



50TH

ANNIVERSARY

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Introduction

On February 8, 1939, residents of Industrial City Gardens, a subdivision located northwest of the city limits of Savannah, Georgia, were granted a charter as a municipal corporation by the Superior Court of Chatham County. Instructions to George H. Richter, attorney, to file the petition followed a community vote on the previous Saturday. Thirty-eight of forty residents who went to the polls at McDonald's Filling Station, located on U.S. Highway 17, voted in favor of incorporation. The people who signed the original petition asking the court to grant the charter were;

J. H. Bishop, Henry T. LaRoche, H. B. Cleland, H. W. Tuten, V. B. Miller, H. J. Anderson, W. M. Lubeck, S. C. Pipkin, H. A. Van Sickle, L. M. Redmond, M. O. Blackburn, Leonard King, E. L. Yeomans, A. L. Long, L. W. Keen, E. H. Wall, V. S. Brunson, C. G. Binill, I. P. Morgan, A. C. Turner, L. B. Dixon, Robert F. Donaldson, Inman Morgan, Jr., Kirk Morgan, J. W. Wilson, W. B. Jones, S. L. McDonald, S. M. Helme, S. L. McDonald, Jr., W. R. Sojourner, C. B. Routt, M. W. Tebeau, H. W. Webb, J. O. Morgan, J. A. Rowe, B. F. Hindman, Addison Hall, H. L. Edwards, E. F. Orwig, J. L. Bowman, Robert A. Darrey, D. R. Ellis, J. S. Romano, M. C. Jones, H. W. Hunt, F. R. Foss, G. W. Thorpe, V. C. Hofberge, H. K. Ward, J. W. Guill, Joseph Ocampo, Alton D. Fryer, Andrew B. Smith, H. H. Banks, R. S. Banks, Hayden H. Banks, Jr., C. B. Colson, Sr., H. D. Mann, Bonneau H. Dickson, Jack Cross, D. M. Brown, J. A. Kauffman, Victor Burgess, E. G. Burgess, Robert Burgess, H. M. Dixon, M. T. Drake, W. A. Marks, George Barron, Watson Inglett, Thomas W. Milton, J. H. Kitchings, O. P. Barnes, Sr., I. T. Tunstall, William Roy Poe, C. R. Zittrouer, J. L. Lightman, E. D. Snooks, R. M. Gray, Victor Foley, M. V. Grivenberg, Vincent Ventura, Stephen Mahler, Wilson H. Scott, D. W. Gray, Hinton Denmark, H. O. Thompson, Jr., A. C. Turner, Jr., M. O. Blackburn, Jr., D. O. Tyson, M. E. Lanier, F. A. Futch, J. O. McBride, F. E. Foley, A. Pipkins, M. A. Royer, P. H. Royer, A. M. Royer, G. E. Zohler, M. D. Usher, O. L. Mason, Jr., A. E. Miles, Mrs. Minnie Johnson, J. W. Royal, Mrs. J. W. Royal, T. J. Hillis, A. H. Haupt, B. H. Dunaway, J. H. Loyiman, Tillman Cross, Paul R. Boykin, S. T. Thigpen, W. A. Tomlinson, Carlie Howell, L. T. Marshall, D. W. Burke, Charles B. Anderson, C. C. Daur, R. F. Arnsdorff, C. T. Jurgens, B. E. Tyson, J. A. McCord, Mrs. John B. Laird, J. A. Boney, T. L. Bailey, A. O. Turner, C. T. Jurgens, Jr., A. J. Hartley, O. L. Mason, Jr., P. W. Burke, N. V. Graham, C. T. Yarbrough, H. O. Thompson, L. P. Larisey, R. H. Stafford, F. L. Dixon, and T. Z. Zittrouer.

These people could not have known, back then, what their initiative would produce fifty years later. But here we are in 1989, a city that has not only endured but prospered. A city that has much to be proud of and much for which to be thankful. In

words and pictures here is the story of Garden City's first fifty years. It is our story.

Progress in Review 1939 - 1989

Actually, our story begins much earlier than 1939. At one time native Americans, the Indians, lived here as evidenced by the Irene Indian Mounds on the Georgia Ports Authority property. Later came white settlers and at least three plantations, the Brampton, the Givens (also known as Whitehall), and Telfair, located on the Savannah River and encompassing what we know as Garden City.

In 1863, black families, freed from slavery, relocated from the plantations along the river. They established settlements in areas known as Five Mile Bend, Springfield, Demery Bottom, Minus Quarters and Scarbora Line. These areas encompassed the land along what is now Augusta Road from Rossignol Hill to Pipe Makers Canal.

Five Mile Bend was located where the Garden City Roadside Park is now, including the Big Hill and Hawkinsville Road areas.

Springfield was the area now occupied by Robert W. Groves High School. The property was once owned by the Owens Edwards family. Bell Edwards Stokes lived on that land until her death in 1956 at age eighty-two.



The Dotson house is the oldest house in Garden City. It is now the home of Allen J. Warren.

Minus Quarters is now the Minus Avenue area, and was named for the property's owner, Mr. Scipio Minus.

Scarbora Line was in the area of Leon Village Road and Oak Street and includes the area where Haynes School is now located.

Some of the first families to move into this area of what is now Garden City were; Owens Edwards, Dick Gibbons.

Knight, Snow Wilson, William Smith and Thomas Gibbons.

In those days these families made their living by farming. They grew all their own vegetables and fruits, selling some and

canning the rest. One family owned a cane grinding mill and people from the area would make syrup there. They made their own grits and meal from the corn they grew in their gardens.

Some later found work with farmers, George and John Dotson. The Dotsons were the only white families in the area around the turn of the century. George Dotson's house is still located on its original site on Augusta Road across from Mercer Middle School. It is now the home of Mr. Allen J. Warren.

John Dotson's house was destroyed by fire but was located on Big Hill Road where Bazemore Park is now. His wife, Josephine, lived in the area for many years after her husband died. She remarried and operated Fussell's Grocery Store.

Other early residents found work at the Compress, a cotton baling company located at the present site of the Georgia Ports Authority on U.S. 17. The Pickery, a cotton gin located at the corner of what is now Nelson Avenue and U.S. 17 also provided work. It was operated by Willie Jenkins. There was also a slaughter pen on Smith Avenue between Augusta Road and the railroad Crossing. Cows, goats and hogs were trucked in for slaughtering.

Many of their descendants were still here in the early 1930's to greet the "new" development called Industrial City Gardens. That was the name given to an idea in the mind of L. H. Smith, a well-known Savannah banker and realtor.

The citizens of our town owe a debt of graditude to Mr. Smith, for the vision that resulted in what we call today, Garden City.

Lewis Hampton Smith grew to manhood at Bethesda Home for Boys in Savannah. He was a native of near-by Springfield but moved to Savannah at an early age. He was the son of James S. and Ann Elizabeth Smith.

Mr. Smith entered Bethesda after attending public schools in Savannah. When he left Bethesda, he took jobs to finance night school study and attended Arnold's Commercial College.

It was in the depth of the Great Depression that Mr. Smith, who had become a realtor, showed his optimism for Chatham County's future. At a time when many others thought the outlook



Roscoe Thompson, Martha Sue Johnston, Joyce Thompson, Elizabeth Blackburn, Charlie King

was bleak, he astonished his friends by planning the development of Industrial City Gardens, which became the heart of Garden City.

A banker, paying tribute to Mr. Smith, said that the "creation of a new city now known as Garden City is probably the most outstanding achievement in the real estate field in this area in this century."

Mr. Smith was the president of American Finance and Mortgage Company and of L. H. Smith and Company, private bankers and realtors. He was a member of the board of directors of First Federal Savings and Loan Association for more than thirty years.

In addition to his many business interests Mr. Smith was vitally interested and involved in community affairs. He was a member of Landrum Lodge No. 48, F.& A.M.; Forest City No. 2, Knights of Pythias; Knights of Khorassans; Eagles; Scottish Rite Shrine; Savannah Golf Club; Savannah Motor Club; Kiwanis Club; Telfair Academy of Arts and Science; Telfair Hospital; Savannah Board of Trade; Savannah Real Estate Board; Young Men's Christian Association; American Red Cross, and the Union Society (Bethesda). In the late 1920's he developed a plan to give one Bethesda boy each year, a four-year, all-expense paid scholarship to the University of Georgia.

Early in the 1930's Mr. Smith began to develop Industrial City Gardens in a wooded area, lying between what is now Georgia highway 21 and U.S. 17. His intention was to provide lots cheaply enough that people could afford to buy them, and large enough that they could have a vegetable garden and livestock. In the early days, many people kept cows, chickens, hogs, and goats on their property.



The area was wooded and so remote that there were moonshine stills operating in what are now quiet neighborhoods. According to Mrs. Julia Morgan, who moved to Industrial City Gardens in 1934 with her husband Otis, their son and some of his friends used to go out into the woods and play tricks on the moonshiners. As they went, they made enough noise for the men working the stills to hear, thinking it was the "revenooers" they would take off running and give the boys a good laugh.

Things have certainly changed since then. Many more people



have joined the original "settlers", beautiful new homes have been built, many services have been added, many businesses power our economy. But no matter how much things change, one thing remains constant and always will. L. H. Smith had a vision over fifty years ago, and the people of Garden City, past, present and future, are the fulfillment of that

vision.

Two years after the Chatham Superior Court granted, what turned out to be, the last court granted municipal charter in Georgia, another charter was granted. It stated in part; "An act to create a new municipality in Chatham County, Georgia, to be known as Garden City; to dissolve the Town of Industrial City Gardens, created by order of the Superior Court of Chatham County, on February 8, 1939; to provide a Charter for Garden City; and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, that there shall be, and there is hereby, created in Chatham County, Georgia, a Municipality to be known as Garden City, with the following boundaries, to wit: On the North by Pipe Makers Canal, on the East by the right-of-way of the Chatham Terminal Company and the right-of-way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and U.S. highway Seventeen, on the South by Brampton Road and the Old Augusta Road, and on the West by the old Augusta Road, and being the same territory heretofore comprising the Town of Industrial City Gardens."

The Mayor and Councilmen named in this charter of March 24, 1941, were Edgar C. Pipkin, Mayor, M. O. Blackburn, J. Howard Bishop, W. B. Jones, W. A. Marks and H. W. Tuten.

The name of the city was changed because many people felt Industrial City Gardens was just too long and that it implied a mill town. The Council gave citizens the opportunity to make suggestions for a new name before applying for the State charter. A petition was circulated and 131 of the 137 signees indicated a preference for Garden City, a name suggested by J. Howard Bishop, and approved by City Council on January 26, 1940.

Edgar C. Pipkin was Garden City's first Mayor, serving from April 7, 1939 (just after Industrial City Gardens was chartered),



until December 5, 1949. During his administration the City's name was changed and the State charter was granted. While Mr. Pipkin was Mayor the city received the deeds for two lots on Varnedoe Avenue donated by L. H. Smith, where the community house and recreation area are now located.

In those early days the City had no municipal building, so City Council meetings were held in Mr. Pipkin's home. That is, until some Councilmen began to feel it was inappropriate to hold public meetings in a private residence. The meetings were subsequently moved to Jones Equipment Company on U.S. 17. That action angered Mr. Pipkin and he rarely attended meetings of the Council after that. One of the more unfortunate aspects of that situation was the loss to Garden City of what is now the Georgia State Ports property and docks.

During World War II the Federal Government built and operated a port facility here for military staging. When the war ended, Garden City, being the nearest government entity, had first option to buy the docks and warehouses. A number of citizens took the necessary steps to purchase the property, including a loan and lease arrangement with the Union Bag that would have completely paid for the facility at no cost to the city. However, Mr. Pipkin refused to sign the necessary papers and the opportunity was lost.

On December 5, 1949, J. Arlie Rowe was elected Mayor. One of the first and most important events of Mr. Rowe's tenure was the appointment of a committee to contact L. H. Smith about purchasing the Garden City Water System. On February 12, 1951, a warranty deed was filed in the Superior Court of Chatham County showing that Mr. Rowe and the City Council had paid \$30,000 to Mr. Smith for two lots and the entire water system. In addition, the city began improvements to the system and the installation of fire hydrants.

In August, 1951, the City Council meetings were moved from Jones Equipment Company to the newly completed community house at 78 Varnedoe Avenue. The building had been started years earlier, but construction stopped after a foundation was put down and walls raised. W. F. Oglesby, Sr., a councilman elected with Mr. Rowe in 1949, said that trees had to be removed from the dirt floor before construction could resume. Mr. Oglesby did most of that later building himself, and Garden City had its first City Hall.

On September 17, 1951, City Council voted to hire R. P. Crowder as Garden City's first policeman. At the next meeting Council approved a bid of \$1,528.50 for a police car and the Garden City Police Department was born. A Mayor's Court was established by the Council on October 15, 1951.

Another of the important steps that occurred during Mr. Rowe's term was the purchase of a truck for conversion into Garden City's first fire truck on March 31, 1952.

R. I. Mingledorff who had served as Clerk of Council since December 1, 1947, was also given the responsibilities of City Treasurer and Clerk of Court at the Council meeting on June 16, 1952. He continued to serve the city until his retirement on December 31, 1978.

Also in June of 1952, the Garden City Volunteer Fire Department was organized with C. G. Stafford as the first Fire Chief.

In April of 1954 the City Council voted to extend water service to a new subdivision across Georgia Highway 21 from Garden City. The area was later named Chatham Villa and eventually became part of Garden City.

The City Council minutes of September 3, 1954 state; "After the reading of a letter of resignation from Mayor J. A. Rowe, Mr. Van Sickle made a motion that Mayor Rowe's resignation be accepted as of October 5, 1954 with regrets and Council went on record as expressing to Mayor Rowe on behalf of themselves and the citizens of Garden City their deep pleasure in serving with him, and Council further, by resolution commended Mayor Rowe for his untiring efforts for Garden City during his tenure as Mayor; for the many fine innovations, improvements and future-looking projects initiated and carried out largely through his efforts." On October 4, 1954, Warren F. Oglesby, Sr., was elected unanimously by Council to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Rowe.

However, Mr. Rowe's involvement with Garden City government was not over. Not too long after his retirement as Mayor, Mr. Rowe went to work for the city as the Superintendent of Water Works. He remained in that position until May 31, 1973 when he retired again from city service.

The City Council and his co-workers honored Mr. Rowe with a steak dinner to celebrate his 22 years' service. After the dinner, Mayor R. W. Bazemore introduced everyone in the group and invited them to enjoy a cake which had been baked and decorated by Mrs. Eunice Cavannah for the occasion. The cake sported a fisherman with a pipe in his mouth along with a fish pond and fish.

Mayor Bazemore then spoke of the many good things which Mr.

Rowe had done for Garden City over the years and expressed his personal appreciation to him.

Many others made brief testimonials and all commented on Mr. Rowe's constant willingness to be of assistance whenever asked.

Mr. Rowe was given a bronzed garbage can lid with the inscription, "J. A. Rowe, Retirement 1973, in memory of all the complaints he had had about garbage collection". In addition, he was presented with a bronzed water meter.

Keith Cox read a Resolution in which Mr. Rowe was honored as one who never shirked his duties and concluded, "We, therefore, pay tribute to one who has served so well".

Finally, Mr. Rowe was escorted outside to receive a gift of appreciation from the citizens of Garden City. There, waiting for him, were a boat, trailer, motor and all necessary equipment for happy boating and fishing.

An era in Garden City's history ended with a bit of reminiscing by Mr. Rowe and with his thanks.

Further honor came to Mr. Rowe when he was asked to serve as Grand Marshal of the Fiftieth Anniversary Parade, celebrating Garden City's founding.

Warren F. Oglesby, Sr., served the city as Mayor from October 5, 1954, until December 4, 1961.

During the time Mr. Oglesby served as Mayor many improvements were made in the services Garden City provided for its citizens.

The paving of Smith Avenue, begun during Mr. Rowe's last term was completed under Mr. Oglesby. The Community House was heated and air conditioned. A sewage and water system ordinance was adopted.

As with any city government there were matters of controversy that arose over the years. One such conflict came during Mayor Oglesby's administration and had to do with pinball machines being allowed in the city.

As is the case with any grouping of people, Garden City has seen its share of controversies. One of these, which took place in late 1958, serves to impress upon us how times have changed and how determined some people were to fight for their community. The controversy is summarized in a Savannah Evening Press article dated November 29, 1958, and was written by Kathy Palmer.

The Garden City Town Council has backed down from a recent decision to issue 1959 licenses for pinball machines in the face of massive protests by the citizens of the community. In a



Mayor Warren F. Oglesby, Sr. and family

statement delivered Friday night to the Rev. George E. Clary, leader of the fight against the gambling devices, all seven members of the council "unanimously agree to rescind our action of November 17 at our December 1, 1958, council meeting. We hereby agree that no pinball licenses will be issued for 1959."

A mass meeting of Garden City residents demanding that the Council's action on the pinball machine's licenses be revoked had been scheduled for 3:30 PM Sunday at the community house. The Rev. Mr. Clary said, however, in view of the council's decision, that the rally has been called off. The Methodist minister went on to say that he feels that "this is a moral victory for the community and I wish to thank these men for their courage and willingness to rectify this matter."

The Battle of Garden City started when a pinball ban, sought in a petition signed by about 200 residents, was ignored by Town Council, during a meeting November 1, and council went about their business and established pinball licenses for next year.

About twenty-five pinball machines are now licensed by Garden City, bringing the community about \$2,500 a year in revenue. Most of the machines, a community official said, are in a business section between the Traffic Circle and Brampton Road.

During the vote of council on the matter, the licensing ordinance was adopted, 6-1. R. W. Bazemore cast the dissenting vote.

Garden City Mayor W. F. Oglesby has taken a stand against pinball licensing from the beginning. The mayor, has no vote unless council is stalemated.

Since that time, there has been no peace in the community on the subject of pinball machines.

Led by the town's ministers and community organizations, Garden City residents banded together to take a stand against licensing the machines.

Petitions were distributed all over the community to be signed by residents, demanding that council reconsider its action. Claude Hodges, accountant and leader in the Baptist church, headed this action and called the response, "excellent."

In the wake of the petitions, came the announcement of the mass rally. Then came the statement from Town Council, which reads as follows: "We, the undersigned, have given the pinball machine issue serious consideration in the light of additional information now at hand and believe the majority of the people in Garden City wish them removed: Therefore, we unanimously agree to rescind our action of November 17 at our December 1, 1958 Council meeting. We hereby agree that no pinball licenses will be issued for 1959."

Two police cars were purchased in January, 1956 and a gas tank was also installed to service city vehicles at a savings to the city.

The new police cars were equipped with radios and sirens and were insured by the city, a move which enhanced the quality of police protection in the community.

The water line on the east side of Main Street was completed.

The city council authorized all city firemen to attend fire fighting classes which helped upgrade the fire department's readiness and ability.

On October 1, 1956, Charles Sparkman was appointed Judge of Recorder's Court, a position he still holds today.

Two radios for the firetrucks were purchased, improving communication between the firemen and lowering response time.

The Civil Defense Board was established , as well as the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Former Mayor J.A. Rowe was hired as Superintendent of the Water Department on June 1, 1958, a position he held until his retirement in 1973.

Wheathill Road in front of Groves High School was paved. The basketball court at the community center was built and \$3500 worth of playground equipment was furnished by the Garden City Jaycees.

Sewer and water services were extended to many areas of Garden City including the Traffic Circle Shopping Center. This made further development in the city possible and lucrative, along with the paving of many streets.

While Mr. Oglesby served as Mayor the Garden City Fire Department found a permanent home when Station Number 1 was built on U.S. 17 at the entrance to the State Ports property. Fire Department equipment was upgraded, some of it purchased by the city, some provided from the department treasury.

The new Post Office located in the Garden City Shopping Center came to Garden City in April, 1961.

The extension and improvement of the city's services during Mr. Oglesby's tenure as Mayor cannot be over estimated in terms of the effect it had on the future growth of the city.

Mr. Rupert W. Bazemore became Mayor of Garden City in December, 1961, and continued in office for twelve years, the longest tenure of any Mayor in the city's history.

One of the major achievements of Mr. Bazemore's administration was construction of the city hall.

Garden City City Hall

More than 150 persons crowded into the gleaming new structure on Sunday afternoon, September 8, 1963 for the dedication ceremony and open house.

Rupert W. Bazemore, then Mayor, said the opening of the cement block, aluminum and glass building on Highway 17 marked another step in the city's progress. It was constructed on 2.5 acres of land purchased from Milledge Jones.

Speaking in the courtroom, the mayor said the building had been erected for \$26,000, including the architect's fee, with furnishings costing another \$2,000. "The beautiful part is, it is paid for," Mayor Bazemore said.

The original city hall was designed by architect Vernon H. Nowell and built by the Kay C. Company Inc., which was owned by Pete Clifton. The building includes offices for the town's recorder, police and water departments and originally had a drive-in window for payment of water bills.



The main hall, with seating for 96 persons, is used for police court sessions and city council meetings. The city's business had been conducted at the Garden City Community House on Varnedoe Avenue.

According to Mayor Bazemore, a \$15,000 surplus from the 1962 city budget and another surplus from the 1963 budget was used to pay for the building.

Chatham County Commissioner, Gary W. Anderson, a Garden City resident, spoke at the dedication and served as master of ceremonies. Guests included State Senator Frank O. Downing and Mayor Preston B. Edwards of Port Wentworth.

A plaque which still hangs on the wall of the building bears the names of the contractor, architect, Mayor Bazemore, city clerk Robert I. Mingledorff, city attorney Charles L. Sparkman, and the city council at the time; James A. Bridgeforth, Ernest M. Brown, J. Lawrence Cavannah, Welcome G. Farr, Wendell R. Neville, George A. Seckinger, and Jack C. Stafford.

Since the dedication of the original city hall building in 1963, an addition to the structure has provided space for the police department and a city jail.

In early June, 1968, the Mayor, councilmen, and police department again held an open house to show off the addition to the city hall. Mayor R. W. Bazemore and Police Chief Roland Oglesby welcomed a large number of citizens, many of whom saw city hall for the first time.

The addition cost \$34,000 and was built by Ted Romine Construction. Visitors were shown the new and expanded equipment of the police force, along with the small but adequate fingerprinting and laboratory facility.

Besides the three jail cells, capable of housing twelve prisoners, the addition included office space for the chief, a visitor's room, a reception area and work space for the police force. The first occupants of the new jail were a couple of real hard cases. They were R. W. Bazemore and Rev. Ed Cadle.

The new entrance on Blackburn street allowed quick access to both parts of city hall.

For Garden City, completion of the addition marked a significant chapter in its history, especially for the police department which had been housed literally in police vehicles. Steady progress has seen the department move from its first headquarters at Jones Equipment Company, to a single office in the community house, to a small room at city hall, and finally to its own full sized quarters which it still occupies today.

Continued growth of the city and increased responsibilities for the staff made it necessary to close the drive-in window and enclose that area.

It was during Mr. Bazemore's service as Mayor that volunteerism, the hallmark of Garden City, reached a fever pitch. The largest single volunteer project in the whole Westside's history, aside from the ongoing thirty-seven year work of the Garden City Fire Department, was completed during his administration. The story of the Westside Stadium is a Chatham County legend.

Westside Stadium

"We really got determined when they laughed and said you rednecks won't ever build a stadium, you've been talking about it all your lives. I knew then it had to be built." - Pete Clifton.

They said it would never get off the ground. People called the Westside Stadium, the stadium that couldn't be built. They treated it as a joke. But they did not count on the fierce determination of the people of west Chatham County.

On September 3, 1965, before a capacity crowd of 6,000 Groves High School defeated Screven County in the first football game ever played in "The Stadium That Couldn't Be Built."

The process began in earnest about eighteen months before that Groves-Screven County gridiron contest. In a meeting of the Groves Booster Club, school principal Rife English made a suggestion that a stadium should be constructed. Others got involved and began to push the idea. People like Groves football coach Don Kett and Westside Stadium Corporation president, Pete Clifton.

For a while, it was just a wish and an idea, but when leaders

of the effort to build a stadium saw that all the Westside communities were beginning to take interest, they formed the stadium corporation.

Key participants in the organization of the corporation were Pete Clifton, the president; Mayor R. W. Bazemore of Garden City, vice-president; John Mann of Garden City, secretary; Preston Stokes of Pooler, treasurer; Mayor P. B. Edwards of Port Wentworth, Mayor J. Q. Roach of Pooler, H. A. Waters of Pooler, Jim Wilson of Garden City and Rife English.

The Board of Directors was composed of representatives from each of the westside communities - Seventh District (Silk Hope area), Bloomingdale, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Garden City and Woodlawn Terrace.

The Corporation's first step after chartering was obtaining land on which to build the new facility. Twelve acres next to Groves High School was purchased with cash donations from westside residents and businesses.

Pete Clifton borrowed \$25,000 from the bank on a personal note which was later signed by the Westside Stadium Corporation. After that, Clifton said, it was "beg and borrow - we haven't stopped to see if we've stolen anything yet."

Many businesses donated materials and equipment including Chatham Steel, Clark Block Co., M. C. Anderson, Steel Erectors, Savannah Electric and Power and a number of lumber companies. In addition, many corporation crews donated their time off work to put up the lights, put roofs on the concession stand and press box, install plumbing fixtures and "just about any job you can think of that we needed done," said Pete Clifton.

The floodlights for the field were among the things that the stadium group had to purchase but electricians and linemen with Savannah Electric and Power Company donated time to get them up and focussed on the field.

If none of these materials had been donated, and the corporation had had to hire laborers to get the stadium built, the whole facility would have cost about \$122,000. Since so much of the work and materials did come free from westside residents and Savannah businesses, the final cost was \$35,000.

Clifton and John Mann said, at the time, that the volunteer labor came from citizens of all kinds - from the average working man to mayors and town councilmen. One councilman from Port Wentworth brought his brother, who was here on vacation, to work at the stadium on Saturday.

Former Groves football players were among the volunteers.

Members of Ironworkers Local 709, the pipefitters and carpenters unions also gave many hours and much skill to the project.

The women of the westside also played a major role in getting the stadium finished. They furnished lunches for hungry workers many Saturdays. One wife said she and the others would be very happy to see the stadium completed, so that their husbands could stay home more often and care for their own houses.

Westside civic clubs also made contributions of time, money and lunches to the effort. The AMBUCS and Optimist Club of Savannah, the Lions Club of Garden City, the Jaycees and Jaycettes of Pooler, Garden City and Port Wentworth were just a few of the organizations that made definite contributions.

"And through the whole operation," Clifton said, "there have been no arguments, disagreements, nor disharmony. I have never seen people work together so well as these west Chatham residents did toward a common goal. Many predicted that disagreements among individuals would be the down fall of the stadium, but nothing of the sort happened."

At the first football game, the citizens of west Chatham presented Pete Clifton with a plaque recognizing his "devoted and untiring" leadership in the stadium effort. John Mann, who presented the plaque, said he felt that Clifton had been the "guiding light and the hardest worker" throughout the building operation.

Clifton said, before the first game, that "every person at the game is going to have a feeling for the stadium that they wouldn't have if we hadn't built it ourselves. It will stand as a tribute to all these people who worked so hard, and they will probably remember it for as long as they live."

The Westside Stadium Corporation operated the stadium for the first fifteen years after construction. Then, in April, 1980, Garden City took over stadium operation and paid the participating communities for their interest in the project. Garden City has owned and operated the stadium since then and changed the name from Westside Stadium to Garden City Stadium.

Even after such an ambitious project, the volunteers were not finished. They went on to build the Westside Boy's Club. The club, which was dedicated on March 1, 1970, began with the idea that there should be a place for supervised activity for youngsters in the western part of Chatham County.

"We knew our kids needed some place to go and something to do," County Commissioner Pete Clifton, Chairman of the Westside Stadium Corporation board of directors said at the time. And board members along with other westside residents, "got ourselves

together and built something."

Work on the club was begun in June of 1969 at a site adjacent to the Westside Stadium on Wheathill Road.

State Senator John Riley was the principal speaker for the official opening which was attended by 400 guests.

Volunteers spent many nights, Saturdays and holidays building the club, which resulted from a desire for a gymnasium in the area and the desire of representatives of the Victor B. Jenkins Memorial Boys Club in Savannah to start branches in other areas.

Members of the Westside Stadium Corporation met with representatives of the Jenkins Club and decided to make the Westside project an affiliated club. The Jenkins Club donated \$5,000 for construction and a number of games and game tables to the new club.

Donations and volunteers cut the cost of the project from \$90,000 to about \$25,000. The club with its 10,000 square foot gym and 2,000 square foot play room was originally open to boys between the ages of seven and seventeen with a capacity of 600 to 700 members. It was operated as a boys club until 1979 when Garden City purchased the club building along with the Westside Stadium. Since that time the gym has been operated as part of the Garden City Recreation program.

Mr. Bazemore, who certainly did his share on those two major projects, also exhibited the volunteer spirit whenever the need arose.

When the operator of the road grader in Garden City quit and the streets (which were dirt at that time) got in bad shape, the city could not find a substitute. So, Mayor Pro Tem R. W. Bazemore said, "Give me the key to the thing." He took over and did a fine job shaping up the city streets until an operator was hired. That kind of attitude is indicative of the Garden City spirit of volunteerism.

The longest run as Mayor of Garden City came to an end in December, 1973. Rupert Bazemore left behind a glowing illustration of what the volunteer spirit can do to enhance the lives of all Garden City citizens.

One of the reasons Garden City has prospered is the men the citizens have elected to the office of Mayor. They have all been committed to making Garden City work without property taxes. That has not been an easy task but the fact that the city still has no such tax is a testimony to their leadership and contribution. December, 1973 was a turning point in the city's history. The Mayors who served prior to that time had the privilege of

establishing many "firsts" for the city. So they are fondly remembered as the one who was mayor when the fire and police departments were established, major roads were paved, street lights came to many areas, the stadium was built.

Those men who came to the office of Mayor after 1973; James M. DeLoach (December 1973 - December 1979), Ralph O. Kessler (December 1979 - December 1985), and E. James Burnsed (December 1985 - Present), found a city government with most of the necessary machinery in place. Much of the philosophy of running a city dated back to 1939. Surely these men could not be expected to hold the course set way back then in a much less complicated time. How could Garden City, without the revenue of a property tax, and the ever increasing pressure to provide more services to more people and businesses survive the turbulent years of 1973 to the present?

But Garden City has not only survived the years of radically increasing costs but has actually prospered through it all. Much of the credit must go to the citizens, the volunteers. But we must also recognize the contributions DeLoach, Kessler, and Burnsed have made in preserving a really, rather unique way of governing.

One testimony to their leadership is Garden City's participation in the Governor's All-Star City Program. Garden City accepted the invitation to enter the program sponsored by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and was the first City in Georgia to have an All-Star Steering Committee.

The purpose of the program was to encourage and assist small towns to improve their government services. The program provided an opportunity for self-evaluation and the development of an improvement plan. In each of a number of categories, professionals established standards which they agreed, concerned communities should meet or be working toward.

A participating community had to determine where it was presently, decide where it wanted to be and what should be the first step. Local government officials with the assistance of the citizens had to evaluate, select priorities and implement changes to meet the standards.

When a community felt it had met all the requirements for a particular category it had to submit a request for Standards Evaluation to the Bureau of Community Affairs. At an annual Governor's Awards Banquet, stars were awarded to communities meeting the standards.

Garden City's Steering Committee was appointed by Mayor James DeLoach and met for the first time in January, 1977. The first two stars were earned that same year. A third star was added in 1980 and the fourth star in 1981.

Garden City has always been "the city with no property taxes." Two of the reasons that has remained true for fifty years are leadership and volunteers. One way we know that volunteers working together makes for a better city is that Garden City has been certified a Four Star Governor's All -Star City. Garden City is one of the few cities in Georgia to receive all four stars.

Several hundred pages of information were compiled, including community surveys which many citizens helped complete. The city was evaluated and received a star in Community Service, Community Facilities, Community Administration, and Community Enrichment.

Those who helped to make Garden City an All-Star city were, James DeLoach, Ralph Kessler, Rupert Bazemore, Jimmy Winsted, John Mann, Gerald Ethridge, Bowen Jones, Milledge Jones, Lois Dasher, Viola Bell, Claude Hodges, Volaree Seckinger, Sue Cliett, James Parker, Jeff Hartley, Toby Roberts, Robert Brewton, Bill Drinwater, Pat Bohler, Lena Rowe, Roxie Bryant, Shari Roberts, Fred Blackburn, Paulette Zettler and Mel Moser.

Another tribute to Garden City's mayors, councilmen, employees, and volunteers is national media exposure. A city in the 1980s growing and expanding services without property taxes attracted a lot of attention. The CBS Television magazine show "Sixty Minutes" came to town to see if it was true and if so, how did Garden City do it.

The Associated Press ran a story on the national wire that was picked up by newspapers all over the country. Here is a summary of what they said about Garden City.

"When the people of Industrial City Gardens got together in 1939 to incorporate the community, they decided to operate it differently from the rest of the towns in the nation. They refused to enact a traditional property tax to pay the City's bills.

Naturally, everybody elsewhere scoffed at the idea. The experts said it couldn't be done. The property tax had been the principal means of urban revenue collection since the country began. The dire prediction was that, without it, Garden City would soon perish in a crunch of debt.

Well, the town didn't perish. It has in fact thrived. It is by almost any measure in fine economic health. It has never collected a dime in property tax, and it has never really needed to. It has always found alternative ways to raise money to meet the obligations of government. The Garden City budget this year (1984) is \$2 million. Robert Schwartz, the city administrator, says the town, like any town, has to pay for everything from police protection to sewers, and it's not at all easy without property tax. Some of the burden is relieved by a one cent local sales tax that raises a third of the budget. In addition the city has an

alcohol tax, a business tax, court fines, franchising fees and service charges.

Otherwise Garden City meets its debts by not making them. Schwartz says the town pinches its pennies until the metal gets warm. For one thing, there are only 65 people on the city payroll, police included. If three crews are required to tend to street cleaning, the city gets by with two.

That leads to one final way Garden City covers its obligations. Mayor Ralph Kessler said, "The City's volunteerism goes hand in hand with its attitude toward city government in general. We've never had any property tax, and everybody likes it that way. So, if something needs to be done, and there's not enough money in the budget, people get together and go out and do it themselves."

Schwartz says Garden City has some of the most civic minded residents in the nation. And they save the town thousands or even millions of dollars a year. "We have a volunteer fire department for one thing," Schwartz points out. "I'd hate to think how much it would cost us without it."

Garden City also has a city council that serves without pay. But it goes way beyond that. For example, Schwartz says Mayor Kessler owns several heating and air conditioning firms in the region, so when the thermostat goes out in a public building he fixes it for nothing.

Then there are the housewives who volunteer to stuff envelopes at city hall. And the retirees who handle the phones at the emergency medical center. Hundreds of other volunteers staff the recreation department, dig ditches and even help pave some streets.

Schwartz says its amazing. Garden City is like one big neighborhood, where everyone pitches in to help. And so everyone benefits. Officials say there will never be a property tax here, as long as there are sufficient numbers of volunteers.

The savings are not precisely measurable. But similar sized towns in Georgia charge property taxes that range from a few hundred dollars for individuals to many thousands of dollars for corporations. Officials guess that if the tax were collected in Garden City it would average about \$500 per family.

So the volunteers turn out with enthusiasm here. And the community has proven that hard work and innovation are as good as gold. But that was 1983-1984, what about now in 1989?

Garden City has reduced the number of city employees to 42, by contracting with a private firm for garbage collection. The personnel and operating budget is \$2.5 million dollars but there

is another \$2.4 million in capital projects underway. But Garden City still has no property taxes, thanks to the leadership and example of its mayor and councilmembers. And thanks to its hundreds of volunteers who indeed make all the difference.

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GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Garden City Police Department was officially established on October 1, 1951, when the Mayor and City Council hired R. P. Crowder as their first Police Officer/Chief of Police. City Council minutes reflect that the starting salary for our first police chief was one hundred dollars per month. Prior to that time, the position of City Marshall had been utilized to enforce the law in Garden City.

The first Mayor's Court was established two weeks later on October 15, 1951. At that time the Mayor of Garden City presided as Judge. Some time later, the Honorable Charles L. Sparkman, Jr. was appointed to the position of Recorder's Court Judge, a position he still holds.

Initially, the police department had only one full time employee. As their needs grew they added an additional full time officer, Fred O'Berry being the first, but for the most part used part time police officers to patrol the city. One of the first part time officers used by the police department was Lawrence Hill, a long time Garden City Council Member and presently Chairman of the Police Committee.

When a violation of the law occurred, the officer would log the information into a large docket book. The logged information would include the name of the officer, the name of the complainant and the name of the offender. It would also include a brief description of the incident. This practice continued until the mid 1960s, when the police department began using an official police report to record crime information. It was at this time that the State of Georgia began centralizing crime reporting, and passed a law making it mandatory for all police agencies to submit crime reports to the State for analysis.

In 1960, J. Q. James was appointed Chief of Police. Shortly thereafter, the department was expanded to four positions, the Chief and three officers. These officers were Curtis Thompson, Frenchie DeLoach and Roy Lynn. Roland Oglesby, who had left the department some time before, returned in January, 1962, as a Lieutenant. He replaced Frenchie DeLoach who resigned.

In 1963, J. Q. James resigned and Roland Oglesby was appointed Chief of Police. Curtis Thompson was promoted to Lieutenant and Roy Lynn became the department's first Sergeant. Charlie Driggers was promoted to Corporal.

In 1968, Roland Oglesby resigned and Curtis Thompson was appointed Chief. Roy Lynn was promoted to Lieutenant, a position he held until 1973 when he resigned to head Garden City's new sewage treatment plant. Charles Davis, who had just joined the department was promoted to Sergeant in 1968.

In 1969, the department was comprised of five men; Chief Thompson, Lt. Lynn, Sgt. Davis, and officers Tom Parker and Charlie Freeman.

In 1973, the State of Georgia mandated basic training for police officers. It became a requirement at that time for every



Clerk Robert Mingledorff, Judge Charles Sparkman, Ronald Oglesby, Lawrence Hill, Mayor Warren Oglesby, Chief Robert Crowder, officer Love, J.Q. James

police agency in Georgia to send all police officers who were hired after the date the new Act became law, to a police academy for official training and certification by the State. Persons who were employed prior to this new law being passed were "Grandfathered" in and were not required to undergo the basic training.

The department gradually expanded and in January, 1979, when the City of Garden City annexed out to Dean Forest Road, three additional officers were added to bring the total strength to ten.

At this time the police department began utilizing two man patrol shifts.



Garden City's second police chief J.Q. James

Curtis Thompson resigned as Chief in January, 1979, and two months later, Jeff Wood, a fourteen year veteran of the Savannah Police Department was appointed Chief of Police by Mayor James DeLoach. Two months later, the department's first detective position was created so that crime could be investigated in a more efficient manner. Later, in 1979, another position was approved for the department's first Identification Officer (Crime Scene Specialist) which brought the total sworn strenth of the department

to 12 officers.



Lawrence Hill, Roland Oglesby, Curtis Thompson, J.Q. James

Since 1979, the department has gradually expanded to its present total strength of 23 1/2 persons. The department currently has 18 sworn police officers (including the police chief), 2 full time clerical positions, 1 part time clerical position and three part time school crossing guards.

In 1984, the police department began a long term modernization process which included a total conversion to computers. The department is presently in the final phase of this process with the addition, this year, of mobile computer units in our police patrol

vehicles. These new additions will make available to the officer on the street, all of the resource data available in our host computer. It will make the officers much more efficient in the daily performance of their duties and will place at their disposal the most technologically advanced equipment available anywhere in the world today.

The importance of a well-trained and prepared police department cannot be overestimated. But there are a number of Garden City residents who know from personal experience just how important it is.

An article from the Savannah Morning News of Monday, September 14, 1981 serves as just one example of this truth.

"When a municipal court defendant fell to the floor in a convulsive seizure recently, most of those present in the Garden City Courtroom stood by helplessly, not knowing what to do.

But Garden City patrolman David Neal and Sgt. Frank Clifton leaped forward to insert a "bite stick" in the stricken man's mouth to prevent him from swallowing his tongue.

Seconds later, the situation was under control and the City's Emergency Medical Service Ambulance arrived to whisk the victim to the hospital for further medical treatment. Although shaken by the ordeal, the victim was released by hospital officials later that night."

"They were just great " said Garden City's Municipal Court Judge Charles L. Sparkman. "They went right to work while all the rest of us stood around and gawked. That man could have died right there in the courtroom if they hadn't known what to do."

Neal and Clifton were able to react swiftly and effectively because of special training they and several other Garden City policemen received this year to become fully certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

Just three days after the incident in municipal court, Sgt. Clifton apparently saved the life of a man who had collapsed outside a Garden City supermarket with an apparent heart attack. "The man was completely white. He appeared to be gone, " Clifton later recalled. "His wife was frantic, she thought he was dead."

But gradually the man's color came back as the officer performed cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Chief Jeff Wood's neighbor, Mrs. Peggy Spilliard, was another recipient of the police department's EMT training when she suffered a stroke that left her temporarily paralyzed.

"They're tops," she said as she recovered at home a month later. "My husband and daughter were here when it happened, and they didn't know what to do, but patrolman Larry Edwards came so quickly and he talked me through it. I owe my life to him and God."

You might think that being a policeman in a town like Garden City is pretty dull and pretty much routine. There may be some truth to that but every now and then something happens that really makes us appreciate the men who guard our streets, businesses and homes. Things like the emergency situations described above are certainly examples, and there are of course many others. In a

letter dated October 2, 1963, someone expressed what could be the sentiments of all Garden City citizens. The police department had very quickly captured a couple of bank robbers. The letter is addressed to J. Q. James, Chief of Police in Garden City at the time. It reads, "I want to express my appreciation for the decisive action you took which resulted in the apprehension of Freddie Dean Way and Jack Richard Lackore. Your performance was indeed outstanding. and I want you to know we are grateful for your alert and courageous conduct which brought this case to a solution much more rapidly than otherwise might have been possible. On behalf of my associates in our Savannah office I would like to offer our heartiest congratulations." The letter is signed, J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Garden City Fire Department

The Garden City Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1952. Minutes show a membership in June of that year of nineteen. Mr. C. G. Stafford served as the first fire chief. A Chevrolet truck chassis was purchased by the city in 1952. Mr. Ivan Goodrich of the Georgia State Ports assisted the department in getting a wooden body fitted to the truck. It became a hose wagon and the first piece of fire fighting equipment of the Garden City Fire department. This original fire truck has only recently been retired. It is housed at Fire Station Number 2 and will be used for parades and other events.

Permanent by-laws governing the operation of the department were adopted at the October 9, 1952 meeting. The following month, the first annual shrimp supper was held to raise funds for the department. Records show that the sum of \$300.00 was raised at that event.

Early 1954 held special significance for the Garden City Department with the arrival of a new Pirsch 500 gallon-per-minute pumper. It was mounted on a 1954 Ford, F-600 chassis. The new truck cost \$7,724.00 in 1954. Today, a pumper of equal size would cost more than seventy-seven thousand dollars.

The next few years saw the department trying to find suitable housing for the hose wagon, the pumper and equipment yet to be obtained. Efforts were made to purchase a number of lots for construction of a fire station, but at the time, finances were just not available.

Finally, a long term lease agreement with the Georgia Ports Authority made possible the start of a fire station project. Much of the building material and practically all the labor were given. The result was the truck housing part of Station Number 1 located on Main Street at the entrance to the Georgia Ports. That part of the building was completed in the late fifties.

The next giant step forward came in the early 1960s when a 1961 Ford, 750 gallon-per-minute pumper was purchased. This gave the department the capacity and versatility of two pumpers and a hose wagon.

From that time to the present, the fire department has endeavored to keep pace with the city's growth and provide suitable emergency equipment.

Toward the end of 1975, phase two of Fire Station Number 1 was completed. Again, as with the first phase, the addition was accomplished with donated material and volunteer labor. It provided much needed training rooms, offices, restrooms, and a kitchen area.



Chief Fred Blackburn, Mayor Warren Oglesby and Bill Williams

Through the years more equipment has been added to the department's inventory as the city's population and needs grew. In 1981, Fire Station Number 2 was built on Highway 80, in the Sharon Park, Woodlawn Terrace area to better serve the citizens in the newly annexed section. The main building was provided by the city, but the office, restrooms, kitchen area, and workroom were built by volunteers within the department.

Today the Garden City Fire Department is a well-trained, well-equipped fire fighting squad with five class A pumpers, ranging from 750 to 1250 gallon-per-minute capacity; one four-wheel-drive truck equipped for fighting brush fires; one 1500-gallon tanker

truck; one fire utility car; and one rescue and hazardous materials truck which is one of only twenty-five such trucks in Georgia certified by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. Oh yes, there is also an old hose wagon, the first fire fighting equipment of the Garden City Fire Department, now thirty-five years old, but still going.



Construction of Garden City Fire Station

Of all the organizations in the history of Garden City the volunteer fire department best fulfills the city's slogan; Volunteers Make The Difference.

Just how true that statement is, is borne out by an incident involving a Garden City Fireman in 1979. Dennis Temple was employed by Savannah electric and Power Company on May 7, 1979, when a lineman was

electrocuted by high voltage lines at Waters Avenue and 63rd Street in Savannah. Because of training received through the Garden City Fire Department, Temple was able to save the man's life. James DeLoach, Mayor at the time, said that by resuscitating the victim, Temple had given the gift of life.

A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Randall Heller of Port Wentworth reflects the above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty attitude of Garden City's firemen. "Our family required the services of the Garden City Emergency Medical Services last February 14 (1980), when our 4-year-old son Shawn was involved in a freak accident. He had been playing in the yard with some friends when a piece of wire pierced the pupil of his eye. Within minutes after they received the call, EMTs Harper and Hill arrived. We feel certain that the immediate and expert attention given our son prevented any further damage to his eye. However, their care did not stop after bringing Shawn, first to Candler and then St. Joseph's Hospital. They remained with him during the examinations and x-rays that followed. They treated our son as if he were one of theirs. Words can never express our gratitude for these find young men and the dedication to duty they displayed."

There are many other such accounts of the service rendered to the citizens of Garden City and surrounding areas by the Garden City Fire Department volunteers. But an article written by Lawrence Hill and published in the "Free State of Savannah" on June 18, 1959, really captures the spirit of the Garden City volunteers.



Garden City Fire Department 1973

Volunteers

In the big city of Savannah when a fire breaks out someone will sound the alarm by throwing a switch in one of the many fire alarm boxes that dot the city. The rest is done for the public by paid fire fighters which by the way are second to none, these public servants are a credit to the city in which they serve. They are ready twenty four hours a day to answer the many fire alarms turned in by the public.

But who will fight the fires that break out in the little communities around Savannah? The professional smokeeaters from our mother city will always answer a fire alarm but the time it takes to cover the distance they have to travel to fight a fire could mean the destruction of some home, or lives. The only solution to such a problem would be a fire department of their own.

A fire truck, several thousand feet of hose and the other vital items of equipment are necessary in the never ending battle against the fires that destroy property and sometimes life. Who will operate this equipment and answer the fire alarms both day and night? In a small community with little or no income the only answer is a department manned by the people.

Volunteer fire fighters, men from every profession and walk of life, from the high school student to the business man, who will let the business at hand wait while he helps fight his neighbor's fire.

This is a story of a community project, of people working for and succeeding in a common cause, a story that is repeated each time the fire alarm sounds.

Like the many crippling diseases of mankind fire also has no choice time to do its damage, if you are a volunteer fireman you answer the call day or night. It may be cold and raining out but your fellow man needs your help now, ten or fifteen minutes from now may be too late. The huge siren atop the water storage tank sends out it's spine tingling message, an eerie sound in the night, screaming for you to get up from your dinner or leave your easy chair and favorite television program.

Grabbing your rain coat and hat you make a mad dash for the family jalopy and race for the fire station, down the street ahead of you cars are pulling out of driveways in a race against time to answer the fire alarm. As you approach the fire station cars are already stopping and men are running for the fire trucks, one of which is a pumper and the other a hose truck.

The siren has stopped it's cry for help, you know by this that someone has answered the phone in the fire house and is getting the location of the fire. Jumping on the tailboard of the truck as it careens out of the firehouse you glance back at the hastily scrawled words on the black board, "Rossignol Hill."

The man that answered the phone wrote the general location of the fire on the blackboard so the ones who arrived too late to catch one of the fire trucks would know where to go.

Up in the cab of the truck the two way radio blares out "car fourteen to number twenty," the driver of the truck picks up the

mike and answers car fourteen which is one of the police cars. In less time than it takes to write about it the driver of the truck gives "fourteen" the "ten twenty" of the fire and the route he is taking. "Ten four" the voice on the radio barked and the police car came flying out of a street ahead of the fire truck with its red light revolving and siren screaming, clearing the highway ahead of all traffic for the procession of fire trucks and private cars full of volunteers.

As you draw closer to the location of the fire you can see the smoke and red glow in the sky from the flames. You know that fire already has a good start as the truck turns into Davis Avenue. The flames already enveloped the little frame shanty, one of the many that make up part of Rossignol Hill.

The big truck lurches to a halt at a fire hydrant, you are a hoseman, trained in your spare time for what you are about to do. Grabbing the end of the big hose on the truck you hit the muddy street, loop the hose around the plug and hang on as the truck speeds down the street with the hose falling behind like a big snake. Before the truck can stop at the fire you have the hose connected to the plug and wait with wrench in hand for the signal to turn the water on.

On the hose playing water into the flames is an electrician and a clerk. At the controls of the pumper is a high school student, strange perhaps to see a teenager with thousands of dollars worth of equipment at his command but handling it in such a way that it would be a credit to any professional fire fighter. This is no slip shod organization by far. It is organized down to the last detail and every man who is a volunteer knows his job and then some. He can and must be able to pinch hit in the event there is a shortage of help and he must know how to do several jobs as a volunteer.

The flames have been extinguished and the main purpose of your job is through but there is work yet to be done. There are hoses to be rolled and picked up from the mud and washed clean, then hung up to dry. Dry hoses have to be placed on the truck ready for use at a moments notice. It is work regardless of what angle you look at it from but there is no complaining to be heard.

As a volunteer fireman you are a part of an organization that has a great responsibility to the public. This group of volunteers must answer any and every fire call regardless of how small it may be. It is not and must not be second to any organization that is of service to its people. Second best is not good enough for any fire fighting group.

A volunteer group of fire fighters must function the same as the professionals and in doing so they are able to work with the professionals at big fires. These volunteers are capable of

lending a hand at any fire.

There are regular meetings to attend. These are necessary for the business end of the department. You will have to attend practice sessions to stay acquainted with the equipment you will have to operate at one time or the other. Your equipment must be kept clean and in working condition at all times. If you have a fire house it also must be kept in good repair and there is no place in a well organized department for rundown, unsafe equipment and buildings.

The expense of a volunteer fire department is the greatest at it's beginning when the initial equipment has to be purchased. The upkeep and buying of extra equipment is obtained largely from suppers given by the firemen and donations from grateful citizens and business establishments who recognize and appreciate the job these men are doing.

I don't recall seeing a woman fire fighter but I know that in the neighboring communities of Savannah where there are volunteer fire departments behind every man there is a woman. A wife or mother who is responsible for preparing and serving suppers for the purpose of raising funds for improvements. There are even a few sleepy heads that would never make it to a fire in the middle of the night if it were not for the little woman shaking him from slumber. The women's auxiliary is a vital part of any volunteer fire department and does much to make such a department serve its community better.

From the top of the hose rack, where I am waiting for the wet hose to be hoisted up, I look down below at my neighbors who make up my community. There are men of different religions, men who disagree on politics, some with plenty and some who are in need of plenty. Men of all ages, sizes and walks of life but from my view point they are alike, working for a common cause. Men working to make their community a safer, better place in which to live. They are volunteers.

Since this was written in 1959, there have been five women firefighters in the Garden City Fire Department.

Memories of Recreation in Garden City
by Ronnie Huggins

I have been given the task of recalling and documenting my memories of recreation in Garden City. I have talked to many people involved in recreation and I have tried to record many dates and events. I hope that I have not left out too many names and events in this history. There were no official records kept for many years and I am sure many people have their own memories of these early years. I have listed the names of the citizens of Garden City who served the Garden City Recreation Commission.

In the early forties, "Recreation" for the young people in Garden City consisted of pick-up games played on the sandy streets or on vacant lots. After the second World War (around 1946) a young boy's team was organized with Mr. J. Q. James as coach and Mr. Otis Morgan as manager. John Crosby's Service Station on Highway 17,



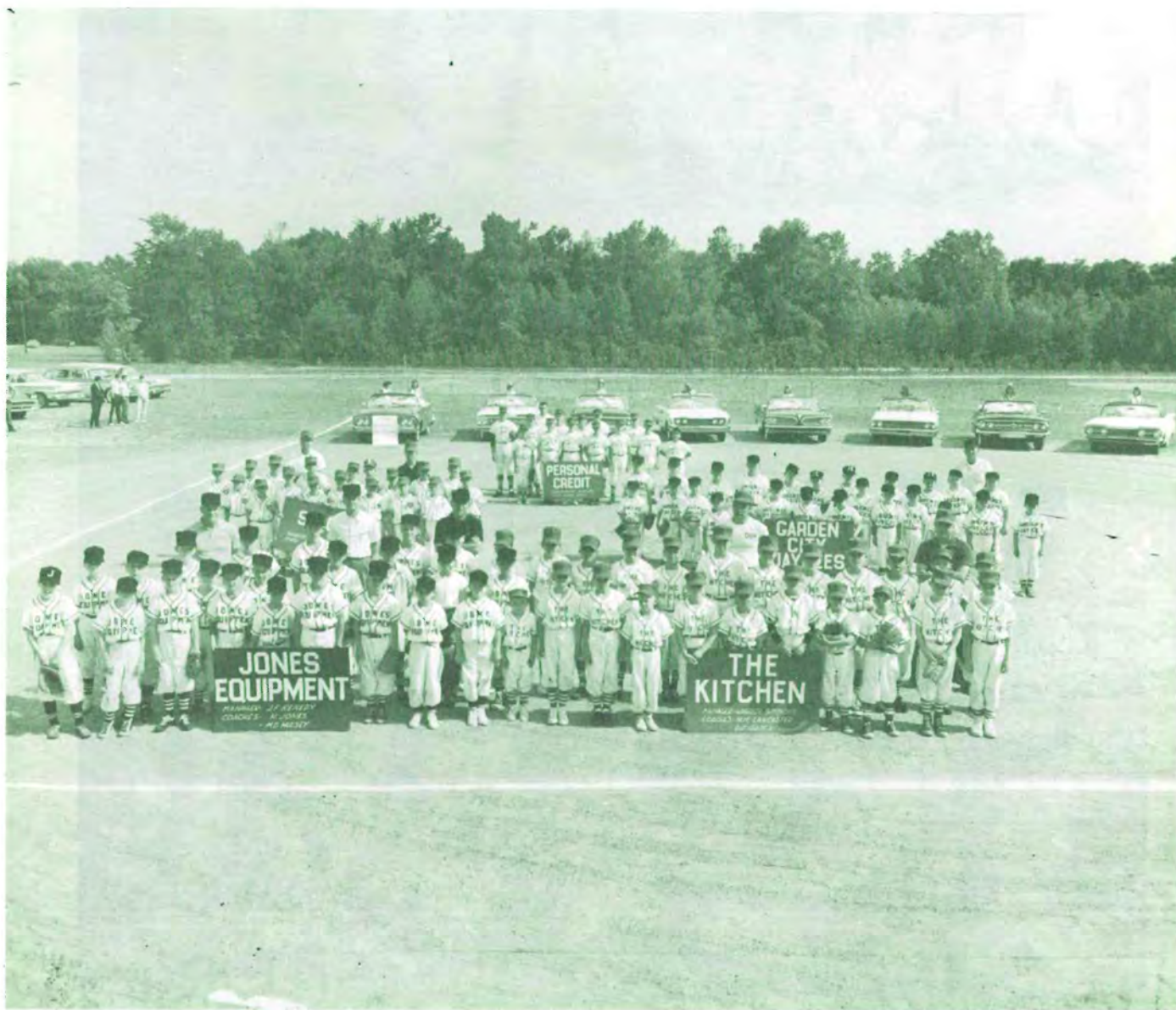
First baseball team, sponsored by Crosby Service Station.

where the Fire Department now stands, was the sponsor. These young boys shared a baseball diamond with the National Guard near the Georgia Ports just behind Crosby's Service Station.

As a young boy of nine in 1948, I remember that we did not have a place to play ball. A group of us asked permission to turn a vacant field on Highway 21 (where Piggly Wiggly now stands) into a ball field. This lot was head high with broom sage. Permission was granted by the service station owner. Joe Oglesby, James Getty, Loe Noble Carter, Robert Tyson, Newell Kessler, Alex Smith and a few whose names I cannot recall, dug base lines and built a

pitcher's mound. We cut trees from the woods and my father gave us some chicken wire to build a baseball backstop. Our coach was Charles Smith. His qualifications for coach were his willingness to coach and a truck to haul us to our games. The truck was the big thing!

In the early fifties a few Garden City kids traveled to Port Wentworth in order to play ball. The Savannah Sugar Refinery sponsored a team that played in the American Legion League.



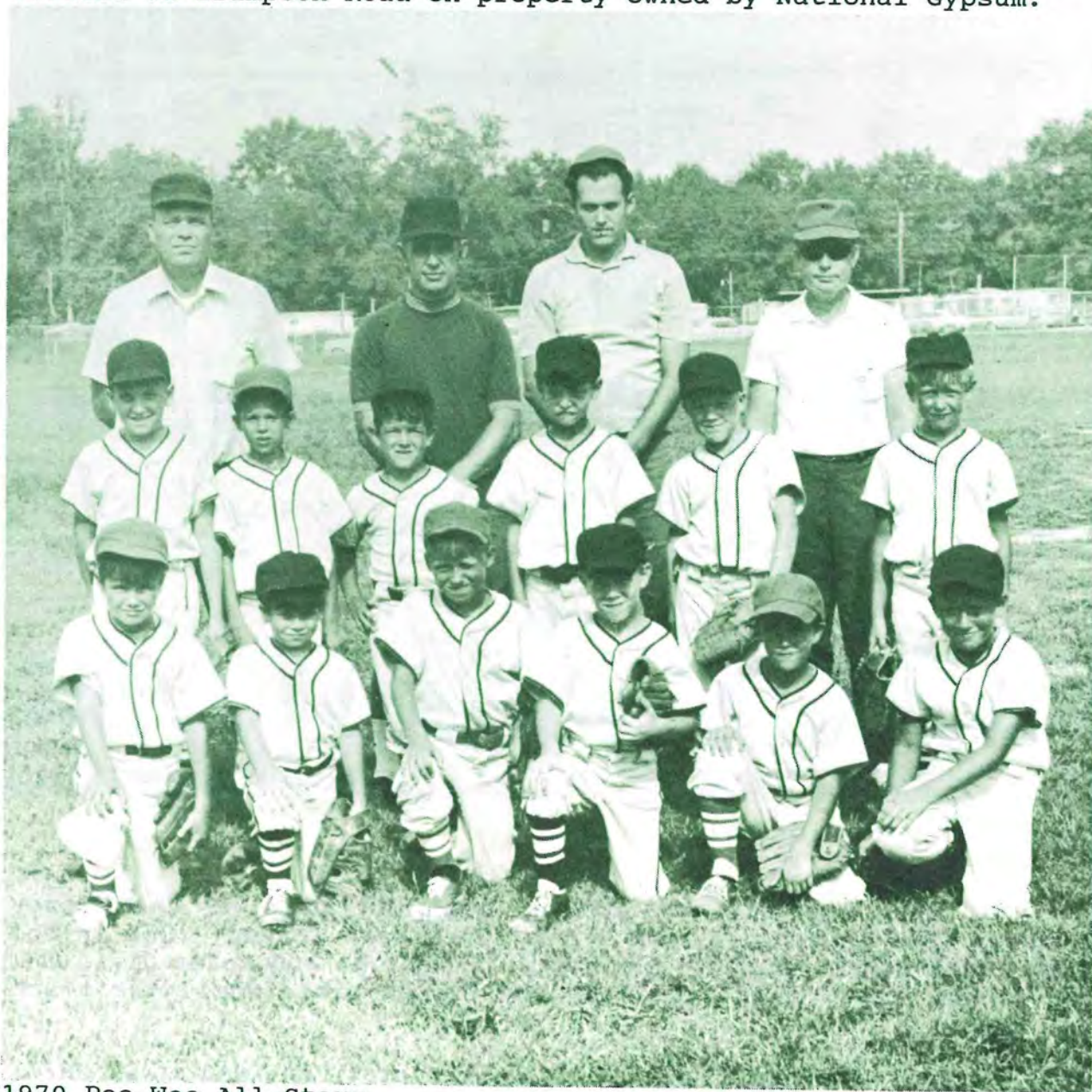






By the Mid-fifties there were some teams being organized which played in a Port City League. The citizens were beginning to realize the need for organized activities. In 1958, the Mayor of Garden City, Mr. Warren Oglesby, appointed the first Recreation Commission of all volunteer members with the full support of the city. The Recreation Commission formed five boy's baseball teams and in 1961 formed the first girls softball teams. Uniforms, balls and bats were furnished for the kids. Guidance was provided by the volunteer coaches. They also organized a pre-teen and teen club that held dances once a month at the Garden City Community House on Varnedoe Avenue. A King and Queen were crowned at the Christmas

Dance each year. Some of the projects of the early commission included completion of a combined basketball and volleyball court on the Community House property. This was used for various activities sponsored by the city. From the very beginning, all of this was made possible by the contributions of the businessmen in Garden City, the City of Garden City and the volunteers involved in the Recreation Commission. A little later, additional baseball diamonds were added. One was located at the end of Sparkman Drive on property owned by the Chatham Dress Factory. Another was located on Brampton Road on property owned by National Gypsum.



1970 Pee Wee All-Stars



Garden City Team of 1970

In 1963 football was started with the help of the Groves Booster Club and the Jaycees. Two teams were formed. One in the age 12 and under division and one in the age 14 and under division. The teams played their games on the Groves field where the track is today.

In 1964 the City Council purchased a track of land on Big Hill Road. The Chairman of Recreation was J. W. Harrell and the Mayor was Rupert Bazemore. One Saturday morning, they met with others and began clearing and bulldozing an old house down. This was the

birth of Bazemore Ball Park. Four baseball diamonds were built over the next few years. By this time there were ten baseball teams and two softball teams.

Also in 1964, the many citizens from throughout West Chatham County and the recreation commission helped build the Westside Stadium. In 1979, this stadium was renamed Garden City Stadium.

In 1965 the commission held the first Annual Rebel Bowl in the new stadium. It was a great thrill for these young football players to play teams from all over the Coastal Empire. The 24th Annual Rebel Bowl will be played November, 1989. This Bowl has become a November tradition throughout the South. In fact, many teams come each year from other states.

In the early 1970's the Recreation Commission built the Tennis Complex at the Community Center. I remember Bobby Bohler, Eugene Olgesby, Matt Denmark and many others working with the concrete all day on Saturday and early Sunday morning before Church. I mention this only because it was like so many other projects that the volunteers took upon themselves to complete. From the very beginning to the present, these people have given of themselves out of a true love for their community. By this time, the baseball program had eight teams and the girls had six softball teams. The football program had grown to four teams. The commission started expanding the fields and fencing at Bazemore Park to make room for the growth.

In the Mid-70s the Garden City Recreation Commission along with other Westside Recreation programs formed the Coastal Athletics Association (C.A.A.) League. In the past we played all of our games at Bazemore Park with our own teams competing against each other. We now began to travel to other Westside communities to play their teams in the new league. For at least the last decade, the Garden City Commission has furnished the C.A.A. with a chairman. Our chosen representative has always been one of our volunteer commission members.

Basektball started in the Mid-70's using the tennis courts and parking lots as temporary practice areas. Basketball games were played in the Mercer Middle School Gymnasium. The program was growing so fast that it was becoming increasingly difficult for us to get the necessary rental time at the gymnasium to play the games. By 1978 it had become clear that the expense of renting the gym was too costly. The Garden City council soon began the negotiations to purchase what was then known as the Boy's Club Gym. This gym was built in the mid-60s behind the stadium on Wheathill Road.

In December of 1979, Mayor Ralph Kessler gave the Recreation Commission an early Christmas gift. He gave us the keys to the Boys Club Gym. Once again Recreation in Garden City began to grow.

The Commission started renovating and building concession areas. The City Council approved the necessary funds to install new gym/skating floors. Basketball and skating became very popular recreational activities for our youth. By late 1980 we had more than tripled the number of rental skates to meet the necessary demand. In 1980 and 81 we initially started skating on both Friday and Saturday nights with at least 60 or 70 kids attending each night. Soon the skating attendance had grown to over 300 on most weekends. In the early 80's our Basketball program grew by leaps and bounds thanks to the new gym. In 1981 we added to the gym, a new game room.

The Recreation department began to really grow in the decade of the 80's.

In 1981 a new ball diamond was built with lights, and lights were installed on one of the older existing diamonds at Bazemore Park. Six small fields were built in the parking lot at the Stadium

In 1982 the sports program consisted of 18 Little League teams, 4 football teams, and 12 basketball teams. The City Council hired a fulltime Recreation Director to help the overwhelmed volunteers.

In 1983 a new concession building with a coaches meeting room above was built at the new diamond. An adult women's softball league began.

In 1983 a new playground, the Bertha Kessler Tott park was built, next to the Tennis courts at the Community Center.

In 1985 a new softball diamond was built for Girls ages 8 and under next to the Gym, where they play all their home games.

The Recreation department now oversees, the Community Center with its tennis courts, playground, Griffin Street playground, five ball diamonds at Bazemore Ball Park, seven diamonds, football stadium, swimming pool, and gym all at the Wheathill Sports Complex.

In the short history of our Recreation Commission in Garden City there have been many citizens working for better recreation in our community, some as coaches, some as commissioners or both. But in each decade there have been those that have shown a special dedication and commitment, I have tried to list these men and women in the Appendix attached.

Over the last three decades of a City appointed Recreation Commission our elected officials have increased their support each year to its present level. However, it has always been and still remains the vision, inspiration and driving force of its volunteer

Coaches, and Commission members that has provided the quality of life in Garden City that we all have enjoyed. Furthermore, our volunteer Recreation department has achieved significant state wide recognition as a top rated Recreation department and has been used as a model for other communities.

ROYCE SMITH DAY

One of the greatest success stories in the history of Garden City Recreation is that of Royce Smith. Royce grew up in Garden City, playing football in the city's program, then at Mercer Junior High, and finally at Groves High School, where he was an outstanding player. So outstanding in fact that he received a grant-in-aid to play football for the University of Georgia. There he had a brilliant career as an offensive guard. During his senior year, a spectacular season for the Bulldogs with a 10-1-0 record and the Gator Bowl Championship, Royce received many honors. He was named to twelve national all-star teams. He was chosen for the All-Southeastern Conference Team, he received the Jacob's Award as the S.E.C.'s outstanding blocker, he was the permanent captain of the 1971 Bulldogs, was part of the Gator Bowl Championship team and was chosen to play in the Senior Bowl all-star game in Mobile, Alabama.

But greatest of all, Royce Smith was selected as an All-America football player representing the University of Georgia. Garden City and surrounding communities were understandably proud of Royce Smith and his accomplishments. It was decided that he should be honored appropriately by his home town. The proclamation honoring Smith and setting aside a "Royce Smith Day" was signed by Garden City Mayor, Rupert W. Bazemore, Savannah Mayor, John P. Rousakis, and Chairman Robert F. Lovett of the Chatham County Commission.

On January 14, 1972, Royce arrived at Travis Field where he was greeted by hundreds of dignitaries, friends and well-wishers. A motorcade formed and drove through Pooler, then on to Port Wentworth City Hall where the red carpet was rolled out by city officials. Then they proceeded to Garden City where Royce became the only person in history to receive the key to the city. The caravan ended at Groves High School where a "Meet Royce Hour" followed.

At 7:30 that evening Royce was honored at a banquet in the Groves High School Cafeteria. Groves principal, Rife English, served as Master of Ceremonies. Georgia head football coach, Vince Dooley, spoke on the occasion saying, "Royce has had an opportunity to go many places and meet a lot of people because of football. He's been to New York for television. Mobile for the Senior Bowl game and Athens. He has a lot more places to go and people to meet. Friends are silver but old friends are gold. That's why he's being honored tonight."

Others who attended from the University of Georgia were John Donaldson, assistant coach and teammates, Mixon Robinson, Kindall Keith and Chuck Heard.

Royce received several gifts that night including a plaque from the Garden City Recreation Department where he began his football career. A framed Number 80 jersey, the number he wore at Groves. The number was retired in his honor. He also received a resolution from the Garden City Lions Club.

Finally, three members of the Royce Smith Day Committee, Jay Harrell, Billy Augustine and Dean Dunham, presented Royce with a large gift-wrapped box. When Royce opened the box he found another wrapped box. When he opened that one, he found another. When he eventually got to the prize, it was a toy automobile. Royce was clearly confused until someone told him to look on the underside of the toy car. There he found a set of keys belonging to a 1972 Chevrolet Chevelle parked just outside the cafeteria, a gift from the citizens of West Chatham County.

He was also given a special Georgia license plate, RS66AA, which indicated, Royce Smith, number 66, All-Amercian.

"My eyes have gone from dry to wet. I've been trying to hold it back," Royce said after receiving the car. "If you would open me up, take out my heart and show it, it would be 'swollen tremendously. No words I know will express my feelings."

A few days later Royce did find words to express how he felt. In a letter, dated January 20, 1972 and addressed to the people of West Chatham County, he said, "Please remember me as the boy who broke your window with a baseball, the boy who used your backyard as a shortcut, the hungry guy who showed up at your house at lunchtime, the boy who participated in your recreation program, the boy whom you helped to improve himself, but most of all as the fellow who takes pride in saying that he grew up on the Westside."

Its like somebody said that night, seventeen years ago, "When you help a boy learn to play ball, you just never know where it will lead."

Another Garden City resident who made it big in sports was John Holmes. He is the son of Mrs. Thelma Holmes and the late Mr. Remer Holmes, the second of seven children.

John attended Tompkins High School and played football for the Wolverines for four years. At Tompkins he was lineman of the year in both 1960 and 61. He was a member of the state championship team of 1960, captain of the 61 team and chosen to play on the all-city team that same year, and played on the city and regional championship team in 1961.



Royce Smith accepts the keys to a new car given to him by the citizens of West Chatham County.

John Holmes received a four year grant-in-aid to play football for the renowned Florida A & M Rattlers. There, he was rookie of the year in 1962 and lineman of the year in 1964 and 65. He was one of the first black athletes to play in the Blue-Gray All-Star Football Game on December 25, 1965.

John went on to play professional football with the Miami Dolphins of the American Football League. Later he played with the Orlando Panthers of the Continental League who were league champs in 1968-69. John was chosen lineman of the year for his efforts in the 1969 season.

Today, John Holmes is a successful businessman. he owns Sun Country Distributors Trucking Company in Orlando, Florida. He is married to Claretha Bowers, his high school sweetheart who teaches second grade and they have a son, Antonio and a grandson. John lived at 3801 Third Street in Garden City.



It was not until the time of Mayor Ralph Kessler that recreation opportunities in Garden City were fully integrated. As a result leaders in the black community provided recreational opportunities separate from the city.

The first supervised activities were provided in the late 1930s by Chatham County in the area where Garden City Stadium now stands. There, boys and girls met three evenings a week to play softball, tennis and other games for the younger children. The late Mrs. Mae Aiken was the playground supervisor.

During 1957-58, with permission from the Board of Education and assistance from the County Recreation Department, Viola Bell and Charlie Bryant organized and operated indoor recreational activities for boys and girls from the Garden City / Woodville areas. The program was housed at Tompkins High School.

On June 15, 1967 at the Board of Education building an emergency recreation meeting was held. Doug Weathers of WTOC radio was elected chairman of the committee. Viola Bell was there representing Garden City target areas. Through this effort, several public schools and playgrounds were made available for

supervised recreational activities. Grants from the Economic Opportunity Authority and Chatham County Recreation made it possible to provide twenty-two recreation leaders and nineteen aids for the project. Haynes Elementary School and playground was one of the schools made available.

In 1966, the Garden City Progressive Community Club was organized and began to provide recreational opportunities for the community. You may read of some of the clubs accomplishments in this book under "Organizations."

During the term of Mayor Ralph Kessler, the Garden City recreational program became fully integrated and Mrs. Eloise Johnson was appointed to the Recreation Commission.

SCHOOLS

The first schools in the area of Garden City were for black students since the black community was well established long before the Industrial City Gardens development brought numbers of whites to the area.

One of the original schools was the Gary School, named for its owner and principal/teacher, Ms. J. Gary. It was located on Wheathill Road.

Another early school was The Sengstacke Academy which was operated by Ms. Rebecca Sengstacke in the Potter's Hall. That building remained at the site of the Garden City roadside park until the early 1980s.

Ms. Sengstacke was assisted by her brother Alex, who served as principal and teacher. The school was relocated to West Bay Street at Roberts Street where the West Side Comprehensive Health Center is now located. There, Ms. Sengstacke built and operated the school until the early 1930s.

Tompkins High School

Woodville School, now known as Sophronia M. Tompkins High School, was built in 1919. There, blacks from the area attended elementary school. Junior high students went to Cuyler School on West Anderson Street and then to Beach High School as seniors. Many students had to walk to Beach High School because there was no transportation available for many years.

Integration

There have been many prominent black land-owners in Garden City over the years. Some of them were the Edwards, Adams, Watsons, Coopers, Gibbons, Wilson, Scarbora, Minus, and Bannens. When the Board of Education started searching for sites to build schools in the area, the black land-owners held some of the best sites. As a result they sold their property for the purpose of building schools.

By the early 1960s Garden City elementary schools were integrated. In 1963 Groves High School was integrated. Among the first group of blacks to graduate from Groves were two Garden City residents. They were Sadie Simms and Delores Cooper. Sadie Simms is the great granddaughter of the late Robert Edwards. The Edwards family was one of the first to relocate from the plantations along the river to what is now Garden City. They were the first owners of the property where Robert W. Groves High School is now located.

In 1979 the Board of Education was preparing to bus Garden

City students to other areas and students from other areas to Garden City to achieve racial balance in the public schools. A committee was formed by Garden City Mayor, James DeLoach to request that all Garden City students be allowed to attend school in Garden City. Viola Bell represented the black community on that committee. The request was granted and all students living in the area attended community schools.

The people of Garden City have always been interested in the education of their children. At the beginning of the development of the community. Garden City children were bused to Port Wentworth Elementary School.

The junior and senior high young people rode the street car to Whitaker and Broughton Streets in downtown Savannah. From there they walked to Chatham Junior High at Oglethorpe and Drayton Streets or Savannah High at Bull and Oglethorpe Streets. When the new Savannah High School was built at Washington Avenue and thirty-fifth Street the old Savannah High became Commercial High School and Garden City students were bused to these schools.

Sprague Elementary School

It was not until 1953 that the Garden City area had its own public school. In that year Benjamin O. Sprague School was built. When the school opened, children were served in grades one through seven. There have been many changes in the school's organizational structure and population served over the past thirty-two years. At various times in its history the school has housed grades one through four, one through six, and kindergarten through third grade. The population has gone from 100% white when first opened in 1953 to 60% black and 40% white at the present time. Students attending Sprague come from garden City, Tremont Park and Liberty City.

The school plant stands as originally built except for one major change. The auditorium was converted into a much-needed enlarged Media Center.

Sprague is the feeder school for Haynes Elementary School which serves grades four and five, Mercer Middle School, and Groves High School.

Sprague provided the first kindergarten services for handicapped children in 1974, with six students enrolled.

Sprague has been served by six principals; Mrs. Mildred Parnelle, 1953-1965; Mrs. Betty Klein, 1965-1968; Mr. J. R. Calhoun, 1968-1973; Mr. Robert Priestley, 1973-1985; Mrs. Jimmie McGraw 1985-1988; Dr. Bertha A. Tuten, 1988.

Through the years, parents have supported Sprague School by

an active parent-teacher organization. Mrs. Clayton Hodges served as the first PTA president. Presently, Mrs. Terry VanHorn is leading the Parent-Teacher Organization.

The school is named for Benjamin Oxnard Sprague who was, from 1911 to 1915, the engineer and general manager of the Adeline Sugar Factory of Adeline, Louisiana. With the organization of the Savannah Sugar Refining Corporation, in 1916, he became engineer and designer of the Savannah plant. He later became general superintendent of the company. Then in December, 1929, he succeeded the late William S. Pardonner as president of Savannah sugar. He served as president until his death on January 31, 1944.

Robert W. Groves High School

Robert W. Groves High School is an educational institution that has influenced the lives of thousands of individuals in West Chatham County during the past thirty years. Its official groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 4, 1957. Since that time it has provided academic and vocational education for over thirty thousand teenagers. The academic and athletic programs, service activities, and clubs have drawn support and commendations from the entire community.

Groves was the second four-year high school to be constructed in West Chatham County. It opened its doors to its first classes in the fall of 1958. The bulk of the original faculty was transferred from Savannah's Commercial High School; and from the beginning, the curriculum, at Groves was designed to meet the needs of all students, with college preparatory as well as business and/or technically oriented courses being offered.

The school is named for Robert W. Groves, Sr., a former business and civic leader of Chatham County. During his lifetime, Mr. Groves was President of Strachan Shipping Company and of Atlantic Towing Company. For many years he was a director of the Savannah Bank and Trust Company and served as board chairman from 1942 until his death. Besides his many business activities, Mr. Groves was very active in community affairs. He was particularly interested in young people and their educational needs. He demonstrated his concern by giving both moral and financial support to all programs at Groves High School.

Mr. Groves' Scottish heritage was honored by the choice of the school colors, black and gold, which are derived from his family's clan plaid. The school's nickname, "The Rebels," and its symbol, "The Bagpiper," were also chosen to honor Mr. Groves. In all activities, Groves' students have tried to live up to the independent traditions established by the Scottish Highlanders of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Groves is located in Garden City on a large and well-

landscaped site. The original building was enlarged in 1967-68 with additions to the library, cafeteria, and gym. The loggia was enclosed, which provided one additional classroom and faculty workroom.

Currently, Groves serves a high school population of just over eight hundred students drawn from the communities of Garden City, Port Wentworth, Pooler, and West Savannah.

Education at Groves has been enhanced by effective administrators. In the past thirty years, there have been nine principals. Mr. Donald M. Gray opened the school in September, 1958, and remained until March, 1964. His successor, Mr. J. Rife English, who has the longest tenure to date, served until January 1971. Mr. Herman L. Harley was principal for the remainder of the year and was followed by Mr. Adam R. Andrews, who held the principalship from September, 1971, until June, 1973. Mr. James J. King came to Groves in September, 1973, and served as principal until 1977. He was followed by Mr. Frank Tyson, who served as principal from 1977 until May 1982. With only a few weeks remaining in the 1981-82 school year, Mr. Robert Cresswell became the next principal until July, 1985. Mr. Wayne Bland, a Groves graduate, then assumed the role of chief administrator. The current principal is Mrs. Lillian M. Akins. An experienced administrator, she has served formerly as assistant principal of H. V. Jenkins High School and principal of Pooler Elementary School.

Groves' current assistant principals are Mr. William Thaggard and Mr. Sam Manior. Mr. Thaggard has served in his present position for thirteen years. Prior to this, he served fourteen years as a science teacher at Groves. Mr. Manior transferred to Groves from Myers Middle School this year, after coaching at Savannah High School.

The faculty at Groves has remained fairly stable. A number of current teachers have over twenty years of service at this institution. They are Wayne Seay 24 years, Jackie Cowart 23 years and Glenda Hartley 22 years. It is interesting to note that a number of the teachers, are also alumni.

During the 1982-83 school year, Groves was combined with the school that is currently known as Secondary Technical Center, which is located on the west side of Wheathill Road, to form Groves Comprehensive High School. Some academic classes were taught on the west campus, but that building was used primarily for trade and industrial classes. Students were bused from selected secondary schools in Chatham County to take courses there. The following year, Secondary Technical Center was made a separate school once more. Many students from Groves still take advantage of their course offerings.

Groves has always strived to serve the needs of the community. For a time, Groves served as a community education facility, offering night courses that were available to the general public.

Groves was also the original home of The Academy, a summer program designed to serve academically gifted students from both public and private schools in the community. The Academy has expanded since its beginning and has been moved to a location that is more central to the Savannah area.

Groves was chosen to represent Chatham County on the secondary school level during the 1983-84 school year as a School of Excellence. Not only does Groves offer advanced placement courses for the academically talented students who choose to take college level classes, it also has many courses designed to serve the special needs of the handicapped. It is the only public secondary school to offer classes for the hearing impaired and the multi-handicapped. In addition to these, classes for the learning disabled, the educable mentally retarded, and those with speech impairments are available.

Several important traditions have been established at Groves. Two student publications provide a record of each year. They are the school newspaper, The Big G, and the yearbook, The Sentinel.

In the spring each year, the Omega Beta Club sponsors Honors Night, at which time students who have distinguished themselves academically are presented awards. Outstanding athletes are honored at Sports Awards Night. Some of the key social events have been Homecoming, the Mr. and Miss Groves contest, the Junior Ring Dance, and band and chorus concerts. Seniors look forward to the Prom, Grad Nite, Class Night, the senior picnic, baccalaureate services, and graduation each year. Groves has many clubs and organizations available for student participation. The Anchor Club at this school is the oldest in the state of Georgia. Among the other organizations for students are the Alpha Beta Club, the Omega Beta Club, the National Honor Society, D.E.C.A., and V.O.C.A., Groves is well represented each year by a Quiz Bowl Team.

Groves students participate in many athletic activities. They are represented by football, basketball, baseball, softball, and track and field teams, as well as many others. Over the years Groves teams have won numerous Region and City championships.

Since the beginning of Groves, strong organizations like the Parent-Teacher Student Organization, Booster Club and Band Backers have been a Groves trademark. The Westside Community has and continues to actively support the school.

The people who are involved with Groves--its students, staff, alumni, and other members of the community -- can take pride in its

thirty-year history and anticipate the future with confidence.

Mercer Middle School

Mercer Junior High School, the first environment-controlled school in Georgia, was opened September 4, 1962. It initially was a thirty classroom building with an enrollment of 964 seventh, eighth and ninth grade students. Mercer was enlarged in 1967 to provide eight more classrooms for an enrollment of approximately twelve hundred students.

Mercer Junior High became Mercer Middle School in 1975 when the Chatham County School system changed to the Middle School concept. The sixth grade was added to Mercer at the beginning of the 1980-1981 school year. Mercer was the only middle school in Chatham County with sixth grade until the 1985-86 school term.

Throughout its history, Mercer's faculty and students have embraced the ideals of the man for whom the school is named, George Anderson Mercer. He was a Savannah attorney who served as president of the Board of Education from 1883 until his death in 1907.

In 1983, Mercer was named as a "School of Excellence" and reached the state semi-finals of that competition. The school motto, "Nulli Secumbres" (Second to None), continues to be reflected in all areas of school life at Mercer.

The school operates under the leadership of a principal and two assistant principals. The first principal, Mr. J. Rife English, was appointed in 1962 and served until 1965. The present principal, Mrs. Virginia DeLoach, was appointed in 1977. Mrs. Lillie Ellis and Mr. Donald Gervais serve as assistant principals.

Martin G. Haynes Elementary School

The Martin G. Haynes Elementary School was dedicated on October 15, 1963. The first principal was Mrs. Eunice Wilson Clay and the first president of the P.T.A. was Mildred Johnson.

The school was named for Martin Greene Haynes. He was born in Athens, Georgia and was educated at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Haynes taught at Beach-Cuylar Junior High School. In 1935 he was appointed principal of Maple and West Broad Street Schools.

Private Schools

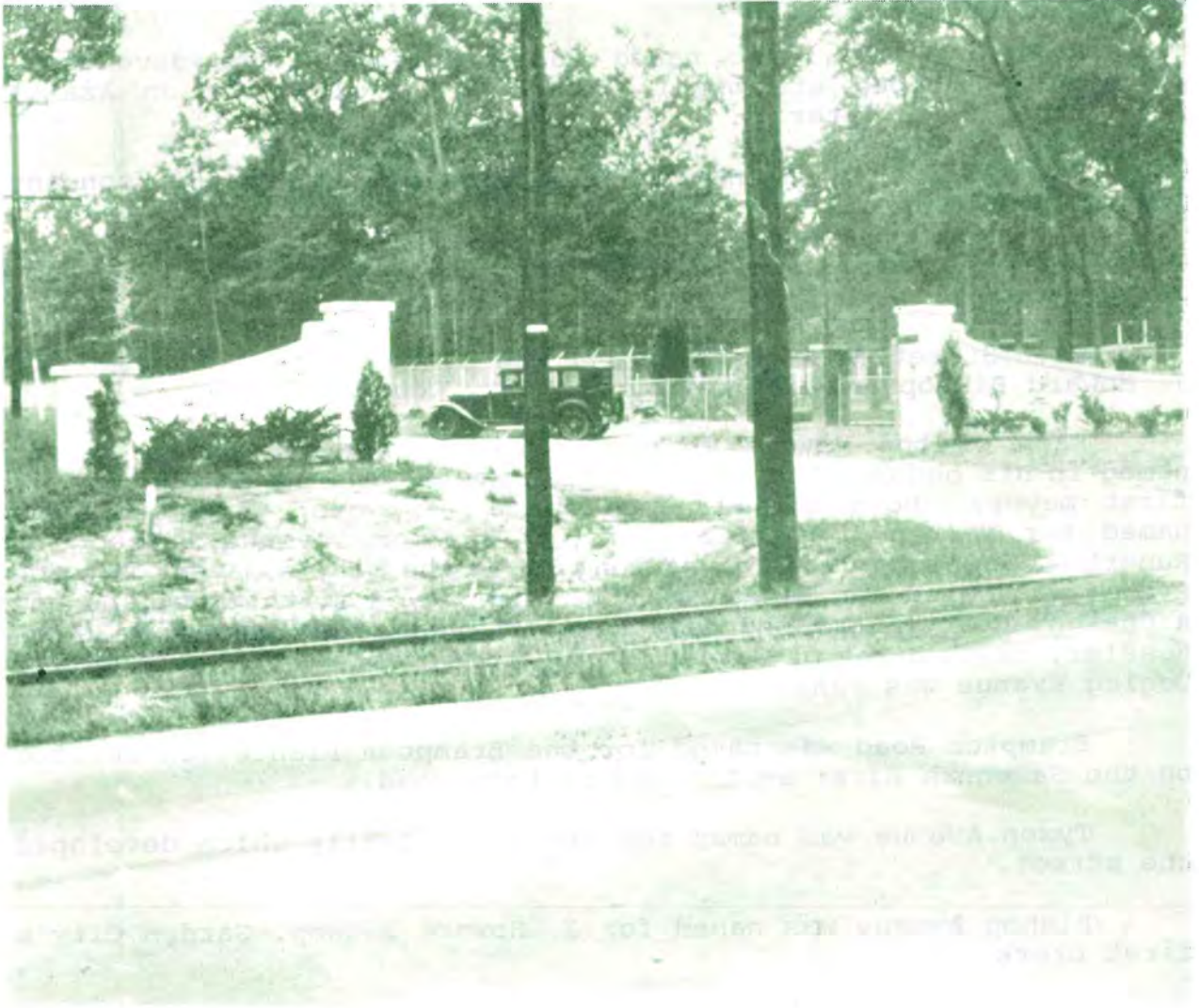
Mrs. Jopseh Ocampo operated a private school in her home on

the corner of Main Street and Rommel Avenue. The school opened in 1939 and served grades one through five. Mrs. Ocampo also tutored Junior and Senior High School students after school hours. The school operated until 1957.

In 1965 Woodlawn Baptist Church started a kindergarten which still serves the community today.

Chapel-in-the-Gardens Presbyterian Church operated a kindergarten from 1972 until 1984 when first grade was added. Now, the private, Christian school known as Chapel Christian, serves students in K-4 through third grade.

City Streets



One of the original gates to Garden City

Many of the street names and numbers in Garden City have a history. The original design of streets was the work of L. H. Smith founder of Industrial City Gardens. At the beginning of the development, there were three main streets that ran from U.S. 17 to Highway 21. Those streets and others added later were named for people.

Smith Avenue, the first street in the development was named for L. H. Smith.

Rommel Avenue was named for John Rommel, a friend of Mr. Smith's.

Nelson Avenue, also named for a friend of the developer, originally stopped at Rommel Avenue. The extension on Azalea Avenue came much later.

Russell Avenue was named for William Hunter Russell, son-in-law of L. H. Smith.

Varnedoe Avenue was named for Mr. Smith's daughter, Beatrice S. Varnedoe.

Main Street (U.S. Highway 17) was named at the suggestion of J. Howard Bishop and adopted by the City Council.

Each of the Mayors in Garden City's history has a street named in his honor. They are: Pipkin Avenue, named for the city's first mayor; Rowe Avenue named for J. A. Rowe; Oglesby Avenue named for Warren F. Oglesby, Sr.; Bazemore Avenue, named for Rupert W. Bazemore, who served longest as the city's mayor; DeLoach Avenue was named for James DeLoach, the city's fifth mayor and now a Chatham County Commissioner; Kessler Avenue was named for Ralph Kessler, sixth mayor of Garden City. The street, originally called Dogleg Avenue was renamed by the City Council.

Brampton Road was named for the Brampton Plantation located on the Savannah River at the end of that road.

Tyson Avenue was named for the Tyson family which developed the street.

Bishop Avenue was named for J. Howard Bishop, Garden City's first clerk.

Redmond Avenue was named for the street's developer, Luther Redmond.

Lee Avenue was named for W. R. Lee who worked to get the street developed.

Bowman Avenue was named for J. L. Bowman, one of the developers of Garden City and a city councilman.

Herty Avenue was named for Charles H. Herty, a scientist in the paper-making industry.

Colson Avenue was named for E. B. Colson, Sr., who developed the street.

Lynn Drive was named in memory of Lynn Shaw, a young man reared in Garden City, who died in a fall from a tree on Bowman Avenue near the entrance to Lynn Drive.

Andsford Avenue was named for the street developers, M. C. Anderson and J. C. Stafford.

Bays Avenue was named for Bays Anderson who developed the street.

Sparkman Avenue was named for Charles Sparkman, long-time city attorney for Garden City.

Brown Avenue was named for E. M. Brown, a former city councilman.

Blackburn Drive was named for Fred Blackburn who was chief of the Garden City Fire Department at the time of his death.

Augusta Avenue (Georgia Highway 21) was the main route from Savannah to Augusta.

Wallberry Avenue was named for E. H. Wall and Mr. Berry, developers of the street.

Tuten Terrace was named for Wiley Tuten, a developer of Smith Avenue.

Byck Avenue in Chatham Villa was named for Sylvan Byck, one of the developers of that subdivision.

Daniel Avenue was named for Danny Doyle, son of Garnett Counts who developed the street.

Some of the streets are named for flowers and trees.

Minus Avenue was named for the area in which it is located which was called Minus Quarters after the land owner, Scipio Minus.

Leon Village Road and Leon Avenue are named for Leon S. Lieberls. He owned a grocery store on West Bryan Street in downtown Savannah and delivered groceries to people in the area. He saw a need for housing in the black community, so he bought the Scarbora property and additional land between Big Hill and Hawkinsville Roads. He built four room bungalows on the property and sold them to area residents at reasonable prices.

Anfield Avenue was named for Mrs. Mattie Anfield, who was affectionately known as the mayor of Rossignol Hill. She was an elementary school teacher and taught adult classes in her home on the Hill. She participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for

Tompkins High School and became the first P.T.A. President. Mrs. Anfield was very active in all aspects of community life.

Bell Avenue is named for Viola Bell. In the resolution naming the street it states, "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Mayor and Councilmen of Garden City, that they express their appreciation to Mrs. Viola Bell for the cooperation and assistance which she has rendered to the City in many endeavors to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Garden City."

There is also some interesting history behind the street names in Woodlawn Terrace. The land there was purchased and subdivided in April, 1947 and named Woodlawn Terrace by Mr. Leo F. Griffin, the developer.

Thirteenth Street is so called because the gravesite marker of Georgia's thirteenth governor was found in the area. He was Edward Telfair. Governor's Street was also named in honor of Governor Telfair.

Talmadge Avenue was named for former Georgia Governor Eugene Talmadge, and Russell Avenue was named for Richard B. Russell, also a former governor of the state. After Woodlawn Terrace was annexed to Garden City, Russell Avenue was changed to Griffin Street in honor of Leo Griffin.

ROSSIGNOL HILL



The oldest house in the Rossignol Hill area of Garden City

Rossignol Hill is a well-known area of Garden City that lies between Highway 80 and the Scarbora line, which is now Oak Street and from Augusta Road to the railroad tracks. The area was named for Charles P. Rossignol who owned and operated a coffin factory there. He employed many people until the factory was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Rossignol also owned a house in the area that he used as a summer home and office. The house is located at 4026 Third Street and is the oldest house in the area.

The house was later owned by Paul and Dianah Smalls who

bought the house from Mr. Rossignol. The Smalls died in the 1920s and the house was given to Laura Zinch Smith who was Mrs. Small's niece.

Laura and Joe Smith lived in the house for many years according to their granddaughter, Margaret Minis. She heard about the history of the house from her grandparents and others in the community. Originally the house had very wide, rough cut boards for siding. The roof was very high and the house was high off the ground. The Smiths had the roof cut down and lowered the pillars under the house and the siding was changed.

Mrs. Minis lived in the house all her life.

TRAFFIC CIRCLE

The Traffic Circle is an enduring part of Garden City history even though the circle itself did not endure.

The Traffic Circle was built in the late 1940's and was used until Lynes Parkway was constructed.

The three main thoroughfares in Garden City, Highways 17, 21 and 80, plus Bay Street from downtown Savannah all fed cars and trucks into the circle.

Those who lived in Garden City learned to use the circle as it was being constructed. But the poor tourists and occasional visitors had a lot of trouble navigating from one side of the circle to the other. Sometimes it took two trips around the circle before you could get headed in the right direction.

When the Traffic Circle was officially opened, the first tourist to come through (alive), was given a basket of products from Savannah, a night's lodging, and a tour of the city.

Judge Solomom gave azaleas to help beautify the circle and they were planted with the help of the Garden City Garden Club.

There were a number of businesses around the circle. On the east was the Comet Oil Service Station and Haupt Butane Gas Service. To the north of the circle was the Circle Diner. On the west was Chris Watkin's Mobile Home Sales, and to the south was the Cason Lumber Company. The Port City Branch of the Savannah-Chatham County Library came to the traffic circle in 1980.

CHURCHS

The religious faith and convictions of Garden City's people have played an essential role in the development of the city and its personality. We can see by the number of Churchs in our area today, that faith and worship are important to our citizens.

There are two churches located in what is now Garden City that are over one hundred years old. The Clifton Baptist Church was organized in 1885 by a committee from the Potter Plantation. Briste Cumming, Hactor Jackson, Adam Palmer and John Grant were some of people who served on the organizing committee. Daniel Cooper was the church clerk at the time. He was followed in the office of the clerk by Deacon Charles Russell and then Deacon Paul Russell. Dorothy Peters presently serves the church as clerk. At the time of organization Briste Cummings, Snow Price and Snow Wilson were the church treasurers. In its long history the church has seen seven treasures and Arthur Russell now serves in that capacity. The church has has twelve mothers, with Mother Marie Peters Mot, Nancy Williams and Delores Middleton presently serving.

At the organizational meeting it was decided that every second Sunday the officers would meet, third Sunday would be for conference and fourth Sunday Communion would be served. The original members called for their letters of dismissal from the First African Baptist Church on Franklin Square in Savannah. Rev. George Gibbons was the first pastor and served the first Communion the fourth Sunday of August, 1885. In its one hundred, four year history, the church has had only four pastors. The second pastor was the Rev. J. H. Johnson, a son of the church. While he was serving as pastor the congregation was able to tear down the old building and construct a new church in 1914. The members of the church built the new building themselves. After Rev. Johnson died, the church again called a pastor from within its membership. He was the Rev. Robert Sweet and he served the church for thirty-seven years, during which, many improvements were made. Due to failing health, Rev. Sweet had to resign. The church then called the Rev. Willie F. Stanley who served only a short time. Presently the church is without a pastor. Clifton Baptist Church is located on Big Hill Road in Garden City.

FAIRLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH

Fairlawn Baptist Church celebrated its one hundredth anniversary in 1988. It was in October of 1888 that Fairlawn was organized by eight deacons under the guidance of the mother church, First African Baptist, Franklin Square in Savannah. The Rev. Prince Black served as the first pastor and the first eight deacons were: Solomon Parrish, Moses Johnson, Moultrie

Thompson, January Mack, John Ward Adams, Louis Minis, Edmonds A. Marshall and Deacon R. J. Hawkins. Originally the Church was located at the Givens Plantation (also known as Whitehall Plantation) at the Savannah River with 80 members. Later, land was purchased from Deacon William Smith, across the Atlantic Coastline Railroad at the five mile bend. At the time the Rev. Andrew Johnson was pastor. Others who have pastored at Fairlawn are: John Ward Adams, W. C. Ward, Jim Winters, D.D. Murchinson, J. H. Jones, J. B. Bates and Joseph H. Perry. The first Usher Board was organized by Deacon Charlie Sears under the leadership of the Rev. Jim Winters. The number two usher board was organized under the leadership of the Rev. J. H. Jones with Sister Addie Mae Cooper serving faithfully as president from 1942 to 1965.

In addition to the first eight deacons, many others have served Fairlawn with outstanding dedication over the years. One is Deacon Henry Cooper who served as Sunday School superintendent for 43 years.

In 1950 land was purchased from Sister Emily Gathers for the purpose of building a new church under the leadership of pastor, Joseph H. Perry. On the third Sunday in June, 1950 groundbreaking ceremonies were held. Deacon Joseph Minis gave his time and labor to help build the church. In May, 1955, the church was dedicated and the first Communion served by Rev. Perry. Also, during Rev. Perry's time as pastor, Rufus Peters, Joseph Cooper, Sr., Eddie Davis, Willie James, Edmond Johnson and the late Robert Edwards were ordained as deacons; the first youth choir was organized by Deacon James Williams.

In November, 1963, Rev. C. H. Aiken, was installed as pastor. Under his leadership the Aiken Choir and the gospel chorus were organized. In 1971, the mortgage for the kitchen and dining area was paid off and the church purchased a new organ. Other improvements were made in the building including paneling, new pews, carpet, Communion table and pulpit furniture.

Then on February 2, 1979, the church building was destroyed by fire. The congregation met at the Clifton Baptist Church for a year. On the first Sunday in July, 1979, groundbreaking ceremonies were held at the site of the old church building. Rev. Aiken and Rev. A. L. Hall led the officers, members and friends in the service. A new church building now stands on the property on Highway 21 next to the local vocational-technical school.

On March 29, 1987, the Rev. William Green, Jr. was installed as pastor. He quickly organized a weekly Bible Study Class, the Junior Deacons and Junior Usher Board. Fairlawn Baptist Church began in 1888 and continues to prosper today through the faith and dedication of her congregation.

ZION FAIR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church was organized on October 5, 1911. The Rev. I. W. Washington served as pastor and Hector Small, William Joyner, Boston Brown and John Wright were the deacons. Other pastors in the church's history are; Rev. King, W. Winters, B. J. Johnson, Otis Young, J. C. Davenport and S. L. Brown.

On July 28, 1937 the church ordained a son of the congregation, the Rev. Stephen Graham. He was installed as pastor on September 14, 1937.

The Rev. Freddie Bolden was called as pastor on March 6, 1940. In August 1940, a storm blew down the church building. A new building was begun in January, 1941 and by March 31st, was ready for dedication. At that time the church had fifty-two members and eight deacons. Then came the Rev. Adams, M.T. Thomas and A. E. Hagins who still serves the church as pastor.

On the first Sunday of March, 1977, the remodeled church building was rededicated and the newly constructed dining room, kitchen and educational annex were dedicated. The Rev. Isaiah Reynolds delivered the dedicatory sermon. The Cornerstone for the church was laid on May 29, 1977 with the five Masonic Lodges of Savannah and other lodges from the surrounding area participating. Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church is located on First Street in Garden City.

PENTECOST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Pentecost Missionary Baptist Church was organized on May 20, 1929, under the leadership of the Rev. Jeremiah Butler, Sr. At the time, the church had twenty-five members. An Auxillary, Sunday School, Choir, Deacon Board, Usher Board, Bible Class and Charitable Gift Union were established to help the church carry out its mission. Rev. Reynolds served until 1956.

Then came Rev. Benson Macon, who served until 1982. In 1983 the Rev. Charles Reynolds was called and still serves as pastor.

The main church building was destroyed in the 1950's. Services are being held in a building given by members of the church.

CHAPEL-IN-THE-GARDENS

The first church established in the original Industrial City Gardens development was Chapel-In-The-Gardens Presbyterian. In January, 1935 (four years before the original city charter was granted) Dr. Samuel McPheeters Glasgow and the Rev. Bonneau Harris Dickson, pastors of Independent Presbyterian Church met with

interested persons in the home of Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Tuten. There they made proposals to establish a mission outreach in the new community. Land was offered to the group by L.H. Smith, developer of Industrial City Gardens. Within three months canvass and building committees had been formed and funds pledged and collected to put the wheels in motion.



On March 16, 1935, construction of a wood-frame sanctuary was begun and by May 31, 1935, the building was ready for use. The Building Committee reported at the Chapel's formal opening that the total cost, including furnishings, amounted to \$1,191.00.



Chapel-In-The-Gardens 1940

The newly-appointed treasurer, J. Howard Bishop, challenged the chapel to "Go, Glow, Grow" in the years to come. The following Sunday, June 2, 1935, a Sunday School was organized with eighty-five people in attendance. The organizing and first pastor of the Chapel was the Rev. Bonneau H. Dickson. Others who served as Sunday School officers were; L.H. Quarterman, Superintendent; H.T. LaRoche,

Assistant Superintendent; J. H. Bishop, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. E. C. Pipkin, Pianist; Mrs. H. T. LaRoche, Assistant Pianist; and Mrs. L. H. Quarterman, Mrs. J. H. Bishop, Miss Eulas Tuten, G. T. Jurgens and C.B. Anderson as teachers. The original wood-frame sanctuary was officially dedicated on Sunday, June 7, 1936. By the end of that year, the Men and Women in the Church groups and the Young People's League were organized. Also in 1936, the first Boy Scout Troop was organized. Troop 23 was sponsored by the church and still meets today in a Scout Hut provided by the chapel. That same year saw the educational annex added to the sanctuary with more classroom space.

A lot on Smith Avenue was purchased for \$675.00 for the

construction of a manse. On August 3, 1938, the Dicksons moved into their new home at 20 Smith Avenue. Construction of the present sanctuary was begun on July 27, 1941. On November 30, 1941, the completed structure was dedicated to God's glory and service. On February 27, 1944, with a membership of 283 (including the membership of The Hermitage, another mission outreach of Independent Presbyterian), Chapel-in-the-Gardens was received into Savannah Presbytery. Six elders and ten deacons were elected, ordained and installed.

In 1956, the Chester F. Monk Educational Building was erected and dedicated. In January, 1965, a new manse was completed at 91 Smith Avenue and occupied by the Rev. William T. Wing and family.



Presbyterian Chapel-In-The-Gardens 1989

The year 1972 saw the beginning of a one-class kindergarten. By 1975 the kindergarten included two classes for five-year-olds and in September, 1978, a class for four-year-olds was added. Since that time Chapel Kindergarten has become Chapel Christian School with two classes for four-year-olds, a K-5 class, and first, second and third grades.

In 1973, Chapel-in-the-Gardens severed ties with the Savannah Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church in the United States and joined the new, conservative Presbyterian Church in America.

In January, 1985 the church purchased the property adjacent to the original church grounds (known as the Sojourner property).

Chapel-in-the-Gardens celebrated their Golden Anniversary, on Sunday, October 13, 1985, with special homecoming services and two to the church's former pastors, Bonneau H. Dickson and William T. Wing as honored guests.

During the fifty-four years of Chapel-in-the-Gardens these men have served as pastors; Bonneau H. Dickson, 1935 - 1943; J. Boyce Nelson, 1943 - 1946; Chester F. Monk, 1946 - 1954; William E. Hotchkiss, 1954 - 1957; F. Clyde Pratt, 1958 - 1964; William T. Wing, Jr., 1965 - 1972; Paul E. Rowland, 1972 - 1981; G. David Russell, 1981 - 1985; Tommy R. Carr, 1985 - Present.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church have something in common - the same birth year. Walt Disney created the movie version of that fairy tale in



Lutheran Church 1963

1937, the same year that a group of people officially organized the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, which is commonly referred to as Good Shepherd.

The actual beginning of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Garden City could be tied to November 4, 1936 when the lot on the corner of Smith Avenue and Main Street was purchased. At first, worship services were conducted in a "tabernacle" of log wood strips" until the brick church was finished. While the church was being built, services were conducted by various laymen and pastors from Effingham and Chatham counties. records indicate that on May 23, 1937, the official ground breaking ceremonies were held and construction was begun on the worship facilities which are modeled after the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Columbia, South Carolina.

The congregation was officially organized on October 3, 1937. The first full-time pastor to serve Good Shepherd was the Rev. John Kock, Jr., who served from May 15, 1939, until 1942 when he became a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

The next major building project provided Sunday School space. The Georgia-Alabama Lutheran Magazine, July 1949 issue, reads in part: "Good Shepherd Lutheran has erected on its church lot a spacious and attractive building for Sunday School and recreation purposes, in connection with which a pastor's study is also provided". The article went on to say that the estimated value was \$6,000," but due to liberal contributions of labor and materials, the actual cost was only about \$800."

On Septmber 3, 1952 a victory celebration was held at the newly completed parsonage at 33 Russell Avenue. As with the Sunday School building, the members of the congregation did a considerable amount of the work themselves.

As the congregation continued to grow, they entered into another building project to provide more Sunday School space and room for congregational dinners. The lot next to the church was purchased and on Sunday, August 14, 1960, ground breaking services were held for the new educational wing of the church. The latest major construction project was the building of a new parsonage at 8 Lynn Avenue, which was completed in September, 1978.

Today the church continues to serve God and Garden City from its original location at the corner of Smith Avenue and Main

Street.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1938 a small group of residents of Central Junction and surrounding areas organized a non-denominational church known as Chapel-on-the-Hill and began holding regular meetings at 4010 Louisville Road. In 1943 the congregation decided to become Baptist and changed its name to Central Baptist Church. In the summer of 1953 this congregation voted to move to Talmadge Avenue in the Woodlawn Terrace section and became the Woodlawn Baptist Church. In October, 1953 the present Central Baptist Church was constituted with 63 members enrolled. In 1958 the sanctuary was enlarged and refurnished and six classrooms were added. Five years later a large social hall was added and adjoining property was purchased to provide parking.

The church still meets today with the Rev. G. A. Ferrell III, officiating.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



First Baptist Church
first building

In the summer of 1938 a group of Baptist women of Industrial City Gardens, met in the home of Mrs. L. T. Marshall to form a Missionary Circle sponsored by the Bull Street Baptist Church. The response prompted a survey of the community and it was determined that there could be a Baptist Church in this community. Mr. & Mrs. M.D. Usher invited all the Baptists of the community to meet in their home on Nelson Avenue to organize a Sunday School with the help of members from Bull Street Baptist Church. They met in the Usher home at 3:00 P.M. every Sunday until they were able to meet in their own church building in the fall of 1940.

On December 1, 1940 the constitution service was held in the new church building. Dr. W. A. Taliaferro preached the sermon. The invocation was read by the Rev. L. L. Day. The Rev. L. P. Loman read the church covenant. Dr. Arthur Jackson delivered a charge to the church and the Rev. Carswell Milligan read the Articles of Faith. The Council was composed of all visiting Baptist ministers and all ordained deacons present. Seventy-nine people presented themselves for membership at that service constituting the church.

The Rev. W. J. Carswell, Superintendent of City Missions in Savannah, served as pastor of the church from December 1, 1940,

until March 15, 1941. On December 5, 1940 , the first conference of the church was held. The constitution and by-laws were adopted. A nominating committee for church officers was named and a committee for naming the church was also appointed. December 12, 1940, the second conference of the church was held and M.D. Usher, T.L. Bailey, F. L. Dixon, A. D. Fryer, H. W. Webb and A.C. White were elected deacons. L. T. Marshall was elected as Sunday School Superintendent with J. Q. James as assistant and J. Otis Morgan, treasurer.

The Rev. C. E. McDaniel began serving as the church's first full-time pastor on February 16, 1941.

Under the leadership of the Rev. James B. Reed who began serving the church in 1948, the fellowship hall was constructed. On November 9, 1949, the Silk Hope Mission, which Garden City Baptist helped organized, became Silk Hope Baptist Church. The Rev. Grover Tyner became pastor at Garden City Baptist on September 1, 1954. During his pastorate plans were drawn for a new educational building which would also serve as a temporary sanctuary. Plans were also drawn for the renovation of the original church building. The new building was first used on Easter Sunday, 1957. A committee was also appointed to begin work on a new pastorium. In the fall of 1958, Pastor Felix Turner and his family moved into the new home at 75 Nelson Avenue. In the spring of 1959, work began on the renovation of the original church building, now known as the Children's Building. On January 10, 1962, the church's name was changed to First Baptist Church of Garden City.

The Rev. Thomas E. Crawford began his pastorate on June 4, 1967. Under his leadership the church paid off its indebtedness on the temporary sanctuary and educational building. On the occasion of the note burning on August 25, 1968, a sanctuary building committee was named. Ground breaking for the new, \$275,000 sanctuary was held on May 24, 1970. The new sanctuary was dedicated on April 25, 1971 with Dr. Robert Jackson Robinson, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Augusta and President of the Georgia Baptist Convention speaking.

Hugh E. Quinney became Minister of Music on June 20, 1971 and his wife became church organist. They still serve in those capacities. During that time Mr. Quinney has assisted in forming the Jolly Seniors, an organization for the senior adults of the church; planned and accompanied the Youth Choir on several out-of-state tours; organized a youth ensemble called "New Life"; began an annual day camp at the Savannah Baptist Assembly at Pineora, Georgia for children in grades one through six; and formed adult and youth handbell choirs.

Pastors in the history of First Baptist Church of Garden City are: W. J. Carswell, 1940 - 1941; C. E. McDaniel, 1941 - 1941; Dr.

W. C. Allen, 1941 - 1943; Floyd T. Jenkins, 1943 - 1948; James R. Reed, 1948 - 1954; Grover Tyner, 1954 - 1958; Felix Turner, 1958 - 1962; Harold Sangster, 1962 - 1966; Thomas E. Crawford, 1967 - 1970; Dr. H. E. Gaddy, 1970; Douglas Patterson, 1970 - 1973; Ralph E. Wade, 1973 - 1981; Dr. Frank Wilkerson, 1981 - 1983; Dr. David K. Hinson, 1985 -Present.

GARDEN CITY METHODIST CHURCH

In the summer of 1940 an Emory University student, Daniel

Jones, under the supervision of the District Superintendent, Rev. J. R. Webb, made a survey of Industrial City Gardens to determine the feasibility of establishing a Methodist Church in the community. The first meeting was held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. L. F. Johnston, July 23, 1940. The Lot for the church on Varnedoe Avenue was given by Mr. L. H. Smith, developer of Industrial City Gardens. In September the lot was cleared and a tent raised. On September 18, 1940 the first service was held in the tent with Rev. R. T. Blackwell as pastor. The church was officially organized on October 13, 1940 by Rev. J. R. Webb with thirty-one charter members.



Garden City Methodist Church 1963

In March the first church building was occupied.

A parsonage was purchased in 1944 on the southeast corner of Rommel and Varnedoe Avenues. The Rev. J. Loy Scott was the first pastor to live in the new parsonage. Scott Hall, a two-story educational building named for Rev. Scott, was first used on July 13, 1947.

In the Spring of 1948 a new parsonage was built on the lot next to the church. Hooks Hall educational building was completed in 1960. In 1970 the sanctuary interior was completely refurbished and the bulletin board and planter were built in front of the church. Stained glass windows were installed in the sanctuary in 1980. A new parsonage was built on the lot next to the church in 1988.

WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH

In June 25, 1944 Central Baptist Church was constituted with fifty-four charter members. By June, 1948 the membership had grown to 141 and they were part of the New Sunbury Association. In 1952 they began a new church building on Talmadge Avenue in Woodlawn

Terrace and became the Woodlawn Baptist Church.

An educational building was constructed in 1956. The property on the corner of Thirteenth Street and Talmadge Avenue was purchased for use as a pastorium in 1962. The land where the present sanctuary sits was bought in 1964 and a year later the kindergarten was started.

On March 20, 1966, the present Sanctuary was completed and dedicated. In 1972, Woodlawn Baptist began a Coffee House Ministry and a mission outreach in Ellabell. A day care center was begun in 1973. The Ellabell mission was constituted a church on September 5, 1975. A gym for the recreational ministry of the church was begun in 1977 and the debt paid off in 1987. A lot with a small home next to the church was purchased in 1978 as a residence for church staff. In 1984, the adjoining house and grounds at 321 Talmadge Avenue were purchased. In 1988, the church began renovation of the kitchen and social hall.

During the years Woodlawn Baptist Church has licensed a number of men to preach. They are: Jimmy Burnsed, Bert Wheelles, Ronald Hasty, Howard Portwood, Dennis Rogers, Danny Beam, Tim Bearden, David White and B. Derwood Poole, Jr.

These men have served the church as pastor: A. G. Griner, 1944 - 1948; J. R. Smith, 1948 - 1951; J. W. Bland, 1951 - 1955; R. Paul Strickler, 1955 - 1959; Joseph T. Greene, 1959 - 1982; Darrell E. Bailey, 1982 - 1986; L. Joe Conner, 1987 - Present.

JASPER SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

During the second World War many people moved into the West Savannah area and into Frances Bartow Housing Project to be near their work at the Mingledorff Shipyard. There was no church in the immediate area, and because of gas and tire rationing and car shortages, many people having to work on Sunday, it seemed like people were forgetting to Worship on the Lord's Day. Some Christian women discussed this and decided to canvass the area, door to door, asking people if they would attend an interdenominational Sunday School that would be held in the administration building of Frances Bartow Place. Mostly children came at first, and gradually parents followed them, and soon there was a desire to have preaching services. Many fine laymen and preachers from all over Savannah came to preach. Finally, the people voted for their choice of church, and the Baptist were in the majority.

On Sunday, April 23, 1944 a group of men formed a council for the organizing of the Missionary Baptist Church to serve the West Savannah area. They met in Frances Bartow Administration Building. Mr. Jeffery Jones, superintendent of City Missions served as moderator. Also serving on the council were Rev. W. J. Carswell,

Pastor of Morningside Baptist Church, Rev. J. W. Grooms, Pastor of Pt. Wentworth Baptist Church, Rev. Searcy S. Garrison,, Pastor of Bull Street Baptist Church, and several laymen from these churches. There were thirty-eight charter members.

In August 1944, the Rev. William M. Kitchens, Jr. came from Ludowici to become the first pastor. In the two years that he served, a lot on Margery Street off Spring Street was purchased for \$500.00 and a church was erected. It was dedicated on February 3, 1946. An apartment was rented in the Frances Bartow Place for the pastorium. On April 19, 1944 some ladies from Bull Street Baptist Church came to assist with the organization of the WMU. Mrs. E. K. Overstreet of Sylvania, long time worker in WMU in her association and state convention was guest speaker. During the summer all youth groups were organized.

In 1960 a large building (warehouse) was purchased at Smart and Nettles Street on Hudson Hill to be used as a mission until it could be remodeled into a much larger church building. Blueprints were drawn, but because of zoning regulation they were not allowed to follow through. In the mean time the church property on Margery Street was sold to The Bethany Baptist Congregation in May, 1964. The church began holding services at the Smart and Nettles building on November 1, 1964.

In August 1964, four lots at the corner of Cleland and Smart Streets were purchased, but it was not until March 12, 1967 that a groundbreaking ceremony was held and construction begun. On September 10, 1967 the dedication service was held with Dr. Leroy Cleverdon speaking. Mrs. Cleverdon unveiled the cornerstone. In the next few years the area served by the church became smaller, due to industry, by-passes and the changing structure of the residential area. Many members had moved into other sections of town and were serving in churches throughout Savannah, this caused the congregation, in 1969, to sell the building and relocate.

The property at 62 Smith Avenue, Garden City was bought in March 1970, and another groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 9, 1971 and the present sanctuary was started. In 1973 under the direction of Rev. Harry Michael, Pastor, the congregation voted to begin a Day Care Ministry. Due to the great response to the day care ministry and educational needs, an educational building was built and dedicated in Dr. H. E. Gaddy's honor, November 14, 1976.

The current pastor is Rev. Danny Beam. Rev. Beam grew up in downtown Savannah at the Baptist Center with his parents Rev. and Mrs. John Beam, retired missionaries from the Baptist Center.

THE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Community Baptist Church was organized on April 2, 1961

under the leadership of the Rev. G. W. Herbert. Various churches in the community and surrounding areas have helped the church along. The Rev. R. H. White now serves the church as Pastor. The church is located on Fifth Street in Garden City.

GARDEN CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

The congregation of the Garden City Church of Christ had its beginning in 1951, when a group of people began meeting in a house (now Dr. Faulk's office) located on Highway 21, across from the present location. C. A. Buffington was the first preacher. Through the efforts of those members, a meeting house was erected in 1953 at 4506 Augusta Road, which is still in use today. The men who have preached for this congregation are: C. A. Buffington, Jimmy Tuten, Raymond Elliott, Floyd Chappalear, C. L. McClain, Ralph Austin, Clayton Adams, Benton Graves, Jimmy Winsted, Glen Redmond, Eddie Littrell and at present, Keith Williams. The services are simple, consisting of vocal music, prayer, preaching, the Lord's Supper and an offering.

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Mount Olive Church, presently located on Big Hill Road and Leone Avenue, was founded in 1951 on Hawkinsville Road. Mount Olive Church was at one time affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World having been received into that body in 1952. Today the church is known as Mount Olive Holiness Church. Elder Rufus A. Griffin is the pastor.

SHARON PARK CHURCH OF GOD

The Sharon Park Church of God was organized in 1952 by C. M. Rhoden and M. C. Radford with twelve charter members. The Westside church started in a garage on Bay Street extension in 1951. In 1952, a church building was constructed on Hudson Hill. In 1965, the church moved to its present location at Sharon Park, and the name was changed. A Sunday School annex was built in June of 1976 to replace a two-room trailer and a four-room house that were being used as classrooms. The pastors who have served Sharon Park Church of God are: C. M. Rhoden, Joe Flowers, Houston Odom, Raleigh Jenkins, J. Paul Delk, J. Wayne Owens, Carlton Ring, and Varney Aspinwall, the present pastor.

WOODLAWN METHODIST CHURCH

Early in March, 1957 the Rev. Thomas H. Johnson of Bloomingdale and the Rev. Gilbert Ramsey of Pooler met with the District Superintendent, the Rev. Anthony Hearn and a small group of people to discuss plans for establishing a Methodist Church in the Woodlawn Terrace subdivision. The first service of the Woodlawn United Methodist Church was held on March 31, 1957 in the home of Henry and Anita Murphy, with twenty-five people attending.

The service was led by the Rev. J. E. Bazemore, supply pastor from Miller Memorial Church. In June the Rev. Glen Certain from the Garden City Methodist Church was named pastor. On July 4, 1957 a large tent was erected on a lot at the corner of U.S. 80 and Talmadge Avenue and construction on a permanent church building was begun. The church was officially organized on July 27, 1957 by Rev. Hearn, with seventy members on roll and a full schedule under the guidance of Rev. W. A. Kelly of Valdosta, Field Secretary of the Conference Board of Missions. In August the Women's Society of Christian Service was organized with Mrs. Lillian Hall elected as the first president. The Rev. Bazemore was again appointed pastor and began serving in October of 1957. The first unit of the new building was completed in April of 1958, and the first service was held in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. In the late summer of 1966, Woodlawn was the second congregation in the Savannah District to hold a Lay Witness Mission. Ernest Alcorn served as Secretary/Treasurer of the church for nineteen years until his death. Wallace H. Woods has served as Sunday School superintendent for thirteen years.

In October, 1985 the Church Board proposed plans for a new building and construction began on January 15, 1986. The new building was consecrated in a service with Dr. Vance B. Mathis, District Superintendent speaking. Woodlawn Methodist Church is grateful to the many congregations that have loaned, donated and contributed much needed material to help establish this church.

FELLOWSHIP ASSEMBLY OF GOD

The Fellowship Assembly of God Church had its beginning in June of 1960 when a group of earnest people, eager to worship God met. Assembling in homes for a couple of months, they soon rented a small basement on the corner of Whitaker and Perry Streets. Brother Robert Garber, worshipping in another church near-by, felt called of God to go to the little group meeting in the basement. He was received by those people as sent from God, and he began pastoring Fellowship Assembly in February, 1961.

As the Sunday School grew it became necessary to rent the upper floor in the building where they met. In September, 1961, the church was admitted to the Assemblies of God Council. Ruby English and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edenfield were some of the members present at that meeting who are still active in the church. The first deacons to serve the church were the late James Purvis and Larry Falis. The Sunday School Superintendent was Andy Srenkiwiecy, the Secretary-Treasurer was Barbara Edenfield. There were many rummage sales, baskets for the needy, family nights and new furnishings in those early days. The church also helped buy a jeep for Bobby Nishimoto's missionary work in Thailand. The "Life with Sarge" radio broadcast was begun on WEAS.

When pastor Garber was transferred the Rev. Sam Booth became pastor in February, 1962. In May of that year the congregation had to move and rented a store building on Coastal Highway in Port Wentworth. The Christ Ambassador group was started with three young people, Linda and Billy Smith and Wanda Rice. Marilyn Davidson served as president of the group.

The Rev. Glenn Snodgrass came to serve the church in August, 1964. In December the church purchased a parsonage for the pastor. The next step in the church's development was the purchase of property on Highway 21 in Garden City. The District Association of the Assemblies of God gave the congregation a building. It was called the "portable tabernacle". It was moved to the Garden City property in May, 1965, in pieces, stacked on a flatbed truck. On July 5, 1969, Fellowship Assembly dedicated a new, permanent church building on the Garden City property.

From November, 1970 until April, 1976 the church had as pastors, Billy Cotton, Ron Roberts and James Langhorn.

In April, 1976, Duane Holcombe became pastor and continues to serve the church today. On September 6, 1984, Fellowship Assembly broke ground for a new church building right next to the original structure. Today the congregation is worshipping in a beautiful and spacious building on Highway 21 in Garden City.

GARDEN CITY PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

On January 13, 1961, a group of men met at the Faith Primitive Baptist Church for the purpose of organizing a church in the area known as Garden City. At that meeting January 23-29 was set aside for a Week's Meeting with Elder W. A. Crumpton as guest speaker. The Groves High School Auditorium was used for these services. Feeling blessed of the Lord, the group met on February 1, 1961 and constituted the Garden City Primitive Baptist Church. It consisted of 39 members (32 by letter, 7 by experience and baptism).

Services were held at the Groves High School Auditorium and the Garden City Community House until the church could obtain a suitable building. On June 7, 1961, the Garden City Primitive Baptist Church purchased property at 126 Smith Avenue in Garden City. Work began on renovating the existing wooden-frame house into a Sanctuary. The garage on the property was converted into a Bible Study Building. The Church membership rejoiced as the first services were held in the Sanctuary on July 23, 1961. From November 1963 through August 1964, a baptismal pool, pastor's study, storage room, and a vestibule were added to the existing structure.

In March 1967, a major construction project was undertaken.

An educational building was erected. It consisted of classrooms, an auditorium, restrooms, and kitchen. A Dedication service for this building was held the second Sunday in September, 1968. The Lord blessed the membership to pay off the indebtedness on this building April 23, 1973.

In February 1973, Brother and Sister M. C. Anderson and their family donated their home to the church to be used as a parsonage. The Garden City Church stepped out in faith and held Ground-breaking services for a new sanctuary on June 24, 1979. Dismantling of the old sanctuary began the last week in July, 1979. Many hours of labor and love have gone into the new sanctuary. The Lord blessed on every hand. The congregation held its first worship service in the new sanctuary on June 15, 1980. God blessed the church to be able to pay off the indebtedness on this building June 1, 1982.

As God continued His blessing, the church outgrew their educational building and in January, 1988 they began construction on an addition to the existing building. This work was completed in July, 1988.

Four ministers have been ordained to preach the Gospel of Our Lord. They are Elder J. Lindy Webb, Sr., Elder Richard Davis, Elder Marvin Jarrell, and Elder Alwyne Burnsed. Presently, another young man, Brother Keith Hamilton, has been granted license to preach.

Since the Garden City Primitive Baptist Church was first constituted, God has provided men who have preached the Word. Elder Maurice C. Riner was the first pastor of the Church. He was called on March 22, 1961, and served faithfully until the last Sunday in May, 1970. In June 1970, Licentiate Jesse F. Coleman was called as pastor. Brother Coleman was ordained in November of 1970 and delivered God's Word until July 1974. In October of 1974, Elder Ralph W. Riner accepted the church's call and served through July, 1977. Each of these under-shepherds met a particular need of the church.

The present pastor is Elder J. Lindy Webb, Sr.. "Brother Lindy" was one of the original charter members of the Garden City Church. The Sunlight Primitive Baptist Church called for his ordination and he was ordained to preach God's Word July 13, 1962. "Bro. Lindy" began to supply the church in February 1978 and accepted the call as pastor in May 1978.

UNITED HOUSE OF PRAYER

The United House of Prayer began in a one room shack located at 4107 Sixth Street on Rossignol Hill in Garden City. Services had been held prior to 1963 under the leadership of Bishop C. M.

Grace. It was not until March 4, 1963 that they were able to hold their first service in the rented shack. They rented for about six months before they were able to purchase the property. After buying the place they held services there for three and a half years. Then Elder P. Mikell asked the Bishop about constructing a new building. Elder Hicks, a general contractor was hired in 1966 to build the church. By the middle of 1968 the new building was completed. Bishop McCollough dedicated the building and presented it to the congregation debt free.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Grace Baptist Church is the latest addition to Garden City's family of churches. The church is a mission outreach started by Temple Baptist Church of Savannah. Tom Gearhart is the pastor and the church is located on U.S. 17 in Garden City.

ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction

Garden City and its citizens have benefitted greatly through the years by the presence of civic and service organizations in the community.

The United Brotherhood of Potters Society

The United Brotherhood of Potters Society was organized on March 14, 1907. Its first President was Mr. Frank Lovett. Meetings were held in Potters Hall, located at Five Mile Bend, where the Garden City Roadside Park is now.

United Nine Brothers and Sisters of Springfield Silver Link Society

This Society was organized in the early 1900s. The first president was Mr. Thomas Gibbons. Meetings were held in Springfield Hall which was located near Augusta Road in the area behind where Colony Bay Florist is now.

Garden City Chapter 167 Order of the Eastern Star

This chapter was formed in 1919, after a meeting of masons and their families. It was originally formed as the Richard T. Turner Chapter because that was the name of the Mason's Lodge where they met.

The chapter was instituted in 1919 by Mrs. Winifred McConnell, Worthy Grand Matron of Georgia and a member of the Laurel Chapter in Savannah, which served as mother chapter in the early years.

In 1920 the chapter was constituted and began regular meetings in the Pooler Lodge Hall where there was no electricity or plumbing in those first years.

Mrs. Annie E. Phillips was the first Worthy Matron, she was very active in guiding the new chapter and was given a life membership in 1927.

Mr. Charles Desnoyus served as the first Worthy Patron.

The Chapter continued to meet in Pooler until 1941 when more and more members were joining from the Garden City and Port Wentworth areas.

Mr. L. H. Smith, founder and developer of Industrial City Gardens gave the chapter the lot on the corner of Rommel and

Varnedoe Avenues where it is still located.

Through the effort of the Eastern Stars and Masons a building was erected on the property. Some of the Masons signed bank notes which the Stars paid off. In later years the Eastern Stars offered the Masons co-ownership in the building and that has proved mutually beneficial and satisfactory.

On March 25, 1945, a dedication ceremony was held at which the mortgage on the building was burned. There were several state officers present as well as two hundred members and guests.

There are a number of Garden City Chapter members who have served as Grand Chapter Officers. Among them are; Mrs. Bessie Cashman Worthy Grand Matron of Georgia; Mrs. Peggy Pope, Grand Marshall; Mrs. Hazell Sessions, Grand Electa; Mrs. Corrine Giles, Grand Martha.

Knights of Damon and Bethlehem Courts of Herman.

The Knights and Court were organized in August of 1922 by Andrew Johnson, Robert LaGree, Henry Cooper, Owens Edwards, Jr., William Steele and many other community leaders. Andrew Johnson served as Grand Master. Bethlehem Courts of Herman was led by Eliza Johnson, who served as Worthy Daughter.

Under the direction of many long-time community leaders these two groups organized the annual New Year's Day Emancipation Parade and festivities. Many well known speakers were featured. All the community groups and churches participated.

The late Mr. Owen Edwards, Jr., served as captain of the marching team and the late Mr. Sam Sweet was parade marshall.

The parade moved from the Knights of Damon Hall, located on Augusta Road opposite where Dairy Queen is now located to the traffic circle.

Home Demonstration Club 4-H Club

In the early 1930s Mrs. Addie M. Cooper, Mrs. Mattie Anfield and Mrs. Annie Edwards, under the leadership of Mrs. Mary Jones, home demonstration agent for the Georgia Extension Service, organized a home demonstration class. They met in the fellowship hall of the Fairlawn Baptist Church at its old location on Hawkinsville Road. There Mrs. Jones taught area residents how to preserve fruits and vegetables grown on their farms and gardens. In 1974, Priscilla D. Thomas, a lifelong resident of Garden City, was chosen Homemaker of the Year.



Knights of Damon and Bethlehem Courts of Herman

Mrs. Jones also served as leader of the 4-H Club in the late 1930s. She traveled from house to house working with club members. Once a year these young people would go to camp where they competed with 4-H'ers from other areas.

Mr. Aubry Glover was the craft teacher at the Fairlawn Social Building. Once a week he would walk from Savannah to teach area residents to make baskets and other articles.

Under the direction of Mrs. Loyer Bolden, Nutrition Program

Assistant and 4-H Club leader for Garden City, Tarnicia Ziegler won the Chatham County 4-H competition for five years. She traveled to Rock Eagle and Statesboro for further competition two years each and to Darien one year. In 1987 Tarnisha won first place in the Southeast Region of 4-H Clubs. She is the daughter of Mrs. Laurretta Bryant and is a senior at Groves High School and is a member of Fairlawn Baptist Church.

Boy Scout Troop 23

Perhaps the earliest civic organization formed in the original Industrial City Gardens development was Boy Scout Troop 23.

A Boy Scout Charter was applied for on November 12, 1935 and was granted on January 22, 1936. The signees of the application were; L. H. Quarterman, Institutional Representative and an elder of Chapel-in-the-Gardens Presbyterian Church, the sponsoring body; R. L. Cole and J.



Troop 23 Boy Scout Hut

M. Hopkins, Scout Masters; G. L. Jurgens, Assistant Scout Master; Charles B. Anderson, committee chairman; J. Howard Bishop, Will B. Jones and Luther M. Redmond, committee members.



Camp Strachan Summer 1964

There were fifteen boys in the first troop 23; Fred D. Blackburn, Montford O. Blackburn, James B. Clark, John H. Denmark, Dewitt Edwards, Gustave Kohlage, Albert Mays, S. L. McDonald, Jr., Kirk Morgan, Luther James Redmond, Robert Stafford, Walter L. Stearman, Henry Oliver Thompson, Archie Charles Turner and Theodore J. Wegman.

During the past fifty-three years, no less than thirty-six men from Garden City and the surrounding area have served Troop 23

as Scout Masters. The current Scout Master is Mr. Walter Flewellen.

The committee members who oversee the Scouts come from several churches in Garden City. The committee met in the homes of members. The Scouts met at Chapel-in-the-Gardens Presbyterian Church until a scout hut was built.

The Scouts, with help from their parents, prepared chicken suppers to defray expenses for summer camp and the scout hut.

In 1955, under the leadership of Warren F. Oglesby, Sr., with volunteer help and donations from businesses, a scout hut was built on the Chapel-in-the-Gardens church grounds.

During this period a Cub Scout Pack was organized and existed for several years, but no records are available.

Boy Scout Troop 23 still meets every Thursday in the Scout Hut behind Chapel-in-the-Gardens church.

The Garden City Garden Club

The Garden City Garden Club was not just a social organization. The sixteen ladies who started the club stated their purpose in these words; "to create a greater interest in the beautification of our homes and community... and to stimulate a love and knowledge of gardening; and to promote conservation of our trees, plants and birds."

Those ladies were : Mrs. J. M. Ocampo, President; Mrs. G. W. Tharpe, Vice President; Mrs. V. C. Hofberger, Secretary; Mrs. S. M. Helme, Reporter; Mrs. C. R. Zittrouer, Treasurer; Mrs. H. M. Dixon, Mrs. H. H. Tuten, Mrs. B. F. Hindman, Mrs. J. W. Quill, Mrs. W. H. Scott, Mrs. F. R. Foxx, Mrs. L. V. Marshall, Mrs. D. M. Stevens, Mrs. J. O. McBride, Mrs. H. H. Banks and Mrs. C. B. Colson.

There is some question about the date the club was chartered with the Georgia Federation of Garden Clubs. The 1982 Garden City Collect states May, 1937 as Charter date while a copy of old club minutes says, Fall, 1939. Originally it was Industrial City Gardens Garden Club but changed its name when the city became Garden City.

The ladies of the Garden Club supported the clean-up and landscaping of City Hall, Bazemore Park, The Community Center, the old Traffic Circle, the Traffic Circle Shopping Center, the Dundee Canal, and the entrance to the Farmer's Market on Highway 80.

The Garden City Club was the main organizational and labor

force with the Union-Camp Paper Company's tree give away program. Thousands of Dogwood, Pine and Poplar Trees were distributed throughout the county. Girl Scout arbor Day and the Bartram Trail were tree give away programs sponsored by the Garden City Club.

The first major clean-up of Garden City was sponsored by the Garden Club in cooperation with the City and Mr. Ted Romine. Hundreds of people participated in picking up and hauling trash and debris from city streets.

The club also sponsored outdoor Christmas tree decorating contests in cooperation with Savannah Electric. The Garden City Club exhibited a Christmas tree in the Christmas Trees around the World Display sponsored by the Chatham County Council for many years. The ladies of the Garden City Club made the decorations from "native" dolls.

All of these events and accomplishments are important and worthwhile. But most important to the club's members was the camaraderie enjoyed while making decorations, hanging curtains at the Cooper Community Center, cleaning the kitchen at the Garden City Community Center, digging up thousands of day-lilies for the shopping center and planting them, planting shrubs in the traffic circle then digging them up when the traffic was no more, judging outdoor decorations all over the county, making new friends and loving the old friends, while always working to make our town a beautiful Garden City.

Frank F. Baker Masonic Lodge

The Frank F. Baker Lodge was organized on December 20, 1941, by the authority of dispensation granted by Most Worshipful Brother, Zack Arnold, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, F. & A.M.

The organizing ceremonies took place at the Temple of the Garden City Chapter 167, Order of the Eastern Star on Rommel Avenue at Varnedoe Avenue.

The Lodge operated under a special dispensation until October 30, 1942 when it was presented its charter and duly constituted as Frank F. Baker Lodge No. 46, F. & A.M., by Most Worshipful Brother Edward D. Wells, then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

At the time of the constitution, the Lodge had thirty-seven charter members. It has continued its operation at the same location since that time and now has a membership of over three hundred Master Masons.

Of the original officers of the Lodge, only J. Otis Morgan and C. B. Anderson are still living.



First officers of the Frank F. Baker Masonic Lodge

The Garden City Homemakers Club

The Garden City Homemakers Club was organized in 1948 by Mrs. Jo Howell, Mrs. Corinne Rockhill, Mrs. Janette Bacon and Mrs. Leonora Backus. Mrs. Backus was the Chatham County Extension Agent.

The first meeting of the club, then called the Home Demonstration Club, was held in the home of Mrs. Julia Morgan.

The organizational meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Mimi Warren and the following officers were elected; Mrs. Marguerite Lawson, President; Mrs. Lois Bazemore, Vice-President; and Mrs. Jessie Story, Secretary-Treasurer.

The club continued to meet in the homes of members until the Garden City Community House was completed.

In 1949, Mrs. Backus retired and Mrs. Carolyn Warnell Bryan became the new Chatham County Extension Agent. Under her leadership the club grew to over forty members.

The Garden City Homemaker's Club is a member of the Chatham County Homemakers Council, The State Council and The National Homemaker's Council. It is part of the largest volunteer

continuing adult education organization in the world. Their goal is to strengthen home, family and community life through cooperation with the Chatham County Extension Service, The Extension Service of the University of Georgia and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The club has contributed to the community over the years by purchasing a piano and desk for the Community House, contributing to the refurbishing of the kitchen, participating in many civic projects, promoting 4-H Club work and providing leadership for the community through which its families have achieved richer, fuller lives.

The Garden City Club has received many state honors in its history. Mrs. Marguerite Lawson served as Treasurer, Vice-President and President on the state level. Mrs. Hattie Roberts was the State Nutrition Chairman and served as the Southeast District Chairman. Mrs. Estell Carter won the State Dress Review. Mrs. Lois Bazemore and Mrs. Nettie Bennett won the Outstanding Homemakers Award in the East District. Mrs. Bazemore is also a 50-year member of the Homemaker Clubs.

At the present time, there are two members of the Garden City Club serving on the state level. Mary K. Helmly is in her fourth year as Citizenship Chairman and Mrs. Doris Blackburn is Public Information Chairman.

The club is now in its 39th year and there are twenty active members. Currently serving as officers are; Mrs. Mary K. Helmly, President; Mrs. Doris Blackburn, Vice-President; Mrs. Audrey Roberson, Treasurer; and Mrs. Marguerite Lawson, Secretary.

The Garden City Civic Association

At an open meeting of the Garden City Council on June 7, 1948 a new civic organization was formed. It was later decided to call the organization The Garden City Civic Association. The officers elected were: C. B. Anderson, President; John Williams, First Vice-President; W. F. Oglesby, Second Vice-President; E. J. Cooper, Third Vice-President; and Mrs. Otis Morgan, Secretary. There were thirty charter members.

The purpose of the Association was to help the City government make improvements to benefit the people of Garden City. The Association became a sort of ex-officio City Council.

Meetings were held the first and third Fridays of each month at Jones Equipment Company.

The group adopted a motto reflective of their purpose; "Garden City is our Town - It is what we make it."

The Civic Association helped to get the Community House finished and began meeting there on August 28, 1951. They sponsored a Senior and Junior baseball team that played on the State Port property at Talmadge Park. The park was leased for a dollar a year and that was paid by City Council.

In September of 1949 the organization raised money to pay for repairs to the Boy Scout Hut of Troop 23.

They helped organize an X-Ray clinic at the Eastern Star Hall to promote better health among the people of Garden City.

A committee was appointed to secure a Post Office for Garden City. The first Post Office was located in the Radio Shop operated by Mr. Thomas in the Stafford Building.

The 4-H Club of Garden City

The Stevenson Avenue 4-H Club officially became the Garden City 4-H Club in September of 1953. At the time, the club had approximately 15 members and alternated meeting places between member's homes and the Garden City Community House.

The 4-H Club members chose projects from a wide selection of fields of interest such as: citizenship, food preparation, clothing, recreation, forestry, canning, freezing, landscaping and health to name only a few. Through these projects, the members were taught practical individual skills and abilities as well as responsibilities and cooperation in club and community projects.

Club members competed for honors in these projects by giving demonstrations on the local level. Winners progressed to the county level, with the competition being held at the old Savannah Vocational Technical School on Bay Street in Savannah and then later at Sprague Elementary School in Garden city. If the member was a winner at county level, they moved on to District Competition which was first held at Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton, Georgia and then was moved to the Rock Eagle 4-H Center at Eatonton, Georgia. Senior members were also eligible to continue on to State Competition held in Atlanta, and, if a winner there, on to Chicago, Illinois for National Competition. The Garden City 4-H Club has had many winners of both County and District Competition and has had some members who have progressed to State Competition.

The Garden City 4-H Club was also an active member of the Chatham County 4-H Council. In fact, several Garden City members served as officers on this council. Through this council, Garden City members were able to participate in county-wide 4-H activities as well as making new "4-H" friends throughout the Savannah area.

4-H'ers also participated in Summer Camp. In the early years, camp was held at the Chatham County 4-H Camp located on

Tybee Island. Later, some camps were held at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton. There were Garden City 4-H Club members at the ground-breaking ceremonies for this center. When it was built, it was the largest and most expensive 4-H Center in the nation.

In the Fall of each year, the club would gear up for the Coastal Empire Fair. Each 4-H Club in Chatham and other coastal counties would enter booths in the fair, exhibiting a phase of a project area that club members were working on. The Garden City 4-H Club always did very well at the fair competition including placing in the top three many times. The fair also gave individual members opportunities to enter arts, crafts and exhibits they had made over the preceeding year. As well as winning blue, red or yellow ribbons, the members were also able to win cash prizes for their handy-work.

Our 4-H Club members contributed much to our community through public service projects and time donated to many worthy causes. The idea of dedicating oneself for the betterment of the community is expressed through the 4-H Pledge:

"I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service,
my Health to better living for my
Club, my Community and my Country

The service projects taken on by the 4-H'ers covered a wide range of interests, with only a few of them listed here. Our members collected for the March of Dimes and Cancer Drive for at least 10 years. They collected over 200 bags of clothing for Good Will Industires in one year alone. They conducted paper drives, car washes and a county-wide annual Bar-B-que to raise money for worthy causes.

During 4-H Week in March of each year, activities ranged from raising and lowering the 4-H Flag over City hall daily, to placing blessing cards on tables in the local restaurants. They also conducted an annual church service in a local church during this week, rotating among all the churches in Garden City.

During holiday seasons, the 4-H'ers fixed fruit baskets and cookie packages for the shut-ins of Garden City. During a very trying time in our Country's history, our club took on the job of preparing "Ditty Bags", consisting of essentials such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, soap, writing materials, etc., to be sent to soldiers who were fighting in Vietnam. Included in these bags were the members names and addresses along with a note of thanks for a job well done.

4-H'ers also tackled projects designed to improve the Garden City community such as: clean-up days for the Community House

grounds, along with planting dogwood trees on the grounds and also at local schools. They helped clean up the entire community on the "anti-litter" days designated by the city. Garden City 4-H'ers made and donated 4-H flags to the City of Garden City in both 1962 and 1968, as well as donating a 50 star American Flag to the City in 1962.

Finally, taking good citizenship one step further, our club has conducted several voter registration drives as well as attending the Naturalization Ceremony for new citizens held in Savannah, and hosting a reception for them afterwards.

It has often been said that the most constant thing in life is change, and change has touched the 4-H Clubs in Chatham County. These clubs have now been incorporated into the Public School System so that they will be available to more of Chatham County youth. But, it doesn't matter where the 4-H Club is located, it will continue to help develop confident and capable citizens.

NOTE: Thanks to Dorothy Orr Young for her help in obtaining the information regarding the early years of the 4-H Club in Garden City.

Fire Department Auxiliary

The Garden City Fire Department Auxiliary was organized in December, 1957. The Auxiliary was established with very definite goals: (1) To encourage practical and coordinated educational programs designed to broaden the knowledge of its members concerning the Garden City Fire Department; (2) To work toward improving the standards of the fire department; (3) To cultivate and promote good fellowship and loyalty among its members; (4) To make its members more responsive to the requirements and needs of the fire department.

The first officers to serve the auxiliary were: Mrs. Steve Hattrich, President; Mrs. W. P. Neville, Vice-President; Mrs. Bill Ingram, Secretary; Mrs. James Crosby, Treasurer; and Mrs. A. L. Lamb, Membership Chairman.

The wives of Garden City firemen and the wives of the City Councilmen were eligible for membership.

The charter members of the Auxiliary were; Evelyn Blackburn, Eunice Cavannah, Ann Hartley, Francis Hattrich, Jazie Ingram, Doris Teets, Mable Temples, Sadie Lamb, Deweese Zittraour, Mildred Scott, Cynthia Oglesby, Lila Neville, Vera Crosby, Dorothy Oglesby, Laura Warrell, Mrs. H. D. Mann and Betty Watson.

The Auxiliary was active for twenty-five years and assisted the firemen in many projects which have provided improved

protection for the community as well as many hours of fellowship.

Garden City Christian Men's Club

The Garden City Christian Men's Club was organized in 1957. It was composed of the men's organizations in the five churches in the community; Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Church of Christ and Presbyterian.

The club meets quarterly for supper, alternating between the member churches whose men's groups prepare the meal.

Various people are invited to speak on topics of interest to the men of the community.

The purpose of the club is to promote worthwhile projects and causes of benefit to the community of Garden City.

Rainbow Girls

The Garden City Assembly, Order of Rainbow for Girls, was instituted on November 7, 1959, with 30 charter members. This organization for girls between the ages of 12 and 18 is sponsored by the Garden City Chapter No. 167, Order of Eastern Star.

Mrs. Esther Gooch of Atlanta, Supreme Inspector, conducted the institution with Miss Joyce Hensley, Grand Worthy Advisor of Georgia serving as Grand Marshall. Miss Hensley is also from Atlanta.

Miss Barbara Preston, who organized the new assembly, installed the officers, the Mother Advisor and the advisory board in a very impressive ceremony. Rainbow is not a club or a Lodge, it is a way of life. It is a new approach to life's problems. The lessons taught in the degree of the Order Faith, Hope, Charity, Love, Religion, Nature, Immortality, Fidelity, Patriotism and Service -bring both material and spiritual returns.

In the assembly they have an opportunity to learn to express themselves freely. The meetings are conducted by the girls, which helps to overcome their timidity. As an officer, the Rainbow Girl not only presides over the particular work assigned to her but she helps to plan a program that will be beneficial to the entire membership. Thus, early in life she becomes a planner and in carrying out these plans which she has helped to make, she will learn to become a director or leader.

The faithful workers in Rainbow have an opportunity to be made a Master of the Grand Cross of Color. This is an honorary degree that is conferred upon Rainbow girls by the founder of the

Order in recognition of services rendered. This is the greatest honor a Rainbow girl can receive.

The following girls were charter members of the assembly: Elaine Altman, Judy Ayer, Sarah Blakey, Sandra Blissitt, Pat Blount, Nancy Calhoun, Gloria Cooper, Cheryl Crosby, Wynonna Dykes, Ruby Ann Exley, Pamela Farr, Patricia Jaud'on, Mary Lee Johnson, Jeanine Lancaster, Allyson Lanier, Diane Martin, Kathy Moore, Jeannine Morgan, Andrea Mosely, Brenda Nease, Lana Orendorff, Sandra Purvis, Diane Rowe, Patsy Salter, Susan Skuse, Linda Stevens, Penny Stokham, Gloria Townsend, Bette Weston, Brenda Williams, and Marlene Unger.

The following girls have been Worthy Advisors: Mary Lee Johnson, Ruby Ann Exley, Sandra Blissitt, Brenda Williams, Pat Blount, Kathy Moore, Linda Stevens, Penny Stokham, Lana Orendorff, Sarah Blakey, Gloria Cooper, Ann Smith, Pamela Farr, Sue Byrd, Sandra Purvis, Patricia Jaud'on, Myra Exley, Kay Rutland, Jeralyn Waldrop and Paulette Bazemore.

Harry Webb Chapter
Order of DeMolay

The Order of DeMolay is an international youth organization dedicated to the principles of building better citizens out of teen-age boys.

In the year 1962, Mr. William P. Shuman, the Worshipful Master of Frank F. Baker Masonic Lodge, Garden City, Georgia, proposed that that organization undertake the sponsorship of a chapter of DeMolay, feeling that there was the need and a place for such an organization in our community. A committee was appointed to determine what procedures were necessary to sponsor such an organization. It was found to be necessary to have twenty-five boys between the ages of 14 and 21 signed up for membership in order to tentatively start this organization.

After many long and frustrating months of solicitations and preliminary meetings, the following twenty-five charter members were secured and initiated into membership by the Cecil Cheeves Chapter, Order of DeMolay, from neighboring Savannah, Georgia on June 13, 1963:

Neal Certain
Edwin Mikell
George Bazemore
Freddy Tebeau
Randall Heller
John McDowell
George Hodge
David Parker
David Anderson

Willie Rewis
Sam McDonald
Leon Zipperer
Ronnie Rogers
John Hinely
Amos Blakey
Roy Anderson
Delmos Mikell
Lewis Edwards

Tony Humphries
Danny Lively
Weldon McAvley
Leon Hall

Calvin Rewis
Joe Hinely
Paul Walz

The initiation completed, plans were formulated for the instituting of the organization.

On Sunday, June 16, 1963, at Garden City Baptist Church, a public installation of the first officers took place.

Following the installation of the officers, the "Letters Temporary" from the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay were presented. The following men were appointed and installed as the Advisory Council to the newly-instituted Chapter.

George R. Edenfield, "Chapter Dad"
William P. Shuman
C. E. Lively
C. F. Johnson
LeRoy Rogers
Tom Perry
George P. Hodge
George E. Camp, Jr.

In August 1964, at the state convention of the Order of DeMolay in Augusta, Georgia, the actual charter was presented to Chapter Advisor George P. Hodge and George E. Camp, Jr., Worshipful Master of Frank Baker Lodge, the sponsoring organization.

The Chapter has participated in many worthwhile projects and has enjoyed a number of social activities since its beginning.

Garden City Progressive Community Club

The Garden City Progressive Community Club was organized in 1963 under the leadership of Mr. Abraham Walker, Mr. Shad Wilson and many others. The group recognized the great need for recreational activities in the community for young people. Their main project was developing a playground as a short term goal and building a community center as a long range project. Mrs. Viola Bell, Mrs. Clementine Hagood, Mrs. Louise Baxter, and Mrs. Sadie Wiley were asked to lead this movement.

Garden City Mayor Rupert Bazemore, City Council, the Chatham Recreation Department and the Economic Opportunity Authority helped develop the playground along Highway 21 on land donated by the Humes Family. The club's recreation committee and other parents volunteered to supervise activities on the playground daily.

The group then began working to build a community center. Attorney Eugene Gadsden helped the club obtain a charter in 1968. After a diligent search it was decided that the Rossignol Hill area of Garden City was the best location for such a building.

Members of the Club contacted Dr. Phillip Cooper who owned the land at the corner of Davis Avenue and Fifth Street. On May 15, 1970, Dr. Cooper donated the land to Garden City.

Mr. Patrick Johnson and Mr. Roscoe Robinson were asked to be building co-chairman. The club members went door-to-door in the community surrounding the site asking residents to purchase at least one concrete block. With the donations of blocks and many fund-raising chicken dinners, the center was started.

After the building was begun, the club contacted Mayor Bazemore and asked the City for help. Mayor Bazemore and Mr. L. C. Atterbury volunteered their help, with Mr. Bazemore doing the plumbing. Community participation was almost one hundred percent.

Saturday was the regular work day on the center and ladies in the community prepared and served hot lunches to the workers.

Under the leadership of Matthew Howard, Solomon Wilson, Mrs. Mable Mack, Mrs. Elouise Johnson, Mrs. Helen Mack, Mrs. Rosa Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hagood, and many others the Cooper Community Center was completed and dedicated on June 5, 1971.

Ten years later there was an obvious need to expand the original facility. On October 7, 1981, the club sent a letter to the City Council requesting \$30,000 for construction of a 68 by 30 foot addition to the Cooper Center.

In 1983, the group was informed that the \$30,000 had been awarded for construction of the annex. City Administrator Robert Schwartz, Recreation Chairman J. W. Harrell and Recreation Director Ronnie Huggins worked with Matthew Howard, Abraham Walker, Patrick Johnson and Mr. Rufus Peters on the plans for the addition.

On May 5, 1984 the Shad Wilson Annex to the Herbert W. Cooper Community Center was dedicated.

Today the Center exists to foster the social, moral, and spiritual growth of the young people of our community, as well as to provide many opportunities for all the people regardless of age to contribute to the betterment of Garden City.

Garden City Jaycees 1960 - 1978



Garden City Jaycees Officers being sworn into office

The Garden City Junior Chamber of Commerce, later known as the Garden City Jaycees, was organized on July 14, 1960, at Chapel-in-the-Gardens Presbyterian Church. Bob Brewton was the president and the charter members were; Willie Adams, Robert G. Brewton, Robert Brownlee, James Burnsed, Calvin E. Cross, Jack L. Drowdy, Bennett H. Elkins, Jr., Lawrence E. Hill, Jr., R. Bowen Jones, Donald W. King, H. Dwey Mann, Jr., John G. Mann, Douglas F.

McGowan, William E. Morrow, Ronald A. Nease, Billy L. Odum, Ronald E. Oglesby, H. Gene Quinney, Lynn F. Shaw, Corley L. Shearouse, Jr., Billy K. Stevens, Curtis Thompson, Joseph E. Thompson, W. Hayward Tuten, Billy G. Tyson and Roy J. Yelton.

The purpose of the Jaycees was to promote civic service through the efforts of the community's young men. In 1960, the Garden City Jaycees won the award as the outstanding new club in Georgia.

The Garden City Jaycees sponsored and participated in many community projects. They helped get a post office located in Garden City, conducted swimming classes for community children, supported and worked for a school bond referendum, sponsored a little league baseball team, sponsored a Christmas party for underprivileged children, collected money for the March of Dimes, obtained playground equipment for the Community Center, provided a fence for the little league baseball field, purchased a resuscitator for the fire department, collected and donated over \$1,000 to Westside Stadium, painted cross-walks on Highway 21 at the schools, sponsored annual clean-up days, erected a flag pole at City Hall, chartered Pooler and Savannah Beach Jaycee Chapters, operated the Westside Stadium concession stand, sponsored a Boy Scout Troop and built a scout house, and promoted the annexation referendum for west Garden City in 1969.

In addition to all that, the Garden City Jaycees sponsored the "Miss Garden City Pageant", a Miss America Preliminary Pageant and the "Little Miss Garden City Pageant". The winner of the Miss Garden City title received a scholarship, entry into the Miss Georgia Pageant, and numerous prizes from Garden City merchants.

The former Miss Garden City winners were: Ruth Holton, 1967; Jackie Young, 1968; Sonja Herrington, 1969; Patti Thompson, 1970; Bambi Futch, 1971; Olivia Hodges, 1972; Debra Smith, 1973; Teri Shadrix, 1974; Connie Holland, 1975; Debra Chancey, 1976; Julia Dyer, 1978. In 1978 the title was changed to Miss West Chatham.

The Little Miss Garden City was held in conjunction with the Miss Garden City pageant and was for four and five year olds. Little Miss Garden City winners were: Denae Holder, 1969; Dana Brown, 1970; Nella Hardee, 1971; Michelle Reid, 1972; Beverly Hearn, 1973; Melissa Cartes, 1974; Tammy Fuller, 1975; Shae Hutcheson, 1976.

The Garden City Jaycees were dissolved in 1978.

Garden City Jaycettes 1960 - 1978



Garden City Jaycettes in 1966

The Garden City Jaycettes, wives of the Garden City Jaycees, were organized the fall of 1960 with Jeanne Mann as President. The purpose of the Jaycettes was to aid the Jaycees in their many projects.

In addition to the many Jaycees projects, the Jaycettes sponsored a MOTHER OF THE YEAR Award for several years. This prestigious award honored an outstanding Mother in Garden City and she received numerous gift certificates from Garden City merchants.

The Garden City Jaycettes were dissolved in 1978.

Garden City Lions Club

After a series of meetings among interested citizens in November, 1962, the Garden City Lions Club was organized. The first meeting was held in December at the Garden City Community House.

The formal banquet for presentation of the charter was held Tuesday, January 8, 1963. Many Lions Clubs from the area attended to encourage the new organization. They also brought as gifts much of the paraphernalia used at club meetings.

The Savannah Lions Club was the sponsor for Garden City and Clarence Denherder was the assistant from Lions International.

Officers installed at the first meeting were: J. Rife English, President; Willie Adams, Secretary; Larry Sheram, Treasurer; Claude Hodges, First Vice-President; E. D. Williford, Second Vice-President; Ralph Dodd, Third Vice-President; David Seckinger, Lion Tamer; Roland Oglesby, Tail Twister; and Directors, Carl J. Worrell, Sam Young, Jr., Marion Peterson, and Ted Romine.

Through Twenty-six years of service the Garden City Lions have accomplished many worthwhile projects. During their first year of service they pledged \$250.00 to "Forward Savannah",

sponsored a basketball clinic and a little league baseball team, sold over \$1,200 worth of brooms and mops for the Georgia Factory for the Blind, joined the Georgia Lions Lighthouse which assists in correcting vision problems through surgery and therapy, and with the Jaycees, purchased a resuscitator for the fire department.

In subsequent years the Lions have; helped organize the West Park Country Club by purchasing land and selling memberships, organized the first clean-up drives in Garden City, supported Boy Scout Troop 25, organized the first voter-registration drive in Garden City, donated money and materials for the Camp for the blind in Waycross, furnished eye examinations, operations and eyeglasses for those in need, furnished financial assistance to several blind people to attend leader dog school and for purchasing a seeing-eye dog, secured eye donors for cornea transplants for the Lions Eye Bank in Atlanta, supported the Peach Bowl football game the profits from which went to the Lighthouse, conduct white cane day each year raising funds for the eye bank, and countless other projects in cooperation with other civic clubs and the City of Garden City.

The Garden City Lions Club is a part of Lions International, representing 1,338,455 members and 38,331 clubs in 161 countries and geographical areas.

The goal of the Lions Club is to give sight to those who are visually impaired and do so accordig to the club's motto, WE SERVE.

Garden City Business Association

The Garden City Business Association was founded February 20, 1976, upon the fundamental premise that through its programs area businesses would become better informed of government undertakings and public concerns.

Since its inception, the organization has successfully furthered these goals and proceeded to foster mutual respect and understanding among area businesses. Through broadened lines of communication the businesses, municipal government, state government, and the community as a whole have notably benefited.

The association began its conscientious efforts when, in the last decade, and for the first time since the founding of Garden City, it developed an effective, efficient, and harmonious relationship with the local government. Evidence of this began when the businesses agreed to control and regulate the commercial affairs affecting the appearance of the community.

Over the years other accomplishments followed. The association encouraged interaction and trade between the businesses and the residents of Garden City. The association communicated needs of the commonwealth to state government. And the association sought new businesses to broadened the availability

of services.

Into the future, the Garden City Business Association will be active in enhancing and promoting the prosperity of one of the most distinctive communities in the country - Garden City.

Scouting in the Black Community



Cub Scout Den #2

On September 19, 1978, a group of parents met with Boy Scout Director, Bob Pomroy and two members of his staff, Dorsey Pierce and Danny Walker. They discussed scouting in the black community in Garden City. The parents made it known that they were very much interested in establishing scouting in their community. Mr. Pomroy told the parents that he too, would like to see the boys involved in scouting.

At that point the parents volunteered to become actively involved in a scouting program. Approximately fifty boys along with their parents met to set up the program. At that time a Cub Scout Pack was organized with two dens. Mrs. Sadie Wiley served as den mother for den one, with Mrs. Louise Baxter and Mrs. Almeta Cooper assisting. For den two, the den mother was Mrs. Geraldine Mobley and Ms. Laretta Bryant and Ms. Yvonne Ladson were her assistants.

Mr. Charlie Bryant was the Scout Master for the Boy Scouts with Mr. Franklin Brown serving as the Troop Leader.

A Girl Scout Troop was organized in 1973 at the Herbert W. Cooper Community Center under the leadership of Mrs. Rosetta Prescott.

Miss Black Heritage

Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, who was born and reared on Wheathill Road in Garden City, was crowned "Miss Black Heritage" in 1983. The title is sponsored by the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Savannah-Yamacraw Branch Association, Mr. W. W. Law, President.



Dr. Priscilla Thomas, Miss Black Heritage 1983

She was chosen for the honor because of her exemplary service to mankind, her dedication, leadership and commitment to increasing the quality of life for all people.

She is an award winning member of many religious, civic and professional organizations and a life member of Fairlawn Baptist Church.

Dr. Thomas is well-known for her involvement in public education, business and in efforts to remove many social ills from our society.

In addition to being "Miss Black Heritage" she has also been "Miss Personality of the South", 1971; "Chatham County Homemaker of the Year", 1976; the first black student from Garden City to earn a Doctorate in Education; the first Savannahian to be named "One of America's Top 100 Black Business and Professional Women" by Dollars and Sense Magazine in 1988; A 1988 finalist in the "KOOL Achiever" competition sponsored by the Brown and Williamson Corporation. She also served as producer/host of the weekly program "Spectrum" on WTOG-TV for over seven years.

Dr. Thomas also organized the first Business-Education Partnership between Haven Elementary School and the business sector of the community. This program became a model for schools in the Savannah-Chatham School System. She is co-founder of the Martin Luther King Day in Savannah as a member of the Board of Directors of the Savannah Coalition of Black Women's Organizations.