

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

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In 1941: Looking north from the railroad on Hawthorne

MIGNON TERRACE GROWTH PART OF VECA HISTORY

When the first "settlers" of VECA's Mignon Terrace subdivision were moving in, the area still had the characteristics of a pasture. But it wasn't long until the "sage patch" — as one early resident called it — became filled with houses. There are still several families living there who "remember when."

Actually, the official name for the "sage patch" was the Julia H. Whlhorn Mignon Terrace Subdivision and it was one of the last in the area to be developed (1938). It consisted of three streets: Hawthorne between the railroad and the alley; and Mignon and Lyndale between McLean and Hawthorne. According to the MIFA history of the Vollintine-Evergreen area, the houses on these streets were "charming, clapboard Cape Cod cottages."

The neighborhood filled up in a hurry. "Within a year or 18 months, all the lots had been bought and built on. All the houses were built by the same builder, V. V. Rittlemeyer. You just can't imagine how quickly things filled in," remembers one long time resident.

According to Ruth and Delmo Bramuchi, the neighborhood in one way has really changed. "Nearly every house has had an improvement or an addition. We've added on almost more space than we had to begin with. And of course there were no trees: the street was almost completely bare when we moved in 1941," Mrs. Bramuchi related.

Johnnie West and her daughter, Jean Bunton moved in 1944. Ms. Bunton says that the area was considered "way out of the city. The thing to do on Sunday was to drive out Walnut Grove which was a two lane road and out close to Perkins became a dirt road. You were really in the country then."

Mrs. West relates that she felt fortunate to find her
(Continued on Last Page)

PRINCIPAL AND PROGRAMS ENHANCE VOLLENTINE

The students seem to enjoy coming to Vollentine School; the sound of children's laughter often fills the hallways. And many say this phenomenon can be attributed to the school's long-time principal, Rochester Neely, Sr.

When Mr. Neely says, "I am committed to this community, and the children and parents within it," one can believe him. A Memphian, Mr. Neely received his undergraduate degree from LeMoyne-Owen College and his M.S. in Administration and Supervision from Memphis State.

Active in the community, he lives only ten minutes away from the school and serves as Superintendent of Sunday School and is Chairman of the Trustee Board at Friendship Baptist Church in North Memphis. In addition, he belongs to many local organizations, including the Executive Board of the Chickasaw Council of Boy Scouts and the Advising Council of Unitary School System of Urban League.

In his eleven years as principal of Vollentine, Mr. Neely has been instrumental in three important programs being developed for children in kindergarten through third grade. Two of these programs are called MGM (Mentally Gifted Minors) and ATTU (Accountability to Underachievers), and both programs offer special help to those children identified as deserving extra attention by their teachers.

Children who participate in MGM or ATTU are exposed to a variety of media and visual aids as tools to stimulate their minds. Staffing is handled by members of Trinity United Methodist Church, which is participating in the city's Adopt-A-School program, with Vollentine as their "child".

The school also offers an ORF music program as part of its curriculum

Just as at Snowden, Vollentine students are all local children. The only children bused are those within our neighborhood who live too far to walk. Obviously, with such a unique curriculum and concerned principal, Vollentine School will continue to grow and offer our children a total and creative education.

By Jenny Raber

NEXT VECA MEETING

Monday, May 26 at 7:30 P.M., Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church.

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VECA NEWS

OFFICERS ELECTED: Tom Kepple and Tim Mashburn were elected as VECA's President and Vice-President for the coming year by more than 40 VECA members in attendance at Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian Church for the bimonthly General Membership meeting on March 24th.

Tom Kepple (272-9571) — his wife Daney, and their six-year old daughter, Baker — live at 899 Hawthorne. A five-year resident of the V/E area, Tom has served as VECA's Treasurer and as an Executive Committee member for the past year. His commitment to the Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood is also reflected by his position as Director of Administrative Services at Southwestern.

Tim Mashburn (274-5761) and his wife, Deb, purchased their home at 1737 Faxon in the fall of 1978. Although relative newcomers to the V/E area, both have been actively involved in VECA since moving into the neighborhood. Tim has represented VECA at The Council of Midtown Neighborhoods' monthly meetings during the past year. He is Coordinator of Admissions at the U.T. College of Medicine.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXAMINED: Following the elections, Dick Borys (924 Idlewild), who is Director of Memphis and Shelby County Pretrial Services, gave a brief presentation outlining the Criminal Justice system. He summarized the general procedures used in the Memphis system by explaining what happens to a suspect after an arrest is made, and how he is carried through the system, by describing problems that exist within the system as exemplified by the inequities of release on bail bonds; and by suggesting possible solutions — encouraging the district attorney and judges to prosecute offenders with laws which are already available to them.

The meeting ended with a round of applause — thanking each of those who served VECA as officers and committee chairmen during the past year.

By Ann D. Moore

LOVE IS THEME FOR SUMMER NIGHT STUDIES

"Love" is a part of everyday life, but it is also one of the fundamental concepts in religious theology. And both of these faces of "Love" will be explored in depth during this year's Summer Night Studies at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. The upcoming program series, which is sponsored by 13 VECA area churches, will feature study sessions on June 9, 12, 16, and 19.

Among the areas of study are: "The Jewish Concept of Love", led by Herschel Feibelman and Rabbi Harry Danzinger of Temple Israel; "The Epistles of John", led by Dr. Fred Neal, professor of religion at Southwestern; "Love and Marriage", led by the Rev. Ben Toole; "Love Made Visible", led by Luci Wade, head of the Volunteer Center; and, "Spirituality — A Form of Christian Love", led by Sisters Josette Gocella and Martha Rabaut of the Renewal Center, the Rev. David Knight of the House of the Lord and James Andrews, a student Brother at Christian Brothers College.

Each night the study sessions (6:45-8:00 p.m.) will be preceded by a pot luck dinner (5:45-6:30 p.m.). And there will be a time for continued fellowship and refreshments afterwards in the garden of the church.

A nursery will be provided along with a special course for youth and special activities for children (4th, 5th and 6th graders) including roller skating and crafts.

Participating churches are: Emmanuel Presbyterian; Evergreen Presbyterian; First Presbyterian of West Memphis; Idlewild Presbyterian; Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian; McLean Baptist; Good Shepherd Episcopal; St. John's United Methodist; Springdale United Methodist; Trinity United Methodist; Immaculate Conception; Sacred Heart; and Little Flower-St. Teresa.

For reservations and/or more information, contact Evergreen Presbyterian Church at 274-3740. Brochures may be picked up at any of the participating churches.

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ADOPTED

In September of 1979, the Memphis City Adopt-A-School Program was started to establish a people-to-people relationship which would foster communication and understanding between communities and schools throughout the city. Since that time, more than 40 civic organizations, religious groups and businesses have adopted schools. In the VECA neighborhood, Evergreen Presbyterian Church has adopted the Snowden Elementary School (kindergarten and grades four through six).

Members of Evergreen are concentrating on quality volunteer work. The first project has been the individual tutoring of students. Carol White, coordinator, Ellen Anderson, Etheline Mayo, Bob Armstrong, Al Earley, Gundi Moll and Debbie Milan started working with students in reading and math in March and April.

Four church members — Peggy Hollandsworth, coordinator, Bette Garner, Ellen Anderson and Karen Anderson — baked green cakes for the St. Patrick's Day party which honored students who had received good marks in the "Citizen Effort and Cooperation" (C.E.C.) program for the fourth grading period. Bette's cake was even shaped like a shamrock! Members of the church have also participated in two paper drives held by the school.

In the planning stage is a project which will list resource people who can share hobbies, crafts, pictures from trips, skills and other interests with individual classes. Church members will also help with a C.E.C. picnic in May, and volunteers will begin soon helping in the kindergarten classes.

For more information, questions or comments and suggestions, contact Lynda Everitt, 310 Hawthorne Street, 38112 or call Evergreen Church at 274-3740.

By Lynda Everitt

INTEREST-FREE ENERGY LOANS

MLG&W and TVA began offering interest-free loans for energy saving home improvements late last summer. Today the waiting list for the service numbers some 5,700 homes, and it will be after August before MLG&W can get to those currently on the list.

The home improvements that MLG&W will lend money for are: storm windows, attic insulation, weather-stripping, ground cover, and caulking. The maximum amount that can be borrowed is \$2000 for seven years. The payment due is tacked onto the monthly utility bill.

The process of obtaining this money begins with a call to MLG&W. (528-4545) and having your name added to the list. When your name gets to the top, an energy inspector will come to your home, make recommendations for the improvements needed, give you an approved contractors list and take your application for credit. The credit is based on the ownership of your home and payment record with MLG&W. When your credit is approved, a letter is sent to you; then it is up to you to contact the contractor and have the work done. After the improvements are made, they are inspected by the energy advisor to make sure they're up to the required specifications. The energy inspector's service is free.

In case the house is sold before the loan has been paid off, the balance must be settled at closing.

Consumers who have already received the service say that the savings on utility bills more than pay the monthly bill and add appreciably to the value of their homes.

Should you decide to do the work yourself, just bill MLG&W, and they will reimburse you for materials. The work must still meet with the required specifications.

Remember . . . call 528-4545 to get your name on the list.

By Dorinda Smith

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Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association
NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

1980

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Make Checks Payable to VECA
Send to: Ms. Martha Heinemann
699 N. Belvedere
Memphis, TN 38107



(Continued from First Page)

house in this neighborhood. "I had been staying with a friend, Mrs. Robinson, on Evergreen until I could find a place. Apartments were very hard to find. We walked around the corner to see this house that had been advertised. It was perfect: good schools, a church, a car line, a bakery — everything we needed was right here. And I felt so fortunate to be near my good friend since my husband was overseas."

Another original resident says it was a wonderful neighborhood. "I remember when we'd all sit out on the corner until midnight talking. That was before air conditioning of course. We were all pretty young together, raising our families."

Mrs. Bramuchi adds, "We've seen a complete cycle. Now again young families are moving back in, using a house here as a starter home." Ms. Bunton points out that "for a while it was almost depressing because there were no children. The neighborhood seems alive now that young couples with babies are here."

It seems to be a consensus of the early home owners that they still love the neighborhood. None can imagine moving away. One says, "My children are constantly after me to move, but I just can't do it. My roots are here in this house where I've lived for 41 years." And to Ms. Bunton the warmth, friendliness and closeness of the neighborhood are hard to beat. "We still have Bosi's, Borg's, Ed's; you know by name

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the people you shop with. You just don't get that in East Memphis."

The history of the Mignon Terrace subdivision, along with all the other VECA neighborhoods, is detailed in the newly released MIFA book, "Vollintine-Evergreen, A Diverse Community." The book makes an interesting evening's reading, learning about the first cable car out to what was then considered the country, the Terry dairy north of Jackson, the Crump Brothers store and the moving of Southwestern to this area. The history is available at the Memphis Inter-Faith Association Office, 166 A Poplar (First Presbyterian Church Annex) for \$3.00.

By Tina Egge

NEW EDITOR FOR E/NEWS

Dorinda C. Smith will assume the editorship of *The Evergreen News* with the next issue. Mrs. Smith, a copywriter for the Memphis Publishing Company (which publishes both *The Commercial Appeal* and *Press-Scimitar*), will succeed Ann Moore, who edited the *E/News* over the past year-and-a-half.

A native of Franklin, Tenn., Mrs. Smith moved into the VECA area last September. She and her husband, Brant, live at 668 Stonewall.

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