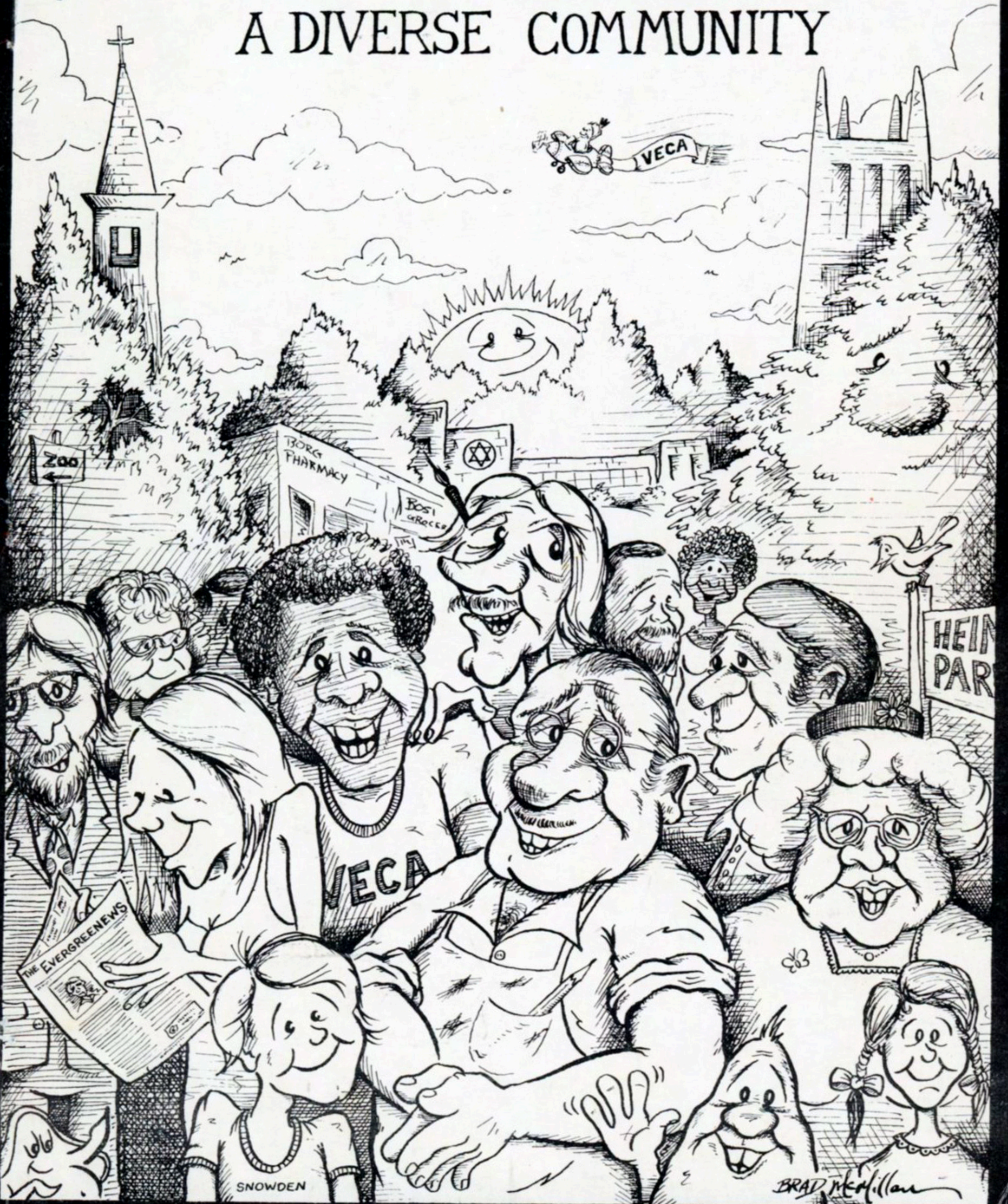


# VOLLINTINE / EVERGREEN

## A DIVERSE COMMUNITY





**Vullintine/Evergreen Map I**

Map courtesy of Division of Housing and Community Development

- |            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Boundary   | ..... |
| School     | ▣     |
| Church     | +     |
| Commercial | ■     |
| Synagogue  | ★     |

VOLLINTINE-EVERGREEN

A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

A History

By

Peggy Boyce Jemison

with

Virginia Dunaway and Ray Ann Kremer

Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA)

Memphis, Tennessee, 1980



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Revised

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#### Front Cover:

Designed by Brad McMillan, professional artist, cartoonist,  
and resident of VECA. For several years he contributed his art  
work to the EvergreenNews. In the words of cartoonist Draper  
Hill, "Increasingly these days one finds oneself under surveillance  
by Brad McMillan's engaging blobs of humanity." He observes and  
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## Introduction

In the 1890s, what is now considered the VECA\* neighborhood consisted mainly of dairy farms with two small communities, Terrytown and Springdale. The Terrytown community had been established by the Terry family, and Springdale was a stop on the L & N Railroad between Memphis and Nashville. It was here in these two communities that the original commercial area, the first school, and the oldest churches began.

People camped in the area during the Yellow Fever epidemics, because fresh spring water was available. Pioneer settlers were also attracted to the location by the good water found in Cypress and Lick Creeks and the numerous springs and wells nearby.

By 1907 a few families had built homes along North Parkway, known in the early 1900s as Summer or the Speedway. The initial reasons for the neighborhood's expansion were the attitude of the Snowden/Overton family in selling land to developers and the public policies which planned and built Snowden School, Overton Park and the Parkways.

In the 1920s large scale subdivision development began in response to the Crosstown expansion and the anticipation of Southwestern's move to Memphis in 1925. This growth continued to the end of the 1920s, slowed during the depression, and reactivated in the late 1930s, continuing through the 1940s.

Joining the early residents, who had come from Mississippi, were Memphians from the older neighborhoods, a large Jewish

\*Originally called VECAA, i.e. Vollintine/Evergreen Community Action Association. On March 26, 1979 the word, action, was removed from the name and the initials shortened to VECA. This history will use the current spelling throughout.

Over the years Volli(e)tine has had several spellings in the old records. Today there is still a difference in the spelling of the school and the street. Consequently, this history will use Vollentine for the school. Elsewhere Vollintine will be used.



contingency and many people of foreign extraction. Today increasing numbers of black families have moved into the neighborhood which has integrated more successfully than any other Memphis neighborhood. While the community has not experienced large scale white flight, certain areas have made a racial change, and there are some polarizing issues. However, there remains much loyalty among the white population to the neighborhood. Many residents have lived in their same home over fifty years; second and even third generations remain in the neighborhood.

Public policy has been an active participant in the neighborhood's growth and will be a major factor in its future. Several of the issues, I-40, West Drive, and the traffic situation, are city-wide in scope. How they are resolved holds significance for the neighborhood. Much also depends on a genuine biracial solution to the neighborhood's problems; there have been good beginnings, but both communities have further work to do.

The purpose of this history is to examine the elements which comprised the growth of the Vollintine/Evergreen community and those which affect its future.

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