

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

Musical Notes

by Kris Menard



We are fortunate to have in our area a number of musicians whose abilities are as diversified as the neighborhood itself. Many of these people are connected with Southwestern in one way or another while others are commercial performers or perform strictly for their own entertainment.

One of the foremost musicians in the community is CHARLES MOSBY of 1869 S. Rainbow Circle. Prof. Mosby is chairman of the music department at Southwestern as well as a talented performer. His formal education began in piano at that college where he received his bachelor's degree in music (and wrote the school pep song). He earned a master's degree from Florida State and has done post-graduate work at the University of Chicago.

Prof. Mosby one time won the Red Army Talent Contest which led to an appearance with Aylene Francis on national television. He is currently a soloist with the Memphis Symphony and judges many talent contests in the Mid-South region. He has presented piano recitals in seven states. Prof. Mosby and his wife ROSE have lived in the neighborhood for ten years.

CHARLOTTE McLAIN of 1773 Snowden is another noteworthy member of the Southwestern faculty. She teaches organ, harpsichord, piano and music history. Ms. McLain's interest in music goes back to when she was four years old. It was during World War II and she wanted a toy. As few were available her mother bought her a real accordian. Lessons came free with the instrument and her career in music began.

Prof. McLain completed her undergraduate work at the University of Indiana, specializing in organ. Her graduate work was completed at Peabody College in Nashville. She and her husband MICHAEL have lived in Memphis for the last eight years.

TONY GARNER of 521 Hawthorne has been an instructor at Southwestern for nine years. He conducts music for a variety of organizations in the city including the Southwestern Singers, the Southwestern Orchestra, Memphis Opera Theatre, Theatre Memphis and the Evergreen Presbyterian Church choir.

Prof. Garner has a degree in church music from Southwestern and studied for five seasons under Isaac VanGrove. In December he will receive his M.A. degree in music history from Memphis State. He and his wife BETTE have recently returned from a tour of Rumania with the Southwestern Singers.

Chief among commercial artists in the neighborhood is LEO LeBLANC of 405 N. Avalon. Leo plays steel guitar and has quite a few contemporary credits to his name. He has recorded an album for RCA Records and has a single to be released soon. He has provided accompaniment on records for such notable artists as Mac Davis, Liza Minelli, the Osmond Brothers, Tony Joe White and the Gentrys.

Another real performer is singer-guitarist SID SELVIDGE of 1694 Autumn. Formerly an anthropology instructor at Southwestern, Sid is now a full-time musician. He has recently released a song called "Portrait" on the Enterprise label and has a new album, "Cold of the Morning", coming out this month.

One of those neighborhood residents who plays for fun is DINO PACCASASSI of 1868 S. Rainbow Circle. Dino's parents encouraged him to play the violin when he was a child and he eventually studied under Frank Braceante and Joseph Hinkle. Forty years ago he began playing with the Memphis Symphony and he plays occasionally at Holy Name Catholic Church.

And one of the pioneers in Memphis music is Mrs. NELL ASPERO of 1790 Faxon. Mrs. Aspero graduated from the music department at Southwestern when it was known as the Theodor Bohmanna School of Music. She then attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston where she studied piano. In 1930 she introduced the idea of music programs in the Memphis public school system, where she taught at both Snowden and Vollintine Schools. She remained in the school system for ten years and gave private lessons at home in addition. Mrs. Aspero has since become a well-known Memphis lawyer. She has lived in the neighborhood for sixty years.

This list, of course, only scratches the surface. The numerous other musicians range from young composer-guitarist SCOTT ADAMS (1906 Mignon) to Southwestern professor JOHN WEILAN (1952 Jackson) to former voice teacher Mrs. VERNON TAYLOR (1955 Crump). These residents point out anew the talent and diversity so abundant in the V/E community.



Meetings

VECAA is sponsoring a "Meet the Candidate" political rally on October 19. The rally will be held at 7:30 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church. In attendance will be candidates for U.S. Congress (Ford and Allisandratos), candidates for the State legislature (Tooley, White, Gaia and Robertson), as well as a representative from the Sasser campaign. These rallies give neighborhood residents a chance to talk face-to-face with the candidates.

* * *

VECAA meetings have been tentatively set for Nov. 14 and Dec. 12. The November meeting will deal with crime prevention while the December topic will be education. Both meetings will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Watch the News for information on location.

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NOT TO BE PLACED IN MAILBOXES

Revised Riders' Guide

Three years ago the News printed an article on the Memphis Transit Authority but routes serving the Vollintine/Evergreen community. Recently revisions have been made in both routing and scheduling that neighborhood residents should know about. Refer to the map below in reading the following comments.

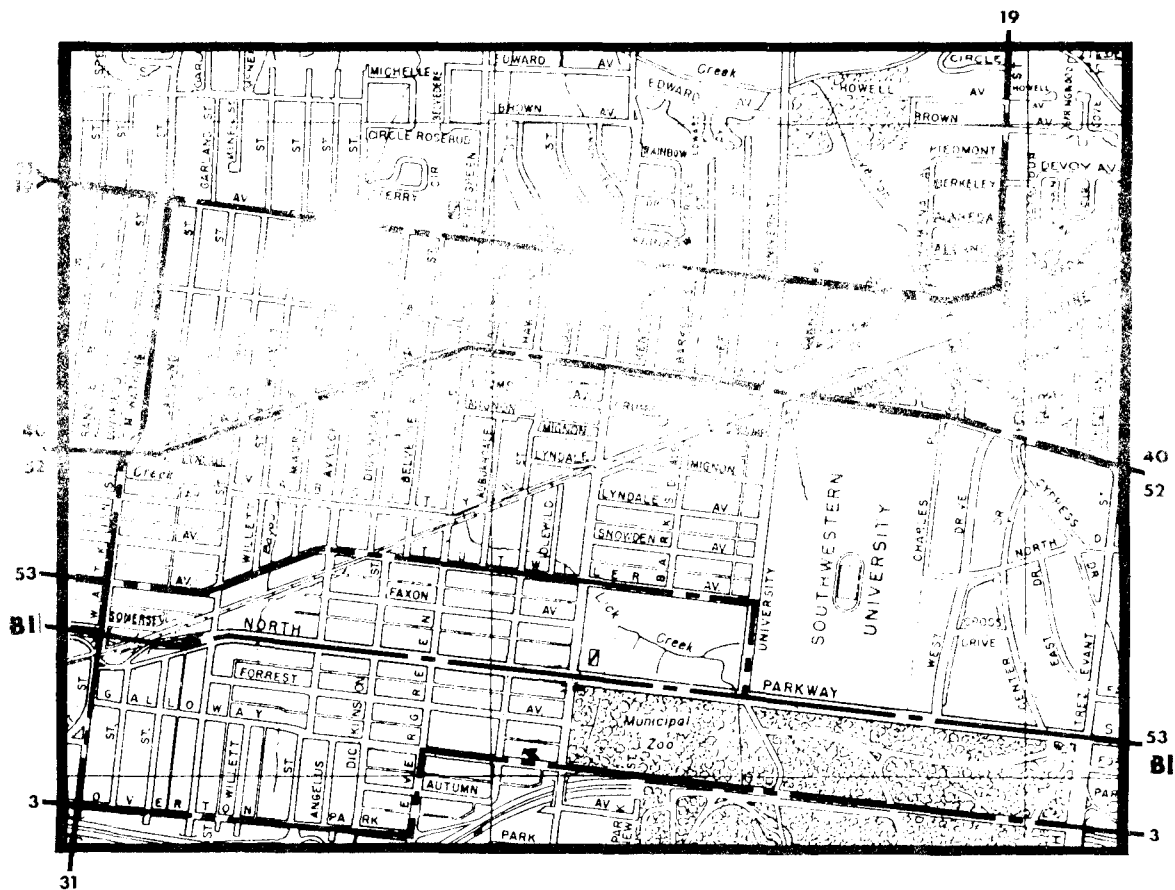
Of the eight routes running through the community, seven will remain in service after the Nov. 14 changeover date. The eliminated route is the Jackson Express which operated during rush hours. This loss will be compensated for through improvements on the 52 Jackson route. The 3 Summer route remains unchanged through the neighborhood although the 3 Summer-Treadwell route has been redesignated as Summer-Macon. There have been no changes in the 19 Vollintine and the 53 Jackson routes. The 40 Raleigh route remains the same

through the neighborhood although it now serves Frayser. The only other east-west route, the Summer Express, has been redesignated the Summer Blazer; its stops between Watkins and Trezevant are being reduced from five to three or less.

The only north-south route, 31 Crosstown, remains the same. There is still the possibility that a McLean route will be added sometime in the future.

The schedules remain very much the same although the 40 Raleigh bus will run every 45 minutes instead of 25 and the 52 Jackson-Macon will run every 30 minutes on Saturday rather than every 45.

According to DON BURGESS, Superintendent of Schedules, new improved route maps should be available by Nov. 10. The changes will go into effect on Nov. 14. Be sure to consult the transit authority for specific times and routes.



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Shopper's Choice

by M. Bruce Schisler



With authentic, rustic, cheerful, informal Southern cafe atmosphere, the Service Cafe on Jackson is one of the few places left in Memphis to get a good old American-style breakfast. (It opens, by the way, at 6:30 a.m.) This consists of one egg, bacon, ham or sausage, grits, toast and coffee for \$1. (\$1.20 will get you two eggs with juice, sweetrolls and hotcakes also moderately priced.) As a breakfast hangout it is ideal because the food is well prepared and plentiful, the price is right, the customers friendly, and the proprietor, chef, and waitresses eager to please.

The proprietor since March, 1960, has been GEORGE J. VERGOS of the Memphis restaurateur family. Prior to the purchase of the Service Cafe, George and his brother CHARLES (owner of the downtown "Rendezvous") ran the Jackson Coffee Shop at 217 Jackson Avenue from 1940 to 1960. From 1923 to 1940 the brothers learned the restaurant business from their father, JOHN C. VERGOS, while operating the Jackson Lunch Room, 229 Jackson Avenue.

At the Service Cafe, the breakfast offerings are served from a steambill, semi-buffet style by which the customer makes his selection and is then served by a waitress. The selections, by the way, are multitudinous. There are 12 to 15 main course meat dishes and 17 to 20 fresh, Southern style vegetables from which to choose. All lunches and dinners (meat with three vegetables) cost \$1.70, with dessert 35¢ extra and coffee (strong) 20¢. If preferred, dessert can be substituted for one vegetable at the same price. A vegetable plate (three vegetables) runs \$1.25.

From the main course meat dishes, try either the barbecued lamb necks or the braised beef tips in gravy. Be sure to request the large, scrumptious homemade rolls. Dessert is a specialty at the Service, as the chef, SIE HENRY WALKER, serves delicious homemade puddings (banana, bread with fruit, and rice) as well as homemade cobblers. The Cafe also features excellent service with its top-of-the-line waitresses, MABLE SULLIVAN (30-year veteran), VONNIE VIR-

GIE, SHIRLEY SHAW and FRANCES FORSYTHE.

The Service Cafe is located at 1422 Jackson Avenue with ample parking available. Hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

House Notes

While blockbusting no longer is a significant problem in the V/E community, complaints concerning various financial and insurance companies have been increasing. In ways more subtle than blockbusters, banks and insurers can discriminate against particular neighborhoods in the services they offer. Various techniques such as "redlining" are used to discourage prospective homeowners from buying in a given area. Some of these discriminatory techniques are illegal and all are unethical. However, these institutions will continue to contribute to the decline of older neighborhoods if they are not stopped.

The best way to do this is to bring any unethical or illegal type-out in the open. If there are unethical practices or offending institutions, complaints should be filed with the legal action taken if necessary. Any requests and/or complaints the following activities be reported to the House Complaint Board.

- 1) Report any lending institution that:
 - a. refuses to make a home purchase loan because of the location
 - b. refuses to make a home improvement loan for this reason
 - c. charges fees not levied in other neighborhoods
 - d. demands a higher interest rate than prevailing
 - e. requires a shorter than average pay-back period
- 2) Report any insurance company that:
 - a. refuses homeowners insurance because of the location
 - b. charges higher than normal rates for homeowners insurance
 - c. raised the deductible on a homeowners policy

If you have experienced any of the above, please contact JOE SOHM at 278-6962.

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Around The Neighborhood

The parish house of First United Lutheran Church (1542 Jackson) is undergoing renovation and will soon house the administrative offices of Lutheran Social Services of Tennessee. The Church will continue to provide some YWCA activities in addition to housing 12 to 14 Social Service employees.

The Lewis Center for Senior Citizens has announced that swine flu shots will be administered at the 1188 N. Parkway location on Oct. 20. V/E senior citizens should call 272-7408 for an appointment.

Also at the Center numerous art-craft-and-hobby classes are beginning in October. These include painting, ceramics, pottery, weaving and many more. Fees range from \$1.50 to \$10 and classes last from one to six weeks.

Southwestern College has announced plans to build an impressive swimming pool flanked on one end by the Kinarty family of Memphis. The pool will be adjacent to the existing gymnasium and will be constructed so that a retractable roof can be added in the future.

Southwestern has also added a sport of interest to the neighborhood. Soccer is now being played at the varsity level with a home game scheduled for Oct. 9 against Auburn at 11:30 a.m.

* * *

WANDA WILSON of 1495 Jackson has been receiving a lot of publicity lately. She was featured in the "interesting people" column of the Press Scimitar for her jobs as truck driver for her own container company and as owner-operator of the P & H (Poor and Hungry) Cafe. Ms. Wilson is now involved in the filming of part three of "Walking Tall" in which she plays a bad-guy.

V/E Membership Drive

Beginning the weekend of October 22 all households in the Volutine/Evergreen community will be telephoned and the families asked to either become new members of VECAA or to renew their original memberships.

In order for VECAA to be successful this year we need your help. When you renew your membership for \$2.50 or the \$1.50 for children's membership for one year, the club you will join will be able to best help you and to collect the payment. This money will help pay for services such as mailing, computing reports, student memberships, etc.

Issues such as zoning, redlining, housing deterioration, and problems of the retired and elderly have been only a few of VECAA's major concerns. Your community organization needs your continued moral and financial support.

BACKYARD SALE. Furniture, clothes and many odd miscellaneous items. Also stock of auto accessories, one-half price. 1012 N. Avalon.

FOR SALE. Housefull of furniture including gas stove, shag rugs, air conditioners, bedroom suites, couches, lamps and much more. Redecorating, must sell fast. Call 276-8826.

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

Volutine-Evergreen Community Action Association
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