

The Board chose instead to build Northside High School at 659 Manassas letting the contract December 14, 1923. Two years later in March the name was changed to L. C. Humes in honor of the president of the City Board of Education who died in office.⁴⁰

Forty-two years later the city built another Northside at 1212 Vollentine Avenue. The school with 74 classrooms, a gym, auditorium, and cafetorium was built in 1967 at a cost of \$3,387,500.⁴¹ When Northside opened, Humes became a junior high.

The new Northside had difficulties immediately. Traditionally white students in this neighborhood had gone to Central High. "The entire neighborhood revolved around Vollentine, Snowden and Central," said Irving Sachritz.⁴² It was very unpleasant for the white residents to think of moving their children to the new high school. They used many subterfuges to avoid compliance. VECA as a 'friend of the court' sought to have the neighborhood placed back in the Central district, but this was not allowed.

On May 5, 1972, Judge Robert McRae rejected this saying that "it would constitute gerrymandering."⁴³ This had an unsettling effect on the neighborhood and caused another wave of white flight. Margaret Friedman, resident at 924 Hawthorne for thirty years, explained that there was a group exodus at that time of Jewish families with school-age children. Northside was not college oriented and was not acceptable to many residents; consequently, they moved.⁴⁴ Margaret Dichtel, longtime area resident, said it was a poor plan to build Northside there. ". . . if they'd built it in a different spot, it would have had a better chance of survival as an integrated school."⁴⁵ In 1979 the enrollment is 1337 with eleven of that total white. Charles Woodard is principal.

The VECA neighborhood is fortunate in having two older and well regarded schools such as Snowden and Vollentine within its boundaries. Both lend themselves to neighborhood

schools. Snowden offers the best opportunity to become a fairly balanced integrated school, although its enrollment today is at about the same as the city's ratio of 75 percent black to 25 percent white.

Almost insurmountable problems exist in making Cypress Junior High and Northside integrated schools. The real difficulty took place in the mid-1960s when the School Board elected to build these schools at the locations chosen. Their orientation toward predominately black areas almost determined that the enrollment would be black. Public policy must bear the blame for such planning. Segregation had been illegal for over a decade. To locate schools in black neighborhoods at that late date was short sighted at best. Poor planning generally bequeaths to the future a complexity of problems, such as some the Memphis school system is experiencing.

SOUTHWESTERN AT MEMPHIS, 2000 North Parkway

Fortuitous for Memphians was the movement that began in the early 20th century within the Presbyterian Church to move a small, church college from Clarksville, Tennessee, to a larger city. The school had begun in 1848 as Montgomery Masonic College. When the Masonic Order could not adequately support the college, control was assumed by the Synod of Nashville, and it became a Presbyterian college and was renamed Stewart College. After the Reconstruction Era in 1875, Stewart College was taken over by several additional synods of the Presbyterian Church and renamed Southwestern Presbyterian University.⁴⁶ Dr. Charles P. Diehl, a Princeton-educated minister, left the pulpit to become its president in 1917. By 1919, he recognized the advantages of a move, and Memphis became his choice.⁴⁷

Memphians were eager to have the college. Edward B. LeMaster was instrumental in securing the endorsement by the Board of Directors of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce to raise \$500,000 in Memphis provided the synods raised \$1,000,000. By May 1922 the million dollar campaign had raised \$1,500,000. On May 8, 1925, the Tennessee Supreme Court okayed the move to Memphis. It gave permission to move all assets except one gift of approximately \$50,000 originally made by the City of Clarksville on condition that the college should be located at Clarksville. This was returned. In March 1924 the charter was amended to change the name from Southwestern Presbyterian University to Southwestern.⁴⁸

One hundred acres facing North Parkway, in the heart of the growing residential section of Memphis, were purchased from the Hein, Fargason, and Snowden families in 1922. All three owners made liberal gifts to the college.⁴⁹ John T. Fargason and his sister, Mrs. Mary Fargason Falls, donated fifteen acres with the stipulation there would always be a Fargason Field on campus.⁵⁰

The boundaries of the campus proper extended from University on the west, to Jackson the north, to Charles Place on the east, and to North Parkway on the south. Southwestern owned additional frontage on North Parkway west of University. Portions of this were subsequently sold to Evergreen Presbyterian Church and the National Cotton Council. SAM donated land to Pi Kappa Alpha for its headquarters.⁵¹

Southwestern has been described by E. B. LeMaster, Jr., as ". . . just about Memphis' greatest asset."⁵² Dr. Charles Diehl set the tone for the college; he was impressed with the tutorial method of instruction used in the great English universities. Southwestern was one of the first American colleges to adopt English tutorial methods. Gradually the tutorial method of instruction became an important feature of the Southwestern curriculum. The college focused on the liberal arts. Bible was a required subject. The emphasis was always on quality education. This attitude was no doubt the basis for the 1973 rating of Southwestern among the top ten church related institutions in the whole nation.⁵³

Dr. Diehl selected collegiate Gothic style of architecture for the campus. Stone from quarries at Bald Knob, Arkansas, was chosen as the building material for all campus buildings.⁵⁴ To assure sufficient stone, Southwestern bought a quarry and transported the stone by rail to the campus. The stone piles were favorite haunts for the neighborhood children. Palmer Hall was the first and largest building to be erected on the Memphis campus. It was a memorial to Benjamin M. Palmer, "Father of Southwestern Presbyterian University." The architect of this award-winning building was Henry Hibbs.⁵⁵

The first session in Memphis opened September 24, 1925, with 406 students enrolled. After a summer of dry weather, the drought broke and on the opening day it rained. The campus which as yet had no sidewalks nor grass was turned into a "sea of mud." This, however, did not dampen the spirits of the enthusiastic students who came in surprising numbers to enter the new Southwestern.⁵⁶ The bell which had been used to call students to class in Clarksville was brought to Memphis. It was held in the belfry of the Hugh M. Neely Hall and for many years was rung by the same John Henry.

On Inauguration and Dedication Day, November 27, 1925, acorns from the giant oak on the Clarksville Campus were planted in the shape of an "S" in memory of the college's eleven former chancellors and presidents.⁵⁷

Some seeds of discord grew during the school's first decade in Memphis. In 1931 Dr. Diehl was charged by the conservative faction in the Presbyterian Church as one not "sound in the faith."⁵⁸ There were two trials, but both resulted in Dr. Diehl's being exonerated.

Following the merger of Southwestern at Memphis and the Memphis College of Music in 1943, Southwestern purchased the Galloway mansion and grounds at 1822 Overton Park Avenue for its music department. It was sold in 1974. Today it is the home of Dr. Marshall L. Koonce.

Major William Neely Mallory, Treasurer of Southwestern, was killed in a plane crash February 19, 1945. Money raised in Memphis during a large fund drive was designated for the Mallory Memorial with part of the money used for a student center to be known as the William Neely Mallory Memorial Building.⁵⁹ Other large gifts through the years have made valuable contributions to the college. Dr. Diehl retired in 1949 with great satisfaction that he had seen the physical assets of the college grow to more than \$5,000,000 and the quality of its educational experience remain very high.

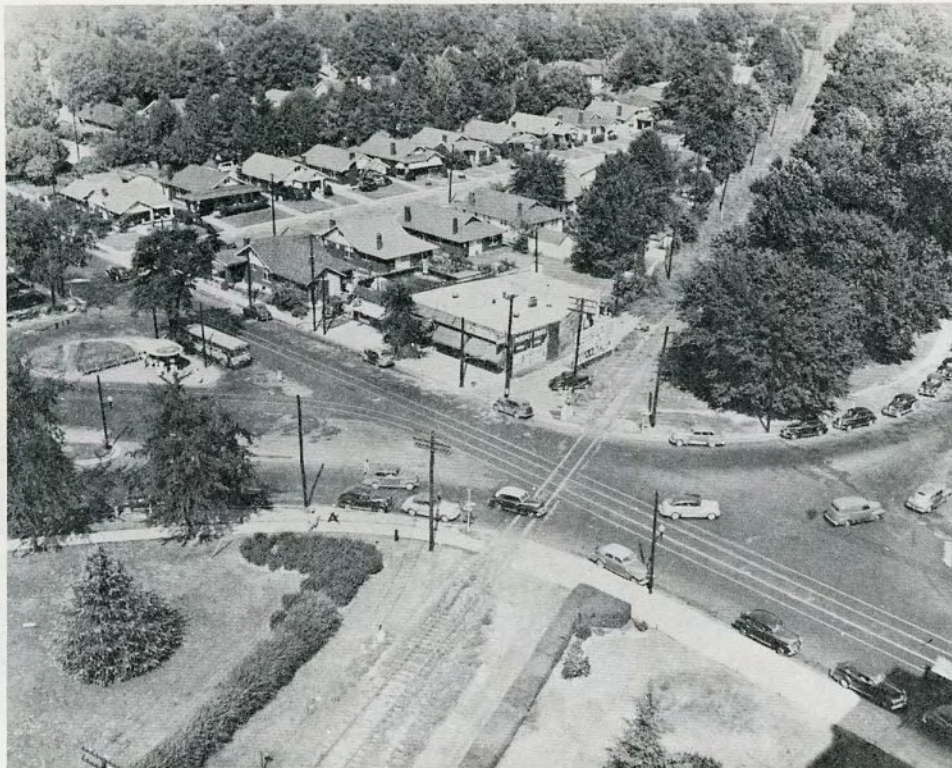
Dr. Diehl was succeeded by the witty, physics professor Peyton Rhodes, who moved to Memphis from Crozet, Virginia in 1926, just a year after the college opened. "Southwestern was still dusty or muddy from the construction."⁶⁰ In 1949 Dr. Rhodes was elected President of the college where he served until 1965 during a period of great development at the college.

Modestly, Dr. Rhodes describing his tenure said,

. . . I was pretty much holding the place together. Financially it was always a problem. During that interval we managed to get some money from the Ford Foundation . . . and from various organizations. We did hold together and didn't have any debts and we managed to get a pretty good faculty . . . just toward the end we got this new science center there which there is no equal in the United States.⁶¹

Dr. Rhodes was also in command when the Halliburton Tower was built in 1962 in memory of Richard Halliburton, famous world traveler and adventurer, "who enacted all the romantic feats dreamed of by millions of Walter Mittys: swimming the Hellespont, climbing Mt. Olympus, marching with the French Foreign Legion."⁶²

The tower, an architectural triumph, "serves as a focal point " (See picture) for the campus. The bell strikes the hours and gives one stroke on the half hour. Weighing five tons, it is "the largest bell in the south with the exception of one in the Bach Tower (in Florida) . . . it's a beautiful thing."⁶³ The bell can be tolled if some member of the academic community dies, and it can be pealed for a joyous occasion.



Intersection of N. Watkins and N. Parkway from Sears, 1948

Picture courtesy of The Conveyor



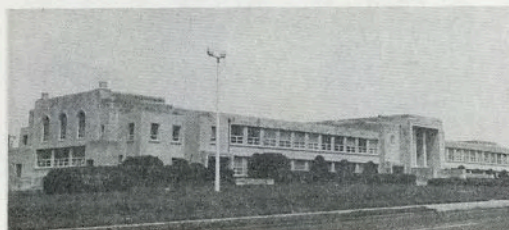
Evergreen Presbyterian Church

Picture courtesy of Evergreen Church

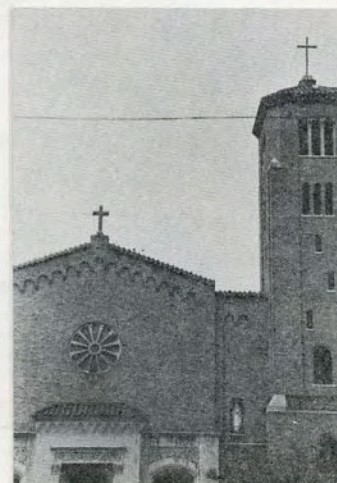


Rosemary Theatre. Opened 1929, demolished 1965.

Picture courtesy of Augustine Cianciolo



Baron Hirsch Synagogue

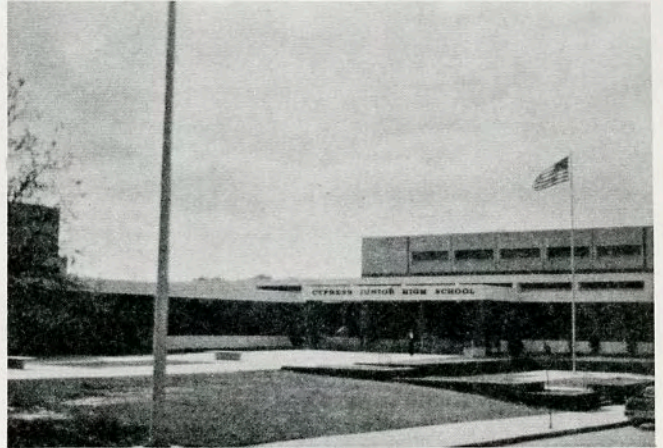


St. Teresa "Little Flower"
Catholic Church and School

Neighborhood Today



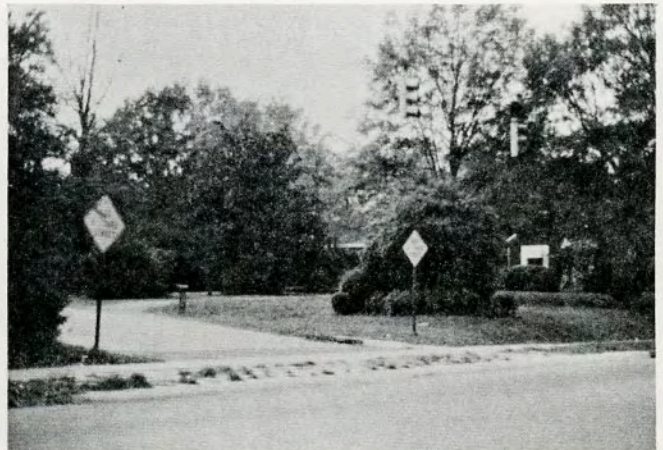
Vollentine School



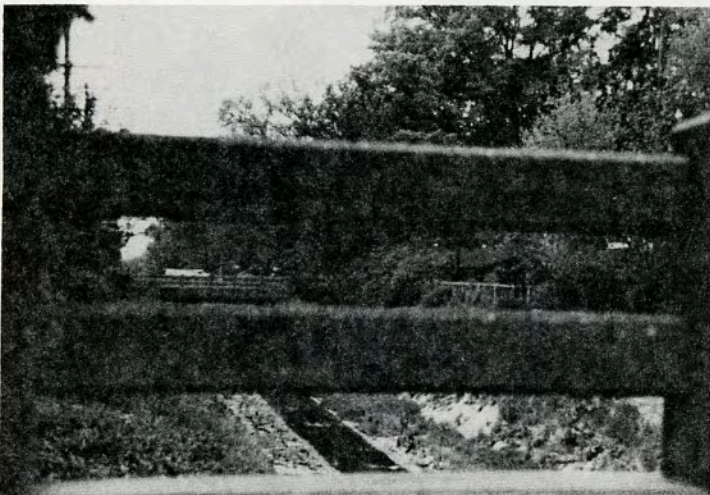
Cypress Jr. High School



Scenic Jackson Avenue Boulevard



Closed West Drive 1979



Lick Creek from Belvedere



Dino's Southwestern Grill

The City of Memphis can strike a glad note for the locating of this college in its midst. The same is true for the Vollintine/Evergreen neighborhood in which Southwestern continues to have a significant role and is a stable anchor to the neighborhood. The many faculty members who live in the area are highly educated and add a professional, thoughtful approach to problem solving. "Southwestern gives the neighborhood a kind of prestige," says Jameson Jones.⁶⁴ Here are one hundred acres of property which will not be subdivided or commercialized. Southwestern has now been listed on the National Register of Historical Places. (See back cover)

In 1974, Dr. James Daughdrill, President of Southwestern since 1973, announced the college's ten-year development plan in which he described the school policy of increasing involvement with the city at large. Faculty members and staff members have always worked for VECA, but the first formal ties between Southwestern and VECA came about around 1975 or 1976. At that time Southwestern set up a liaison committee to work with the neighborhood to make sure VECA had plenty of facilities, work space, and secretarial help. VECA used Southwestern facilities for putting out the EvergreenNews.⁶⁵ In 1974 Southwestern Center for the Study of Alternative Futures held a workshop on VECA's future, conducted by the late John Osman of Brookings Institute and May Maury Harding of Southwestern.

Mike Kirby, Southwestern Professor of Political Science, had students set up an "adopt a house program" where students worked with elderly people to help them fix up their houses.⁶⁶ Today students in sociology are often assigned work in the neighborhood. Many ethnographies have been prepared on neighborhood establishments.

The desire to live near Southwestern influences many people, including former students, to move into the VECA neighborhood. Just as the college was an incentive to neighborhood development, it serves today as a strong stabilizing force.