Like an oasis in the middle of the desert, the Bobby Davis Park, situated between the residential and business districts of Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky, provided recreational as well as cultural accessability to a community in dire need of these facilities. Not only did the Bobby Davis Park contribute to the community aesthetically, it also stood for the ambitious dreams and hopes of a very benevolent benefactor.

The park's namesake, Robert Oren Davis, "Bobby," was the only son of a very prominent Hazard businessman. Those who were acquainted with Bobby described him as being an all-American boy. Not only was Bobby described as being "good-looking," he was also described as being a very intelligent man. Bobby graduated second in his class from Riverside Military Academy which is located in Georgia. Although Bobby had planned to attend Columbia University in New York to study to become a pediatrician, these plans, as well as the plans of many other young men during this period in the nation's history, were interrupted by World War II.¹

Bobby could be said to have been "lucky in love." He married his high school sweetheart, Irma Benton, on December 24, 1944. At this time, their future together seemed bright and promising. Bobby's father, Lawrence Davis, had already begun construction on their "dream house" which was to

¹Irma Lykins' letter to Vivian Carter, February 13, 1982.
become their home as soon as school was finished and they returned to Hazard.²

The plans called for their home to be situated in the middle of the four-acre tract of land, now occupied by the Bobby Davis Park, among beautiful landscaping and to be accompanied by tennis courts and a swimming pool.³

Unfortunately, the dream house Lawrence had planned to build for his son was never to be occupied by Bobby and Irma. Shortly after Bobby's marriage, he was inducted into the United States Army and began a European tour of duties sometime during January of 1945. On July 13, 1945, only two days prior to his 20th birthday, Bobby was killed on his way home from Europe. While awaiting the news of Bobby's landing in the United States, his wife and parents received a telegram advising them of Bobby's death.⁴ Details of Bobby's death reveal that he was killed in a train collision somewhere near the French-German border. Bobby had been a scout for the 20th Armored Division in General Patton's Third Army.⁵ Fighting in Europe had come to an end and the platoon "I and R" was being transported from Germany for their return to the United States when the accident occurred.⁶

³Ibid.
⁴Ibid.
Mr. Al Stern of Plantation, Florida, a member of the 14th Armored Division and also a passenger on the same train, recalls the events that culminated in the July 13, 1945 accident.

"I was assigned as an interpreter to the German train crew in the locomotive. It was now July 10, 1945. We started the journey. Everyone was in a jovial mood as they were going home and then possibly to Japan as a complete unit. I did not know any of the members of the 20th Division but shared their joy in going home.

We had been on the train for about three days and were making little progress as the railroad was in bad shape from the war. Most of the time was spent on sidings waiting and waiting. As I remember, the train was about 20 cars consisting of two German double-header engines, the next two cars were wooden box cars and the third car was a heavy steel box. The next couple of cars were regular coach cars which I thought were for the officers of the division. I knew from the view from the locomotive that the train was long. A kitchen crew would meet the train along the way to feed them.

It was about 3:00 a.m. in the morning and we were close to Manaheim, Germany when we were going around a big curve in a rural farm area. All of a sudden the German engineer shouted, 'Here comes a train.' We were only going 20 to 30 miles per hour. The engineer shouted 'Jump.' I remember jumping as far as I could with the engine crew right behind me. I ended up breaking an ankle. I don't remember anyone or seeing anyone injured. I couldn't get up so I don't know what happened to the others. The locomotives never left the track and the damage was to the first three boxes. We ended up with an 'A' shape behind the locomotives. It was two hours before help arrived."

Dale A. Wright of Hampton, Iowa was a member of the "I and R" platoon. He knew Bobby very well. Mr. Wright managed an army-navy surplus store for some period of time but has now

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7Al Stern, transcript of telephone conversation, July 18, 1981.
retired. Mr. Wright was the most seriously injured of the survivors of the train accident. He spent eight months in hospitals overseas and stateside and has never fully recovered. Mr. Wright's account of the accident is as follows:

"We were going back to the states and then to Japan as a group. The 20th Armored Division was one of the first units to go back this way. I remember Bobby and the group spent about two days in Rupholding, Germany around July 10, 1945, fixing up their box cars as best they could for the journey. They found some lumber in the railroad yard and made themselves some bunks about four high around the walls of the box cars. It was fairly comfortable by the time they finished.

They started out but found the railroads to be in bad condition. Most of their time was spent on the sidings or backing up, or detouring. It was about 3:00 a.m. on the 13th of July when the accident happened. I remember nothing except I woke up in Nancy, France two weeks later." 

News of this tragic accident left Bobby's family grief-stricken and motivated his father to do something to keep Bobby's memory alive. Thus motivated, Bobby's father began transforming what was initially intended to be a gift from a father to a son to a gift from a loving father to a community. However,

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8 Dale Wright's letter to Ross Buttrum, July 15, 1981.
9 Ibid.
to fully understand the background leading up to the living memorial L. O. Davis built for his son, it is mandatory to
digress, for a moment, to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where the
idea was born.

As set forth in an article entitled "A Living Memorial,"
Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Davis decided to visit the Civil War
Memorial in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Mr. Davis, after having
visited the Civil War Memorial, found it to be big, costly and
oppressive, consisting of nothing but a hillside covered with
marble statutes of generals standing, sitting and on horseback.
Mr. Davis felt that this memorial was cold and served no useful
purpose.10

Mr. Davis inquired, "Why do war memorials have to be so
cold? Why can't a little human warmth be built into them? And
why so useless? It seems to me a memorial should be something
that people can use and enjoy."11

Mr. Davis, having decided what he felt a "living memorial"
should represent, decided to implement his ideas through the Bobby
Davis Memorial Park. He not only expended thousands of dollars
(over $200,000) for actual construction of the park, but he also
supervised the work personally from the moment the grading began

10Trout, p. 21.

11Ibid.
until the last bronze plaque, memorializing each fallen soldier
who had made his home in Perry County, had been mounted on the
sandstone walls.12

Sparing no expense, Mr. Davis engaged Wall Snyder, an
architect in Miami, and A. J. Peterson, a landscape engineer
from Knoxville, Tennessee, to insure that his dream would be-
come a reality. Like a fairytale complete with a fairy god-
mother, the once useless and eroded four-acre tract of mountain-
side land was transformed into a beautiful memorial that was
not cold, that was full of human warmth, and that was ready to
be used by anyone who chose to do so.13

The four-acre tract of land was graded and thick retaining
walls staggered down the steep hillside in a terrace-like
fashion, and then through the use of thousands of tons of rocks,
waste, scraps and excavation debris, the spaces were filled.
The dirt was supplied from basement excavations and placed into
position by WPA workers (WPA - a governmental program designed
in lieu of welfare wherein qualified applicants were given jobs
in order to allow them to generate an income). More than 25
city lots were used to make up the area of the current loca-
tion site.14 Each cubit foot of topsoil was mixed and placed

12Trout, p. 21.
13"Lions Hear Park Donor at Luncheon," The Hazard Herald,
July 12, 1946.
14Ibid.
by hand, consisting of a fertile mixture of clay, peat moss and natural humus hauled in from the mountain valleys.\textsuperscript{15}

As stated above, the park encompasses four acres of landscaped mountainside. The library was intended to be the central point of interest in the park. Composed of Perry County sandstone, this facility was designed to house a maximum of 22,000 volumes. Recreational needs were also considered in the park, and accordingly, it was equipped with a swimming pool. During the summer of 1951, 17,000 people made use of the pool.\textsuperscript{16}

The park also contributed to the aesthetic value of the area by offering beautiful landscaping. Native growth predominated the 400 varieties of plant life situated on the park site. A large rose garden afforded fresh cuttings for the library.\textsuperscript{17}

Another feature was dedicated specifically to the 196 young men from Perry County, Kentucky known to have lost their lives in World War II. This consisted of a sunken terrace located near the library. In the center was a reflecting pool. The terrace was bounded on each side by walls of large sandstone block, and on each of these blocks in one tier is attached a bronze plaque bearing the name of a fallen soldier.\textsuperscript{18}

\textsuperscript{15}Trout, p. 22.


\textsuperscript{17}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{18}Ibid.
Front-page headlines in the July 2, 1946 Hazard Herald of "City Accepts Davis Gift" informed the City of Hazard of their newly acquired fortune.19 The 1946 City Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution relative to the gift made to the City of Hazard by Mr. L. O. Davis. An excerpt of this resolution reads:

"Therefore be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hazard that the offer by Mr. Davis to convey to the city the property described as a park to be maintained as a memorial to Robert O. Davis be accepted; and that the details of the former transfer of said property be attended to at the convenience of Mr. Davis, and that the City of Hazard at that time provide for the proper maintenance and further development of said property by the establishment of a Park Board or other proper body or agency as provided by law; and further that the Board of Commissioners take the means of expressing to Mr. Davis, on behalf of the people of the City of Hazard, their thanks and appreciation for this gift and the motive which prompted it.

Done at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Hazard, this July 1, 1946.

J. J. Moran, Mayor"20

Community response to the opening of the Bobby Davis Park in the summer of 1946 was overwhelming. Due to the large number of people who turned out for the first days at the Bobby Davis stone steps and on each of these blocks in 19, a bronze plaque bearing the name of...
swimming pool, it was necessary to schedule all swimmers to age groups. The following schedule was printed in the August 8, 1946 Hazard Herald:

"8:30 a.m. to noon - Learn to Swim Class
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Ages 10 to 12
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Ages 13 to 15
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Ages 16 and up
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Ages 15 and up, only when pool is not reserved.
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - For private parties provided these parties are for an organized group."

During a July, 1946 Lions Club luncheon, Mr. L. O. Davis was invited as a guest speaker. According to an article appearing in the Hazard Herald on July 12, 1946, Mr. Davis was quoted as saying:

"With the limited space available, Bobby Davis Memorial Park will not be a public park in the strict sense of the word, but a regulated park, where any person may have the use of the facilities, so long as they comply with the plans and operations of the management. Swimming parties must be chaperoned and act under supervision of guards appointed by the Red Cross."

In an article contained in the 1950 magazine publication The American War Dad, entitled "A Memorial that Lives and Saves Lives," Mr. Davis was quoted as having said:

"Before this pool was opened there was a yearly average of two drownings - boys were swimming

21 "Bobby Davis Swim Hours Announced," The Hazard Herald, August 8, 1946.
22 Ibid.
23 The Hazard Herald, July 12, 1946.
unsupervised, wherever they could find water. Not one drowning has occurred in Perry County since the memorial pool was opened."24

The subsequent opening of the park library proved to be the cultural event of the decade. October 29, 1947 marked the official openhouse for the Bobby Davis Memorial Library. Contained in the October 28, 1947 Hazard Herald were numerous quotes from local citizens and also letters praising Mr. Davis for the generosity of his gift to Hazard.

Dr. C. H. Combs of Hazard, now deceased, submitted this letter which was printed in the Hazard Herald:

"I have often wondered just what decision I would make if it were to fall to my lot to name the outstanding contribution to progress in Hazard during my 16 years of watching the city grow through panic and progress.

During that time, it has been my good fortune to have an opportunity to watch the development of this city and the surrounding communities through intimate contact with a majority of the organizations that have taken part in the growth of this coal field.

After observing the progress of the Bobby Davis Memorial Library from the time the idea was first put forth until its completion, I would now have no hesitancy in placing this outstanding contribution at the head of any list naming the most valuable service to this community during the past century.

Knowledge gained from the reading of books is something that was not available to most of us in early life, and never through life to thousands of people of the Kentucky mountains, I am sorry to say. I dare say there are hundreds of people in Hazard who never

saw the inside of a public library. These people have lived and struggled through life with only a few books in their homes. They had not the means to provide the reading matter they wanted.

Time and time again during the past ten or twelve years I have met with interested committees, pleading with the Fiscal Court and school officials, along with citizens who dreamed of a library in Hazard at some future date, only to see the project fall flat without anything being accomplished.

Those of us who have been closely affiliated with the ideas and plans worked out and put into force by Lawrence Davis have a personal pride in our knowledge of this work. We have no hesitancy in saying that Mr. Davis has performed in a manner that is little short of miraculous in getting material to build this beautiful library. His work in designing and bringing work to a successful conclusion is not less miraculous.

Every resident of Hazard and Perry County can well be proud of this show-place that will serve as a memorial until all those now living will have passed on to (sic) their reward. So many times we have hesitated to mention anything that would leave a lasting impression on visitors here. It will always be a pleasure for us to take them to the library and park. We can point with much pride to Memorial Library and its surroundings. Its thousands of valuable books that are available to readers of this section. The service that will be given and the work of art that surrounds the visitor to this reading room, where the peaceful and quiet surroundings will make everyone anxious to pay a return visit.

God has given the mountain people a wonderful foundation for such projects, but few men have taken the time and effort to do the things that Mr. Davis has done.

Wednesday will be a great day in Hazard. It should be a day of rejoicing for all of us. It should be a day
never to be forgotten. If you have not planned to visit the Memorial Library during this day, do so now. You will be well and richly rewarded.

C. H. Combs"25

Additional comments from local citizens, evidencing their viewpoint regarding the Bobby Davis Memorial Park, were found in the same issue of the Hazard Herald previously cited and consist of the following:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. So Bobby Davis lived and died, but not in vain. Reverend W. F. Badger"26

"The gift of Bobby Davis Memorial Library and Memorial Park by Lawrence Davis to Hazard, Perry County, will forever perpetuate the memory of his son and comrades who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in World War II. The gift reflects in the donor of a noble heart and unselfish devotion to the deathless deed. C. W. Napier"27

"As President of the Hazard Rotary Club, it is with great joy I welcome the opening of the Bobby Davis Memorial Library. This new and much needed institution will enable the citizenry of this community to participate and perpetuate activity that promises growth to the individual as a result of good reading. The members of Rotary cherish the opportunity of service and stand ready to aid this worthy project to the mutual benefit of all concerned. With deep appreciation we offer our heartfelt thanks to the donor, Mr. L. O. Davis. Hugh Shakhan"28

Thus, as indicated by the above comments, the citizenry of Hazard during the late 40's and 1950's demonstrated their

26 Ibid.
27 Ibid.
28 Ibid.
appreciation of Mr. L. O. Davis's truly magnificent gift. The park was utilized by many local clubs, organizations, churches, as well as individual citizens comprising the community.

Beverlee Bibee, who lived near the Bobby Davis Park and who is still a current resident of Hazard, Kentucky, remembers the park as being a very important part of her childhood. Since she was, from a geographic point of view, the only girl that lived on Walnut Street, which fronts Bobby Davis Memorial Park, she was confronted with hours of solitude which were filled with her fantasies and imaginations which reached their peak when she would enter the Bobby Davis Memorial Park.29 Beverlee, reminiscing about her early childhood, stated:

"Mother would always warn me not to pick the flowers and she would also inform me of the areas in the park which were off limits.

I would spend hours in the library just flipping through some of the books, especially the ones that had pages like in the Bible. I loved to just sit and turn those delicate pages. The librarian would never allow these books to leave the premises. My older brother, Marc, attempted to check these books out for me, but the librarian said she knew it was for me and wouldn't let him.

I remember that I was always unable to return what books I did check out on their due date even though I just lived across the street. The librarian would always refer to her handy little calendar and count the overdue days and translate them into monetary terms. "Two, four, six, eight," etc. "You owe twenty-four cents."

29Beverlee Bibee interview.
I would pretend that the entire park was my castle. There wasn't an area in the park that I hadn't explored. The reflecting pool became my throne room and the area below the swimming pool became the 'swamp.' Many a battle between the bad guys (the neighborhood boys) and I were fought in the 'swamp.' This area was always rather damp and muddy because of the drainage from the pool.

One day after a church activity called an 'Old-time Dress-up,' Linda McGee and I went to the park be-decked in our long dresses to enter our fantasy world and occupy our castle. It was a most wonderful day because we not only had the whole park as our fantasy land, but we were dressed for the part."30

Aileen E. Combs, owner and operator of Engle Florist and Gift Shop in Hazard, remembers many B.P.W. and church picnics and gatherings which utilized the Bobby Davis Park. She also recalls:

"Wendell and Wilberta, my son and daughter, while attending Hazard High School, learned how to swim at the Bobby Davis Park. The Red Cross had swimming instructors who taught the young people in the area. Wilberta and Wendell graduated from Hazard High School in 1957 and 1959 respectively."31

Mary Combs remembers taking her two daughters to the park to swim. She recalls:

"It was a hot afternoon and the pool was quite crowded. The church was having a picnic and swim party, and Rev. Meyers of the Methodist and his daughter Sally were in attendance. Rev. Meyers had a broken leg. I recall this particular day because Sally, who was swimming, suddenly appeared to be drowning. Rev. Meyers, cast and all, jumped into the pool and pulled Sally to her safety. Needless to say, it caused quite a commotion."32

30B. Bibee interview.
31Aileen Combs interview.
32Mary Combs interview.
Of course the picnic area at the Bobby Davis Park could not always accommodate the functions of the local organizations. Because of "acts of God" and the openness at the park, the following notice was published in the Hazard Herald:

"Due to bad weather, the scheduled Business and Professional Women's Club picnic will be held in the recreation room of the Methodist Church 6:30 this evening instead of at Bobby Davis Park as was originally scheduled." 33

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Parker remember the park in its prime.
"Looking back, the Davis Park was a place that we brought everyone who visited us." 34

Mrs. C. A. Zoellers can remember the many times she took her children to the pool for swimming instructions. 35

The late 50's and 1960's saw the beginning of the slow deterioration of the beautiful Bobby Davis Park. With the decline of funds and community interest, the park became forgotten. The official reason for the closing of the Bobby Davis pool can be found in the Perry County Library specifically on page two of the Perry County Garden Club's Environmental Improvement Project which gives the following explanation:

"The increase in population had to cause the pool to be closed for then the recreational areas were abandoned for new locations--privately owned." 36

Another "official" reason for the closing of the Bobby Davis

35 Ibid.
36 The Garden Club of Perry County, Environmental Improvement Project, Mt. Laurel District, October, 1972, p. 2.
pool can be found in the summary sheet of the City of Hazard's 1972 application for a grant submitted to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreations which states as follows:

"Initially, the park contained a swimming pool; however due to its smallness, the swimming pool was closed over 15 years ago." 37

Although the official reasons for the closing of the Bobby Davis pool were as cited above, it appears, after numerous interviews, that there were racial overtones which culminated in the closing of the pool.

As an aside, it is ironic to note that the property on which the Bobby Davis Park was constructed had been the subject of previous racial innuendoes. Specifically, in an earlier deed contained in the chain of title which affects the property on which the Bobby Davis Park was constructed, the following restriction was inserted by the grantors:

".....property herein shall be used for residential purposes only and that same shall not be sold, alienated or in any wise transferred to anyone of the African or colored race in which instance it shall become the property of and revert to the grantors herein." 38

The 60's provided no relief for the already deteriorating Bobby Davis Park. Although the library continued in operation, the park was never the same as during the peak period of

37 Bureau of Outdoor Recreations Grant Proposal.
38 Perry County Deed Book 66, p. 356, Perry County Court Clerk's office.
community use during the 1950's. According to Connie Elam, of the Perry County Library, in 1967 the Bobby Davis Library was moved to the basement of the Perry County Courthouse. As found on page two of the Perry County Garden Club's Environmental Improvement Project, previously cited, is the following:

"Then the library was moved downtown to a larger location. That seemed to be the last straw for our beloved park because then it was completely turned over to the ever-present litterbug and vandal."40

Obviously, L. O. Davis was aware of the apparent lack of interest and lack of upkeep regarding the Bobby Davis Park during the 1960's. A letter from W. E. Faulkner, city attorney, to Mr. L. O. Davis dated October 18, 1968, was recently found among the records of the City of Hazard. An excerpt from this letter contains the following language:

"You had mentioned you would like to take the park over to do some improvement in the park area, and arrange for the maintenance of the park, inasmuch as the city had neglected the park."41

Mr. Faulkner's letter was prompted as a result of a conversation he had had with Ermin Wirtz who was under the impression that Mr. L. O. Davis wanted to turn the park into a civic center where the public could hold meetings.42 After reviewing the Bobby Davis Park files, Mr. Faulkner came to the following conclusion:

39Connie Elam interview.
40The Garden Club of Perry County, p. 3.
41W. E. Faulkner's letter to L. O. Davis, October 18, 1968.
42Ibid.
"The deeds you and Hazel executed over a period of years, the different sections of the park, all provide that when the park board and city cease to use the park area, and to maintain the park property, then the title of all property so conveyed will revert to you." 43

Any response to this letter, if in fact there was one, could not be located, and the action referred to (i.e. the reverting of ownership back to Mr. L. O. Davis due to the cessation of the use of the park area) was apparently never realized since the City of Hazard continues to hold legal title to the Bobby Davis Park.

The beginning of the 70's could be deemed a "renaissance period" for the Bobby Davis Park. It was during this period of time, beginning in late 1970, that the Perry County Garden Club began to make the public and the city aware of the condition of the forgotten park. 44

The Garden Club met with the city officials to outline their restoration plans for the Bobby Davis Park, to solicit their support and help, and to urge the City of Hazard to allocate a share of the revenue from the city payroll tax, which was enacted in 1970, to assist in the restoration of the park. 45

The club divided their project into the following stages and assigned priorities as follows:

"1. Restore the plant life into its original glory and rid the park of litter.

43 W. E. Faulkner's letter.
44 The Garden Club of Perry County, p. 3.
45 Ibid.
2. Close off all entrances to the park except the main entrance in order to discourage vandals and litterbugs.

3. Through city funding, repair the crumbling steps and walks.

4. Repair the picnic area and renovate the recreational area.

5. Remodel the library building and insure its use and occupancy.

6. Hire fulltime custodians and recreational directors for the park."46

It was during June of 1971 that the "ball began rolling." That is, the garden club in conjunction with the City of Hazard, launched their massive cleanup and restoration campaign for the Bobby Davis Park. A number of other organizations as well as individual volunteers from the community assisted in this popular mission.

Lyle Shoemaker, now deceased, of the Kentucky Forestry Division, instructed city employees on the proper pruning techniques. Mainstream L.K.L.P. (Letcher, Knott, Leslie and Perry Counties) furnished manpower for some of the work to be done in the park as did the members of the N.Y.C. (Neighborhood Youth Corp). Volunteers from the community as well as dedicated Garden Club members could be found at the park making their contribution.47

46 Perry County Garden Club, p. 3.

MarionCole, a charter member of the Perry County Garden Club, who, despite the fact that she is now in her 70's, remains very active regarding restoration of the park. She recalls:

"I remember working at the park, pulling weeds, pruning and planting. It's funny some people would show up to work at the park and after their picture was taken for the paper, they would disappear." 48

Headlines from the June 22, 1971 edition of the East Kentucky Voice stated "Garden Club Cleans Up Bobby Davis Park" making the city aware of the positive action that was being taken. 49

Under the leadership of Bill Morton, who held the mayor position from 1969 to 1977, the city pledged its support and did not renege. In addition to allocating a share of the revenue from the city's occupational tax for the park, the city also received a Federal grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in matching money funds which were directly used for restoration of the Bobby Davis Park. 50 Copies of the grant application, the amount thereof, and other pertinent documents can be found in the Appendix.

Over $10,000 was spent on this particular restoration project. The improvements and renovations to the park included:

1. Picnic area restored to its original intended use.

48 Marian Cole interview.
2. Sewer line facilities repaired.
3. Swimming pool filled.
4. Repair work on the library building.
5. Children's playground equipped.
6. New shelter built in the swimming pool area.
7. Spotlights installed in the pool area."\(^51\)

In addition to these physical improvements to the park, the city hired Bill Adams as a fulltime custodian/gardner. Bill Adams' association with the park dates back to the beginning years at which time he was the 'gardener in charge of all operations.'\(^52\) With, and sometimes without, monetary compensation from the city, Mr. Adams continued to give the Bobby Davis Park his constant attention and care. Mr. Adams' devotion to the Bobby Davis Park resulted in him being the recipient of a "belated appreciation recognition" for his devotion beyond the call of duty in the preservation and care of the beauty and growth from the earth.\(^53\)

The Hazard Church Community Kindergarten was instrumental in the interior work which was performed on the library building, and this group occupied the premises from September of 1972 until the spring of 1975.\(^54\) Volunteers from the kindergarten organization, churches and individual citizens devoted their time and

\(^{51}\)Bill Morton's letter to Perry County Garden Club, October 5, 1972.

\(^{52}\)"Bill Adams," The East Kentucky Voice, March 1, 1972.

\(^{53}\)Ibid.

\(^{54}\)Missy Gorman interview.
energy toward painting and repairing the building. Missy Gorman was the kindergarten teacher at that time and played a very active role in relocating the community kindergarten from the basement of the Hazard Baptist Church to the Bobby Davis Library building. Missy recalls:

"Mr. Morton (William P. Morton, former mayor of Hazard) was a lot of help. He rented it to us for $1.00 a year. We had originally paid rent to the Baptist Church. I don't remember the exact amount.

We were able to do so much more at the Bobby Davis Park. There was an outdoor play area and David Baker, City Recreation Director, coordinated the playground equipment for kindergarten-age children.

Some of the Board members were worried about the move and the money it would cost for heating. I was glad we did. Granny Gorman donated a refrigerator. I wonder if it's still there. I also bought a duplicating machine.

It was just a different atmosphere. I loved it!

I picked out all the paint—bright vivid colors. George Gracey (former minister of the Hazard Presbyterian Church and member of the Community Kindergarten Board) and I did most of the work, but a lot of other people helped too. Bill Morton was a big help!

Right outside the front window was a whole row of white azaleas. They were just gorgeous. I never had to worry about the grounds. Bill Adams was so helpful and saved so much of the plant life and was always there working on the grounds.

I was only there one year. Anelle Gracey, along with Susie Duff, taught the following two years before the kindergarten was incorporated into the public school system.

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55The Hazard Herald, October 11, 1972.
George Gracey used to ice skate where the pool was built in. He would get the waterhose and spray the area and then it would freeze. He just loved the park!

I was at a Girl Scout meeting there not long ago. We worked so hard and I was so depressed when I saw the shape it was in. It's just so sad--all that work!"56

Note: Information contained within parentheses added.

Carolyn May was married on June 1973, and her wedding reception was held in the filled-in pool area of the Bobby Davis Park. She remembers:

"We were worried about the weather, that is, afraid it might rain. It turned out to be beautiful but too hot. We had tables all around with gingham tableclothes and there was a wicker settee in the shelter with matching gingham pillows. It was so pretty, but it was so hot and sticky."57

Following the incorporation of the kindergarten into the public school system, the Bobby Davis Library building became the home of a day care center. The Kentucky Youth Research Center of Frankfort, Kentucky, executed a lease to the City of Hazard which covered the period from June 16, 1978 to August 30, 1979.58

As revealed in a letter from Mr. Dan Mitchell, Assistant City Manager, dated June 7, 1979, the Kentucky Youth Research Center was asked to vacate the facility as a result of the destruction of the old Hazard City Hall, which suffered extensive damage as a result of a fire, and therefore the city was in need.

56Missy Gorman interview.
57Carolyn May interview.
58Dan Mitchell's letter to Kentucky Youth Research Center, June 7, 1979.
of space in which to locate the city development center. The library at the Bobby Davis Park was chosen to serve as temporary quarters. 59

According to Mr. Bill Gorman, current mayor of the City of Hazard, the day care center, as a result of reports of theft of some of the plants from the park, was asked to vacate. Referring to the Frankfort-based organization, Mr. Gorman stated, "They caused a lot of destruction at the park, and we asked them to leave." 60

During the fall of 1980, several representatives of the local Girl Scouts requested the use of the vacant library building to serve as a "Scout House." As revealed in a letter dated September 12, 1980 from Mayor Bill Gorman to Ann Gullett, Lylia Cooper and Lavonne Asher, the city agreed to make the facilities of the building available to the Girl Scouts. 61 Mr. Gorman stated, "I really believe that the use by you ladies and the Girl Scouts is the actual intent of the building of this beautiful park and structure to service our people." 62 Mr. Gorman further agreed that the city would continue to maintain the utilities and "do our best to keep the park grounds in tip-top shape." 63 The property was made available to the Girl Scouts in exchange for information from the Girl Scout leaders regarding the needs and requirements of the park area. 64

60 Bill Gorman interview.
61 Bill Gorman's letter to Girl Scouts, September 12, 1980.
62 Ibid.
63 Ibid.
64 Ibid.
The Girl Scouts organization coupled with the Community Ministries have utilized the Bobby Davis Park facilities. However, problems have developed concerning the availability of the building and the criteria for its use. Requests for the use of the building were being forwarded, by the city, to the Girl Scouts, and the burden of granting or rejecting these requests was placed upon the Girl Scout leaders. 65 Accordingly, at a meeting held on March 22, 1982, several representatives of the Girl Scouts met to develop criteria for community use of the building. The committee proposed that anyone using the building should conform to the following guidelines:

BOBBY DAVIS PARK

"The use of Bobby Davis Park has been given to the Perry County Girl Scouts by Mayor Bill Gorman. The building is available for use by clubs and civic groups. Persons wanting to use the building are asked to submit a written application to Karkie Tackett, 517 Oakhurst Ave, Hazard or Agnes Caudill, 100 Laurel St, Hazard. The application should contain:

- Approximately how many people will be involved in the activity
- Proposed dates and times of the meeting
- A brief description of what kind of activities are anticipated.
- Name and telephone number of a contact person.

The Girl Scouts have determined that the following should apply to the use of the building:

- There will be no alcoholic beverages, loud music or illegal activities there.
- Youth activities will be adequately chaperoned.

65 Girl Scout meeting, March 22, 1982.
- General clean-up is expected after each use.
- Groups using the building are responsible for any damages incurred during their stay.
- There will be a minimum fee of $5 for one-time use of the building. Fees for ongoing meetings are negotiable.
- All due consideration will be given the neighbors in matters of parking, noise, etc.
- The pad-locked storage room inside the building is for Girl Scout use only.  

Further interviews regarding the Bobby Davis Park have revealed a general concern and discontent with the park area. According to one Girl Scout leader, although the Girl Scouts had requested the use of the facilities it was not their intention to become park managers. At the time of the initial request, the building and grounds were in such poor condition that it really was not a truly desirable location for Girl Scout meetings or outings. Although the city had repaired the roof and door, constant break-ins and lack of heat, light and running water caused what at times seemed to be insurmountable problems thereby rendering the park less and less attractive. The grounds were so overgrown that the leaders were in constant fear of snakes and poison ivy during picnics or outings.  

In all fairness to the City of Hazard, it should be noted that the City of Hazard indeed allocated funds for park maintenance. According to Greeba Davis, City Treasurer, an excess of $8,800 has been spent on material and repair work since 1979.  

66 Girl Scout meeting, March 22, 1982.
67 Ibid.
68 Greeba Davis interview.
Moreover, this figure is not totally indicative of the overall expenditures in that it does not reflect the cost of regular maintenance to the park and salary monies expended to city workers.\textsuperscript{69} Be that as it may, the problem remains; the Bobby Davis Park has been neglected and is currently in very poor condition. Despite the availability of funds, the park is not in "tip-top shape." According to Mayor Gorman, the city has sufficient funds to maintain the park, however, there is a lack of adequate and capable personnel ("an expert in the care of plant life") and this constitutes the primary problem for the lack of care and upkeep of the grounds.\textsuperscript{70}

In a recent interview with Mayor Gorman, he stated, "The park is uppermost in my mind."\textsuperscript{71} Mayor Gorman continues to contend that the city has worked diligently to maintain the park, but unless someone comes forward that is knowledgeable in the area of plant care, he doesn't know what to do. Mayor Gorman asserts that the City of Hazard has a continuing maintenance program but the Bobby Davis Park is the most sophisticated problem they have with non-professional people.\textsuperscript{72}

Apparently, the solution to this dilemma is the locating and acquisition of a well-qualified individual to supervise the city maintenance crew in their endeavors to maintain the Bobby

\textsuperscript{69}Greeba Davis interview.
\textsuperscript{70}Bill Gorman interview.
\textsuperscript{71}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{72}Ibid.
Davis Park. Mr. Gorman states, "Find me somebody and I will hire them." Additionally, Mr. Gorman assured that within the next couple of weeks the park should be in pretty good shape.

It has often been said that history repeats itself and true to form, the Bobby Davis Park is again in dire need of restoration. From most outward appearances, the park has again been forgotten and left in the hands of vandals and natural deterioration. Yet, as one walks the cluttered paths and winding trails, there is indeed something wonderful and special about the Bobby Davis Park. Amidst the broken bottles, beer cans, trash and accumulation of leaves and branches, there is still a beauty that is indescribable.

Mr. L.O. Davis was an artist in his own right. Just as a sculptor takes a lump of clay and transforms it into a beautiful object, Mr. Davis took an eroding hillside and transformed it into a beautifully terraced, landscaped wonder. This unselfish act, done out of the love and grief Mr. Davis had for his only son, blessed the community of Hazard for so many years. His dreams and expectations for the park were commendable and timeless. Indicative of Mr. Davis' concern and love for the Bobby Davis Park is an excerpt from a letter dated February 10, 1947 to Mr. Ernest Faulkner, then city attorney of the City of Hazard:

73 Bill Gorman interview.
74 Ibid.
"Keep an eye on the park and when I return, I am sure we will be able to do another good summer's work there. Some day I know all of us who had a hand in this park creation will be proud of the results and lasting benefits to Hazard people."75

The tragedy in the decline of the park can best be summarized in a single sentence found in a letter written by Mr. L. O. Davis dated March 30, 1982: "It is too bad that the city has so neglected the park as it could forever remained a bright spot in Hazard."76

The future for the Bobby Davis Memorial Park still remains in doubt. However, as ascertained from various interviews with local officials and leaders of the various organization groups, there still is hope. A spokeswoman from the Junior Women's Club indicated that their club might possibly direct their attention to the Bobby Davis Park as a community improvement project.77 Additionally, many interested individuals have pledged their time and energy should a restoration campaign be launched.

Regarding viable options concerning the restoration of the Bobby Davis Park, it was learned that a representative of the 207th National Guard Unit of Hazard plans to propose to his commanding officer, at summer camp, that their unit utilize one of their weekend drills to clean up the Bobby Davis Park. This would be contingent upon the furnishing of materials by the city.

77Agnew Caudill interview.
LETTERS AND WRITTEN MATERIAL

Faulkner, W. E. to L. O. Davis, October 18, 1968.
Gorman, Gill to Girl Scouts, September 12, 1980.
Lykins, Irma to Vivian Carter, (n.d.).
Mitchell, Dan to Kentucky Youth Research Center, June 7, 1979.
Morton, Bill to Perry County Garden Club, October 5, 1972.
Stern, Al, transcript of phone conversation, July 18, 1981.
Wright, Dale to Ross Buttrum, July 15, 1981.
Wright, Dale, transcript of phone conversation, July 17, 1981.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


"Bobby Davis Library to Open Wednesday," The Hazard Herald, October 28, 1947.

Bobby Davis Memorial Park, pamphlet, (n.d.).

"Bobby Davis Swim Hours Announced," The Hazard Herald, August 8, 1946.

"Bobby Davis Park ... Will it be Revived?," The East Kentucky Voice, June 1, 1971.


"City Accepts Davis Gift," The Hazard Herald, July 2, 1946.

"Davis Donation Prompts Adoption of Resolution," The Hazard Herald, July 18, 1946.

"Davis Memorial Park Should be Source of Inspiration to City," The Hazard Herald, August 1, 1946.

"Davis Park to Open Wednesday," The Hazard Herald, August 13, 1946.


The Garden Club of Perry County, Environmental Improvement Project, Mt. Laurel District, October, 1972.

"Garden Club Project Hopes to Improve Bobby Davis Park," The East Kentucky Voice, June 1, 1971.


"Lions Hear Park Donor at Luncheon," The Hazard Herald, July 12, 1946.


Perry County Deed Book 88, p. 55, Perry County Court Clerk's office.

Perry County Deed Book 316, p. 316, Perry County Court Clerk's office.


Perry County Miscellaneous Book 3, p. 499, Perry County Court Clerk's office.


"Swimming Course Opens August 5th," The Hazard Herald, July 28, 1946.

"Swimming Course to Start Wednesday," The Hazard Herald, August 4, 1946.

ORAL INTERVIEWS

Jody Baker - President of Perry County Garden Club
Beverlee Bibee - resident of Walnut Street, Hazard
Katie Bibee - resident of Hazard
Aileen Combs - resident of Hazard
Agnes Caudill - member of Perry County Girl Scout organization
Mary Combs - resident of Hazard
Marian Cole - charter member of Perry County Garden Club
Greeba Davis - City Treasurer
L. O. Davis - father of Bobby Davis and creator of Bobby Davis Park
Connie Elam - employee of Perry County Library
Paul Feltner - City Manager
Ann Gilbert - resident of Hazard
Bill Gorman - Mayor of Hazard
Missy Gorman - kindergarten teacher
Ann Gullet - former member of Girl Scouts organization
Eileen Haddix - Hazard Community College librarian
Lou Lykins - sister-in-law of Irma Lykins (Bobby Davis' widow)
Carolyn May - resident of Hazard--wedding reception at Bobby Davis Park
Kathryn McAllister - secretary to Mayor
Bill Morton - former mayor of Hazard
Debbie Rish - member of Girl Scouts organization
Estella Salley - resident of Hazard and Hazard Community College
assistant librarian

Jim Smith - member of National Guard Unit

Korky Tackett - member of Girl Scouts organization
STATE OF KENTUCKY,  
SCT.
COUNTY OF PERRY.

I, Prentiss Baker, Clerk of the County Court for the County and State aforesaid, certify that the foregoing Deed was on the 19th day of November 1946, lodged in my office for record, whereupon the same with the foregoing and this certificate have been duly recorded in my office.

Given under my hand, this 19th day of November, 1946.

Prentiss Baker, Clerk
By J. Holliday, D.C.

IRA J. HOLLIDAY AND MAE HOLLIDAY (MAE HOLLIDAY AS COMMITTEE FOR IRA J. HOLLIDAY AND ROY HOLLIDAY AND MARTHA CONLEY AND HARRIETT SAUNDERS AND BILL SAUNDERS AND CLARA CROWE AND THEODORE HOLLIDAY). BY JESSIE HORN, COMMISSIONER OF PERRY COUNTY COURT.

TO: DEED

CITY OF HAZARD

This deed of conveyance, made and entered into this the 16 day of November, 1946, by and between Ira J. Holliday and his wife Mae Holliday, in her own right and as
of general warranty.

In testimony whereof, witness the signatures of the first parties this the day and date written above.

Lawrence O Davis  
Hazel E. Davis

STATE OF KENTUCKY  
COUNTY OF PERRY  

I, Joe C. Eversole, a Notary Public in and for the county and state aforesaid, certify that on today the foregoing deed from Lawrence O. Davis and his wife, Hazel E. Davis, to the CITY OF HAZARD, was produced to me in my county by the said Lawrence O. Davis and Hazel E. Davis, who executed the same in my presence and before me acknowledged it to be their free and voluntary act and deed, in due form of law, for all the purposes therein set forth.

In testimony whereof, witness my signature as Notary Public aforesaid, this July 1st 1946.

Joe C Eversole  
N.P.P. CO.

My com. will expire July 10, 1949

STATE OF KENTUCKY,  
COUNTY OF PERRY.

I, Prentiss Baker, Clerk of the County Court for the County and State aforesaid, certify that the foregoing Deed was on the 19th day of November 1946, lodged in my office for record, whereupon the same with the foregoing and this certificate have been duly recorded in my office.

Given under my hand, this 19th day of November, 1946.

Prentiss Baker, Clerk
1944, and recorded in Deed Book 88, at page 454, Perry County Court Clerk's Office.

and a part of the same property referred to in a deed from Irma B. McDonald and Tom McDonald to the grantor herein, recorded in Deed Book 88, page 454, Perry County Court Clerk's Office.

It is understood and agreed between the parties hereto that the property described above is conveyed to the second party for the purpose of a park and that the same is to be used for that purpose only. It is further understood that part of the property described above is to be used as a site for a public library which the first parties contemplate building on the property at their own expense.

It the second party should find it necessary or expedient in the future to cease using the building to be constructed on this property as a library building, it shall have the right to do so, but in such event it shall use said building in connection with a park to be maintained by the second party.

The purpose of this conveyance is to enable the second part, the City of Hazard, to establish and maintain a municipal park to be known as the BOBBY DAVIS MEMORIAL PARK, and for no other purpose. If the second party, its successors or assigns, should cease to use said property for this purpose, the whole thereof shall revert to the grantors or their heirs.

To have and to hold unto the party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever, together with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and with covenant of general warranty.

In testimony whereof, witness the signatures of the first parties this the day and date written above.

Lawrence O Davis
Hazel E. Davis
DEED OF CONVEYANCE

This deed of conveyance made and entered into this July 1, 1946, by and between Lawrence O. Davis and his wife, Hazel E. Davis, parties of the first part, and the City of Hazard, a municipal corporation, party of the second part, witnesses:

For and in consideration of the sum of one dollar ($1.00) cash in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties of the first part have bargained and sold, and by this writing do hereby bargain and sell, alien and convey to the second part, its successors and assigns, the following described property:

Lying and being in the City of Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky, and being Lots Nos. 100, 101 and 102 in the Baker Heights Addition to the City of Hazard, which lots and which addition are set out and described in a plat thereof of record in Misc. Book No. 3, page 492, in the office of the Clerk of the Perry County Court, to which reference is made for a more particular description.

Being a part of the same property described as Tract No. 6 in a deed from Robert Oren Davis and Irma B. Davis, his wife, to the grantor herein, dated December 30, 1944, and recorded in Deed Book 88, at page 55, Perry County Court Clerk's Office, and a part of the same property referred to in a deed from Irma B. McDonald and Tom McDonald to the grantor herein, recorded in Deed Book 88, page 454, Perry County Court Clerk's Office.

It is understood and agreed between the parties that:

1. Lawrence O. Davis and Hazel E. Davis, parties of the first part, have not in any way released or conveyed any of the property herein described to the City of Hazard.

2. The City of Hazard, party of the second part, is purchasing the property for public purposes.

3. No encumbrances or liens exist on the property.

4. The property is being conveyed to the City of Hazard in fee simple.

In witness whereof, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this July 1, 1946.

Lawrence O. Davis
Hazel E. Davis

[Seals]
City of Hazard are shown on a map or plat of said addition which is of record in Misc. Book No. 3 at page 492, in the office of the clerk of the Perry County Court, and reference is hereby made to said map for a more particular description of all the lots hereby conveyed and their location.

This deed is made subject to all the reservations and all the restrictions contained in the deeds to the first party, Robert Oren Davis.

To have and to hold unto the second party, his heirs and assigns forever, with covenant of general warranty.

In testimony whereof, witness the signatures of the first parties, this the day and date written above.

Robert Oren Davis
Irma B. Davis

STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF Perry

I, Joe C Eversole, a. notary in and for the county and state aforesaid, certify that the foregoing deed from Robert Oren Davis and his wife, Irma B. Davis, to L. O. Davis was produced to me in my said county by the parties grantor thereto, who executed the same in my presence and before me acknowledged it to be their free and voluntary act and deed, in due form of law, for all the purposes therein set forth.

In testimony whereof, witness my signature this January 30 1945.

Joe C Eversole, NPPC
My Commission exp 7/1/45

STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF PERRY

I, Joe C Eversole, Clerk of the County Court in and for the county and state.
A certain tract or parcel of land composed of lots Nos. 103, 104, 105 and 106 in the Baker Heights Addition to the City of Hazard, except that part of said lots included in a private cemetery, and which was reserved by first parties' grantors; being the same property conveyed to the first party, Robert Oren Davis, by Barney W. Baker, and the other heirs of John Baker, deceased, by deed dated May 19, 1943, and recorded in Deed Book 80, page 236, Perry County Court Clerk's office.

This conveyance of the above lots is made subject to the reservations and restrictions included in the deed from said Barney W. Baker and others.

SIXTH TRACT.

A certain tract or parcel of land composed of lots 102, 101, 100, 99, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93, 92 and an unnumbered lot lying between lot No. 92 and the property of R. C. Combs, Jr., which lot faces on Fuson Street 42 feet, and is separated from the R. C. Combs, Jr. lot by a five foot strip of land set apart for a public pass way leading from Baker Avenue to Fuson Street.

Being the same property conveyed to the first party, Robert Oren Davis, by Barney W. Baker and the other heirs of John Baker, by deed dated June 5, 1936, of record in Deed Book 66, page 356, Perry County Court Clerk's office.

SEVENTH TRACT.

A certain tract or parcel of land in Hazard, Kentucky, beginning on a cedar stump on the west side of a small drain on the Town Branch, in Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky; thence S 64° W 86 feet to a maple and ivy stump; thence S 56° 58 feet to a stake; S 50° W 193 feet to a stake; N 96 W 40 feet to a stone; N 51 W 137 feet to a stake; N 31 feet to a stake; N 53 E 45 feet to a stake; N 60° 127 feet to a stake; N 75 E 118 feet to a stake; S 51 E 12 feet to a stake; S 30° E 83 feet to the beginning.
TO:        DEED
L. O. DAVIS

THIS DEED OF CONVEYANCE made this the 30th day of December, 1944, by and between
Robert Oren Davis and Irma B. Davis, his wife, parties of the first part, and L. O.
Davis, party of the second part, all of Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky, witnesseth:

WHEREAS the first party, Robert Oren Davis, holds the legal title to certain
real estate located in the City of Hazard, of all of which the second party, L. O.
Davis, is the beneficial and equitable owner; and,

WHEREAS the first party is now a member of the armed forces of the United States,
and expects to be absent from the continental United States for a period of time:

NOW, THEREFORE, for the convenience of the parties, and especially for the second
party, the equitable owner of the property hereinbefore mentioned, this deed is made
in order that second party may also hold the legal title to the hereinafter described
property.

In consideration of the sum of one dollar ($1.00) cash in hand paid, and in
consideration of the premises, the first parties have bargained and sold, and by
this writing do hereby bargain, sell, alien and convey unto the second party, his
heirs and assigns, the following described property:

FIRST TRACT.

Lying and being in Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky, in Baker Heights Addition to
said city, and being lots Nos. 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 and 70, which lots
together front 225 feet on Walnut Avenue.

SECOND TRACT.

ROBERT OREN DAVIS AND IRMA B. DAVIS
COUNTY OF PERRY

I, Seba Stamper, Clerk of the County Court for the county and state aforesaid, do certify that the foregoing deed from Barney W. Baker etc. to Robert Orlen Davis, was on the 5th day of June, 1936, produced before me in my office by Barney W. Baker, and wife, Mary Rose Baker, individuals, Kate Baker, Clyda Baker Fusoion, C. L. Fusoion, Floyd H. Baker, Helen Degarmo Baker, Mary Baker Pritchard, D. L. Pritchard, Jr., Eliza Baker arpley, W. B. Tarpley, Belle Baker Huff, P. B. Huff, Prentiss Baker and Ted Baker, by and through their attorney in fact, Barney W. Baker, parties grantors thereto to be their act and deed.

Given under my hand this the 5th day of June, 1936.

SEBA STAMPER CLERK PERRY COUNTY COURT
BY V. L. FALLON D.C.

STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF PERRY

I, Seba Stamper, Clerk of the County Court, in and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing Deed was on the 8th day of June, 1936, lodged in my office for record, whereupon, the same, with the foregoing and this certificate, have been duly recorded in my office.

Given under my hand, this 8th day of June, 1936.

SEBA STAMPER CLERK P.C.C.
BY V. L. FALLON D.C.
TO: ROBERT ORLEN DAVIS.


That said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar cash in hand paid and for the further sum of one thousand dollars represented by ten promissory notes of one hundred dollars each and due and payable monthly from date hereof until paid with interest of 6% per annum from date hereof, the receipt of which is being acknowledged, do hereby sell, grant and convey to the party of the second part his heirs and assigns, the following described property, to-wit:

Being lot numbers 102, 101, 100, 99, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93, 92, and R. C. Combs Jr. which lot faces on Fuson Street forty-two feet and is separated from the R. C. Combs, Jr. lot by a five foot strip of land set apart for a public passway leading from Baker Ave. to Fuson street as appear on map of the Baker Heights Addition which is recorded in miscellaneous book  at page Records of the Perry County Court Clerk's Office at Hazard, Kentucky.

*It is made a part of the consideration herein that the property shall be
used for residence purposes only and that same shall not be sold, alienated or in any wise transferred to any one of the African or colored race in which instant it shall become the property of and revert to the grantors herein.

In building upon this property the Second Party shall observe the building as set out on map of the Baker Heights Addition referred to above.

Being a part of same land conveyed from L. H. N. Salyer to John Baker by deed bearing date 3rd day of Nov. 1898, and of record in Deed Book No. N. at page 18, Ferry County Court Clerk's Office.

To have and to hold the same, together with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging unto the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, with covenant of general warranty.

In testimony whereof, witness our signatures this 5th day of June, 1936.

Clyda Baker Fuson
C. L. Fuson
Flyyd H. Baker
Helen Degarmo Baker
Eliza Baker Tarpley
W. B. Tarpley
Mary Bryan Pritchard
D. L. Pritchard, Jr.

Barney W. Baker
Mary Rose Baker
Kate Baker
Belle Baker Huff
R. B. Huff
Ted Baker
Frentiss Baker.

By Barney W. Baker, atty.-in-fact.

STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF PERRY
October 5, 1972

Mrs. Harold Sigmon, President
Perry County Garden Club
Faulkner Avenue
Hazard, Kentucky

Dear Mrs. Sigmon:

On behalf of the people of the City of Hazard and the City Commission of the City of Hazard, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the leadership of the Perry County Garden Club in helping to start restoring Bobby Davis Park to its beautiful, original condition.

With the urging and guidance of your organization, along with the City's improved financial condition brought on by the Occupational Tax, the City of Hazard has made definite progress in Bobby Davis Park.

Some of these accomplishments are:

1. Bill Adams has been rehired and has done a wonderful job in pruning and cleaning the planted areas of the park.

2. The Library Building has been reroofed, the sewer line repaired after fifteen years, and is now being used for a very good cause by the Church Community Kindergarten Program.

3. The old tennis court area is now being used for croquet by adults in the area.

4. The City, because of its improved financial condition, has matching funds of almost $5,000, and added to this will be a grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation which will allow us to rebuild the picnic area, make a multipurpose area out of the old swimming pool, and purchase excellent playground equipment for the lower area of the park which will help greatly in the recreation program of the kindergarten as well as for use by the neighborhood children.
For your information, the City is now in a position to develop a riverside park between North Main Street and the Kentucky River, and we will be looking forward to the help and leadership of the Perry County Garden Club in this project.

Again, many thanks to you and your organization.

Yours truly,

W. P. Horton, Mayor
City of Hazard
PART I

1. Project Title: Bobby Davis Memorial Park

2. County: Perry County, Ky.

3. Brief description of project:

The Bobby Davis Memorial Park is owned by the City of Hazard. The park, located approximately within the center of corporate limits of the City of Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky, has been used in the past as a passive recreation area, plus housing the city library in a structure located within the park area. Initially, the park contained a swimming pool; however, due to its smallness, the swimming pool use was ceased over fifteen years ago. It is now the plan of the City of Hazard to use sections of the property as an active recreation area by providing, with 50% federal financial assistance, outdoor recreation to the citizens of the City.

4. Applicant's name, address and telephone number:

W. D. Morton, Jr., Mayor
City Hall Building
P. O. Box 420
Hazard, Kentucky 41701
606-436-3171

5. a. Total project costs: $113,575

5. b. Source(s) of remainder of funds:

General Fund of the City of Hazard, Kentucky

6. Other Federal Grant? [ ] Yes [ ] No

If "Yes," attach an explanation of nature of the grant, indicate whether independent or supplementary, and give name of the granting agency.

7. Previous Land & Water Grant? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Project Number:

8. [ ] New [ ] Adj.

9. SITE ORIENTATION

[ ] Marine
[ ] Lakes, including reservoirs
[ ] Rivers or streams
[ ] Non-aquatic

10. Time-Distance Classification

A. [ ] Neighborhood
B. [ ] Community/Town
C. [ ] Metropolitan/Regional
D. [ ] Overnight
E. [ ] Weekend/Vacation

11. Census Classification

[ ] Urban [ ] Rural

12. Page numbers from State Plan:

If appropriate, attach a narrative explanation.
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

GRANTS PROCESSING CONTROL SHEET

☑ Project Agreement  ☐ Amendment to Project Agreement

Project Title: Bobby Davis Memorial Park

Applicant: City of Hazard  Assistance Requested  $5,201,00

☐ Planning  ☐ Acquisition  ☑ Development  ☐ Coordination

Received  July 17, 1972

We hereby acknowledge receipt of the above project agreement or amendment to project agreement as shown. The project number shown above has been assigned to this transaction. We will advise you of any additional information or material that may be needed, and we will notify you of our final action request as soon as possible after the decision has been made.

(Regional Office Stamp)  Sincerely yours,

Authorized Signature

FOR STATE USE

Acknowledgement

November 1371
TO: Mr. Malcolm Holliday, Jr. Dir.
P.O. Box 986
Hazard, Kentucky 41701

FROM: Ken Nelson, Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: 

1. This will acknowledge receipt of the Bobby Davis Memorial Park Project.

Your letter is being referred to:

Our earliest attention will be given to this subject.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth Nelson
Section Supervisor
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

CC:
April 3, 1972

Honorable W. P. Morton, Jr., Mayor
City of Hazard
P.O. Box 420
Hazard, Kentucky 41701

Subject: Bobby Davis Memorial Park
72-487

Dear Mayor Morton:

The State Clearinghouse has processed the Summary Notification for the subject project. Based on the information contained in the Summary Notification and the responses of interested parties, the proposed project is, as of this date, not in conflict with the State's plans, goals or objectives.

However, as you know this project is subject to a Regional Clearinghouse review which may indicate the need for project revision since the review is based upon specific local information.

You should now continue with the application process prescribed by the appropriate funding agency. This process may include detailed reviews by State Agencies who have authority over specific types of projects (e.g., the review of Waste Treatment Projects by the Department of Health).

This letter signifies only that the project has been processed through the State Clearinghouse. It is neither a commitment of funds from this agency or any other State or Federal agency.

This letter is to be attached to your final application. A copy of that application is to be sent to the State Clearinghouse.

Very truly yours,

Laurel W. True
Administrator

cc: Malcolm H. Holliday, Jr.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE
(TITLE VI, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964)

The City of Hazard, Kentucky (Hereinafter called "Applicant-Recipient")

HEREBY AGREES THAT IT will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Department of the Interior Regulation (43 CFR 17) issued pursuant to that title, to the end that, in accordance with Title VI of that Act and the Regulation, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Applicant-Recipient receives financial assistance from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U. S. Department of Interior, and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take any measures to effectuate this agreement.

If any real property or structure thereon is provided or improved with the aid of Federal financial assistance extended to the Applicant-Recipient by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U. S. Department of Interior. This assurance obligates the Applicant-Recipient, or in the case of any transfer of such property, any transferee for the period during which the real property or structure is used for a purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits. If any personal property is so provided, this assurance obligates the Applicant-Recipient for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property. In all other cases, this assurance obligates the Applicant-Recipient for the period during which the Federal financial assistance is extended to it by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U. S. Department of Interior.

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Date

City of Hazard, Kentucky
Applicant-Recipient

P. O. Box 420
Hazard, Kentucky 41701

By:
W. P. Morton, Mayor
The Bobby Davis Memorial Park is owned by the City of Hazard. The park, located approximately within the center of Corporate limits of the City of Hazard, Perry County, Kentucky, has been used in the past as a passive recreation area, plus housing the city library in a structure located with the park area. Initially, the park contained a swimming pool; however, due to its smallness, the swimming pool use was ceased over fifteen years ago. It is now the plan of the City of Hazard to use sections of the property as an active recreation area by providing with 50% federal financial assistance for outdoor recreation to the citizens of the City.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EST. FEDERAL FUNDS (GRANTS)</th>
<th>General Fund, City of Hazard</th>
<th>A U.S. Dept. of Interior</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,264.00</td>
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<td>LOANS</td>
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<tr>
<td>EST. KENTUCKY FUNDS [STATE]</td>
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<td>LOCAL $5,264.00</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<tr>
<td>EST. OTHER FUNDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EST. COST $10,528.00</td>
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DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
<td>RES</td>
<td>DDL</td>
<td>ACT</td>
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<td>County</td>
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Regional Clearinghouses | I |

Review Agencys | |
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The City of Hazard, Kentucky (Hereinafter called "Applicant-Recipient")

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Date

City of Hazard, Kentucky

P.O. Box 420
Hazard, Kentucky 41701

Address

By:

W. P. Morton, Mayor
### Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Two movable basketball goals @ $150.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Shuffleboard Set</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Two volleyball @ $15.00 each</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Four basketballs @ $15.00 each</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Tennis set (nylon steel reinforced top)</td>
<td>94.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Tennis Net Posts</td>
<td>29.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Volley Ball Net</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Portable Volleyball Net Post</td>
<td>48.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Horse shoe pits &amp; shoes</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Bad Minton Nets</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Bad Minton Sets</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Outdoor Mats - 2 each of 4 sections</td>
<td>396.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Total Equipment</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,130.00</strong></td>
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### Electrical System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Lighting for night play on the one multi-purpose area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. 8 incandescent lights-1,500 watts-$40.00 each</td>
<td>320.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. 4 light poles @ $168.00 each</td>
<td>672.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Installation of poles @ $25.00 each</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Wiring 160 ft @ $.20 per ft</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. 2 outdoor spotlights @ $300 each</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total for Lighting</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1,742.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Construction Supervision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>5% of all projects costs</td>
<td>458.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total for Supervision</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>458.00</strong></td>
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**TOTAL PROJECT COST**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>$10,528.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Line Items</td>
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<td>D. 4</td>
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BOBBY DAVIS PARK

The use of Bobby Davis Park has been given to the Perry County Girl Scouts by Mayor Bill Gorman. The building is available for use by clubs and civic groups. Persons wanting to use the building are asked to submit a written application to Karkie Tackett, 517 Oakhurst Ave, Hazard or Agnes Caudill, 100 Laurel St, Hazard. The application should contain:

- Approximately how many people will be involved in the activity
- Proposed dates and times of the meeting
- A brief description of what kind of activities are anticipated.
- Name and telephone number of a contact person.

The Girl Scouts have determined that the following should apply to the use of the building:

- There will be no alcoholic beverages, loud music or illegal activities there.
- Youth activities will be adequately chaperoned.
- General clean-up is expected after each use.
- Groups using the building are responsible for any damages incurred during their stay.
- There will be a minimum fee of $5 for one-time use of the building. Fees for ongoing meetings are negotiable.
- All due consideration will be given the neighbors in matters of parking, noise, etc.
- The padlocked storage room inside the building is for Girl Scout use only.

OL

The Bobby Davis Park was established in memory of the son of Oren Davis, who was one of the early . The use of the building was for the benefit of all.

The City of Hazard will continue the operation of this building and the park grounds in tip-top shape. The responsibility of the maintenance will be in the hands of the people of the community.

We would like your ideas of making the park practically complete. Of course, the City of Hazard has plans that will take care of the present, but the Girl Scouts are in charge of the future.

Charlie Hammond and I enjoy your interest in making this commitment to the city.

Sincerely,

William D. Gorman
Mayor, City of Hazard
September 12, 1980

Mrs. Ann Gullett
Mrs. Lylia Cooper
Mrs. Lyvonne Asher

Dear Girl Scout Leaders:

The City of Hazard is more than glad to furnish Bobby Davis Library as a scout house for the girl scouts in Hazard and Perry County. It is our understanding that you plan to do remodeling and interior re-decorating, therefore, you need a commitment that will last at least five years. The intent of the Bobby Davis Park was to serve the people of this City and County in a memorial of the son of Mr. L. O. Davis, Robert Oren Davis, who was one of my classmates. I really believe that the use by you ladies and the girl scouts is the actual intent of the building of this beautiful park and structure to service to our people.

The City of Hazard will continue to pay the utilities for the operation of this building and we will do our best to keep the park grounds in tip top shape. However, it will be the responsibility of the girl scout leaders to show interest and to advise the City of the needs in the park area. This shall be your price for the rental of this property.

We would like your ideas of making this building, which has been practically closed for sometime, a much used community center. Of course, the City of Hazard has a general liability policy that will take care of the premises when used by someone other than the girl scouts.

Charlie Hammonds and I enjoy representing the City Commission in making this commitment to the girl scouts.

Sincerely,

William D. Gorman
Mayor, City of Hazard

WDG  KJM
March 30, 82.

Miss. Lilian Caretr Combs
Hazard, Ky.

Dear Miss. Combs:

I am enclosing herewith some literature on the Park and Library.

I hope you can get enough information from this material to help in your theses, I have a great deal more but facts on the park believe this will help you.

It is too bad that the city has so neglected the park as it could forever remained a bright spot in Hazard.

I am glad you are using this theme for your paper and wish you much luck with it.

Sincerely,

L. O. DAVIS.

I do not require the return of any of the enclosed material
Vivian,

A friend of mine found this paper among her Mother's things just lately. I thought it might aid you in the paper you are working on. You can return it to me when you have completed with it.

I saw Peggy Petrey while in Hazard over the weekend, and told her I would send this to you.

Also, I visited Mr. Buttram while there -- came very near running across the street to see you, but simply ran out of time -- had other people to visit.

Excuse mistakes, it's Monday and early!

Regards,

[Signature]
Mr. Stern was a 19 year old private in the 14th. Armored Division and was inducted into the Army from New York City. Since he could speak German he was sent to the European Theatre of Operations in WW II. He went overseas in March of 1945 and was assigned to the 14th. Armored Division. The war was in its last months so he did not see too much action. The war was now over and his division was in the vicinity of Salzburg, Germany.

It was July 1945 and he received a call to move out and join the 20th. Division that was near Rupholding, Germany and preparing to move enmasse to the states via train from Rupholding to camp Lucky Strike which was located outside LeHarve, France. He was in Rupholding three days before they moved out on the train. He was assigned as an interpreter to the German train crew in the locomotive. It was now July 10, 1945. They started the journey. Everyone was in a jovial mood as they were going home and then possibly to Japan as a complete unit. He did not know any of the members of the 20th. Division but shared their joy in going home.

They had been on the train about three days and were making little progress as the railroad was in bad shape from the war. Most of the time was spent on sidings waiting and waiting. As he remembers, the train was about 20 cars consisting of two German double header engines, the next two cars were wooden box cars and the third car was a heavy steel box car. The next couple of cars were regular coach cars which he thought were for the officers of the division. He knew from the view from the locomotive that the train was long. A kitchen crew would meet the train along the way to feed them.

It was about 3 a.m. in the morning and they were close to Mannheim, Germany he thought, when they were going around a big curve in a rural farming area. All of a sudden the German engineer shouted "here comes a train". Quickly he looked out and saw the train coming. They were only going 20 or 30 miles per hour. The engineer shouted "jump".

He remembered jumping as far as he could with the engine crew behind him. He ended up breaking an ankle and the train crew, he thought, was OK. He didn't remember anyone or seeing anyone injured with him. He couldn't get up so he didn't know what happened to the others. The locomotives never left the tracks and the damage was to the first three box cars. They ended up in a "A" shape behind the locomotives. He thought the rest of the train remained on the tracks. It was two hours before help arrived.

Mr. Stern is now retired and lives in Plantation, Florida. His family is grown. He will have the ankle disability for the rest of his life.

He thinks of the train wreck and the 6 who died and the 28 injured each July 13th. Until he saw my inquiry he didn't think anyone remembered the accident.

Mr. Stern also wants to know how many people answer my inquiry.
Information from July 17, 1981, telephone conversation with:

Mr. Dale A. Wright
320 2nd. Street, SE
Hampton, Iowa 50441
Phone: 1-515-456-4196

Mr. Wright was surprised to see my inquiry in the D.A.V. Magazine. He had given up hope of ever seeing an event of WWII that he would have any information on ever entered in the magazine.

He knew Bobby Davis ver well. He was ten years older than any of the boys in the "I and R Platoon" and didn't have the education most of them had.

He said they were going back to the states and then to Japan as a group. The 20th. Armored was one of the first units to go back this way. As he remembered, Bobby and the group spent about two days in Rupholding, Germany, around July 10, 1945, fixing up their box cars as best they could for the journey. They found some lumber in the railroad yard and made themselves some bunks about four high around the walls of the box car. It was fairly comfortable by the time they finished.

They started out but found the railroads to be in bad condition. Most of their time was spent on some sidings or backing up, detouring, etc. It was about 3 a.m. on the 13th. of July when the accident happened. As best he knew, they were asleep at the time. He remembers nothing except he woke up in Nancy, France two weeks later. Evidently he was the most seriously hurt of the survivors and didn't know about Bobby until later in the hospital. Most of those killed were from their squad and box car. Dale was in the hospitals overseas and stateside for eight months and never fully recovered from his injuries.

After the war he made his living by running an Army-Navy type surplus store in Hampton, Iowa. His head injury never let him forget the accident for long. He is now retired, 67 years of age and paralyzed on the right side.

He always heard the accident was sabotage and wondered if Mr. Davis had heard this. There was a big article in the Stars and Stripes. He also asked if Bobby Davis ever received a purple heart. Said he never did. He also wondered what became of Bobby's young wife and where was Mr. Davis.

Some of the guys he remembered in the box car that night are a Lt. Carr; Hymee Cohen of New York City, Mitchell of Louisville, Ky. Four from their box car were killed.
Dear Mr. Buttram:

I just read the July issue of QAI magazine and noticed your inquiry concerning the train wreck in Germany.

First let me say it was the 65th Armored Inf Bn. and it happened on July 13. I was a member of that group and I was told several years later that it happened near Moneheim however I don't know how near this would be to Stadgart. We were a small group of 12 to 14 men called the Land & Platoon. Bobbie Davis was about 15 years younger than I and as I recall the parents operated a movie theater in Hazard. Thinking back on this.
it seems he got married just before he went overseas.

There were four out of our group that were killed in that accident including Jim O'Brien of New York, Mike Buseck of Ohio, Bobbie, and another young fellow about his age from Texas. The others killed were in another car or two behind us. We were in a wooden 40?8 type car and the car behind us was a steel car which piled on top of us. This happened about three A.M. in the morning.

I regained consciousness in a hospital in Nancy, France and I was probably the most seriously injured of those who survived.
I was hospitalized for about eight months before being discharged in early '46. I had a severe skull fracture plus shoulder and other injuries. I never really learned all the details of the wreck until a few years later when we had a get together of the I & R platoon in Chicago.

I do know that Bobbie Davie's parents dedicated a memorial park in his name in Hazard, Kentucky, and a couple of fellows including Dick Shiemer of Wisconsin attended the dedication. Lt. Carr of Missouri was the officer in charge of our platoon.

In closing I will say that I
I am now 67 years of age and recall and every July 13th I do a lot of thinking of the past as we were a very small closely knit group. If there is anything else I can help you with please contact me.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Wright
320 2nd St SE
Hampton, Iowa
50439

Phone 515-451-4196

I was a natural right hander but my right side is paralyzed from the accident so my wife is writing this for me.
February 13, 1982

Mrs. Vivian C. Carter
158 Wooton St.
Hazard, Kentucky

Dear Mrs. Carter:

Yes, I remember you, Vivian, and your parents, Mary and Gene. I also have met your husband, Ralph; took a deposition for him on one occasion, I believe in Richlands, Virginia. I am a Court Reporter, have been for many years. We have been in Bristol now for almost sixteen years. Your neighbor, Mr. Buttram, is a dear friend.

Due to my schedule, I have not had a chance to reply to your inquiry until now. Lawrence Davis, Bobby's Father, of course, would be able probably to give you more information than I; but he and Hazel are traveling at the moment, and I am not certain of their address. I will supply the info which I think you might be interested in.

Bobby and I were married December 25, 1944; he left shortly thereafter for Europe, in January, 1945; was killed, on his way home, on July 13th, 1945, two days before his 20th birthday. We, at home -- his parents, and I -- were awaiting news of his landing in the States, when the fateful telegram arrived, telling of his death. I do have a newspaper clipping from the Hazard Herald (at that time) giving an account of his death, somewhere, but have not had the opportunity to search for it. You should be able to obtain this from the local paper there. It would be dated shortly after July 13, 1945, and an inquiry of the paper should produce that for you.

Bobby was Mr. Davis only son. He, therefore, wanted to do something to keep his memory alive -- thus the Park. However, the Park originally was being built for Bobby and me. Mr. Davis began with the construction of the pool; where the library stands was to be our home. Of course, after we both completed our education and returned to Hazard. Bobby had plans to be a Pediatrician; to further his education at Columbia University in New York. He had graduated from a Military Academy in Georgia -- second in his class.
I do have some information from some of the men on the train on which Bobby was killed. This was supplied to me just recently by Ross Buttram, Jr., who now lives in Miami. As I said, Mr. Buttram, your neighbor, is a dear friend of ours, as is his son, Ross, Jr. I am enclosing letters which Ross received from men, after an inquiry he put in the DAV magazine. They may obtain information which will be of benefit. You may copy them, and return them to me. And, too, Ross may have other information which he has not sent to me. If you want to write to him, his address is:

Ross Buttram, Jr.
9471 Martinique Drive
Miami, Florida 33157

Your letter has brought back many, many memories; of plans, dreams unfulfilled. I, myself, could write a book, and maybe sometime I will. Bobby's death changed the course of my life. The big question in my mind, even yet, is why -- why was his life taken; why, such a person, so intelligent, who could have given so much to mankind -- why. This haunted me for years, and yet the question is unanswered. I finally realized we mortals were not meant to know and should not question. There is a reason for everything -- Perhaps the Park was one -- it did serve a need for Hazard; such a shame the pool had to be filled in. I was not in Hazard at the time, but it is my understanding it was because of the racial problem at the time.

When you complete your paper, I would appreciate a copy. If there is anything else I can help you with, let me know.

Give your parents my regards; had no idea you were still in Hazard.

Sincerely,