

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

The Lost Phord

by Rick Thomas

One of the most imposing structures in the neighborhood and one that perhaps represents the Golden Age of house building in Memphis is the mansion at 1822 Overton Park Avenue between McLean and Hawthorne. Majestically occupying an entire city block, the old Galloway home, alternately known as the Memphis College of Music and the Southwestern College of Music is of interest as a showplace of building craftsmanship, as well as an historical monument. In March it took on added interest when Southwestern announced that the property would be sold to developers.

The four-acre plot lay vacant at the turn of the century, while the surrounding area known as "Evergreen Subdivision" was taking form. In 1905, however, Robert Galloway, president of Galloway Coal Company, built the three-story mansion that soon became one of the showplaces of the South.

The house itself combines several different architectural styles resulting in what might best be described as "modified Greek Revival." It features four Ionic columns enclosing a semi-circular porch and supporting a second-floor balcony from which one can survey the grounds and beyond. Above this is the ballroom which covers the entire third floor (and is temporarily partitioned into rooms). In its construction steel was used freely, something not often done in residential buildings, to reinforce the floors and as interior trim.



The Galloway Mansion

Other features include a solarium on the east side of the house with ceiling and shutters of latticework that opens onto a garden, a fireplace mantel supported by life-size carved figures, extensive hardwood trim and cloth-covered walls. The stable, taken for the Interstate, contained living quarters and itself was a large house by most standards.

The house was occupied by the Galloway family from the time of its construction until it was purchased by Southwestern in 1943. Robert Galloway, the builder, lived there until the 1920's, after which it was occupied by Mrs. May J. Galloway until the college acquired it.

In 1943 it became the home of the Memphis College of Music, formerly located near Union and Bellevue. This well-thought-of conservatory was a degree-granting institution until the move at which time it became a department of Southwestern. The College of Music offered courses in all areas of instruction except organ. In addition to offering courses for college credit (it had as many as 60 full-time students in the 1940's) the school taught private lessons. It was the first

music school in the state to be allowed to grant credit toward high school graduation. During the period the house was used for this purpose, numerous prominent people were associated with it both as instructors and students.

With the completion of a new music building in 1970, the school was moved to the Southwestern campus. This move left the Galloway mansion vacant and, except for its occasional use for a party or as a benefit "haunted house," it remains so today. At present a few Southwestern students reside there as a deterrent to vandals.

The transfer of the music department to the main campus left the house without a function, and it has begun to show its age. The tile roof needs repairing, and leakage has ruined the entire third floor. The attractiveness of the site was also detracted from when expressway right-of-way took about one-fourth of the property. Since Southwestern could no longer use the building and it had become a drain on resources, the school was faced with the prospect of selling it. Although the building was not openly on the market, Southwestern has sought a buyer for the past three years. During this period various parties expressed an interest with some seeking the building for use as a school. This use, however, has been precluded by the house's inability to meet fire regulations. Other uses have been proposed — as a tennis club, for example —

but none of these plans ever proved workable.


In March Southwestern announced that it had signed a contract with two Memphians for the purchase of the land. Gary Rose Belz, associated with Belz Enterprises, Inc., and F. L. Billings are the prospective owners, the latter being involved in house moving and demolition. The sale price of the land was quoted at "considerably in excess of \$100,000" but is contingent on the buyers having the land rezoned to an R-3A classification.

At present the area is zoned R-2 which allows only single-family dwellings. An R-3A zone would allow garden apartments with a density up to 17 units per acre. This would involve the widening of McLean at this point, a change already in the city plans. Early reports stated that the mansion itself might be remodeled for use as a residence, but most observers doubt the feasibility of such an endeavor. A former

Charlie Newman, attorney for Citizens to Preserve Overton Park will be the speaker at the next VECAA meeting on April 16 at 8 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church.



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prospective buyer has indicated that \$25-30,000 worth of repairs would be necessary to preserve the house, and such an investment is unlikely.

It would be unfortunate for the neighborhood to lose such an imposing landmark and, with uncertainty still surrounding the future of the expressway, any definite plans for the property now might be premature. If harsh practicalities do dictate that some better use be made of the land, let us hope that the new owners and the Vollintine/Evergreen community will take a close look at the long-range implications of any new development in the neighborhood.

Holy Week

LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC CHURCH: There will be solemn ceremonies on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Holy Week, all to be held at 7 PM. The usual masses will be celebrated on Easter morning.

MCLEAN BAPTIST CHURCH: During Holy Week, there will be special services led by Dr. Ralph Moore at 11 AM April 16-20. Following the service each day there will be a sandwich luncheon. The church will hold its regular services on Easter.

EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: On Palm Sunday evening at 7PM, there will be a performance of Gabriel Faure's "Requiem" by the combined choirs of Idlewild Presbyterian Church and Evergreen Presbyterian Church. The soloists will be Mrs. William H. Moore, soprano; George Ensminger, bass; and James Williamson, bass. There will be Holy Week observances on Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM and on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 PM at which time Communion will be offered. On Easter, the Knights Templar will hold their service at 7:00 AM. Sunday School and worship services will be held at the usual hours of 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM.

OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH: At the 10:45 AM service on Easter, Open Door Bible Church will present the Moody Chorale, a group of 45 voices.

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH: There will be services on Good Friday, from noon until three PM. On Easter, Good Shepherd will hold its usual worship services.

FIRST UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH: On Wednesday,

April 18, there will be a Vesper Service at 7:30 PM. On Maundy Thursday, there will be a Passover Feast and Communion Service at 7:30 PM. On Good Friday, there will be a Tenebrae Service, also at 7:30 PM, and on Easter the regular schedule of worship.

SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: On Maundy Thursday there will be a dinner at 6:00 PM followed by a service of worship at 6:45-7:00 PM. Springdale United Methodist will also host the community-wide service (described below) at noon on Good Friday.

LINDSAY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: On Maundy Thursday at 7:00 PM there will be a Communion service, and on Good Friday Dr. Walton will be one of the preachers at the community service. Regular worship services will be conducted on Easter.

COMMUNITY-WIDE GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE: Everyone in the VECAA area is invited to participate in the community service to be held at Springdale United Methodist Church at noon on Good Friday, April 20. There will be special music and Easter-tide messages, and the community is invited to come for part of the hour service even if you are unable to stay for the entire program.

Wanted

Couple (architect and dietician) want to buy a 3-bedroom house in midtown area. \$25,000 maximum. 683-8910 - call nights and weekends.

Happenings

April

6-----Final lecture-demonstration in opera series at Southwestern. Kurt Klipstatter will discuss "Carmen" at 8 p.m. in Room 200 of Clough Hall.

9-----Charlie Chaplin film festival to be shown at Center for Senior Citizens on Parkway at 2:30 p.m.

10-----Starting date for week-long candy sale sponsored by Snowden Junior High School.

16-----Food Stamp Office representative will be at Center for Senior Citizens to discuss participation in the food stamp program.

28-----Car wash sponsored by Snowden Historical Society.

30-----Presentation of "Granny Awards" at Senior Citizens Center. An award will be presented to the member submitting the best remembrance story and picture.

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Gossip

On March 31, at Scott Air Force Base Mrs. BEATRICE WILLIAMS and JAMES, JR. of 923 N. Garland welcomed their husband and father, Captain JAMES WILLIAMS, back from VIETNAM. Captain Williams, an Air Force navigator has been a POW since his plane was shot down over North Vietnam on May 20, 1972. Mrs. Williams is a substitute special education teacher at Hyde Park School, and James, Jr., 8, attends Springdale School.

Another Vietnam veteran, CWO ROBIN McCARTY of 1038 Oakmont, experienced a forced landing when his National Guard CH-34 helicopter had an engine failure near Memphis recently. According to Mr. McCarty, the landing wasn't as tense as being downed by enemy fire. Mr. McCarty is a senior at Memphis State.

DR. JULIUS MELTON, his wife ANN, and CAMBRIA, 10, CATHERINE, 9, and WILL, 2, are leaving 306 Hawthorne for Davidson, North Carolina, where Dr. Melton will be Director of Deferred Giving at Davidson College. Dr. Melton has served at Southwestern for ten years, first as Vice-President for Student Affairs and later as Director of Deferred Gifts. He has been active in VECAA, most recently as a member of the education committee.

The second-grade class of Mrs. BOBBIE SMOTHERS won the first semester paper drive at Snowden School. The class is now at Vollintine, but a tree will be planted in its name on the Snowden grounds.

DOUG BARKER, formerly of 2124 Vollintine, is now living in Walnut Creek, California where he teaches Bi-

ble to high school students in a coffee house. The coffee house, called "The Place", is sponsored by a church in the San Francisco Bay area. Readers may recall Doug's interviews of postman HILLARY REDDRICK and fireman DANNY WAHLQUIST which he wrote for the Evergreen News while a student at Memphis State.

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Meet The Neighbors

A Rap With The Rep

by Hershel Lipow

State Representative HARPER BREWER is an affable man who finds his work in Tennessee's 88th General Assembly always interesting, often amusing, and, at times, quite frustrating. Mr. Brewer, who has resided at 990 N. Idlewild for three years now, is a native Memphian. When not serving in the legislature, he is a science teacher at Frayser High School. He and his wife Peggy attend Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. Peggy, also a native Memphian, teaches fifth grade at Snowden School. The Brewers have one child, Kimberly, who is four years old.

Mr. Brewer is a member of VECAA and has much praise for the organization. He believes it is of great political import. Citing the recent efforts to stop work on the median strip of Jackson Avenue, he feels VECAA should "work as a vehicle for people to come together to utilize their diverse talents in achieving common goals."

Reporting on legislative activities, Mr. Brewer cites the spending of state surplus monies and revenue sharing funds as the primary task awaiting the Assembly. "Since the appropriation bills will appear late in the session, great care must be given not to overlook these bills in the haste of closing the session." Mr. Brewer, who is on the House Financial Ways and Means and General Welfare committees, can be counted on to see these bills through.

Commenting on Governor Dunn's housing development program, Mr. Brewer expressed hope that a modified proposal could be passed. He feels the proposal is admirable and is not in any sense a "give away". By providing a subsidy to mortgage interest payments he believes a greater segment of those very near to purchasing a home can be given the incentive to buy moderately priced houses.

Mr. Brewer is less optimistic that no-fault insurance and the "circuit breaker" welfare reform proposal will be passed. He doesn't believe that the proposed 15% mandatory reduction on personal injury insurance premiums will be of any benefit unless other premium costs such as those on property damage can be regulated. He also expressed the need for a compulsory liability program to replace the present financial responsibility

system. As for welfare reform, Mr. Brewer stated that state Democrats will seek to replace the "circuit breaker" proposal of refunds to indigents with a more comprehensive Medicaid program. The plan calls for the proposed \$12.5 million state funding to be matched with a 3 to 1 federal categorical grant.

Mr. Brewer takes an active interest in local affairs and hopes to run for his second term in office. He believes that all Shelby Countians should work together and invites everyone to make his views known to him.

Welcome

The smallest "newcomer" to be welcomed this month is Roger Sean Cooper who weighed nine pounds and two ounces when he was born on February 22. His parents are Roger and Lou Anne Cooper of 1856 Vollintine. Mr. Cooper is news director for radio station WREC.

JAMES and LIBBY DAUGHDRILL are the new residents of Southwestern's president's home at 671 West Drive. Mr. Daughdrill comes to Southwestern with a background in both business and the ministry, having served most recently as Secretary of Stewardship for the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. Their children are RISHA, 16, GAY, 5, and a son, HAL, 17, who plans to enter Southwestern as a freshman this fall.

Two newcomers to the neighborhood are PEGGY WARING and KATHY MARCROM, both of the University Cabanas. Formerly classmates at the U.T. Medical Units, Kathy comes to the neighborhood after a year in Nashville, while Peggy is moving in from Whitehaven. Both are dental hygienists working in private dental practices.

Welcome to BARBARA STAGGS who moved recently to the University Cabanas. Miss Staggs teaches an academic adjustment class at Riverview School. She grew up in Memphis and is a graduate of Memphis State University.

New residents of the garage apartment at 407 Stonewall are Mrs. MARTHA TAYLOR and her eight-year-old son, TODD. "Marty" comes to the V/E community from Whitehaven and is employed as assistant bookkeeper by Central States Dredging Co. Todd is a second-grader at Vollentine School.

staff: editors: rick thomas, george bradfute/news: lou anne cooper, hershel lipow, bernice williams/copy: nancy lowe/business: richard johnson/typing: cathy awsumb, sallee bruhwiler, alleen castellani, judy johnson, judy wieduwilt/circulation: niki st. cyr/printing: john w. smith, courtesy south-western at memphis.

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