

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

Readers' Guide

by Bernice Williams

Mr. Rochester Neely, Sr., principal of Vollentine School, is a gentle, scholarly man who is obviously loved by his students and respected by his teachers and staff. When this reporter interviewed him about the reading program now in operation at the school, Mr. Neely began by pointing out that "all of our programs are geared toward motivation and improving and emphasizing reading skills." The main emphasis falls on a threefold purpose: exposing the children to reading matter that will make them want to read, giving them the skills necessary to fulfill that desire, and helping them constantly to improve those skills. In the following description, it should be obvious that the programs undertaken by the teachers do indeed work toward those ends.

Materials

In Grades Two and Three, the reading program is entitled "Language Experiences in Reading," developed by Encyclopedia Britannica. There are six units: for example, Unit One is "About Me and My Friends;" Unit Two, about "What I Can Do." Each child works at his own rate and on his own level. The teachers have a resource manual from which they plan the lessons, using library books, book reports, and booklets of dittoed work-pages taken from the students' workbooks. (This last procedure is used because the workbooks are ninety-five cents each and are therefore not available for each child in the classes using the program.)

Also available to second graders is the Bowmer Reading Series, a set of sixty paperbacks (backed up by teachers' manuals) that will be used from room to room. On the back of each book are listed the words that are new to the child; in the teachers' manuals are suggestions for "Extending Learning Experiences," introduction of the "New Vocabulary," "Vocabulary Extension," "Questions," "Suggestions for Discussion to Develop Comprehension Skills," and "Activities." The program is geared to children on reading levels of 0.5 to 3.5. Further, there are the "Reluctant Readers" paperbacks for children who are really set against reading: they are designed to capture the young readers' imaginations and to encourage them to read more.

In the Fourth Grade, the program is based on SRA Kit 2A--shorthand for a levels-oriented program developed by Science Research Associates, Inc., of Chicago, a subsidiary of IBM and a well-known innovator in educational, and particularly reading, programs that include one for college freshmen. The program for Grade Four is built around booklets containing stories and information both entertaining and useful. Each unit includes a "Skills Card" that introduces the child to new reading skills and a "Power-building Card" that introduces and reviews vocabulary learned in the unit. In the Sixth Grade, the students pursue the same sort of program with SRA Kit 2B. In both grades, the children are evaluated, not tested, on the basis of the rate at which they proceed from unit to unit within the program for their grade.

Black America

The most exciting program of all is under way in Grade Five. Here the SRA series called "Black America" is the core of the reading program: it is graded for several levels of difficulty, just as the other SRA kits are, but it devotes its six-month span to booklets about black contributors to the development of America--usually contemporary black people, and not necessarily the most obvious ones. Stories about such people as Aretha Franklin, Jackie Robinson, Sammy Davis, Jr., Bill Cosby, Ralph Bunche, Wilma Rudolph, and many others form the readings. The skills and power-building cards pursue the crucial business of learning to read



while the subject matter motivates the children to want to read -- the primary objective of all the programs at Vollentine. Fifth-graders love to talk about their program. They responded to the teacher's question by pointing out that they learn about "people we didn't know about -- all over the world!" that the stories are "short but good" and true into the bargain; that they like to answer the questions. For black children, the material reveals that their people have indeed accomplished much toward making America a nation; for white children, that whites are not the only ones who have contributed or do contribute now to the development of American culture. Mr. Neely observed that the "Black America" program "works beautifully" in creating the desire to read.

Many Media

In an effort to undergird the classroom procedures involved in the reading program, Vollentine School and

You are invited to a Hanukkah and Christmas party at the December meeting of VECAA, Monday the 18th at 8 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church.



its PTA members have developed a Media Center, a room for free but prearranged activities that the students may pursue independently. Colorful canopies, partitions, bookcases, and signs indicate the area of the Center; a listening center equipped with record players and tape recorders; a reading center, soon to be provided with a rug (no chairs!), closed in by bookcases holding magazines, books, and reference works; a viewing area complete with filmstrip and opaque projectors; an activity center for producing art and other objects that may then be placed in the display area for all to share and learn from.

Mr. Neely's main concern is to find whatever is best for Vollentine School. He is working toward an evaluation system, for example, that will chart each child's reading achievements over a three-year period at Vollentine. The system will make use of Metropolitan Aptitude Test scores, I.Q. scores, and teacher evaluations, at the same time recognizing the variables in each child's total experience.

Such a survey is, of course, useful to the teachers, but it is even more important to the child because it will help his teachers determine how best to help him reach beyond and fulfill himself.

Be All You Can Be

After reviewing the reading programs and talking to Mr. Neely and observing him with his pupils, one can only conclude that the Vollentine PTA was more than right when it presented Mr. Neely with a plaque that reads as follows: "For your love of children and unselfish devotion in promoting the cause of quality education." We may well be grateful that Vollentine School is directed by so thoughtful and dedicated a man as Mr. Neely, who seems to embody the "Library Week" motto: "Be all you can be: READ."



You read about her culinary exploits in the October issue but the picture didn't print. Now here is a better look at Mrs. MAMIE R. GAMMON.

Sports Roundup

The football season has ended for the neighborhoods schools and the statistics present a mixed picture of this fall's action. The community's college team, Southwestern, finished an off-and-on season with four wins and four losses. The Lynx did hold on to gain a tie for second place in the College Athletic Conference and scored their biggest victory of recent years, scorching Principia College 44-0.

In high school action Northside closed a disappointing season with the Cougars' tenth loss against no wins. One bright spot was Willie Fry, defensive and offensive end, who was one of three Memphians chosen for the all-state team.

Both junior high teams finished with winning seasons. Snowden posted a 5-1-2 record which was good enough for third place for its division. All-division honors went to Le-

vester Davenport, Reginald Gray, Mark Williams and Mitchell Goodwin. Cypress Junior High ended its season with four victories and three losses. They also received their division's third place trophy with Roselle Hamilton, Granderson Taylor and Reginald Thompson making the all-division team.

Memphians who read the sports section of the newspaper probably wonder why the name LaBue keeps popping up. The reason is that the three LaBue brothers of 1770 Tutwiler are key players on their respective teams. Joe, the oldest of the trio, is a running back for the University of Alabama — the second-ranked team in the Nation. John, Jr., a running back, is on the freshman team at the same school, while "little" brother Jeff plays both offensive and defensive end as a sophomore at Central High School.

Joe held the SEC's best average-per-carry last year and has continued churning out the yards this season. He holds the team's record for the longest run from scrimmage, a 52-yard dash on national TV against Louisiana State University. Joe will be on TV again in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day. John has helped the Alabama freshman team compile a 6-1 record this season. The former all-Memphis back had perhaps his best game on November 10, when he scored against their arch-rival, The University of Tennessee.

Jeff LaBue has led Central to a 6-5 season by being the only Warrior to play on both the offensive and defensive platoons. He was selected to the all-district team from Snowden last year and continued his sparkling play this season. A high point for Jeff was a 28-yard touchdown run against Millington Central. His score provided the winning margin.

If past events are any indication of the future, it looks like V/E residents will be seeing a LaBue on national television for at least another six years.

Shopper's Choice

Going With Gulf

by Hinda Silber

Bill Porter, owner of Bill and Jim's Gulf service station of 1712 Jackson, is a man who knows how to handle competition with finesse. How? He simply makes friends with the "enemy." When asked how it felt having an Esso service station directly across the street from his Gulf station, he jovially replied, "Good competition makes better business."

An affable man, Bill Porter moved to Memphis from Mississippi in 1951 with his wife, whom he met while in the service. At that time, Mr. Porter was a TBA salesman for Gulf. This work generated his interest in buying a business of his own. And that he successfully did. He bought his first Gulf Station in 1964, located at Chelsea and Watkins. He sold this station, and in 1969 bought the Gulf station on Jackson, with his co-owner and brother-in-law Jim Barnett. At that time, he and Mr. Barnett also owned two other Gulf service stations in different areas of Memphis. These stations were subsequently sold because of problems entailed in operating three separate businesses. They chose to maintain the Gulf station on Jackson because, as Mr. Porter said, "The neighborhood is so nice."

Mr. and Mrs. Porter reside at 1514 Stacey. They

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have two children, a son Rickey, age 25, who is a policeman in Memphis, and a daughter Terrisa, 22, who lives in Washington. They also have two grandchildren. Mr. Porter's hobbies are sports, particularly basketball (naturally, he is a Memphis State fan), and camping.

Home At Last

by Rick Thomas

It has often been noted that a dominant feature of the Vollintine - Evergreen Community is its residential stability. Compared to most parts of the city its residents are long-time community members, and the turnover of houses is small. However, the behavior of Vollintine - Evergreen residents is not completely uniform, and there are exceptions to any rule. In the case of residential mobility one of the notable exceptions is the Charles Nichols family of 1956 Lyndale who, for lack of a better term, can be called "real movers."

Most of the area's residents enjoy living in the neighborhood, of course, but it is doubtful that any one family has enjoyed living in so many places within it. To follow the trail of the Nichols family through the community we have to go back to 1940. It was in this year that Mr. and Mrs. Nichols, along with baby Gene, built the house at 1076 Maury, choosing this location in order to be in the Vollentine School district. However, with a new addition to the family this house soon became too small, so that in 1945 the Nichols built a big house at 1602 Vollintine. It turned out that the Nichols, not being ones to accept things they didn't like, eventually declared this house "too big" and abandoned it for a new home at 1970 Crump.

Shortly after moving to Crump, little Marilyn was born. Understandably with a new child in the family somewhat of a damper was put on all this moving around. Consequently, it was a full two years before the Nichols pulled up roots for greener pastures.

Now, although the Nichols enjoyed changing residences, they didn't like to go to a lot of trouble doing it. So this time they only moved two blocks to 1891 Lyndale. By this time some of the kids were in school, and a problem arose in that sometimes they weren't sure which house to go to after school. As a matter of fact, neighborhood tradition says that one of them went to the wrong house after school one day and lived with a strange family for three weeks before anyone realized something was wrong.

After five years at this address, it looked like the Nichols had found a permanent residence, but then they got the five-year itch. Apparently there was some indecision as to whether they should move or not, so the family compromised by only moving one block this time. They became the proud owners of the house at 1865 Snowden, but, alas, it just wasn't home, and only six months later Mrs. Nichols came home from work to find that the family now lived back on Lyndale (at 1956). Yes, cleverly camouflaged moving vans had been parked on McLean early that morning, and by the end of the day Mr. Nichols had completed rearranging the furniture in a new location. It is believed that this move was made in order to help Marilyn (then 3 years old) get accepted to college

since Peyton Rhodes, then president of Southwestern, lived next door.

Since the Nichols have now lived at their present address for 22 years, it seems that advanced age and a limited number of available houses have hindered the family's wanderlust. Mr. Nichols is safety director for Fischer Lime and Cement Company and still pursues his life-long hobby of band leader, playing the drums two or three nights a week. He is well known throughout the neighborhood not only because he has lived all over it, but also because he has worked at the polls at Snowden School for 26 years. Mrs. Nichols is a retired government worker and a somewhat reluctant mover. She just doesn't like change.

To the Nichols family the Evergreen News presents its first annual "movers" award — a copperplated replica of an Allied moving van.

Holiday Happenings

DECEMBER

- 6-----Celebration of Advent at Springdale United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Sanctuary choir will sing "Hanging of the Green."
- 10-----Stravinsky's Mass for chorus and woodwind quintet. 7 p.m. at Evergreen Presbyterian Church.
- Miss Alma Oates, missionary to Brazil, will speak at the 10:50 a.m. service at McLean Baptist Church.
- "Love Came Down at Christmas," cantata at Madison Heights United Methodist Church, 5:30 p.m.
- 17-----Service festival of lessons and carols at 5 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd, followed by a parish party.
- Christmas cantata "Night of Miracles," directed by Horace Ball, at 11 a.m. worship service at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church.
- Open Door Bible Church Christmas cantata at 7 p.m.
- Children's Christmas program at 7 p.m. at First United Lutheran Church.
- Service of lessons and carols. 7 p.m. at Evergreen Presbyterian Church.
- "City of the King" presented by adult choir of McLean Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m.
- 18-----VECAA December meeting, 8 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church. Hanukkah-Christmas party and report from education committee.
- 21-----XYZ (retired senior citizens) meet at Springdale United Methodist Church at 11 a.m.
- 24-----Candlelight and carol service at 7:30 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church.
- Special service at 7:30 p.m. at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church.
- Communion service at 7 p.m. at Evergreen Presbyterian Church.
- Family Eucharist at 7 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd. Choir program at 11 p.m. with Midnight Mass.
- Candlelight service at First United Lutheran Church at 7:30 p.m.
- Carol service at 11:30 p.m. followed by Midnight Mass at Little Flower Catholic Church.
- 31-----Watchnight service at Open Door Bible Church, 7 p.m. until midnight.



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Meet The Neighbors

by Doug Barker

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? For me, it was a fireman. After I talked with fireman DANNY WAHLQUIST, all my childhood visions went up in smoke.

Mr. Wahlquist says that, according to the National Safety Council and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, firefighting is the most hazardous job in the United States. He says that the tension a fireman works under plus the actual dangers of fires are the reasons.

Mr. Wahlquist starts work at seven in the morning and ends at seven the next morning. He does this every other day for five days, then is off for four days. This works out to be a fifty-six-hour week.

A regular work day begins with house cleaning, followed by cleaning equipment and then two hours of schooling. Besides the three-month instruction initially received, all firemen have two hours of school every working day. Such subjects as chemicals kept in homes and garages, pesticides, paints, and even ammunition are covered. In addition to these, all the men must know every house and number, and the floor plan to every building in their district. First aid and rescue are also basic subjects.

After two hours of schooling, the men have free time. Without this time to relax, Mr. Wahlquist says, it would be hard to make it through the day. At night, trying to get any kind of real rest is hard, since there is such a difference between sleeping at home and at

the fire house. Every man has his "turn out" pants next to his bed. These are the pants with boots and suspenders all connected.

From the time of the first alarm until the trucks pull away from the firehouse, scarcely thirty seconds will pass. From the time of alarm to the time when the first truck reaches the scene of the fire, only three minutes will have gone by. With this kind of reaction time and training, one can imagine how hard it would be to relax.

Mr. Wahlquist's job is to drive the pumper. This is the truck that controls all the water flow. Mr. Wahlquist is the only fireman at the scene of the fire who does not actively fight the fire. He has the sole responsibility of handling the water pumps and gauges. He also has to know the location of the fire plugs in his district.



If Mr. Wahlquist's life on the job is tension-filled, it is very relaxed at home. He lives at 1807 Faxon with his wife Martha and four children. He has three sons: Danny, 16; Donnie, 15; and Ronnie, 15. All attend Central High School. His daughter Connie, 10, attends Snowden.

During his leisure time, Mr. Wahlquist enjoys playing drums. He was a professional drummer before joining the fire department. He now plays in the Memphis Fire Department's nine-piece band. They have been playing at every Mid-South Fair and, according to Fair officials, they draw the largest attendance of any local talent.

It is because of men like Mr. Danny Wahlquist that Memphis can brag of the best possible fire department a city our size can have. These men are highly trained and pride themselves in their profession.

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