

The EVERGREEN NEWS

Memphis, Tennessee 38112

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

X-way Hearing

by George Bradfute

Unlike other cities of its size, Memphis has a large inner city area which is experiencing a new surge of interest and enthusiasm. This Mid-town area is the vital center without which the city would be reduced to a ghetto-suburb standoff. Thus with both Mid-town and the city's interest in mind, your attention is directed to a public hearing on the Overton Park route for I-40 to be held September 14 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the council chamber at City Hall. The hearing is being conducted by the state department of transportation to gather information from interested persons and organizations about the impact on the community of the proposed route.

The Park

Of major interest are the possible effects of the loss of park land and the effect of the highway on the remaining part of the park — the forest, the recreational areas, and the zoo. The highway people have published a draft copy of an environmental impact statement that says the highway noise won't be heard by the zoo animals over the din generated by the human visitors. The statement also says air pollution will exceed safe levels, but it does now already and the interstate won't make it any worse. The statement also includes some noise and air pollution measurements but too few to support the conclusions reached.

Alternate?

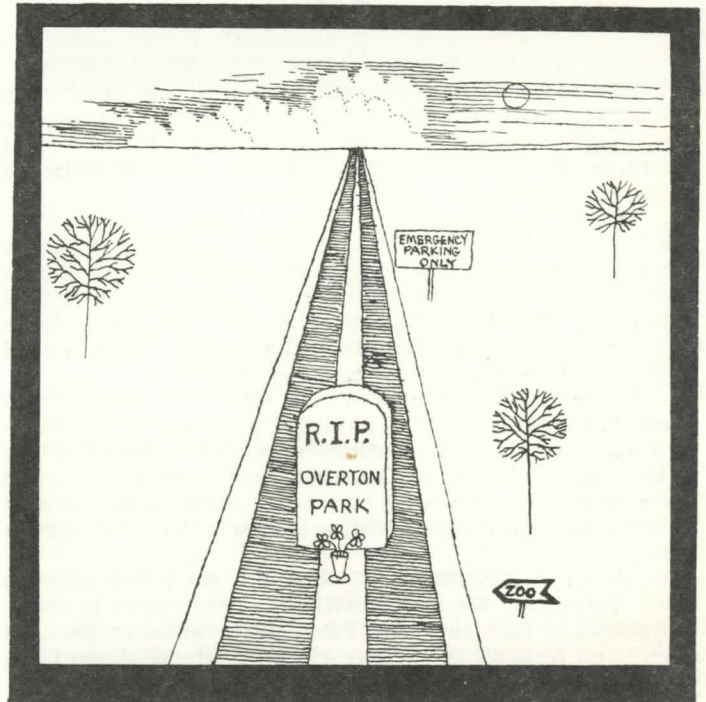
Designed for greater shock impact on V/E residents are the drawings and photographs of the so-called L&N route, which would avoid Overton Park but would cut a swath (or swaths, depending on which picture you're looking at) through this fair neighborhood. Although the exact route is uncertain, enough lines have been drawn on the map to scare the devil out of at least 20% of the homeowners. The statement draws attention to the "Vollintine-Evergreen group" as a nationally-unique biracial effort and suggests that this effort deserves protection from the disruption of an expressway.

Neighborhood Disruption

But if an expressway would become a racial barrier or otherwise disrupt a neighborhood, its impact on the neighborhood just to the south of us would be just as great, and if the effects of neighborhood disruption reach more than a block or so, would eventually be felt in the V/E community. (The *Evergreen News* is now distributed south of North Parkway, as far as Overton Park Boulevard.)

A year ago the Mid-Memphis Improvement Association asked for a design hearing on the highway through that neighborhood, between McLean and Claybrook, and the September 14 hearing will serve as a public design hearing on that section, too, though not exactly in response to MMIA's request. Of concern to MMIA is the damage to the quality of life which could result from inadequate consideration of noise and air pollution in the existing design. Of additional concern is the interchange at Avalon which would dump an undisclosed fraction of the 3500 vehicles per hour into this quiet mid-town neighborhood. The current Memphis transportation scheme (MUATS) would accommodate this I-40 traffic by widening and developing Avalon as a major north-south street as far north as Vollintine.

The need of the neighborhood residents either north



or south of North Parkway for an access point to the interstate system at Avalon is questionable. Access is available at Jackson and I-255, Madison and Union and I-255, and the proposed East Parkway and I-40. It seems that residents would be willing to forego the convenience of such an access in order to avoid further highway intrusions. Widening Avalon as a major north-south street would seem unnecessary. Watkins, Evergreen, McLean, University and Trezevant are already developed and would seem to be an adequate number of north-south arteries for traffic through this neighborhood. In fact, it would seem desirable to enhance the residential character of the community by shunting through-traffic around its edges and avoid cutting any more major streets through the middle.

Further, if the Avalon interchange is removed from the design, it is possible to depress the highway below the level of most of the residences between McLean and Claybrook, thus helping the noise and air pollution problems near the highway.

So Where Are We?

The Park route, the alternates, and the outside-the-park design, all these factors will come up at this hearing. The state and local elected governments want the highway pushed through as is, as soon as possible, and consider any environmental or neighborhood integrity questions to be a nuisance and a bother, unless they can be used to gather support for the "as is" design.

The "as is" design has many defects, some outside the park, coming to light now for the first time. We have the right to demand a 1972 model design, pollution-

You are invited to the VECAA meeting to be held Monday, September 18, at 8 p.m. in McLean Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Plans for the '72-'73 year will be discussed. Special guest will be Mrs. Rose Brown of the Central Area office of the Board of Education.



proof, people-favoring, and sensitive to the needs both of Mid-town people and downtown business. And, too, we have the right to a reasonable and serious study of how well or how poorly we would get along if the northern perimeter I-240 were finished and I-40 were not.

Welcome

J.D. and SUE KELLY bought the home at 908 Maury and with daughter HEATHER, 4, moved in in early July. Mr. Kelly teaches painting and drawing at Memphis Academy of Arts. The Kellys are natives of the Dayton area in Ohio and came here from Pembroke, North Carolina. They are enjoying the parks and city conveniences.

One of our newest neighbors is the new baby born to DR. and MRS. JULIUS W. MELTON of 306 Hawthorne. William Dudley was born on July 20 and joins two other children, Catherine and Cambria. Dr. Melton is in the Religion Department at Southwestern.

MICHAEL RICHARDS is a new neighbor who has recently moved into the University Cabanas. Mike, a Southwestern graduate, has just earned his law degree from Vanderbilt and is doing trial work for the firm of Heiskell, Donelson, Adams, Williams and Wall. Mike grew up in the Central Garden District and chose the V/E community because of its midtown location.

Moving into the house at 1910 Mignon Avenue in June were ROBERT and CLAIRE BARNETT and their three-year-old son, Braund. Mr. Barnett recently received a degree in advertising from Memphis State and is employed as a salesman for a silk-screening operation. He now spends his spare time building things with his new power saw.

DON and SANDRA McCASKILL are moving soon to 2107 Hallwood. Mr. McCaskill, an avid golfer, is vice-president of Cammack and Pera, an investment banking firm, and Mrs. McCaskill is active in the McLean Baptist choir. Their children are CATHY who is 14 and enjoys writing poetry and short stories and JEFF who is 8 and, like his dad, enjoys swinging a golf club.

Happenings

- 10-----First day of Sunday Religious Education classes at Little Flower for Catholic students in public school.
- 13-----Junior choirs practice at Evergreen Church. Grades 2 - 3, 4 p.m., grades 4,5,6, 4:45 p.m.
- 15-----Adult art class begins at Evergreen Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m. Fee \$12 for 12 weeks. Other recreational activities too numerous to list here. Some require \$4 activities card for those under 21. 278-4430.
- 15 & 16-----Voter registration at Zayre's store, 1627 Poplar, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 17-----"China", special speaker Edward Forgiven at Open Door Bible Church, 7 p.m.
- 20-----"Contemporary Tennessee Writers" program at Main Library, 1 p.m.
- 27-----"Contemporary Black Literature" program at Main Library, 1 p.m.

Address correspondence to George Bradfute, 513 Stonewall, Memphis, Tenn. 38112.

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CASH PRIZES

Gossip

ABRAHAM GONTOWNIK of 872 N. Evergreen is at home and doing well after being recently hospitalized. Mr. Gontownik was wounded during a robbery at his laundry in downtown Memphis.

Dr. ROBERT K. ARMSTRONG of 1936 Tutwiler is one of 6 Tennessee dentists to receive fellowship awards from T.D.A. for outstanding contributions to dentistry.

Shoppers' Choice

Home and Auto Center

Although there has been a Firestone Store at the corner of Jackson and Evergreen for over 30 years, its current manager is a newcomer to the business community. Mr. J.K. "Ken" Langston took over in February of 1971 when he was assigned to the store by Firestone. Since then he has kept busy trying to improve business in his new location.

Mr. Langston points out that Firestone is not a service station in the ordinary sense, and he doesn't feel like he's competing with the two other stations at this intersection. His store provides comprehensive automotive service, including major repairs, as well as carrying a broad line of products for the home. He employs nine men to handle the volume of business.

At present, the store is receiving a complete face-lifting which is expected to take about three months. Firestone customers can expect a "new" store in November and in the meantime benefit from a "Remodeling Sale" running the entire month of September.

Mr. Langston and his wife, Lynn, live in Raleigh, and he tries to spend his hours away from the store fishing. Although he has worked at several other Firestone stores, this is his favorite, and he feels like he is gaining more and more customers from the immediate neighborhood.

Evans at SW Pharmacy

In August, the Southwestern Pharmacy at McLean and Tutwiler came under the ownership of Mr. L.G. Evans. He purchased it from Tommy Crawford who had owned and operated the drug store since 1965. Mr. Evans lives in Raleigh but is not completely new to the neighborhood, having owned a drug store at Jackson and Watkins for five years.

Mr. Evans is joined in the store from time to time by his wife, Oleva. They have three sons — Lowell, 26, Gregg, 20, and Geoffrey, 17.

The neighborhood will miss the Crawfords who have lived at 1956 Crump for four years. Tommy grew up in the community and as a youth worked in the drug store he later owned. Tommy, Judy and seven-year-old Peggy are making a new home in Greeneville, Tennessee, where Tommy will work as a pharmacist for a man who formerly worked at the Southwestern Pharmacy himself.

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*Here is the message
we heard from him
and pass on to you:
that God is light,
and in him
there is no darkness at all.*

- mclean baptist church -

Under Construction

Being an established neighborhood, the V/E area is not one overrun with construction projects. Some however have been active this month and are illustrated here.

On Somerset near Watkins a two-storey duplex townhouse is nearing completion. The exterior appears to be waiting for brick and brickmasons.



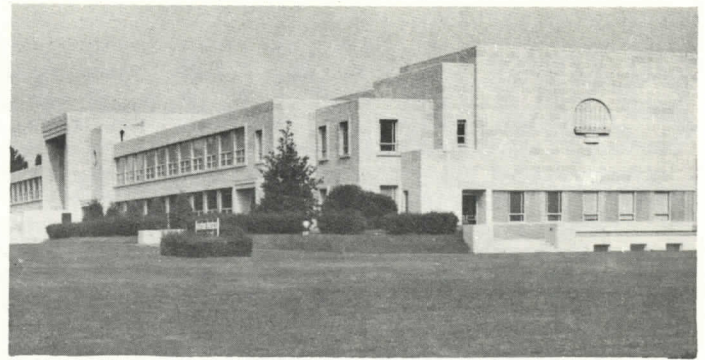
Greer Collins, builder, on the patio of his duplex at 1413 Somerset.

At 1792 North Parkway the Open Door Bible Church is building an addition. A concrete slab has been poured and the steel door frames erected.



Youth Director Pete Frye looks down from the roof of the education building at Open Door.

On Vollintine, Baron Hirsch Synagogue has undertaken the complete sandblasting, tuck pointing and silicone sealing of the building's exterior. The project is costing about \$20,000, according to secretary Ralph Lefkowitz, and is offered as evidence of the congregation's intention to stay in the community for many years to come.



Morning sun shines on the new stone finish of Baron Hirsch.

Report Card

Plan A

The Board of Education is again under court order to proceed with integration Plan A. The major change called for by this plan is the pairing of Vollentine and Snowden elementary schools. In addition, 9th graders in the Cypress district would be bussed to Trezevant Junior High. This latest order will be appealed and even if upheld would not likely be implemented before December or January.

Northside Health Careers

This year a new program is being offered at Northside High School in an effort to make students aware of the occupational opportunities existing in the health field and to give them rudimentary training in some of the activities carried on by health workers. Ruth Meyer, a registered nurse, will supervise the course.

The program will be offered in two sections with about twenty-five students each. The first is a one-hour course for eleventh-graders and is a survey of the various health-related occupations. It will attempt to introduce the students to the various jobs available, as well as to the training necessary for each and rewards that can be expected. The second section is for seniors and is a three-hour course combining classroom work, guest speakers and field trips. Students in this course will visit hospitals and other health care facilities in order to observe health workers on the job. It will be structured so that the students' interests will determine the direction of the course.

The students will have access to a pre-nursing type medical laboratory on campus and will be taught some of the procedures used by licensed practical nurses. The lab will also be equipped with a hospital bed.

It is hoped that the courses will not only bring awareness about opportunities in the various health occupations but will also encourage those who feel they cannot become a doctor or dentist to consider such supportive positions as lab technician, inhalation therapist and radiologic technologist.

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—Vollintine at Evergreen—

B I N G O

In Praise of a City

by John Bruhwiler

During my summer visit to Ottawa, the capital of Canada, I marvelled at its physical beauty, its cultural offerings and the active interest its 400,000 citizens take in improving the quality of life in their city.

Ottawa is a river town with its business district close to the shore of the Ottawa River and its residential areas growing in three directions over farm country. The residential areas in midtown are the oldest. With their tree-shaded streets, neighborhood schools, community centers, indoor swimming pools, parks, and active neighborhood associations, they are the most desirable residential areas in the city, and even small homes are beyond the means of an average family. A family with an average income apparently either rents a home or an apartment, or buys an apartment or a unit in a suburban "condominium", a townhouse compound in which the home-owners own all the land and share the facilities they choose to have.

The midtown area is crossed in a leisurely fashion by a small river, the Rideau, and a canal, the Rideau Canal, built in the early 19th century as a defense measure against the Americans. The Rideau provides several beaches right in town, and the canal forms an artificial lake for sailing enthusiasts. Both waters join the Ottawa River, the Rideau over noisy falls, the canal in a stairway of locks which serve the pleasure craft of visiting Americans, the once feared enemy.

From the Ottawa River a greenbelt, two and a half miles wide, loops around the city. The 41,000 acres of field and trees in this belt are dotted only by an occasional farmhouse or riding stable. The trees grow into the city, to the very edge of the high rise structures and, with the downtown malls, have set roots in the heart of the business world. Trees and bushes and wide lawns line the driveways along the rivers and the canal, protecting walking and cycling paths. Trees also dominate the abundance of city parks, many of which have wading pools, baseball diamonds, football or soccer fields, play areas for toddlers and picnic facilities, as does the experimental farm in the middle of the city. This farm has also an arboretum and extensive flower gardens, as well as a variety of animals to delight the children.

It is of course not the municipal government alone that made these features possible. At present the mayor is a young and vigorous man who inspires the administration with a sense of purpose, but this is the exception, rather than the rule. It was the parents and taxpayers who got together in PTA's and neighborhood associations and made their wishes known. The neighborhood associations are also active in organizing and coordinating children's team sport activities and provide coaches and supervisory personnel.

What is truly remarkable about Ottawa is not its physical beauty, its liveliness, or its harsh winter. Rather it is the fact that there is no cancerous growth of the suburbs at the expense of the inner city. It is the fact that its citizens have realized that city life can be a good life and that it is up to them to make it so.

For Sale

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

Vacationers

by Rick Thomas

Again this year we thought it would be interesting to mention some of those in the V/E community who took interesting vacation trips. The summer of '72 finds our neighbors scattered across the country and around the world and, although it would be impossible to list everyone, we hope the sample below is representative.

Many VECAAns spent their holidays in the near-South including the BILL WILLIAMS family who visited Louisiana and the JOHN GUTHRIES who toured Louisiana and Texas. the FRED NEALS of 1977 Snowden camped at Blanchard Springs and one of the neighborhood's more adventurous, FRANK VAN MIDDLESWORTH, rode his bicycle from 1950 Lyndale to the Smoky Mountains. SUSAN PATTON of the University Cabanas spent the Fourth of July weekend visiting her parents in Florence, Alabama.

Florida and the Gulf Coast held its perennial attraction for Mid-Southerners, luring JIM and JUDY SHORT to Destin and JOHN and CARLA RYAN to Panama City. On this same trip the Ryans spent their twentieth wedding anniversary in New Orleans. The KIM JOHNSONS of 2108 University Circle joined the hordes at Disney World in Orlando.

The East Coast and West Coast were both popular this season. Old New England witnessed trips by DR. and MRS. DAVID CHAMBERS of 879 N. McNeil, who visited Boston and New York, and by the Evergreen News copy editor NANCY LOWE. The MARVIN RATNERS vacationed in Washington, D.C. On the other side of the nation, the THOMAS STROUDS of 1931 Snowden toured Big Sur and Monterey and GEORGE and TRUDY ENSMINGER covered much of the West.

Other residents took this opportunity to leave the country. CHARLES and MARTHA SULLIVAN went to Canada to visit their son and George Ensminger visited his brother in British Columbia. MARILYN NICHOLS of 1956 Lyndale spent some time touring England and Wales after sight-seeing in London and EVELYN BEASLEY of 1770 Tutwiler had perhaps the most interesting trip of all. While visiting Spain and North Africa, Mrs. Beasley rode a camel and wrapped a belly dancer's snake around her neck.

Finally we have the kids who left the city to visit relatives. Perhaps the distance record goes to ten-year-old ERIN DUNN who spent the summer in upstate New York, while much closer to home six-year-old JENNIFER THOMAS stayed with grandparents in Helena, Arkansas.

Alterations

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Furrier

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