

## Malone neighborhood...

Continued from Page 6

The city of Lincoln paid \$230,000 toward the building of Malone Center, Inc. — various foundations helped pay for the rest. The three-year-old community center, located at 2032 U St., was the first major redevelopment project in the Malone area.

Today, plans are under way to build Malone Manor. The \$1,545,000, 50-unit complex should pay for itself in 40 years, Robinson says. The apartments will be rented on a first-come, first-served basis. Chick says he hopes the complex will enable elderly people to stay in the area after they become too old to take care of their own homes. The manor will be accessible to the handicapped.

Other programs of the target area include block grant money, the Linear Park Bikeway, a neighborhood park, industrial development and street construction, Chick says. The university also has bought land in the area and plans to develop it for additional parking and recreation facilities, Chick says.

Kay Thompson has lived in the Malone area for nearly 25 years. She was the president of Malone Community Center for 10 years. She says she

thinks there has been a lot of improvement in the community.

"Oh my — I should say there's been much development," she says. "In the first place there's been much remodeling of some of the homes. And some homes have just been rebuilt."

Like Robinson, Thompson has watched the changes. She is 76. When she first came to Lincoln she was about 13. She came here because her hometown, Norborne, MO, didn't allow black children to go to school beyond the eighth grade. She finished high school at Lincoln High and went on to get a degree in teaching from UNL. But when Thompson graduated from the university, she wasn't allowed to teach school in Lincoln, so she went home to Missouri where she taught grades first through fourth. After many years of traveling, Thompson returned to Lincoln, where she retired.

Thompson says the Fair Employment Practice Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Law aided her and other minorities.

Thompson, and her friend Lenora Letcher, have been involved with redeveloping the Malone neighborhood for many years.

The neighborhood started deteriorating badly, over 30 years ago," Letcher says. "Development was very slow at that time. People

didn't have the feeling there was any need to go on complaining — they thought there wouldn't be anything done about it.

"We felt like there could be something done," Thompson said. "So we got very much involved." Through the Urban Development Program, Thompson says, people became interested and went into the neighborhood to see what

needed to be done.

"A lot of people didn't know the neighborhood," Thompson says. "They didn't know what was happening."

Letcher says the Civil Rights Act of 1963 got many people involved.

"I think we need to keep up the good work," Thompson says. "I'd like to see a little more friendliness between the groups. You see, more whites are moving into the area — and that'll be helpful to all

of us.

"I think they're (young people) more open-minded — feeling free to do their own thing," Thompson says.

When Thompson was waiting for a bus downtown one day, she says she saw a group of black and white kids breakdancing. She didn't know exactly what they were doing she says, "but whatever it is they certainly were doing it."

"I had to chuckle. I thought 'Oh, this is a different world — things are really changing.'"



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## Area senators to keep seats in Legislature

Incumbent Bill Harris of Lincoln "won" his first election to the Legislature Tuesday and two other Lincoln-area incumbents retained their legislative seats.

State Sens. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln and Jerome Warner of Waverly joined Harris in sweeping their districts. Warner took the 25th district, Harris the 27th and Marsh the 29th. Warner won comfortably, but Harris and Marsh said they were a little worried as the votes were tallied.

"Even though I was confident coming in, I knew my opponent had campaigned hard, so I was a little worried as the night went along," Marsh said.

Marsh defeated retired IBM executive Gene Dankert by taking nearly 58 percent of the vote in her district.

Harris said early results, which showed he and challenger Pat Hoffman running close made him lose a little confidence.

"I knew how hard the Republican Party was getting out in Lancaster County. They were putting out a lot of flyers and packets to vote Republican, so I was a bit worried," he said.

Harris defeated Hoffman by pulling in 56 percent of the district vote.

Warner will begin his 23rd year in the Legislature after capturing 78 percent of the vote and defeating retired Air Force officer Charles Gove of Denton.

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