful philosophy.

Exhibited with the mural in the main hall of the Liberian Administration building in Monrovia, capital city of Liberia, will be copies of the original Emancipation Proclamation documents and a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln.

### Nelson, while still a student at the University of Illinois, was recommended for the work to Jay Monaghan, state historian, by Dean Rexford Newcomb and Prof. Warren Doolittle.

HIS PAINTING, "Self-Portrait, Confronted," was one of the two paintings by students accepted for the U. of I. national exhibition of contemporary American art last March.

While in the army Air Force during the war Nelson won first prize in the Atlanta university all-Negro art annual in the 1943 and the top prize in the Third Army corps all-G. I. art competition in 1944.

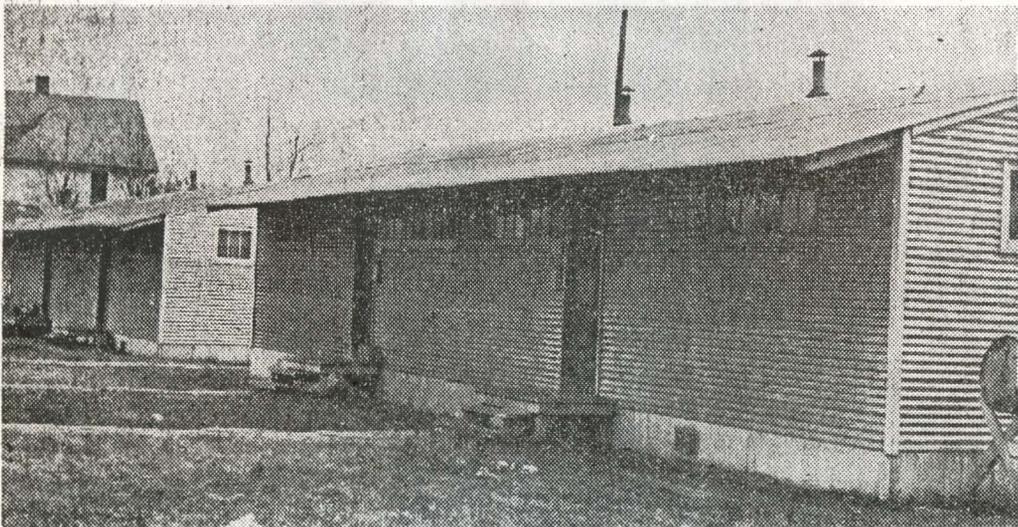
He also was art director of an all-G. I. show that toured Army posts and gave a command performance for President Truman in Washington. Nelson was graduated from the U. of I. last February and is now employed as an artist for G. R. Grubb and Co. of Champaign.

NG THE HOUSEGUEST and Mrs. H. P. East Vine St. had houseguest recently Mr. J.



**WILL ABODES LIKE THIS CONTINUE?** Here is another alley frontage residential quarters on the north side of town. Rental is low — only \$17.50 a month — but as in scores of other cases, it is strictly sub-stand-

ard and makeshift. The environmental factor, as far as children are concerned, is obvious. A tour of alleys in northeast Champaign and northwest Urbana reveals many similar situations.



**OR WILL MORE HOUSING LIKE THIS BE PROVIDED?** Here, and in a twin set of units nearby, is the community's sole public housing project. The units shown above (more at the rear and at each end) provide clean, comfortable living quarters — three

rooms, bath and kitchenette. Colored war veterans and their families occupy these 20 units located on East Columbia just east of Fifth street. Rental is \$28 a month, plus utilities. This project was carried out two years ago.

**CHICKEN COOP,  
OLD BUS--SOME**

From one section of the league's report on housing in the colored areas, here were a few of the findings and conclusions:  
"It is a sorry picture. Many of the streets are not paved, become

**TABORN  
V JAPAN**  
rn, son of  
, 106 Nor-  
ving with  
Kobe, Ja-  
ber of the  
ny, atten-  
before en-  
St. Louis.  
August,

### BOY SCOUT INSTALLATION

Ordeal Honor Members of Illini Lodge Order of the Arrow, Boy Scout of America. Installation (Ordeal Honor) ceremony held at Camp Drake Sat. October 30. 25 Scouts and Scouters taken in full membership. Scouters-Adults honorary members: John Schrader Urbana, Fred Clay Champaign, Camp Chef, Dr. George Hunt, Harold Nogle, A. L. Thompson Council President of Champaign, Bela Stoddard Monticella, Dr. Glenn Fisher Tolono, Ray William Scoutmaster, T. R. 43 Tuscola, Dr. H. A. Hindman Urbana, A. R. Knight, Charter member of O. of A. 1938, participated in the ceremony. Ritual team conducting the ceremony composed of: Robert Clemmons, U. Walter Sprocklen, U. Bill Boyer, Chr. Jack Jones For Ordeal honor.

### WILLARD - LAWHEAD

Child study groups of Willard-Lawhead P.T.A. will meet in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McDaniel, 503 East Columbia avenue, at 8 p. m. Monday.

### FRENCH COMPOSERS' LEGATO CLUB THEME

"French Composers of the 19th Century" was the theme of Legato Music club at its meeting Tuesday in the home of Mrs. Sarah Moore, 403 East Church street, Champaign.

Miss Ruth Calimese was in charge of the program, which included a history of French composers given by Miss Pearl Mae Roberts, music news reported by Miss Willa Mae Williams, and Debussy selections played by Mrs. J. W. Valentine, pianist.

Reports of Committees in a report of the national music convention held last August were given during the business session conducted by Mrs. Hattie Winfield, president. New members taken in during the meeting were John Hicks, Mrs. Stella Lomax, Mrs. Phoebe Kilgore and Mrs. Hester Suggs.

The club will hold a coffee hour at 4 p. m. Sunday in the home of Mrs. Winfield 605 North Poplar street, Champaign, with the proceeds to go toward the group's scholarship fund.

### NELSON PAINTS LIBERIAN MURAL



Mr. and family

BUSINESS VISITORS

Mr. Lucian Nesbitt, formerly of East

AMONG THE MANY VISITORS WERE

Mr. Edward Anderson from Decatur, Ills. at home with

WITH MOTHER

Mrs. S. McCoy and family of Chicago was at the home of her mother. Mrs. Alice Moreland for

for Thursday night, 30 degrees. Winter on the way, with nothing more than a canvas cover between the chill night air and the nine occupants of one tent.

Mrs. A. is plainly disturbed, distracted. Who wouldn't be?

Forced from a former dwelling last summer, Mrs. A. and her brood have been living in the tent at its present site since last July 1.

Living with her are five children. They range in age from about 10 years upward—all less than 20. One of the daughters has a five-months-old baby; another daughter has two small tots. Eight besides Mrs. A.

The place where the A's formerly resided was worse from some standpoints—two rooms over a building where a group of men lived below, with environment anything but decent for youngsters.

In the tent, things didn't go so bad during the warm weather. The woman, who is divorced from her husband, has been paying \$10 a month for use of one end of the lot where the tent is pitched. She is charged \$5 a month for use of a nearby toilet, and \$3.75 for water. There is no piped-in water—and of course, no electric lights.

#### Built Flooring

Mrs. A. got some boards and built a flooring for the tent. Not too bad.

Inside there is some furniture, a small heating stove in the center with stovepipe to carry the smoke outside; a cooking stove, bed, couple of old sofas, chairs, a cabinet or two.

It is a large tent, but not for nine!

I was there the other day when it was raining, pretty hard. The canvas held water fairly well.

"Cold? Yes, it really gets cold in here nights," said Mrs. A.

"I don't know what I am going to do, with winter coming. Please, mister, can you help?"

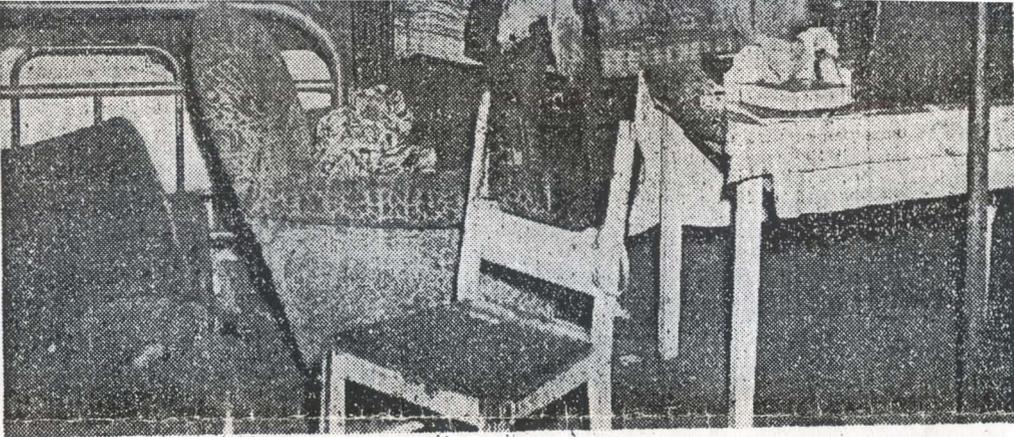
Like countless other cases, right in our town, the trouble is an acute deficiency of housing for low income groups; both white and colored.

Mrs. A's monthly income—the bulk from public assistance, some contributed by her ex-husband for support of the children, a little from one daughter's wages—amounts to about \$140.

Not much for nine. But a public assistance agency would add some for rent, up to a reasonable figure, if a place could be found for the A's.

The trouble is simply this: where to go? Even if a house were available, few landlords would accept nine occupants. If they did, the rental probably would be beyond the budgetary limits of Mrs. A's resources.

At least one friend, I learned, is trying to help.



**NINE LIVE IN THIS SPACE.** Mrs. A and one of the kids are shown huddled at one end of the tent, which serves as kitchen, living and sleeping quarters. "It wasn't so bad in warm weather," Mrs. A says. With

winter setting in, she doesn't know what to do. Hundreds of other local families, not much better off, are caught in the vice of insufficient and unsanitary housing conditions.



**IF YOU LIKE PLENTY OF NEIGHBORS . . .** Here is a chummy little rear-lot apartment layout in one of the sections of north Urbana where residential space is at a premium. Four individual dwelling units occupy the back portion of this one lot, with a small circle of ground in the cen-

ter. The four entranceways above. Families live in three by a single tenant. It is typical of the community's housing, especially acute since the er-

three small rooms, one lean-to to cook in.

#### Better Than Some

This hut is better than some I've seen. It has plastered walls, after a fashion, and is covered with a heavy composition-type siding.

It has the modern innovation of electric lights.

For that, and for water that must be toted from a tap at the rear of the house on the front of the lot, the B's pay an extra \$2.50 a month.

Mrs. B appears to be making the best of the situation.

I chatted with her in the "living room," not much bigger than a trailer parlor.

"How does this place heat in winter?"

She pointed to a coal stove. Questions brought out that in really cold weather, "it takes about a ton of coal a week." The coal costs \$12.40 a ton. Cash before delivery.

Last winter, she recalled, there was near-tragedy. One of the adjacent shacks was burned out. The B's place was damaged some.

"What really bothers me . . . is about the children," said Mrs. B. "They have no place to play except in the alley or—out there," pointing to a little grass-less, flowerless, shrub-less hunk of ground that forms the "courtyard" for these alley apartments.

#### Not Complaining

With a little sigh, Mrs. B added: "I do wish we had a better place for the kids to play in. But understand, I'm not complaining. This is the best we have been able to do."

Mr. B has asthma and heart trouble and can't work much. The children—seven boys and four girls—range from infancy to 14 years.

The family is on public assistance. The income is sufficient for survival, though it's touch-and-go in winter when the fuel bill shoots up.

Prospect of a better place to live?

"With 11 children, you see what we're up against," Mrs. B explained. There was no bitterness in her voice. Her little shack was about as clean as possible to make it.

I started to leave; "Oh yes, you have no plumbing; what do you do about toilet facilities?"

"That's a bad condition," she replied, pointing to a small outdoor toilet near the shacks.

Five families use it, including the 13 B's.

I jotted down on my note pad: "Bad," and underlined the word.

One question I forgot. Later it came to me: "Where do 13 people sleep in that place?"

Too busy to go back; more work ahead.

As for an answer to the last

# FAMILY IN TENT TYPICAL OF CITY HOUSING WOES

**Editor's note:** The aim of this group of articles is to bring to public attention instances of sorry housing conditions in Champaign-Urbana and environs, conditions which in themselves suggest the need for low-cost rental housing projects. Both short-range steps and long-range planning appear essential correctives.)

By WILLARD HANSEN  
News-Gazette Civic Editor

People live like this. Right here in Champaign-Urbana.

Look at the pictures. The camera doesn't lie. My eyes are good. Like you, I would not have believed it, if I had merely heard that such conditions existed here . . . not once, twice or in a few isolated cases—but by the scores, in many sections of our community.

This isn't written from hearsay, second hand information, or surveys that have been made.

Personal tours, interviews, picture-taking make the facts irrefutable.

Take what I shall call "Situation A," probably one of the worst, though many fall in the same "typical" category. Here it is:

Mrs. A., colored, with five children and three grandchildren, are in a tent (see pictures) pitched on a vacant lot in the north part of Champaign.

## Protected By Tent

It is getting cold. Freezing last night; you may recall. Forecast for Thursday night, 30 degrees. Winter on the way, with nothing more than a canvas cover between the chill night air and the nine occupants of one tent.

Mrs. A. is plainly disturbed, distracted. Who wouldn't be?

Forced from a former dwelling last summer, Mrs. A. and her brood have been living in the tent at its present site since last July 1.

Living with her are five children. They range in age from about 10 years upward—all less than 20. One of the daughters has a five-months-old baby; another daughter has two small tots. Eight besides Mrs. A.

The place where the A's formerly resided was worse from some standpoints—two rooms over a



**HOME, CHILLY HOME.** Unless something can be done for them—Mrs. A and her family of eight juveniles face a bleak winter with only a canvas tent over their heads. This is a scene in north Champaign, where

the tent is pitched on a vacant lot. Outside is a small pile of coal, and some crating, for the heating stove inside. Can nine survive the winter this way?



# 5 FAMILIES ON LOT! 13 LIVE IN SHACK

(Second in a series bringing to public attention some of the housing problems and conditions in Champaign-Urbana and environs, suggesting the need for low-cost rental housing.)

By WILLARD HANSEN  
News-Gazette Civic Editor

Address . . . an alley in north Urbana.

Picture this—

Five families living on one lot. Two families are housed in a fairly decent house on the front end of the lot.

At the rear, in a series of shacks, three families are quartered. A fourth shack is occupied by one person.

I interviewed one of the families, looked over their "home," and surveyed the rest of the premises. Let's take a look, together, at "Situation B."

This is a colored family of 11 individuals — father, mother and 11 children.

For sometime prior to a year ago, they lived in two rooms up on North Market street in Champaign. They paid \$35 a month rent for that privilege.

Then they were evicted. "We were really on the street and glad to get what we could," said Mrs. B, a neat, cheerful middle-aged woman.

They found this dwelling — that's a complimentary description — in Urbana, and moved in. They pay \$25 a month for the place: three small rooms, plus a sort of lean-to to cook in.

## Better Than Some

This hut is better than some I've seen. It has plastered walls, after a fashion, and is covered with a heavy composition-type siding.

It has the modern innovation of electric lights.

For that, and for water that must be toted from a tap at the rear of the house on the front of the lot, the B's pay an extra \$2.50 a month.

Mrs. B appears to be making the best of the situation.

I chatted with her in the "living room," not much bigger than a trailer parlor.

"How does this place heat in winter?"

HOME HOMECOMING  
Harold Hines

Miss Mary Haslins of Danville,  
Mr. Milton Vaughn of St. Louis

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rivers and  
family had as their houseguest

BUSINESS VISITORS  
Mr. Lucian Nesbitt, formerly of

My Copies

1 set S

For: EAM - 8/25/96

Substandard Housing in N. Champaign -  
Urbana prior to Urban Development

Repaved streets, sidewalks, lights

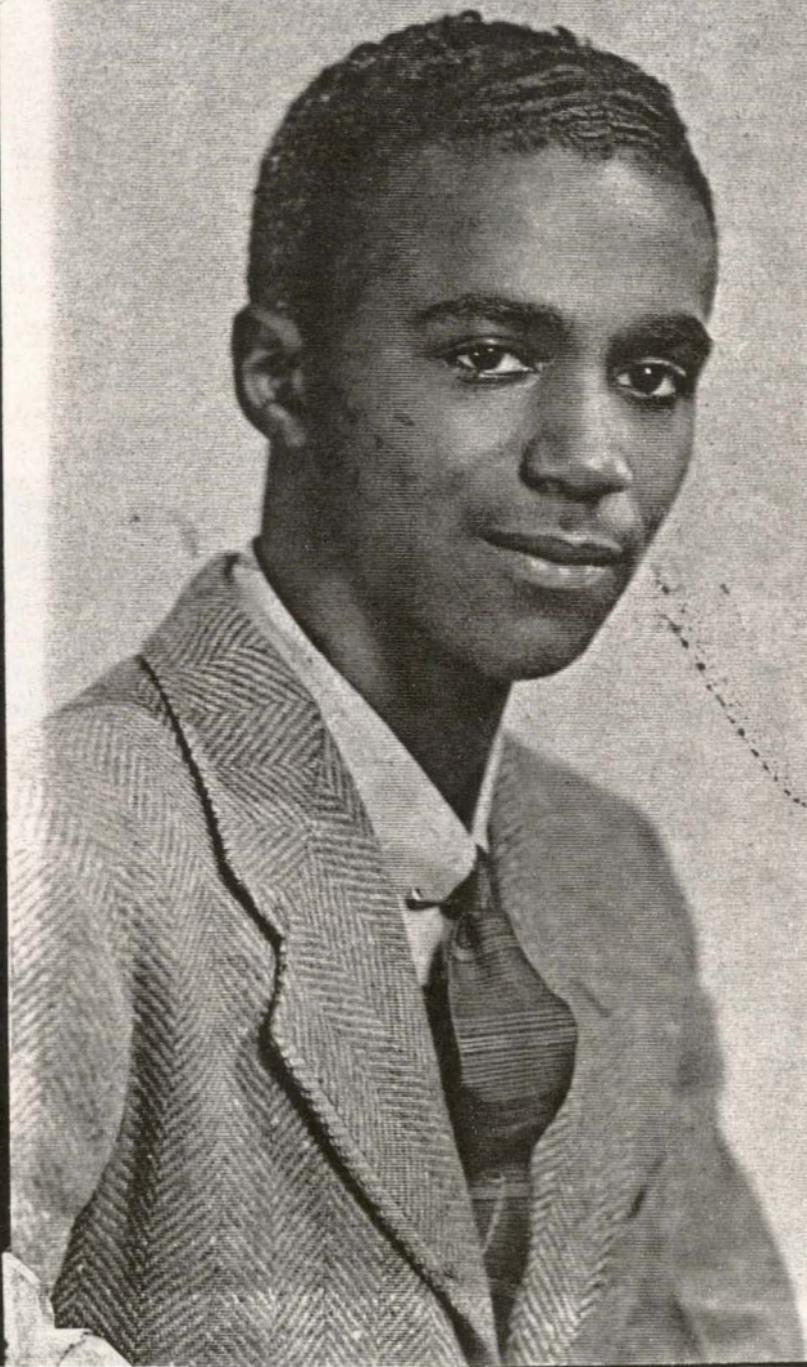
Areas inc. Ash, Poplar & Fourth Sts.

Photos taken by Bonnie Green  
Kenneth Stratton





1942







18th St. ?

