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# GARNETT/Anderson

Jay Bemis, managing edit

## For the love of a town

Donna Harris dedicated her life to improving Garnett; her husband is helping to honor her

By VALERIE WOLF  
Herald Staff Writer

**G**ARNETT — C.B. Harris was studying medicine at the University of Kansas medical school in Kansas City, Kan., when he met Donna Rewerts. The two were married in 1941 and settled down in Garnett when Harris was discharged from army service.

C.B. set up a family medical practice. Donna, a housewife, became active in the community. She was a pioneer of numerous programs and organizations, including IMPACT and the Anderson County Economic Development Corp.

She was on the library board when the board decided to build a new library. She was a member of Tree City USA. She and C.B. spent a great deal of time together going to Main Street programs, learning how to make Garnett a better place.

And she was influential in getting rails to trails started in her community.

"Some people called her a city activist," C.B. said.

Donna died three years ago, the day before her 76th birthday. Now, the city of Garnett and the Harris family are the contributing forces to a park that is being constructed in Donna's honor.

"She is the one we are celebrating, of course," C.B. said. "That was her whole purpose in life — to do something to improve the appearance of Garnett."

Donna was originally from Leoti in Wichita County, about 30 miles from the Colorado border. C.B. could not pinpoint what made Garnett so special to his wife, but it was.

"She was ambitious that way," he said. "She wanted to maintain a good image of an old life."

The Donna Harris Memorial Park had initially been planned around the depot next to the Prairie Spirit Rail-

Trail. A dirt lot at the northeast corner of Oak Street and Fourth Avenue now awaits the park's construction.

That lot is the former location of the Hotel Richart. C.B. had his medical practice in that building for many years.

The lighted park, designed by the

city architect, will feature a curved walkway, antique red and charcoal interlocking bricks, benches, a variety of trees and flowers and a memorial location.

Robert Logan, whom C.B. said has been involved in the whole project, has arranged for a memorial sculpture in the park.

C.B. said the sculpture's stone carvings would include life indigenous to this area — meadowlarks, sunflowers, frogs.

C.B. said he and his family have contributed "quite a bit" to the project's funding. It is scheduled for completion in six to eight weeks.

"The city has been wonderful," C.B. said. "I have nothing but praise for what they have done. I'm real excited about getting something to celebrate her life."

C.B. is a life-long Garnett resident and his father also practiced medicine in the town.

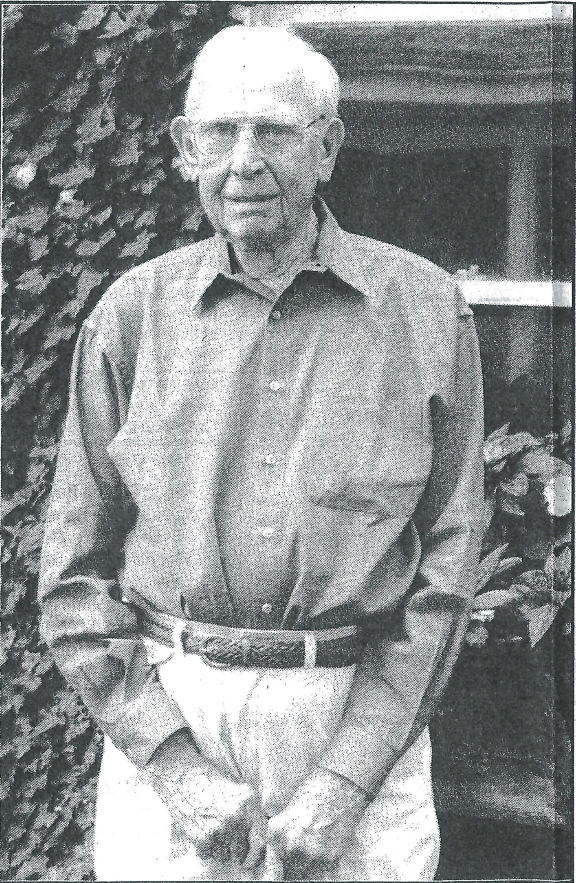
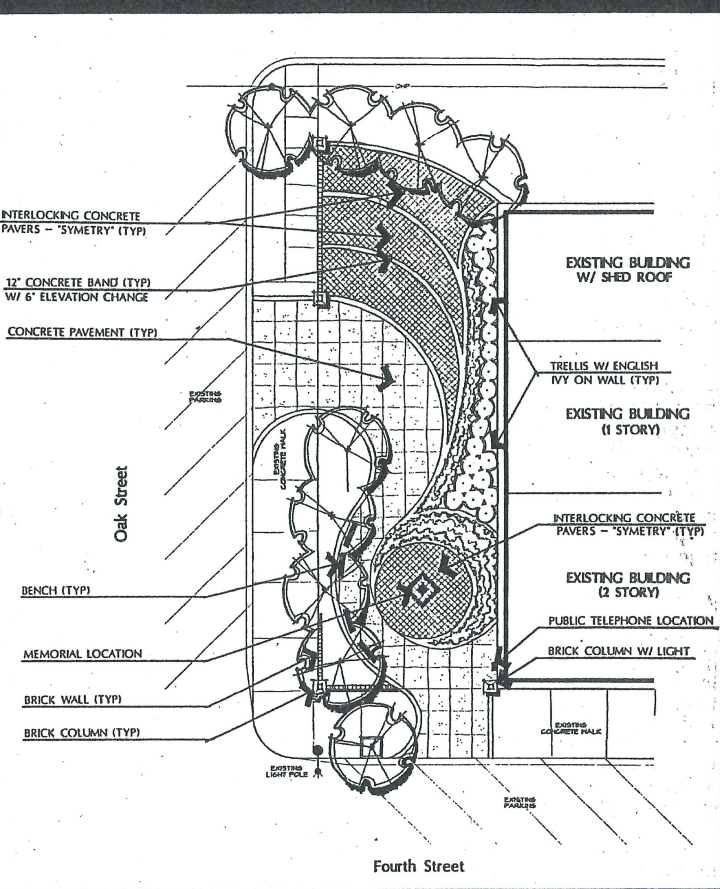


Photo By Valerie Wolf

C.B. Harris and the city of Garnett are the contributing forces behind a park that is being constructed in Donna Harris' memory.

### Plans for the Donna Harris Memorial Park



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