

EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by VECA, Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

Volume XIX, Number 4

August 1993

VECA Neighborhood History

The present VECA neighborhood had its start just after the beginning of this century. Thirty subdivisions were developed in the next sixty years. We will look at some of the major subdivisions and the reasons for some of the street names, which reflect some of the area's early history.

Much of what is now Jackson Avenue was originally Old Raleigh Road. The downtown portion was always called Jackson Avenue, named for Andrew Jackson, one of the founders of Memphis. The entire road became Jackson Avenue in 1907. The Parkways encircled Overton Park. They were completed in about 1921 and marked the city boundaries. In 1902 what became the VECA portion of North Parkway was known as both Summer and the Speedway. It may have been the first "drag strip," where horsemen were allowed to race their buggies with no speed limits. In 1910 a 20mph speed limit was set.

The excellent condition and the beauty of most of the homes and streets encompassed by VECA reflect the fine planning and construction in our neighborhood.

Many streets have retained their original names. However, some were changed. May Street became University when Southwestern Presbyterian University (now Rhodes) moved to Memphis. Maxwell became Dickinson (after an early developer). Springdale is a reversal of Dale Springs.

Snowden, Faxon, Crump and Dickinson are all names of families who owned the land and /or developed some of the early subdivisions. By the 1940s the VECA

neighborhood was essentially completed. The majority of subdivisions were settled, and most of the streets were located and named as they are today.

The Evergreen subdivision was built just east of what is now the VECA area. Its success, along with the development of the land, the parkway system, and transportation services made the area very attractive. Judge F. M. Guthrie, Will and Claude Crump, and F.E.P. Daniel established the first

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three subdivisions in this area adjacent to the Evergreen subdivision. Large homes were built between Evergreen and McLean, on or near Summer Avenue (Speedway).

The Speedway Land Company, organized in part by Finllay Faxon, opened in 1905. They bought 300 acres of adjoining property, the largest investment in subdivision property on record at that time. The boundaries were Mhoon Avenue (Bellevue Blvd.), old Raleigh Road (Jackson), Autumn, Galloway, and Faxon Avenues. Lots sold for \$30 to \$50, and in the Speedway subdivision building was limited to \$5,000!

Major new construction occurred between 1920 and 1930. H.M. Hall became one of the major builders, opening up the area north of Jackson.

EVERGREEN NEWS

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Other major developers were the Delugach (Dlugach) families. Harry Dlugach migrated from Poland in 1891, bought land from the Brinkleys and built his first house in 1908 near the present site of St Jude Children's Hospital. His sons joined the business. In 1970 it was the "oldest, active home building firm in the city." They built over 2000 homes in the area north Jackson and east of Crosstown.

As new homes were built, the city extended its transportation services. This attracted further growth, as did Southwestern's opening in 1925. The college's planned move had contributed to the development of Hein Park which was initiated in 1923 and became a highly desirable neighborhood.

The depression almost halted home building by the private sector. It was 1938 before large scale planning resumed. C.M. Jacobson then developed the area north of Vollintine and east of McLean. Some of the older companies also returned to building in the neighborhood. A few apartment buildings had been constructed earlier. But some large units were introduced after World War II.

The excellent condition and the beauty of most of the homes and streets encompassed by VECA reflect the fine planning and construction in our neighborhood.



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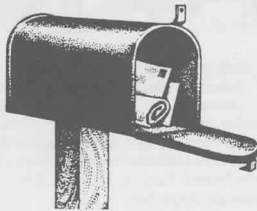
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NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

This is the second article in an important series in the Evergreen News supplying our readers with very pertinent information regarding security in several areas of interest. Tom Givens, Executive Director of Corporate Security, Inc., Memphis, TN, has supplied Evergreen News with the information and statistics for this series.

ROBBERY

Robbery is the forcible taking of goods or money from someone's person. Robberies can occur anywhere, but certain types are more common.

1. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are favorite hang-outs of hold-up men. Almost everyone who walks away from a ATM has cash money in his possession, and the thugs know that!
2. Grocery stores are favority hang-outs for robbers. They may strike on the parking lot on your way in, or follow you home from the store.
3. The parking lots of convenience stores are risky. Here, a robbery and car-jacking are often combined.

To lessen your chances of being robbed, BE ALERT. A study was conducted in which a large group of robbers in prison were individually shown a set of photos of street scenes. They were asked to point out the people they WOULD or WOULD NOT choose as victims. The thugs were almost unanimous in their choices! They chose those people who:

1. Walked with head down, shuffling along;
2. Were not aware of their surroundings;
3. Were reading or otherwise preoccupied;
4. Were rummaging in a purse or briefcase for keys, etc.

They did NOT choose people who:

1. Were "heads up", alert, aware of the world around them;
2. Who walked "purposefully";
3. Who made eye contact with others as they passed or came into view.

Thugs are basically lazy cowards. They choose easy victims.

DESCRIPTIONS

To be of any use to law enforcement/security personnel, a description must include sufficient data to set the suspect apart from all the other people around. To do this, you must view people or objects methodically, and make note of detail. With a little practice, this becomes second nature. To help learn to think of people as objects and the sum of many parts, use the following guidelines to look at people/objects you wish to describe.

Suspect- sex, race, approximate age. Build, approximate weight. Then start at the top and work your way down: hat, or hair, color and style. Facial features- eyes, color and shape, eyeglasses; shape/size of nose; mustache, sideburns, beard; ears, shape, prominence; lips, size, shape; chin, pointed, double, cleft? Then the clothing: jacket, style, color; shirt, pants, shoes.

Did you see any scars or marks, unusual jewelry? If he/her spoke, was his/her voice

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high, low, raspy, effeminate, lispy? When he/she walked did he/she limp?

Here's a description that is absolutely worthless: a young black. How many "young male blacks" are on the street of any US city at any hour?

Here is a example of as good description: a white, about thirty, 6'2" to 6'4" tall, athletic build, Had sandy brown, collar length hair. Fair complexion, light brown mustache. Wore a small gold earring in left ear. Was wearing a brown leather bomber jacket, dark pull-over shirt, khaki pants, dark loafers. Last seen going west on Union from Belvedere.

This description gives responding officers enough to go on to justify stopping an individual for questioning.

Cars should be treated in the same logical fashion. Make note of these important features: MAKE (Chevy, Ford, etc.), MODEL (Caprice, LTD, etc.), YEAR (1988, etc.), BODY STYLE (2 door, 4 door, station wagon, hatchback, etc.), COLOR (be specific-light brown, dark green, etc./if two toned, list top color first, such as black vinyl roof over white), LICENSE NUMBER, ANY VISIBLE DAMAGE, DECALS, OCCUPANTS, ETC.

Example: Ford LTD, 1991 model, 4 door, dark blue over light blue, Mississippi license tags, only got first three digits, A76. Car had large dent in left rear, driven by a middle aged white.

Locations must also be given in a descriptive manner. Always try to remember the exact address, if at all possible. If not, give details, example: on Autumn, in front of a vacant lot half-way between McLean and Hawthorne, on the south side of the street.

Please Save Our VECA Neighborhood Any Embarrassment SHAME ! SHAME! on the VECA resident seen placing tree limbs on the L&N right of way at the northeast corner of McLean and Mignon. City Sanitation picked up the discarded limbs. However, a call by the offending resident to DIAL-A-TRUCK, 576-6508, would have brought a city dump truck to your door. You would not have had to cart your trash so far, and you would have spared the VECA community the embarrassment. DIAL-A-TRUCK is a city service available to all private home owners or neighborhoods who want to do major clean up. Just call 576-6508.

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VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The Evergreen News is the way in which VECA communicates with its residents. The Evergreen News contains information about VECA, neighborhood residents, business and government policies. VECA is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Trezevant on the East and North Parkway on the South. Contact VECA by writing to P.O. Box 12011, Memphis, TN, 38182-0011.