Past Remembered

By Patricia Terry

JOHN COLLINS has lived at 1880 Lyndale with his brother, PAT, and his mother since 1946. History, real estate investment, CB radios and photography are among his interests, but most important of these is history, including some about our neighborhood’s past.

One nostalgic article reads, "There used to be a swimming hole in the bayou near McLean and Tutwiler, with water that may have been as much as five feet deep. . . . Aside from water deep enough for swimming, there was a high and muddy bank which could be watered and used for a bare-skin slide. It was a remote area then, with Italian farmers still growing vegetables in the area where the modern streets of Stonewall and Overton Park meet."

Perhaps the swimming hole was still around when the first houses were built in the area around 1890. A small, warm community once existed south of Vollintine between McLean and Evergreen, known as Terrytown. The homes were built by the R.A. TERRY family who owned a dairy farm that John Collins remembers. The farm ran north of Vollintine, stretching from McLean almost to the North Watkins of today. Homes were built on 10-acre plots, and were located in the country at that time. The community was practically self-sufficient, and even had its own Terrytown school. It began to break up in 1911, when the Crump brothers left their Jackson Avenue store. By 1918, developers were buying Terrytown land for new subdivisions.

The home owned by the Collinses was built around 1928. John Collins’ grandfather bought the house as an investment. John, Pat, and Mrs. Collins moved into the house after World War II. The house is basically the same today as when it was first built, except for the addition of a den and carport and some remodeling upstairs.

"When my former neighbor, Mr. EVERETT PERKINS bought his home during the depression," says Collins, "the banks were allowing people to move in without paying a deposit. All they had to do was to pay the notes. This was to prevent vandalism in the houses."

"During the ’30s, the houses in the neighborhood were selling for $5,000 - $6,000. The price is now about $40,000."

"The third generation is living in some of these homes," says Mr. Collins. "That’s what has anchored the neighborhood. Southwestern has also helped in that respect. Very seldom do you see someone move from this area. Fortunately, it’s a very desirable area—a lot of people are waiting for a house to buy here."

A long-term resident of the neighborhood, Collins has seen some changes. "Many of the older people are gone," he says. "Luckily, younger people have moved in. These homes are a real bargain for anyone."

Collins would like to see VECAA create a committee to contact new residents to show them what can be done with the homes. The committee would also try to improve the condition of the private homes in the area by suggesting needed repairs to the owners. He feels that race relations are better now than in the past, and that neighborhood improvements should be VECAA’s primary interest today. He is concerned that VECAA isn’t responding to the actual needs of the residents, and suggested that the area be annexed by MMIA.

John Collins and his family have lived in the area for 31 years, and have no plans for leaving. Of his interest in the history of Memphis and the Vollintine/Evergreen community, he says that it gives him "a sense of belonging to something that’s been there a long time." Thanks to him, some of that history has been preserved.

Southwestern Event for Women

Women are entering the job market in great numbers and for various reasons. Whether the cause is financial need, awareness of a need for self-fulfilling careers or some degree of independence, women are becoming labor statistics. Women in Memphis now have valuable help available for making the transition from housewife to career woman.

The second offering of Career Development for Women will begin on Jan. 17 at the Meeman Center for Continuing Education of Southwestern at Memphis. In cooperation with the Junior League of Memphis this program is designed to help the educated woman consider and develop career opportunities. Registration for the January session is now open. Tuition is $110 with some scholarships available. Because of the structure of the course, the number of participants will be limited. Classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-12:30 for ten weeks. There is also an all-day Tuesday section from 9:30-4:30 for women who find this schedule more convenient, particularly out-of-towners.

This course is designed for women (target ages 30-50 years) who are planning re-entry into the job market or who want to develop a more fulfilling volunteer career. Some of the purposes of the course are helping women consider available options, preparing them to enter the working world, and increasing each participant's opportunities for a satisfying long-range career.

Panel discussions by working women, discussion groups and readings covering aspects of adult growth and the female viewpoint from religion to health care, course work on personal career-related finances and support sessions led by trained counselors are included in the program. Skills such as resume writing, job interview techniques, goal setting, and self-evaluation are stressed over the ten week course.

At the end of the course, each participant will be expected to develop a short-term goal or internship in her interest area. A special session approximately ten weeks after the regular classes end will be held to assess the participant's experiences.

This course is a joint effort between Southwestern and the Junior League of Memphis with additional funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Season's Offerings

Dec. 4: Evergreen Presbyterian will present Bach's "MAGNIFICAT" at the 11:00 a.m. service. The Southwestern Singers and orchestra will participate. Beginning at 5:00 p.m., a very special celebration entitled "Christmas is...?" will explore the meaning of the Christmas season.

Dec. 7: Trinity Methodist will have a candlelight service with carols at 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 11: First Baptist Adult Choir will have a presentation of "Many Moods of Christmas".

First United Lutheran Church
1542 Jackson
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.
DIVINE WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
Rev. E.L. Epting, S.P.M., Pastor

ITALIAN &
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PLATE LUNCHES

DINO'S
Southwestern Grill

645 N. McLean Blvd. 276-9288
Dec. 14: McLean Baptist, using a Dicken's theme, will have a Christmas Dinner and Music. Reservations should be made as early as possible.

Dec. 18: Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian at its 11:00 a.m. worship service will present "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at the 7:00 service. McLean Baptist choir will perform "Many Moods of Christmas" at 10:50 a.m. At the 7:00 evening service, the Singing Bunch will present "Love Came Down".

Dec. 21: McLean Baptist will have a pot-luck supper and caroling program.

Dec. 22: Little Flower Decorate Church and Wassail - Altar Society volunteers will gather to decorate; wine and cheese will be served in the Rectory.

Dec. 24: Springdale Methodist will have candlelight service at 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 25: Trinity Methodist will have a 10:50 a.m. worship service.

Hannuka begins December 3rd. The first candle will be lit Sunday night, the 4th. A Hannuka dinner will be held at Baron Hirsch Synagogue, the 11th at 6:00 p.m. Children from the nursery through the second grade of the Baron Hirsch Religious School will give a musical presentation, and winners of the poetry contest among the first through the tenth grades will be announced. A carnival is also planned at the school, 5612 Shady Grove Rd., on the 11th. For more information call the synagogue office, 274-3525.

Editorial

Recent controversy concerning Vollentine Elementary and its principal, ROCHESTER NEELY, has obscured the fact that Neely and his faculty do a fine job. Vollentine is blessed with enthusiastic, dedicated teachers who diligently try to meet each student's needs. Mr. Neely is to be commended for maintaining authority and discipline, so necessary to learning, in the midst of the turmoil in our public school system in the last few years. Vollentine offers a variety of programs to its students, such as the Orff Music Program, Speech Therapy, Reading and Math Resource teachers, and a counselor. It is interesting to note that more Vollentine students qualify for the CLUE program (designed for the academically gifted) than from any other elementary school in the area. The school and Mr. Neely are a credit to our neighborhood.

Please

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10:30 A.M. - Choral Communion
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10:00 A.M. - Mass and Bible Study
THE REVEREND FATHER
CHARLES H. SYKES
RECTOR
I Thought You'd Never Ask

Help the Evergreen News publish the kind of neighborhood newspaper you want by expressing your opinion.

1. How well is your paper delivered?  
   Every month _______ Occasionally _______ Seldom _______

2. Do you enjoy reading the paper?  
   Very much _______ Some _______ Not much _______ Not at all _______

3. How do you like the cover pictures?  
   Very much _______ Some _______ Not much _______ Not at all _______

4. Would you like to see more graphics?  Yes ____ No ___

5. How would you describe the quality of the newsletter?  
   Excellent _______ Good _______ Fair _______ Poor _______

6. Do you read it?  Would you like to see more?  
   Happenings _______ Sports _______ Meet the Neighbors _______ VECAA News _______ Feature stories _______ New neighbors _______ School news _______ Church news _______ Social news _______

7. Is there anything else you would like to see?  

8. Have you become aware of any new businesses because of advertising in the newsletter?  Yes ____ No ___

Optional: I would like to deliver the Evergreen News on my block.

Name ____________________________  Phone ____________________________

Optional: In order to determine the location and characteristics of our readers, we would appreciate your supplying the following facts. This section is optional but your answers would let us know the opinions of the various groups in our neighborhood.

Name ____________________________  Address ____________________________  Phone ____________________________

Number of people in family _______ Number of years in neighborhood _______

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