

# Louisville Declares a Park Emergency

A group of Louisville, Ky. residents calling themselves Trees, Inc., have launched a massive effort to restore an 83-year-old park destroyed in the April 3rd tornado disaster.

Louisville, Kentucky residents are making it clear that the 90 acres of trees in their beautiful Cherokee Park, flattened by a tornado April 3, won't be down for long.

The park's nearly 400-total-acres makes it one of the largest in the nation. Planning for it began in 1891, ironically after a tornado destroyed a farm on the property in 1890 and the land was donated to the city for a park by its owners.

The current fund-drive for \$1 million to replace the 2,000 trees destroyed in the park began the night following the \$100 million Louisville disaster. If successful, excess money will be used to replace some of the 18,000 trees lost in various Louisville neighborhoods.

Barksdale F. Roberts, a bank vice president, recalls sitting in his home the night after the tornado listening to radio reports. It became clear to him that insurance companies and disaster agencies were taking care of the people, but nothing was being done for Cherokee Park.

The next day he discussed the formation of a fund-raising agency with Louisville attorney Ed Perry and businessman Dan Byck, and the three men approached Mayor Harvey I. Sloane.

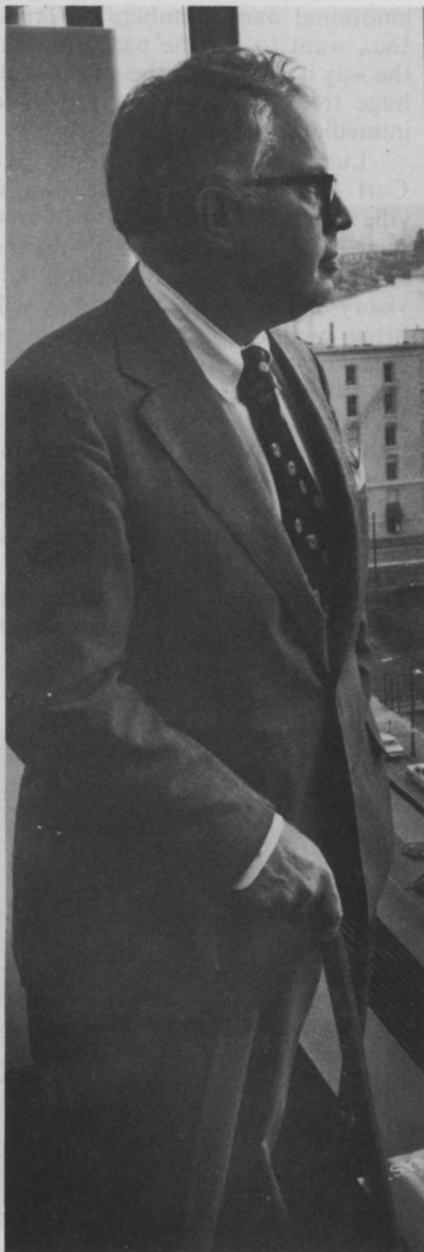
"We thought the raising of money should be kept separate from city government, and the mayor agreed," Roberts recalled in his 11th floor office of the First National Bank. With the mayor's blessing Roberts formed Trees, Inc., and assumed the presidency of the new organization. It began operation April 15.



Remnants of Cherokee Park's once beautiful trees await clean-up crews. Trees, Inc., hopes to restore the park to near-original condition.

and used to Louisville collecting both donated and purchased trees along the way. The Louisville Symphony Orchestra agreed to give a benefit performance May 18 with the \$5 admission fee going to Trees. The concert netted \$18,175 for Trees.

The mayor formed a restoration committee for the park, and Roberts named a member. The mayor's committee is working with a Boston city planning firm to develop recommendations for restoring the park after city work crews clear the rubble of fallen trees.

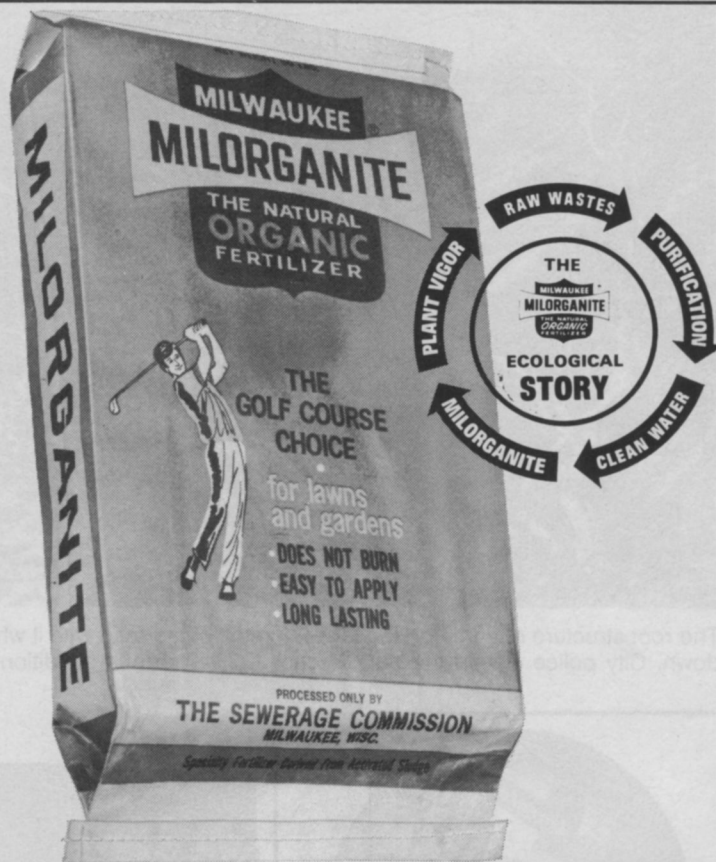


Barksdale F. Roberts, vice-president of a Louisville bank, gazes out his 11th floor office window and is reminded of the April 3 tornado disaster that led to his fund drive to restore the park's trees.

Trees, Inc., plans a nationwide campaign to attract donations of money and trees for their beloved park. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad has pledged free transportation for trees to Louisville from anywhere along its lines. (Persons

wanting information about the free transportation should write Trees, Inc., 304 W. Liberty St., Room 308, Louisville 40202.)

A "Tree Train" is planned for this fall. Tentative proposals suggest the train start in Birmingham, Ala.,



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The root structure of a tree on the left took most of the road with it when it was blown down. City police closed the park because of hazardous conditions such as this.

and travel to Louisville, collecting both donated and purchased trees along the way.

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One event definitely planned is a non-ball. Louisville residents will receive invitations to a ball this summer that will never happen. In lieu of attending, those invited will be asked to donate \$25. The late-summer ball will be called "Gone With the Wind."

At the moment the issue of restoring Cherokee Park is a highly emotional one. Members of Trees, Inc., want to see the park restored the way it was before the storm, with huge trees, and they want it done immediately.

Luckily, there are people like Carl Ray, president of the Louisville Nurserymen Association and owner of Carl Ray Co. (landscape architects), on a professional advisory committee of Trees. Ray will bring anxious park lovers face to face with the hard realities of restoring 2,000 trees.

Ray said he plans to urge the group to purchase large trees for only the most critical portions of the park, such as around fountains or at park entrances. He will urge the use of seedlings in other areas.

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This is the way Cherokee Park looked in late March, when the last snowfall of the season made this pleasant scene. Photo courtesy of *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

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**WEEDS TREES and TURF**





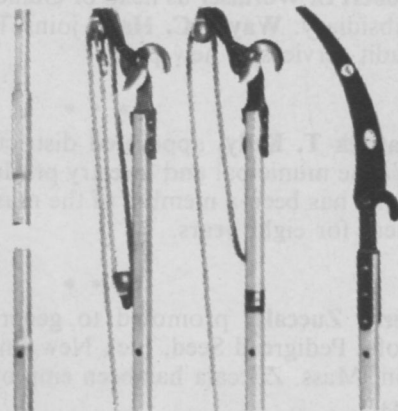
A city-wide golf tournament for teenage girls went on as scheduled at the golf course in the park, but there were new obstacles for the contestants. Pictured is one of the contestants.



Once beautiful trees were sold to the highest bidder at public auction and now await transportation by the buyers. These are only a few of the usable trees. It will be fall before all logs are cleared so replanting can begin. *(continued on page 36)*

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## Diseases of Ornamentals Subject of Texas Research

A new project to initiate a program of research on diseases of ornamental plants will be getting underway later this year by a Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) scientist.

Dr. David W. Rosberg, professor and head of the Department of Plant Sciences at Texas A&M University for the past 14 years, will relinquish his responsibilities as department head and devote full time to TAES research and teaching.

"Research on ornamental plant diseases is sorely needed to find answers to some of the difficult plant disease problems that face homeowners and the ornamentals industry," Rosberg said. "The nursery industry in Texas is valued in excess of \$25 million. A research plant pathologist working on ornamentals could make an important contribution by working in close cooperation with nurserymen," he said.

Rosberg, presently employed by

the university, Experiment Station and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, said two Extension plant pathologists are currently devoting full time to educational work on diseases of ornamentals in Texas.

"But an active research program in ornamental plant pathology is vital to the welfare of the Texas nursery industry, and to provide important data for the present educational efforts," he said.

Rosberg plans to spend some time at several major universities which have recognized outstanding research and teaching programs in ornamental plant pathology to investigate projects that have potential for Texas. Then he will initiate his research program here.

Besides starting the new research program, Rosberg will continue to teach part-time. He plans to teach a graduate level course on topics relating to how to develop research projects, research budgets, grantsmanship, research grant funding agencies and similar subjects. He also plans to develop a junior-senior level course on "Diseases of Ornamental Plants."

## Seed Executive Retires

W. R. (Bill) Herron, vice president of the Stanford Seed Company since 1965, announced his retirement from the business effective July 1, 1974. Herron served nearly 50 years in the seed industry.

## Mitts and Merrill Elect new President

Jack W. Ranous was recently elected president of Mitts and Merrill, Inc., Saginaw, Michigan manufacturer of machine tools and grinders. Ranous was previously executive vice president and general manager of the firm.

Ranous joined Mitts and Merrill in 1940 as a machine tool operator in the shop. Four years later he was promoted to draftsman in the engineering department. He served that department for 17 years, the last five years as chief engineer. Ranous was named sales manager in 1961 and served in that capacity until his appointment as vice president and general manager in 1968.

## LOUISVILLE (from page 19)

2,000 newly planted, six to 12-inch trees, Ray said.

Ray is the main nurseryman involved with Trees, Inc., at present. Others haven't been called in because they are too busy restoring vegetation around damaged homes, and because the present task of Trees is being directed by persons skilled at fund raising. Once the money is available, Ray's advisory committee will assume leadership of the restoration.

Roberts said Trees won't be ready to plant until this fall, but when the time comes to place orders, another shock awaits the group. Ray said he and most other Louisville nurserymen have a tremendous backlog of orders generated by the tornado. It will take Ray almost two years to fill orders now on hand.

"There's been an explosion (of orders). Many of the residential areas included the more expensive homes, and owners are acting quickly to place large orders, because they can afford it," Ray said.

Ray's nurserymen association tried to have a meeting to plan how they would meet the disaster, but

members were too busy to attend and the meeting was cancelled. The group has not met since 18 tornadoes raked Kentucky April 3.

"I've had two half-Sundays off since it hit," Ray said nearly six weeks after the storms.

Roberts said he is confident of reaching the \$1 million goal. The frustration in doing that is trying to organize Trees, Inc., while appealing to the public before the tornado fades in memory, he said.

The Courier-Journal and Times Co., which publishes the two local newspapers, will donate one-third of the profits from a special book called "Tornado" it has published.

There will also be marches door to door by mothers and by school-age youngsters to collect money for the effort, Roberts said.

Roberts expressed hope that the federal government would pay for all the trees needed, but a bill recently passed by Congress seems to contain some contrary red tape. While it lists exact amounts of money that can be paid for other forms of tornado relief aid, it only gives "assurance" that park restoration money will be available. And it says cities "may seek" a grant for 100 percent

of the park restoration cost, but does not state that the money will definitely be available. For "public facilities" other than parks, the bill pays only \$25,000 in repairs.

Roberts hopes the park can be restored with the same types of trees that were destroyed, but said he'll accept donations of "any tree that can survive city pollution." Types of trees in the park included poplar, oaks, Kentucky coffee trees, beech and sycamore. There is a controversy among Trees members about sycamores. Some argue that the trees are "too messy," but Roberts contends they withstood the tornado better than most types. Fewer of them were blown out of the ground.

Ray said he feels most of the trees will have to be purchased, because few nurserymen can afford outright donations, although most want to help restore the park and civic pride.

All citizens of Louisville are responding to the need to restore the park, and thousands of dollars have been received through small contributions mailed to Trees. They seem determined that the park which was born by a tornado disaster, shall not die by one.