

# The EVERGREEN NEWS

*A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Action Association*



## Galloway House Up-date

by Patricia Terry

A glimpse of magnificence, past and present is a fit description of a brief visit to the Overton mansion which is now the home of DR. MARSHALL KOONCE and MR. ROBERT DEAN BUDISELICH. The splendid home, constructed in 1902, is located on the block bounded by Overton Park, McLean, Hawthorne, and Autumn.

The owners purchased the house May 6 of this year at auction and spent one month moving their magnificent antiques into the equally impressive setting of the mansion. Dr. Koonce is a native Tennessean who returned to Memphis to practice after being educated in Oregon. He and Budiselich are not new to the neighborhood; they lived at 49 East Parkway for ten years before purchasing the mansion. It is significant that the mansion was bought primarily as a home, for the owners have no serious plans for selling or developing the property except to restore it to its former grandeur.

A word of caution is in order before continuing with a description of the contents of the mansion. The house is outfitted with an inner and outer security system which would alert the police and fire departments to descend upon the home immediately in the case of a break-in. The public will have to be content with admiring the mansion from afar.

Dr. Koonce and Mr. Budiselich have been doing their own decorating, and seem to have done so with great care. They view the collection of antiques as a creative process by which they can bring tradition into the modern world. Their antiques complement the beautiful features of the rooms, such as the large carved fireplaces, the beveled glass, and the lofty, fourteen-foot ceilings. Among the pieces in their collection are musical instruments, two

large antique music boxes, and a zitar. An antique chest that belonged to Mary, Queen of Scots, occupies one wall. A rare chandelier is suspended from the ceiling of an adjacent room. One's attention is also drawn by a desk dating from the Italian Renaissance period, covered with precious stones. An eighteenth century Chinese opium bed is the ornate focal point of a sun-filled room.

Dr. Koonce and Mr. Budiselich have done an amazing job inside and outside the house, especially when one realizes that the house was barren when they first moved in, and that all has been accomplished in about a six-week period. The grounds, however, were far from barren. Nothing had been done to the grounds in years, and clearing the thick growth of vines and bushes became one of the first projects of the new owners. Fifty-two truckloads of debris were hauled from the site. The owners are supervising the yardwork and are doing much of it themselves. In the clearing process, they were surprised to find a barbecue spit large enough to grill a cow and a pig at the same time.

When the home was owned by the Galloways years ago, the grounds were landscaped in the style of a free-form Japanese garden. When such was no longer fashionable, the lay-out was destroyed. Dr. Koonce and Mr. Budiselich have uncovered the remnants of the Japanese garden and are presently restoring it — waterfall, fountain and all. Future plans for the grounds include a swimming pool and tennis courts.

Dr. Koonce and Mr. Budiselich are working at their professions and on the house simultaneously. Supervision of the workmen is particularly important because the house is custom-built and extraordinary. Dr. Koonce describes himself and Mr. Budiselich as "party people", who plan to entertain in their home. Mr. Budiselich may or may not have been joking when he estimated that date for final completion of the house and grounds as 1999, so don't hold your breath for an invitation.

Dr. Koonce and Mr. Budiselich spoke highly of the neighborhood. "It's fantastic," they agreed. If a good neighbor is one who cares about the beauty of his home and property, Dr. Koonce and Mr. Budiselich certainly win on that score.

## Marriage Encounter

Unfortunately we hear too few things about developing good marital and family relationships. In this time of high divorce rates and broken homes, there are relatively few programs designed to enrich marriages. The Memphis Marriage Encounter is one such organization. It is dedicated to the strengthening of marriages and families. It is for any couple who desires to better their marriage...those with good communication - to deepen it...those with poor communication - to improve it...those with no communication - who are willing to be open to this particular method to restore or reawaken their love and communication.

Memphis, Tennessee

Circulation: 5000

Volume VII, Number 9


20 September, 1977

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Marriage Encounter is not a sensitivity group, a retreat or a time to go over mistakes of the past. Their is no group dialogue or group dynamics. It is a very private weekend and each individual 'encounters' only one person - their spouse. The weekend lasts from Friday evening till Sunday afternoon. The couple spends 44 hours together, away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on talking deeply with each other. It is spiritual in nature and exumenical in philosophy. Through a series of ideas presented by a team of married couples and a clergyman, an opportunity is given for a husband and wife to look at themselves and their lives, their marriage and their relationship to each other, their relationship to God as a couple, and their relationship to the world.

The Marriage Encounter was developed in the mid 60's in Spain by Dr. Gabriel Calvo. It came to the United States in 1967. Marriage Encounter came to Memphis in November of 1972. Two of our own VECAA residents, FRED and JUDY WIMMER (1999 Mignon) were instrumental in bringing the program here and developing it to it's present stature. To date over 350 couples in the Memphis and surrounding areas have participated in the weekend programs.

Several other of our neighborhood residents are very involved in the program. JIM and MARILYN PAAVOLA (893 Stonewall) and BILL and BARB McKEE (879 Stonewall) both serve on the Board of Directors. ED and MARY BETH WINGFIELD (878 Kensington) attended a recent weekend held at Holiday Inn University.

Since the organization is non-profit and totally a volunteer group, the cost of the weekend is quite reasonable. It includes two nights lodgings, meals and some material used. Babysitting can also be provided upon request. The dates for the next two encounters are Sept. 23 - 25, and Nov. 4 - 6. For more information or for reservation details call the Paavolas at 276-2642 or the Kraussers at 276-0209.

**HOUSE INSPECTORS!**

Representatives of the city's Office of Community Development — housing inspectors, to be exact — are now in the V/E community. Specifically, Priority Area -B, which is bounded by Chelsea on the North, Evergreen on the East, University on the West, and Vollintine on the South, has been the target of the inspectors. They have checked approximately 150 homes thus far and plan to finish this section by the end of December. The inspectors are going house to house and all wear plastic

identification badges with their picture on it along with their names and information about the Community Development Office. If the occupants are absent at the time of the visit, they will leave a letter stating that they came by and a number at which they may be reached to set up a convenient time for the inspection.

The inspector this editor met, Mr. GARY KIRK, was very courteous, and only took 10 - 15 minutes to make his inspection. Mr. Kirk asked that any one doubting the credentials presented by an inspector call either 527-0373 or 327-7308 for confirmation.

The violations the inspectors are looking for are those structural hazards that might prove dangerous to the residents or detrimental to the property such as faulty light switches, loose stair rails, leaking roofs, junk in the yard (cars, equipment), tall grass, rodent infestation, overcrowded conditions, broken windows, poor ventilation, etc.. Most of the violations cited are minor ones involving moderate expense and time.

After the initial inspection, a form will be sent in the mail stating: 1) the house met the minimum housing code, or 2) such violations that were found. There are three forms received in the latter case which will give a date on which the resident goes to the MATCH Office (Memphis Approach to Rehabilitation and Conservation of Housing) in order to discuss the report and work out an acceptable work schedule. If the work is minor and you cannot go down, a simple phone call stating that the resident will make the repairs in thirty days will be all that is needed. An inspection will be made at the end of that time to make sure the work has been completed or is in the process of being done.

This editor talked with Mr. DUANE THIEME of the CD office about the inspections. Mr. Thieme said that the goal of the inspections was to bring all the housing stock of the area within the minimum requirements of the housing code. In order to achieve this, financial assistance is available in two forms: 1) 3% loan money available to anyone — owner/occupant and owner/landlord. 2) Rehabilitation Grants which will provide up to \$4,000 for the repair work. The latter is available only to owner/occupants and those whose salary does not exceed \$360 a month. Also, Mr. Thieme said that the rule would vary if more than 25% of the income was being spent on housing. Each application will be decided on its own merits

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and, to quote Mr. Thieme, "We will process anyone with a ghost of a chance."

The money for this grant came from the Federal Government in the form of Community Development funds. The City of Memphis then decided to spend these funds on improving housing. Though the funds are now city funds, application must adhere to Federal guidelines. The City Council has included a requirement of its own, which is that the recipient of the Rehabilitation Grant must maintain residence for five years after the repairs are finished.

When the home owner has applied for loan money or a Rehabilitation Grant, the inspector returns to write a bid document. This document is a more detailed description of the damage and a plan for repairs. The CD office then requests three bids from their approved list of contractors. They take the lowest reasonable bid and final applications are worked up for financing approval. Then the repairs begin.

While repairs are going on, city inspectors will come by twice each week to see that work is being done in the accepted manner. When the work is completed, there is a final inspection with the home owner to assure that a "general acceptable quality standard" has been adhered to. This level will, of course, meet and should exceed code requirements. After all this explanation, it simply means that those who come under the guide lines can get their houses repaired for free with the City seeing that it is done in as short a time as possible. For the rest of us, it means that those repairs we have been putting off will have to be done on our own or by taking advantage of the cheapest home improvement loan money available anywhere.

Residents should not be put off by all those official forms and verbiage. The people at the MARCH office are genuinely interested in helping us maintain our property. If you have any questions or complaints, please call JOE SOHM (278-6962) who heads up the VECAA housing committee, or the MARCH office (327-7308) and talk to Mr. Thieme.

## C.E.U.

For thirty years, Southwestern, a college of the liberal arts and sciences, has made its resources for learning available through continuing education to adults in Memphis and the Mid-South region. While the program is non-credit and primarily for those who seek to grow in wisdom and to understand themselves and their society, they can offer the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) to those desiring this recognition for participation.

For information regarding the courses and other activities offered by the Center, telephone 274-1800 (ext. 372) or 274-6606.

Brief descriptions of the fall offerings are as follows:  
**BEGINNING CREATIVE WRITING** — This course is not for people who are already writing, but for those who have a yen to learn about the techniques and disciplines required. Instructor — JOHN TURPIN, time — Tuesdays (weekly), beginning September 20, 7:30-9:30 p.m., twelve sessions, fee — \$25.00.

**WOMEN WRITERS TODAY** — Both fiction and non-fiction by sixteen contemporary female writers will be read and discussed in this course. Instructor — RAY HILL, time — alternate Thursdays, beginning September 22, 7:30-9:30 p.m., seventeen sessions, fee — \$40.00, \$55.00 for a married couple.

**PHILOSOPHY THROUGH THE AGES** — This program is designed to permit us to live with the great philosophers from the Middle Ages unto the present time. Instructor — FRANK FAUX, time — Tuesday mornings (weekly), beginning September 27, 10:00 a.m.-noon, twelve sessions, fee — \$30.00.

**First United Lutheran Church**

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**WESTERN MAN: THE GREEKS AND THE ROMANS** — The Wednesday evening lectures-discussions will be held in The Meeman Center from 7:30-9:45 p.m. Most of the regular members of Southwestern's Man staff, with Professor FRED NEAL as chairman, will participate. Fee for the eight sessions on the Greeks, beginning October 5, is \$30.00, \$55.00 for a married couple, and includes paperback copies of assigned readings.

**RUSSIAN LITERATURE** — Instructor — FRANK FAUX, time — alternate Thursdays, beginning October 6, morning section — 10:00 a.m. - noon; evening section — 7:30-9:30 p.m., nine sessions, fee — \$25.00, \$35.00 for a married couple.

**SPIRITUAL IMAGINATION** — The symbols and images in Charles Williams' novels offer insights into the religious aspects of life and assistance in evaluating the explosion of spiritual happenings in our society today. Instructor — Mrs. JAMES W. JOBES, time — Friday mornings (weekly) beginning October 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m., fee — \$25.00.

**LIVING SPACES** — This course is aimed at people who want to create their own living spaces by fixing up older houses to fit their contemporary needs. There will be six sessions guided by local experts in the home-building industry. Instructor — DAVID BOWMAN, architecture and

urban affairs writer, *City of Memphis* magazine, and president of Memphis Heritage, an architectural preservation group; co-sponsor — Memphis Heritage; time — Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., beginning October 3, fee — \$30.00 individual or couple.

**ORIENTAL ART AND CULTURE** — Instructor — Dr. GEORGE APPERSON, time — Wednesday mornings, 10:30-11:45 a.m. beginning October 5, eighteen sessions, fee — \$45.00.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE FOR THE TRAVELER** — Introductory (or refresher) courses. These courses will be taught by instructors who have had living experience in the native land. French — JAMES VEST, German — HORST DINKELACKER, Spanish — GORDON SOUTHARD, time — Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:00 p.m., beginning October 4, eight sessions, fee — \$40.00, \$60.00 for a married couple.

**MEMPHIS HISTORY** — How did we get where we are? Instructor — JAMES ROPER, time — Wednesdays, (weekly) 7:30-9:00 p.m., starting October 5, fee — \$25.00, \$35.00 for a married couple.

## McLEAN EVENT

McLean Baptist Church will have a Bible Preaching Seminar October 2-7 with a noon luncheon each day and a 7 p.m. service every evening except Sunday. CHARLES TOPE, Pastor of Northwest Baptist Church of Oklahoma City and former missionary to Kenya and Tanzania, will be the speaker. ALEC HOPPER will lead the choir and sing. He will also give several chalk talks with hymns as his central theme.

**Clerk Wanted:** Retired or semi-retired person to work part-time in a liquor store. Must be dependable or do you know anyone that would be interested? Mail applications to: Evergreen News, 1032 E. Rainbow Dr.

**WANTED:** Odd jobs. Painting (interior and exterior), repair work, light carpentry. Neighborhood references. Call Jim at 276-8315.

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