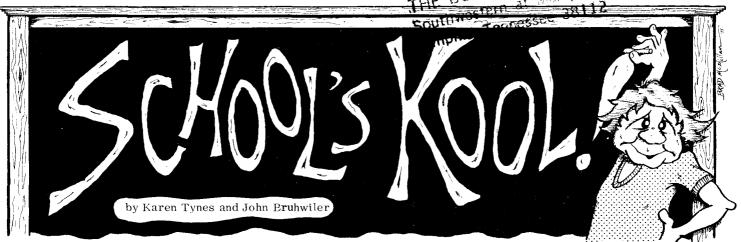
The EVERGREENEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergrand Community Action Association



At this writing the schools in the Vollintine/Evergreen Community have been in session for a full month. Education has been and continues to be an important issue in the neighborhood. This article attempts to bring residents up to date on the situation at their children's schools. Those schools examined are Vollentine Elementary, Snowden Elementary/Junior High, Northside High and Cypress Junior High. A brief report is also provided on the neighborhood's one parochial school, Little Flower.

Vollentine Elementary

Vollentine Elementary School, recipient of the School of the Year Award for the last two years, has an enrollment of 606 this fall. This marks an increase of 61 students, calling for an additional first and second grade class along with a fourth kindergarten class. ROCHESTER NEELY, Vollentine's principal stated that the racial distribution was 65% black and 35% white this year. The white enrollment represents a significant increase over the 20% white enrollment reported at this time last year. Three new teachers have joined the staff and all taught at other Memphis schools last year. They are Mrs. LINDA SYKES, Mrs. PATRICIA KOSCIOLEK, and Ms. PEGGY CONOVER.

All programs that began last year have been retained and a new Title I reading improvement program has been added. This is designed to help the child of normal intelligence who is one-half year or more behind his grade in reading. The reading improvement teacher will join the speech and special education teachers in the library. This makes the library one of the busiest places in the school. The regular activities enjoyed by each class on its scheduled day are augmented by special offerings of the Media Center. Though space will be limited this year, the parent volunteer



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

Memphis, Tennessee Volume V, Number 10 7 October, 1975 Circulation: 5750 program is again being organized to provide aids in the center. Anyone interested in giving their time, if only for an hour a week, should contact the school or Mrs. GENE PATTERSON.

Vollentine is again leading all schools in our area in the number of students being sent to attend Clue classes at Snowden and Idlewild. Unfortunately the increased enrollment has meant that space is not available to accommodate them at their own school. Parents of Clue children have taken care of transportation arrangements. These classes, once a week, give the child of above average reading ability a chance for specialized study.

Mr. Neely responded to the question of the possible teacher's strike by saying that he felt most of his faculty would continue to work. He also stated that though he was in full sympathy with the teacher's demands and thought they deserved everything we could offer them in the way of salary, better working conditions, etc., he felt very strongly that the education of our children should not be interrupted to achieve these gains. He ended by praising the faculty and the parents at Vollentine for their enthusiasm and cooperation.

Though it's still early in the year for a report on future activities, Mrs. BERNICE COUCH, PTA President says there will be a combined PTA meeting and Spaghetti Supper and Carnival October 24th. All parents and supporters of Vollentine are invited to attend. Supper tickets will be \$1.50 for adults and 75¢ for children.

Snowden

DAN COFFEY, the new principal at Snowden says that he and Mr. ROY LOGAN, the new assistant principal, are very pleased with the reception accorded them by faculty and students. The year has started off very smoothly for the students, although he and Mr. Logan are finding things very hectic learning their way around. JoANNE BARLOW, Snowden's PTA president, says the students are very positive about the new year and their new administration. They have 1139 students, 635 junior highs and 404 elementary.

Several new teachers have joined the Snowden staff. They are: Mrs. DONNIE BRADSHAW-math, Mrs. GLORIA ADAMS

home economics, Mrs. JEAN STOCKS - art, Mrs. LOIS HAWKINS is a new guidance councilor.

Mr. Coffey is very pleased with the formation of the new advisory council that will be composed of four parents, two students and two teachers. This council will serve as a sounding board for new programs and problems. He hopes that its functions will expand in the future to eccompass an even wider purpose.

There is a new addition in the regular schedule-activity clubs. Before, special interest groups had to meet after school hours. Now, a thirty minute slot is being set aside for this purpose during the day. Another new idea that is still in the talking stage is exploratory classes after school. These will depend on parent volunteers with special talents who would like to give an hour a week to teach them to students. Crafts, arts, mechanical skills, etc., are possibilities. Mr. Coffey feels that the neighborhood is rich in sharing their skills with Snowden pupils.

Accelerated classes are continuing as usual this fall. Students with high grades and who demonstrate exceptional ability in certain subjects are allowed to attend the accelerated classes in these subjects along with the regular courses for their grade level. Those students who are behind in reading and math are getting special attention under the new Title I Program. Parents will get a chance to sample all their child's classes during the Mini-day held at the October 7th P.T.A. meeting. Each class will be ten minutes long, just enough time for the parents to meet the teachers and be introduced to the curriculum.

Snowden walked off with all the prizes in the Mid-South Fair Art contest - Junior High Division. DARREL COLLINS and THOMAS HILL won blue ribbons and ALVIN ROBERT-SON won a red. Coffey also predicts it's going to be Snowden's year for football. Almost sixty players are participating this year under the guidance of Coaches Roberts and Ross, who have their eye on the league championship. They're undefeated in their league and 3-1 overall. The seventh and eighth graders also have their own team which plans on Saturdays.

Northside High

At Northside this year, MARTY WATKINS, one of the guidance councilors reports an enrollment of approximately 1500. She says this represents a slight drop in total enrollment but the number of white students, though still very small, has increased. The school continues to provide for both the student preparing for college and those seeking vocational training. Besides the usual mechanical arts classes and excellent business courses, the school also has a three year cosmotology course which grants a state license to those

completing the required courses. Under the Food Service program, students operate the Tea Room, an in-school restaurant for teachers and visitors. The students prepare, serve and act as hostesses. Experience in child care is offered in the Child Service Program which runs the half day nursery school for children up to the age of four. Under a new cooperative effort between the school and the community, twelve business students spend the last two hours of the school day working out in various businesses for school credits.

For those seniors planning to enter college next year, volunteers are being sought as sort of "friends on call". This is one way the community can demonstrate it's interest in the students during a crucial year when so many decisions must be made and so much encouragement is needed. Anyone interested in giving a little time to this should call Memphis Volunteer Placement (774-7504) and ask for JOYCE BLACK-MAN, specifying Northside High School.

Cypress Jr. High

At Cypress the office staff reports an enrollment of 1100, an increase over last year's 1047. Two new teachers, Dr. CALLIE GATHINGS and Miss SHIRLEY PENN, are heading up a new Title I Program for English/Drama. Mr. LEWIS POPE is new in the Social Studies Department. Miss MONETA HILL is continuing the SPAN (Start Planning Ahead Now) classes. These consist of field trips to various businesses and the study of different vocations. Miss Hill has been responsible for getting part time jobs for some of her students.

Mrs. LILLIE BOLTON, general music, says they're looking forward to their annual Thanksgiving program. Each year the Glee Club and the band present a concert and then with the Y - Teens, distribute baskets of food to the needy. Cypress will elect it's Homecoming Queen and have their dance on October 26th. They will meet Georgian Woods on the playing field that night. The Cypress football team is currently 3-0, being responsible for Snowden's only defeat.

Miss ORETHA MITCHELL and her twin sister LEERITHA from MSU, are student teachers at Cypress. They say they are impressed with the administration's very professional attitude and it's concern for the student's welfare. The Mitchell sisters are at Cypress under C.U.T.E. -- Cooperative Urban Teacher Education. Besides their regular teaching duties they have made studies of the community, it's demographics, business, liabilities, etc. They have also visited Juvenile Court and visited in the student's homes so as to gain a clearer understanding of our inner city schools.

With increased enrollment at Cypress classes are averaging about thirty-seven. The odor from the now notorious Cypress ditch was overwhelming during this interview and

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some teachers stated rather sadly that they were becoming resigned to it. The ditch runs the entire length of the school's northern boundary and lies only a few yards from it and the parking lot and practice field. Nevertheless, school is going on with great spirit at Cypress.

Little Flower

Little Flower School has a new principal, Sister SARA CECILIA BAILEY, and several new teachers: Mrs. BARBARA SCHWABER, Mrs. DEBRA HALL, Mrs. ANNIE WILLIAMS, Mrs. MYRTLE BROWN, Mrs. JOYCE WINDHAM, and Sister JEANINE JASTER. Sister Bailey and Sister Jaster's new home is on Dickinson while Mrs. Schwaber and Mrs. Hall live on Oakmont Place. Mrs. JANE CONWAY, the school's secretary, was pleased to point out that Mrs. Windham fills the new position of remedial reading teacher, and that Sister Jaster is the new music and religion teacher. Sister Jaster also heads the parish literature committee.

The new principal, Sister Sara, comes to Memphis from Roanoke, Virginia, where she was principal of a parochial school for eight years. Although she hasn't initiated any great changes—she is still "feeling the ground"—she does have definete plans. Her experience as a principal in Virginia, she says, has taught her that a curriculum must take care of individual needs. She intends to develop an individualized teaching approach and points out that the first steps in this direction have already been taken with the appointment of Mrs. Joyce Windham and Sister Jeanine Jaster, mentioned above.

The enrollment, Mrs. Conway says, is up to 240 students this year, representing an increase of about nine percent over last year. There continues to be a waiting list.

Another item of interest to patrons of Little Flower is the new look of the Lourdes Grotto behind Father JOHN SCOLA's residence. The beautiful paint job was completed by TERRY CONWAY of 855 University, who is a freshman in fine arts at Murray State University this year.

Address all correspondence to: <u>The Evergreen News</u>, 1906 Mignon Avenue, Memphis, TN 38107.

CD Survey

During the month of October the city will begin administering questionnaires to residents in a portion of the V/E community. One out of seven households in the area north of Vollintine, east of Evergreen and west of University will be interviewed in connection with the city's Community Development Program.

The Community Development Act provides federal funds for use by cities in neighborhood improvement and the City of Memphis has chosen to concentrate on areas that are beginning to show their age. Over two million dollars will be spent in this part of the V/E community and the adjacent area to the north. Proposed expenditures would improve streets, drainage and parks in the area.

The household survey is designed to allow for the input of neighborhood residents. Questions are included that deal with the resident's perception of the neighborhood and the services it receives as well as his impression of the improvements that are needed. This program provides an unprecedented opportunity for citizens to voice an opinion on neighborhood expenditures.

The interview results are confidential and VECAA encourages all residents that are contacted to cooperate with the interviewers who will be clearly identified.

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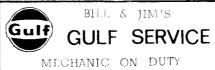


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Of Art and Editing

by Brad McMillan

Most of us know GUY NORTHROP, 4r. as the weekly art columnist for The Commercial Appeal, but how many know his primary function at that publication? Very few it seems, for his particular position carries with it no credits or daily by-line, but it is undoubtedly one of the most influencial and controversial positions to be held at any daily news publication. Guy Northrop of 1814 Forrest has for the past ten years been the editorial page editor for "The Commercial."

The road to that prestigious position has been a long one for a "country boy" from North Little Rock. In 1945 after graduating from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Northrop came directly to the "Commercial" as a copy reader. In the thirty years since, he has worked at the city and sports desks, has been assistant news editor and managing editor, and in 1961 became an editorial writer. He moved into his present job in 1965.

Northrop, who considers himself a student of art rather than an art critic, began his well-known art column in 1949 to fill the need for some consistent report on local art and art events. Having always been interested in art, he wrote his first articles for no pay, but he admits that it has always been "rewarding from a selfish point of view" for he has met many interesting people in the arts of both local and national acclaim. His purpose for the column has always been (1) to help bring recognition to local artists, and (2) to broaden the people's understanding of things going on in art.

In 1966 Northrop and his wife, MIRIAM, and their two daughters found that their house near Central was a bit too small for them. Mrs. Northrop, who at that time was in the real estate business, found an old run-down house on Forrest. It needed alot of work, but it was cheap and they liked the location, and proximity of schools and the people they knew would be their neighbors. In the years since they have spent much time, money and effort on remodeling their home

in the V/E neighborhood, and now Mr. Northrop concludes that to him the area is a dream. To explain this, he points out the physical beauty of the area, the great amount of cultural activity, the park, recreational facilities, the variety of stores, and simply "the unique character of the area."

Mr. Northrop's interest in the neighborhood has been such that he recently helped form the North Parkway Association. This Organization rose up to protest a proposed Interstate link over the Parkway. This issue is probably dead now as few government officials supported it. Mr. Northrop felt it was gratifying to see V/E residents rise up in an effort to preserve the neighborhood.

As for the state of art in Memphis, Mr. Northrop is optimistic. He sees the quality of Memphis art as being very high, much higher than when he began his column 26 years ago. "Today,"he says, "we have some very good nationally recognized artists." He does feel however that there is an economic problem in Memphis, and when there is an economic problem, the arts seem to suffer first.

When asked if it were possible for an artist to become a success in this area, he noted that the artist needs to define "success" for himself first. In many respects there are a number of successful "teaching artists" in Memphis, and there are only a handful of totally self-supporting artists in the country. He added that a degree in art does not guarantee one will become a successful artist.

His opinion on the current popularity of "wildlife prints" is that it is merely a fad, that the people can collect only so many. To him, it seems that the dealers in these are really just selling frames.

When asked to venture an opinion on why there are so many artists and writers in the V/E neighborhood, he stated that one obvious reason was its proximity to the Academy and to Brooks. Then with a grin, he added, "There are also alot of garage apartments around here."

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