

# garden city has the key to progress

By James W. Lowe  
Mayor of the City of Garden City



"City Drug Commission." Although time is critical, the benefits brought to our community by these Commissions will be felt more in the future.

**STILL IN** the future is the Urban Renewal development, major Park improvements, the covering-in of our ice rink, some major drains, and, of course, more paving. All these items still present problems but patience, good planning and common sense may bring them all to successful conclusions.

We mentioned taxes, and I said, "I hope they will eventually level-off." It would appear that this past year taxes did show some signs of stabilization.

However, as I sit in my office writing this article, I cannot forget what I have just read in the contract demands submitted by our unions. I will try to remain optimistic, but I must say the total cost to the city of their proposals is stagger-

ing. If they are granted I can assure you, your taxes will go up, because you pay the bill. One other fact becomes evident. Until negotiations are completed and contracts are signed, several city programs will be shelved as the money may not be there to help pay for them.

**FINALLY**, we talked about the problems of our youth. Here, I believe, we are making great progress. Our Drop-In Centers are working, and this program will be extended. The youngsters themselves are

changing and some of the "way-out" fads of three years ago are fading into the background.

I believe drug misuse will decline, not because of what we do, but because the youth themselves have found their own way, and will solve their own problem. All they ask is a little understanding and cooperation. We will always have the few who get into trouble, but is not this true of all things and all ages.

**AS WE** move into Michigan Week in Garden City,

we intend to honor two things that have made our city, indeed our state and country, what it is today. We will honor our youth within which lies our hopeful future.

We will honor our senior employees, commissioners and citizens within which lies the great traditions of our past, the foundation stones from which we build, and the knowledge and wisdom only age can give. May we continue to move forward together.

At the beginning of the New Year in a press release similar to this, I discussed some of the city's problems. Now, as we near the half-way mark, let's see how we are doing.

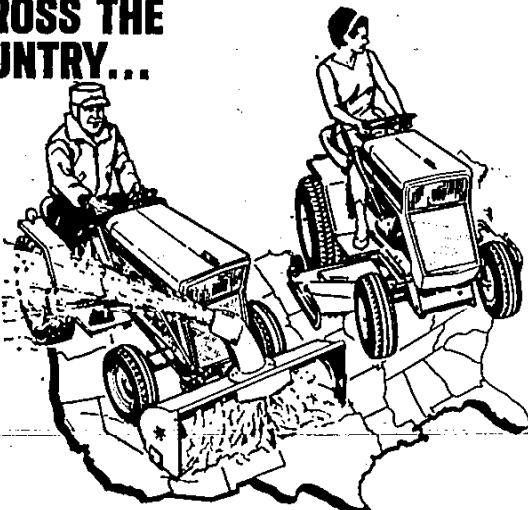
First we said, "Let's stop gutting off until tomorrow what should be done today." As time passes, costs continue to rise. So with the aid of some of our citizens, we have a small paving program started.

We have started a sidewalk program. The addition to the Log Cabin is in progress. Contracts are ready to be let on both the D.P.W. and the Parks and Recreation Department buildings.

The new lighting system has been installed at the adults' field behind East High. So, in a short period of time, we are making progress.

From an administrative point of view, we have established an "Industrial and Commercial Development Commission" and a

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