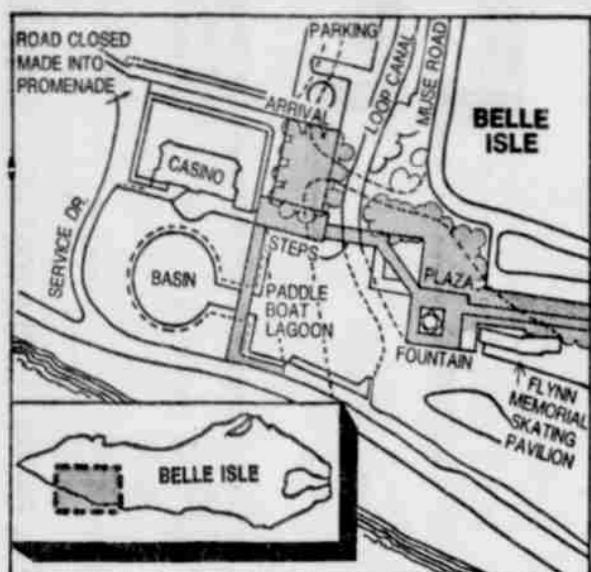


HOME SHOW



AND SALE



Shaded area of map locates the proposed construction. Inset locates site of the project on the island.

\$720,000 donation by Kresge boosts Belle Isle project

The Kresge Foundation announced Tuesday that it is putting up \$720,000 toward the construction of a paddle-boat lagoon, promenade, fountain and decorative plazas as the first phase of a three-part program to improve Belle Isle.

Mayor Young and Kresge Foundation Chairman William H. Baldwin announced the gift at a news conference.

The foundation grant — to be provided in gifts of \$360,000 in January 1980 and again in January 1981 — represents 75 percent of the \$960,000 cost of the first phase of the renovation program and about half the cost of all three phases, which city officials hope to complete by 1982.

Construction will begin in April, and city officials hope to have the first phase completed in 18 months to two years.

HARRIET SAPERSTEIN, principal planner for the city Recreation Department, said the first phase includes dredging out a circular paddle boat area in front of the casino. The area would be much like a lagoon that was there until it was filled in about 50 years ago.

The first phase will concentrate on the western part of the existing lagoon. The western shore of the lagoon will be dredged out to create more water area, and plazas will be built on the lagoon's northern shore.

A walkway will also be built along the northern shore, and city planners hope it eventually will connect the casino with the aquarium and conservatory.

Leon Atchison, Detroit recreation director, said he hopes that the new facilities, which will be lighted for nighttime use, "will encourage visitors, especially senior citizens and families, to take a leisurely stroll through the island during all seasons."

Ms. Saperstein said the new facilities will be closed to auto traffic.

A Recreation Department employee said the city first approached the Kresge Foundation about a grant a year ago but was turned down when the foundation expressed concern about the crime rate on Belle Isle and questioned the city's commitment to continuing improvements on the island.

"We were able to show, despite a couple of incidents in July, that Belle Isle has the lowest rate of crime of any large city park in the country," the employee said. "It is not a mugger's paradise. In fact, there were only about 75 incident reports on Belle Isle last year."

Island car ban studied

Detroit Parks Director Leon Atchison said Tuesday that the city is studying the possibility of banning automobiles from Belle Isle on weekends.

Atchison said in an interview that banning cars will make the park more enjoyable to its users during extremely crowded periods. But he cautioned that the auto ban is only a possibility and cannot be implemented unless some way can be found to provide alternative transportation to the island.

Scout car death brings \$3 million suit against city

By JACK KRESNAK
Free Press Staff Writer

The widow of a man who died after lying unconscious and bleeding in the back of a Detroit police scout car outside Detroit General Hospital sued the city Tuesday for negligence in her husband's death.

The suit, filed in Wayne County Circuit Court, asks \$2 million in compensatory damages and \$1 million in punitive damages for the July 9 death of Glover Cook, 32, who was forcibly subdued by police after a series of bizarre incidents outside his northwest side home.

Cook, who had assaulted a child into a basement chest freezer, was handcuffed and placed in the back of a scout car at about 6:30 p.m., according to police reports.

IT WASN'T until at least 7:30 p.m. that Cook finally received medical treatment. Police officials have admitted that Cook was nearly dead by the time he was taken out of the scout car.

That time lapse of an hour is the critical issue in the suit filed by attorney George Bedrosian, representing Cook's widow, Alice, and the couple's four children.

Prison fire

BOSCONEN, N.H. — (AP)— Four inmates and a jail guard were overcome with smoke when fire broke out in one of the cell blocks in the Merrimack County Jail here, officials reported. The guard and an inmate were held for observation at Concord Hospital overnight Monday.

Police have said that Cook was unconscious in the back of a scout car for 20 minutes while officers tried to locate a hospital stretcher to transport him from the parking lot into the hospital emergency room. Hospital officials have denied that there were no stretchers available.

POLICE officials said the two officers, Alvin Samuel and Gloria Gaines, did not realize the seriousness of Cook's injuries.

Hospital administrator William Himmelsbach said that the officers told hospital workers only that Cook was a "psycho" and failed to mention his other injuries until it was too late.

A week later, Assistant Wayne County Medical Examiner Dr. John Smialek officially ruled Cook's death an accident due to a heart attack aggravated by Cook's loss of blood and physical exertion.

SMIALEK was unable to say whether prompt medical attention would have saved Cook's life.

Bedrosian accused the police of "rank incompetence" for not realizing that Cook needed prompt medical attention. The attorney said Mrs. Cook and neighbors paid for 20 to 30 minutes with police to take Cook to a hospital before the officers left with him.

Bedrosian said the officers could have taken Cook to any of five nearby hospitals, but instead drove more than 11 miles to Detroit General Hospital downtown.

Police officials said that was a routine procedure with violent psychotics.



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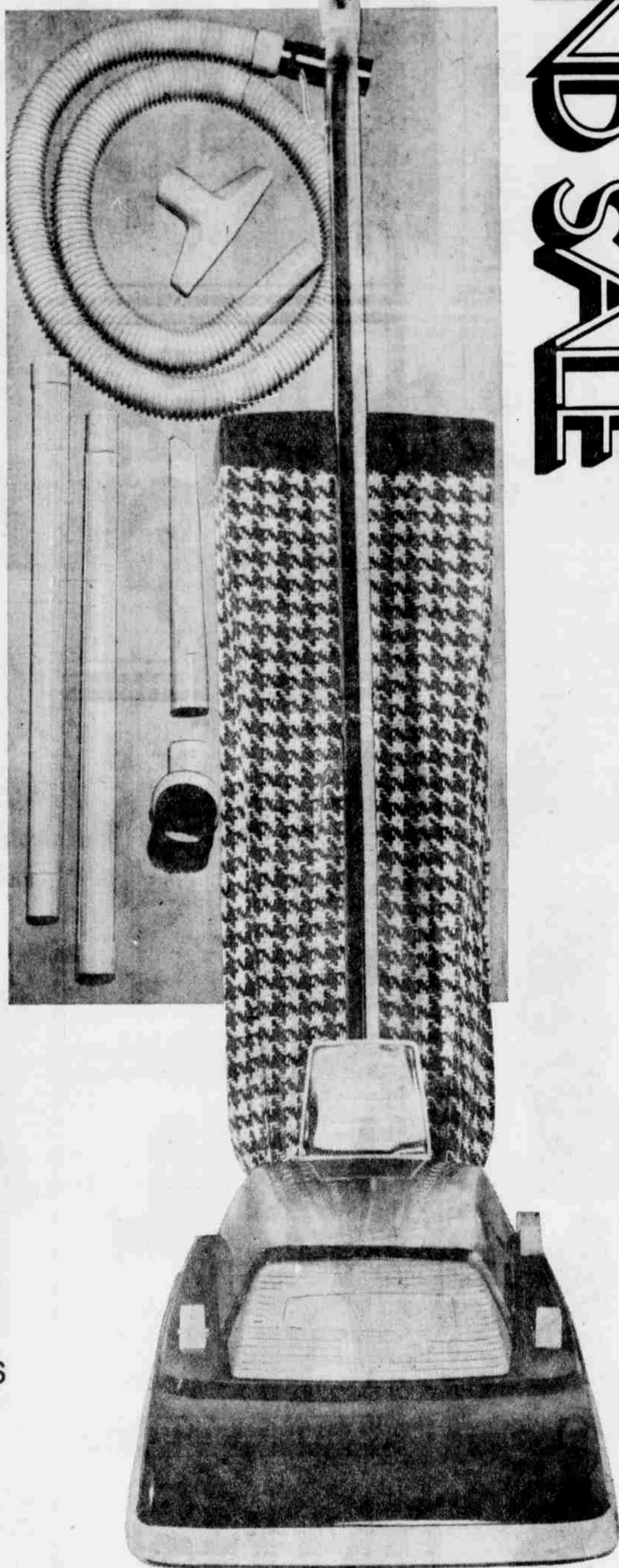
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