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O.V. PEOPLE: Violet DeLima, Arlene Jacobson, Esther Lewis, Katherine Tringali.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? How do you describe the community you live in? Is it warm, friendly, do people care about their neighborhood and each other?

Most people of Hawaii perhaps never have to confront questions such as these. Perhaps because it is only in a crisis situation, when the community is threatened, does an evaluation of what people have take place.

THE PEOPLE OF OLD VINEYARD, some 62 households, are faced with such a crisis. They are being evicted by the State to make way for multi-level parking garage for State employees.

As Esther Lewis, president of the Old Vineyard Street Residents Association that was formed to fight the eviction, stated, "We were not as close as a community as we are now. It wasn't until we formed the association and made the decision to stay together. It was then that we came to realize the closeness of friends, the conveniences of our neighborhood that we can walk to town, to the (Queen's) hospital, and to school. We have a small community here right in the middle of downtown Honolulu."

OLD VINEYARD is a half block of mostly apartments and a few small businesses near the State Capitol. It is presently a thoroughfare between Punchbowl and Emma Streets, but

So the Warnecke plan not only had to undergo revision in 1968, but the pressure to realize the "Great Park" became even more urgent as Honolulu rapidly grew. The Warnecke plan is presently being revised again.

IT IS IRONIC that in desiring to maintain "a historic, cultural, and scenic district," residents should be evicted from their well-kept neighborhood to make way for a garage for cars.

"We were told that there are 440 cars waiting to take the place of our homes," remarked Ms. Lewis. "Can they justify this parking garage? Is it more important than housing? If it is, then maybe we should rent stalls. The policy of the State is very inconsistent. They talk about mass transit. They try to find ways of how they can limit cars to families, and yet they want to build a parking garage."

According to State Comptroller KeNam Kim, the objective of the garage is "to eliminate open space parking entirely within the Capitol district." His department (DAGS) has \$4,387,000 in appropriations from the 1970 and 1971 legislatures to build the parking garage for 500 cars.

THE HOUSING CRISIS, one of the most serious post-Statehood problems of the State of Hawaii, is being felt most critically by the residents of O.V. who are mostly in the low income bracket, living on pensions, welfare assistance, or earning just enough to get by.

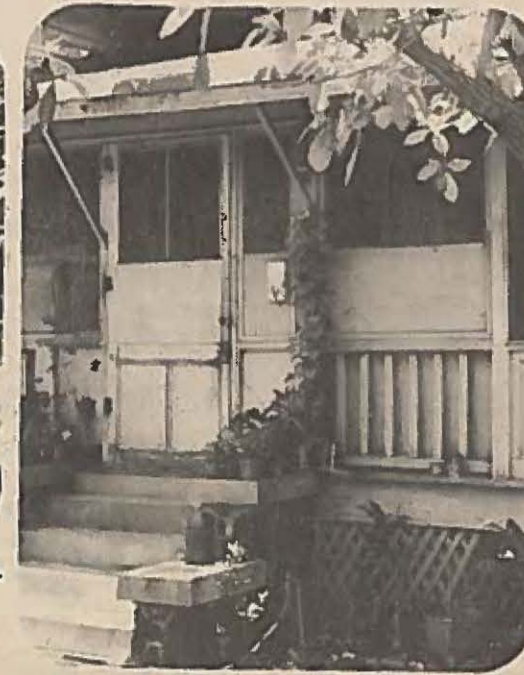
the Vineyard area have justifiably expressed concern over the availability of adequate and sufficient relocation housing (and that they) have not yet been apprised of the greater necessity of the State to construct a multi-level parking garage on Vineyard Street," House Resolution 405, submitted by Jean King, chairman of the House Environmental Committee, has requested the suspension of DAGS plan until an environmental impact statement is submitted.

Members of the association also met with representatives from DAGS, the Honolulu Redevelopment Agency (HRA), the Hawaii Housing Authority (HHA), and the House Budget Committee. But all echoed Budget Chairman Jack Suwa's reply, when he was asked to waive the budget for the project, that they "could do nothing; that the time had come to move on the plan," said Ms. Lewis.

Therefore, there is great concern over the current revision of the Warnecke



The houses on makai are among the oldest dwellings in Old Vineyard.



plan for changes made could possibly affect the garage plans for old Vineyard.

Then beginning April 14, residents called a "Repair and Garetake Day" every weekend to clean the yards and repair buildings and apartments mainly on the older makai side of Vineyard. Students from the Ethnic Studies program at the University of Hawaii also came to assist in the lawn-mowing, weeding, and repairing of broken stairs and railings.

"The people are determined to stay and that is why we asked the State, since they are our landlords, to make repairs on our homes for us. But they took so long in doing so, that we went ahead, got the lumber, and did them ourselves," explained Ms. Lewis.

Designated as A-2 medium density apartments, Old Vineyard is made up of duplexes and two-story apartment buildings with a few small businesses such as Luau Supply and Punchbowl Fish Market. With the exception of some of the older units on the makai side, most of the apartments are in good condition. DAGS has filed a zoning change request to B-2 large community and wide shopping areas, such as the Ala Moana Center in anticipation of the mall area planned.

THE RESIDENTS OF OLD VINEYARD are of all racial extractions with Hawaiians and Filipinos in the majority, but with large numbers of

Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, and haoles also residing there. Ages range from young families, who find the rent and the neighborhood agreeable for raising children, to elderly people, such as Mama Hattie, an 84-year-old pure-blooded Hawaiian woman. A few like Ms. Kikuichi Nakamura, a 23-year resident, and Ms. Lewis, a 14-year resident, have lived there and seen the changes that have taken place in areas surrounding their neighborhood. Still others are newcomers.

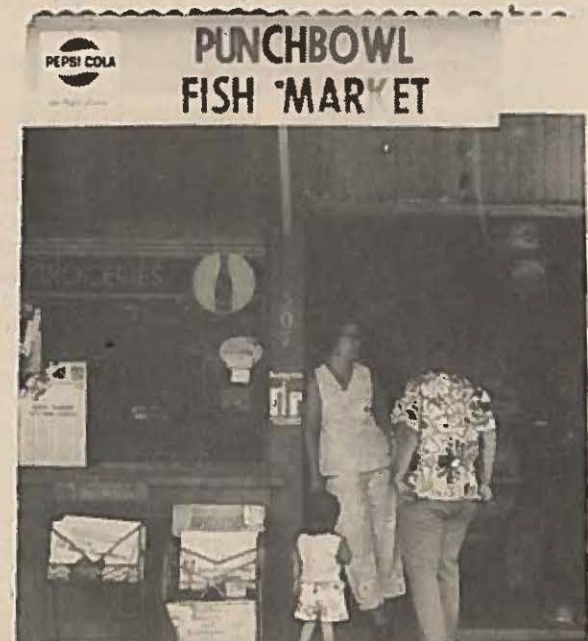
O.V. is truly an urban neighborhood where its people earn their living in construction, as carpenters and cooks. Yet the community itself, with its many trees, well-tended gardens and walkways, and cleanliness, reflects a sense of pride in belonging.

"All of us consider ourselves lucky to have found this place. Not only because it is affordable and convenient, but because we have good neighbors and a good neighborhood. We have tried other places and cannot afford them."

"What is more important parking or people? They are going to push us poor people right into the ocean because there is no room to be poor in Hawaii."

"What is the environment to the people who live here? The people themselves are the environment. It all adds up to one word, **people**. What's the beauty of it? Friendship among residents."

"We are staying."



eventually it will be a man with entry only into the proposed garage.

Residents have designated three major areas called mauka, makai, and Punchbowl from which representatives are selected for the association. The mauka area houses approximately 25 families and individuals, the makai about 20, and Punchbowl, approximately five families.

"There's something about O.V. (Old Vineyard) that makes you slow down," said one student from Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawaii who helped residents in their neighborhood clean-up and repair.

"You may be speeding along the freeway, caught up in the rush, but once you turn into O.V., you just feel the pace relaxing. The residents have made the place green and quiet inspite of the fact that they are surrounded by downtown and freeway traffic and noise."

Originally there were 77 households in Old Vineyard. When residents received eviction notices in January from DAGS (Department of Accounting and General Services) that they were to vacate their premises by March 28, some families "got scared and moved. They didn't understand they have rights — that they can stay until the State finds them another place," said Ms. Lewis.

THE REASON for the eviction of the Old Vineyard residents and the construction of the garage is part of a larger plan designated by the Capital Improvement Ordinance. From the "mountains-to-the-sea" (from Punchbowl to Honolulu Harbor), this "30-year-old dream to preserve the heart of Honolulu in a parklike atmosphere" with no high-rises is an attempt to stave off the encroaching downtown buildings and their hectic lifestyle by setting aside the area surrounding the State Capitol as "a historic, cultural, and scenic district."

Conceived as far back as 1941, it was not until 1965, after the completion of the new State Capitol, that "the Great Park" concept of a civic center was originated by planning consultants John Carl Warnecke and Associates.

But since then Honolulu grew in ways that were never envisioned. Traffic, population, and housing became acute and critical problems after Statehood.

Most of us simply have no where else to go and the State cannot help us get low-cost housing that we can afford and that we like," said Ms. Lewis who manages 32 units for the Real Estate Services which is handling the rentals for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). She noted that in 1959 a \$84-a-month one-bedroom apartment today rents for \$160; a studio that was \$65 is now \$145.

The State acquired the land, some 135,000 square feet, by December 1972, from private owners. Rentals were changed from a six-month lease to a month-to-month basis. Eviction notices were sent the following month in January 1973. The starting date for the project, however, is August 1974, to allow enough "lead time as possible for the tenants that must relocate to secure replacement housing," according to DAGS.

In a letter to DAGS, the Old Vineyard Street Residents Association asked if a relocation plan is "considered adequate even though it admits that it will be very difficult for many people to find comparable housing?"

According to KeNam Kim, "the relocation assistance plan has been approved by the Hawaii Housing Authority and is thus considered adequate. . . the fact that we indicate that there may be problems does not serve to detract from the adequacy of the plan."

However, at the April 3 public hearing, Ms. Lewis questioned the State on the adequacy of the plan, "What have you got to offer? Nothing. But yet you want to take. You want the land, you can have it. But before you can have it, we demand a (1) centrally located area, (2) moving as a community regardless of individual incomes, and (3) that the rents are cheaper and that the place is safe and sanitary. . . Meet our demands, talk about housing for the people, build housing for the people, then, talk about your garage."

THE COMMUNITY began organizing in January soon after getting the eviction notices. Officers were elected and representatives from the three areas, mauka, makai, and Punchbowl were selected.

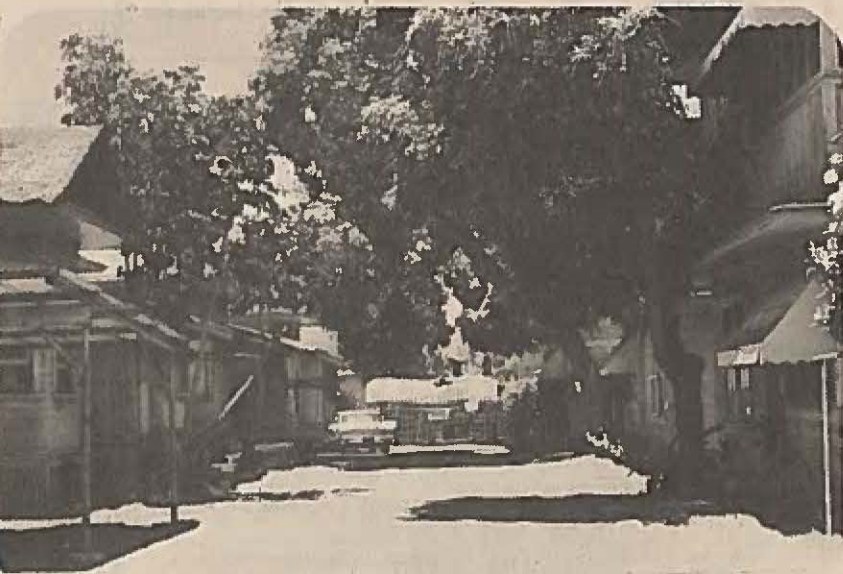
And largely because "the residents of



The young and the old live together in Old Vineyard. "Mama Hattie", 84, above, and the youngsters from makai at right represent the diversity in ages among Old Vineyard residents.



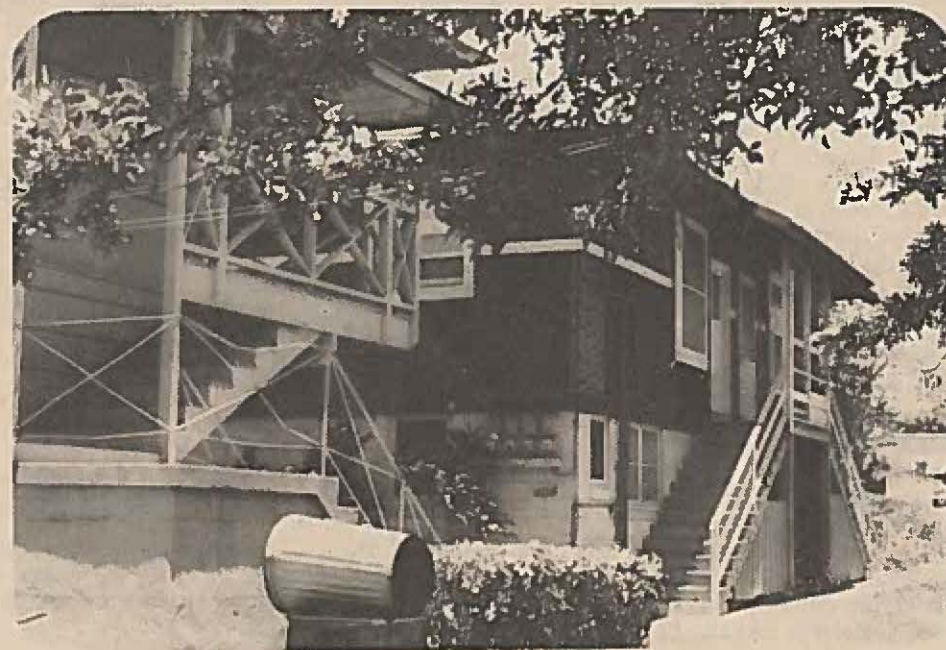
Many homes on the makai side are in need of repair, most of which have been done by residents themselves.



"The residents have made Old Vineyard green and quiet inspite of noise and traffic."

photographs by gall miyasaki

... is mauka



The three area designations of Old Vineyard are mauka, makai, and Punchbowl. Mauka, above, houses the most families in well-kept duplexes.

... is Punchbowl



Mrs. Sotelho, resident and representative from Punchbowl by her home.



Punchbowl's single dwellings, housing about five families, are surrounded by plants and trees.

ANYTHING

GOES

by Dick Gima

will appear tomorrow.

We'll pay your way to the mainland.

For details, see our ad in the classified section of today's paper.

The Army Reserve. It pays to go to meetings.