Ashtabula Township Park Commission

LAKE SHORE PARK PLAYGROUND

ODOE/CEIP
Contract #80-104
Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners
1981

ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION

LAKE SHORE PARK PLAYGROUND

COASTAL ENERGY IMPACT PROGRAM

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CONTRACT #80-104

SB482.037.A84 1981

ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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This project was funded in part through the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (Coastal Energy Impact Program), provided by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, through the Ohio Department of Energy.

Prepared By: Hugh L. Thomas
Deputy Administrator

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The project area is located at Lake Shore Park in Ashtabula Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio. The property is owned and managed by the Ashtabula Township Park Commission. The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners has been working jointly with the Park Commission to restore the coastal recreation facilities at the park.

The initial step in the restoration and development of the park was the development of the Lake Shore Park Recreation Plan. This plan was financed by the Ohio Department of Energy (ODOE), Coastal Energy Impact Program (CEIP), the Ashtabula County Planning Commission, and the Ashtabula County Commissioners.

Several projects emerged as high priority construction activities. Emergency action was needed to protect the shoreline from erosion along the entire lake front. The Park Commission had placed a stone revetment in front of the main pavillion to prevent flooding and erosion. However, erosion was eating the land away on both sides of the wall. The Army Corps of Engineers has proposed and designed a shore erosion and flood protection project on the east side of the park. The project is designed to recreate a 100' x 800' beach and build three off-shore breakwaters to protect the beach area.

Another shore protection and multiple use recreation project on the shoreline of the park is the boat ramp project. A large part of this project is rebuilding and extending the seawall on the west end of the Park's shore. The boat ramp project is projected to be completed by the end of 1981. The project is being funded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Park Commission, and the ODOE Coastal Energy Impact Program.

The other emergency construction project was the playground. The location of the playground is on the east end of the shoreline of the Park. The erosion rate in this area is between one and two feet per year. The original playground equipment was installed many years ago and replaced in the early 1970's. The site at that time was well away from the bank. Subsequent erosion made much of the playground apparatus unuseable or dangerous even with fencing along the bank.

Erosion of the park shoreline has been caused by the interruption of the littoral drift by the federal breakwaters and groin systems in the area. These breakwaters protect a large coal transshipment and storage area to the west of Lake Shore Park. The location of the docks, breakwaters, and the dredging of the harbor have significantly contributed to the interruption of the normal sand deposition process along the park's lake frontage. This has lead to a substantial loss in valuable recreational land and facilities. Losses cannot be recouped or assessed against any entity under current law.

A solution to this erosion problem is the aforementioned Army Corps of Engineers beach and breakwater project, but the playground equipment had been destroyed or made unuseable. The CEIP grant from the Ohio Department of Energy funded materials to construct a new playground a safe distance from the beach bluff. The Army Corps of Engineers' proposed project will ensure that the playground will not be eroded away. The playground will further compliment the beach project by providing playground activities next to the aquatic recreation activities of the beach.

During the summer of 1980, the Park Commission and the Ashtabula County Commissioners' office developed design specifications and reveiwed alternative models and designs. The project was then bid in 1980 by the County Commissioners and a bid award on the recommendation of the Park Commission to Service Supply Company of Columbus, Ohio, a representative of Big Toys of Tacoma, Washington. The equipment was delivered in the fall and stored for the winter in a fenced tennis court and maintenance build-

In the early spring of 1981, the Park Commission staff started the site preparation for the new equipment. Obsolete pieces of equipment were removed and the area was graded, tiled (to improve the drainage), and filled with gravel. Perimeter lumber was cut and dimensioned from surplus trees on the park property. This lumber would be added later for park planters or holding walls to keep sand in the playground. It also gives added protection to the playground from any automobile running off the park roadway. After that, the lighting system for the playground was moved and a construction sign erected, the Park Commission was ready to begin construction.

Wet weather in April and May hindered much of the assembly time available to the Park. Additional gravel fill was applied to build a dryer base. The materials were sorted and the playground equipment, park benches and bicycle racks were assembled and concreted into place before July 1, 1981. Construction was further hindered by children playing on the equipment at night after the workers left the job. Subsequently, the workers concreted sections as they completed them, so as to make the incomplete structures playable every evening.

After construction, a sand base was hauled in and placed under the structures. Additional sand was placed around the structures for children to play in. Perimeter timbers are being placed in planned locations by park personnel this month.

On random dates, the playground project has been observed in the past few weeks to derive some indication of the equipment usage and capacity. During weekday evenings, (week of June 21, 1981) the playground was used by approximately 50-60 children at one time with considerable turnover of children coming and going from the beach and concession stand area. During the weekend of June 27 and June 28, 1981 the useage increased to over 100 children on the several occasions the children were counted. At weekend times, picnic, beach, and boating activities added to the useage of the playground.

If the rate of useage can be used as an indicator of the level of success of the project, the initial indication is that the project is successful and has fulfilled its objectives.

LAKE SHORE PARK PLAYGROUND PROJECT

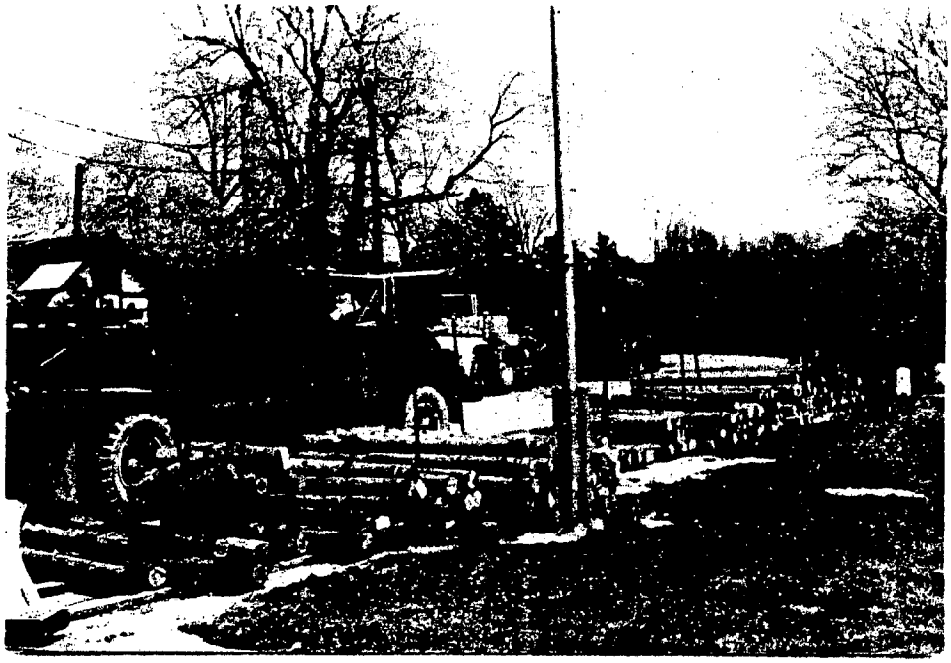
SLIDES OF PROJECT BEFORE,
DURING, AND AFTER CONSTRUCTION

SLIDES - LAKE SHORE PARK

SLIDE NO.	CAPTION
1	SORTED PLAYGROUND LOGS ARE STORED ON PALLETS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION AND DURING SITE PREPARATION
2	DIMENSION PERIMETER TIMBERS ARE STORED
3	THE WINTER STORAGE FOR THE HARDWARE WAS THE PARK GARAGE
4	SITE PREPARATION BEGAN EARLY IN THE SPRING OF 1981 WITH DRAINAGE TILE AND GRAVEL BASE INSTALLED
5	THE OLD EQUIPMENT WAS TAKEN DOWN TO SEE WHAT COULD BE SALVAGED. THE TRAILER PARK IS EMPTY.
6	THE ONLY THING TO PLAY ON IS SAND
7	SPRING BREAKERS HAVE ERODED A FEW MORE FEET OF BLUFF AREA AND THE SNOW FENCE IS MOVED BACK
8	AN ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP PARK WORKER PREPARES THE CONSTRUCTION SIGN
9	HE IS STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF "COMMISSIONER" HAS TWO M's OR ONE
10	GRAVEL IS HAULED TO THE SITE FOR FILL
11	THE PARK CREW STARTS CONSTRUCTION BY DRILLING THE HOLES AFTER THE AREA WAS STAKED
12	LOGS AND HARDWARE ARE ANCHORED BY CONCRETE BASES
13	LEVELING THE LOGS IS TIME CONSUMING
14	A PART DOESN'T FIT
15	LOGS ARE JACKED INTO POSITION IN THE HOLES FOR THE FINAL LOCATION PRIOR TO ANCHORING
16	THE FIRST PLAYGROUND PIECE FOR THE SMALLER CHILDREN IS ALMOST COMPLETE
17	CHILDREN ARE PLAYING ON THE EQUIPMENT AT NIGHT AFTER THE PARK CREW LEAVES THE SITE

SLIDE NO.	CAPTION
18	THE CONSTRUCTION SIGN IS UP
19	THE SLIDES, TIRES, TUBES AND BARS WILL HAVE A LOT OF CHILDREN ON THEM IN A FEW DAYS
20	THE LARGER STRUCTURE FOR THE OLDER CHILDREN IS CONSTRUCTED AND THE SAND BASE TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN FROM FALLS IS ADDED
21	CONSTRUCTION AND PLAY ARE OCCURRING IN THE EARLY SUMMER
22	TIRE SWINGS ARE POPULAR WITH THE CHILDREN
23	A FRIEND IS ALWAYS WELCOME
24	TESTING FOR CAPACITY
25	MANY ACTIVITIES AND UP TO 100 CHILDREN CAN BE ACCOMMODATED AT ONE TIME
26	CABLES ARE VERY DURABLE AND PROVIDE A GOOD PLACE TO HANG AROUND
27	A YOUNG SWINGER
28	NOW SHE'S HANGING! ACTIVE GIRLS LIKE HER NEED THIS TYPE OF APPARATUS
29	THE SAND BOXES ADD AN EXTRA DIMENSION TO THE CREATIVE PLAY AREA
30	COVERED SLIDES ARE GOOD TO HIDE IN FOR THE LITTLE KIDS
31	THE CHILDREN HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM TO PLAY WITH ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS AT ONE TIME
32	MOTHERS CAN WATCH CLOSE BY AND REST ON THE BENCHES
33	MID-SUMMER AT LAKE SHORE PARK. THE TRAILERS ARE IN. THE CHILDREN ARE PLAYING ON DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE PLAYGROUND
34	NEARBY PARKING IS AVAILABLE FOR THE CARS AND BICYCLES (See Bike Rack)

SLIDE NO.	CAPTION
35	CHILDREN AND PARENTS SUN OR PLAY ON THE BEACH BELOW PLAYGROUND (Note the Ore and Coal Docks to the West)
36	BEACH ACTIVITY IS POPULAR ON HOT DAYS (Note Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company Generating Plant to the East)
37	EVENING AT THE PLAYGROUND. STILL A FEW CHILDREN PLAYING BEFORE BEDTIME



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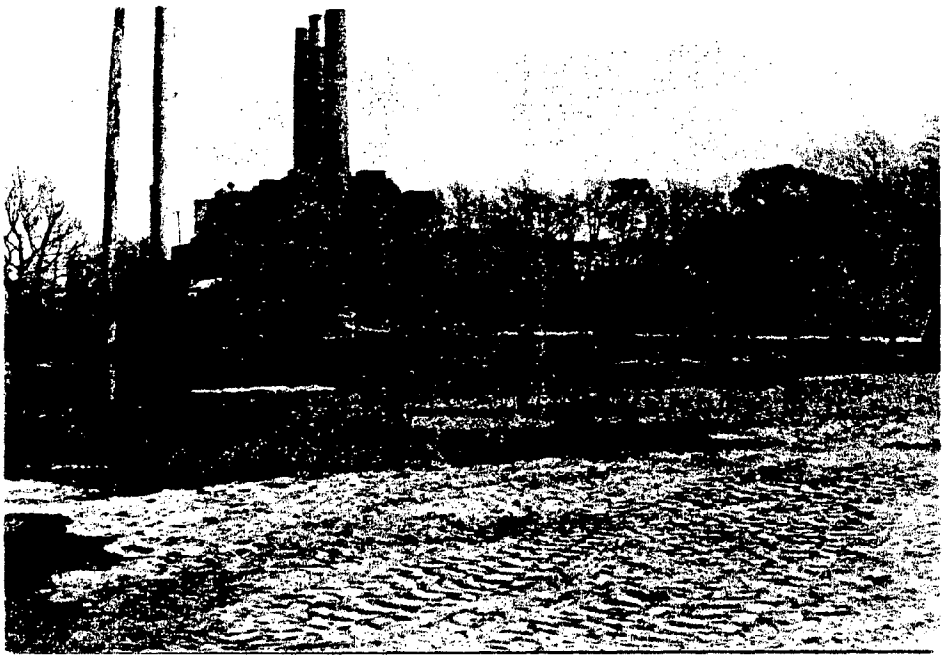

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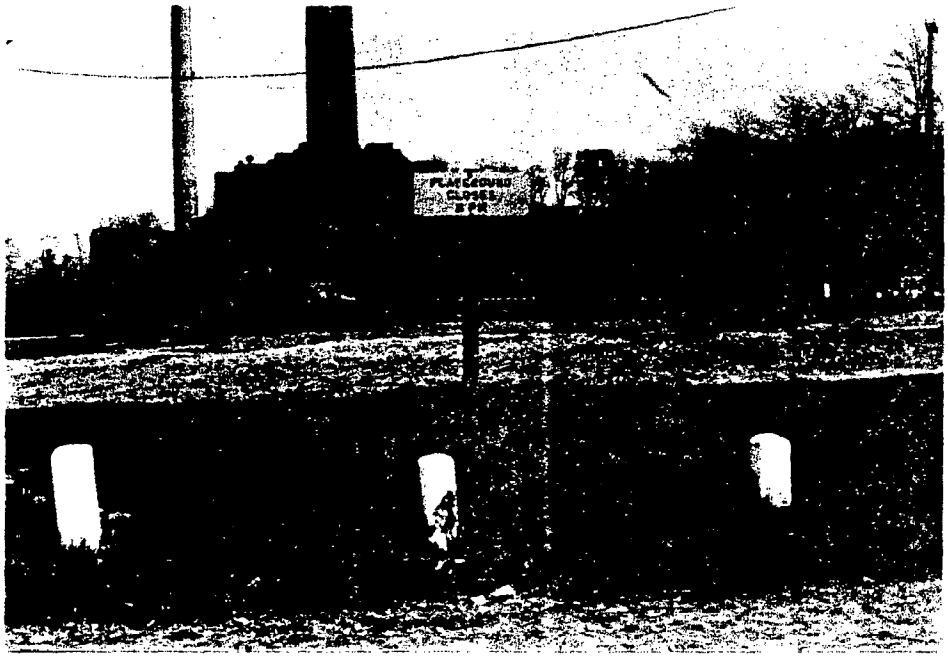

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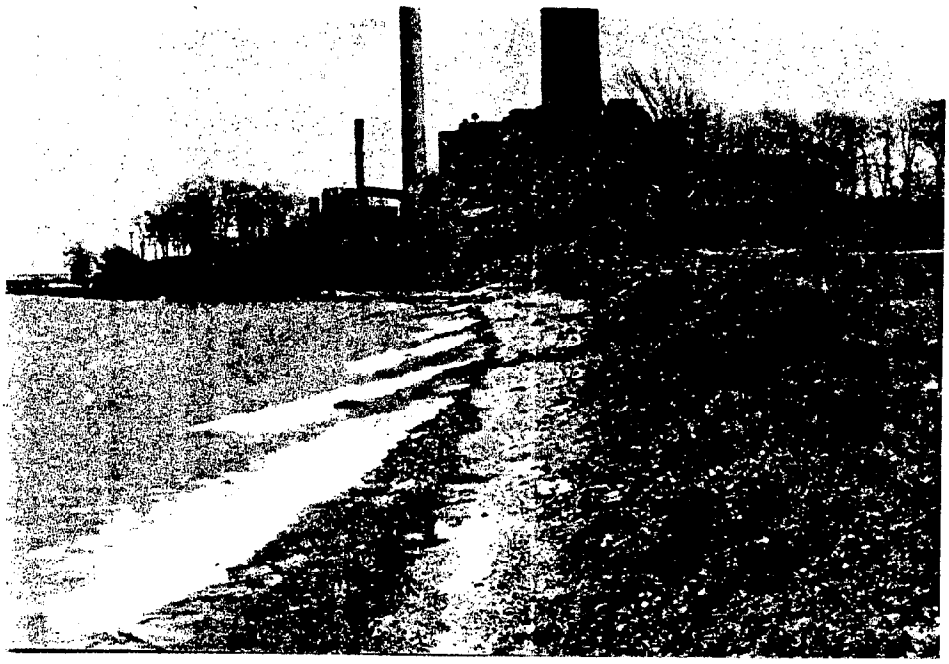

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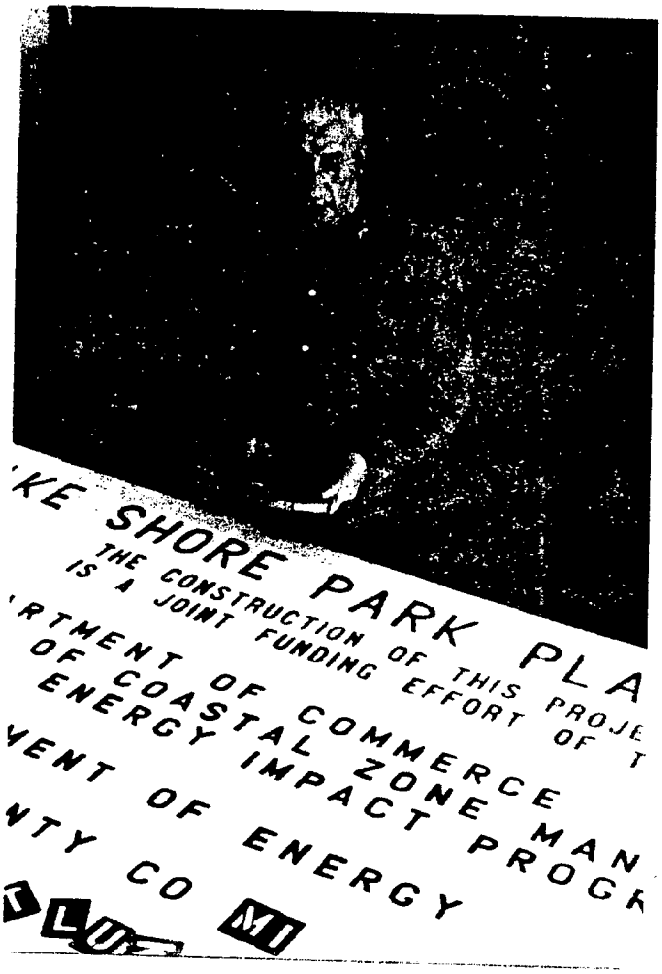

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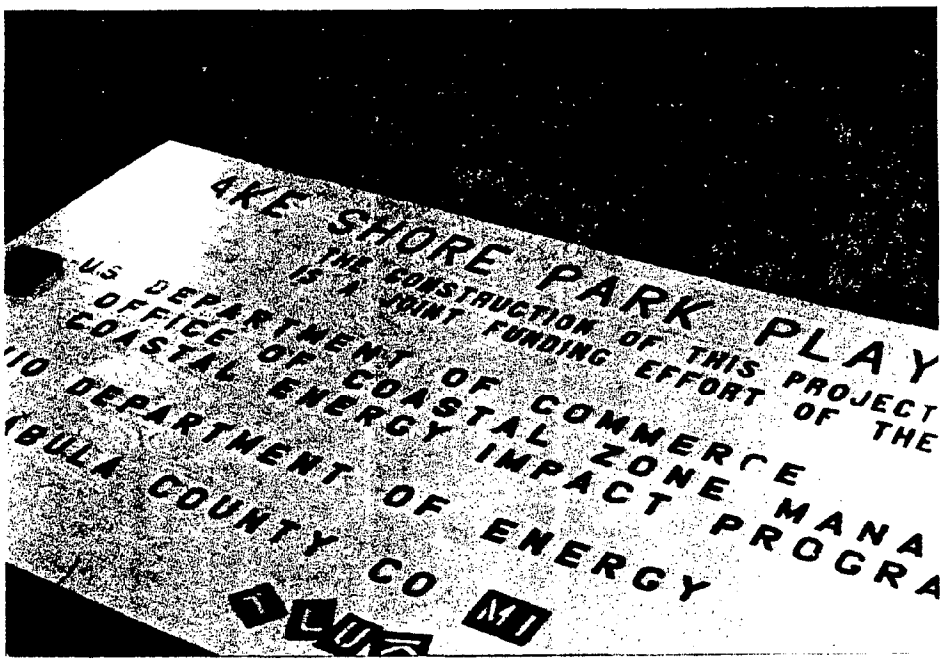

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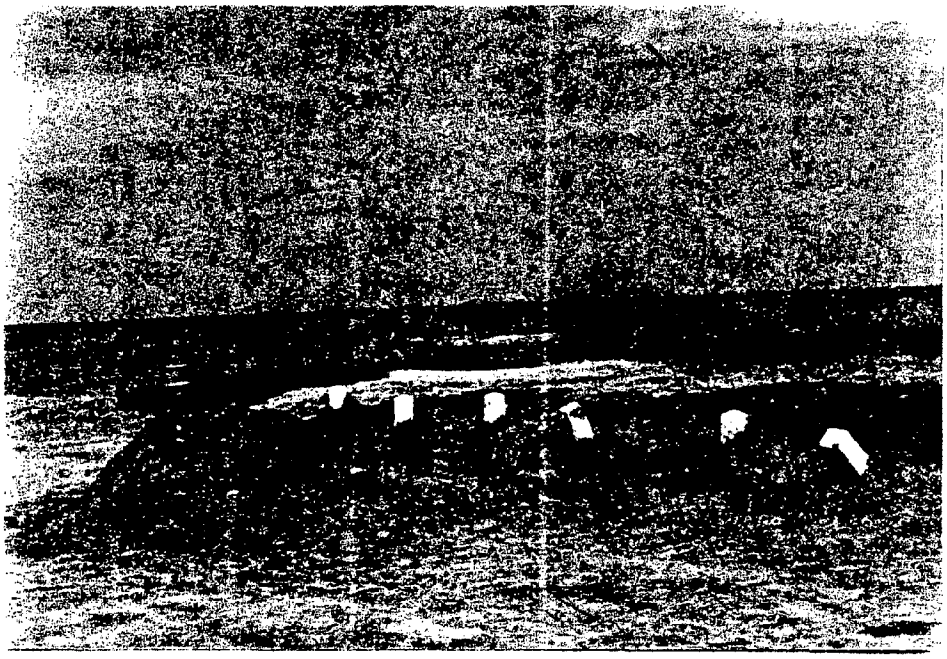

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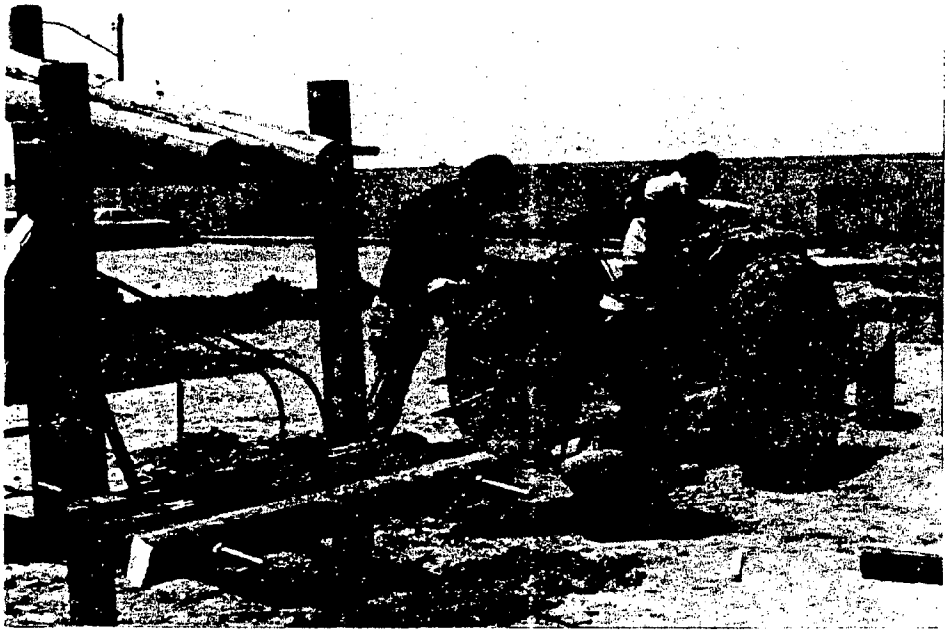

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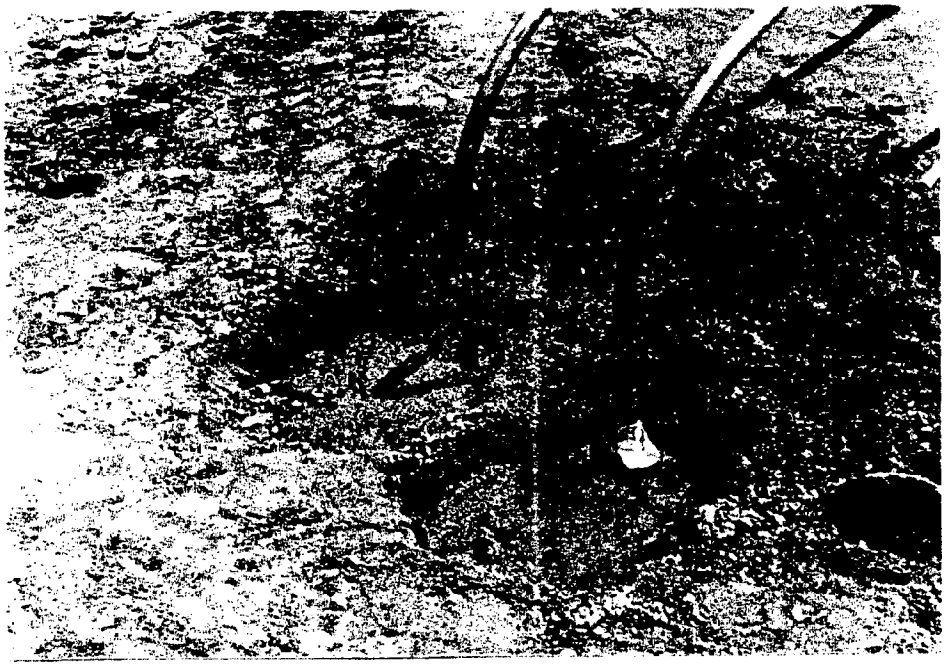

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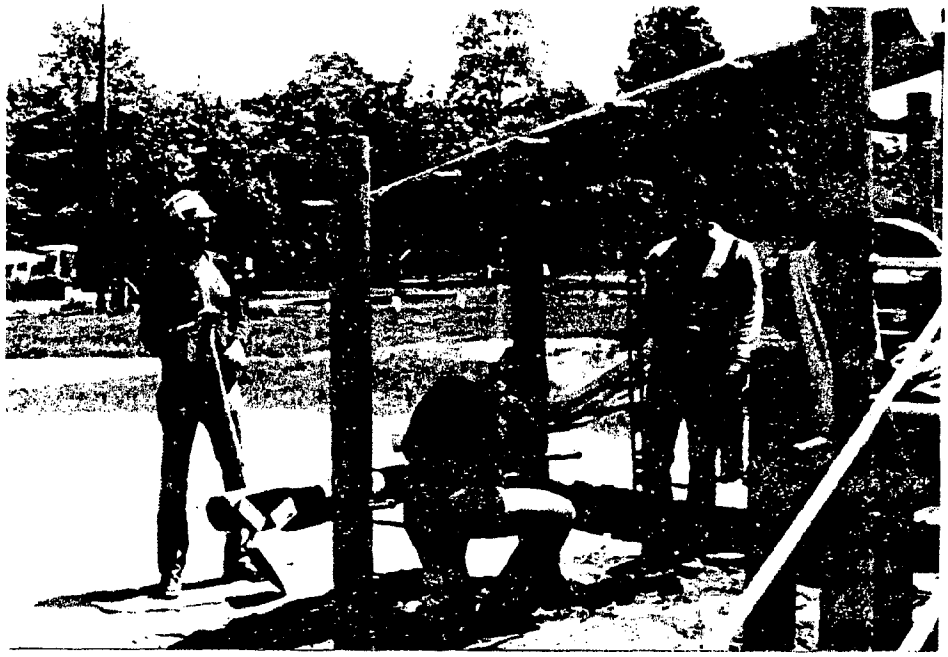

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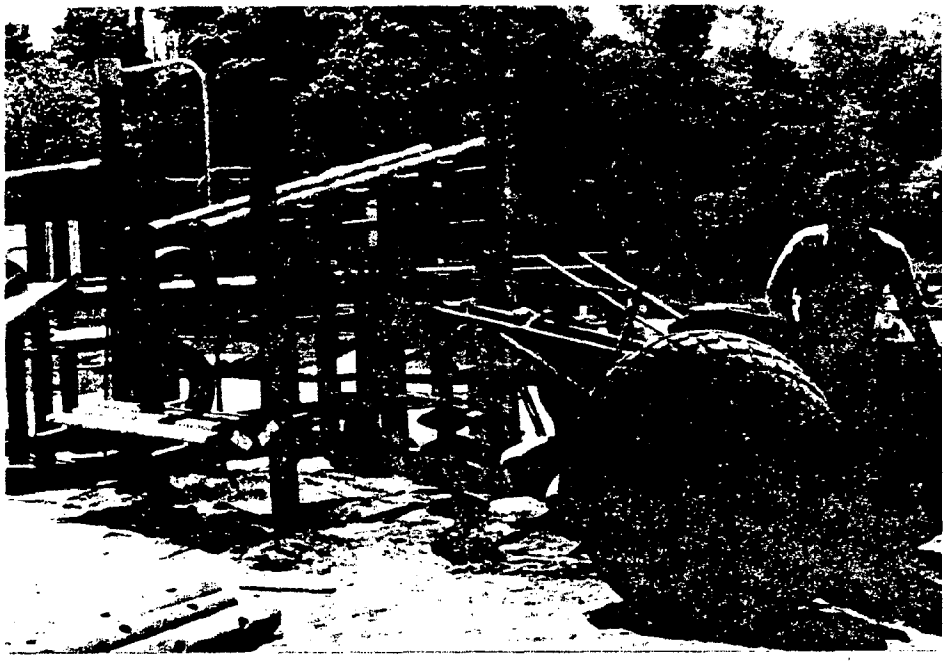

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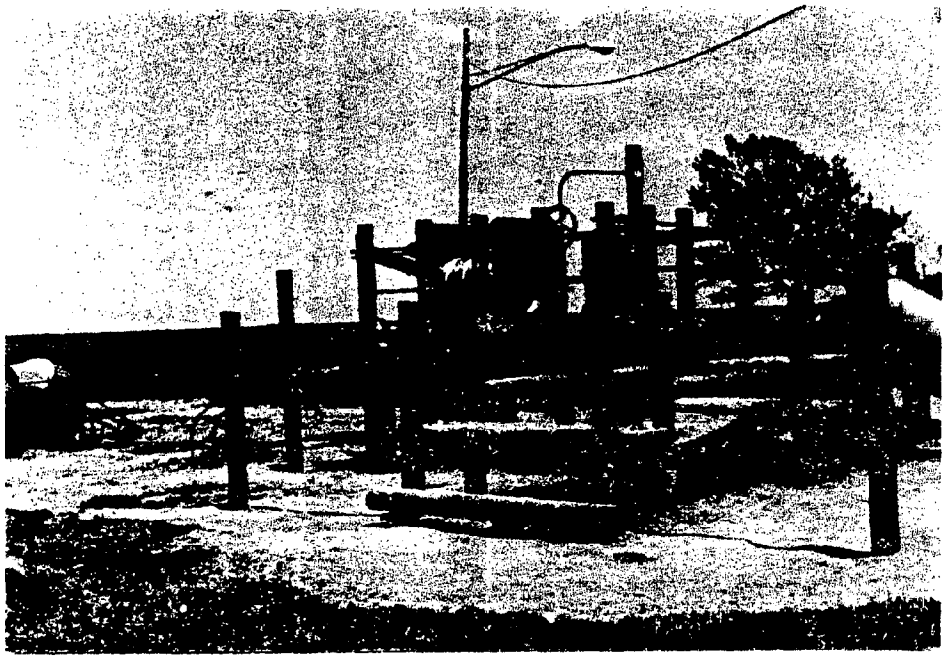

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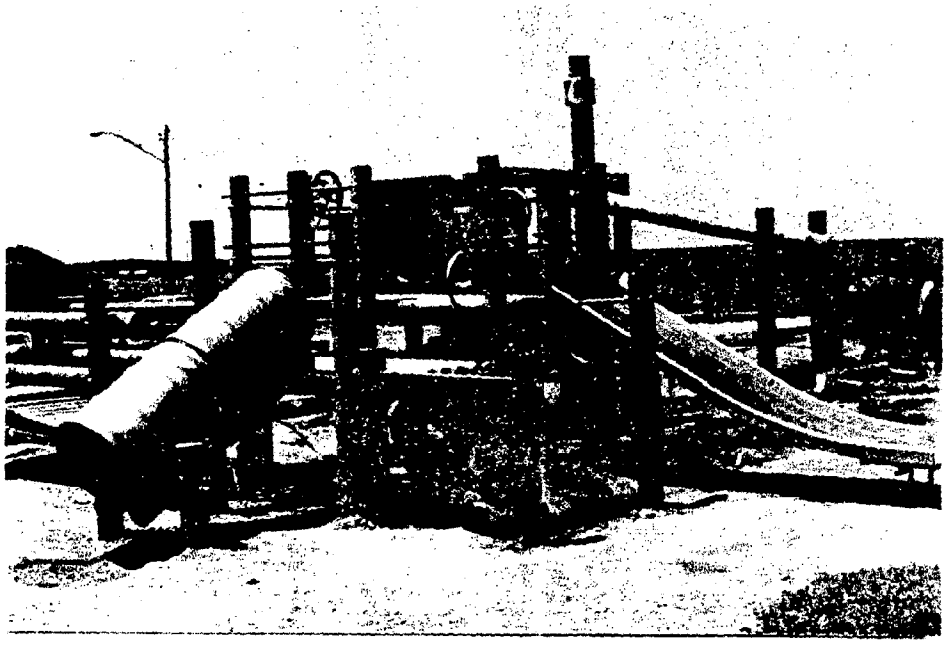

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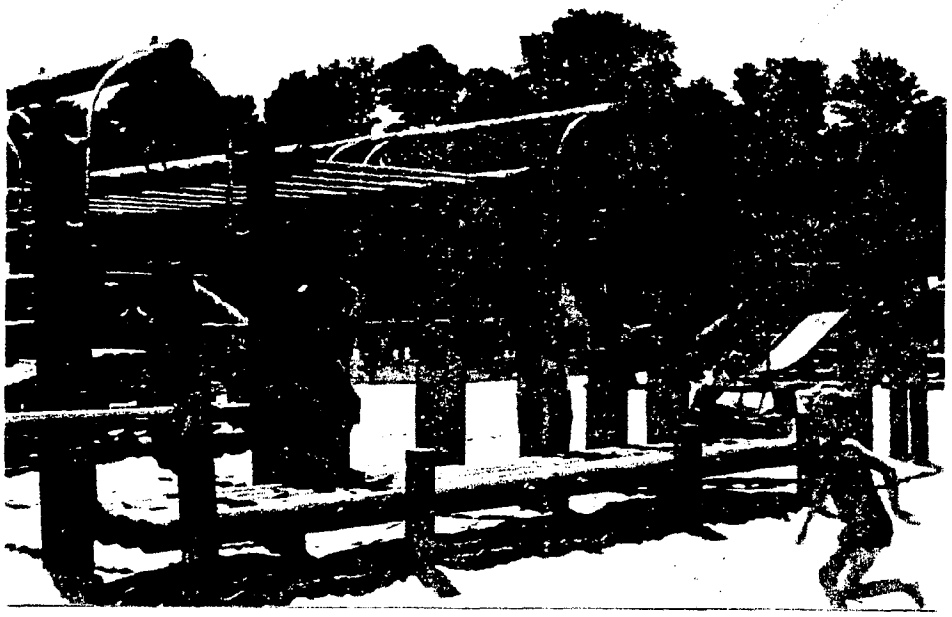

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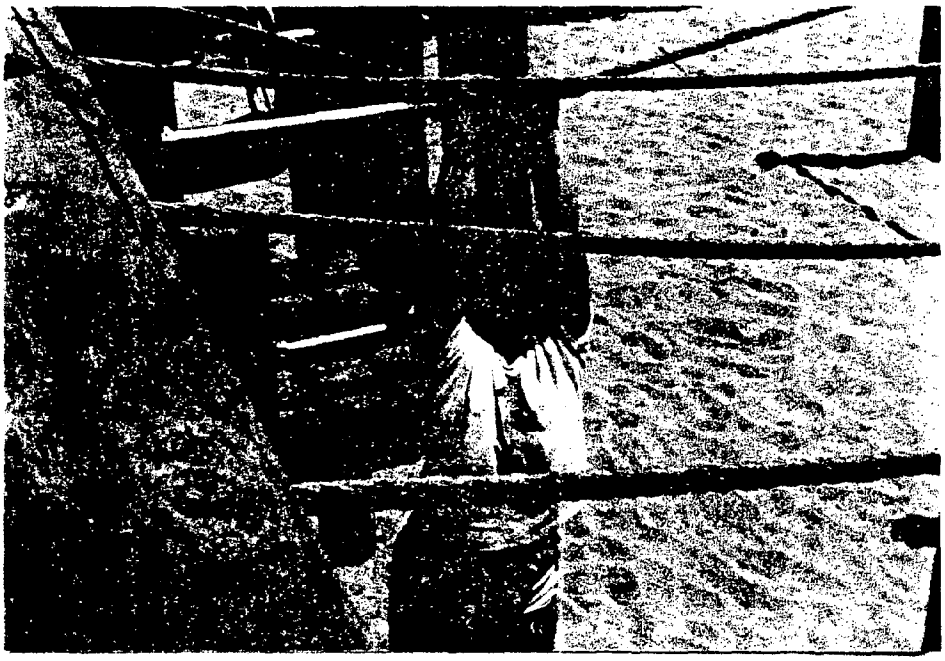

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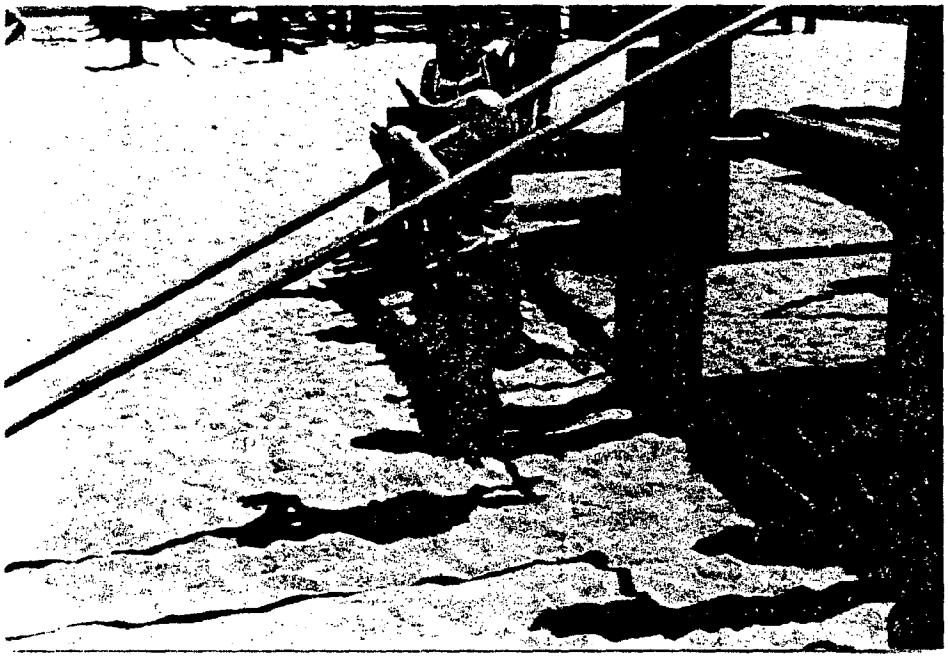

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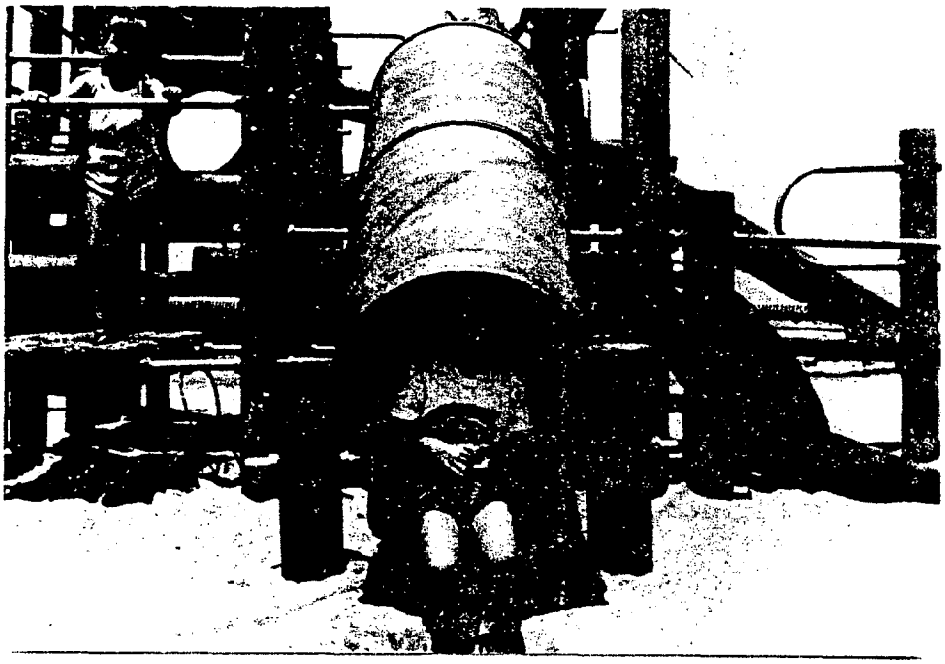

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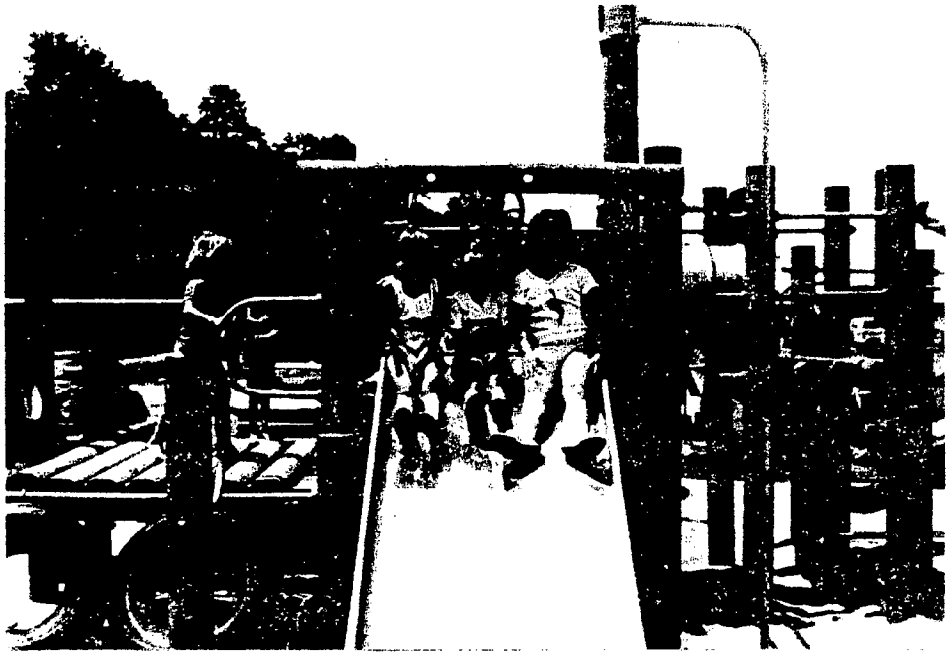

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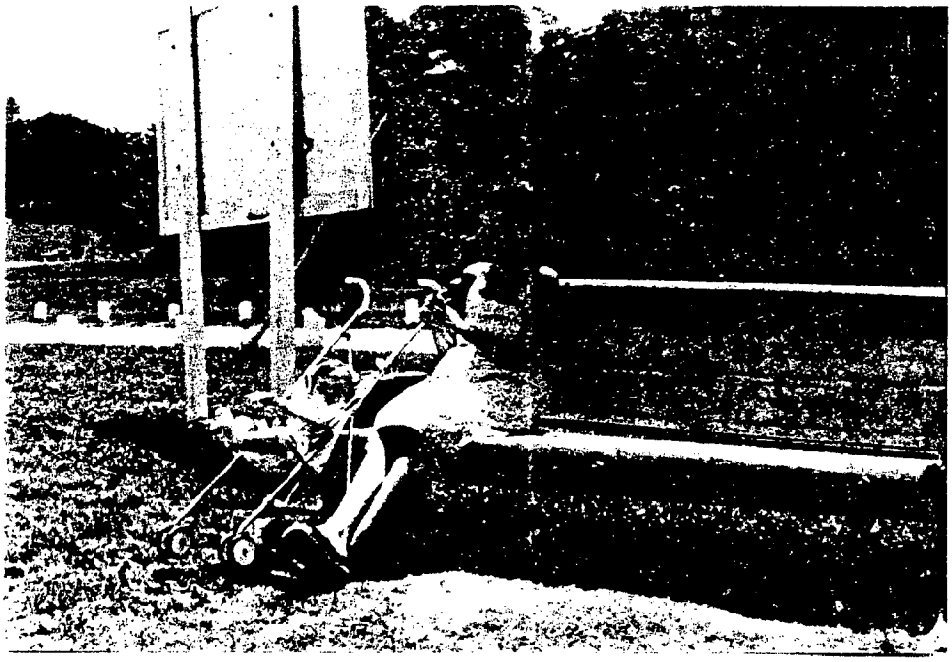

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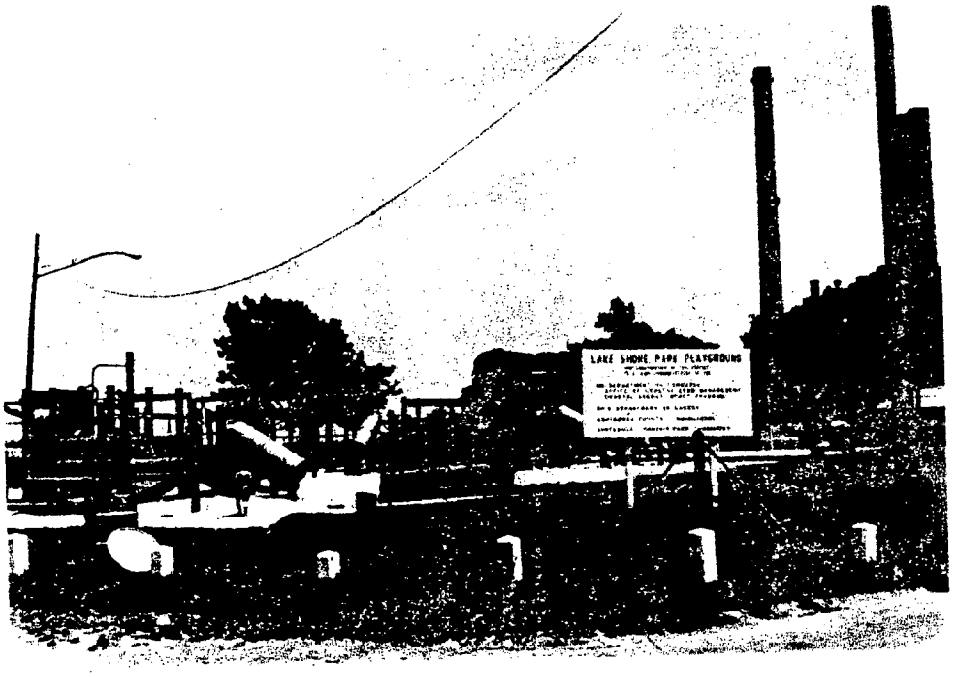

EVENING AT THE PLAYGROUND. STILL
A FEW CHILDREN PLAYING BEFORE BEDTIME

[A set of color slides accompanies the three copies of this report.]

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