Walter Williams, who died Dec. 19, 1959; in Houston; Tex., age of 117, is officially listed as the last veteran of the Civil War.

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## **Recreation Panel** Seeks Budget Hike

#### By Jim Broadway Of the Intelligencer

The Education and Recreation Committee of the Madison County Board has drawn up a tentative 1973 budget of \$207,400 for the county Parks and Recreation Department—a proposed increase of more than \$150,000 over the department budget for the current fiscal year. About half the 1973 budget would be for land acquisition

Committee chairman Louis Whitsell and member Wayne Bridgewater met Tuesday to prepare the budget. The other committee member, Albert Doerr, was unable to attend.

Whitsell said the increases will be sought to meet the needs of the infant county park development program. Of the \$57,000 budgeted for

the department this year, \$50,-

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quisition

The land acquisition money for this year has gone largely unspent because the committee has been able to pick up tracts of ground on low-cost lease arrangements.

For example, the County Board recently approved a 10-year lease of a tract of land owned by the East Side Levee District at a cost of \$1 per year.

The other \$7,000 in this year's budget has been insufficient to meet the county's parks needs, Whitsell and Bridgewater said. The committee Tuesday ap-

proved the purchase of about \$2,000 in equipment from the Miracle Equipment Co., low bid-der on items of acceptable qual-

The equipment includes a doz-en park benches — 11 in kit form and one fiberglas bench being used on a trial basisplus merry-go-rounds and swingsets for county parks.

The rest of the operating budget for this year has gone for groundswork and equipment, including a truck purchased for \$300 from the U.S. Government,

The proposed 1973 budget calls for \$32,044 in salaries and expenses for department employes; \$3,000 for utilities; \$14,000 for maintenance of present parks and future development;

ance; \$45,000 for new equip ment; \$1,300 for machinery op eration; \$1,150 for office equip ment and supplies; \$100,000 for land acquisition, and a 5 per cent contingency fund of \$9,924.

Whitsell and Bridgewater in dicated that they consider the proposed budget to be reason able, but there may be some reductions before the request is approved as part of the 1973

county budget. The parks budget will have to be approved by the board's Finance Committee and the full County Board before the money will be allocated.

The committee has been gett ing by this year mainly with workers hired through the coun-ty's Emergency Employment

Program. There are no full-time em-ployes of the department. Committee members have handled administration of the parks and coordinated the efforts of the EEP workers.

-While funds have been available for land acquisition, the committee has not had the operating budget to clear land, buy playground and picnie equipment, provide utilities and otherwise develop any land it might have picked up. "Even if we bought a tract of land, what could we do with it," Whitsell has said.

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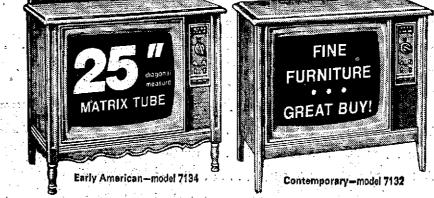
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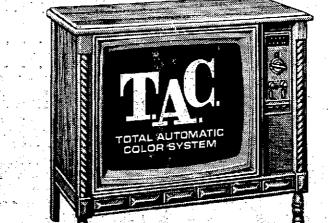


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