

W.G., A NEW CHAPTER By Fred Hobbs

Many chapters in the “Book of My Life” have been written. Let’s face it: MOST of the chapters concerning my life have been written! One of the most recent can be titled “My Move to Windsor Gardens.” It began officially last April.

For almost 45 years, my wife and I lived and reared our children in one of Denver’s most beautiful neighborhoods...Park Hill. When she passed away two years ago, I was faced with many dilemmas, most notably how to live without her. It seemed prudent to stay put while I sorted out feelings, facts, practical considerations and options. After going through that process for about a year,

I found myself growing tired of taking care of the yard, shoveling the snow in the winter, tending the lawn and flowers in the spring/summer and most of all, living alone in a house too big for only one. So, I decided it was time to move on. But where?

Three criteria were at the top of my list: moving to a place where I could meet more people, eliminating most of the aforementioned chores and staying in the city limits of Denver. (This last item may seem strange, but as a Denver native I have never cared for the suburbs, especially that one immediately to the east of Windsor Gardens. There is a story there, but I’ll save it for another time.)

Windsor Gardens has met and exceeded my most important standards. I’m still a “newbie”, of course, but so far I found my neighbors to be uniformly friendly. On my first full day here, I found a welcome note from the delightful 93-year old next door, saying she would be happy to help me in any way.

Another positive aspect is the diversity evident among the residents. Windsor Gardens is not a “cookie cutter” kind of place. A wide spectrum of backgrounds, ethnicities, religious and political beliefs are represented. In my few months of residence, I have met and become friends with folks representing a whole range of occupations, mostly former, but some

current. They include: a state labor department executive, a librarian, an architect, a teacher, a legal secretary, an insurance agent, a computer expert, a custodian, and an editor for a New York publishing house. I look forward to meeting many more at some of the myriad of activities, attractions and gatherings available in this one complex.

As to the absence of chores: It's a great feeling to be in the midst of well groomed lawns, healthy well trimmed trees, beautiful flowers in season and a canal with a trail thrown in for good measure. What a joy to look out the window on a snowy morning, my morning coffee cup in hand, knowing I don't have to put on the boots and the gloves and grab the shovel.

My most recent life chapter is still being written with many more days ahead as a Windsor Gardens resident. But, even as a newcomer, I guess I have been here long enough to offer one architectural change that would really make a big difference: I wish owners would replace those outdated 60's-ish first floor lanai screen doors that detract so much from the otherwise stately and handsome buildings.

Sorry...easy for me to say. I live on a "C" floor!