Past Glory

When two Memphians were featured last month in the "Southerners" column of Southern Living, the writer failed to mention that they were residents of the Vollintine-Evergreen community. JACK and MARY WALLACE CROCKER of 1835 Overton Park Avenue were cited for their contributions to art, specifically photography and music.

Both grew up near Clarksdale, Mississippi, and both previously taught at Mississippi State College for Women. Last August, the Crackers moved to Memphis where Jack hoped to get started in music. So far he has released one single and album of his own compositions. He frequently tours college campuses giving concerts and reading his poetry.

It is Mary Wallace, however, of chief interest to us here, for this is the time of year that many will be enjoying pilgrimages to historic homes around the South. Some of these "pilgrims" will no doubt have been inspired by her recent book, Historic Architecture in Mississippi. Printed by the University of Mississippi this 200-page book presents descriptions of the numerous styles of historic architecture represented in that state. It is the most authoritative reference on the subject published date and describes in detail scores of homes and public buildings. It is not a picture book (although it contains hundreds of photographs) but is a well-researched monograph including data on the design, history and ownership of the structures featured.

The book was four years in the making with Mary Wallace spending a year taking photographs across Mississippi and three more years digging through dusty archives to retrieve architectural plans, deeds records and family histories.

Mary Wallace first became interested in Mississippi architecture in college where she majored in housing and interior design. When she failed to find any good reference books on the subject, she set out to write one. While in the process she provided photographs of local architecture to such publications as the Delta Review and Mississippi Architect and gained fame as a photographer. Since the publication of her book she has had her photos widely published and is sought after around the South as an authority of historic Mississippi houses. She will be the featured speaker at the Mississippi Arts Festival in Jackson this month.

In everyday life Mary Wallace teaches housing and home furnishing at Memphis State. In her spare time, however, she and Jack collect plants and antiques and work on their new home. The Crackers occupied a Victorian cottage in Columbus and only an older home would do when they moved to Memphis. The one they picked is right across the street from the Galloway Mansion and provides a good setting for the many antiques they have acquired.

As for the future, Jack plans to become further involved in music while Mary Wallace contemplates a sequel to her successful first book (approximately 6,000 copies sold). She feels there is a need for a second volume to cover the many antebellum homes she had to omit and perhaps a third on Victorian architecture in Mississippi. What about a fourth on historic homes in the Vollintine-Evergreen community?

Nashville Notes

The 89th Tennessee General Assembly appears to be heading toward major reforms according to District 98 Representative Harper Brewer. Harper, a Democrat, is chairing a House Committee studying lien laws. The legislator lives at 990 N. Fidewild and represents the portion of the V/E Community north of Vollintine. Harper believes that, "Lien laws, as they now operate, can and often do put the unsuspecting homebuyer or remodeler in a position of having to pay twice for construction work they have done by a general contractor who fails to pay the job subcontractor.

The people in this state need to be protected from the unscrupulous contractor, who after gladly taking full payment for work done on a job, disappears without paying the ones who did the actual work," he added.

In addition to working toward lien law reform, Harper is serving as Assistant Majority Leader. Repeal of fair trade and strengthening of ethics laws are also areas of his concern.

In his view, "there is little question that fair trade—actually price fixing—should be repealed during this session of the 89th General Assembly. Consumers should not have to pay what amounts to an artificially high price for goods set by manufacturers simply to assure themselves a higher profit margin."

On the question of stronger ethics laws, Harper stated, "This is an age of accountability in which citizens expect public servants to tow the line in both their official and unofficial conduct." He added that "in years gone by, lobbyists have been, in all honesty, influential, with some legislators. Times, however, have changed and I predict and will support passage of strong registration requirements..."

Next month, a look at VECAA's other State Representative, Pam Gaia (Democrat, District 89).
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Selected WLYX Programs

WLYX-FM serves a radio station located on the Southwestern campus. It offers a wide variety of programs, many of which are listed below. It broadcasts 24 hours a day and much of the time not accounted for below is devoted to contemporary music. The station solicits program ideas from WFE residents and even encourages the production of shows to be broadcast there.

Daily
8:15 a.m. 11:45 a.m.

Sunday
11:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m.
9:30 p.m.
10:30 p.m.
11:30 p.m.
Midnight

Monday
9:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
2:20 p.m.
3:45 p.m.
4:45 p.m.

Tuesday
6:30 a.m.
10:45 a.m.
2:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
8:15 a.m.

Wednesday
5:15 a.m.
2:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.

Thursday
10:15 a.m.
1:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Friday
7:15 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
4:15 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Saturday
7:30 a.m.
1:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m.
4:25 p.m.

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
1911 Jackson Ave., Ft. University
Sundays, 9:30 A.M. – Mass
10:30 A.M. – Choral Commission, Sermon with Sunday School
Wednesday Service
10:00 A.M. – Mass and Bible Study
The Rev. Canon George A. Fox, Priest-In-Charge

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767-5890

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SELECTED WLYX PROGRAMS

Memphis Art News
Second Presbyterian Church Service
Music from Buntyn Auditorium Organ
NASA Space Notes
Dusty Labels and Old Wax
Meet Me in Memphis
Music from Buntyn Sunshine Ship
Rambling Reviewer Classics by Request

Jewish Viewpoint
Consumer Time Law for Laymen
NASA Space Story
Let's Learn Japanese

NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY
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IRVIN SACHRITZ
761-6140 or 276-6216
NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

DINGO'S Southwestern Grill
645 N. McLean Blvd. 270-9238

DIRECTORY OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
VEGAS – Irvin Sachritz at 276-6216 or 526-6431.
The Evergreen News – Rick Thomas at 278-2210 or 725-0680.
Real Estate – Joe Hough at 274-5551 or 396-3130.
Social Services – Kathryn Baker, MSW, at 276-2970 or 725-0680.
Schools – David Vincent at 275-0248.
Services for Senior Citizens – Marlin Landers at 272-7408.

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Community Rehab

The City Council has approved the initial priority areas to be funded under the Community Development Act and a portion of the V/E neighborhood is included in Priority Area IB shown in map below. (The portion within V/E boundaries is represented by the shaded area.) A total of $2,658,310 will be spent in the area to improve various aspects of the community. Expenditures are being made with the idea of improving communities that are tending toward deterioration and not those already in substandard condition. (Other funds will be allocated for the latter.)

The largest proportion of funds ($1,140,000) will be spent on housing rehabilitation while another large amount ($756,900) will go for transportation improvements. Most of this will go for street rebuilding although repaving, intersection improvement and sign control are also included. Funds for environmental improvements amount to $521,410, most of which will go for much needed drainage projects. Another $240,000 is earmarked for parks and the bulk of this will be spent on Gooch Park. University Park will also benefit.

In addition to these funds, area IB will also be eligible for three other programs. These provide funds for the demolition of dangerous structures, home repairs and neighborhood clean-up.

No doubt the lion's share of these funds will be spent north of the V/E boundary. There is no question, however, that such improvements in adjacent areas will be beneficial to the Vollintine-Evergreen community.

The Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association (VECAA) is a non-profit neighborhood organization founded in 1970. Its boundaries are roughly Watkins, Cypress Creek, Trezevant and Overton Park Avenue. VECAA's initial goal was to enhance and maintain a stable biracial community with quality housing, services and facilities. It has been active in promoting stability, assisting in school desegregation, opposing commercial rezoning and in general promoting those activities that serve to create a viable mid-town community.
Memphis, like other cities throughout the country, has witnessed an alarming increase in the number of home burglaries committed. The V/E community has, unfortunately also been affected by this trend and it has become a matter of concern for many neighborhood residents.

Probably the most effective deterrent to burglary to date is plain old neighborliness. This amounts to each resident acting as his brother's keeper for adjacent residences. This includes the noting of strange persons around the property and the subsequent reporting of any unusual activity to the homeowner or the authorities.

The V/E community is fortunate in having a large non-working population - especially senior citizens and young mothers - who are in a position to keep a watch on nearby homes. Unfortunately, however, we too often do not even know who our neighbors are and are therefore unable to contact them about unusual activity.

To improve this situation VECAA co-chairman Irvin Schr itz suggests a return to the frontier "circling the wagons" procedure wherein individuals banded together for mutual protection. The diagram provides a handy form to be filled in and posted. It will offer a handy reference to those who we might need to call in case of an emergency.

**Diagram:**

- **NAME**
- **ADDRESS**
- **HOME PHONE**
- **WORK PHONE**

For each house:

- **NAME**
- **ADDRESS**
- **HOME PHONE**
- **WORK PHONE**

**Contact Information:**

- **POLICE:** 528-2222
- **FIRE DEPT.:** 458-3311