

### WEST ENDERS . . .

## Did You Know You Have 911 New Trees?

Residents of the Desero and Lillis subdivisions have planted 911 new trees in their yards this year because of efforts of the West Side Community Club of Billings.

How they got there was an involved process.

Encouragement of neighborhood tree planting came about through a series of **Commissioners Proceedings** which took place in the board of City Commissioners of Billings on Jan. 10, 1965. The board, which was presided over by Mayor Tom Sawyer, was advised by the Chairman of the Board on the way that by means of the city's money, the planting of trees should be encouraged.

All three commissioners attended the meeting and discussed the matter with the Mayor. The Mayor, in turn, advised the board of the matter and the board of the matter.

The park department drew up a map of types of trees to be planted in the area after park Superintendent Vern Pratt met with members.

Then the work began. Taking part in the project were club president Mrs. Fanny Kirch, chairman, Rowena Hood, co-chairman, Mrs. Edna Fears and Mrs. Beth Sanderson and 32 other club members.

They made a survey of neighborhood west of 24th St., from Cook Ave. to Lillis Lane and from 24th St. West to the Arroyo Drain.

What they found was 668 houses, 576 trees and a need for 167 more front yard trees.

Information about what trees to plant and cars asking the number of trees each home owner had or planned to plant were taken to each house.

Findings and opinions on tree planting came to light Thursday morning when the chairman and president met with Park Superintendent Pratt.

—It's easy to set a tree to building a new home.

—Many were undecided as to what kind of tree to use.

—Tree planting is something new home owners should get started on.

—The value of a tree increases each year.

—More interest in activities will be built up through the PTAs with the children. An interested child will interest his parents.

—Work by civic groups does not "cost" taxpayers a nickel.

The club contributed \$1200 during a previous project for work on King Park at 17th St. and Broadwater Ave.

Next project will be work on Lillis Park, about seven acres of land in the Lillis Subdivision.

Members decided to make it their next project after residents in the area told them during the survey that they would like to see the area developed.

Pratt says he plans to present a plan for development of the park at the next park board meeting.

If the plan is passed by the board, it will go on to city council. If that also is approved by city council and the State Fish and Game Department, from there it goes to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation where approval could mean 50 per cent matching funds with the park department for the project.

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# Tree Planting Push Brings Benefits

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