

The EVERGREEN NEWS

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POET-RETIREE WINS SMILES

By Aaron Tatum

"Dial N Smile is a hobby of mine" says J. C. Levy proudly. Approximately 2,500 callers per day have dialed 278-2370 since mid 1972.

The entertaining talking phone had its beginning just before the Christmas of 1971 when Mr. Levy put the following "out to lunch" message on his telephone answering machine.

"This is ol' Santa, and oh my goodness,
I've been a busy man.
I've been making toys just as fast as I can.
I can't make 'em fast enough,
I just had to get a shipload from Japan.
But now it's time for me to take my lunch
break,
I won't be out for long,
If you want to leave a note,
Be sure you wait 'til you hear the gong.
Ho! Ho! Ho!"

Upon returning to the office, Mr. Levy noticed that his line was very busy. In the messages were requests from children for dolls, tricycles, bikes and requests from adults for blonds, brunettes and redheads.

From that one incident sprang the idea of the talking phone and, as a result, three other lines were quickly added.

Since that humble beginning, over six million calls have been tabulated on the automatic counters that register the number of calls.

"I usually change it twice a week," Levy explains. "I just write a poem when I get an idea. Everything I write is built around a sound and usually it has sort of a tricky ending."

The sounds Levy refers to are frequently animal sounds. He owns the various kiddie rides at the Overton Park Zoo and his messages echo the animal sounds one hears at the Zoo.

The sounds are filed away on tape. The poems that keep Dial N Smile so lively are typed and filed away for the purposes of recycling the Levy poetry.

"I often get behind in my filing," he observes.

But Levy does enjoy answering the many letters he gets from across the nation since some of the calls come from all over.

"Some office on Wall Street calls every day — I believe they have a toll-free number. They're only one of my many regular long-distance callers," says the 72-year old poet.

"Why just next week I'm going to be on a radio show in Indianapolis," explains Levy. "But, I don't have to be there because they're interviewing me over that wonderful invention — the telephoner!"

For fun, go right now and call Dial N Smile at 278-2370.

PEOPLE WHO CARE

by Dottie Sachritz

We have had articles about many of our neighbors and have become aware of the large number who are writers, in newspaper or radio work, and have various diverse interests and skills. We also have an unusual concentration of professional social workers, involved in many different aspects of the field.

Social work includes many areas. Medical and psychiatric social workers counsel with patients and their families around stresses and their adjustment problems. Family counselors offer individual, group and family counselling. Older citizens have special needs that get help and intervention. Children sometimes need an advocate, or foster care or supportive service. Social workers are involved in the planning and administration of numerous community programs and services.

In the VECA community there are at least nineteen social workers who have made significant contributions and who reflect a cross-section of the profession. Margaret Dichtel (Oakmont Place) is Executive Director of Family Service of Memphis. Five of the other nineteen Family Service staff members - Bryan Hale, "Bicky" Morris, Modeane Thompson, Loretta Kateo and Vivian Stanley also reside in the V/E area. The husband and wife team of Pam and Jack Hollis (Lyndale) are both professional social workers. Pam is Director of the Extended Care Program at the North-east Memphis Community Mental Health Center and Jack is the Director of Client Services at the Arlington Developmental Center. Dottie Sachritz (Sheridan) is with the Oakville Center of the Memphis City Schools Mental Health Center. Katherine Taylor Baker has had a major role in medical care planning and services with the Regional Planning Program and is now with the University of Tennessee Child Development Center. Deborah Brawner is also in medical social work on the staff of the City of Memphis Hospitals and Betty McMahon is doing outreach services with the Mid-South Comprehensive Health Services. Sherry Folis is completing work for her Master's Degree at the Memphis Branch of the U.T. School of Social Work and has also worked in the hospital settings.

(Continued on Last Page)

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VECA NEWS

THE LAND USE COMMITTEE is making a concerted effort to complete work that was started some years ago to provide the VECA area with Rezoning (in most cases Downzoning). This has already been done in Central Gardens. If the Committee is successful in having Rezoning passed, it would enhance the character of our neighborhood by providing a predominance of single family homes. Art Knighton (276-0946) is the newly appointed Committee Chairman.

THE MEMBERSHIP/WELCOMING COMMITTEE has completed its brochure which briefly describes VECA's past accomplishments and its needs for the future. May 1, 1979 has been designated as the target date to begin distributing the brochures in the VECA area. The volunteers will be going door to door handing out the brochures, answering questions, welcoming newcomers and encouraging payment of VECA dues. Please contact the new Chairman Julie Borys (272-2672) if you would like to help.

By Katherine Martin

EDITOR'S NOTE: Special thanks go to Marcia Heitzmann, Joe Hough and Irv Sachritz for the dedication and service given to VECA through their respective positions of leadership during the past two years.

Marcia Heitzmann — as Chairman of the Membership/Welcoming Committee — initiated, coordinated and supervised the printing of the VECA Membership Brochure (see above). She also personally recruited a corps of volunteers to work in the upcoming Membership Drive. Her personal concern and easy-going determination have succeeded not only in accomplishing this enormous job but also in winning many new friends for VECA.

Joe Hough — who has been active in VECA since its origin — maintained the Chairmanship of the Land Use Committee. He has lead the way in VECA's pursuit of a solution to the Vollintine Courts problem.

Irv Sachritz — another longtime VECA activist — has performed the duties of Treasurer. He added unique personality to this record-keeping job.

Thank you Marcia, Joe and Irv for the innumerable hours of volunteer work that you have given to the benefit of all your neighbors in the VECA community.

NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRATULATIONS to V/E residents Bill and Beverly Berry. Bill was one of only 275 artists chosen from a field of over 5,000 applicants to be honored by the American Watercolor Society. His watercolor "Winchester House" will appear in the 112th AWS exhibition in April in New York City. Bill and Beverly live at 1795 Mignon with their children Kelli, 6, and Nathan, 2. Bill is also a commercial artist and Beverly assists him as agent.

WELCOME HOME and SPEEDY RECOVERY to Frances Vaughn (2260 Cypress Circle) who has been hospitalized for several weeks.

COMING EVENT! Summer Night Studies at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. Theme: "HOPE" Six evening classes will be offered. Dates: Monday — June 11, Tuesday — June 12; and Monday — June 18, Tuesday — June 19. Please mark your calendar so you won't miss this special event. See next month's E/News for more details.

COURT SQUARE FESTIVAL (Downtown Mall), Saturday — April 7th, 11-7 p.m. Free admission. Sponsored by WEVL Radio (90.3 FM). Entertainment — Music — Food — Raffle. Come join the fun!

Address articles or news to The Evergreen News, 1467 Tutwiler Ave., Memphis, Tn 38107

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BURGLARY IN VECA: PART I

Sirens sounding, blue lights flashing and the noise of a circling helicopter have marked at least two afternoon searches for burglars in the VECA area in the past six months. Not very often perhaps, but both made the evening T.V. news. The first occurred in the vicinity of the intersection of Volland & Evergreen, while the second was near that of Evergreen & Edwards. In both cases the suspect escaped. The presence of sirens, lights and helicopters, however, is a poor indicator of the prevalence of burglary in VECA. A better measure, though still inaccurate, is the report of burglaries in the morning and evening Memphis newspapers. Such reports suggest that a burglary in the VECA area occurred almost every day during November and December and about every five days in January. According to the newspaper reports, the area bounded by Jackson, Watkins, Edwards and Springdale was hardest hit with some areas having as many as 8 or 9 burglaries within 2 or 3 blocks. Few streets went untouched.

When I mention this to people the most common responses are, "Welcome to Memphis," "It's the same everywhere in Memphis," or "Only about half the burglaries are ever reported and less even appear in the paper!" Such reactions suggest that Memphians have come to expect — and tolerate — a high rate of burglary; and apparently with good reason. The apparent apathy and high crime rate probably reinforce each other. The apathy reinforcing the notion that nothing can be done about it and the notion reinforcing the ease with which many homes are burglarized, and so on.

In the past few years, VECA has sponsored meetings at which crime deterrence was discussed and probably to the benefit of those attending. Unfortunately too few VECA residents attended such meetings.

Several suggestions for reducing crime were discussed including the installation of storm windows (which may have added benefits of home insulation and subsequent tax deduction), window guards, security storm doors, alarm systems, special locks for doors and windows, pets, etc. Neighborhood watch programs are also very effective though often not implemented for lack of getting people organized to pull it off, and stick with it. VECA is particularly suited to neighborhood watches since many residents are retired and at home much of the day or evening, when crimes are most often attempted. It is important that we get to know our neighbors. Call them and agree to watch each other's homes on a regular basis and not just when you go on vacation.

by Tom Fagan

See PART II next month.

CLASSIFIED ADS

David E. "Pee Wee" Wamble, Piano Technician — expert tuning and repairing, 30 years experience, call 272-2296.

World Book Childcraft Encyclopedia Sale — for more information call 726-1958.

For Sale — Storm door, aluminum and glass, standard size, like new, originally \$75, yours for \$15, call 276-5331.

GENERAL HANDYMAN — small paint jobs, etc. Stephan Murphy, work 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 794-8237 324-1345 after 5:00 p.m.

NEXT VECA MEETING

Monday, May 28th at 7:30 P.M., Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church. Give a little time to your neighborhood and make some new friends.



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Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association
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 925 University Street
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ZOO BEGAN WITH NATCH

Once upon a time (back in 1901 to be exact), Memphis had a local baseball team which sported a bear called Natch as their mascot. Now this baseball team used to tie Natch to a tree at Overton Park which started all the local citizens worrying that Natch might be a little lonely tied up to a tree by himself all day. So, one by one, the citizens brought Natch friends. Soon, not only Natch was tied to a tree, but his friends were too. Natch had lots of friends. There were foxes and bobcats just to name a few. By 1903, the city realized that something needed to be done about Natch and his friends tied to the trees. Thus, they incorporated and became the owners of the Overton Park Zoo.

The Overton Park Zoo offers Memphians and visitors sights that cannot be found at any other zoo in existence. For instance, let's look at the birdhouse. The birds in our zoo are in a natural setting complete with a waterfall and a free flow stream. Did you know that we have a goat antelope which hails from the Southern Region of India and is called a Nilgiri Tahr? The Nilgiri Tahr is believed to be headed for extinction. If you go to visit the Nilgiri Tahr, don't be deceived by his "common look" because he is a rarity indeed. The Zoo also houses a baby black Rhino. The Rhino was born at the

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Zoo several months ago. You'll consider the Rhino's birth quite uncommon when you learn that only 42 have been born in captivity. If a birdhouse, a Nilgiri Tahr, or a Rhino doesn't send you running to the Zoo, perhaps one of the approximately 1,100 animals of around 400 species will. They are all waiting for you on the Zoo's 36 acres.

The Zoo is open daily from 9 to 5 (except on days when the sidewalks are icy and slippery) with only three holiday closings: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas. Admission is \$1.00 for Adults (12 and older) and 35¢ for children (ages 2-11) when accompanied by an adult. From 9 to 10 on Saturdays, you can get in free. Special rates are offered to school groups, senior citizens and handicapped people.

By Jenny Raber

PEOPLE

(Continued from First Page)

In addition to all of these currently active professionals, others deserving recognition are Mary Beth Wingfield, Jan Jamison and Mona Levitch, who have taken temporary leave from practice, and some retired folks who are thoroughly enjoying the fruits of their labors. The Parkway House has its own cadre, with Ruth Marks, Hazel Marshall and Ethelyne Frayser all living there. Ruth was with the Jewish Service Agency while Hazel and Ethelyne gave their all for the Tennessee Department of Public Welfare.

Either our community attracts people who care, or these caring people have helped make the VECA community the kind of good place to live that is is. It just might be a little of both.

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