# The EVERGREENEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

## **Shops Swap**

by Rick Thomas

When a visitor from National Neighbors recently toured the Vollintine/Evergreen Community, she felt that the stability of the area's shopping centers was a big plus. This is quite true as many of the neighborhood's shops have been in operation for decades.

There is one shopping area, however, whose character has reflected the changes that have occured in the V/E community. This is the shopping center in the 1500 block of Vollintine between Maury and Avalon. Constructed in 1930 as a "suburban" center, the group of eight stores has undergone many changes in 45 years.

The first occupant was Avalon Grocery on the eastern end of the center. It was joined in 1931 by another grocery, Dlugach Real Estate Company and the Owl Sandwich Shop #2. (Dlugach Park near Jackson and University was named for a member of the Dlugach family.)

Since that time a wide variety of stores have occupied these premises. Everything a neighborhood would need - barber shops, a bakery, a dentist, coin-operated laundries and drug stores - has been located there. Some ventures were short-lived, others became neighborhood institutions. Terrell's Drug Store, for example, served the area for over twenty-five years.

In 1939 the store with the longest tenure in the center opened its doors. In this year "TONY" EVANGELISTI established Weona #21 on the site of the old Avalon Grocery and he has been serving neighborhood residents ever since. Tony, who lives at 903 N. Avalon, was joined in 1950 by his partner, LOUIS PIERANTONI, a resident of 850 N. Avalon. Together they run an old-fashioned neighborhood store, with family members frequently helping out.

Although Evangelisti's has lost much of the ethnic trade (primarily Italian and Jewish) they once catered to, business is better than ever. Now about 50% of his customers are black and he carries less kosher food but, other than that, its business as usual. In the past Tony built up trade by extending credit and today he still provides delivery service (and some of the best-looking produce this side of the Curb Market). Despite competition from Pierantoni's brotherin-law (Bosi's Grocery on Jackson) Weona #21 is looking forward to another 36 years.

The next store in the center was only established in 1971. Little Italy Restaurant is unique in that it is a neighborhood type restaurant offering sophisticated Italian dishes. Mrs.



There will be no general meeting of the Vollintine/Evergreen Community Action Association in July. Watch the <u>News</u> for notice of the next meeting.

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EULA MURRAY knew the neighborhood and thought it suitable for a restaurant of this type. In 1973 she even expanded by adding a private dining room with 40 seats. Everything from antipasto to spumoni is available from 4 p.m. except Mondays.

Today the shop at the westernend is a laundry-cleaners as it has been for the past several years. At one time it was part of the Hurlburt chain but in 1972 was bought by Mr. KNOWLEDGE DAVIS. Mr. Davis, who lives in the Westwood area, had no laundry experience but liked the location. His business has been successful so far with operating hours from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

East of Davis Laundry-Cleaners is the neighborhood's only appliance repair shop. Mr. JAMES M. MOSELEY. who resides at 2257 Vollintine, opened Moseley's Enterprises 19 months ago. He brought his 23 years of experience to a new location and has attracted a lot of neighborhood trade. Mr. Moseley repairs and services all types of appliances including air conditioners and heaters. He also sells everything from tape players to clothes dryers. Mr. Moseley employs four workers and is open five and one-half days a week

A store that has only been open three months is Discount Shoes and Clothes owned by PAUL COX. Mr. Cox, who lives in the Chelsea-Watkins area, sells a variety of shoes, clothes and accessories and from time-to-time such items as motor oil. Most of the goods are from warehouse closeouts or discontinued lines and carry reasonable prices. Mr. Cox is an auto mechanic in addition to operating his shop from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Two shops in the center are run on a part-time basis. Dannie's Beauty Shop is open primarily on weekends and Marilyn's Items is open afternoons only. Marilyn's is the



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closest thing in the neighborhood to a "head shop." Her wares include posters, records, smoking paraphernalia and novelties. She also provides some pinball machines.

One other shop at 954 Maury is vacant. It was recently a gift and wig shop and rumor has it that an eating place is in the plans for the location.

The Vollintine center has changed over the decades. Much of its clientele is black and some of the businesses are black-owned. Despite these changes most of the merchants still visit each other and actively cater to the needs of the surrounding community.

#### Nashville Notes

PAM GAIA may be a freshmanlegislator, but her aspirations in Tennessee's 89th General Assembly revealed those of the eldest. She sponsored four bills which directly affect the V/E Community. "I feel good about my experiences in Nashville, "says Pam. "I got involved in legislation in which I had a great deal of personal commitment."

Pam, who represents District 89, (the portion of the V/E Community south of Vollintine, introduced two bills which would lower the cost of prescription drugs by allowing a pharmacist to substitute aless expensive but therapeutically equivalent drug and by requiring him to list the 100 most used drugs and their prices. "This would allow the consumer to shop for drugs and, since senior citizens buy 25% of all drugs, it would be especially helpful to them." These bills were deferred to the 1976 session, and Pam urges public support of their passage.

Another of Pam's bills, which is pending in the Senate would award attorney's fees to tenants who successfully sue landlords for security deposits. Also in the area of housing is her newly passed law which exempts from property taxes non-profit housing developments for elderly and handicapped tenants. A new development at St. Peter's Orphanage will benefit from this provision.

An interesting budgetory reform that Pam hopes to pass next session is a redistribution of gas tax revenues to favor urban counties. "Shelby County now contributes the most and receives the least returns," states Pam. Her work on the budget helped the U.T. Dental School receive nearly \$600,000. She believes U.T. deserves special attention since the last Tennessee medical units will be competing for state funds.

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#### Meet The Neighbors

by Rick Thomas

Not many people get to make their hobby their work but TONY GARNER, who with his wife BETTE, a dog and a rabbit lives at 524 Hawthorne, is one of the lucky ones. Tony is, among other things, an instructor in the music department at Southwestern and most of his activities deal in one way or another with music.

In his capacity as music professor, Tony teaches courses in music history but this is only the beginning. He is probably best known for his work as director of the Southwestern Singers, a choral group presenting mostly sacred music, and The First Generation, a youth-oriented contemporary music group. The Singers were recently honored by being invited to Romania for a nine-week tour in the summer of 1976 during which they will present the Bicentennial program being developed this year.

Tony is also choirmaster for Evergreen Presbyterian Church where he directs the adult and youth choirs. In addition he is music director for Theatre Memphis where he recently directed "My Fair Lady." When he is not doing any of these things he is singing at private parties, arranging numbers or composing original works. (When he gets tired of all this music he goes home and listens to records.)

Understandably Tony meets a lot of people in his work and one of these was his new (July, '73) wife Bette. While a student at Southwesternshe took a choral class under Tony and ended up marrying her professor. During the school year Bette is a psychometrist for the Memphis Schools Mental Health Center. She is a candidate for a master's degree in psychology at Memphis State while Tony, who graduated from Southwestern in 1964, is working toward an M.A. in music history.

Tony was born in Maryville, Tennessee, and lived all over the South before moving to Memphis in 1960. Bette grew up in Prentiss, Mississippi, and came to Memphis to attend college. She also spent some time studying in France.

Although their activities leave little time for hobbies, Bette sews, raises flowers and plays the guitar. Both spend time working on their 1911 carraige house which was featured in an article last year in the Commercial Appeal.

The Garners are happy to be living in the Vollintine/E-vergreen community and feel that it closely approximates the intimate small-town atmosphere in which they both were raised.

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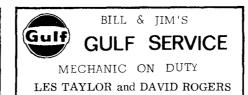
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## Around The Neighborhood

MARY ANN KALLAHER was married to Marine Private JOHN KENNETH SLOCUM on June 7 at Little Flower Church. They will be living at Cherry Point, North Carolina. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM H. KALLAHER of 1042 N. Willett.

The Lewis Center for Senior Citizens, 1188 N. Parkway, is sponsoring a trip to Chickasaw State Park (Aug. 13-15) and to Nashville (Aug 23-24). Members can attend for very reasonable fees. Please note: the Center will be closed July 18 to August 4 for summer vacation.

Welcome to new neighbor ROWLETT NEEL SCOTT born on March 20 to ROWLETT and MARTHA SCOTT of 933 Oakmont Place.

Other newcomers directly across the street from the Scotts are DENNIE and RUTHANN SMITH who moved into 934 Oakmont Place in June. Dennie is an associate professor at Memphis State in education (curriculum development) and Ruth Ann is an undergraduate student at the same school. Moving with them are a son, CHAD (12) and a daughter, NIKI, (8).

Open Door Bible Church (1792 N. Parkway) will sponsor an Institute on Evangelism, July 14-19, featuring evangelist Larry Moyer. The Institute will emphasize love, knowledge, boldness and obedience as factors in evangelism. Reservations are \$10 which includes one banquet.

ROBERT GAMMON of 676 Dickinson has announced as a candidate for an at-large position on the Memphis Board of Education. Mr. Gammon is a reading improvement teacher at Hollywood Elementary School.

The low bid for the Cypress Creek Sewer Project came in at \$1.5 million, about twice what the City estimated. Since the Environmental Protection Agency grant was only for half a million dollars, the City will have to contribute about one million dollars if the sewer work is to get started this year. Despite the uncertainty about the cost, the Cypress Health

and Safety Committee announced a victory celebration and backyard barbeque for July 12 at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of the event is to get the sewer line project under way; invited speakers include Judge RAY CHURCHILL, Rev. SAMUEL B. KYLES of Operation PUSH, and Councilman JOHN FORD. The place is the home of Brother GREENE at 1074 Terry Circle.

Welcome to GLENN CROMWELL JORDAN, who was born to JERRY and BETTY JORDAN on May 29. The Jordans live at 923 N. Idlewild. Mr. Jordan is an architect with Yeates and Gaskill and recently passed the state examination for registered architects.

CHARLIE and BECKY MARTIN moved recently to the south side of 915 University. Mr. Martin works for Lamar Laundry and Mrs. Martin is employed by Memphis Orthopedic Associates. Their plans include college—a pre-dental course at Southwestern for Mr. Martin and U.T. Nursing School for Mrs. Martin. The Martins have been married about a year.

## Trinity Kindergarten

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1738 Galloway, is beginning a three-and four-year-old kindergarten this fall. Brucia Mory (Mrs. John) and Karen Whaley (Mrs. Tom) are co-directors and teachers. Parents may choose a three day a week or five day a week schedule.

The curriculum will be unstructured with emphasis on the individual child. The children will be free to pursue their interests at different learning and activity centers. This will allow the children to develop at their own rate.

Other aspects of the program will include visits from community helpers, field trips and outside play with active parent participation.

For more information call 276-6488 or 725-4021.

# Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

1971 Jackson Ave. (at University)
Sunday Services
7:30 A.M. — Mass
10:30 A.M. — Choral Communion,
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## Cash for Colgate

This year Snowden School is participating in the Colgate-Palmolive School Action Plan in which the company will pay cash to schools in exchange for proof of purchase for thirteen well-known Colgate products.

It is hoped that with community support this will be such a successful project financially that the number of fundraising campaigns can be reduced. It is unfortunate that it takes more resources than are allocated to each school in the school board budget. An unbelievable amount of funds are raised by each school and without them many programs would not be so successful and might be eliminated altoge-

You can help by saving the labels and boxtops from the following products. For further information please call Joanne Barlow at 276-7490.

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## More Recreation

In response to last month's article on the synagogue and recreation. Pastor R. D. KELSO of Open Door Bible Church (1792 N. Parkway) reports that his church has initiated a new program of ministry to the neighborhood's young people.

This summer recreational activities are being sponsored on Thursday nights for youngsters aged 7-14 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Similar activities are provided during the same hours on Saturday nights for young people aged 15-25. Activities include basketball, volleyball, pool, ping pong, films and refreshments. These programs are in addition to the outdoor basketball courts already provided by the church.

#### Classifieds

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The Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association (VECAA) is a non-profit neighborhood organization founded in 1970. Its boundaries are roughly Watkins, Cypress Creek, Trezevant and Overton Park Avenue. VECAA's initial goal was to enhance and maintain a stable biracial community with quality housing, services and facilities. It has been active in promoting stability, assisting in school desegregation, opposing commercial rezoning and in general promoting those activities that serve to create a viable mid-town community.

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