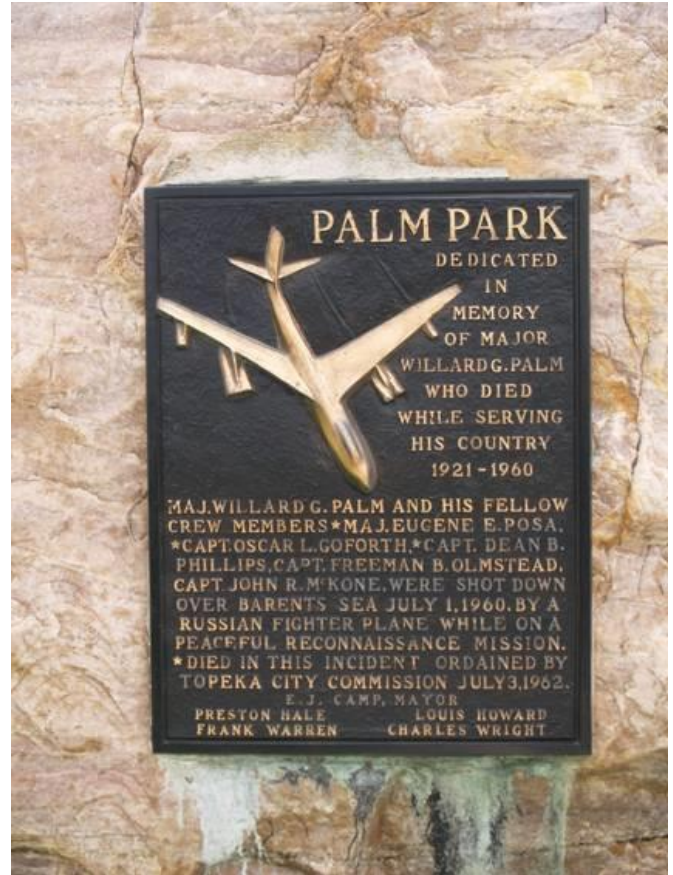


Palm Park, Topeka, Kansas

By Tony Maurin

After reading *As Good As It Gets* by Sam Pizzo, I decided to locate Palm Park mentioned in his book, because my wife and I were going to visit her family in Topeka, Kansas, my wife's home town.



When I was in the 343rd Strat Recon Squadron in 1957 as a "crow" at Forbes AFB, I knew both Sam Pizzo and Bill Palm. The shocking news of Bill Palm's crew being shot down over the Barent's Sea was hard for me to take in 1960, even though I was back in civilian life.

After asking a family where Palm Park was, I was directed to the intersection of 37th Street and Burlingame Road, accessible from US Route 75. The memorial to Major Willard Palm is about three blocks east on 37th Street. Turn right at the memorial to see the ballpark, a half block south. Over hearing these directions some of the nieces and nephews confirmed they played softball at Major Palm Park.



It was Memorial Day when these pictures were made and they show the regard the people of Topeka, Kansas have for the sacrifices Major Palm and his crew made for our freedom.



For more detail on the sacrifices Willard Palm and other USAF personnel made in the Cold War, read *U.S. News and World Report*, March 15, 1993, "America's Top Secret Spy War". You'll find on page 30 a picture of Willard Palm and his entire crew.