

RELOCATION SUMMARY

PARCEL NO: 21-12

OCCUPANTS: Thomas and Ira Lee Martin and children

NEW ADDRESS: 3976 N. E. 12th Avenue

Tom and Ira Lee Martin moved from N. Ivy Street to the N. Kerby Avenue house in October of 1962, with a family of four children. The following year they improved the house as outlined in the Property Description. During their three-year residence there, their fifth child was born.

Mr. James Frazier of the Portland Development Commission relocation staff visited with the Martins in October, 1965, in anticipation of the PDC's purchase of the property. Martins were then looking at a home to purchase, and were dissatisfied with their progress in closing the arrangements, suspecting some racial overtones. Mr. Frazier investigated this allegation, but was unable to find any conclusive evidence. During the next four months the Martins attempted to purchase at least two other homes, but were unable to get FHA approval or acceptance of their offers on these properties. During the course of this search, they completed negotiation with the PDC and sold their home to the Commission on January 25, 1966.

The Martins finally found a four-bedroom home to their liking, and Mr. E. R. Wiley, PDC Chief of Relocation and Property Management, inspected it March 25, and found it met Portland's Housing Standards. The Martins moved to 3976 N. E. 12th Avenue on March 28, 1966. Within the following week the PDC paid their moving costs of \$111.00, and found them eligible for a Relocation Adjustment Payment of \$435.00, and paid them this as well.

In June, 1966, Mr. Lawrence Monk of the PDC relocation staff visited with the Martins to evaluate their relocation. Mr. Martin had some ambivalent feelings about the Park. "I believe the Park is a pretty good idea," he said. But he would have preferred a different location, because he did

not really like to move, especially after making the improvements to his former home. "The hardest thing about it", he said, "was how long it took." They heard some information about the Project when they moved to N. Kerby Avenue in 1962; then after the first official information it was still about a year before anything happened.

Preliminary appraisals were made, and the appraiser advised them not to start any significant improvements. They did not plant a garden the summer of 1965, as they expected their property to be sold to the PDC shortly. But their negotiation on the property took much longer than they had anticipated, and after much discussion they were finally able to sell their former home for only slightly over the amount they still owed on it.

The Martins like their new neighborhood. Their neighbors across the street, John and Exlee Malone (22-7) moved from the other edge of the Park Site to their new home three months before the Martins' move; the Johnny Louis family (21-5), who were across the back alley, are now five blocks away, as are the Newbornes (22-11) and Miss Mary Cannon (22-12/13). By June, 1966 the Martins were already pretty well acquainted, found everyone friendly, and had encountered no discrimination. They had many friends in the Park Site, whom they see only once in a while. They feel that their new home is larger and is in somewhat better condition, and they appreciate having a garage now. However, Tom misses the five fruit trees, the over-sized lot, and the proximity of the children's former school. He does feel that he is in a better house, worth the slightly higher monthly payments they are now making.

Mr. Martin works at the Post Office, now a bit farther away from home; but he does not mind the additional distance.

Evaluating the whole experience, he approves of the work of Urban Renewal. "Urban Renewal does good things," he said; "it tears slums down, and rebuilds."