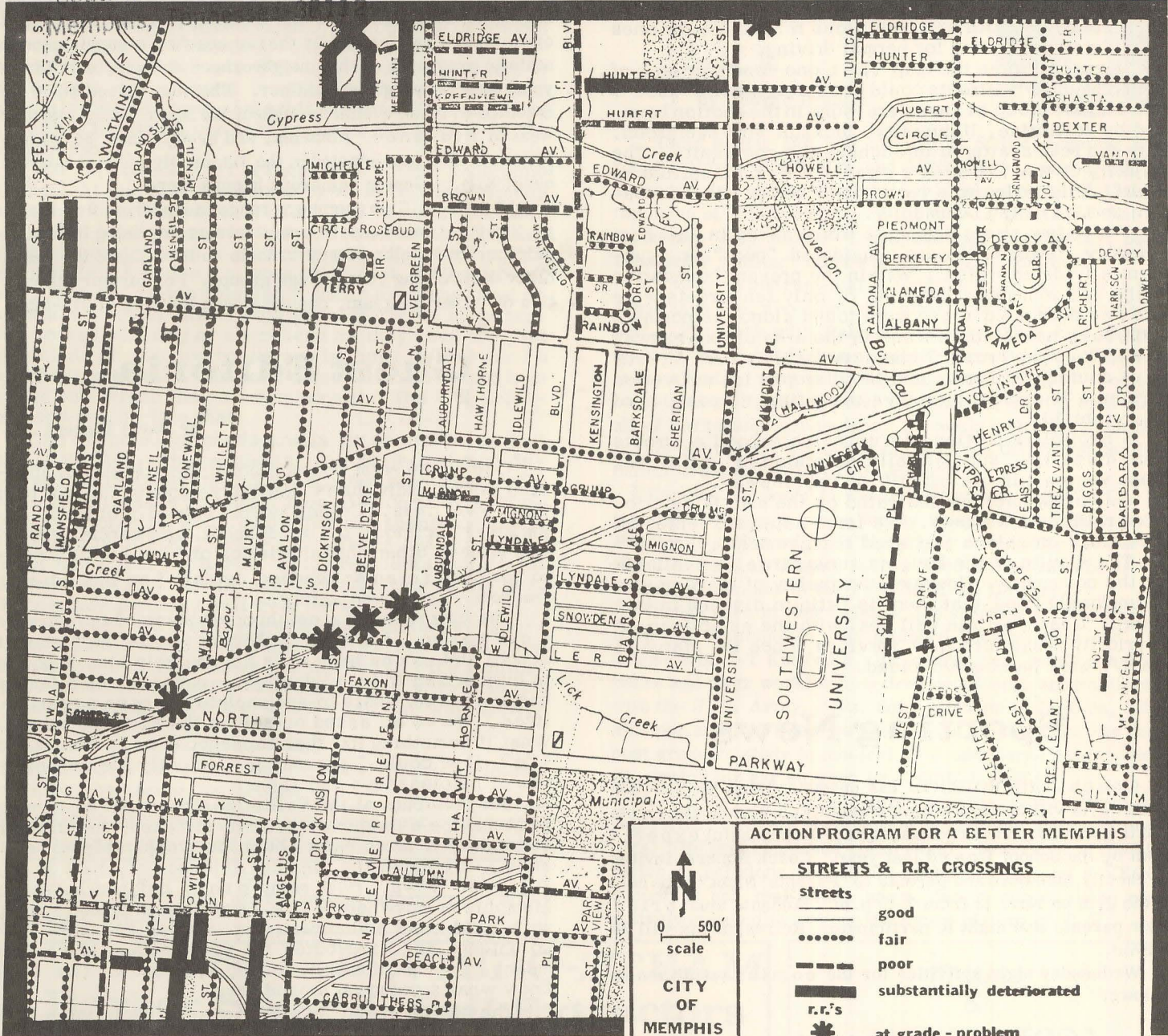


# The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

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Southwestern at Memphis

## Street Signs



For the first time in the city's history a comprehensive survey of each street has been completed. The City's Policy Planning and Analysis Bureau developed the study of street conditions, curbs and gutters in conjunction with a survey of housing conditions. These two features — environmental conditions and housing — are being combined along with various social indicators to delineate priority areas for city services.

The results of the first phase — street conditions — for the Vollintine/Evergreen community are presented on

Memphis, Tennessee  
Volume IV, No. 11


8 November, 1974  
Circulation: 5750

**ACTION PROGRAM FOR A BETTER MEMPHIS**

**STREETS & R.R. CROSSINGS**

<b>Streets</b>	
—————	good
.....	fair
- - - - -	poor
—————	substantially deteriorated
<b>r.r.'s</b>	
★	at grade - problem
★	above/below - problem
★	at grade/no problem

**POLICY PLANNING & ANALYSIS BUREAU**  
**MAYOR/CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**



The November VECAA meeting will be held at McLean Baptist Church on the 18th at 7:30 p.m. All Evergreen News carriers will be "thanked" by VECAA for their untiring efforts. Refreshments will be served.



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the map above. As can be seen from the key, streets were classified as "good", "fair", "poor", or "substantially deteriorated". Good streets were those that were consistently smooth and conditions ranged to poor ones considered dangerous for normal driving.

It appears from the map that one-fourth or less of the community's streets could be categorized as "good". The largest group of these are found in the section bounded by Vollintine, University, Jackson and Evergreen, with the rest scattered throughout the community. The majority of the V/E area's streets were classified as "fair". This rating was particularly common in the western portion of the community.

While few street segments were ranked in the best category, fewer still were considered "poor" or "substantially deteriorated". Within the present boundaries of the V/E community portions of only ten streets were rated as poor and these were found along the northern edge, in or near Hein Park and in the area of expressway demolition. The "rustic" character of Hein Park streets is, of course, deliberate and the disrepair in the Overton Park area is related to delays in the final disposition of Interstate 40.

A negligible portion of our neighborhood's streets were given the "substantially deteriorated" rating and these were all in the path of the expressway.

One other problem indicated on the map is deteriorated railroad crossings. The large asterisks represent "at grade" crossings that need improvement.

The results of the housing survey are also available for the community. However, the quality of housing was so uniformly good that there is little to discuss in this regard. A later article will deal with the establishment of priority areas for city services, once the status of the V/E area has been decided.

## Sporting News

Coach JOHN ROBERTS has announced that the Snowden School gym will be open to the community on Wednesday nights starting Nov. 6. This a continuation of a successful experiment by the School Board last year. Coach Roberts invites all faculty members and parents to "Parents' Night" to be held at the gym on Nov. 13 from 7-10 p.m. Students must bring their parents that night to participate. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday night activities for the coming month are as follows:

- Nov. 20...Wrestling Exhibition
- Nov. 27...Volleyball—Parents vs. Children
- Dec. 4...Karate Exhibition

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In other developments, Coach Roberts joins with Coach HAROLD BUEHLER of Cypress Junior High School in encouraging participation in the North Memphis Track Club. This organization was formed by the two coaches to supplement the athletic programs of the neighborhood schools, with 75 area youth participating last summer. The club raised \$1300 and traveled to track events throughout the South. Sixty members went to Florence, Alabama, and brought back 84 medals. Members also participated in the Junior Olympics at Spartanburg, S.C., winning numerous honors there.

At present Club members range in age from 9 to 17, but as this edition goes to press tryouts are being held at the neighborhood's elementary schools to investigate the possibility of involving younger age groups. For further information on either program, contact Coach Roberts at 275-8230.

## Guest Editorial

by David Vincent

One of the most common complaints about urban living is that individuals don't have enough control over their own lives. Crime, taxes, school problems, impersonal decisions of government, commercial sprawl and various other characteristics of the big city seem to combine in an entrenched denial of an individual's freedom — and even safety.

The city rezones a neighboring place of property for a gas station. A child is having special problems at school and no one tries or is able to help him. A house is burglarized in broad daylight — possessions a family has worked for years to accumulate are gone or gandalized. We've all asked ourselves the same questions. What if something like that happened to me? What could I do? How could I prevent it? Usually the feeling is one of helplessness and anger.

But residents of the Vollintine/Evergreen area have what may be a unique opportunity to make living in their community a much safer, healthier, enjoyable experience. At present the clearest evidence of that is the Evergreen News. How many other neighborhoods in Memphis or anywhere else have a monthly newspaper with local news and advertising, written and edited by volunteers and distributed by volunteers? It's a rare means of communication, letting everyone in the area know what's going on around them.

The neighborhood also has an association — the Vollintine/Evergreen Community Action Association — which has been an effective representative of the area's interests before the City Council, the U.S. District Court, the Board of Education and other bodies.



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In a recent development, VECAA has started working with Southwestern on long-range plans for orderly growth and a healthy living environment throughout the area, plans that require citizen input. The college has even set up a separate department on urban planning. Foundation funds are being sought to give added support to the project. At a recent meeting at the college, city officials outlined some of the things that VECAA members and other residents can do to preserve the quality of the neighborhood.

The very concept of a neighborhood has undergone change. At one time it referred to vicinities where many of the residents knew one another, had common concerns and could be distinguished by common characteristics. Such places are hard to find anymore. We have become too mobile. A house is more often just a place to eat and sleep and watch television than the home base of a person's social life. Neighbors don't meet in the normal course of a day or a weekend as they used to. But new kinds of neighborhoods can be built, where more people join together for more diverse reasons to achieve goals from which they all can benefit. The V/E neighborhood can be like that.

One of the major needs now is for greater participation in VECAA by the residents. The projects being developed by the Association and Southwestern eventually will have to have volunteer help to become effective. More memberships would allow this newspaper to expand its coverage of area news — and perhaps even the number of times it is published. If the residents really want to shape and improve the neighborhood, this is the best chance they probably will ever have.

Each copy of the Evergreen News includes a membership blank. The dues are only \$2.50. Each copy also announces the times and subjects of the monthly VECAA meetings. That's where the small voices in the urban wilderness can be heard — all the way to City Hall.

DAVID VINCENT is a resident of 734 N. Auburndale and has long been active in VECAA.

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## Meet The Neighbors

### "SOLD"

by George Bradfute



About a year ago JOE and JULIE SOHM, together with their children JOHN JOE and JENNIFER, now 3½ and 2½ respectively, moved from the 300 block of North McLean to the home at 872 Sheridan. What is a bit unusual is that the Sohms are "sold" on the VE neighborhood, but that Mr. Sohm is actively "selling" others in his work in real estate.

"I've been instrumental in locating three families in this area" says Joe, who didn't stop after finding a home for himself. His work with Palmer Brothers takes him all over Shelby County, but he has a special interest here. "I believe in the area and want to do anything I can to help." Joe is a one-man membership drive for VECCA, having canvassed all of Barksdale door-to-door. He would welcome some help in this effort (call 278-6962) and believes that broad participation is the key to VECCA's success.

Besides his work in the neighborhood with VECCA, he teaches the seventh grade Sunday School class at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. In the larger community Joe serves the U-T Alumni Chapter as its Vice-President and is the secretary nominee of the Friends of the Library.

Though born in New Orleans, Joe attended schools in Midtown and Whitehaven. He attended Southwestern and is a graduate of U-T Knoxville. He entered real estate about ten years ago after working as a drug detail man and soldiering with the U. S. Army. Mrs. Sohm grew up in Jackson, Mississippi, and is a fine arts graduate of MSCW. She has done post graduate study in medical arts and works as a medical illustrator for ear surgeon Dr. JOHN J. SHEA.

Joe is a member of a library committee that wants to publish PAUL COPPOCK'S collection of Memphis historical memoirs. He is a confessed history buff, interested in the histories of religions and ethnic groups. And, as a VECCA supporter and real estate agent, Joe is one of those most actively engaged in writing the future history of V. E.

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## Around The Neighborhood

Little Flower School has announced the appointment of LOUIS HOBSON as principal for the remainder of the 1973-74 school year. Mr. Hobson was formerly principal at Manassas High School and is now retired. He has long been active in civic affairs and will take the position on November 4.

Professor JACK CONRAD of 1751 Forrest recently wrote four chapters for a new book — Peoples of the World — now in press in London. In addition, an earlier work of his, The Horn and the Sword, has been republished by Greenwood Press. Dr. Conrad is Chairman of the Anthropology Department at Southwestern.

Another neighborhood resident was recently cited in a local newspaper. Mrs. BYRON E. LEACH of 1550 N. Parkway is co-author of a new booklet entitled "To Make It, You Gotta." The publication spoofs the traditional stereotype of women as typists. Mrs. Leach has done free lance art work and illustrations for the Rockefeller Center and the New Orleans Times-Picayune.

The Lewis Center for Senior Citizens has announced a new program for blind and visually handicapped citizens in the community. In cooperation with Services for the Blind, the Center will offer weekly classes for the purpose of teaching these individuals needed skills that will allow them to participate in the activities of the Center. For further information, contact ANN GRIFFIN at 272-7408.

Another local celebrity is Dr. JACK FARRIS of 990 University. One of his novel's, Ramey, was made into a TV movie entitled "The Greatest Gift." Many viewers may have seen it on Monday night, November 4, without realizing it was written by one of our neighbors.

FOR SALE. Side and front tables, all wood. Side tables have drawer in front, \$80; cot with iron springs and frame \$10.99. Call 274-9417.

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<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>

## Divine 'Decline'

Article by Brad McMillan

"To those whose law is gravity,  
 The pun is a social depravity,  
 And he who professes  
 A liking possesses  
 A surplus cranial cavity."



— from the foreword of "The Decline and Fall of the Gibbon" by James Roper and Draper Hill.

What hath this rascal Roper wrought? The good professor hath wrought a book, of course, but it is no ordinary book with all those dreary social messages and heroic themes. No, it is a book of over fifty pun-packed limericks with absolutely no redeeming social value. As Southwestern professor JAMES ROPER readily admits, this accumulation of verse is "an exercise in irrelevance," and joining him in this refreshing irrelevance is the Commercial Appeal political cartoonist, old Poison Q. Brush himself, DRAPER HILL, who has executed (not a pun) 29 boldly absurd and amusing drawings to complement Professor Roper's lines of true wit.

You ask, "Why mention a book of this nature in a family publication like the Evergreen News?" The answer is that James Roper, professor of English literature and 22-year veteran of the Southwestern faculty, is a V/E resident living the last two limerick-producing years at 959 University.

Although "The Decline" is the first publication of his in this vein, Professor Roper is no novice at writing or publication. In 1969 he released "The Founding of Memphis" coinciding with the Sesquicentennial celebration and wrote approximately half of the Delta Review edition honoring that event. He has also written a dozen or more articles for various historical journals.

And now you ask, "Why would such a respectable scholar lend his good name and efforts to such a venture?" The answer I suspect after talking to him is simply that the man is alive with a sharp sense of humor and a healthy sense of the absurd, and he enjoys frivolity in both line and verse.

Recognizing these qualities in James Roper and similar qualities in Draper Hill, Walter P. Armstrong moved the two talents toward the fateful collaboration and soon found himself to be the "sole proprietor" of The Inadvertent Press with the lone publication, "The Decline and Fall of the Gibbon."

In regard to the quality of the book, Professor Roper solemnly summarizes, "The type is big enough." I summarize it is a bit more. It is a veritable cerebral circus and a must for those times when you thirst for some good old-fashioned fun and irrelevance.

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