

The Advocate  
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First Lady Calls Park Step Toward Renewal

"A sense of community . . . a sense of fun . . . a sense of beauty in urban life."

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson voiced this hope for all the urban renewal projects she has visited around the country and, as she dedicated Kiwanis Park yesterday, she termed it "significant and symbolic that . . . this gracious little park" should be the first completed construction in the urban renewal area.

Too often, she said, cities are lonely places, and although they may be very efficient for commerce or industry, for parking and for traffic, they are "not very pleasant for people."

"From what little I know of Stamford's downtown renewal

plan, that will not be the case here," she said. "Your bold plan for the center of your city is based on the concept that a city is for people to enjoy together. I think this park — this mini-park — is a sign that this will happen as your new buildings and stores and roads come into being in this area."

A few minutes earlier, the first lady entered the park to the strains of "Yellow Rose of Texas," played by the champion Stamford High School Band.

Congressman Donald J. Irwin, Mayor Bruno Giordano and Mrs. Laurance Rockefeller escorted her to the speakers' stand, as Secret Service men watched discreetly nearby and from the rooftops across the street.

More than 2,200 people jammed Atlantic Square to watch the proceedings, and eight teen-aged pickets marched peacefully at the edge of Central Park, carrying signs reading "War Is Hell," "Stop White Racism" and "Bring Our Boys Home."

American flags lined nearby city streets, the adjacent Stamford Theater marquee read "Stamford Welcomes Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson" and American and Stamford flags and red, white and blue bunting decorated the speakers' platform.

After a welcome from Sherman Bletchman, chairman of the club's park committee, Mrs. Eugene Jones, wife of a

Kiwanis member and consulting engineer to the Urban Redevelopment Commission, sang the National Anthem, accompanied by the Stamford High School band, which represented Connecticut at the Cherry Blossom festival in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Bletchman, who was master of ceremonies, described how, when he was club president, he was urged to find a suitable site for a club-sponsored park and he described the work of his group of the URC and the redeveloper in achieving their goal.

"We have shown what citizens who care can do," he said.

He said he hoped the club's interest in the park and its

contribution of the fountain, which the President's wife turned on yesterday, will challenge other service clubs and community groups to sponsor similar parks.

The mayor, who said Stamford was "honored by the gracious presence of the very active first lady," declared that her presence served to "heighten the park's significance."

"It is significant because it is the beginning of a new Stamford of the renewal and beautification of Stamford," he said.

"Urban renewal is not the job of the URC alone," he said, "but is a job for every citizen cooperating constructively. Kiwanis Park is the first

completed public facility for the City of Stamford. It brings the hope for a much bigger and better Stamford for all of us."

He presented the key to the city to Mrs. Johnson and his daughter, 14-year-old Esther Marie, gave her a bouquet of roses and baby's breath "on behalf of all the youth of the City of Stamford." Mr. Bletchman gave the first lady a scroll from the club in appreciation for her dedication of the park.

Introduced by the mayor, Mrs. Dwight Marshall called the dedication "a great event in the life of our city. The presence of the President's wife at Kiwanis Park will always serve as a symbol of the most vital (Continued on Page 26 Col. 5)

# First Lady Dedicates City Park

(Continued from Page One) ingredient of all—total community involvement."

She expressed gratitude to Robert Fishell, Kiwanis president, to Mr. Bletchman and to all Kiwanis members for the contribution to the development of the park, which she called the

beginning of "truly human and beautiful human environment for all."

Congressman Irwin, thanking Mrs. Johnson for "helping us pay tribute to the park," described the President's wife as having "great grace and courage," and he said he took "great pride" in introducing her.

In her talk, Mrs. Johnson called Mr. Irwin a "can-do" congressman (his efforts brought her to Stamford) and she said she was glad to come to a "can-do" community.

"I love to see constructive things happening," she said.

In her travels around the country, she said, she has seen that "what is happening in Stamford is happening in many other places as well. Americans are coming to realize that we can make our cities not only functional — but beautiful and gracious and enjoyable and exciting and livable as well."

Such a process is a complex and "not fully understood" technique of "human and physical renewal," she said.

She praised the efforts of the mayor, Mrs. Marshall and Mr. Bletchman for taking the effort to bring about the process.

"The important thing is that it can be done," she said. "We can add that grace note to our lives, we can make and remake this land of ours into a land where people can not only prosper but where they can see and feel the

beauty of our time and place. It gives me special pleasure to see that it is a service-oriented business club that is leading the way."

Taking part in the dedication were the Rev. Rafe M. Taylor of Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church, the Rev. Joseph A. Hefernan of St. Cecilia's Church, Rabbi Samuel M. Silver of Temple Sinai and the Very Rev. George Poulos of the Church of the Archangels.

A reception followed at the Summerset Restaurant, attended by about 200 City officials, Kiwanis officers and members, members of boards and commissions and representatives of community groups. Mrs. Johnson was unable to attend, as she departed immediately after the dedication to take part in Federated Garden Club of America events in Greenwich.

## United Nations Children Plan Museum Visit

The Stamford Museum and Nature-Center will be the scene May 25 of a bi-annual Farm Day. This year the auxiliary of the museum has arranged to have as guests a bus-load of children from the United Nations.

Mrs. Oscar de Lima, a member of the Auxiliary, has been in contact with the hospitality committee of the United Nations and is in charge of the visit to Farm Day at the museum by the children of the U.N. delegates.

Some of the youngsters will be accompanied on the trip to Stamford by their parents as well as members of the committee working with Mrs. de Lima.

Farm Day has been called a gift to the children of Stamford by the auxiliary of the museum. Free of charge and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Farm Day will feature exhibits and demonstrations by craftsmen of all sorts.

Participating in the exhibits and organization of Farm Day along with the museum auxiliary is Girl Scout Troop 57 under the leadership of Mrs. Walter Koons. Co-chairmen for the auxiliary are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Goldstein and Mr. and

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