

# Park named Kilby Square

By **CHUCK SMITH**

*City Editor Great Bend (Kan.) Tribune*

It is ironic that the honor Nobel Prize Winner Jack Kilby will get at Great Bend High School next month has the term "common" in it, since there is so little that is common about the man. Kilby developed the integrated circuit, paving the way for the computer revolution that touches modern nations thousands of ways every day.

That was the suggestion that Mayor's Committee to Honor Jack Kilby member Glenn Opie made when he addressed the Great Bend City Council Monday night about renaming Lafayette Park in honor of the Great Bend native. Opie made reference to the USD 428 school board approving renaming the com-

mons area at Great Bend High School after Kilby.

The council agreed with the recommendation of the mayor's committee, which has been chaired by Councilwoman Allene Owen, and the park was renamed.

Commenting on the incredible advancements that were made possible due to the Great Bend native's inventions, Opie said the choice ought to be clear. "I think it's a no brainer. I don't think we have to spend even 10 seconds debating this."

Responding to criticism that changing the name of the courthouse square shows a lack of respect for the traditions of the community, Opie said Kilby Square shows that the community is also looking to the future. "We have an opportunity to link our past to the future."

It had also been suggested that the entire park retain its name and that a portion be named for the Nobel winner. "Let's not say to Mr. Kilby, 'We'll give you a piece of the park,'" Opie suggested.

Great Bend already has Brit Spaugh Park and Carl Soden Recreation Center and now the school board has named the new soccer field for the board member who donated that land. All those acknowledgements are fine, Opie argued, adding that "in the same way, someone who has impacted the world as Kilby has, ought to be recognized, too.

Mayor Mike Allison, in support of the name change, said Kilby's accomplishments have to be kept in perspective. "A lot of us think we've done something great. This man really did something great."