

# the paper

Skinker-  
deBaliviere

an all-volunteer, non-profit newspaper which has been serving the Skinker-DeBaliviere area since 1970.

September, 1980

Volume 11, No. 4

## The Dewey school cluster

by Nancy Cohen

The Dewey School Cluster Parents Committee represents parents of children who are scheduled to attend Hamilton Elementary School, Roe Elementary School and Dewey Middle School. As parents and citizens, the committee recognizes the need for strong parental support for our children during the initial phases of the desegregation plan. Many of the parents agree with some of the issues and disagree with other issues in the desegregation plan as handed down by the courts. But even more important, the committee believes that if our children are to have a positive, productive school year starting this fall, the combined effort, cooperation and support of administrators, board members, teachers, and parents is necessary.

To achieve these goals, the committee has been meeting weekly on Wednesday nights. The committee was initiated by parents in the Hamilton School area, but outreach to and inclusion of parents in the Dewey and Roe School areas has been an important goal. In order to assist in the transition of our children to their new schools, the committee has developed an

on-going "Idea-List", reflecting problems or situations which, when addressed, will provide for a better climate and a better educational process. Some of the ideas include: block homes for sick and late children, good bus pick-up points, meetings with school officials, car-pooling to meetings, before-and-after-school programs for children of working parents, a team of parent experts to answer questions, a cluster newsletter, and special preparation for the first week of school.

At a recent meeting held at the Benton Branch Library located in Roe School, parents met with school transportation officials and bus company executives. They learned the process the transportation department goes through in scheduling bus routes and pick-up points and the efforts that the bus company is making to insure that our children are delivered safely to their schools.

The committee needs more parent involvement in all areas of concern. To learn where and when the next meeting will be held, please call Skip Coburn at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, (862-5122).

## Hamilton brings college here

The Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminster, is pleased to announce that it will offer several college level courses this fall. The courses are being provided in conjunction with the Institute of Continuing Education, Forest Park Community College, and credit for the courses can be applied toward appropriate Associate of Arts degree programs offered through the St. Louis Community College system.

The courses offered this fall are:

*Introduction to Data Processing*, Mondays, 6:30-9 p.m.

*Medical Technology*, Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m.

*Medical Technology*, Tuesdays, 6:30-9 p.m. Tuition: \$74.00.

*Small Business Management*,

Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m. Tuition: \$55.50. The courses, which will begin the week of September 15th, will be taught at the Community School by members of the community college faculty. There will be a special College Orientation Session on Tuesday, September 9th from 6:30 to 9 p.m. for anyone wishing to enroll in these courses.

For further information contact Michael Hermann, Community School Coordinator, 367-6996, 1-9 p.m., weekdays.

## Neighbors send Democratic delegate flying



Brenda Weaver, the 28th Ward's chosen delegate to the Democratic National Convention, received some traveling money as the result of a party held Friday, July 25, at the home of Sandy and Sue Rothschild. Horace Busch, fundraising chairman, collected over \$500 with the help of over 100 guests. Among those attending were a number of familiar faces (See photo).

Left to right: Steve Vossmeier, 86th District State Representative; Venetta Barbaglia, 28th Ward Committeewoman; Vince Schoemehl, 28th Ward alderman; Fred Williams, 78th District State Representative; Brenda Weaver, delegate to Democratic National Convention, George Storey, 28th Ward Committeeman; and Horace Busch, fundraising chairman.



Winners of the Des Peres Library chess tournament: 11-14 year olds, Larry Irving; 15-18 year olds, Leonard Green.



# Letters



## Thanks

The Washington Heights Neighbors held its first annual picnic on August 10 in Forest Park. Thanks to all who came and helped to make this a success; thanks to all who make donations; and special thanks to the Central West End Savings and Loan.

See you next year!

Ed Jones  
President  
John Thomas  
Shirley Polk  
Planning Committee

## no creativity and no typewriter . . .

Summer was really cool at the Des Peres Branch Library for the children and teenagers who participated in the Summer Reading Club and chess tournament and enjoyed the Sing-along in June and the Arts and Crafts program in July.

I'm on vacation and there is no creativity or typewriter for miles around.

Arlene Sandler

## Hamilton registration

Registration for fall courses at the Hamilton Community School will take place at the school, 5819 Westminster, during the week of September 8 through 11, between 4 and 8 p.m. A special college Orientation Session will be held Tuesday, September 9, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Two courses which merit notice are the *Fitness Fantasia* (aerobic dancing) and the *Saturday Missouri Wines and Winery*

*Tours*. Information on these courses and on the entire program will be available in the Hamilton Community School brochure or by calling the Community School office at 367-6996 after 1 p.m.

Adult students enrolled in programs at Hamilton Community School can bring their young children (3-10 years old) to the Child Care Center while they are attending class. The cost is 50¢ per child per night.

# window on washington heights

Welcome back to Windows on Washington Heights. Its good to have so many reports of people who made it through the summer without melting. Well, almost everyone. John O'Brien spent several days in intensive care after suffering from heat stroke. We're glad to see he is fine and looking forward to a cool autumn, no doubt.

Washington Heights Neighbors held their own cool-down in the park on August 10th. There were plenty of iced drinks and fun at the annual picnic. The 5900 block of DeGiverville also scheduled several events this summer. First they had a pre-Father's Day fish fry in June and then a Family Fun Day in July. Family fun included a bike ride early in the morning with refreshments, music, dancing and a raffle at the DeGiverville cul-de-sac to finish off the day.

More honors for the 5900 DeGiverville block unit. The Urban League has presented a silver bowl to Mr. Eddie Sanders, President of the DeGiverville block unit, recognizing 5900 DeGiverville as the best block unit in Area eight of the Metropolitan area. The block has also received a grant from CDA to green-up and clean-up the cul-de-sac. Mr. Sanders is grateful to all the members of the block for their work and the co-operation that makes these accomplishments possible.

This is the time of year when our young people are going places. Miss Elaine Lampkin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Lampkin of the 5900 block of DeGiverville has joined the armed forces. Jeffery

Weddington of the 5700 block of DeGiverville will attend Iowa State University on a full basketball scholarship. Jeffery attended Southwest High School and was on the all star team in his senior year there. Congratulations to Jeffery. Another young man who is going places just by going to DeBalivere every day is James Foster. James joined the Central West End Savings and Loan Association as head teller last May. He is, no doubt, one of their finer assets. And . . . Tim Storey has returned from six weeks pursuing his acting career in St. Louis University's summer theater in Colorado. Tim worked in all three University productions. His sister, Chris, spent the summer in Imperial, Mo., working with the mentally retarded. Chris will begin working for the Special School District this fall.

Welcome to our new neighbors, the McEleroy of the 5700 block of DeGiverville. Mr. McEleroy is employed by the City of St. Louis, and his wife, Joanne is a teacher at Northwest High School. Babysitters take note. The McEleroy have three small children. We hope they all enjoy their new home and new neighbors.

We were sorry to hear of the death of George Storey's mother in August. We extend our deepest sympathy to George and his family.

Mrs. Peggy Mitchell took part in Body Day sponsored by the Clinic in July. Mrs. Thelma Thompson will also be busy with community work this fall as a member of

the Advisory Board of the Community School.

Grandbabies are busy too. Roseanne Aquilino traveled with her parents Chris and Vince to the Big Apple so her out-state relations could have a chance to "oooh" and "aaaah" over her. Rose and George Storey were blessed with their first grandchild, John Gregory, born May 24th. John came with his parents Sally and Terry McGinn from Oklahoma in July for uninterrupted attention from his grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Out of space, but not out of news. We'll catch up on summer in the next issue. Until then . . .

## Barrueco concert

The Saint Louis Classical Guitar Society is pleased to present guitarist Manuel Barrueco in the opening performance of its twelfth concert season. The concert will be held at the Ethical Society auditorium, 9001 Clayton Road, Clayton, Missouri, on Friday, September 19, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

Ticket prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students with a valid ID.

For more information call 725-0739.

## Calendar of Events



- 2-4 Neighborhood School Orientation for Children. 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
- 4 Children's Film. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.
- 5 Game Day. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.
- 5 Neighborhood School. First full day of school.
- 7 Grace and Peace Fellowship 11th Anniversary Service.  
10 A.M. Covenant Seminary Chapel, 12330 Conway Rd.
- 8 Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Meeting. 7:30 P.M.
- 11 Washington Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting.
- 11 Children's Film. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.
- 12 Game Day. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.
- 14 Grace Methodist Church's Fall schedule resumes: Church School 9:30 A.M.  
Communion. 10:35 A.M. Worship Service. 11:00 A.M.  
Adult Church School Topics: Christians Examine 1980 Presidential Campaign.  
United Methodist Church: Doctrines, Declarations, Debates, and Decisions.  
The Bible Makes Sense. Forum Class: Bible Study.
- 18 Children's Film. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.
- 19 Game Day. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.
- 21 Grace United Methodist Adult Church School. 9:30 A.M. See Sept. 14.
- 24 Children. Make an Instrument Day. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.
- 25 Children's Film. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.
- 26 Game Day. Des Peres Branch Library. 3:30 P.M.  
5:30 - 7 P.M. First Friends of the Library meeting, Des Peres Branch.
- 28 Grace United Methodist Adult Church School. 9:30 A.M. See Sept. 14.
- 29 Neighborhood School Staff Day. NO SCHOOL.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF COPY

The Paper welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of the **The Paper** has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material—articles, letters, notices, classified ads—must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Signatures on correspondence to the editor may, on publication, be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned or mailed to the staff member responsible for the Calendar of Events. Deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month.

In a news article it is essential that the writer state the most important information in the first paragraph. The writer is responsible for the accuracy of data, including times, dates, locations and particularly the spelling of names.

Any pictures or illustrations submitted should be in black and white.

The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material, excepting correspondence to the editor.

## the paper

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Send all correspondence for **The Paper**  
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6107 Kingsbury  
Deadline for all copy is August 15.

**SLAAA presents info to elderly**

The St. Louis Area Agency on Aging (SLAAA) will offer a program describing local services and programs available to senior citizens at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, in St. Roch's Scariot Hall. The program will include talks by people from Social Security, Home Security and Health Services, and the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging. The purpose of the program is to acquaint senior citizens with the multitude of services available to them.

The SLAAA publishes several handbooks including a *Senior Citizen Handbook of Laws and Programs Affecting Senior Citizens in Missouri* and *Community Resources for Senior Citizens* for the City of St. Louis. With its presentation at St. Roch's, the SLAAA is expanding its ability to serve the elderly.

Come to Scariot Hall at 1:30 p.m. on September 17 and learn more about services for the elderly in St. Louis.

**When the public schools first started . . .**

by Ray Breun

William Carr-Lane was mayor of St. Louis scarcely a week when he made the statement "... a free school is more needed here than in any town of the same magnitude in the Union." This was more than just a judgment; it was a dig at the French aristocracy of the city. His major opponent in the first mayoral contest of St. Louis had been the venerable Auguste Chouteau-- the same Chouteau who had been a thirteen year old in the trading post of St. Louis when it was founded in 1764. From 1809 to 1823 Auguste Chouteau presided over the Town Board of Trustees, but in 1823 he lost the first mayoral contest to Carr-Lane.

Carr-Lane remained mayor for nine years at a time when elections were held every year. For him and for others during the first half of the nineteenth century, the questions of schools and city improvements were big political issues.

Actually Congress had endowed the public schools of the Village of St. Louis back in 1812. It has said all unclaimed land in any village in the Louisiana Territory prior to 1803 was to be used for public education in that same village. St. Louis had a good deal of land without clear title. But the French aristocracy, not able to

provide clear title, wanted to forestall any claims on the land. By keeping the schools' existence questionable, they avoided the question of clear title: They could use the land without title as long as nothing else was on it!

As President of the Board of Trustees, therefore, Chouteau petitioned the Territorial Legislature in 1817 to appoint a board to solve the school lands question. It was then five years after Congress gave the schools the land, and William Clark (of Lewis and Clark fame) was Territorial Governor. Chouteau's petition was approved and Clark appointed the school board. It was a blue ribbon board with William Clark as chairman. Chouteau was a member and the remaining appointees were of old French stock or were Americans who owed Chouteau numerous favors and were related to him through marriage. The full title of the board was the "Board of Trustees for Superintending the Schools in the Town of St. Louis." By the residents of the village, however, they were known as the "Board of Trustees for the school lands." In effect they turned a gift of Congress into a means of controlling untitled land--a good capitalist use of the law. As an aside, this is the historic base for the distinction between the City of St. Louis

and the Public Schools of St. Louis as co-equals in their existence under state jurisdiction.

As it turned out, Congress became upset over the lack of progress with the school lands law of 1812 and took all the land itself. When it freed the lands again in 1833, the state of Missouri established a new Board of Education with aldermanic ward representation. The schools finally opened on April 2, 1838--over a quarter of a century after the initial land grant from Congress. By that time Carr-Lane was no longer mayor, Chouteau and Clark were dead, and the number of indigents in the City of St. Louis was so great as to render inadequate the amount of donated lands. Thus the schools opened with a tuition for all students. This practice continued until 1847, was reinstated during the Civil War, and was dropped for good in the fall of 1863.

It seems the public schools have always been a political issue in St. Louis. *Authors Note: This is the first of several articles on the history of St. Louis, its institutions, its people and its character. These will be timely, interesting and otherwise free of the usual baggage of the historian's treatise.*

**CWE funny money**

Central West End Savings and Loan, the first new Savings and Loan in the St. Louis area in twenty-five years, takes a community-oriented approach to its promotions.

A customer of Central West End Savings can receive up to ten \$1 coupons for a deposit. The coupons are then redeemable at participating merchants who are reimbursed by CWE Savings and Loan. Merchants range from the St. Louis Carriage Company to grocery, hardware, and drug stores, as well as book stores, bakeries, variety stores, cleaners and movie theatres. The community is well represented, and money is circulated within the area.

Central West End Savings and Loan is planning to repeat its successful restaurant promotion this fall.

**Afternoon enrichment**

Bethel Lutheran School at Big Bend and Forsythe will open an Afternoon Enrichment Program for kindergarten age students, beginning in September. The program will operate from noon until 3:30 each school day and will offer students opportunities in arts, crafts, physical activity, learning games, etc.

Information about Bethel's new Enrichment Program or any of its existing programs in the Kindergarten through eighth grade may be obtained by calling 863-3111.

**Youth orchestra tryouts**

Auditions for the Young People's Orchestra (for talented youngsters through 14 years of age) will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 6 and 7, at CASA University City, 560 Trinity at Delmar.

Young musicians interested in auditioning should call Martin at 727-2580 or the orchestra manager, Mrs. Edith Hougland, 644-1696, for audition applications.

The Conservatory Young People's Orchestra, funded in part by a grant from the St. Louis Community Foundation, under the sponsorship of CASA, draws applications from all over the metropolitan St. Louis area. The young musicians rehearse at CASA once a week throughout the academic year and give two performances during the year. Rehearsals for next season start Sept. 22.

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**CASA registration begins September 2nd**

Fall registration for private music lessons and classes in music, dance, theater and visual arts begins Sept. 2 at CASA's four Schools for the Arts.

The St. Louis Conservatory and School for the Arts locations are: Midtown, 3207 Washington Ave.; University City, 560 Trinity at Delmar; Webster Groves, 23 North Gore Ave., and West County, 13550 Conway Road.

Private lessons are offered in orchestra instruments, piano, guitar and voice. Music theory, augmented by ear-training and rhythmic skills, is taught at all levels.

The visual arts curriculum includes courses in drawing and painting, and at Midtown, ceramics.

Also offered at Midtown are classes in theater and dance, including African, modern and jazz techniques, and a 13-week jazz ensemble program. Entrance into the Jazz At Midtown (JAM) program is by audition. The course, which meets five hours a week, includes improvisation, composition and performance.

At University City, also by audition, the CASA String Training Orchestra is open to children ages 7 and up, and the Conservatory Young People's Orchestra to instrumentalists up to age 15.



Motivation and interest are the only requirements for entrance at CASA Schools for the Arts. Admission is by application to the school a student wishes to attend. Financial aid, based on a sliding scale of family income, may be arranged with the director of each school.

For registration information and course catalog, call 863-3033.

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# Delmarvelous dining

by Peggy Peters

Several years ago *The Paper* ran a series of articles spotlighting restaurants, shops and theaters located in the Delmar Loop of University City. That was 1978 and the years since have seen the opening of some new businesses and changes to some older ones. This article will introduce you to the newer restaurants and renew your acquaintance with the older ones.



The Tree Trunk Restaurant

The Tree Trunk Restaurant located at 6378 Delmar has been open only two months after moving to our community from 6624 Clayton. Joe Brash, proprietor, is a native New Yorker, who came to St. Louis in 1952. He is a former manufacturing representative who entered the restaurant business because he was tired of dining at "greasy spoons." "TTR" (as the restaurant is affectionately called by its patrons) is billed as a New York deli and, as stated on the menu, it is not a fast food restaurant.

The menu is varied in selection and price. A corned beef on rye (\$3.25) or pastrami on rye (\$2.95) or a classic Reuben (\$3.50) can be enjoyed by all deli-lovers; those on a lower budget can equally enjoy a Kosher All Beef dog for \$1.25. There is also a range of hamburgers from a 1/4 lb. burger (\$1.35) through a 1/2 lb. patti-melt (\$2.75) to a T.T. special (\$3.95) consisting of a 1/2 lb. super cheese burger, 1 lb. of fresh french fries or mashed potatoes and a french ice cream shake or jumbo drink.

Among the special dinners are deep fried Jack Salmon with fries or mashed potatoes and cole slaw (\$3.75). The open-face Brisket of beef also comes with potatoes and cole slaw. The after five dinner selection is half a fried chicken (\$4.25) or a whole fried chicken (\$6.95), served with french fries or mashed potatoes with gravy, cole slaw and texas toast. The chicken takes 30 minutes but is well worth the wait.

Some other deli selections are Bagel and Lox cream cheese spread (\$1.25), Gefilte fish (\$1.25), and Knishes potato (\$1.00) and meat (\$1.10). A pound of fresh french fries prepared with skins is 85¢.

But the main feature of the Tree Trunk Restaurant is Matzoh-Brie. Matzoh-Brie resembles an omelet and has the texture of both a souffle and a quiche without being either. It is available in over 100 variations, some of which have to be special ordered. Pizza Matzoh-Brie (\$6.50) and shrimp oriental (\$6.50) are two such variations. For sweet-eaters there is also an apple-banana Matzoh-Brie (\$4.50). A Matzoh-Brie can be built to suit any taste and this writer encourages a visit to this unusual restaurant to sample one. Then let your friends know what they have been missing.

Beverages include the usual: coffee, milk, and soda. But new to this writer was a New York egg-cream (65¢) made with real chocolate syrup, milk and seltzer. It was creamy delicious. Dr. Brown's soda is also a popular beverage selection. Dessert is simple New York style cheese cake (\$1.00) with variations slightly higher.

We welcome Joe Brash and his fine restaurant to our neighborhood.

### Nitty Gritty

Located at 6394 Delmar, Nitty Gritty Natural Foods Store is an old friend to most of us. When it was written up in the December 1978 issue of *The Paper*, this writer discussed the wide selection of herbs, spices, natural grains, whole wheat flour, legumes, and pasta available. Also mentioned were the dried fruits, nuts, cheeses, and assorted mixes of granola. I am pleased to report at this time that the same atmosphere that made Nitty Gritty what it was in 1978 still prevails today. The weigh-and-bag-your-own concept is still in use the freshness and quality of the products has not changed.

However, proprietor Glen Willis has made some changes (and good ones) with the addition of a sandwich and soup bar. The most popular selection seems to be a Vegetarian Pocket Sandwich (\$2.25) that resembles a taco. A broccoli and cheese quiche is available at \$1.15 a slice. Soups include a cup of lentil (60¢) or cold celery or cucumber (50¢). Strawberry tingle, peach and orange "smoothies and creamies" (\$1.35) are fruit shakes included in the beverage category. Cheese plates and salads are also available. A total of eight sandwiches rounds out the menu which tends to vary from day to day.

The addition of the lunch bar is a welcome asset to Nitty Gritty and to the Loop.

### Cicero's

In February 1978 Cicero's, 6510 Delmar, was called "the newest addition to the growing number of restaurants in the area." That was two and a half years ago and the 'newest addition' has now grown to occupy twice the space that it did then.

Probably the most significant change in the menu has been the addition of Spirits. The wine list offers a good selection of wines sold by glass, 1/2 liter and liter. Draft and imported beers can be ordered as well as mixed drinks.

Another menu change I noted was the omission of Strip Steak, Rib-eye Steak, and Jumbo Fried Shrimp. But lovers of Italian food do not patronize Italian restaurants for their steak. The pasta is what they want, and in this area, Cicero's shines. Probably the brightest star among the pasta specialties is Cicero's Pasta Almara (\$6.95), pasta served with a rich cream sauce loaded with shrimp, crabmeat and mushrooms. It is definitely this writer's favorite, but that is not to take from other pasta dishes such as Cannelloni with meat sauce (\$5.75) or with white sauce (\$6.25). Also available is a great Lasagna (\$6.25). All pasta specialties (9 in all) include a small salad, bread, and a glass of wine.

The pizza at Cicero's is tempting enough to make anyone forget about a diet. They are made in three sizes (8, 12, and 16 inch) with New York, Chicago, or deep dish Sicilian crusts.

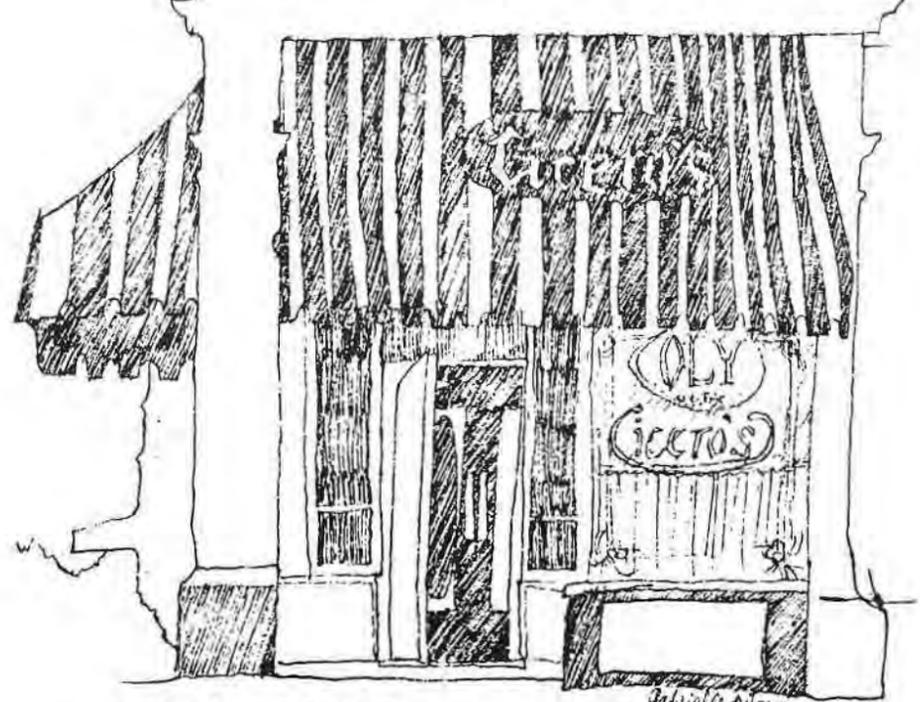
Some interesting salads are: the seafood salad (\$3.95) which is lettuce with chunks of crabmeat, shrimp, tomatoes and cheese; or the Caesar (\$2.75) made with Cicero's own special caesar dressing. All salads are served with garlic bread.

An appetizer plate (\$5.50) will serve three people with an array of toasted ravioli, onion chips, fried zucchini, fried mushrooms, artichokes and potato skins. These items can also be served individually as appetizers for those not so adventurous. Garlic bread (\$1.10) and cheese garlic bread (\$1.50) are also listed.

Three dinner selections are served with salad, choice of spaghetti, french fries or vegetables, and garlic bread. They are Veal parmigian (\$6.35), Egg Plant Parmigian (\$5.95) and 10 oz. Chopped Sirloin Steak (\$5.50).

A fine sandwich selection is also listed. For dessert Cicero's Famous Ice Cream Delights are truly delightful. Probably the most famous is Cicero's Gold: 3 scoops of french vanilla ice cream, Gold rich topping (which is poured on hot and hardens to a crust), whipped cream, chopped nuts, and a cherry on top. If this proves to be too much, there are other fountain drinks and ice cream selections and, of course, cheese cake: plain (\$1.10) or with strawberry or chocolate topping (\$1.40).

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a two part series.)



drawings by Gabrielle DiLorenzo

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# An interview with Gwen Giles

by Sandy Rothschild

Since December of 1977, Gwen B. Giles has represented the Skinker-DeBaliviere community in the Missouri Senate. She was elected to that post to succeed Franklin Payne, who was appointed a United States Marshall by President Carter. Although her tenure in the Senate has been relatively brief, her roots and commitment to the West End have been nurtured for more than two decades.

Gwen first developed an interest in politics some twenty years ago when she moved to this neighborhood and found the West End Community Conference. "It was a lot closer to the kind of relationship to policy makers than I had been before. The organization was very busy at the time with a lot of interest in various concerns like education, streets, trash pickup and code enforcement." She developed her political interests by working within this organization in an advisory position as the conference interacted with the City Administration and the Board of Education.

According to Gwen, "The real aim of a politician or of government was in fact working here." She became interested in politics not as an elected person, "but as a citizen and voter interacting with the governmental entity. That grew, of course, to the time when I was interested in really working with individual politicians."

What individual or individuals had the most impact on the development of her political philosophy and attitudes? "There were so many people, elected people and non-elected people. I suppose my earliest personal relationship to a campaign that had to do with changing public policy was NAACP's Youth Group. This was in the fifties when we were still attempting to impose a Fair Public Accommodations Policy, allowing free access to public places for black people.

"And I suppose following that," she continued, "there were many people. Fred Weathers was probably the person I really stood in some awe of as a man who was articulate and who, I thought, was totally intelligent on every subject he opened his mouth on. I was impressed, too, with Bill Clay, whom I had gone to school with. He had the gall to think he could overturn an incumbent who had been in the (party) committee for so many years in what was still basically an integrated, if not a predominantly white, community. Of course, everybody who knew him and had gone to school with him felt, well, if he really has got that much stuff about him, we'll go out and give him a hand."

That was Gwen's first involvement in an individual political campaign. Bill Clay has been the Democratic Committeeman in the 26th Ward since 1964 and has been the Congressman for the 1st Congressional District since 1968.

On the national level, Gwen feels that John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King had the greatest impact on her political perception. Both men, she feels, "articulated a moral tone for this nation . . ." Gwen refers to Kennedy as the "prince of the Democratic Party."

At the neighborhood level, several women had a profound impact on Gwen's developing political attitudes. One was Patsy Bassett "who was probably one of the most dynamic people that I have ever known. She was so totally involved with making government work for the people and not the reverse. And she did it in such a fashion and with such conviction and without rancor that she just commanded a kind of respect from all of the agencies we dealt with. She was a true inspiration."

Another was Ruth Porter. "Ruth came to this city from Chicago and almost

immediately became involved in housing and in politics and inspired individuals to seek public office who had never even thought about it before . . . Ruth was probably the one person who gave more people the feeling that it was possible to get into a traditional power system that had kept women, especially black women, in low level positions."

Gwen describes her political philosophy as "pragmatically liberal . . . Government is designed to help people who cannot do for themselves." She believes that government must do all that it can do for those on the lowest rungs of society's ladder before it concentrates on other priorities.

Gwen berates conservatives, especially the conservative philosophy espoused by Senator A. Clifford Jones of Ladue. "He says that in the golden ghetto everybody can take care of themselves and so he is there to check on liberals who are running away with all the 'goodies' that his people provide in terms of taxes." However, Gwen does not feel that government operates in a manner that Jones describes. "The Senate leadership has from time to time, almost incessantly, moved, inch by inch, to put the needs of the people who have no needs for government -- in terms of services -- above those real needs are for the government's services . . . I think that it is incumbent upon me and the rest of us who don't represent wealthy people to be sure that the government does, in fact, first serve the needy . . . and I suppose that the hardest part of that position is in the actual working out of the kink of relationships that allow my interests for the people I represent to be placed at the disposition of others whom I know are not as concerned . . ."

What have been her most outstanding political accomplishments? "I'd have to begin," says Gwen, "with the effort made by the community organization . . . in stopping the segregation of children who were bussed in the middle sixties from this neighborhood to schools outside. Also, we approached the newspapers to cease the black/white listings of property in the city and county. I thought that was rather important."

"When I was director of civil rights," she continued, "I was proudest, I guess, of updating the Civil Rights Ordinance. Taking it from the conciliatory St. Louis Council of Human Relations to the true enforcement agency that it is now by ordinance."

In the Senate, Gwen is proudest of her work in committee -- work that is not always visible to the public. "Issues that have been aimed to crush poor people and sick people, submitted by very well-meaning folks who felt sincerely that legislation ought to be passed to curtail funding for people who were poor and unable . . . to help themselves, that kind of legislation I have been proud to have been able to kill in committee."

"I am, of course, pleased -- even though we didn't take the vote on the Equal Rights Amendment to the floor -- with the discussion and debate in committee. It was an unending kind of airing even though we only had one day of committee hearings. I think everyone was given ample opportunity to voice their feelings and I was pleased that that opportunity was made available to people and that people took it. I think only with open debate can any resolution come of any particular point of view."

"There have been many specific pieces of legislation that I have been very proud to have either helped to pass or defeat. I suppose, as David Doctorian said last month in his race for the U.S. Senate nomination, that part of what he's done most effectively was to support those who fought against things. Now, I've been

proud to support those who were for things, especially for the kinds of things that people in the 4th District want and need."

What have been Gwen's greatest disappointments? "The earliest real heartbreaking failure in the area of public policy was the defeat of Ruther Porter in her effort to gain a House seat. That was the first time I really understood that people are not always elected because they are capable or competent and that some people will go to any and all lengths to defeat one candidate and elect someone else. Also, I suppose that was a time when Ruth Porter stood for the kind of progress that black women simply had not been exposed to or encouraged to strive for."

"The defeat of Bruce Watkins earlier this year for the office of Mayor in Kansas City was a terrible disappointment as was the defeat of John Bass for Comptroller and Tink Bradley's defeat just recently. Frankly, I think we must be candid about what happens when St. Louisans are given a choice of two candidates, one of whom is black and equally matched in terms of competence with a candidate who is white. I think we have to understand that we still have a very healthy over-system of racism working in our town. I think it does not help for us to hide it. It's only possible to cure this illness when we take it out and look at it, dissect it, and say this is where it is. Now what do we do with it?"

"I suppose that the most important point of social interaction with government and policy determination is door to door, block to block, neighborhood organization. There are no problems that we deal with in the Legislature that are not first either generated in something akin to a community organization or supported or opposed by someone at the neighborhood level. I think that the most important place for people who care to impact on policy, to influence policy, is by working actively with a community organization. I have over twenty years of public experience which has taught me that the problems are solved by people who stay involved."



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**Update**

by Gail Hellan

What's been happening during the summer? Much more than you will read below, but here are a few items that might catch your interest. If you have noteworthy tidbits of your own, or a topic you would like to find out about, just call Gail Hellan, 727-9507, and I'll see what I can dig up.

The Mexican restaurant court suit over a liquor license is continuing. Although the Hamiltons have the court's approval to proceed with its opening, they have decided to wait until the legal issues are clear. Meanwhile the Hamiltons have opened Park Place in Lafayette Square.

Pantheon has opened tennis courts and a swimming pool for its apartment and condominium dwellers. DeBaliviere Place II, consisting of 242 apartments, is now available for occupancy; the Winter Garden Apartments are completely occupied. New sidewalks have been laid in the 5500 and 5600 blocks of Waterman. July 13 marks the first anniversary of Pantheon's residency at 415 DeBaliviere.

Lucier Park has not been abandoned. Vince Schoemehl says it is currently "out for bids", a process that takes about six weeks. The fences, grading, and seeding of the land, as well as the building of the parking lot should be completed by November.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council is organizing a Performing Arts Program. There will be a series of free Sunday concerts at the Four Corners this fall.

The SDCC has also organized a Parents Committee to work towards the resolution of problems that might arise during the school's desegregation effort. Interested parents from the Hamilton, Dewey and Roe enrollment areas are encouraged to attend committee meetings.

The Hamilton Community School is in the process of developing college credit courses under the auspices of the Institute of Continuing Education of Forest Park College. These courses will be offered at Hamilton School.

The Residential Service may be revived. A meeting was scheduled for the last week of August to try to determine what role the service can now play in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. Karleen Hoerr and Skip Coburn are spearheading this effort.

**Kingsbury float trip beats the heat**

by Joan Bender

The 109 degree heat didn't stop 70 Kingsburians (and former Kingsburians) from venturing out on the Meramec for their 4th Annual "Fun and Frolic Float Trip" in a 29 canoe flotilla. The neighbors gathered at Bass Canoe Rental at Indian Springs Lodge in the morning, Saturday, July 29, and a number of us wondered what we were doing there on such a torrid day. We put in at Indian Springs for the 9 mile journey to Birds Nest.

We had seen fallen trees along the road around Cuba, Missouri from the tornado which had hit the area 2 weeks before. On the river we encountered more trees large and small which had fallen during the tornado. This made navigation more interesting. Borah Bracey went the first couple of miles with fingers on both hands crossed, but from the look on her face, she had little faith that this would save her.

The float made its first stop at the rope tree, high above the river on a steep bank. Molly and Colin McFerron, and the Lottes group dashed up the bank to swing from the tree and drop into the river. Following close behind were C.T., Sarah, and Allison Stuart - even Gee jumped while Cal cheered. The Nerviani and Bender sisters, Alex Hitchcock and Emily Shea all did their acrobatics into the river. The really daring jumpers were Marty Cross, Jonathan Mensing, and Connan McFerron. Sarah Mensing resinged herself to spectating. Senior citizens also attempted the jump . . . neither advancing years, gray beards, or bald heads could hold them back. John Cross demonstrated diving with his hat on and not losing it. The majority, however, swam and drank beer. This

proved to be a good spot for Adam and Brandon Hellan to examine the river rocks and shells.

Paddling right along, Tim Mestres was in command of his parent's canoe and Danny Shea watched Katie accumulate what must have been the best sunburn on the river. The Cross kids, as usual, were the most relaxed river experts on the trip.

Although the river was low, portaging was seldom necessary, but the grinding sound of canoe bottoms on gravel didn't sit well with David Gioia, who probably thought it was thunder. Stephen Gioia was not terribly impressed with his parent's navigating abilities, especially when their canoe and a cow from a nearby farm nearly collided in mid river. (It was the cow's fault!)

Indian Springs cave signalled the float was nearly over. The contrast of the hot day and the seemingly freezing spring water was refreshing. Sarah and Lucy Griesbach and Kim Bracey added more river critters to their collection at this point making their trip a success.

On the many stops along the way, neighbors took advantage of visiting with each other while sitting/lying/lounging in the water and having one more cool drink. As we paddled into the Birds Nest, almost everyone took a last swim and headed for the antique school bus which took us on a bumpy ride back to the lodge.

Many thanks to our leader, Bill Kessler, who not only arranged the float but also had a dinner prepared of beef brisket, vegetables, salads, rolls, dessert, etc. We're all looking forward to the 5th Annual Canoe Trip.

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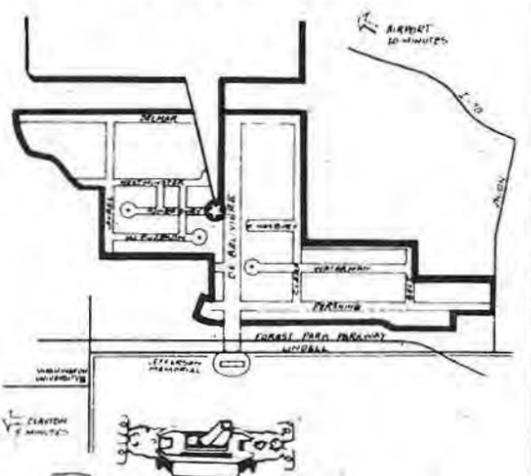


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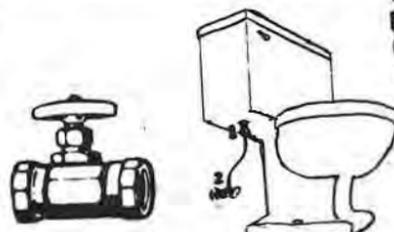
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# vicissitudes

by Marcia Kerz and Lisa Horner

While St. Louis sweltered in the midst of a high pressure system, one event continued religiously every Friday evening — the St. Roch's slow pitch softball games. While no drastic changes occurred in regard to the number of wins and losses over last season's thrillers, the coach, Brad Weir of the 6100 block of Westminster, was able to lead the team to victory a few times this summer in 105 degree temperatures. The League is not terribly strict but does abide by a few qualifications. One member was heard to propound three such qualifications — players must be over thirty years of age, they cannot be so skilled that they embarrass other members, and love for the game cannot be surpassed by consumption of spirits. At the last game, the team came from behind in the bottom of the seventh and won 16 to 15. Following that unusual event, one team member, observing that our State Representative was absent, commented that "we only seem to win when our elected officials don't show up." It's certain that that comment will be refuted by a very able shortstop.

Lots of interesting news from the 6100 block of McPherson—The Thomas's son, Barry, will start his freshman year at Loras

College in Dubuque, Iowa, where he plans to major in accounting. And Gene and Dolores Hoefel will send their son, Kurt, off to the University of Missouri at Columbia for his freshman year.

Our neighborhood did not escape the tragedies that accompanied the heat wave in July. Mrs. Helen McCoy of the 6100 block of McPherson was a victim of the unbearable heat. We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

Joan Breun, 6100 McPherson, will begin her first year at St. Roch's teaching fifth grade. Benjamin, Roy and Joan's oldest child, will be in first grade and will have to be on his best behavior at school all day. We were glad to hear that Joan has recuperated from surgery this summer and hope she is ready to handle fifth graders after a long, hot summer.

Tim and Claire Hamlon, also of the 6100 block of McPherson, are expecting their first child in September. They have been in the neighborhood for a few years and we were pleased to hear the good news.

Phyllis and Ron Stutzman of the 6100 block of Westminster moved to Goshen, Indiana over the summer. Ron, an anthropology professor, will teach at Goshen College. Their house was quickly purchased by Susan Kidd. Susan is the new anchorwoman for KTVI—Channel 2

evening news. We're pleased that Susan was attracted to our neighborhood and hope she enjoys her new home.

Congratulations to Jane Phillips of the 6100 block of Washington who completed law school at St. Louis University.

We wish to welcome Nila Wilbur, M.D. and Ron Frendreis to the 6100 block of Washington. Nila is currently completing a radiology residency at St. Louis University Medical School and Ron is with Control Data Corporation. Ron and Nila moved to our neighborhood in mid-June.

We heard lots about pleasant summer vacations—Betty and Frank Burke and Dorothy and Art Santen, both of the 6100 block of McPherson, ended up in Florida at the same time . . . The Krippner family of the 6100 block of Waterman travelled to Seattle on Amtrak (a true adventure) visiting friends and relatives along the way . . . The Santons of 6100 McPherson vacationed on the West Coast . . . And we understand that T. Hoerr spent one full day in Lesterville.

Mary Alumbaugh, 6100 Westminster, had a difficult summer. Following a stay in the hospital, Mary broke her ankle and is struggling with a cast. Our best to Mary during her recuperation from hospitalization and her broken ankle.

Andy, Hugh, Bert, Beth and Rachel

Bender surprised their parents, Rick and Joan of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, with a 25th Wedding Anniversary Party on August 2nd. Congratulations to Rick and Joan. What a surprise!

The incessant barking on Sunday, August 17th around St. Roch's can be easily explained. Following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, there was a special blessing for all the dogs. St. Roch is considered the patron saint of dogs and the tradition has been carried on at St. Roch's.

Mimi Newsham, daughter of Betty and Bob Newsham of 6100 Kingsbury, was married on August 9th to Brian Mahoney. The wedding took place at St. Roch's. Brian is formerly from the 6100 block of Westminster, so he is familiar to the neighborhood. Mimi and Brian will reside in South St. Louis. Mimi is a nurse at Firmin Desloge Hospital and Brian is completing school at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Donnie and Dick Lottes were in Chicago on August 16th celebrating the marriage of their daughter, Anne, to Scott Brown of Virginia. They were married in the University Chapel at the University of Chicago where they attended school. Congratulations to Anne and Scott. The Lottes's are from the 6100 block of Kingsbury.

# In your ear

by Tom Hoerr

As I get older, I find summers fitting in to that broad category of events that never quite live up to my expectations. Come to think of it, much of life -- for me, anyway -- consists of disappointments and of things that fall short of their potential. The Senior Prom remains my classic let-down, followed closely by the McGovern Presidential Campaign, having my own apartment, and the football Cardinal seasons of 1976, 1977, 1978, and 1979. Somehow, my expectations projected a far different picture of reality than that which really occurred. Certainly there have been a few times when fate didn't deal from the bottom of the deck and reality surpassed expectations (the chocolate chips are great at "Cookies, Cookies, and More,"), but those occasions are few and far between.

It should be no surprise, then, as I sit on my porch and reflect on summer 1980, to see that it, too, fell short. The first clue (although I didn't recognize it at the time) presented itself last spring when the headlines read, "School Bussing to Begin in Fall." Talk about a dumb idea! Bussing schools? Can you believe we're paying money to tear down buildings, put the bricks on busses, transport them, and rebuild the schools elsewhere? Can you imagine how many busloads of brick and mortar it will take to move a large school?

And what about the plumbing and wiring? They'll have to remove all the bus seats to fit in the school! Why don't they bus kids instead of having school bussing?

Things quickly got worse. I forgot about school bussing by focusing my attention on the baseball Cardinals and becoming an avid fan of manager Key Boyer. Based on last year's season-ending surge, the Cards were going to be THE team this year. Well, they were just that . . . THE team to first find a new manager and the league's last-place position. When last seen, ex-manager Boyer was headed for the Springfield minors, having booked passage on the Titanic.

The political campaign was next on my list of disappointments. I generally look forward to every fourth year with a great deal of interest. I enjoy watching the political process as wily candidates seek to gain advantage on a myriad of issues. But this year: Carter, Reagan, Bond, Teasdale? Wily candidates? Somehow that's a little like going to the prizefights and finding out that the contestants have been changed from Ali and Frazier to Wally Cox and Gilda Radner. (Actually, any of these four might make a better candidate than those running!)

The next disappointment was a bit more personal in nature. I subscribe to the theory that dogs and cars reflect their owner's characteristics, and it's true in my case. My

car is a bit too big, full of rust spots, addicted to large amounts of liquid and very inefficient. Nonetheless, like its owner, it's paid for and relatively dependable. You can imagine my dismay when on several mornings Bertha refused to start. (I don't call the car Bertha, I just think it sounds good to suggest that I do.) Anyway, I must have left some Chavez strike literature or perhaps a pamphlet for a new K-Car in the back seat, because Bertha was definitely on strike. And while she didn't carry a picket, she wouldn't budge from the line. After several trips to Weber's Auto Service, Bertha finally began to approximate her old form of starting after one or two recalcitrant groans. (I see Ray Weber more than my mother-in-law, but that's ok because he's a better cook.) In the meantime, however, Bertha got a new thermostat, battery cable, dent from being towed, battery, and something else (the name escapes me, but it cost \$18.70 including labor).

Finally, how could I talk about disappointments without mentioning the wonderful St. Louis weather? The only folks who weren't disappointed in the weather were the air conditioner salesman, the guys who bag packaged ice, and people who own shares in Union Electric. I'll talk more about the weather later. For now it suffices to repeat the line that it was so hot that a robin was seen using potholders to

pull worms from the ground.

I have learned my lesson, though. While some disappointments are inevitable (I suspect *everyone's* Senior Prom is a bummer), it seems to me that the key to avoiding disappointment is being realistic and not getting your hopes up about things that aren't certain. A little prudence can avoid unrealistic hopes and shattered dreams.

This essay isn't quite done, but I must stop anyway. It's time to listen to the Cardinal football game. This will definitely be their year. I'm predicting the playoffs in 1980 and probably a Super Bowl berth. Go Big Red, I'm counting on you!

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