

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

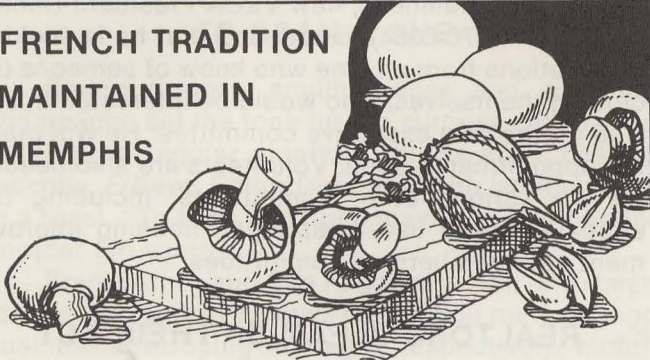
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FRENCH TRADITION MAINTAINED IN MEMPHIS



For 357 years the restaurant has been a tradition, a way of life, for the Vincent family of Grenoble, France. The kitchen was a playground for young Rene Vincent, so it comes as no surprise that Rene's two-year-old son, Pierre, mixes green yarn spaghetti with a wire whisk at their home on West Drive in Hein Park. Preservation of his French heritage is a necessity, according to his mother, Judith Vincent, who grew up in Memphis and later met Rene while teaching English in Grenoble on a French government scholarship.

A sense of adventure prompted Rene to leave his native France a year ago. Then the attraction of Judith's family and the challenge of winning over the "fast food capital of the world" made Memphis the right spot for Le Cafe du Louvre, which the Vincents opened in Overton Square on May 13, 1980, after rejecting offers made by potential backers in such cities as San Francisco, Chicago, and New Orleans. This Mid-town location, with its mixture of businesses and residences and its preservation and renewal efforts, fascinated Rene, who has a background in historical renovation and finds Mid-town more typical of a European city than of its American home. He is comfortable here in what he calls "the best neighborhood in Memphis."

Le Cafe du Louvre is definitely a family business. Rene takes care of the cooking and administrative duties while Judith does the marketing and takes orders from patrons. Judith says that they use "a minimum of employees who work to maximum efficiency." "We work continually," she adds of the 19-20-hour days required for the offering of all fresh, all home-made meals.

Rene, who received informal training in several of the finer restaurants in France, considers his cooking as artistry and is quite unhappy when his customers are displeased with a dish. Cooking for his patrons, from the Queen of England to the Memphis diner, is very personal, so much so that Judith

describes each person who gives her an order. Rene must know something about the people for whom he prepares food. He does not enjoy cooking for itself, he states, but quickly amends, "If you cook for *somebody*, that's very different." His favorite dishes to prepare are the ones that "stimulate his imagination, please people, and create an atmosphere for eating." This sort of food he calls "world cooking"--no one country's exclusive property. But Rene warns that such creativity is not micro-wave fast: it is ritual and merits patience. Would one scold mama for being too slow in the kitchen?

The institution of family mealtime with good, fresh food is what keeps the Vincent family busy. In the future, they envision an 18th-century continental type of estate with a combination of restaurant, hotel, antique restoration center, and living quarters for Judith, Rene, and Pierre. But for now we can enjoy the good food and good atmosphere at Le Cafe du Louvre on Tuesdays through Saturdays. The schedule is often crowded, so don't forget to make reservations, *s'il vous plait*.

By Debbie Monroe

SECURITY PATROL SIGN UP

Almost everyday local news papers carry stories of cutbacks being made in the Memphis Police Department, cutbacks which will seriously affect the security of our neighborhood. Now is the time to sign up for the security patrol. Just \$16 a month provides you with constant surveillance, two minutes or less response time, additional services while you are out of town, plus so much more. Please send Tom Kepple at 899 Hawthorne your \$16 and sign up now.



RUN FOR FUNDS



The second annual Run For Funds to benefit LeBonheur Children's Medical Center will be held in Overton Park on Saturday, May 30. The event is co-sponsored by Midtown TWIG (Together We Initiate Growth) and D. Canale and Company/Natural Light Beer. The five-mile run will begin at 8 a.m. followed by a one-mile fun run. Trophies and medals will be presented to the top runners in each of fourteen different age categories. Special prizes will be awarded to the runners finding the most sponsors. Applications can be obtained at local running shops, sporting goods stores and the LeBonheur Community Relations Department. LeBonheur treated approximately 63,000 children from the Mid-South last year! For further information, please call 522-3030.

By Susan Helms

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V.E.C.A. NEWS

On April 21st, Memphis Police Officer Gene Sullivan met with the VECA executive committee at his request and brought with him fellow North Precinct officers Al DeWitt and Ricky Childress and West Precinct officers Robbie Plunkett, Rick Blues-tein and Jim Johnston (Sackson Ave. divides these precincts). These are some of the officers who actually patrol the V/E area, and they want to meet and talk further with residents in order to work together to keep our neighborhood safe. The officers were very cooperative in answering questions and providing information about efforts to curtail a recent rash of burglaries. They know who at least two of the "Big Foot" burglars are, and one is going to prison in May. A number of arrests have been made and warrants have been issued for others. As a result, the officers stated, the number of burglaries has recently decreased.

The best protection for our homes, the officers said, can be obtained by making our homes look like someone is always there, marking our property with our driver's license numbers, being observant of our neighbors' homes, and not being hesitant to call the police (528-2222) if we see anything suspicious. They said that they really do not mind responding to calls.

The major handicaps to doing their jobs mentioned by the officers are the manpower shortage and delayed communication of calls from the public through the switchboard to them. Factors cited as contributing to the crime problem were lenient judges and overcrowded prisons.

The officers do not oppose a private security service for the neighborhood (if the employees are well-trained and experienced), and police patrols are not decreased where there is a private security service. Some officers felt, however, that residents patrolling the area with walkie-talkies would do just

as well.

In other business, new VECA President Dennis Heitzmann (276-6084) announced that he is seeking nominations from anyone who know of someone (including themselves) who would be interested in serving on the new executive committee. He will make the appointments soon. Volunteers are also needed for the various other committees, including the education, land use, hospitality, housing improvement and membership committees.

REALTORS CLEAN UP THEIR ACT

April 25 was a red letter day on Mrs. Helen Garrett's calendar. On that day a swarm of real estate agents, neighbors and City Council members converged on her Tutwiler lawn and began to fix up her charming house.

This clean up/fix up project was similar to the one sponsored by the Board of Realtors in the fall on North McNeil. Mrs. Garret was selected because she is 88 years young, and her house needed minor repairs and a fresh coat of paint.

City Councilmen Barbara Sonnenburg and Bob James, VECA President Dennis Heitzmann, and Board of Realtors President Tom Tally were among the line up who cut the ribbon to symbolize the beginning of a hard day at work.

A special thanks should go to Frank and Ann Moore, neighbors on Tutwiler, who suggested Mrs. Garrett to VECA and who did much to insure the success of the day.

Needless to say, the Board of Realtors should be commended for the time and money spent on this project. VECA should adopt the Board as honorary residents for they certainly are good neighbors.

By Dorinda Smith

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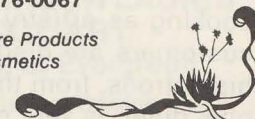
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**E/NEWS THANK YOU
TO FRAN & SUE**

Spring flowers, smiling faces and sparkling champagne set the tone for the surprise celebration following a regular monthly *E/News* staff meeting recently. *E/News* Editor Dorinda Smith led the group in a toast, "To Fran and Sue...may they continue for another ten years."

Fran Griffith and Sue Fagan are - and have been for over two years - *E/News* production manager and business/advertising manager, respectively. Monthly, each of these VECA housewives has given countless hours of service to her neighbors and community through work on *The Evergreen News*.

Fran and Lew Griffith - and sons Lewis, 12, and Jeffrey, 6 - have made their home in the heart of the V/E area on Belvedere for the past five years. The entire family shares active neighborhood involvement. Besides the layout and paste-up work that Fran does monthly for *The E/News*, she also works as a media center volunteer at Vollentine School where Jeffrey attends first grade. Lewis is a sixth grade student at Snowden, so naturally PTA activities are on Fran's schedule. Lew - who is building maintenance supervisor at Richards Manufacturing and who frequently takes a full load of night classes - still makes time to be a district distribution manager for *The E/News*.

Fran has two definite trademarks in the community - her scrumptious eclairs and her marvelously easy-going manner, as exemplified by her good-natured comment when opening a tube-shaped package at *The E/News* party. Chuckles greeted Fran's query, "Is it an *E/News*-VECA poster?"

Married in 1969, Sue and Tom Fagan moved into their home on S. Rainbow in August of 1976. The Fagans, like the Griffiths, are an energetic family.

Sue is an exemplary homemaker, always managing to make the drop-in visitor feel special while tending to the needs of the three Fagan children: Shannon, 5; Lance, 3; and Colleen, 9 months. Shannon attends Evergreen Presbyterian's Mother's Day Out program, and Sue frequently swaps babysitting favors with neighbors. Sue and Tom have made major additions to their home by enclosing a side porch for a playroom and adding a screened porch on the back of the house. Tom even found time to write an *E/News* article last year despite his busy schedule as director of School Psychology Program at Memphis State.

Sue actually fills two positions on *The E/News* staff. As business manager, she keeps the books and pays the bills; and as advertising manager, she has almost single-handedly gained the confidence and loyalty of enough *E/News* advertisers to make the paper financially possible. Sue's efficiency is complimented by her whimsical sense of humor. When asked Tom's title (for this article), her instant response was "husband".

At the party, Dorinda presented Fran and Sue with prints as expressions of gratitude on behalf of *The E/News*. Fran's was a Mississippi riverboat scene, and Sue's was a view of Memphis' Mid-America Mall. Fran and Sue have become good friends during the past two years, and they have certainly demonstrated their loyalty and friendship to all of us in the VECA neighborhood through their active support of *The E/News*.

By Ann Moore

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SNOWDEN WINS BIG

Snowden Junior High School has added another trophy to its showcase, but this one is strikingly different. It was awarded for student prowess in writing, not on the athletic field. Snowden came away the winner in the third annual Wordsmith contest sponsored by Memphis State University. Four VECA area students contributed significantly in helping Snowden come away with the most points in the middle division.

Dawn Baldwin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Baldwin, Jr. of Hallwood, was the big winner and received a gold medal for her number of first and second places in the middle division. In the pre-judged optional creative writing event, she won first prizes for a poetry portfolio and a feature news article along with a second for a single poem. The ninth grader also placed first in the 400-word essay contest and second in the 40-word dash. Dawn's main interests are writing and reading. She also loves the outdoors, especially hiking in the mountains. She says, "I have found that it is when I can look at the sky and hear the wind in the trees that I am able to write the best."

Bruno Bruhwiler, son of Mr. and Mrs. John

Bruhwiler of University, won three awards: second places in the 40-word dash and the scrabble contest and a third in the 120-word dash. An eighth grader, he enjoys writing but is especially a science fiction buff.

Also winning awards were Sydney Campbell and Derek Greenwood. Sydney, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Campbell of Sharon Drive, was a first place scrabble winner. The ninth grader enjoys piano and church work in addition to her interest in working with words in the CLUE program which is an optional enrichment program with the Memphis City Schools.

Derek, a seventh grader, won first place for a short prose piece, "The Purple Grape", in the junior division of the pre-judged optional events. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Greenwood of Forrest Avenue, he has just become interested in writing. His winning entry personified a grape and his friends, the banana and the apple.

Other students representing Snowden were ninth graders Eric Stark and Mary Tsarbopoulos, eighth graders Eric Bruhwiler (twin of Bruno) and Cris Baer and seventh grader Chandrea Smothers. The team was coached by CLUE teacher Roxie Ward.

By Tina Egge

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