

EVERGREEN NEWS

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

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December 1992



Christmas Memories from the Past *for* the Present

by Julia Baker

It's already *THAT* time of year - Voices singing let's be jolly. Grandma Scarborough's little ceramic Santas and Snowmen come out of the tissue-lined shoe box in the attic to adorn my sideboard, just as they did hers 40 years ago. Grandmother Baker's gold painted angels, made with love many years ago for her King's Daughters' project from fanned out Readers Digests, rags and paste and lace, are placed with evergreen boughs and bows and pinecones over the fireplace.

Mom and Dad chose smaller table top trees after the five children started homes and families of their own, so each child received ornaments from our family trees of Christmases past to add to those we acquired. Placing those special angels and balls and glow-in-the-dark icicles always brings back memories of Christmases when Santa was watching me and keeping his list to see if I deserved a Betsy Wetsy doll and a toy oven that really cooked.

While so many things change from year to year, our holiday traditions seem to remain pretty much the same as they were when we were children, and our parents were children.

Traditions continue - but evolve somewhat as young couples keep their favorites from each of their families, and start some of their own traditions. I've added a trip to Zoo

Lights, and having close friends over for Cincinnati Chili, crusty rolls and hearty red wine on December 23rd each year (to continue an event started by a friend before she moved to Texas a few years ago).

Our VECA area homes have had stockings hung from the mantle with care for over 65 years in this historic area, and mistletoe dangle

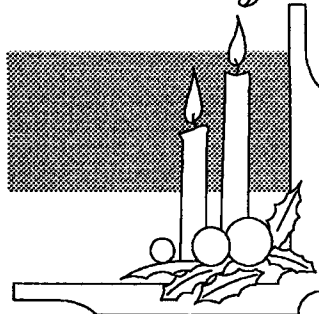
gling from the french door frame between the living and dining rooms for as many years. By mid December our trees are strung with lights, carols are being played, and it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas, as the spirit infects us all.

One of my favorite memories of Christmas is the smell of cookies baking. My mom always made the same, favorite recipes - occasionally adding a new one. For the past few years, I've enjoyed reliving that part of my

youth; and with Mom's well-worn 1949 Good Housekeeping Cookbook, I've recreated those same smells I loved - sugar cookies, peanut butter cookies, pecan bars Mom let me dust with powdered sugar when they came out of the oven, and, the reindeers' favorite, SnickerDoodles, rolled in cinnamon and sugar.

Memories of holidays past make each new season all the more magical and wonderful. Whatever your traditions are, guard them well, and have a happy, holy holiday season.

*Season's
Greetings*



Do not place in mailboxes

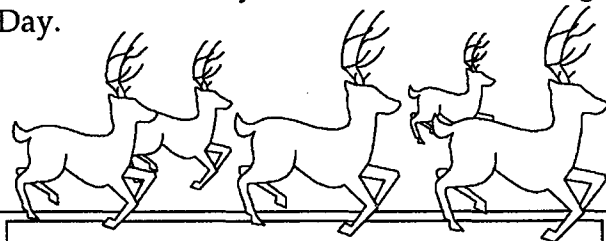
VECA's Heritage Day a Success

VECA had a large turn out for the Heritage Day in October. About a hundred people attended the two hour event. Many people looked up the age of their home, reviewed architectural design books, asked questions about the survey, and visited with neighbors. Heritage Day was part of the on going process VECA is undertaking to get VECA placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The first training session for volunteers was held during the Heritage Day. Linda Nichols is the VECA volunteer helping to train the VECA volunteers who will go out and do the surveys. Even though the training was only intended for the ten volunteers doing the first survey, there were at least 50 people sitting in on the training session. Linda, gave a lively and informative presentation on the homes in the VECA area. Neighbors brought photographs, original deeds and original subdivision plot papers to the meeting. VECA will be collecting the photographs and deed material at a later date; this will help put together the history of the area.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the day possible. Bette Akerman, Claudia Rakauscus, Lois Scott, Linda Nichols, Mary Frances Pitts, and Ann Munns all helped out to make the day a success. Thank you to McLean Baptist Church for hosting the event. Reverend Harold Simms has been very generous in working with the community. Cathy Marcinco of the Memphis Landmarks Commission, Jane Kowslosk of Memphis Heritage, Sue Williams from Evergreen Historic, and Robert Coletta from Cooper Young all came and gave of their time to answer questions and explain the historic designation process. Many thanks to Nancy Hall for her display on the Center for Neighborhoods.

A special thanks to Claudia Stagner and Beth Stone from the Tennessee Historic Commission for coming to Memphis. They toured the neighborhood with representatives from the VECA Historic Designation Committee and gave a presentation during Heritage day. VECA will be working closely with the Tennessee Historical Commission throughout the survey and designation process.

It is good to see so much interest in our neighborhood as was demonstrated by the VECA community's attendance at Heritage Day.



Annual VECA Dues \$10.00

Please make checks payable to VECA
and send to:

VECA Treasurer - 705 N. Belvedere,
Memphis, TN 38107

EVERGREEN NEWS

P.O. Box 12011

Memphis, TN 38182-0011

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VECA Hotline: 276-1066

VECA General Membership Meetings

The December 15, 1992 meeting's subject is crime prevention. It will be held at Vollintine Elementary from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

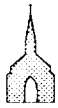
At the January 25, 1993 VECA general membership meeting, we will present the Dichtel Award (to a VECA resident) and the Borys Award (to a public official). We will also elect the VECA President and Vice-President for 1993. Nominations for the awards and the officers are welcome from any VECA member, and may be directed to any member of the Nominations Committee (Lance Andrade, Steve Gadbois, Martha Heinemann and Rodell Milam) or call the VECA Hotline (276-1066).

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Wednesday:	5:45 p.m.	Fellowship Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Prayer Service

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Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:30 p.m.

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276-1412



"All Are Welcome"

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

Saint John Orthodox Church

Although Christmas is several weeks away, Orthodox Christians began their spiritual preparations for this holy day on November 15, the first day of the Christmas Fast.

In the Orthodox tradition, Christmas, like Easter, is preceded by a forty-day period of fasting and spiritual preparation. In fact, the Christmas Fast is often called the Little Lent. It is less stringent than Great Lent, but is still a serious time of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and increased devotion to the coming Savior.

The Christmas Fast parallels Advent, which is observed in many Western churches beginning four Sundays before Christmas.

Christmas celebrations do not properly begin for Orthodox Christians until Christmas day, when the season of preparation has been completed and the Lord has come. Christmas is then celebrated for twelve full days, from Christmas day until Epiphany, on January 6.

St. John Orthodox Church, 1663 Tutwiler, celebrates the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ at a Vespereal Liturgy at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 24. Festivities begin before the liturgy at 6 p.m. with a children's play, "Christmas, the Pageant." The play includes 35 children ages 4 to 12. Following the liturgy, a holiday dinner will be shared by all.

The Nativity of our Lord, or Christmas, is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. It was first celebrated in the fourth century, when the Church decided to overcome the pagan festival of the Invincible Sun with its own celebration. Thus the traditional Orthodox hymns for Christmas call for the worship of the true Sun of Righteousness, who is Himself worshipped by all of His Creation.

Landmarks Commission Under Review

The Memphis Landmarks Commission, which is Memphis' local historical commission, is under review by City Council. There are concerns that the Commission has too much control over small neighborhoods and stands in the way of development. Good development does not occur in a vacuum. Urban renewal of the 60's was shown to be a disastrous policy. That is the wholesale removal of old neighborhoods and commercial areas and the replacement with new development. Witness the success of urban renewal in Memphis south of Mid America Mall on both

sides of Beale. This pasture land in downtown Memphis has certainly added to the stabilization and development of our downtown. Successful development of urban areas has been linked to an integrated approach to planning that takes in account environmental concerns, preservation of cultural and architectural features, existing neighborhood patterns, and new development. Memphis needs a strong Landmarks Commission to work with city leaders in planning, developing and maintaining a diverse, interesting and economi-

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

cally feasible community for all income groups.

Please contact your council person and discuss the Landmarks Commission with them.

Monitor the paper for council meetings. Attend and show your support for the idea of a staffed commission and need for comprehensive planning that takes in all aspects of a community including its historical heritage. It appears City Council will try to take action during the Christmas holidays on the Land-

marks Commission and on Central Gardens request for local district status. Don't let City Council give VECA a Christmas present we didn't ask for. Voice your opinion. Jack Sammons has been in support of the Landmarks Commission and needs to hear from you. Kenneth Whalum is conservative on the issue and not sure how a Landmarks Commission benefits moderate income areas like VECA. Let the council know how you feel about having a Landmarks Commission.

Get Your Home Ready for the Big Chill

By Stephen Baker, President of Ray E. Baker Heating & Plumbing Company

The last two mild winters may have left us a little lackadaisical in our winter house preparation. Taking a little time now may well prevent frozen or burst pipes when the temperatures dip below freezing.

The most protective measure would be to ensure that all foundation and attic vents are closed tightly. During the coldest weather, when the temperature dips below 20 degrees, it is wise to turn your thermostat up a few degrees to get more warmth to the coolest areas of the house. Doors to kitchen sinks and lavatories should

be opened if they are on outside walls.

Should a pipe freeze, despite your precautions, be sure your water is turned off before you leave home. Pipes burst when they freeze, not when they thaw. If your water is left on it can flood the house quickly. And, call your plumber. Calls are taken



on a first come basis. Remember, in the worst winter freezes, when the temperatures drop below 0 degree for an extended period, it is not unusual for a plumbing company to have a two week backlog of calls.

<p>WORSHIP PRAISE informal prayers <i>Innovative</i></p>	<p>Sunday, 6:00 p.m. EVERGREEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 613 University <small>(across from Rhodes College)</small></p> <p>Evergreen Church & Rhodes College are offering a new, non-traditional and exciting worship service for young adults and college students. <i>Babysitting provided.</i></p>
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VECA Needs Volunteers

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: Day _____ Eve _____

Membership: Dues is \$10

Volunteer

Volunteer Interest

Fall Family Festival Newsletter Writer



Neighborfest '93 Newsletter Delivery

Historic Preservation Other _____

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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.