

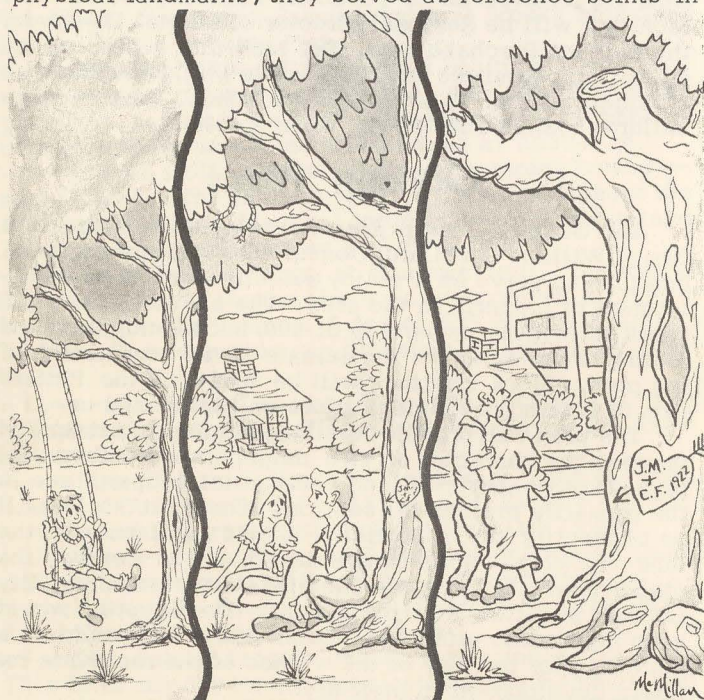
A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

## There Are Places

by Rick Thomas

As we threaded our way through the newly-budded brush the old man asked, "Do you know what kind of tree that is?" Of course I did because they were all over Tennessee. But this was thought to be the only magnolia tree in Stone County, Arkansas, and as such stood as a familiar landmark. "For over fifty years," the old man continued, "I've taken my lunch out there and sat and waited for the deer to come along. It's a real good deer crossing."

This magnolia tree, this landmark, had a central place in the old man's life and in the history of this mountain people. Several times during the weekend other folk referred to the magnolia tree as a point of reference. And there were others — the swinging bridge at Sylamore Creek, Martin's Hole, the Fox schoolhouse — that served as landmarks for these people. But they were more than physical landmarks, they served as reference points in



the history of the community and each of its members. And probably more important than this, they stand as symbols of permanence, as reminders that some things in the universe are constant. As such they suggest that there is an order to things in this life.

As long as man has existed on this earth he has created landmarks to guide him, his descendants and his community. Even the most nomadic tribe holds dear certain points of reference, monuments to its past that it knows will be there, no matter how far its wanderings, when its people return. This has always been important to man for his world-view, his conception of reality, is not fragmented but is a complicated web of experience which, above all, must be founded upon physical referents. The magnolia tree, Fisher's Point and the oasis at Rebiana have all served as tangible coordinants pro-

viding different men at different times some physical basis for their abstract constructions of the universe.

An obvious characteristic of modern urban life is the individual's loss of any physical points of reference which may have been intricately tied in with his life history. The mobility of contemporary man has led him to leave behind physical reminders of his life and upon returning to his birthplace, all too often, he finds everything changed. The landmarks of his childhood have been replaced by "progress".

We in the Vollintine/Evergreen community are fortunate in this sense. Most of our landmarks are still intact. Some are gone, of course, with the ditch "hide-out" between Avalon and Willett, the "haunted house" at the corner of Forrest and Avalon, the open field at University and Vollintine all having disappeared. Happily, many more remain. One for me is the giant cedar on Evergreen between Henry and Vollintine under which my mother had to stand twenty-four years ago to tell me which branch to step on to climb down. For others it might be the trails that wind around the Southwestern College of Music, the ginkgo tree at the corner of Hawthorne and Forrest or a certain alleyway.

Perhaps this is one of the factors contributing to the serenity and stability of the V/E community, the things that never change, the physical points of reference that represent permanence and order. Fortunately the new people moving into the neighborhood have recognized the significance of many of these landmarks and, hopefully, they will see to it that they remain as points of reference for future generations of V/E residents.

## Around The Neighborhood

The Shelby County Democratic Club (Precinct 40-2) continues to make progress in its effort to get an improved sewer system for the neighborhood. In a meeting with Mayor Chandler on March 19, the club got a promise from the mayor to have the bottom of Cypress Creek cleaned, and it was learned that the work will begin this summer on construction of the \$60 million North Memphis sewage plant.

The SCDC precinct club is also pushing for City Council approval for \$200,000 for new sewer lines in the Cypress Creek area. The weather has caused several delays in the survey for this project, but plans should be ready soon.


The application of SAM EVANS, who operates Southwestern Pharmacy at 623 N. McLean, to sell beer for on-premises consumption, was turned down by the Alcohol Commission. Mr. Evans had presented his case at the April 16 meeting of VECAR and promised a well-supervised establishment catering to Southwestern students. Although VECAR took no position on the application at the hearing before the Alcohol Commission, there was opposition from a group of residents for several reasons, one being the proximity of Snowden School.

VECAR voted to oppose an application to change the zoning of the northwest corner at Jackson and Springdale

The next VECAR meeting will be Monday May 21 at 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at McLean Baptist Church. The annual election of officers is scheduled for this meeting.



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from R-3 (two-family) to C-1 (neighborhood commercial). On April 19 the Planning Commission rejected this application; at this time it is not known whether this decision will be appealed before the City Council.

The home of the GREENE's at 1074 Terry Circle was the scene of a barbecue to further the campaign of Dr. VASCO SMITH in the special election for the County Court to be held May 15. Besides Dr. and Mrs. Smith, about a hundred attended, including both neighborhood and city dignitaries, consumed large quantities of ribs and chicken, and listened to speeches.

A nine-unit townhouse development proposed for the northwest corner of McLean and Edward was described to the April 16 VECAA meeting by developer ELMER MOORE, Jr. His application to have the zoning for the 85,000 square foot area changed from R-3 (two-family) to R-TH (townhouse) has been rejected by the Planning Commission, and he has not yet decided whether to appeal the decision to the City Council.

About 4000 square feet of Jackson Avenue median strip will survive as a result of a compromise between VECAA and the State Department of Transportation. The planned left-turn stacking lanes will be reduced in size at Stonewall, Maury, and Willett and eliminated entirely at McNeil. The compromise culminates two months of legal effort by MARVIN RATNER and previous work by MARGARET DICHTEL and other VECAA members.

**Services**

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**Wanted**

PUSH MOWER in reasonable condition. 278-2210.  
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**Gossip**

Dr. Granville D. Davis of 1960 North Parkway was elected president of the University Council on Education for Public Responsibility at its April conference held on the Southwestern campus. Dr. Davis has been Dean of Continuing Education at the school since 1954. His program has been so successful that Southwestern is the only undergraduate college in the United States represented on the University Council.

The female Teenager of the Year for 1973 is a V/E resident. Miss Nancy Andrews of 1901 Overton Park was chosen from 24 finalists in this contest sponsored by the Memphis Press Scimitar. Nancy has served as cheerleader, girl's vice president of the student government and president of the business club at Central High School. She was awarded a \$1000 scholarship by the newspaper.

CHARLES and PRISCILLA McARTHUR moved recently from 919 N. McLean to Paducah, Kentucky, where Dr. McArthur will be Regional Director of Mental Health for the Jackson Purchase area. Dr. McArthur served on the education committee of VECAA, while Mrs. McArthur was president of the PTA at Vollentine School where their children, MARK and DAVID, were enrolled.

**Garden Plans**

The Central Garden Area Association has hired the firm of William S. Pollard, Consultants to prepare a land-use plan to serve as a policy guideline for future development of property in the area. The association is six years old with a membership of 600, but all neighborhood residents are asked to participate in the preparation of the plan. Block meetings will be held by the Pollard firm to determine resident views on future land use.

The plan will provide detailed planning to retain and improve the character of the neighborhood and control high-density apartment and commercial property use in the primarily residential section. The first steps will be to identify key potential problems and issues for the land-use plan. Upon completion in 8 - 10 months, the plan will be filed with the Planning Commission and City Council adoption will be sought. The adoption would have no binding effect on either body, but would be a guideline for the city of the wishes of the residents for future development in their area.

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This first example of indigenous neighborhood planning can be a guide to similar action in other sections of the city, including the Vollintine/Evergreen area. Specific problems to be studied will be different for each neighborhood. A paid consulting firm is not always necessary, since much of the work can be done by volunteers. Constant and long-term neighborhood participation in the planning process is necessary, however, if residents of city neighborhoods are to successfully guide future development.

## Happenings

MAY

- 5-----Chi Omega Sorority May Day Festival at Southwestern. Activities for this annual event will include carnival type games and skits and the royal May Day Court will be presented. The festival starts at 3 p.m. with proceeds going to the Crippled Childrens Hospital.
- 4 - 31-----Exhibition of works by Ron Pekar, Jacqueline Tomulonis Smith and Samual Smith at Brooks Memorial Art Gallery in Overton Park.
- 7-----Series of "Fix-it" workshops begins at Lewis Senior Citizens Center. Techniques for handling minor plumbing, painting, carpentry, electrical and automotive repairs will be presented on Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
- 7-----Ladies Golf Lessons begin at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. The lessons will be given throughout the month of May and additional information can be obtained by calling Grant Chambers at 278-4430.
- 7 - 16-----Mime Workshop at Southwestern. Stephanie Rich, a student of Marcel Marceau, will conduct a nightly workshop on the campus. A fee of \$35 will be charged. Additional information can be obtained by calling 274-6606.
- 9 - 12-----Snowden Junior High Band to compete. The group will travel to Six Flags Over Georgia for the four-day contest.
- 10-----May Day at Vollentine Elementary School. This annual PTA-sponsored festival will feature athletic events and the presentation of the May Day Court.
- 10, 17, 24-----Slide shows at Lewis Senior Citizens Center. Charles Griffin will present slide programs on Istanbul (May 10), Moscow (May 17) and Leningrad (May 24). The shows begin at 10:30 a.m.
- 12-----Zoo Action Program monthly meeting at the zoo. This is family day for the organization with members and

- their families enjoying a picnic after the meeting.
- 24-----Monthly XYZ Club (senior citizens) to meet at Springdale Methodist Church. The program is at 11 a.m. and is followed by a potluck lunch.
- 31-----Zoo Day sponsored by Friends of the Memphis Pink Palace Museum. The fourth annual Zoo Day will have a circus theme with singers, Indian dancers, snake handlers and numerous acts. The activities will last from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JUNE

- 1 - 2-----Commencement Weekend at Southwestern. The Baccalaureate Service will be held on Friday at 3:30 p.m. at Evergreen Presbyterian Church and the graduation ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday in Fisher Garden on the campus.
- 1st week-----Physical examinations at Southwestern for federally-sponsored summer youth sports program. Call the athletic department at 274-1800 for further information.

## Meet The Neighbors

**Another Rep Raps**

by Hershel Lipow

At 22, DOY DANIELS, Jr., has done very well as the freshman State Representative of District 89. In addition to being selected chairman of the Investigating Committee for Welfare Reform, he serves as the Majority Whip of the Democratic House Caucus. He is the youngest whip in Tennessee's history.

Rep. Daniels points out that, as this legislative session draws to a close, the General Assembly has a lot of work to do and little time to do it in. Among those issues caught up in this final flourish are several with which he is deeply concerned.

One of these is the welfare situation in Tennessee. The present welfare system is obviously both inequitable and inefficient. Many citizens of the state are still failing to receive needed benefits. And the overwhelming burden of supporting the existing system is unduly placed on the middle income taxpayer who can ill afford the expense. In light of these problems, Rep. Daniels has introduced and passed a resolution calling for a comprehensive study of the State Welfare System with an eye toward eventual reform.

Another such issue is that of fair trade and the liquor industry in Tennessee. He is primary sponsor of a bill

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which would repeal the existing fair trade laws on liquor in Tennessee. Under these laws, liquor wholesalers and retailers are guaranteed a certain percentage of profit on every bottle sold. Such a guaranteed annual income for vested interests has no place in our free enterprise economy. He was involved in the losing effort to defeat a bill which gives the liquor industry an additional \$3.5 million annual profit under existing fair trade laws. In his opinion such legislation is of no benefit to the individual citizen and does not deserve approval by the Legislature.

Because of the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court declaring capital punishment unconstitutional, Rep. Daniels feels the state is in need of appropriate legal penalties for certain heinous crimes. To fill this need he has introduced another bill calling for the levying of mandatory, non-parolable life sentences for a few specified crimes including particular cases of murder, rape, armed robbery, and air hijacking. Although he feels our penal system should emphasize rehabilitation instead of collective revenge, he sees a clear need for appropriate measures to insure our safety by keeping dangerous criminals off the streets.

Of major concern to V/E residents is the problem of the Interstate 40 expressway in our district. Earlier he introduced an amendment to the General Appropriations Bill which would prohibit state funds from being used to build the expressway along the present L&N railroad tracks through the V/E community. In addition to this amendment, he is introducing a bill which would make it illegal to build the expressway along this route. Improved means of transportation are certainly important, he points out, but not important enough to destroy communities in the process.

In addition to these measures, Rep. Daniels also succeeded in passing an amendment to the Presidential Primary Bill which would insure that delegates to national political conventions cast their votes according to the wishes of the voters.

Rep. Daniels is a native Memphian who attended Messick High School. Before entering the Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant, he was enrolled in Law School at Memphis State. In addition to his legislative duties on the General Welfare and Consumer Affairs Committees, Rep. Daniels is a partner of Daniels Drywall Company. He is also an active member of the Park Avenue Church of the Nazarene.

A newcomer to the VECAA area, Rep. Daniels likes the progress that has been made, and plans to run again. He believes VECAA has done more to organize people of good will than any other similar group. "VECAA has promoted causes that have served not only our community, but the entire city as well. VECAA should work to disperse information on what a harmonious community can be. It serves as a model to the rest of the city."

Rep. Daniels lives at 1517 Jackson and invites everyone to drop by.

## Directory Of Neighborhood Services

The EVERGREEN NEWS will periodically publish a list of neighborhood residents who are willing to answer your questions or help with your problems in their particular areas of expertise. A number of different topics are covered by the directory, and it is hoped that it will provide a ready source of information on matters of neighborhood concern.

### Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association—

Margaret Dichtel at 275-4671 or 525-1681. The chairman of the VECAA Steering Committee will furnish old and new residents with information about the neighborhood in general and the organization in particular.

### THE EVERGREEN NEWS--Rick Thomas at 278-2210

or 725-0680. The co-editor of the newsletter will answer any questions on content, distribution or advertising.

### Real Estate—Joe Hough at 274-5551 or 396-3130.

Questions related to real estate values, transactions or sales tactics will be answered as well as any other inquiries concerning neighborhood property.

### Social Services—Kathryn Baker, MSW, at 276-2970 or

725-0680. Answers will be provided to all questions concerning health services and social welfare services with referrals being made to appropriate community agencies.

### Education—David Vincent at 275-0248.

The chairman of the VECAA Education Committee will answer any questions concerning elementary and secondary education in the community and refer residents to other organizations working with schools.

### Services for Senior Citizens—Ed Pulik at 272-7408.

The director of the Josephine K. Lewis Center for Senior Citizens will handle any questions concerning activities for the elderly citizen and the problems faced by this group.

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