

# The EVERGREEN NEWS

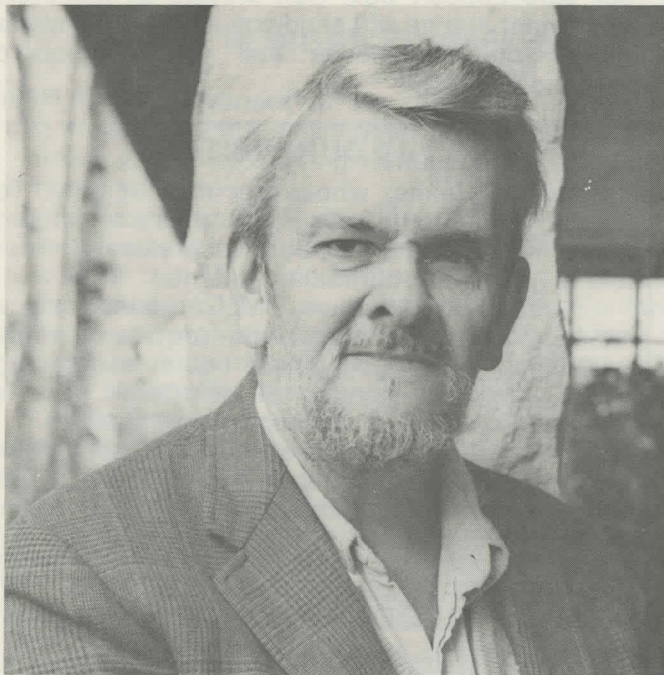
A Neighborhood Newspaper Working With Vollintine - Evergreen Community Association

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John Fergus Ryan

## RYAN'S NOVEL COMES OUT OF THE CLOSET

By day he works downtown in a state position which he has held for 22 years. By night he becomes the closet writer of Lyndale Avenue.

John Fergus Ryan is literally a closet writer because his thoughts are put on paper in a kitchen pantry converted to a writer's haven. There, while listening to music, any kind of music on the radio, Ryan's first published novel, "The Redneck Bride" was created. It is now available in Memphis bookstores.

The events of this novel take place in Bloat, Mississippi, which is an imaginary town 31 miles south of Memphis. Two humorous characters have just been released from an Arkansas county road farm and they get mixed up in a Bloat wedding. "Publishers' Weekly" called the novel, "outlandishly funny."

"The Redneck Bride" is the third novel Ryan has written, but the first to be published. Fifty or so of his short stories have been published in magazines like "Esquire," "Penthouse" and "Atlantic Monthly." Ryan also is a playwright as well as an accomplished author of novels and short stories. Three of his plays have been produced at Circuit Playhouse and they have done very well.

"Baby Dave," which was produced there in

*(Continued on last page)*

## TOWN HALL SERIES TO BE ON TRADE

Statesmanship and world trade affect American lives in countless ways. But few people truly understand the significance of those effects and the relationship between statesmanship, trade and diplomacy.

The 17th annual M.L. Seidman Memorial Town Hall Lecture Series will examine these issues in its 1983 series "World Statesmanship and Trade: Help or Hocus?" The series is sponsored by Southwestern At Memphis.

Ambassador William E. Brock will open the series on Monday, February 28, at Southwestern. As the President's trade advisor and international trade negotiator, Brock chairs the Cabinet-level Trade Policy Committee. A Tennessean, he serves as vice-chairman of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and is a non-voting member of the Export-Import Bank and of the National Advisory Committee on International Monetary and Financial Policies.

Dr. Vladimir N. Sakharov, an authority on Soviet foreign policy, will give his perceptions on various foreign policies on Tuesday, March 19.

The lecture series will close on Wednesday, April 27 with Robert E. White, Ambassador to El Salvador during the Carter administration.

The M.L. Seidman Memorial Town Hall Lecture Series was begun in 1966 by P.K. Seidman, formerly senior consultant of an international accounting firm and presently a Memphis tax attorney, in memory of his late brother M.L. Seidman, a widely known accountant and syndicated columnist.

All lectures in the 1983 series will take place at 8 p.m. in Hardie Auditorium on the campus of Southwestern At Memphis. They are open to the public free of charge.

## MYSTERY OF LICK CREEK

Did you know each time you walk or jog along the sidewalk of North Parkway facing the zoo, you're directly over a five-mile stream called "Lick Creek?"

Based on contour maps obtained from the city's public works department, I found that water begins to collect for Lick Creek at an elevation of about 300 feet, in an area south of Central and east of McLean. The water flows north and east and drops to an elevation of 265 feet when it is designated a creek just north of Madison. It flows under Poplar at an elevation of 260 feet between Belleair and Cooper to enter Overton Park Golf Course. As it flows north it collects water from two tributaries (both unnamed)

*(Continued on last page)*

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## TO STOP A THIEF

Crime statistics continue to rise. What can you do to protect yourself and your property? Lt. Jim Meyers of the Memphis Police Department offers this advice:

**Purses.** The number one place to be threatened by a purse snatcher is standing by your car fumbling for keys. Don't carry your bag on your shoulder or draped across your body. Don't fight a would-be snatcher for it.

Carry a purse under your arm, unzipped, with the strap inside. Car keys should be in hand with a whistle on the ring. If accosted by a snatcher, blow the whistle, dump the purse upside down and sit on the ground. If that sounds crazy, that's the general idea, Meyers explains. Few thieves want to tangle with a crazy person.

**Home Security.** Seventy-five percent of all rapes in Shelby County occur in the home, said Meyers. In many cases, entry was through an unlocked door. He suggested using a strong deadbolt lock anchored with two-and-one-half-inch steel screws.

**Sliding Glass Doors.** To stop a thief, Meyers suggests putting two screws in the top of the track and a broom handle in the bottom track.

**Windows.** Burglar bars, if used at all, should cover only the bottom half of a window. In the event of fire, the upper window could be broken for easy escape.

**Habits.** While we're all creatures of habit, try not to establish a predictable pattern. This will aid the burglar in knowing when to make his appearance.

**Operation ID.** This is a very successful community program in which you mark furniture and personal property with an electrical engraving device which can be purchased for about \$8. Keep a list, and perhaps a picture, of your personal property in

your safe deposit box. Call Meyers at the police department and he will send you a front door sticker telling would-be thieves that you've numbered everything.

By Susan Helms

## ABOUT OUR WRITERS

**Susan Helms**, whose security tips in "To Stop A Thief" could save your life, is a registered nurse at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center and is a North Auburndale resident.

**Grace Spice Wallace**, a VECA resident since 1954 and a retired administrator from the University College of Nursing, spent hours researching and writing, "The Mystery of Lick Creek." She is **The Evergreen News'** production manager.

**Sue Strong** wrote the article on novelist John Fergus Ryan. She is a dental hygienist for Dr. Edward Wiener, working downtown in the First Tennessee Bank Building

## BROOKS BULLETIN

Feb. 2-March 20 — Afro American Abstract-action presents 31 paintings, sculptures and drawings by 18 nationally recognized American artists whose abstract works evoke African cultural heritage. Hours: Tuesday - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday thru Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday - 1 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 6 — Film, "The Emperor Jones" 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 20 — Film, "Gertrude Stein: When This You See, Remember Me."

Saturday, Feb. 26 — The second annual Decorative Arts Symposium, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Includes lectures on "Silver of the South" and "Southern Made Furniture." Reservations and fee required.

Sunday, Feb. 27 — Film, "Hallelujah," directed by King Vidor.

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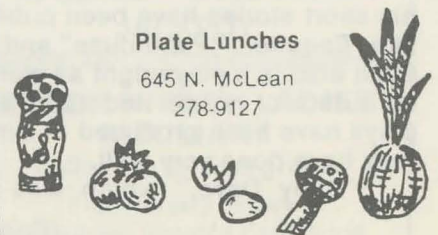
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**PARTY HONORS FORMER STAFF**

Former editors of *The Evergreen News* were honored recently at an open house hosted by the newspaper's advertising manager, Susan Fagan and husband Tom.

Former editor George Bradfute, explained that the newspaper, now going on 12 years old, was started by Johann Bruhwiler, a professor at Southwestern and a resident of the Vollintine-Evergreen community. "It was started during the block-busting days of the late 1960s and early 1970s with a message that said, 'yes, blacks and whites can live together peacefully and happily in the same neighborhood,'" said Bradfute, who was editor during the 1970s.

*The Evergreen News* has never gone any long period without publishing, making it perhaps the oldest and most regular neighborhood newspaper in Memphis. It depends on an all-volunteer staff and newspaper carriers to get each edition out. The newspaper's only means of support comes from advertising. It is printed each month at Starr Printing Co., at Chelsea and McLean where managers are sensitive about the needs of the community and are very reasonable about printing expenses.

Also attending the party were former editors Rick Thomas, Karen Tynes, Tina Egge, Ann Moore and Marilyn Halla. Current editor Kathie Jarmon Kerr also attended.

According to Kerr, the newspaper is presently seeking an assistant advertising manager and circulation manager. Writers are also welcomed.

"We hope to encourage some energetic, responsible persons who would like to give a little of their time in exchange for keeping this valuable community service going," Kerr said. "We can't offer money, but we can give them a chance to help their community and gain experience that may be useful in the future."

**SOUTHWESTERN AT MEMPHIS  
EVENTS CALENDAR**

**FEBRUARY**

- 1-25 Paintings by Barbara Jetton, Jed Jackson and Pinkney Herbert, Clough-Hanson Gallery, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Weekdays. Free.
- 5-6 Theatre, "Carnival," musical by Bob Merrill, & directed by Tony Lee Garner, McCoy Theatre, 8 p.m. Performances nightly as well as 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays. General Admission: \$6.
- 5 Men's Basketball, SW vs. Lindenwood, Mallory Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Vintage 40's Film, "The Postman Always Rings Twice," Frazier Jelke, Rm. B, 8 p.m. General Admission: \$2.
- 10 Women's Basketball, SW vs. Fisk, Mallory Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Women's Basketball, SW vs. Millsaps, Mallory Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.  
Men's Basketball, SW vs. Rose-Hulman, Mallory Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Men's Basketball, SW vs. Sewanee, Mallory Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Concert, Minnesingers Quartet, Hardie Auditorium, 8 p.m. Free.
- 24-27 Images Foreign Film Series, featuring "Sisters or The Balance of Happiness," written and directed by Margarethe Von Trotta, German with English subtitles, Frazier Jelke, Rm. B, 9 p.m. General Admission \$2.50.
- 25 Women's Basketball, SW vs. Sewanee, Mallory Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
- 28 Seidman Lecture Series, Ambassador William E. Brock, U.S. Trade Representative, talks on "World Statesmanship and Trade: Help or Hocum?"

Call 274-1800 ext. 385 to confirm dates and time.

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## RYAN (continued)

1979, made it to the national finals of American Community Theaters. The play is about a former child star who works as a lunch counter attendant and dreams of stardom again.

Ryan spent his early life in North Little Rock but has lived in Memphis since his graduation from Memphis State. Ryan says sometimes he writes every night, but he also goes long spells without writing at all.

His writings have a common theme. "They are humorous but they also show the dark side of life. Life gets you in the end," Ryan says. Drawing from day-to-day life and people he meets or just sees on the street, Ryan makes a list of thoughts and later develops them.

Ryan's current project is a three-act play. It poses an imaginary meeting between E. H. Crump and Richard Halliburton, prominent Memphians, in the Peabody Hotel during the late 1930s.

Ryan and his wife Carla have lived in the VECA area for 20 years. "I really love this neighborhood," he says. The Ryans have three children, and the oldest, John B. Ryan, did all the artwork for "The Redneck Bride."

By Sue Strong

## LICK CREEK (continued)

before it reaches the golf club house. Then it angles a bit west to leave Overton Park and Zoo under North Parkway where University meets Parkway.

All the way through Overton Park it is walled in and bridged over, but is visible and it does have water in it some days. I have walked many times on the sidewalk that forms the bridge over Lick Creek on North Parkway, without knowing I was crossing the creek. I had to peer through the vines that cover the stone wall and the protective fence to be able to look down into the creek, once I knew where it was.

Lick Creek is visible for a short distance after it

flows under North Parkway. It appears under the sign identifying the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Memorial Headquarters, it flows just north of Parkway House and the National Cotton Council Building but it disappears from view under Snowden School grounds. It stays underground as it angles north and west under McLean and Tutwiler to reappear between Idlewild and Hawthorne.

In the vicinity of Auburndale, it turns north to flow through the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Department's right of way and under the Louisville and Nashville Railroad between Auburndale and Belvedere. From there it heads west in a long, straight, man-made channel that drops to a 225-foot elevation by the time it turns north again between Montgomery and Bellevue. From Watkins west, it flows between Snowden and Jackson.

The Creek flows north under Jackson just east of the I-240 Midtown interchange to make its way north. Finally, just north of Brown and Klondyke Park, Lick Creek turns east to flow into Cypress Creek at an elevation of 215 feet. This is at a point just before Cypress Creek flows under the 1400 block of Chelsea on its way to the Wolf River.

Lick Creek should not be confused with the small creek that was blocked with ice and debris last February and flooded Overton Park. That appears to be a tributary of Overton Bayou. It leaves the park at an elevation of 250 feet and follows winding channels under Hein Park to enter Overton Bayou at an elevation of 245 feet. It is Overton Bayou that divides Cypress Drive into two one-way lanes as it flows northwest to pass under Jackson. Overton Bayou flows into Cypress Creek just east of University.

The one question left unanswered at both the library and city hall was where Lick Creek got its name. Unless one of our readers knows, it might forever be a mystery.

By Grace Spice Wallace

  
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