

# The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Action Association



## V-E Nose Count

by Rick Thomas

Most V/E residents have long ago forgotten the lengthy form they were required to fill out for the Bureau of the Census back in March of 1970. Well, so big is the job of tabulating some 75 million census forms that the government is only now releasing the last of the important data. Much of this information is of great interest to the VECAA community since it is a neighborhood in transition.

It is not possible to present census results that correspond precisely to the V/E boundaries because of the way the census tracts are drawn. However, by reporting the data for Census Tracts 16 and 17 about 100 of the neighborhood's 120 blocks are accounted for. The boundaries of these two tracts are, roughly, Watkins, North Parkway, Vollintine and Trezevant. Overton Park is included in Tract 16, but this area contains a negligible number of residences and does not, therefore, distort the statistics to any degree. It is unfortunate that the most controversial portion of the neighborhood — the area north of Vollintine — could not be included, but some comments on it will be made later in this article.

In 1970 there were 3,321 housing units in what we have approximated as the V/E area. These dwellings housed 8,220 people, almost exactly the same number as in 1960. Although some change has undoubtedly taken place in the last two years, there were only 111 blacks included in the population, accounting for less than 2% of the area's total. (Nonwhites account for 39% of the city's population.) This represents about twice the number of blacks found there ten years earlier.

The outstanding characteristic of our community, the cen-

sus points out, is not its racial composition but the age and sex characteristics of its inhabitants. It is apparent that the neighborhood has a significant proportion of women and the elderly, but the results clearly document this. There were 2,071 people in the neighborhood 65 years of age or older. These senior citizens account for 25% of the V/E population, higher than any other part of town. On the other hand, there were only 296 children under five years of age. This age group amounted to less than 4% of the population. (The proportion for Memphis is 9%).

As far as sex goes, the women far outnumber the men in the community. In 1970 there were 4,675 females in the V/E area but only 3,545 men. Obviously, age and sex characteristics go hand in hand, an older population generally having a disproportionate number of females. (Of the 4,150 women over 14 years of age, 1,018 were widows.) Despite the high proportion of elderly residents in the community, it is interesting to note that there were 1,012 single males 14 years and over and 1,072 single females 14 years and over.

The VECAA area still remains a center for immigrants and their descendants. Of those residing there in 1970, 356 residents had been born outside of the United States, while another 817 had at least one foreign-born parent. Of those of foreign stock the greatest number (267) were of Italian extraction. Other important groups were Russians (173), Germans (140) and English (96). Also found in the neighborhood were a number of Poles, Irish and Austrians. These residents of foreign stock account for about 15% of the neighborhood's population and re-emphasize the area's characteristic diversity.

About half of the neighborhood's families own their homes, while the other half rent. The average dwelling unit is quite large containing between five and six rooms, and only twelve of the area's 3,321 housing units lacked adequate plumbing facilities. The average dwelling unit for the city only contained 4.9 rooms. The median value of owner-occupied houses was fairly high, ranging from \$13,800 for the western half to \$20,000 for the eastern half. (This compares with \$14,000 for the city.) Most of the rental units in the area were in the \$60-80 range. Overcrowding was definitely not a problem with the median number of persons per household being 2.1 and only 45 units exceeding accepted standards of overcrowding.

Better than half of the area residents lived in the same house they occupied in 1965. Of the 4,122 "newcomers" to the neighborhood, 1,763 came from somewhere in the central city. Of those moving to the area from out-of-town, 1,115 came from the South and 340 from the North or West.

About 10% of the neighborhood's residents are college graduates, while another 10% have spent one to three years in college. The median number of years completed for the population is about 12.6, compared to a city average of 12.0.

The neighborhood went down on record again in 1970 as being one of the city's more affluent. The median family income was over \$10,000 per household compared to the Memphis average of \$8,646. Of the 2,233 families in the V/E



# Report Card

## Registration

School bells ring on August 22 and August 23 for city school registration. Tuesday, the 22nd, is registration day for elementary and senior high students, while Wednesday, the 23rd, is the day for junior high students to register. Watch your daily paper for the hours. The first day of classes will be Monday, August 28.

## Kindergarten at Vollentine

The kindergarten at Vollentine will be state supported and tuition-free. There is one hitch though — there is a limit of 25 children and the places will be filled on registration day, August 22, on a first-come, first-served basis. Children must be five years old by October 31 and must bring their birth certificate and immunization record.

In Vollentine grades 1-6 Principal Rochester Neely, Sr., is expecting an enrollment of over 500. New this year will be a pilot program in esthetic art education for the second and fifth grades. Also, some teachers will be evaluating "open-space" concepts in visiting other schools.



## Taylor to Snowden

Snowden Junior High and Elementary Schools have a new principal, JOE ALLEN TAYLOR. Mr. Taylor comes from Oakville School where he has been principal for the past five years. Before that he was a band director for several years, serving at East, Central and Fairview Schools in the Memphis system.

When interviewed in his office last week Mr. Taylor was busy arranging schedules for the coming year, planning for the estimated enrollments of 621 for the junior high (including 114 transfers) and 525 for the elementary school (including 87 transfers). His goals for Snowden are to see that its current good reputation is maintained and, where possible, improved. "I'm strong on reading," Mr. Taylor says, noting that most school difficulties hinge on reading and that he will be working to improve the reading programs. Being an ex-band director, he expresses an enthusiasm for the band and music programs as well as athletics.

Mr. Taylor is experienced in many of the innovative techniques in education, having promoted open-space and resource center projects at Oakville. He is a member of the Memphis Education Association's committee

community, 547 had an annual income of \$15,000 or more, while about one out of twenty had poverty-level incomes.

The unemployment rate for the neighborhood was low, averaging around 3.5% for males and slightly lower for females. A large number of residents were employed in the occupational category called "Professional, technical and kindred workers." This category includes, among others, health workers and teachers and accounted for 766 of the community's 3,445 workers. Another 785 were classified as "Clerical and kindred workers," while the other major categories of workers were managers, craftsmen and operatives. The biggest portion of the labor force was concentrated in the fields of manufacturing, retail trade and educational services. Over 600 neighborhood residents were employed by government agencies.

Because most of the controversy in the V/E community so far has centered around the area north of Vollentine, it would be appropriate to make some comments concerning this neighborhood. It lies in Census Tract 7 which has as its boundaries Vollentine, Springdale, Chelsea and Watkins. About one-half of the tract falls within V/E boundaries, while the area north of Cypress Creek is oriented toward Chelsea.

Perhaps the major change to take place in Census Tract 7 since 1960 is the construction of the University Cabana Apartments at University and Vollentine. This development caused the area's population to increase by about 600 during the past decade. Although the area has remained "mixed," it gained about 800 nonwhite residents in the ten-year period bringing the white-black ratio to about 40-60. The number of blacks in this part of the neighborhood has probably increased slightly since 1970. This section is more like the rest of the city in regard to age and sex characteristics and number of persons per household. Although median family income is \$7,369, the area's workers are concentrated in the same occupations as those south of Vollentine.

The census results give an encouraging picture of the V/E community. It still ranks high on such measures as educational attainment, occupational level and income. It remains a neighborhood that attracts desirable newcomers and, perhaps most important, it remains a community that tolerates and fosters a diversity of background and life-styles.

## Pets

2 registered Doberman Pinscher pups — 8 weeks, tails docked, wormed, 1 male and 1 female. 274-1695.

Found in early July — mostly Pekingese, buff colored, well-trained, male. Call 284-0404 after 4 p.m.

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on educational technology which has an interest in computer-assisted instruction and cable TV.

Mr. Taylor was born in Dyersburg and is a graduate of Christian Brothers High School and Memphis State University. Mrs. Taylor is the former JOE ANN CORBITT, a graduate of Messick and MSU and a former music teacher at White Station. Their children are Deedee, a student at Overton High, and Sheri, a student at Colonial Junior High. The family enjoys camping and is planning a Christmas-holiday trip to Florida for surfing and a visit to Disneyworld.

#### Rowlett Scott

Due for an expression of the neighborhood's appreciation is attorney Rowlett Scott. Mr. Scott represents the community in the court proceedings of the city school desegregation suit which is now before the United States Appeals Court.

#### Farino to Whitehaven

FRANK FARINO, Sr., Snowden principal for six years, has been transferred to Whitehaven High School. Mr. Farino is due much credit and appreciation for the progress Snowden has made under his leadership, and our best wishes go with him in his new assignment.

#### For Sale

Washer, dryer, refrigerator, range, TV, \$35 each. Large air conditioner and freezer, \$65 each. 276-7119.

Dishes — White Regency pattern. 8 place settings, 34 pieces in perfect condition — \$15. Electrolux sweeper \$15. 1025 N. Avalon.

Electric guitar (2 pickups) and case. Excellent condition. \$65. 272-2668.

#### Wanted to Rent

Young architect and wife seek mid-town residence for September occupancy. Prefer house in \$140-\$150 range. Call 275-2779 after 5 p.m.

## Peace of Mind

We are indebted to two of our readers for calling our attention to recent burglaries in the neighborhood. While still believing our neighborhood to be as safe as any, we are nonetheless obliged to remind our readers to take the usual precautions to protect their property. Often, remembering to keep the doors locked and to burn a light when you're away, is sufficient to discourage a burglar. Some will find it desirable to invest in better locks and window guards.

Probably the best protection is getting to know your neighbors and letting them get to know you, with the result that you can watch their place when they are gone, and vice versa.

## Yen Men Tour

Evergreen Presbyterian Church is hosting a group of 32 young Japanese bankers. The bankers, who are sponsored by the Council on International Exchange, are traveling across the country after a month's business and finance program at California State College at Long Beach. The visitors are staying at Southwestern and will tour the city after a luncheon at the Church. Following the tour, the group will have dinner in the homes of church families and will depart for Knoxville on the 11th.

## Welcome

B.M. "MICK" and MARGIE BURROW came from Knoxville to 1032 E. Rainbow. The Burrows have a son, CHRISTOPHER, who is in the Navy and two daughters, BETH, 16, an enthusiastic trombonist, and DOROTHEA, 11, whose big interest is horses. Commander Burrow is assigned to CN TECH TRA at the Naval Air Station. Mrs. Burrow is writing a thesis for a master's degree in mass media communications.

## Happenings

### AUGUST

- Saturday matinee (each Saturday thru August) for children under 12. Main Library, 1:30, 2:40, 3:50 p.m.
- 14-----Movie "Charlie Chaplin, Comedy King", 7:30, Main Library (McLean at Peabody).
- 15-----Evergreen Presbyterian Women of the Church — Speaker, Jim Caldwell, Associate Director of S.U.N.
- 20-----Open Door Bible Church presents "Him Singers" in morning service at 10:45.
- 21-----Morning and afternoon classes for part-time students begin at Memphis Academy of Arts.
- 22-----City school registration — grades 1 - 6 and 10 - 12.
- 23-----City school registration — grades 7 - 9.
- 23-----Headstart Center registration begins. Call 275-5917 for information.
- 25-----Little Flower School registration, 9:30 - 12:00 and 6:30 - 7:30.
- 27-----McLean Baptist Church — teacher appreciation Sunday. Picnic in park following.
- 28-----First day of school — city schools and Little Flower.

### SEPTEMBER

- 2-----Fall season registration at Evergreen Presbyterian recreation center.
- 5-----3:00 p.m. — recreation program begins at Evergreen.
- 13-----Night classes for part-time students begin at Memphis Academy of Arts.

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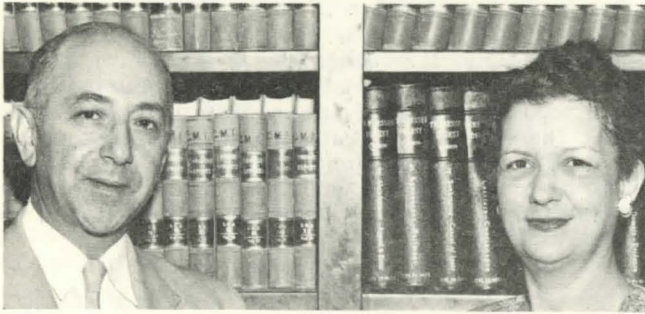
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## Meet The Neighbors



Aspero and Aspero, Attorneys

by Rick Thomas

It is always noteworthy to find a husband and wife who are in the same profession. It is especially interesting if they live in the Vollintine/Evergreen community and are two of the best-established lawyers in Memphis. The couple in question is Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Aspero of 1790 Faxon Avenue.

Although neither is a native Memphian, Mrs. Aspero has lived in the V/E area since 1916 and Mr. Aspero nearly as long. He grew up in Worcester, Mass., and came to Tennessee as a law student at Cumberland University in Lebanon. After receiving a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree, Mr. Aspero started practice in Paris, Tenn., and later moved to Memphis to open a law office. Mrs. Aspero was born in Corinth, Miss., but moved here with her family when she was three years old. She simultaneously studied at Southwestern and the Theodore Bohlman School of Music, earning a B.A. at both. She then began her first career as a piano instructor. She later added a B.S. degree from Memphis and a law degree from the University of Tennessee. This led her to launch her second career as an attorney.

As luck would have it, Mrs. Aspero — then Nell Sanders — opened a law office in the Columbia Mutual Building on the floor below Mr. Aspero. Now, Mr. Aspero had the habit of practicing on his violin a certain amount of time each day. As the story goes, the future Mrs. Aspero one day stormed upstairs to complain about the noise. There she met "Tony" for the first time and it was an introduction that resulted in marriage several years later.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Aspero has had a dull career. Mr. Aspero was at one time active in politics and achieved a certain amount of fame when he tried to buck the Crump machine as a candidate for chancellor. Politics being what they were in that day, Mr. Aspero woke each campaign morning to find that his posters and yard signs had mysteriously disappeared. He didn't win the election but his showing opened the door for others to challenge the entrenched politicians. Mr. Aspero was also active at the community level, serving as president of the old Jackson Boulevard Civic Club, an early forerunner of VECMA.

Mrs. Aspero has had an interesting career also. Perhaps her most exciting moments were as a corporate lawyer, representing such firms as Coca-Cola and Yellow Cab. She also did a stint in Washington, D.C., as a lobbyist for the Beauticians Union. Mrs. Aspero served as secretary of the Tennessee Bar Association

and national vice-president of the Women's Bar Association and lectured at Memphis State for ten years on School Law.

The Asperos have raised two children. The oldest, a daughter Nell Aspero II, is a successful entertainer, singing in several cities across the nation. She has appeared on numerous local television shows and still maintains a residence in the mid-town area. The other off-spring is Tony, Jr., who lives at the Faxon address. He served as a medic in Viet Nam and is now a pre-med student at Memphis State. He is also employed as a research assistant at the U.T. medical units in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Today finds both senior Asperos active in their common profession, Mr. Aspero in general practice and Mrs. Aspero concentrating on civil suits. He spends his spare time preparing "very authentic" Italian dishes while many of her spare moments are spent in D.A.R. activities.

## Win Some, Lose Some

The August 3 Primary Election determined the Democratic and Republican candidate for most of the positions up for grabs in the November general election. There were few surprises election night and VECMA voters generally followed city-wide patterns.


In the big contests, Howard Baker and Ray Blanton handily won a chance to face each other for U.S. Senator in the fall. J.O. Patterson, Jr., made a strong showing in becoming the Democratic candidate to face Dan Kuykendall.


In the race for Shelby County Court position, V/E voters expressed preferences for the candidates favored by the city as a whole. Residents supported Lewis Taliaferro (District 8, at-large), Billy Ray Schilling (District 9, at-large), William W. Farris (District 10, at-large), and John F. Canale (District 11, at-large). There were dissenters, however, in some of the contests with V/E residents in the Baron Hirsch area throwing more support to Tracy Rainey and Clayton P. Elam than to Taliaferro and Schilling, respectively. Also, for the District 10 position the vote was much closer between Farris and Garner than it was across Memphis.

In elections that only concerned part of the V/E community, Gillock won the Democratic race (28th District) for state senator, while those south of Jackson (30th District) chose James H. White as the man to face Republican candidate John D. Peoples, Jr., in November. These same voters also picked Doy L. Daniels to run against Claud Haire for state representative (District 89). Residents in the Northeast portion of the community will have to choose between Hawks and Bousson for District 97 state representative in the fall while Harper Brewer, Jr., will run unopposed for the District 98 senatorial post.

The Evergreen News will provide a complete run-down of the candidates prior to the November general election.

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