NAME: GOODWIN, Jack

ADDRESS: 11 Holdsworthy Rd, New Plymouth

DATE: 30/7/97

INTERVIEWER: DONALD, Mary ABSTRACTOR: LAMBERT, Floss

RESTRICTIONS: Nil

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0.6 Early History and Memories, The Family

Jack Goodwin was born on 13 February 1912 at Waimate in Canterbury and was educated there. He remembers growing hyacinths at the age of four years and recounts a story about a lilium bulb. At the age of five he trained sweet peas over a fence which tour buses stopped to admire. His father was a keen gardener and grew fruit trees fresh vegetables and seasonal flower displays. He also was the first Inspector of Schools in Auckland but developed asthma and found relief from the affliction only in Christchurch. Grandfather, Percy Goodwin, born in Tauranga, 1879 was eventually headmaster of Tauranga Central School and was the first person in New Zealand to be prosecuted for administering capital punishment.

7.3 Country Life in Waimate and Early Jobs

Father eventually drove a delivery van for the Farmers' Co-op and was later Postmaster for the district in the busy store during World War I. Jack describes his early childhood in the country farming community where he travelled with the mailman and grocery delivery van for pocket money jobs; he also mentions raking up couch with harrows and horses.

11.4 Wool-Classing, Knowledge of Botany

Jack studied wool-classing and visited shearing sheds in the McKenzie country. He gained 96% - 100% passes in his second year. He is fortunate in having a keen eye for detail, and mental classification and cataloguing as regards botany, eventuated from wool classing. He now has a better memory for recalling 3000 to 4000 types of plants than he has for recalling people's names.

16.9 **Secondary Education**

MEN TO MAKE THE PROPERTY OF TH

Jack took a mixed Science Course at Waimate District High School (Dairy Science, Ag. Science and Botany) up to Advanced Studies in Botany for M. Sc. He used these textbooks on plant physiology for years.

18.6 Alternative Employment, Various Occupations

Jack had expected to follow grandfather and became a school teacher but the depression years, early 1930s, intervened, with closed Training Colleges, so work on the lad was the obvious alternative. He tells of arable farming, sheep husbandry and dairying, harvesting, gold prospecting in Central Otago, fruit, tobacco and hops in Nelson and then back south for wool

classing and harvesting.

21.2 Horticulture in Christchurch, Naim's Nursery

He went back to Christchurch, early 1930s, with horticulture in mind, learning of such branches as tropical plants and roses from great, old tradesmen in the well-known Nairn's Nursery. He even broke in sections behind the brewery where he grew cabbages and lettuces for sale during the depression.

24.7 Commencement of Horticultural Specialisation

There were no jobs available at Dunedin Botanic Gardens, so Jack worked at a cordial manufacturer's while spending his leisure time in the Gardens. He obtained a position as head gardener at a Waiau(?) sheep station and spent three years there.

He took a horticultural correspondence course and then mentions several jobs which were offered. He also mentions well-known names in local horticulture eg Foweraker (Forestry School head) and Lance McCaskell (Prof. at Lincoln) both of whom he studied with and with whom valuable friendships were made.

29.7 Tape switched off at Jack's request.

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0.7 N.Z. Institute of Horticulture, Army Service

Although Jack had registered with the N.Z. Inst. of Hort in 1926, he had to have approved practical work before sitting the first exam - hence the three years as head gardener at the sheep station. He attended classes at Christchurch Technical College and worked in the nursery gardens for three years also. He married and applied for a Senior gardener's job with the City Council Parks, c1940. (His Army Service was from 1942-1944 as Quartermaster for the Regiment, a leg injury preventing him from heavier and overseas postings.) Jack had already completed first and second stages of his National Diploma in Horticulture and whilst in the Army worked on his thesis. This, he discusses.

7.5 Qualification for N.D.H.N.Z.

Jack won a Memorial Prize for the top student in N.Z. in his Intermediate exam; then he qualified for his N.D.H.Z.Z. At the Rhododendron Conference in Christchurch he was interviewed for a position in the newly authorised Horticultural Schools in Massey and Lincoln.

8.9 Massey Agricultural College

He accepted a position a Massey for five years, and reminisces as regards the gradual change from an Ag. College to a Training College and, finally a University. At this time he lived on a hillside above the college.

15.4 Jack Chooses New Plymouth

He was invited to apply for Hamilton, Wanganui and New Plymouth choosing the latter probably because of encouragement from Vic Davies and Dr Yeates. Here in 1949 he became Curator of Pukekura Park and Reserves, and gives details of some reserves, committees and the Council. The full-scale department which he set up is considered a model in the country. Quartermaster training assisted in financial control over resources.

21.2 Overseas Experience

problems).

A B.Sc. degree was deferred because of overseas commitments.

- 1. National Congress in London (1957, 6 months leave of absence)
- 2. 16 Years N.Z. representative on Park Administrators.
- 3. Congresses in Canberra, London, Vancouver and Durban. He also concentrated on water effects and illuminations in Parks (London, Brighton and Edinburgh) and crematoria management (fuel and furnace

27.1 A Specialty Branch

This is the sealing of old slag heaps and city eyesores with even weed seeds to encourage an aesthetic green covering. It has been used for covering highway embankments and hillsides in New Plymouth after playing field excavations, and is also now used by the Ministry of Works.

28.5 Back to New Zealand

Jack was the second youngest in the Royal Institute of N.Z. Horticulture in 1965/66. Veitch(?) Memorial Gold Medal 1978. After retirement he carried on with the International Dendrology Society. This led to a life-membership. A discussion on the above society is presented here.

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0.7 Awards

Jack finds it difficult to remember these. Some are Life Memberships and some Open Memberships. He feels that others are equally deserving. Some supplementary awards have been developed. He discusses this aspect. His I.D.S. award was accepted with pleasure but two other distinguished members received awards the following year. He recalls the N.Z. Parks Life Membership in which he assisted in the writing of the history of parks. (The interviewer here suggests that a written list of awards would be excellent for records).

4.6 Pukekura Park - First Impressions, An Early Days' Description

Mr Saxton and Jack slashed their way into Fillis Street gully where the kindergarten is now sited. Convolvulus - covered kauri trees, weighed down by the weed were lying on the ground and often pulled out of shape. One area was choked with seedling sycamores, suppressing native plant growth. Reserves in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin were the same - the young men were away (World War II) and the elderly men had to carry on able only to keep the Walks open. Strawberry trees, although loved by tuis were growing too quickly and had to be cut out. Stakes were used as anchors for deteriorated terraces and charcoal made from the trees was used in potting mixes.

10.0 The Three Months' Report, Achievements

On his arrival Jack addressed the Institute of Horticulture. A report on future Park work was requested for the following month, but Jack asked for a 3 months' respite. An aquarium was eventually achieved but took 20 years to complete. (Kawaroa Park had one). First achievement, however, was the artificial waterfall based on one in North Wales. This was made possible by an Insurance Company grant. The fountain and the water wheel followed. The 'sound shell' was at first mooted for Pukekura Park but Jack realised, at an early stage that Brooklands had the site for a natural amphitheatre. He was away in England when this came to fruition 7/8 years later. There was a lot to plan in a mere three months. Boundaries often buried in grass had to be cleared and fences also. The Racecourse fence could not be found. Often road frontages only needed tidying up and blending into the trees.

16.7 Residence, Plant Collections, Illuminations

Jack's first home was in Victoria St, a good spot, overlooking the park. He lived there for 18 years before moving. The orchid (Parker) and begonia collections (Mr Kibby) are mentioned, a description of the latter being given. One big item was the building up of a comprehensive range of plants to be introduced to the public.

Illuminations are a great public drawcard and these are discussed. They began initially with the Salvation Army in Mr Horton's time. Illuminations are discussed in detail beginning with strings of lights (overhead) but later underground cables were used.

The Electricity Department was wonderful in assisting, especially as regards the Queen's visit in 1954. Other royalty is mentioned. Jack met the Queen Mother. Street decorations were installed and the cricket ground illuminated.

23.8 The Fountain

At first there was a lot of controversy as regards the fountain's siting. The official opening took place in 1956, 9000 people being present. Initially Jack had to work it by hand, a humorous situation. Many details as regards the fountain are mentioned here - maintenance, cleaning of jets, synchronisation of lights, the Wellington firm responsible, the problem of geese and waterfowl, finances, comparisons with the Wellington Centennial fountain and powerful Russian constructions, and finally the pleasure this sophisticated piece of equipment has brought to all who consider it a fascinating sight with its formal combinations of water and lighting effects.

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0.6 Initial Park Plans, The Waterfall and Waterwheel

Following the fountain constructed for the Queen's visit were the plant collection and the waterfall and waterwheel. These were included in the 1949 development proposal report, although Jack was side-tracked on to illuminations. In 1970 a donation by the N.Z. Insurance Company allowed for copying a waterfall seen in Wales. Alex Brodie a private engineer was involved. Jack discusses the plans used for this. Construction of the water wheel was begun with help from the Taranaki County Council. Methods used are mentioned and comparisons are made with Pukeiti waterwheel, now in need of repair.

Children's Playground, Pukekura Park Additions and Repairs 7.9

Originally there were only two swings on a pipe rail. Money was raised for drainage and bridges by cutting down macrocarpas and selling the resultant fence posts. The first timber for glasshouses came from Marton (Sash and Door) as there was no timber treatment plant here. Bridges were rebuilt and Sam Golder, an excellent handyman, took charge of repairs, replacements and boat maintenance. The begonia house was completely renovated but other buildings needed only frames and roofs replaced.

11.9 The Botanic Garden, Pukekura Park History

Expansion of the plant collection commenced to create a botanic garden. Fillis Street area set aside in 1876 for this. Plants were set out in botanical classification and order, and rectangular gardens constructed for cut flowers thus making the park an ornamental show piece. Jack refers here to Kew Gardens and the Napier Botanic Garden. Some Pukekura Park history is recalled, Jack referring to the Maori Wars and Belt Road and the later addition of Brooklands and the Bowl from the Newton King Estate.

Begonias and Fuchsias, Messrs Parker and Fuller

Originally there was a reasonable collection of begonias but Mr Parker, a member of the Park Committee was willing to help with these. Jack discusses the fuchsia collection which he started with the assistance of Smith (Christchurch). Mr Parker was also an orchid man. Mr Fuller took over the curatorship while Jack concentrated on Reserve development. Native plant and rock garden specialists were also involved.

21.6 Mr Fuller

Mr Fuller trained at Duncan and Davies, then went to England (Kew), to Sweden (hydroponics) and to Matta (chrysanthemums). He experimented in N.Z. on short day lengths for rapid flowering. He then came to New Plymouth and stayed on at the Park, one of a loyal team which helped to build up collections.

23.4 Mr Jellyman and Ian McDowell

lan McDowell had English qualifications (Kew) and gained his diploma of Horticulture in N.Z. Alan Jellyman trained at Duncan and Davies gaining the Cockayne Gold Medal for highest award in the Diploma exam. Jack discusses an upheaval in Diploma requirements.

25.1 Jack Goodwin

An impressive number of employees spoke highly of Jack, in particular, George Mason, as regards Jack's contributions to the Park and Reserves in general. A really special team was developed and Jack discusses this referring to Christchurch and Dunedin where top students were trained. Some were trained here, but they don't seem to have apprentices now. Jack continues the discussion Senior members and apprentices.

28.3 The Park, Reserves, Tom Wagstaff

George Fuller's position was that of manager for the Park which included tree surgery, orchids and glasshouses. Jack was Park superintendent but became more involved in the Reserves. Tom Wagstaff was Deputy in 1957 when Jack went overseas. Tom, however, went into real estate business before his death. Alan then became Deputy Superintendent while Jack was away and involved in forestry and airports.

32.3 Other Reserves

Lake Mangamahoe (end of tape).

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0.5 Other Reserves, The Wildlife Service

Lake Mangamahoe. This was reminiscent of Canadian scenes. Timber trees near lake were extracted and ornamental conifers planted. A policy of autumn scenes was followed. Fishing was commenced and the Wildlife Service introduced black teal which increased enormously. Canada geese arrived; this could mean an eventual take-over. Thinned-out rhododendrons and kowhais were also introduced to the reserve.

5.5 The Crematorium

Jack would have preferred a side road as a site but the Council decided otherwise. Expansion was allowed for. Coloured conifers and staggered cherry types have grown nicely, but lichen is a problem.

8.2 Various Streets, Rugby Park, Huatoki Domain

Details are given here of planting programmes at Doralto Road, Rugby Park, Vogeltown, Hursthouse, Raleigh and Drake Streets (swings and roundabouts for children's playground). Govett Avenue (the Beautifying Association) and Huatoki Domain (Newton Allen was previously involved in this and a camping ground developed; this is now closed down.) Maui pipeline construction workers used the camping ground in the early 70s, but later shifted to Waitara as the construction line progressed.

16.2 Sports Grounds, Groundsmen Training Involvement

Jack was involved in most of the sportsground programmes. He became Parks' Representative in the Palmerston North Research Institute for training bowling, croquet and cricket groundsmen and apprentices and also refresher courses for these people. Sports grounds mentioned and discussed are Western Park Soccer Club, Waterworks reserve domain at Mangorei Road (many details of this), four different swimming pools and associated picnic areas.

21.3 Sports Ground Involvement Continued, Schools and Parks

Details are given of Vogeltown Park and Old Boys' Rugby Club which included a cricket club. Lynmouth Park was built on a rubbish dump. Western Park, Waitara Park (soccer) and the Racecourse area are discussed. Te Mete Park (hockey) and the Boys' High School grounds required drainage. Some others mentioned are Sutherland Park (soccer, tennis, athletic club). Ngamotu Domain remained. Jack tells of its development for Rugby League with the felling of gums. He feels that playing fields should be a mile apart. Most of

this development took place in the 10 years following the war.

25.8 Marfell Park, Summer Grass, Children's Playing Areas

Marfell Parks caused a lot of trouble, being a city refuse dumps with gully lands of a swampy nature. 1000 yards of filling material was necessary for levelling. Fine summer grass was used as an experiment for playing fields. It is quick growing and easy to cut. The racecourse was used by the Boys' High School and later by Highlands Intermediate. Jack mentions children's playing areas and parks and their sites.

31.4 The Foreshore

The Walkways, Kawaroa Park and Fitzroy and East End beach camps. Were they owned by the Harbour Board and consequently were they dual-run parks?

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0.1 Fitzroy Foreshore, Fitzroy Park

This, because it was run by a seaside park committee which had the means to keep it going, was the last to come under Jack's control. There was a resident Surf Club, camping ground and pool. Higher development, however, was done by Jack, e.g. area for caravans above flooding areas. Sea encroachment was marked by stakes set out at springtide level. The Park included the Golf Course and Jack managed this as well as the salt water reservoir built to supply cooling water to the fertiliser works. He developed the lake at the bottom of the park. An abattoir and by-products and skin and hide buildings were there but have shifted, leaving room for development. Hockey, rugby and soccer grounds were developed and details are given. The Council maintains final control of leases as sometimes clubs disintegrate.

7.0 Sanders Park, Various Walkways

The resident football clubs at Sanders Park have a say but the Council has ultimate control. Walkways are developed under the National Walkways system. Jack is not fully conversant with walkways. Early councillors put aside river-adjacent land not used for housing for reticulation of the sewerage systems, gravity bringing it down to the outfall. The Henui Walkway evolved from an agreement with engineers when developing the sewerage scheme and it worked well - it is a popular walkway. The Huatoki Walkway followed the same procedure and is also popular. It once had a swimming pool. The Fire Brigade, because Huatoki Domain was their annual picnic site helped to clear and develop the area (caravan park and tennis club).

Waiwakaiho originally included both a bowling green and a croquet lawn, but is now all used for netball courts. A Backpackers building developed by Fitzroy Rotary has now shifted to the Frankley area off Clinton Street. There is a streamside walk up Waimea Street off Clawton Street and there are future reserves here. Some have been planted and developed and some are still grazed by horses.

13.2 Lucy's Gully, Centennial Park

This well-known area with its redwoods was not included in Jack's control. It is part of the Egmont National Park and is controlled by the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Paritutu's Centennial Park was set up to extend access to the beach. Jack developed this in an advisory capacity. There was a Surf Club and facilities at the foot of the stream, also a beach walk originally, but although

the building was toughened by reinforced concrete sand has destroyed it and it was finally removed. The walkway here was developed since Jack's time. Drives as well as a walkway along the shore where planned but sea control is a continuing problem. Waiwakaiho would be improved by a breakwater but boulder-quantities and costs are also a problem.

Jack is to visit Pukeiti tomorrow so perhaps another tape on this area could be done sometime in the future.

18.0 Jack doesn't mind and is quite happy with that plan, although he now lives from one day to the next and has not the same interest in life since the loss of his wife.

JOHN W GOODWIN

John Goodwin was born on February 13th 1912 in South Canterbury. He attended Waihao Downs School for about two years before transferring to Douglas School for another two years before transferring back to Waihao where he stayed until Standard 6 when he gained his proficiency. He participated in athletics, rugby; swimming and won prizes for school gardening. He worked on farms through the district harvesting cocksfoot seed, trapping rabbits (and when older shooting them) also tree felling and wool classing.

He attended Waimate District High (later known as Waimate District High School) and Waimate Technical College where he learned wool classing. He was a member of the 1st 15, the tennis team and the fives. While at Waimate High School, he was involved with George Didley, Agricultural Instructor and assisted in a survey of local weeds for Hildendorf's book on the subject. In his final year Jack was the school's athletics champ.

His grandfather had been Head master of Tauranga Central in 1876 and Inspector of Schools in Auckland 1879 and Jack wanted to follow in his footsteps and take up teaching as a career. But the Teachers Colleges and Public Service training schemes were closed to new students during the depression.

On leaving school, Jack tried his hand at the central Otago gold fields. He took orchard work with both stone and pip fruits. He worked with construction and maintenance of irrigation systems, and the care of Ryland sheep. Other horticultural work included tomatoes and strawberries under irrigation, designing and assisting construction of Cherry House using galvanized L & T iron posts to support netting. Working with tobacco growing and curing in Nelson, casual work in private and institutional gardens and raising vegetable seedlings for sale.

He was three years head gardener at Lyndon Station, Waiau, Amuri Country, with charges of poultry and supply of vegetable etc for workers. He signed up with RNZ Institute of Horticulture to undergo exams and began a correspondence course. For three years he was a nurseryman/salesman for Kowhai Nursery, Christchurch, growing trees, shrubs imported bulbs, growing cut flowers and selling roses.

In 1940 Jack took the position of assistant nursery foreman with the Christchurch City Council. After a spell with the Artillery 1942-44 in which he rose to the rank of Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant, Jack returned to the Christchurch City Council as nursery foreman. But he didn't stay long. In November 1944, jack was offered the position of Superintendent of Grounds at the new Massey Agricultural College in Palmerston North. Here he developed the College grounds, was part-time lecturer and demonstrator.

In 1949, he was appointed Superintendent of Parks and Curator of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth. At this time the parks came under the management of the Work Committee. Jack was responsible for the establishment of the Parks Committee which was formed in 1954 with W A Dean as Chairman. By 1957, Jack was Director of Parks and responsible for airport landscaping, forestry, development of playing fields, park features, water and lighting effects, plants and turf culture etc. He retired on February 14th 1977 and the Goodwin Dell in Pukekura Park was named in his honour.

organisations/memberships interests etc:

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture

NDH NZ 1938

First Campbell Memorial Prize supplemented by Gibbon Seeds, Wellington to help pay for Bean's `Trees and Shrubs'.

Canterbury School of Arts 1930's

Army 1940's

Dendrology studies

FRIH (NZ) 1948 – Life member 1976 and Researcher

and co-author of history

International Federation Park and recreation Administration,

Founder member 1957

Commission for New Zealand – member 1958-74 Retired member 1977 Study Tours

1970 Canberra – opening of Australian National Botanical Gardens

1976 Greece

1976 Canada – Vancouver – opening of the Vancouver Botanical Gardens

197? South Africa - Durban

Royal Horticultural Society First Massey membership 1949 FRHS RHS Lily and rhodo year book, rhodo species and hybrids

Awarded Veitch Memorial Gold Medal in 1978 -

Presented in London, Frank Knight received it on Jack's behalf Took part in international survey of ornamental conifers RHS and Welch's Handbook of Conifere

Received on of Kingdon awards – Blue poppies in appreciation International Dendrology Society (originally Dendrology Union)

Formed Belgium May 7th 1952

At 1st general meeting 17-18/9/1952

1954 newsletter Dendron

1966 Year book published

life member – honorary member 1988 (limited to 10)

New Zealand Institute of Foresters -

associate member

retired member

resigned

New Zealand Institute of Turf Culture Representing Institute of Parks Resigned on retirement

New Zealand Botanical Society for inception

New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architecture – from inception

QEII National Trust - member for many years

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society - over 50 years

New Zealand Lily Society – over 50 years – life member

New Zealand Alpine and Rock garden Society - many years

New Zealand Native Forests restoration Trust - most of its life

Friends of Eastwood Hill Arboretum - life member sine instituted

Advisor to Douglas Cook 1944 – 66

Pukeiti Rhododrenron Trust

Foundation committee and first Board

Honorary Superintendent 1953059

2 Guinea member

Sustaining member (£5 honorarium was returned to trust in exchange for sustaining membership (Life membership)

Goodwin Block named in 1996 in recognition of services

New Zealand Pond and Aquarium Society

Helped form Taranaki and Manawatu branches after the war

New Zealand Rhododendron Association 1949- resigned in late 1960's

New Zealand Camellia Society 1958 - almost from inception

International Camellia Society from inception 1957 to 1994

Taranaki Floral Festivals

New Zealand Rose Society

Friends of Eden Garden, Auckland

Friends of Waipihihi Reserve Taupo

Supported Formation of the Taranaki Orchid Society

Canterbury Horticultural Society – for many years

Ornithological Society of New Zealand

North Taranaki Cage Bird Club – patron

Miranda Naturalists trust (migratory and wading birds_

Friends of the Melbourne Zoo.

AHRIH (NZ) 1966

Christchurch technical College

Institute Park and recreation Administration (NZ)

Street tree plants

Native and exotic Aotea Reserve, Gale Walkway

Development seaward end of the Henui Walkway

Development of the rifle range, skating rink, play area

East end sea wall

Mt Bryon Reserve Bowls

Car parks and sheltered picnic spots

Fort Niger and the Scout Den

Waiwakaiho River Mouth - seawater intake for the Fertiliser works

Lake Rotomanu was formed from the shingle quarry

Fitzroy playing fields for rugby, hockey, soccer, croquet

Waiwakaiho Park originally planned for Bowls, Croquet and skating But was developed for tennis and netball

Te Mete Park extended from one ground to two with cricket, children's play ground in between removed

Marfell Park turned into playing fields

Dean Park to protect the headwaters of the Pukekura Stream and wetland Truby King Dell with azaleas, lily, heath and autumn foliage

Vogeltown Park – playing fields, home for rugby, cricket, hockey and fitness trail, children's play area corner

Fitzroy Golf Club

Hickford park – playing fields, wetland habitat, native plant collection, shelter and control,

Centennial Park – conservation of islands, surf and rescue, hang gliding Old Waterworks and Waiwakaiho valley

Rotary roading metal extraction

Swimming pools, picnic areas and tree collections

Burgess Park and Meeting of the waters

Henui Walkway and adjoining reserves

Pukekura Tennis Club shifted to Upjohn Street to allow the introduction of shelter planting on the western hillside to protect the Park – in particular the tree ferns.

Arbor day plantings
Native plant collectors
Threatened species
Collecting genera
Hydroseeding and report to MOW
Private and public gardens
Nursery management
Turf culture
Rock gardens
Succession effects for local tourism

ESTABLISHING PARKS

Marfell Park was formed on top of a disused dump, but it was poorly compacted and leachate seeped through onto the lower of the two levels. The Education Dept assisted with the cost of forming and establishing one playing field for use of the nearby Marfell School. This policy was also applied to Fitzroy and several other Parks including Ngamotu Domain.

In talking of the many parks throughout New Plymouth, Jack explained that oversupply of parks had caused a problem in several towns. While considerable land needed to be set aside at the time of initial town planning, oversupply of parks stretched resources. Consequently it was recommended

that land allocated reserve should be developed in stages –matching population growth. It was recommended that land set aside for future parks be used, in the interim, for grazing stock, growing hay or even grain and potatoes. Some towns, having set aside insufficient land have had to pay a high price for even small playing fields. In all, larger parks lend themselves to rearrangement – for changes in sports demands, while smaller areas planted become the *lungs* of a city.