

# Community center left as Rodger's legacy

By Peter Anderson

Johnny Rodgers left Nebraska with more than his retired jersey number when he headed for Canada to play for the Montreal Alouettes. He left the beginnings of a community center in Omaha bearing the name "Run, Johnny, Run".

"Run, Johnny, Run" opened in July in an old street car garage at 24th and Ames Streets that was recently a grocery store. Its financial backing came from Rodgers.

According to Langston Bradley, assistant manager of the center, the center's main goal is to offer young people a place to go. "There just aren't many activities during the winter months for teenagers so "Run, Johnny Run" was opened in hopes that it would help cut down boredom," he said.

Finding enough room to hold several activities simultaneously is not a problem, Bradley said as he looked across a large room with a capacity for 500 persons.

The problem is that the center is run on a small budget, but needs lots of remodeling. And because of its newness and lack of exposure, the center hasn't received much financial

support from the community, Bradley said.

Booths and tables as well as a fence for the parking lot, are needed, Bradley said.

The center currently has a color television, sells pop from the bar and has either live music or records to dance to. Admission is charged according to what entertainment is being offered, he said.

"The charge is usually 35 cents when there isn't a live band, but can be more than a dollar when certain groups come to play," he said.

The center opens about 9 p.m. and usually closes at 2 a.m. One of the center's rules is that smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages are prohibited, according to Bradley.

Entertainment now dominates programming at the center, but hopes for a more financially secure future hinge on a teenage development program, Bradley explained.

Other plans include installing a kitchen, starting a day care program and partitioning the main room to allow for more concurrent activities.

"Our hope is to make it a lasting and functional part of the community," Bradley said.



With money from NU football great Johnny Rodgers, this old street car garage was turned into a community center.

He said the center is nonprofit and is trying to steer away from using federal funds. "There are too many restrictions and guidelines that come along with these funds," Bradley said. Of the four men who manage "Run, Johnny, Run," three graduated with

degrees in education and Bradley graduated with a degree in business.

Bradley said he thinks the managers have insight into the needs of the teenagers and the community because they all are products of it.

# YWCA to open women's center

By Lori Demo

"I hope we can be a resource center where Lincoln community women with problems can come for information on where to find help," Ruth Harper said about the creation of a YWCA-sponsored Women's Resource Center.

Area director of the community Y, Harper started work last March on the center that will be at the YWCA, 1432 N St.

Along with 20 volunteers that "represent a different portion of women in Lincoln," she has started setting up programs, seminars and workshops that will "provide women with the opportunity to increase their self-awareness as well as develop skills necessary to their self-determination."

She also has been working on a reading room and lending library with magazines, newspapers and pamphlets that will provide resource material on subjects relating to women.

"This library basically depends on whether or not we get some funds," she said. "We do not go into the Y's budget until next September so our library right now consists of materials that have been donated. I have had success in getting a wide range of subject matter."

Harper said programs at the Center will begin by January. Their main emphasis will be on community women because the UNL women's Resource Center focuses on the problems of the student woman.

"The problems of women not in college differ greatly from those of college women," she said. "But I think that students can get their eyes opened by talking to community women on subjects like marriage, motherhood and divorce. In the same way, community women learn a lot about contemporary ideas from students."

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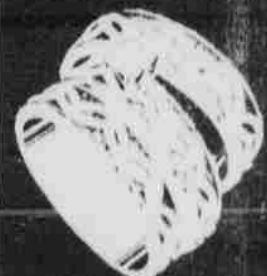
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