



Gifford Park's Pride

Gifford Park Neighborhood: A Great Place to Live, Work, Learn and Play

October 1996

A Publication of the Gifford Park Neighborhood Association

Fall Clean-up Date Set

The Gifford Park Neighborhood Association's annual Fall Clean-up will be **Saturday, October 26, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in Gifford Park. As in the past, the Fall Clean-up is for GPNA members only, or people who donate time or money to the cleanup. Activities planned are:



Neighborhood & Park Clean-up
Dumpsters in Gifford Park
Membership & Donation Drive
Recycling
Garage Sale Items
Park Picnic
Halloween Pumpkins



We always need volunteer help with providing pickup trucks for hauling, monitoring/packing dumpsters, and especially picking up your own streets and yards.

It's very important for you to **call the phone numbers listed below BEFORE clean-up day** if you need a volunteer to pick up trash - we will prioritize hauling based on your call. There will be a \$10 handling charge for appliances that contain refrigerant (freon), and \$1 handling charge for each tire. **Tree brush will NOT be accepted** for the Fall Clean-up...save it for the Spring Clean-up. Because the GPNA pays for these dumpsters, we may request a small donation if you have excessive trash (i.e. several truckloads) to help fund the clean-up. Please call **Terry (342-2795)**, **Leo (345-1433)**, **Chris (342-6006)**, or **Ron (558-6027)** for more information or if you can help with this year's Fall Clean-up.

Yates Elementary Boy Scouts to Participate in Fall Clean-up

For the second year in a row, the **Boy Scouts from Yates Elementary** will be assisting with the Fall Clean-up. The GPNA is the charter partner for the scouts at Yates Elementary School. The clean-up help is a way the boys can say, "Thank you for being a good neighbor" to the association.

If you have a family member that would like to join the Boy Scouts, call Mark at 431-9272. The Boy Scouts meet weekly at Yates School, 32nd & Davenport, Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

by Mark LeFlore

Next Meeting

**Thursday, October 3
7:00 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker:
Mark Conrey, 911 Supervisor**

**St. Joseph's Hospital
Dining Rooms A, B, & C**

FREE PARKING

Historically Speaking...

Technical High School/ The Later Years

Editor's note: Last month we published a story on the beginning of Technical High School, formerly located at 33rd and Cuming.

In its 72 years (61 at 33rd street) Tech graduated at least 25,000 young people. Famous Tech students include Senator Roman Hruska; Mayor Johnny Rosenblatt; Mayor James Dworak; Police Chief C. Harold Ostler; former president of Northwest Bell. A.F. Jacobson; and Eugene Skinner, Omaha District's first black teacher who rose to the position of Asst. Superintendent.

Many grads were outstanding athletes and an unusually high number went on to stardom in college and professional sports. Among the football players were Les Webster ('63), who played at Iowa State and with the Cincinnati Bengals; Phil Wise ('67) a U.N.O. star who played for the New York Jets; Johnny Rodgers ('69), who earned the Heisman Trophy and All-American football honors at Nebraska; and Preston Love ('62), who played with the Cornhuskers.

Basketball stars included Bob Boozer ('55), who became an All-American at Kansas State and an

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GPNA OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Bacome 344-3233

RECORDING SECRETARY

Barbara Remmen 341-8331

TREASURER

Jean Peck 344-0722

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**C.D.C.**

Chuck Kilgore 341-2757

CLEAN-UP

Chris Foster 342-6006

COMPLIANCE

Leo Wilwerding 345-1433

COURTESY

Candy Bacome 344-3233

HISTORIAN

Eva Swanson 345-1707

LITTER - BUSINESS DISTRICT

Rich Exline 341-4388

MEMBERSHIP

Cynde Yates 342-6543

NEWSLETTER

Chris Foster 342-6006

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Mike Bacome 344-3233

OFFICE

Marlene Wilwerding 345-1433

PARK

Mike Bacome 344-3233

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Terry Wilwerding 342-2795

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anne & Linda Chapman 348-0464

TOOL LENDING

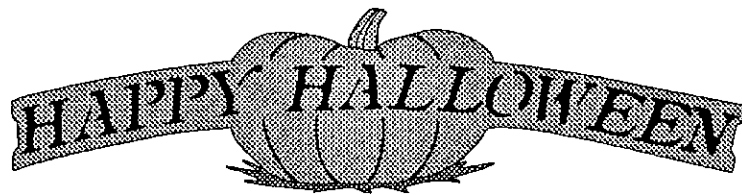
Ed Hendershot 341-0475

WATCH GROUP

Ron Yates 558-6027

WEEDS & LITTER

Jim Wilwerding 551-1344



2nd Annual Haunted House

Where:
PKA House
3100 Chicago St.



When:
Halloween Night
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

hosted by:

*Pi Kappa Alpha (PKA) Creighton Fraternity
Yates Elementary School PTA
Gifford Park Neighborhood Association*



All Neighborhood Children
And Parents Are Welcome to
Stop By For Refreshments
And Trick-or-Treats!



PKA Looking Forward To Another Great Year in the Neighborhood

The brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha, located at 3100 Chicago St. are looking forward to another successful year in the Gifford Park neighborhood. Plans are being made for the neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, October 26 and the 2nd Annual Haunted House on Halloween Night. "We felt more a part of the neighborhood last year," says **Public Relations Chair, Kevin Campbell**. "We know that we had our differences in the past, but this is a whole new bunch of guys that live in the house, and we are all looking forward to

making this another great year in the community.

There are currently 40 young men living in the Pike House who consider themselves as neighbors to all families in the area. "We have taken some steps in the membership development of the brothers and their role to the community," said **Membership Coordinator, Matthew Hunt**. The brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha wish to extend to the neighborhood any assistance that is necessary in making steps toward the betterment of the community and all its neighbors. "I

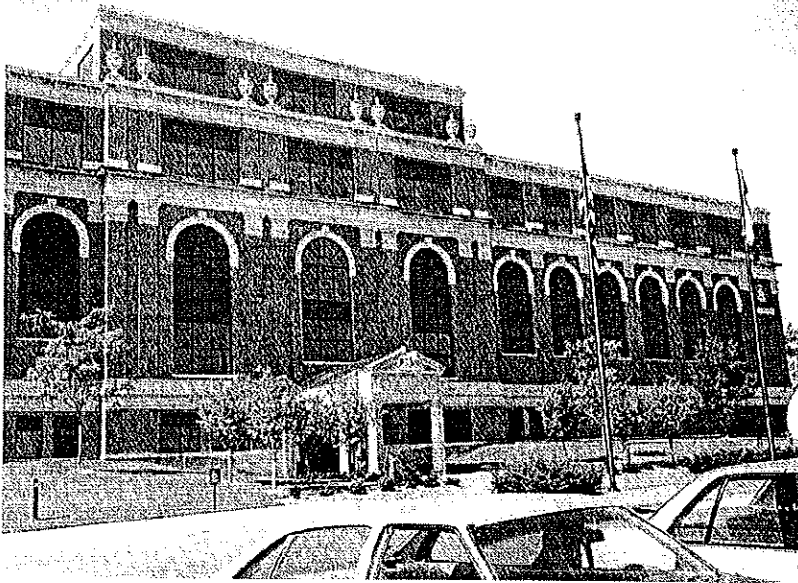
know that most people's views of a fraternity are not necessarily positive, but we are hoping to change that perspective. We want to become an intricate part of this nucleus that makes up the Gifford Park Neighborhood and its Association.

We know that one man can make a difference, but 40 men working together in a common goal can achieve a lot more," added **Alan D. Reitter**, one of the brothers of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

by Kevin Campbell

Historically Speaking... Technical High School/The Later Years

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Today, "old" Tech High is now the O.P.S. Teacher and Administrative Building.

and '70s when housing patterns and school policies turned it into the "black school" and the center for the educable mentally handicapped. During the summer of 1972 the Board of Education approved extensive renovation of the school, including new science labs, a radio/television center, painting and carpeting in the classrooms and halls, new light fixtures and new classroom furniture. The magnet program was in place and the school was beginning to recruit students from outside the area. Then, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' integration order came in 1975, and further voluntary recruitment began to attract white students to the school. Student enrollment had declined, but rose from 503 in 1974 to more than 1,500 in 1978, and the percentage of black to white students became 30-35 percent. However, Tech High was still a casualty of shrinking enrollment and the school board decided to close it down at the end of the 1984 school year, renovate the building inside and out and use it as the central administrative building for the Omaha School System. Today we know it as the Omaha Public School Teacher and Administrative Building. Some vocational classes continue. The yellow school buses bring students for such special courses as telecommunications, printing, auto body, auto mechanics and photography.

The old is new again after a \$5,500,000 renovation. But the old 2,200 seat auditorium remains as it was when the school closed -- its silent stage and empty seats gathering dust. It is waiting for money from somewhere, perhaps Aladdin and his lamp, so that it can be used again for musicals and dramas, graduations and speeches.

by Eva Swanson

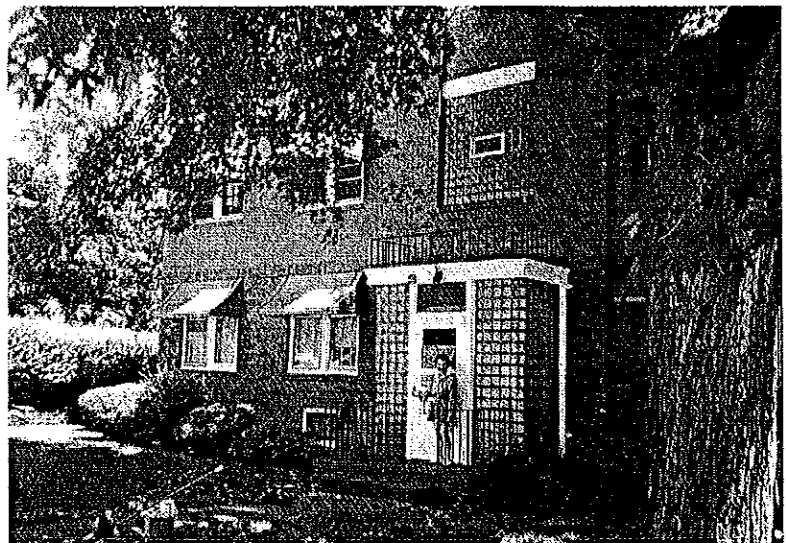
Olympic Gold Medalist in 1960 before playing in the National Basketball Association; Ron Boone ('64), who retired from pro basketball after establishing a durability record of 1,041 consecutive American Basketball Association and NBA games.

Bob Gibson ('53), a basketball and baseball star at Tech, became a Hall of Fame pitcher and World Series hero with the St. Louis Cardinals; Jim Houston ('59), became a national rodeo champion, and Lucille Wilson ('30), three times coached the United States women's track team in the Olympics.

Dr. Carl Hansen became principal at Tech in March 1945, followed by Carl Linn in 1947, LLOYD W. Ashby in 1947, Carl Palmquist in 1950, and Dr. Odra Bradley in 1971-1984.

Tech faced its most difficult days in the '60s

Landlord of the Month



The GPNA *Landlord of the Month* is **Elizabeth Danforth**, who owns the apartment at 603 N. 36 Street. Mrs. Danforth has had this property for about 12 years, and it is not uncommon to see her working around the yard or doing some other repairs. The property is neat and well kept, summer and winter.

We would like to congratulate Elizabeth Danforth, GPNA Landlord of the Month for October.

by Terry Wilwerding

What's Happening in the Neighborhood...

Everyone is encouraged to attend the October general meeting at **St. Joseph's Hospital, Thursday, October 3, at 7 p.m.** As always there will be plenty of refreshments. The guest speaker will be **911 Supervisor, Mark Conrey.**

We offer our sincere condolences to the Slayden family for the loss of **Betty Slayden's father, Dale Barr Sr., 73,** on September 8. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their seven children and many grandchildren. Dale and Mary were married 49 years. Dale worked for Mariana here in Omaha. The Slayden's are very active in the neighborhood, including the GPNA and Yates School.

St. Cecilia's Cathedral will be having their annual **Oktoberfest Fall Festival, Sunday, October 6, noon to 6 p.m.** at St. Cecilia's Church located at 40th and Webster. There will be food, fun and prizes for everyone!

Sharon Arnold has been appointed our area's City Council liaison. She can be

reached at 444-5519 with your concerns.

Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) is organizing its Youth "Fall Clean-up" — 1996, to be held **Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. to noon.** Organized youth groups are invited to participate by choosing a park location or area in your neighborhood to clean up. Food coupons from **Burger King** will be given to those participating. Also KOB is offering money to organizations who help clean up illegal dumps (\$200/site) or the **Keystone Trail** (\$20/mile). If anyone is interested in any of these opportunities, contact **Chris Foster** at 342-6006 or KOB at 444-7774.


We congratulate **The Bemis Park Neighborhood Association** for their 17th annual Parade of Homes, held Sunday, September 22. The event featured 10 turn-of-the-century houses that show what can be done to preserve older homes - they are an inspiration to all of us who have older homes in our own Gifford Park neighborhood. **Denise Nunn** was the tour coordinator. Great effort by everyone involved!

What To Know About Weeds, Litter


One of the projects of GPNA is to monitor violations of weeds and litter codes, and refer observed violations to the city for correction. Code requires that no weed or grass be allowed to grow to a height in excess of eighteen inches. If, after a reasonable time of being notified of the violation, corrections are not completed by the owner, the city will cut the offending growth, and charge the costs of the work to the property owner. The definition of litter in the code includes trash, garbage, wood, paper, rags, plaster, cement, leaves, brush, and inoperative machinery or parts thereof. Property owners and/or occupants of the property are expected to refrain from depositing or accumulating litter on the property. If property owners fail to correct violations, the city will after a reasonable period clean up the litter, and charge the costs of the work to the property owner. Fortunately, the vast majority of residents in our area take pride in their property, keeping yards neatly mowed and vegetation cut. Unfortunately some property owners are lax about cutting grass, or tend to accumulate litter.

At present, the city takes about a month to respond to weed complaints, and is several months in arrears on investigating litter violations. If you are aware of long-standing violations of these types, please contact me at 551-1344, and I will be sure the violations are reported to the city.

by Jim Wilverding



GIFFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
532 N. 33rd Street, Omaha, NE 68131
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Please print clearly)



Membership year: _____ *(Membership year runs from June 1 through May 31)*

Type of membership: Single (\$5) _____ Family (\$8) _____ Business (\$25) _____

Name of business _____

Name _____ (Last) _____ (First)

Spouse _____ (Last) _____ (First)

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

Telephone Number: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

In case of an emergency notify: _____ (Name) _____ (Address) _____ (Phone No.)

May this information be included in the GPNA Neighborhood Directory? Yes _____ No _____

Signature _____ Date _____