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Snowden Junior High School cheerleaders and their mascot, the "Greenie Man" bid *The Evergreen News* readers a very merry Christmas and good tidings all year long. The sign was created on short notice by the school's art department. Thanks!

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS: SNOWDEN

"Optional schools have been developed as an educational alternative for students from all over our city. Students may choose from a wide variety of programs. If you are interested in a highly structured, demanding program of language arts, math, science and social studies taught in an atmosphere of activity and concern, then take a look at SNOWDEN," states an informative brochure made available last year by the school.

Apparently many parents and students are interested in exactly Snowden's type of program. The school is attracting High-achieving and academically competitive students from public and private schools city-wide. Snowden School, located at 1870 Parkway, serves children in kindergarten as well as

grades four through nine at three educational levels: level 2 (remedial), level 4 (regular) and level 6 (accelerated). The level 6 classes make up Snowden's optional program. According to Ronnie Bynum, principal of Snowden, a level 6 class is indeed challenging.

For example, the optional seventh grade math class might work for six weeks on the basic skills that level 4 works on all year and might spend the remaining time on enrichment and application. A few of this year's seventh graders were already preparing programs for the school's two computers in October.

Requirements for admission into the optional programs are the same for elementary and junior high. Students must read at or above grade level and have no more than two C's among final grades. If a student meets the criteria and lives in the district,

(Continued on page 2)

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SNOWDEN (cont.)

admission is assured, but those outside the district must apply to the board for a transfer.

Bynum begins accepting and evaluating admission applications in February and March and recommends interested families apply as early as possible to facilitate acceptance.

Although Bynum acknowledges the optional program has definitely contributed to the excitement about the school and has stimulated enthusiasm within the school, he makes it clear the regular "non-optional" curriculum has always been excellent. Snowden's teachers take the extra steps and work the extra hours that lead to involvement with their school and their students with the result that students are exceeding expectations not only in accelerated college prep classes but also regular and remedial classes.

For example, students in Snowden's art classes, available to all students and part of the regular curriculum, have won awards in several art contests across the nation, and the 300-member band and the vocal group consistently win All-West-Tennessee honors.

Enrollment at Snowden is almost at capacity this year with 1,210 students. Seventy-five percent of those are black. In the optional program with 485 students the racial distribution is close to 50/50. About 200 of the students in the optional program are transfer students. Student-teacher ratios are 15-1 (kindergarten); 28-1 (4th grade); 30-1 (fifth and sixth grades) and 35-1 seventh, eighth and ninth grades). Budget cuts affected Snowden only in the elementary grades and mostly last year with the loss of the physical education specialist and the cutting back of Orff music. Clue is still available.

About the same number of children (600) are involved in the free lunch program as last year. The Parent-Teacher Organization fund-raising money is used to supplement permanent science and art

equipment. There currently are three buses in use for the convenience of elementary children living more than 1½ miles away; there is no busing for integration at Snowden.

Bynum urges *The Evergreen News* readers to discover for themselves why their own neighborhood schools are earning increasing respect and glowing praise. Plan a visit any time; it is very close by.

By Elona Charbonnet

RIPPLES FROM BROOKS

For a decade Charles Simonds has been constructing miniature clay brick dwellings for an imaginary race of migrating "Little People." Memphians can enjoy them during this year's Art Today show on view at Brooks Memorial Art Gallery now through Jan. 2.

Simonds painstakingly constructs his dwellings from tiny bricks of unfired clay. He has built more than 300 miniature dwellings around the world, working outdoors in various city neighborhoods and more recently in museums. The show will include a 12-piece major cycle: **Circles and Towers Growing** traces the evolution of the world of the "Little People" from a parched, barren plain through the construction and destruction of architectural and anatomical forms in a three-piece sculpture.

"Play Things From The Past," a selected group of turn-of-the-century toys from the Atlanta Toy Museum, will open at Brooks Dec. 11 and run through Jan. 15.

"Tea 'N Tour," a special treat for all senior citizens, is scheduled at Brooks every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. There will be a film, short tour and, of course, tea and cookies. Groups must call for registration, but individuals do not need to.

On Sunday, Dec. 19, "The High Cotton Jazz Band" will present a free concert at Brooks at 2:30 p.m.

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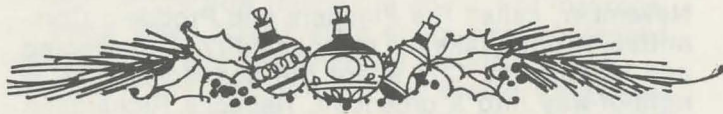
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SHARING THE BOUNTY

It's hard to believe as we sit down to our holiday feasts that some people in Shelby County don't have food to eat. The people who operate the Emergency Food Pantry at Evergreen Presbyterian Church believe it.

Last year the food pantry averaged giving food on an emergency basis to 46 families per month. In August the figure rose to 126 families.

"It's getting worse now because of the job situation," said Harriet McLean, coordinator of the Evergreen Food Pantry. "Also, cold weather's coming and what little money people can scrape together is going to pay their utilities to keep them from freezing to death."

The Evergreen Food Pantry is one of nine centers in Shelby County distributing food to those in a crisis situation who have no place else to turn. The Evergreen Pantry serves most of northeast Shelby County, including parts of the VECA area, Raleigh, Frayser, Arlington and Millington.

All the pantries depend on donations of food or money to obtain the food from churches or individuals in the area served. Some churches serve as collection centers and then bring the collected food to the food pantry in their area. Knowing contributions will be made on a regular basis is particularly helpful.

Food orders are packed by volunteers one day a week in the Evergreen Pantry, to be ready when authorized persons come to the church to distribute the items. The pantry is open Monday through Friday from 1-3 p.m.

Persons or groups interested in helping in any part of the program volunteering to pack or give out

food on a regular basis, collecting and donating food or money, or helping in some other capacity should call the church office at 274-3740 or Carolyn Luck at the Churches and Social Service Fund (CSSF) office at 525-2400. People who need food on an emergency basis can also call the CSSF office. They will be referred to different social agencies for screening.

Food to feed a family of four for three days can include: three main dish items such as spaghetti sauce with meat, canned mackerel, tuna, chicken, spam; a three-quart carton of dried milk; one pound of sugar; two packages of either spaghetti, dried beans, rice or noodles; three cans of vegetables; two cans of fruit; one can of fruit juice or two Tang packets; three cans of soup; an 18-ounce jar of peanut butter; one box of cereal or grits; crackers, bread, jello and cheese.

NEWS BRIEFS

• Mr. and Mrs. Sidney E. Jolly of University celebrated their 60th anniversary recently. They are members of the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association. (Anniversary announcements will be limited to couples completing 50 years of marriage, or other five-year milestones, such as 55 or 60 years.)

• Ned Moore and wife Tina Egge, staff writer and former editor of *The Evergreen News*, have a beautiful daughter, Amanda Cline Moore, born September 21, and weighing 8 lb. and 3 oz. We hope Amanda and older brother Adam will always find our neighborhood to their liking.

• According to the city's Sanitation Services Division, people can put leaves in plastic bags, boxes, carts or old style regulation cans for pick-up this fall. Carts will be emptied only on regularly scheduled collection days. The other types of containers may be emptied any day Monday through Friday, probably on Wednesday, and only at the front property line.

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Joyce Field and pet, Prince

EMPLOYMENT PAST 55 NOT IMPOSSIBLE

There's a certain excitement in Joyce Field's voice when she talks about her job at the Animal Protection Association. This Vollintine/Evergreen resident loves her job and it shows.

She speaks knowledgeably about the cruelty of dog fighting, helping to save ducks at Audubon Park last winter and other such issues.

She talks with real concern about how the association works to strengthen anti-cruelty laws, about its spay and neuter programs and efforts to teach people to be better pet owners.

"There are so many facets to animal protection.

I didn't realize what a need there was for it until I became involved," she said.

Mrs. Field has a new Memphis program, "Hire-A-Senior" to thank for her job. She and a number of other Memphians have benefited from this, an offshoot of the Senior Aids Program, a federally funded part-time employment program for low-income senior citizens 55 and older.

According to the program's director, Ms. Carolyn Sterns, there has been a marked increase in the last couple of years in the need for jobs for a great number of senior citizens wanting to work.

So in March of 1981, Hire-A-Senior, a free employment agency for all senior citizens, began on a very small scale.

"We wanted to get our routine down first. The following August we started expanding, but still concentrating on providing good qualified applicants, monitoring the program and following up on people," says Ms. Sterns.

This past spring, Hire-A-Senior expanded again by involving the downtown Kiwanis club, which has agreed to contact area businesses in order to increase the market the program serves.


Most people hear about Hire-A-Senior through word of mouth and referrals. Mrs. Field first heard about the program from her step mother, Mrs. Pauline Henry, who is 77 and still works outside the home.

Mrs. Field explains, "I had just returned to Memphis and I really felt like I needed to work. I had always worked, though not for eight years. I had never thought of myself as a senior citizen, but I am over 55, so this program was perfect for me."

As with all Hire-A-Senior applicants, the first step for Mrs. Field was to fill out an application and have an assessment interview. The second step involved Hire-A-Senior putting her in contact with the Animal Protection Agency.

An important part of the program is the process

(Continued on page 5)



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CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Seasons Greetings to our neighbors — the Alexanders, Karkatsugas', Swailles and Quinns from the Helms!



Holiday Greetings to all our parents and children from Evergreen Mother's Day Out.



To "Gran" and "T," thanks for being there. Love, Adam and Amanda.



Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season to my nice Friends and Neighbors on Somerset Avenue. Mary Johnson.



For the hot meal, brownies, dog-sitting, caring, your constructive creativity, thank you and Merry Christmas, Marilyn Paavola. Laura Yoder



The "L-Y-N" in Lyndale must stand for "Love Your Neighbor" because we all do. Merry Christmas everyone! The Kerrs



A friend is a present you give yourself (Robert Louis Stevenson). Merry Christmas Rose & Charles, From Susan & Tom.

Merry Christmas and thanks to the best newspaper staff around, KJK.



PRODDING AHEAD

The abandoned L & N right-of-way is still very much a live issue with the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association. A committee was formed in November, called the Planners and Prodders Committee, to undertake the responsibility of convincing and helping the City adapt the abandoned L & N right-of-way into a greenbelt. Rebecca Richardson will chair the committee and asks anyone interested in telephoning, door-to-door canvassing along the right-of-way, or financial planning to call her at 726-1895. VECA's executive committee will meet Jan. 18 and the public meeting will be Jan. 24. Both are at 7:30 p.m. at 1663 Tutwiler.

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MAKE VECA YOUR #1 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

To continue to be one of the most active and influential neighborhood associations in the city, the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association needs your support in manpower as well as dues. The best way to get to know your neighborhood is to serve on the membership, hospitality, publicity or executive committees, to name only a few ways you can help.

Make 1983, the best year ever for the VECA area. Mail in your dues today. And remember — the two or three hours a month you give to VECA will make your neighborhood a better place to live.

1983

Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association
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 Memphis, TN 38107

JOBS AFTER 55 (cont.)

of following up after applicants have been interviewed for a specific job.

"If applicants don't get the job, we talk to them about how they felt about the interview and then of course call again with other possibilities," says Ms. Sterns. "When an applicant is hired, we check with both employee and employer after 30 days and after 90 days to see how things are going. For instance, we knew when Mrs. Field's hours were increased and also that she was enjoying the job."

Mrs. Field has nothing but praise for Hire-A-Senior. "I've recommended it to a number of friends. There is nothing else like it in Memphis. They provided an excellent service in matching people to the job."

Says Ms. Sterns, "We've filled 135 jobs since a year ago March. When people call and say how much they're enjoying working and what a difference it's making in their household, it's very rewarding."

For more information, call Hire-A-Senior at 726-0211.

By Tina Egge

STAYING SOBER

"My name is Bill. I'm an alcoholic."

So starts the Alcoholics Anonymous meeting each Friday night at Evergreen Presbyterian Church. Each of the dozen or so members who attend the open meeting begin their introduction in this manner. To them, it means they've faced their problems and are sticking to the path of recovery. Because it is an open meeting, non-alcoholics are invited who might have relatives or friends suffering from the disease.

Sometimes the bottoming-out point for many alcoholics is sudden and alarming, like in Bill's case. (No last names are ever used in A.A.)

"I knew that I had reached the bottom when I almost killed a man while I was boozed and doped up," said Bill. At that point he reached out for help through A.A. and after more than two years of sobriety, he is an A.A. group leader and is employed as an educator.

Sometimes, like after another hangover, the low comes quietly, "After calling in sick to work with the flu for the second time in a month, I knew I had to get some help," said another former alcoholic.

The holiday season is rough on recovered alcoholics because of the many occasions for social drinking. Attending an A.A. meeting and gaining strength from its fellowship is very important, Bill said. And there are many to choose from. Seven nights a week there is an average of 20 A.A. meetings across the city. By calling the Memphis Area Intergroup Office of A.A. at 454-1414, you can get in touch with one.

Most people with a drinking problem never admit they're alcoholics so the holiday season may be

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as good as time as any for those people to try an experiment, suggests A.A. member Donna.

"Try to stop drinking abruptly in a bar or at a party or stop drinking for a whole year," Donna said. A.A. literature states, "Only you can decide if you are an alcoholic. No one in A.A. will tell you whether you are or not."

The people who attend the A.A. meeting at Evergreen, like other A.A. meetings, can't be stereotyped. They are young, middle-aged, old. They are professional, blue-collar, white-collar workers. They all share a primary purpose: To stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership. It is not associated with any denomination. Anonymity is paramount.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. each Friday, Room 111, at the Tutwiler entrance of Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

By Kathie Jarmon Kerr

BOREDOM BOOGIED AWAY

Twenty-two year old Denise Wilburn is like many of us these days, unemployed and faced with a lot of free time on her hands.

In an effort to fill her time this summer, she began planning how she could work with some of the children in her neighborhood. The plan became a reality as she began talking to the girls near her Dickinson Street home about learning drills and dance routines.

Word spread fast and girls were joining in from other streets and even other communities. Ms. Wilburn's plan developed into what is now called "Dee's Boogie Drillers" and it is made up of 30 girls with a lot of energy and talent to spread around.

Practice sessions for the girls outgrew Ms. Wilburn's driveway, so with the permission of Father Creary at St. Theresa Church, the girls began practicing on the Little Flower School grounds. The Boogie Drillers consist of girls between the age of 7 to 15 and any girl interested may contact Ms. Wilburn to audition for the drill team. With the assistance of Juanita Bobo and Regina Chambers, new girls are trained until ready to join the drill and dance team.

The parents of the Boogie Drillers are most supportive. They provide transportation to performances and meet monthly to decide on fund raisers to meet the future needs, such as uniforms and activities.

In order to share with the community the talent of the Boogie Drillers, anyone who has an upcoming event where entertainment is needed may contact Mrs. Catherine Wilson at 725-0622 or 276-5061.



By Carolyn Mitchell

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