

# Carver Center Steps Toward Expansion

By THEO JEAN KENYON

The first step toward expansion of Carver Community Center facilities has been taken with purchase of two adjacent properties on W. 3rd Ave.

Henry Harper, executive director of the center, said that purchase of the property gives the agency an additional 60 by 100 foot area for future development.

That development, he said, has been sorely needed for many years and was recommended here in 1955 after a survey of the Carver area by a University of Illinois graduate student.

**PURCHASE OF THE** property was made possible, Harper said, through an "emergency loan" of the Community Chest and Council when it was realized that unless action was taken to acquire the lots there would be no other direction for the center to expand.

Herbert Smith, president of the 1956 board of directors for the center, was active with Harper in obtaining the property. The loan was approved in the offices of W. O. Pendarvis, attorney for the board.

Two five-room bungalows on the properties will be rented by the center after Oct. 1 and the rent will be used to pay off the loan until permission for a "capital drive" is given Carver Center by the Community Chest and Council.

Funds from such a capital drive will then be used to finish payment of the loan and to proceed with new facilities for the center.

**CHIEF OF THESE** will be a combined gymnasium-auditorium with stage facilities at one end to provide a seating capacity of

1,000 to 1,200 for community programs.

A full basement under the auditorium would also provide a much needed game room with lockers and dressing rooms and a snack bar, Harper added.

The present Carver Center building, remodeled from a telephone company garage, would then be available for adult recreation programs and the present auditorium could be used as a daytime community nursery school and health center.

All of these plans, Harper stressed, are contingent on when the Community Chest gives the go-ahead signal for a general fund drive.

**BUT THE CENTER'S** board of directors already has a \$100 contribution toward its new facilities. A check for that amount was turned over to the board by William Salzenstein, one of the former owners of the center's newly acquired property.

The need for facilities for recreation and community activity was underscored repeatedly in the survey made of the Carver area in 1955 by John Montgomery of the University of Illinois.

In the report released to the Community Chest at that time, Montgomery pointed to "enormous increase" in the city's Negro population between 1940 and 1950 and to the heavy concentration of the increase in the Carver area.

Boundaries of the area are 7th and Jefferson Aves.; MacArthur Highway and Franklin St. The survey stressed that the density of population in this area is extremely high.

**"CARVER COMMUNITY** occupies only 3 per cent of the total area of Peoria but contains 14½ per cent of the city's total population," the report said. "With too many people living too close to one another, the home and the community facilities of Carver community are rapidly deteriorating because of their excessive use."

The survey also commented that "Carver Center, a Community Chest agency, is the only public indoor recreation facility in the Carver community area. This agency, together with less than five acres of outdoor recreation space, constitutes the basic recreation area and facilities found in the entire neighborhood.

"This gives some indication of the lack of areas and facilities available to the residents of Carver community neighborhood."

Even with summer playground programs at State Park and at Warner Homes, facilities are insufficient in the opinion of Center leaders.

Because of the heavy concentration of population, Proctor Center can allot the Carver area only one hour a week for gym participation for boys and one hour for girls. The new regulation-size gym would solve many of these recreation problems, Harper said.

## Dale Morgan's Will Is Filed

Will of Harry Dale Morgan, attorney who died July 25, filed for probate Monday. The estate is listed as follows:

Mobile and personal effects to the widow, Elcagan, 1020 NE Glen

If the estate is left to two sons, Mayor Morgan, 515 W. Armstrong, and Donald A. Morgan, 2600 S. Lowell St., trustee.

That the income from the estate be paid to the widow. At her death the income and bequests are among the two other sons, Mayor Morgan, 515 W. Armstrong, and Donald A. Morgan, 2600 S. Lowell St.

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