

Woods temporarily spared

By Barb Richardson

The Omaha City Council has delayed rezoning of Tomlinson Woods for the third time.

According to Steve Rosenblatt, city council president, the rezoning issue was delayed until Nov. 7 at Tuesday's meeting.

Tomlinson Woods, located in the middle of an Omaha suburban area, is 34½ acres of 95 to 100 varieties of mature trees.

Controversy over the land emerged when a developer's firm, Creative Land Consultants, asked the city council to rezone the area for a home development. Opposing the developer's views is a citizens' group that wants the land turned into a state arboretum.

Waiting for commitment

"The city council is waiting for a commitment from the United States Fish and Wildlife Commission," Rosenblatt said.

Pat Drickey, caretaker of the woods, said, "Congress has allocated \$900 billion to the commission for the purchase of land tracts in the United States. The commission travels from state to state finding tracts of land to purchase for their environmental qualities. Tomlinson Woods is now the top priority on a purchasing list of six states."

Drickey added that in order for the commission to make the purchase, Tomlinson Woods must be the top priority of 10 states.

"We've (the citizens' arboretum group) said all along that there was nothing like Tomlinson Woods in the six state area. But, it took a federal official to make people believe us," Drickey said.

90-day delay

"The commission has asked for the 90-day delay to finish site selections from other states," Drickey said.

According to Drickey, if the land is purchased by the commission, Tomlinson Woods will be turned into an arboretum.

"Congressman John Cavanaugh recommended Tomlinson Woods to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. John has been a lot of help to the citizens' group," Drickey said.

Explaining his reason for voting against the delay, Rosenblatt said, "the vote was an unreasonable delay. The council is not voting on acceptance or rejection of the land as an arboretum, but the rezoning of the land."

"In my opinion, rezoning will be voted down in November because a protest petition has been filed by people living near Tomlinson Woods. The petition requires a vote of five council members in favor of rezoning to rezone the land. There will never be five votes in favor of rezoning," Rosenblatt said.

Council member Mary Kay Green said, "if the United States Fish and Wildlife Commission is able to purchase the land, zoning of the area will remain the same."

Fellowships established

The NU Foundation announced Tuesday the establishment of the Carl John Warden Graduate Fellowships in psychology in honor of the noted pioneer psychologist who co-designed standardized mazes to study animal behavior.

The late Dr. Warden founded the Laboratory of Comparative Psychology at Columbia University in 1924 and served as its director for more than 30 years.

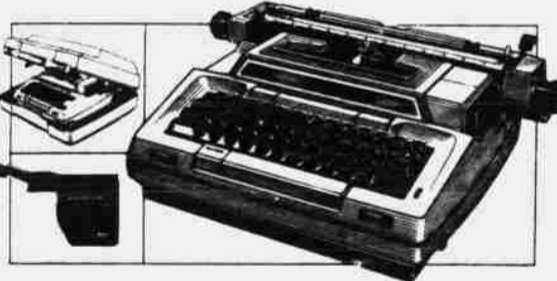
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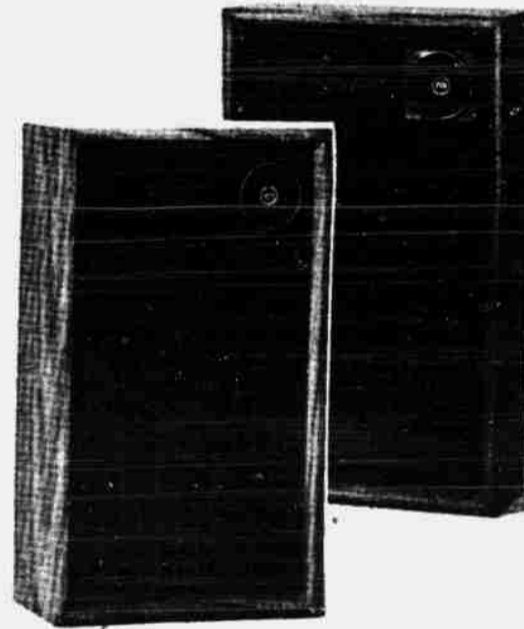
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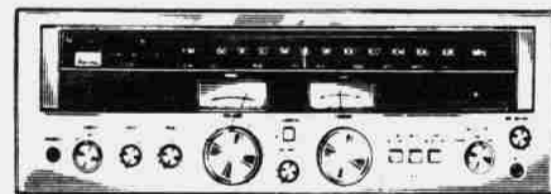
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