

Capehart units to be placed on the market. Further, as a means of alleviating a serious housing shortage immediately after Schilling was reopened in 1952, over 600 units of low-cost marginal housing had been constructed in an area known as Indian Village. The majority of occupants, in 1964, were Air Force personnel in the lower enlisted grades. The combination of the above factors led to much concern among Salina leaders as to the impact of the base closing on Salina's residential housing market.

During the mid-January meetings, the Salina community was assured by Mr. Bradford that the Government would not add to the real estate problem by offering the 735 Capehart housing units that were a part of the Schilling complex. Local real estate interests were told that the conversion of these units to civilian occupancy would be delayed until the community had worked itself out of the already existing problem and the additional units that would become vacant because of the base closure. In the early months of 1965 the problem of what to do with the Capehart units became a much discussed subject of local conversation. Everyone, particularly those in governmental circles, agreed that the situation was not to be easily solved. As the reassignments of the military force to other bases accelerated the numbers of vacated Capehart units increased rapidly. Suggested uses for these fine residences included the development of a senior citizens community, a satellite residential community to Fort Riley, and for married student and faculty housing for the proposed technical institute and Kansas Wesleyan University. As early as mid-January the suggestion to use part or all of the 735 Capehart housing units as a government-operated housing installation, available to military families of servicemen overseas, was being debated. Officers and enlisted personnel were being continuously sent overseas for extended periods of duty. Quite often they were being sent to locations where there were no housing facilities for their families. This was truly a real problem because many of the wives and children had no place to go. Such use, it was said, would eliminate the need for military leaves while the men involved sought a home for the family, would eliminate worry for those unable to find housing, and would be a most appropriate use of a government investment of millions of dollars. Salina, with a school system geared to the Schilling population, could accommodate the students with no strain. The excellent school facilities at Schilling Manor could be kept open to take care of the children of the families of men who were on duty overseas.

In August of 1965, after review of the problem at Army, Air Force, and DOD levels, Colonel Scanlan announced that the DOD had directed the inauguration of a program which would open Schilling Manor to families of the military who were on overseas duty. Initially, Colonel Scanlan gave approval for about a dozen Fort Riley families to move into Schilling Manor as a test of such a program. By the middle of September over 50 families had moved into the available housing units.

On October 26th it was announced that the Army would take control of the entire housing area. Because it was a unique project, Washington said that the idea would be studied through fiscal year 1967 and, if successful, similar housing projects might be opened in other areas of the nation. On the 3d of January 1966, the Schilling Manor area became a subpost of Fort Riley and the Army took over the respon-