

The EVERGREEN NEWS

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The "New" Brooks

by Brad McMillan

When was the last time you walked to or drove to Brooks Memorial Art Gallery in Overton Park? If it was before January 7 of this year, you are in for a special treat now. On that date the gallery, under the directorship of Dr. John J. Whitlock, opened its long-awaited \$850,000 addition, and it is an architectural and aesthetic delight.

This addition, now the main part of the gallery, is flooded with pleasant light from both artificial and natural sources through windows and skylights. Unencumbered by conventional doors and partitions, the individual galleries literally have the visitor flowing along as he views the various artwork. In the new gallery space permanently exhibited are the Kress Collection, 19th century American painting and 20th century work with an international scope. In this latter space one will

find the work of such notables as Andrew Wyeth, Marisol Escobar and Memphis' own Carroll Cloar.

Aside from the good old friends of the permanent collection, the new addition will house regularly changing traveling exhibitions uniquely displayed.

This reporter interviewed Brooks' director, Dr. Whitlock, a young man with a formidable beard and more formidable visions, and he was pleased to make contact with the VECCA community for its residents make up a good portion of the gallery's "neighbors." Dr. Whitlock expressed his desire for the people in the neighborhood to take advantage of Brooks' program, not to mention the simple serenity of just visiting an art gallery anytime. He noted that all the new space was public space, that is, it is all for exhibitions for the people. "There is simply more art to be seen," he said with a director's gratification.

Also available to the public are free guided tours to help in understanding the diverse works of art in the gallery. These tours may be arranged, preferably for groups of ten, by calling Mrs. Letitia Proctor at 274-5796. Free film programs and an art reference library were also cited as advantages for people living nearby.

Dr. Whitlock and the staff are not ones to be complacent with the new addition, as remarkable as it is. Plans now are to concentrate on increasing the depth and breadth of the art and along with this to develop educational programs for the citizens of Memphis. Also planned is a museum studies program with Southwestern and Memphis State to produce qualified museum and gallery personnel. This is a program that has been needed for some time in this area. Students in this program would study at either Brooks, the Memphis Museum or Chucalissa, depending on their fields of interest.

As you can see, there are many things worth looking at and into at the Brooks Gallery. Take advantage of them.

Some current events of interest at the gallery are:

J.P. Alley Cartoons extended through February 25

Textile Exhibition by Professor Henry Easterwood and students also extended through February 25

February 4-25: Exhibit of photographs by Daniel Farber

February 4-25: Combined Art Faculty Show (Lemoine-Owen, Southwestern, MSU and The Memphis Academy of Arts participating)

You are invited to the February meeting of VECCA to be held Monday the 19th at 8 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church.



For Sale

BASE KITCHEN CABINET. 40 x 20 x 36. \$10. Phone 275-7819.

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Arts and Letters

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One Pair Wins

by Bernice Williams

In telephone interviews with the principals of Snowden and Vollentine Schools and with the presidents of their respective PTAs, the Evergreen News learned that the pairing of the two schools has gotten under way with no problems and with much satisfaction all around.

MR. ROCHESTER NEELY, principal of Vollentine School, observed that "everything has gone quite well, very smoothly. . . ." He noted that there were not as many new pupils as the school had anticipated, but that those who did come seem to him to be "getting along beautifully" and "to be very happy," writing poems about their new school, their new teachers, classrooms, and classmates, and the bus ride itself. If there are any exceptions to this picture, Mr. Neely had not heard about them as of the morning of January 27. He pointed out that he had worked closely with MR. JOE A. TAYLOR, the principal at Snowden, and that the PTAs at both schools "have been beautiful. And so has VECAA," in the person of MISS MARGARET DICHTTEL, who visited both schools. Summing up, Mr. Neely said, "I have no complaints at all. . . . We're in good shape."

Mr. Taylor, at Snowden, was no less enthusiastic: "It's just been unbelievably smooth! . . . We can't believe it's gone this well." He didn't offer as many details as Mr. Neely, but his tone of voice was just as buoyant and his satisfaction just as evident.

MRS. CHARLES McARTHUR, president of the PTA at Vollentine, said that the experience was "all positive, so far as I'm concerned." In her estimation, everything went "very, very smoothly," absenteeism was minimal,

the bus routes worked out well, and the PTAs have been most cooperative. Mrs. McArthur also pointed out that the teachers gave a tea for the new teachers, an event that certainly helped keep things moving smoothly. Most of all, however, Mrs. McArthur was delighted with the physical space that is now available to the students at Vollentine: the music room, for example, and the room for PE.

MRS. A.W. HUNT, president of the Snowden PTA, reported that "I felt very good about everything all along," primarily because the parents in the PTA were themselves anxious for everything to go smoothly for the children's sakes. They took the attitude that the children would have more than enough to handle with moving into a new school environment without their parents' "coming unglued." The pairing was helped immensely by what Mrs. Hunt described as "strong community feeling." She also noted that the calmness and understanding of both Mr. Neely and Mr. Taylor had a tremendous effect on the situation: their main concern is for the children, and that concern came through.

For Rent

ROOM for rent. Emp. mature lady, nurse, or student. Kitchen priv. Just redecorated. Near Sears. Conv. to buses. \$11.25 per week. 276-9232.


Gossip

HARRY L. THOMAS of 919 N. Evergreen was honored by the National Electrical Contractors Association and by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for his 70 years of union membership. Mr. Thomas, who is 89 years old, is the former Memphis chief electrical inspector. He joined the union in 1903.

On December 31 PAUL BROWN of 1951 Snowden completed his term as interim City Judge of Division 4. Mr. Brown has been an attorney for 36 years, has served in the Legislature and as judge of the General Sessions court. He recalls his election as president of the Jackson Boulevard Civic Club in 1946 at a bean supper in the back yard of Sheriff Oliver Perry. Brown is a native of Memphis, attended Snowden and Maury schools, and is a graduate of Central High and Memphis Law School.


ISAAC LOSKOVE of 1006 Monticello and PHILIP BELZ have been elected gabboim of the Baron Hirsch Congregation. Other officers for 1973 are Dr. JOSEPH PARKER, president; Dr. HAROLD COHEN, first vice president; SIDNEY KATZ, second vice president; MANNIE ETTINGOFF, secretary; MERLIN SCHATZ, treasurer; and BEN FISHMAN, warden.

Mr. and Mrs. JIMMY WOO, owners of the Great Star Supermarket at 651 N. McLean, are the proud grandparents of JULIE MELISSA WOO. Julie was born on December 22 to WILSON and JANE WOO. The proud great-grandfather is Mr. WILLIAM WOO.

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WHAT I GOT FOR CHRISTMAS

What I got for Christmas
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With one blue eye.
And one green eye.
If you do not know what it is
I will tell you.

It is a cat.

— Jennifer Thomas, Age 6

Nashville Notes

(Representative DOY DANIELS, Jr., of the 89th District has offered to keep us informed on events of importance in this year's General Assembly. Here is his first report. — Editors)

As my first month as your State Representative draws to a close, I can happily report that I am now well-established in Nashville, and prepared for the first major session of the General Assembly which begins on February 27th. The organizational session was recently completed in record time, and I am hopeful that a new sense of common purpose will replace the partisan bickering of last session when we reconvene.

The organizational session saw several important resolutions brought up and bills introduced on many important areas. Not the least of these was my own Overton Park resolution which unanimously passed the House. Tired of seeing the wishes of the many citizens in our community who opposed the former expressway route through the park ignored by the federal government, I introduced this resolution. It stressed the lack of government responsiveness to the people and simply asked Secretary of Transportation John Volpe to listen to all sides of the matter before reaching a decision. Volpe, of course, has since decided not to put the expressway through the park.

In addition to the bill I am sponsoring which would change the make-up of the State Building Commission to include the State Treasurer (a common sense measure), my name appears on several others as a co-sponsor. One of these is a bi-partisan bill to exempt life-essential items such as prescription drugs and residential utilities from the state sales tax. I trust that the passage of this into law will lift an unfair burden off all taxpayers in the state. In addition I am co-sponsoring bills designed to more strictly enforce state air and water pollution laws, further protect employees in hazardous working situations, and provide for a period of silent prayer or meditation in the public schools.

In light of the fine work that VECAA is doing for our

community, I have also introduced a resolution commending VECAA and its members for their efforts. The resolution would be passed in time to be included in next month's newsletter.

Many important questions will be coming up before the Legislature this year concerning budget problems, the sales tax increase, no-fault insurance, and a state kindergarten system. In order to represent the interests of our community in Memphis, I need to hear from you. I need to know your opinions and interests so write or call me at either 1517 Jackson Avenue in Memphis, 38107, or at Room G-19, War Memorial Building, Nashville, 37219.

Welcome

Among our new neighbors are two newlyweds, ED and BEVERLY DISMUKE of 665 McConnell. Ed is an intern at the U.T. Medical Units, while Beverly is employed as a speech therapist for the public school system. Ed grew up in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the new Mrs. Dismuke spent her young life on Shankman Circle in the V/E community.

After considering various neighborhoods for months, Mrs. ELLEN McDOWELL chose 1587 N. Parkway as her new home. She comes to the V/E community from Frayser and brings her two daughters, fifteen-year-old LIZETTE and eleven-year-old OCTOBER. Mrs. McDowell is Planning Advisor for the Memphis Regional Medical Program and has lived most of her life in the mid-town area.

Shopper's Choice

by Hershel Lipow

The Esso station at the corner of Faxon and McLean has changed more than its name — it's changed its owner. But that doesn't mean that things have changed too much. According to ED CISSOM, the new owner, the station will continue to give the same good service it has given since it was built in 1924.

Mr. Cissom is no stranger to the station. He began working there in 1955 as an attendant and soon moved up to mechanic. In September he bought the station from Mr. V.G. McCULLOUGH, who retired after 36 years at the station.

Mr. Cissom plans some changes to improve his station. He is now giving Top Value stamps and four men are working to speed up service. Mr. Cissom thinks his location is one of the best in the city and hopes that all his neighbors will visit the station. He believes it's in "an older neighborhood that's held up good" and says "business is going great."

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Meet The Neighbors

Committed Cleric

by Hinda Silber



Visiting with Rev. JAMES L. PUGH, the soft-spoken father of Little Flower Catholic Church, is an enlightening experience. His views on Man, Society and the Church bespeak not of an outdated clergy but of contemporary man himself.

Father Pugh was ordained into the priesthood in 1967, after completing studies at St. Bernard Seminary in Culmon, Alabama, and St. Mary's in Baltimore, Maryland. Since then he has spent his entire time in Memphis although he is a native of Nashville. He was first assigned to Immaculate Conception Church and later served in St. Williams Church in Millington, and St. Louis Church in Memphis. It was in 1972 that he joined Little Flower Church as associate pastor, in addition to assuming full-time duties at Memphis Catholic High School, where he teaches religion to the freshmen.

Responding to a frank question on the particular loneliness and isolation of the priesthood, Father Pugh poignantly commented, "I belong to everyone and to no one. I must give of myself totally to the needs of my parish." This sacrifice, as the layman interprets the word, is not of relevancy to Father Pugh. What is important is the giving of self to God and his fellow man. The rewards of course are manifold.

Father Pugh, who at a very early age (in grade school) felt a calling from God, gives his entire time to teaching and taking care of the spiritual needs of the parish. This leaves little time for social involvement. Nevertheless, Rev. Pugh feels socially involved by the daily contact and interaction with the students he teaches.

His work with the neighborhood is directed to the elderly and to visiting the hospitals. Father Pugh finds a real apostolate to the elderly in the neighborhood — the forgotten of the community. "Many of the elderly have no family. There is a crying need to help these people. So many of them want someone to come and live with them because they are so lonely. Young people could play a tremendous role in the V/E community in searching out the old, tired, lonely, distraught. There is a tremendous feeling of self-satisfaction in helping someone in need. This is one tangible way of showing an involvement and commitment."

Father Pugh reflected further on today's youth and the changing role of the church: "Catholic adults have known stability. They have known a stable church. Today's

youth are members of a changing church. Society is changing, the people of God are changing. The church has to update itself to meet the needs of modern man. The Catholic Church is going through a period of transition."

"Since young people have known change and instability, their outlook on authority has been colored. Everything has been called into question."

Considering the turbulence of modern times, Rev. Pugh's view is that youth do remarkably well. "The youth want to get involved and exhibit a desire to help." As a teacher, Rev. Pugh said, "I appreciate this genuine desire that makes them want to forget the necessity of an education and get out and do something because of social awareness."

Although Father Pugh has been in the V/E community only a short time, his work in the neighborhood has made him aware of its friendliness and cordiality.

Improving On A Tradition

by Rick Thomas

How does one improve on a tradition? One way to do it is to buy a well-established business and add some special touches. This is what happened in the V/E community when DINO GRISANTI bought the Southwestern Grill at 645 N. McLean. The former owner, JOHN SEMOS, along with his brother TOM, had operated this neighborhood institution for 27 years. When his health made operation of the restaurant impossible, Mr. Semos found a ready purchaser in Mr. Grisanti.

The Grisanti family is not new to the restaurant business, having run the State Cafe at 48 Beale Street for 27 years. When the Memphis Housing Authority took over his downtown lot, Dino began looking for a new "home" and after three months found the Southwestern Grill. After changing the name to Dino's Southwestern Grill, he added a number of Italian dishes to the menu, remodeled a little bit and opened the doors for business.

Dino has retained the good qualities of the Southwestern Grill - its reasonably priced plate lunches, its family atmosphere and even some of its waitresses. He has expanded the menu to include such Italian dishes as veal parmigiana, spaghetti and meatballs and ravioli (made right in the kitchen). Another new item on the menu is beer which can only be obtained with meals.

Dino is assisted by his son RUDY in the kitchen and his wife MADELINE at the cash register, and the entire staff totals eleven. The Grisanti's live in Whitehaven, and Dino admits he didn't know much about the neighborhood when he moved in. But he has made friends fast and is quite pleased with his new customers.

Community residents will miss the familiar sight of Mr. Semos overseeing activities at the Southwestern Grill, but it looks like its new owner plans to improve on a great tradition.

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