

the paper

Skinker-
deBaliviere

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

April, 1981

Volume 12, Number 1

Artists! Applications For Art Fair Available

Artists' applications for this year's Art Fair to be held on May 10 are now available at the Community Council office, 6008 Kingsbury Avenue. The entry fee, which is the same as last year, is \$10.00. Artists whose applications are accepted will be allocated a 10'x4' space on the 6100 block of Kingsbury to display their work. All displays must be set up by noon on the day of the Art Fair.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the best judged work in various categories (e.g. oil and acrylic, watercolor, drawings, pastels, crafts). All proceeds from the sale of any art work will go to the respective artists.

For applications and more information, call Anna Busch or Skip Coburn at the Community Council, 862-5122.

Conference on Education

Celebrates

25th Anniversary

by Lisa Horner

The 25th anniversary celebration of the Conference on Education will be Tuesday, April 28 at The Cedars, 939 Lebanon Drive, across from Ralston Purina (10th and Choteau). The program, which will run from 3:30 to 8:30 p.m., is open to the public. For \$5.00 those attending will hear the keynote speaker, Ronald Edmonds from Harvard University, and partake of hors d'oeuvres. There will also be a cash bar. An additional \$11.00 will entitle a participant to dinner and performances by the Vocal Jazz Ensemble from the Visual and Performing Arts High School, as well as the String Ensemble from Hazelwood West High School. There will be several guest speakers.

The Conference on Education, 5600 Oakland, is a dynamic coalition of citizens and professional educators. Established in 1956, as the St. Louis-St. Louis County White House Conference on Education, it is the only local organization still in operation which was developed out of a nationwide White House Conference on Education called by President Eisenhower in 1955. The activities of the Conference are directed by a 36-member Board of Directors made up of one third professional educators and two thirds lay citizens representing a cross-section of the community.

The Conference on Education has demonstrated a unique ability to bring together policy makers from diverse constituencies to study, discuss, and resolve educational concerns. The Conference has held 16 metropolitan conferences and been instrumental in the holding of three statewide Governor's Conferences on Education. The Conference has also conducted, during the past decade, two major outreach efforts to determine community educational concerns, encourage citizen involvement and establish priorities for future Conference efforts.

New Services, New Growth at CWE

NOW accouts (checking accounts that pay interest) will be available at CWE Savings and Loan this year.

CWE now sells money orders without a service charge to neighborhood residents who are 62 years of age or older or who are disabled.

Office space is being expanded by almost 3,000 square feet. This will provide an expanded teller area, new space for the mortgage loan and accounting departments, a board room which will be available to community groups for meetings and civic functions, and more exhibit space for CWE's frequent art shows.

Coalitions developed out of these conferences and outreach efforts have played a key role in several major accomplishments, including the establishment of the St. Louis-St. Louis County Community College District, increased and more equitable state funding of public schools, and a passage of a bill for fair, statewide property tax reassessment.

The most recent projects of the Conference are a volunteer network to identify examples of effective teaching of the basic skills in area schools, the Employee/Management Task Force and the Voluntary Interdistrict Cooperation Committee. The Conference also publishes a newsletter once every two months.

The Conference is funded totally by voluntary contributions from individuals and corporations. A staff of only two persons provides coordination and support. Marcia Kerz of the 6100 block of Westminster is the new executive director. Membership is free to any interested party. For more information on the Conference or its 25th Anniversary Celebration call the Conference on Education office: 644-5035.

Community Council Receives Energy Grant

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council has been awarded a grant of \$2,667.00 from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The grant will be used to finance a low-cost weatherization project this summer for the neighborhood. On a first-come, first-served basis, senior citizens and low-income families will receive free labor and materials necessary to weatherstrip and caulk windows and doors throughout their homes.

Four participants from the Community Council's Summer Youth Employment Program will provide all services for the project. They will be working under the supervision of a project supervisor whose salary will be paid from the energy grant. The project will begin in mid-June and extend approximately eight-to-ten weeks.

All neighborhood groups are invited to participate in the project by referring senior citizens and families who might be eligible to receive these services. For more information call Skip Coburn at the Community Council office, 862-5122.

April Calendar of Events

- 1 Panel Discussion of Elizabeth Fishel's book *Sisters*. Sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. 8 pm. at 438 N. Skinker.
- 2 April Fools Funny Films For Kids. 4 pm. Des Peres Branch Library.
Metro St. Louis Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Monthly Meeting. 6665 Delmar. 7:30 pm. 531-9442.
National Alliance Against Racist And Political Repression. Monthly Members Meeting. 7:30 pm. 438 N. Skinker.
- 4 Family Films: *Terror by Night* starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. Des Peres Branch Library. 2 pm.
- 5 Every Sunday in April. Campaign for Human Dignity to Re-open Homer G. Phillips 3 pm. Core Brilliant Presbyterian Church at Marcus and Labadie.
St. Roch's new Pastor, Salvatore Polizzi, to be installed at the 11:00 Mass.
- 7 Early Music Ensemble; Darrel Berg, Willard Cobb, Rodney Stucky and Maryse Carlin, directors. CASA, 560 Trinity. 8 pm. FREE CONCERT.
- 8 "Talley's Folly". Matinee for Senior Citizens. Sponsored by St. Louis Area Agency on Aging. Loretto Hilton Repertory Theatre \$3.50 in advance. Call 622-3713.
- 9 April Fools Funny Films for Kids. 4 pm. Des Peres Branch Library.
- 11 The People's Clinic Silent Auction. CASA 560 Trinity. 7:30 pm. - 11:00 pm. \$2.50.
Family Films. Des Peres Branch Library. 2 pm.
- 12 Msgr. Peet's farewell Mass to be held in St. Rochs gym. 1 pm. Refreshments to follow.
- 13 Skinker - DeBaliviere Community Council Meeting. 7:30 pm.
- 14 Bunny Hop; Easter Crafts and Fun for Ages 3-10. 4 pm. Des Peres Branch Library.
- 18 Family Films: *Our Town*. 2:00 pm. Des Peres Branch Library.
- 21 "Confronting Society's Violent Influences on Our Children", Kathie McGinnis from the Institute for Peace and Justice. Sponsored by The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. 438 N. Skinker. 8 pm.
- 23 April Fools Funny Films for Kids. 4 pm. Des Peres Branch Library.
- 23-25 West End Players Present Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*. 5007 Waterman at Kingshighway. 8 pm. Tickets \$3.50. Students and Senior Citizens \$3. Phone 367-6687.
- 25 "How do I Pay for School?" Speaker Steve Colbert from the Educational Opportunity Center. 11 am. Des Peres Branch Library.
Family Films: *My Man Godfrey* starring Carole Lombard. 2:00 pm. Des Peres Branch Library.
- 26 Conservatory Orchestra. Joel Revzen, Leonard Slatkin conducts. CASA. 560 Trinity 7:30 pm. FREE CONCERT.
- 30 April Fools Funny Films for Kids. 4:00. Des Peres Branch Library.
- 30-May 2 West End Players Present *Ten Little Indians*. 8 pm. 5007 Waterman. Tickets \$3.50. Senior Citizens and Students \$3. Phone 367-6687.
- 1 New City School Plant Sale. 5209 Waterman.
- 2 Medieval Fair, New City School, 5209 Waterman. 10 am. to 4 pm.

Letter



Dear Editor,

As a long time Skinker-DeBaliviere resident, a former Crossroads School teacher, a parent of two children who have attended Neighborhood School, St. Louis Public School and now with one child at Crossroads School, I would like to respond to Daniel Schesch's letter in the February issue of *The Paper*. By implying that phrases like "want to be part of the growth of this neighborhood" and "we can strengthen the fiber of the community" are false, because the Liebers moved to Laclede Town in 1970, Mr. Schesch, in my opinion, is failing to see the entire picture.

The neighborhood, particularly the DeBaliviere area, is still growing, and was largely vacant buildings with grand plans, when Crossroads committed themselves to extensive, expensive renovation. The Liebers and Karen Techner, Principal of the middle school, see the community as the entire city. They are using the area's resources to teach students to be good citizens appreciating the diversity of the whole.

School Board member Schesch's statement that Crossroads "looks like a private school which skims off the cream" suggests that Crossroads School is an entity who seduces children and their parents away from righteous teachers and administrators. Think about it. Why would any parent choose to pay even Crossroads tuition (substantially less than half the combined costs of educating a child in the public system and less than half the cost of a private school in the County)? It isn't that I have the money to throw away. It can't be the status of a school in a converted supermarket down the street from a boarded-up theater which once boasted "Evelyn West and her Treasure Chest".

I send one child to Crossroads, because Crossroads has dedicated teachers who offer exciting classes and the opportunity, encouragement and appreciation for students making the most of their individual gifts.

My second child attends a Magnet School because there are also some excellent teachers in the Public Schools, in spite of its cumbersome bureaucracy and regulation. School Board members are to be congratulated when their combined efforts give all children access to quality education. I am sure that it is a difficult and often frustrating task. But please, no sour grapes. Wherever, and however children receive that unique and elusive teaching, let us support it and rejoice.

Sincerely,

Libby Gilk

The Middle Ages in Mid-Town

To experience a different era of time has always fascinated people. Fiction often employs a "time device" to carry the reader forward or backward. Next Stop: The Middle Ages. Where? At 5209 Waterman. The New City School will attempt time travel with a Medieval Fair on Saturday May 2. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the students of New City will demonstrate what they have learned in 12 weeks of studies by recreating the customs, dress, art and music of the period.



The school has conducted special workshops and classes each Friday this semester to make history a living thing. On display to delight the eye will be: children's art including calligraphy, heraldry, costume design, jesters (with face painting available for everyone) jugglers, even Punch and Judy. To delight the eye and ear:

troubadors, May dancing, and period vocal and instrumental music. A professional view will be offered as well: members of the Society for Creative Anachronisms will model authentic costumes and demonstrate combat fighting, medieval dancing, and arts and crafts. These special performances will be held 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. New City School students participating in a project funded by a grant from the Missouri Arts Council will also be demonstrating pottery making.

In a more contemporary vein, the fair will also feature game booths and a flea market of household goods and toys. Also contemporary will be the food and refreshments, although some of the youngsters who are studying herbs and potions hope to cast their spells that day as well. In conjunction with the fair, the school is conducting its Spring Plant Sale on Friday May 1 and Saturday May 2 during Fair hours. The Plant Sale will offer a wide array of bedding plants, hanging baskets, house plants, perennials, and herbs to ensure a good start for everyone's garden. The Fair and Plant Sale are open to the public (or should we say "Publyck"?).



Preschool Screening Tests

Beginning April 9, 1981 on five consecutive Thursdays and Fridays with the exception of Good Friday, four nursing students from St. Louis University, Mary Spangler, Tom Pacatte, Jane Izmirlian and Cindy Bibik, will be doing screening tests on preschoolers from Neighborhood, Grace Methodist and Jubilee schools. The procedures will include those for hearing losses, vision difficulties, height and weight discrepancies, anemia, abnormal lead levels, and developmental lags. All the tests are done free of charge with the support and follow-up of the staff of People's Clinic.

For those parents or guardians who wish to have these tests done and whose children do not go to any of the three schools, the students will be at People's Clinic to do testing during the Health Fair Day, April 8, 1981.

Breitmayer Community Ministry

by Elise Humphrey
Breitmayer Minister

In 1976, after Henry Hall completed two years of service in the newly created Breitmayer Ministry, Selma Wesley came to Grace Church with a Methodist background and a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Ms. Wesley had an impact on the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. Contacts and referrals were made with other community-based organizations. Evening and after school community youth groups were formed. Ms. Wesley secured the services of practicum students from Washington University and assisted disadvantaged city children in obtaining jobs through a program titled "The Street Academy". She counseled and worked with former drug offenders and battered women.

One of her most significant contributions was the direction of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) in cooperation with the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. SYEP is financed by the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor. The program is designed to enhance the employability of youth, aged 14-21, from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. SYEP, initiated by Ms. Wesley, has had a positive effect on neighborhood residents both young and old.



Health Fair '81

Health Fair '81 is designed to provide health screening and education to all residents of the St. Louis metropolitan area. Locally sponsored by the American Red Cross, Blue Cross and KSDK Channel Five, it is held in co-operation with the National Health Screening Council. Health Fair '81 is a community project which stresses the importance of preventative health care and is designed to alert individuals to possible medical problems.

The People's Clinic, located at 6010 Kingsbury, has been chosen as one of the screening sites on Wednesday, April 8 from 11:30 - 5:30. Tests, including blood pressure, vision and dental, are all free with the exception of a \$6 Blood Chemistry Test, which is optional.

Adult Vocational Education

The St. Louis Retailers' Education Committee is cooperating with the St. Louis Public Schools' Adult Distributive Education for the 35th consecutive year to bring business courses into the St. Louis area shopping centers. The courses will be Assertiveness Training, Merchandising and Buying, Merchandise Math, Communications, Interior Design, Fashion Coordination, Developing Supervisory Skills, Management, and Salesmanship. Courses are six weeks in duration and begin the week of March 30. They meet one evening per week for two hours. Tuition is \$10.00 per course. For specific class information and registration, call Adult Education at either 367-5454 (8:00 a.m. to noon), or 776-2215, or 776-6400.

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.



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Colbert Named EOC Counselor

"I am a people-oriented person," said Stephen R. Colbert, newly-appointed counselor for the Skinker-DeBaliviere Educational Opportunity Center at 6008 Kingsbury.

Colbert offers free information and guidance on higher education and training, serving the West End, University City, Clayton and the central county area.

"Counseling is a natural for me. It's a 'helping' field," continues Colbert who recently completed 20 years in supervisory positions with the U.S. Air Force. He has a master's degree in counselor education from the University of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville and a bachelors in occupational education from SIU-Carbondale.

Colbert heads one of six EOC offices in the metropolitan area. Each offers a wide range of information on occupations and educational institutions. In addition, the counselors can provide assistance in helping people match skills with potential employment and directing them along educational or training routes to achieve their goals.

Among the resources available at EOC offices is the GIS (Guidance Information System), a computer bank offering "instant access" to data on occupations, salary

ranges and employment outlook; armed forces opportunities; colleges and universities, and most St. Louis area vocational training schools. In addition, GIS can suggest sources of financial aid, including scholarships, grants and low-interest loans.

There is also a micro-fiche system covering 180 educational institutions in Missouri and Illinois. It gives details on admissions procedures, cost and financial assistance.

Other resources of EOC include catalogs and general literature on occupations and educational programs. A booklet, "Growing At College in St. Louis", has suggestions on who should attend college, and how to choose institutions, plus details on expenses and financial aid.

EOC, which is a project of the Higher Education Center of Metropolitan St. Louis, offers its counseling and information services free under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and contributed services of area colleges, universities and libraries.

For further information on EOC services call the Skinker-DeBaliviere Council office at 725-4949 or the EOC administrative offices at 534-2700.



Stephen R. Colbert, counselor at Skinker-DeBaliviere Educational Opportunity Center, 6008 Kingsbury.

Muny Auditions For Singing And Dancing Ensemble

Auditions for the singing and dancing ensemble for The Muny's 1981 summer season of shows will be held on Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18 at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel's Starlight Roof. Auditioners must be 16 years of age or older. The schedule for auditions is as follows:

SINGERS:

MEN: Actors' Equity members are to audition at 10 a.m. on April 17; non-members at 11 a.m. Chorus members from previous seasons may audition at 1:30 p.m. on April 18.

WOMEN: Actors' Equity members are to audition at 2 p.m. on April 17; non-members at 3 p.m. Chorus members from previous seasons may audition at 2:30 p.m. on April 18.

Singers should bring sheet music - preferably operetta or musical comedy. Lyrics must be sung in English. An accompanist will be provided.

DANCERS:

MEN: Actors' Equity members are to audition at 10 a.m. on April 17; non-members at 11 a.m. Chorus members from previous seasons may audition at 10 p.m. on April 18.

WOMEN: Actors' Equity members are to audition at 1 p.m. on April 17; non-members at 2:30 p.m. Chorus members from previous seasons may audition at 11 a.m. on April 18.

Dancers should bring tap shoes, toe and ballet slippers and the necessary rehearsal clothing. Dressing room areas will be provided.

Those wishing to audition should bring a photograph with resume and name, address and telephone number attached - the photos will *not* be returned. If resume and photo have previously been sent to The Muny, it is not necessary to provide another.

Housing for the Elderly Discussed

A. Michael Klein, vice-president of the St. Louis Relocation Clearinghouse, Inc., will be the talk show guest of the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging on the "Our Elders Speak" radio program broadcast over KFUD AM on Wednesday, April 22, at 12:05 p.m.

Sister Ann Roddy, director of the SLAAA Information and Referral Department, also will participate in the program discussion: "Housing for the Elderly."

The Relocation Clearinghouse is a product of the Emergency Housing Council, a network of more than forty

agencies who provide a variety of services to persons in need of emergency shelter.

The Relocation Clearinghouse is funded by the St. Louis Community Development Agency and offers comprehensive relocation and social services to city residents displaced by code enforcement condemnation, family violence, eviction, alcoholism, family friction, mental illness, and other social problems.

"Our Elders Speak" is a weekly radio series aired each Wednesday at 12:05 p.m., dealing with issues and interests that affect older adults in the Greater St. Louis area.

We are truly overwhelmed by the number of responses to our survey about our NOW accounts. To each depositor who took the time to reply, we want to say a sincere "thank you".

You have helped us design a NOW account tailored to the needs of our depositors. In the near future we will be telling you much more about these checking accounts that pay interest. They will be available in mid-May. Soon CWE will mean Checking With Earnings.

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Fairmount District

The Mining Area of St. Louis City

by Ray Breun

Italy is cold in February. I'm here in southern Italy where we had two earthquakes and frost over the weekend. Sitting among Greek ruins at Paestum, about 30 kilometers south of Salerno, I thought I'd write this piece for *The Paper* on the Fairmount subdivision which was incorporated into St. Louis in 1876. Most folks are familiar with Fairmount but they don't know its original name and why it's good to be in Italy to write about it.

It all began in 1798 when Charlie Gratiot received a huge land grant from the Spanish who ruled Upper Louisiana until 9 March 1803. In today's terms it would be bounded by Kingshighway, Big Bend Boulevard, Pernod and Oakland Avenues. Gratiot and his descendants sold parcels of the land and two of them went to Solomon and William Sublette. They with their brother, Milton, had been among the original fur trapping crew that started the Mountainmen era of the 1820's - 1840's. The Sublette land was subdivided in 1857. Eleven years later, 1868, part of this became Fairmount subdivision bounded by Kingshighway, Bischoff, Macklind and Northrup. Once called Fairmount Heights, we know it now as The Hill.

By 1837 clay was mined along and south of Manchester Road in the old Gratiot land grant. The Cheltenham Station was at the end of the first railroad laid west of the Mississippi. It was five miles by rail from the St. Louis Riverfront to Cheltenham at the corner of Sulphur Avenue and Manchester Road. The coal mines were opened in the late 1850's alongside the clay mines. It was the latter, however, that created the first work for the Irish and German laborers in the area. Most of them lived in the Fairmount area or in Cheltenham itself. The trains drew heavy industry into Cheltenham and so Fairmount became the preferred residen-

tial area.

Only about a dozen Italians lived in the Fairmount Subdivision in 1890. Isolated from the mainstream of St. Louis because of the mines, the railroads and the industry around it, Fairmount had no city utilities. The first Italian church in Fairmount was in the basement of the German Catholic Church, St. Aloysius, until 3 August 1903 when the first St. Ambrose was dedicated. It became a separate parish in 1907. That first church, made of wood, was destroyed by fire 20 January 1921 and replaced by the present brick and terracotta church dedicated 31 May 1925. The Italian men worked in the clay mines six days a week, twelve hours a day. By 1930 the population of the Hill (as Fairmount is now called) was over 6000 people. Mining was being replaced by local and regional industries and businesses. A mining town had become an urban neighborhood.

Most folks don't think of St. Louis as a mining city. The fact is the lead mines in Galena, Illinois, along with the iron and lead mines of Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob gave St. Louis more exports of raw materials than furs. Not until the discovery of the Mesabi Range in northern Minnesota did St. Louis lose its reputation as the iron mining center of the nation. The clays mines of the Gratiot land grant made St. Louis a brick and terracotta center. They are the main reason the city has the kind of housing stock it has today. That same quality has made St. Louis the brick mine of the Mississippi Valley. Tons of old St. Louis brick are shipped out everyday as our housing stock is disassembled and sent to the patios of West County, New Orleans and Cincinnati. It is a testament to the workmanship of the Italians who made St. Louis brick that it is more expensive than newly made brick—and also of better quality.



Off Track Dance Company Celebrates National Dance Week

Off Track Dancers will present two performances in celebration of National Dance Week. Sponsored by Dance Concert Society and free and open to the public, the performances are April 8, 12 noon, at the old Post Office in downtown St. Louis, and April 11, 5 p.m. at Crestwood Plaza in Crestwood.

The company will perform selections

from "Dance Scrabble", a collection of dances based on American Sign Language, word games, poetry, and music. Joining Off Track Dancers Anne Patz and Cynthia Simpson for these performances will be St. Louis dancer Eileen Kinsella.

For more information on Off Track Dancers call CASA Midtown School for the Arts at 535-7576.

Stall Inflation With Your Library Card

by Arlene Sandler

Our hours and book budget may be reduced, but we still have the wherewithal to help you cope with the higher cost of living.

Many fix-it, make-it, clean-it, grow-it, and do-it-yourself books are in our collection for both children and adults. We have a brand new one that will *Save Your Teeth*. Wash your clothespins and get the peach stains out of metallic yarn with the help of *How to Clean Everything*. Cosmetics, wool soak, and scouring powder are just a few of the useful items you can make at home with *Make It Yourself*. *How to Bring up a Child without Spending a Fortune* will save you work as well as money.

Homes are usually our biggest financial burden. Take a good look at our varied home repair collection near the front door. Books and useful magazines such as *Family*

Hanayman and *The Old House Journal* will give you many good ideas. You may want to consider a solar hot water heating system. *How to Reduce Your Real Estate Taxes* claims to save you hundreds a year. If the worst ultimately happens, try *Home for Sale by Owner*.

Your library card can help you enter, re-enter, or stay in the job market. Shorthand records, books that will update your skills, assist you in making career choices, and make life easier at home are all on our shelves. Children can learn how to be cooperative by checking out *Life with Working Parents*. If they can't cope, *Wheels, Boxes, and Skateboards* will show them how to build a sidewalk vehicle and get away from it all.

Absorbing! Longer lasting than a TV program! Safer than a sleeping pill! Get one absolutely free at your local branch library. Yes, a book will give you comfort, relaxation, and entertainment. It can cure insomnia or give you something to think about for a long time. And if you can't afford to see *Ordinary People*, you can always read it.

Entertaining and money-saving events at Des Peres Branch this month include a program by Steve Colbert of the Educational Opportunity Center on financing your education, and two film series. One, "April's Fools," is a comedy series for children on Thursday afternoons. Every Saturday we will show a feature length film at 2. This series includes Star Trek and some wonderful old classics. Check the calendar section for details and, please, check out some books too!

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Msgr. Peet Retires

Troop 98 Reunion



by Jean Eberle

Monsignor Robert Peet is about to retire from St. Roch's. He'll say his official final Mass at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 12th, in the gymnasium he built. And as has been added so often during his almost twenty years at St. Roch's, "All are welcome" and "Refreshments will be served after the Liturgy".

With those two phrases, endless patience, a rare capacity for listening, and constant kindness, Father Peet has been an unobtrusive but dominant force in the revitalization of the Skinker-DeBaliviere area. When he arrived in May of 1962, the "smart money" people at real estate companies, lending institutions, and insurance firms were writing off this neighborhood. At the same time the changes arising from Vatican II were going into effect in the Catholic Church, so many felt double uncertainty and frustration. One of Father Peet's first announcements was that St. Roch's would build a new school building which would include the long-needed gymnasium. This enabled the sixty St. Roch's children attending other schools to return to St. Roch's in 1964, and made space available for other local students.

Father also got acquainted with the ministers at other area churches. In the spring of 1963 he scheduled an Interfaith Conversation at which all were not only welcome but sought after. The men of St. Roch's went door to door personally inviting every resident to come. Almost 500 people turned out; some 25% to 40% were not St. Roch's parishioners. Naturally, refreshments followed.

When the changes of Vatican II came to the parish level, Father Peet began with small, informal meetings block by block. After a series of Operational Renewal meetings in 1965, a parish-wide meeting recommended setting up a permanent parish assembly as a forum and as a source of advice for the pastor. Naturally, after the meeting, there was the Liturgy and a supper. Father Peet encouraged the development of the Assembly of the People of St. Roch's, which has met twice a year since 1966. The constitution of this Assembly became a model for many other parishes, as did the by-laws for the St. Roch's School Board.

When people complained to Father Peet about red-lining and other practices threatening the neighborhood, his first advice was always to invite people into the area so they could see what we had here. He became a Skinker-DeBaliviere booster among his many friends throughout St. Louis. He backed the start of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, and in

1969 the Archdiocese of St. Louis granted SDCC \$10,000 for some of its projects. From the pulpit and in his daily life, Father preached that "you have to be a neighbor to have a neighbor." He welcomed everyone to St. Roch's, visited throughout the neighborhood, lent the use of parish buildings, and encouraged people to get together and invite others. Card parties, sports events, musicals, luncheons, dinners of every type and description, coffees, rummage sales, art and craft displays,

anything that got people working together filled the St. Roch's calendar.

Father Peet's congenial attitude led to the annual joint Thanksgiving Day service with Grace Methodist Church, and to joint prayer services with Trinity Episcopal Church. He brought back the ancient custom of blessing new mothers, and later took on the unpredictable ceremony of blessing the dogs of the neighborhood.

Little by little, Father Peet's neighborly attitude, his lively pride in his people and their neighbors spread through Skinker-DeBaliviere. As John Roach put it recently, Father Peet created an atmosphere for us, an atmosphere in which good things could happen, and did happen. When Phil Lucier's tragic death threatened his newly-formed West End Townhouses, Inc., Father Peet helped arrange to hold the redevelopment corporation in trust at St. Roch's so the work could continue. Later both the Archdiocese and Washington University extended an impressive line of credit to assist West End Townhouses in rehabilitating area apartment buildings.

Even though St. Roch's has long since ceased being predominantly Irish, if it ever was, Father Peet has made the annual St. Patrick's dinner a combination bash and reunion for friends and former parishioners — which is proper for a boy born in 1903 in St. Mark's Parish, on Academy Avenue, which was predominantly Irish at the time. He attended St. Mark's Grade School, then the Preparatory Seminary, then Kenrick Seminary and was ordained in 1934. His first assignment was to St. Michael's, 2200 North Eleventh Street, and he has been a city priest for all but the 7 years he spent at St. Luke's in Richmond Heights. From St. Luke's he went to St. Patrick's downtown, where he helped run Father Dempsey's Charities.

Along with his pastoral work at St. Roch's, the Liturgy, the baptisms, weddings, and funerals, Father Peet has served on the Archdiocesan Commissions on Ecumenism, Human Rights, and the Sacred Liturgy. He took part in the Archdiocesan Council of Priests and was dean of the North Side Deanery. The Archdiocese recognized his remarkable career by naming him a Monsignor in 1971, the occasion for another celebration at which all were welcome and refreshments served. An illness in 1974 left him with limited locomotion, but he has managed to continue not only his duties, but his congenial visits in the neighborhood, his devotion to music from grand opera to musicals, his enthusiasm for sports, and his bridge games. He will remain a "city slicker" in retirement, moving to Regina Cleri House at 4540 Lindell. All will be welcome and refreshments will be in order.

Scouts, former Scouts, their families and friends celebrated the completion of sixty years for Troop 98 at a Mass and breakfast at St. Roch's on February 8, 1981. Eighty former Scouts and 168 guests attended the breakfast, which was prepared and served by Betty Klinefelter's Senior Girl Scouts from Grace Methodist. Committee member, Art Santen, organized the banquet and served as Master of Ceremonies.

Plates, picturing Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, were presented to eight of Troop 98's twenty Scoutmasters. Plaques were presented to three Scouters whose unique contributions have made possible a continuation of the great tradition of Dr. Forrest Staley, the former outstanding leader of Troop 98. The first of the three was Hugh Bertsch, who was honored for working with the Scouts, especially in camping experiences, since 1957. Jack Wright was honored for his leadership both as Committee Chairman and as Trustee Chairman for the past decade. Ed Gund, who was unable to attend, was honored both for his many, many years as a trustee for Camp Forrest Staley, and for his leadership during the transition to the Forrest Staley Trust.

A large plaque listing the 80 Eagle Scouts from Troop 98 was presented to the Troop by Committee chairman Jim Flynn. Scoutmaster Rick Bender received the plaque from Mr. Flynn along with the challenge to add more names to the plaque. After the breakfast the "old timers" spent several hours recounting their scouting experiences.

You've heard the news, have you?
It's terrible dire!
They say Father Peet
Is about to retire.

The folks in his parish
Is taking it hard.
There's talk of black crepe
Over buildings and yards.

You know that lot, do you?
Out of St. Roch's?
Not one of your more
Amenable flocks.

There's black and there's white
And there's others, no less.
Each with opinions
He's bound to express.

How the good father stood it
The Lord only knows,
Their friend in rejoicings,
A comfort in woes.

The Germans is singing Mother Macree,
Poles, Swedes, and blacks know the Rose of
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And if, mind you if,
They could ever agree,
It'd be that Father suits
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window on washington heights

by Glori L'Ecuyer

In the flurry of political excitement and the usual spring rush, a few important events may have been overlooked. The residents of the 5700 block of DeGiverville will be delighted to learn that Bertha Hughes will be married this May to Jesse Moore of New York, N.Y. The couple will live in the Big Apple where Bertha will be working for Gamlorie Shoe Co. on Fifth Avenue, no less. We wish her happiness, but we will miss her.

Mark Faulkner of the 5700 block of Pershing is a newlywed. He and his wife Ann will live in Greece where he is stationed with the Air Force. Congratulations to Ann and Mark on their marriage. Greece sounds like a great place for a honeymoon!

Melvin Hughes is in Spain now, but will be stationed in Virginia not far from his mother's new home in New York. Cousin Michael is following in Melvin's Navy footsteps and will do his tour of duty in Japan.

Staying home and doing a significant amount of work on their house are the McElroys. They are expecting a new baby this April. Their neighbors, Naomi and Andrew Topps had a baby boy February 20th, weighing 7 lbs. 11 ozs. They are very proud parents. You may remember Mr. Topps from the front page of the *Post Dispatch*. A man was caught red-handed by the police trying to steal his tire and claimed he was doing it because he was hungry. Mr. Topps gave him \$5 and asked that the man be set free. We can see that new baby has quite a daddy.

It will surprise no one to hear that George Storey is very active in the Forest Park Men's Golf Association, an organization of great reknown and longevity, having its origins in 1900. He has recently

been elected Treasurer and would be pleased to have other neighbors join him in the fun. The men meet on Thursday evening and play golf on Saturday and Sunday and probably a few other days if George has anything to do with it.

Another sports enthusiast, Debbie Busch has won a first place trophy from the AAU League at Marquette Recreational Center and her sister Karen's basketball team at Fontbonne College came in third place in the St. Louis Area College Athletic Association's tournament held at Maryville College. The Busch girls are at it again!

Frances Stadler, a resident of sixteen years and former WHN board member, retired last year from her position as archivist at the Historical Society which she held for 23 years. She was also Acting Director of the Society from 1977 to 1978. We didn't know she was retired because she continued to edit the Society's *Bulletin* until this summer. Now she reports that she enjoys "doing nothing" except a few hours of volunteer work now and then. We suspect she will find this time just as rewarding as she has found previous years in the neighborhood.

Welcome to new residents Denise Davis and her son Marquis of the 5700 block of DeGiverville.

Tom Reel, son of longtime residents Blanche and Alton Reel, has recently become an associate with Feinberg Realty. This month Feinberg is opening a residential sales branch at 5707 Waterman. The branch will be open seven days a week. You can call 367-6100 or drop in for a cup of coffee.

And if this article seems only half finished, you're exactly correct. To be continued.....

Forrest Staley Park and Trust

The Trustees of Camp Forrest Staley and the committee of Troop 98 arranged a transfer of land and funds with St. Louis County. According to the agreement the county received the land and Forrest Staley Trust received \$110,000 plus other considerations. About \$90,000 of the amount came from a special grant from the federal government which has been awarded to Eureka and transferred to the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The additional considerations for the transfer included: retention of the name Forrest Staley for the newly established park; no lumbering; no off road vehicles; the property to remain open land forever; and, the right for Troop 98 and the Boy and Girl Scouts of St. Roch's to use the property for short or long term camping.

The principal of the trust must be invested, while the interest from the principal can be expended, but only with the approval both of the Troop 98 Committee and of the Forrest Staley Trustees.

The trustees and troop leaders have been working toward the completion of this project ever since the buildings on the property were vandalized over ten years ago. Some of the people who have been very generous with their time and talent during the years it took to reach the agreement were Hugh Bertsch, Jack Wright, Ed Gund, Bob Newsham, Jim Flynn, Hi Watkins, and Rick Bender.



Mr. Forest Staley, nephew of Dr. Forrest Staley, outstanding Scoutmaster of Troop 98, with Dr. Albert Bender, current Scoutmaster.

by Joshua Kohn

LITTLE SISTERS

There is an Epidemic Sweeping The Skinker-Debaliviere and Surrounding Areas. NIT PICKING!

This is no Laughing Matter you realize. you may get it. What is it you ask? IT'S NITS! Ickies, books, Lice, Sickos, yuckems, or NITS! This is spreading. People have friends over to Pick NITS from their Hair.

as we can see here the epidemic is spreading As Little Sisters

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What About Cable TV?

by Ray Breun

As you probably know from *The Paper*, I was appointed by Mayor Conway to the citizens' group writing a proposal for a franchise for cable TV in St. Louis. Now that a new mayor will be elected April 7, by the time you read this article, a whole new cast of characters may be in place. In any case, several people in the neighborhood have stopped me with questions and suggested I get an article in *The Paper* on cable in St. Louis.

the first three part vacuum tube in 1906—long called the de Forest tube. You might even go back further and study J.J. Thomson's demonstration of the properties of the electron in 1897. But all of that fails to suggest the coming communications possibilities inherent in the notion of cable TV.

The first franchise for cable TV in St. Louis was given to the Dubinsky brothers, Melvin and Harold, in 1969. They did nothing with it, in part because of the slump in the cable business in 1974 all

across the country. When one of the Dubinsky brothers died less than two years ago, Melhar (as the front company was styled) lost all interest in the business and the city declared the first franchise null and void. No court suit followed, paving the way for the Public Utilities and Board of Public Service of St. Louis to make a report to the Mayor on 4 April 1980. This document called for the creation of a citizens' advisory panel "to advise and comment" on the proposed possible systems for the city. As of this writing, the

panel has met four times.

So far, we on the panel have considered four areas: (1) we are concerned that no "rented citizen" operation as happened in the county occur in the city and have thus formed a statement for the major officials in city government. At the same time (2) we attended a series of lectures from a consulting firm on the technical aspects of cable TV. Some of us have followed cable for some years now, and these lectures served to bring our focus onto the potentials in St. Louis. It is clear we will want the most advanced system which will include not just pictures but also home health systems, home information systems, two-way capabilities, fiber-optic potentials, etc. We are coming to agree that the entire city communications should be coordinated for the best possible results at the least cost to the consumer. It is already clear, since the relaxing of FCC rules about cable, that the three major networks are in for major competition from cable delivery systems, and that bundling of services offers more packages for the home than is commonly perceived. At our next meeting, two of us, Judge Simeone and I, are to present a draft of a purpose statement, drawing some of the current discussion to a focus. We will (3) then seek a concurrence from the new mayor regarding the existence of the advisory panel and that same purpose. (Clearly it will be the prerogative of the next mayor to do away with the panel, reject the public utilities report suggesting its creation, and start over.) Finally, we are (4) beginning to consider goals and time lines for their achievement, presuming we continue as we are more-or-less now structured. (Jacqueline Beulick of Forest Park Community College media services is chairperson of the panel.) In light of publicly aired goals we can both accept input from various interested groups and seek input from other groups who may not realize what cable TV means for the city.

The foregoing is only a brief synopsis of what is underway. By next month more should be clear. Nevertheless it is time for all of us to get some notice of what cable TV can mean so that as it develops we can use it to our best benefit. Further, the city franchise will certainly be the largest in the area and will thus influence any interconnects and future franchise distributions as the five year amortization periods draw to a close. The picture is only beginning to develop.

COALITION FOR BETTER TELEVISION MONITORING FORM

Name of Viewer _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Program Monitored _____ Network _____
 Date _____ Time Began _____

Note to Viewer: Please monitor the program and complete this sheet when program is completed. Use a different sheet for each new program. Monitor any program during prime-time during the months of March, April and May, 1981. Prime time is 8-11 P.M. in the Eastern and Pacific time zones, 7-10 P.M. Central and Mountain. Prime time begins an hour earlier on Sunday. After completing this form, return it to Coalition for Better Television, 499 South Capitol No. 101, Washington, DC 20003.

Note To Sponsoring Group: Reproduce this sheet and pass out in bulk as needed to members of your group. Disseminate as widely as possible and encourage as many in your group as possible to participate as often as possible. Place the form in your newsletter, local paper, etc.

1. Was this a program which would be enjoyed by the entire family? () Yes () No
2. Would the program help build good character in youth and children? () Yes () No
3. Would viewing the program help promote a better family life? () Yes () No
4. Would viewing the program help an individual contribute toward a better society? () Yes () No
5. Did the program contain sexual content, violence or profanity? () Yes () No
6. Would you like to see more programs like this on television? () Yes () No
7. Would you like to see fewer programs like this on television? () Yes () No
8. Would you be willing to purchase products from advertisers for helping sponsor this program? () Yes () No
9. Would you be willing to boycott products of advertisers for helping sponsor this program? () Yes () No
10. Was this a program which would help make the quality of life in our society better? () Yes () No

VERY IMPORTANT: After viewing the entire program please give us a rating on the program. On a scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being tops, rate the program for its constructive contribution to society.

Rating _____



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In your ear

By Tom Hoerr

Maybe it's because I've never been tall, fast, lithe, or particularly coordinated, but it seems to me that there's something terribly wrong and unfair about a society in which only a relatively few talented individuals can be professional athletes. I've just finished reading about some jock-type getting a cool million a year for playing a kids' game and it bothers me. It's not so much that he's getting it; it's that I can't!

Let me say straight out: I think it's OK that a baseball player gets paid more than the President. Heck, it's fine with me if basketball players make more than doctors. I know that's an unpopular view, but let's consider the facts: your basic MD isn't really a whole lot different than the corner auto mechanic. Oh sure, the doctor's "engine" may be a bit more complex, and there's more at stake in a heart transplant than in changing points and plugs on your Pontiac, but both chores primarily consist of doing some cookbook mechanical work, y'know "Attach A and B to C..." Besides, think how much easier the mechanic's job would be if your car could tell him where it hurts.

Having established that I have no problem with athletes being paid megabucks, let me go back to my original point, the inequity involved in who qualifies to be a professional athlete. Somehow it seems wrong that it helps to be tall — something I can't control — to play basketball. I mean, where can you go to learn to be tall? (I once had a short friend who aspired to be tall and hung from tree limbs at every available opportunity. It didn't help him grow, but he developed an insatiable desire to eat bananas!)

Can I help it if I'm not tall? Is it my fault if I hit my thumb when hammering (and clapping)? Why should I be discriminated against because my nose runs better than my feet? Try as I might, I identify a lot more with Walter Mitty than Keith Hernandez. Even on the St. Roch's geriatric softball team, I don't quite cut it. People ask me to play so they can borrow my glove and it's from Central Hardware!

I've given the matter some thought, and I have a solution. No, not gene-splicing. I'm not talking about tampering with what Mother Nature gives us (besides, I hate to see Levis made into cut-offs). I think we should organize and lobby to demand that the rules be changed so that we normal folks will have the advantage. It's time to even things out!

Let me give you an example. Why does the basketball goal have to be ten feet from the ground? That clearly offers an advantage to the tall people of the world. Why not lower the rim to, say, two feet from the floor? Think of how that could revolutionize the game. Heck, Mickey Rooney could slam-dunk with all of his wives! Coaches would be actively recruiting midgets and people who can run hunched over for forty minutes without developing a backache. (If this comes to pass, buy some stock in Ben-Gay!)

That's a start. No longer is height an advantage, but how about the advantage given to speed? Simple... require everyone to play on roller skates! There's still the matter of coordination being an asset, so I'm also suggesting that everyone wear mittens and carry water balloons under their armpits.

We need not stop with basketball, however. Spring is here so baseball season is upon us. Interested in earning that easy money playing baseball, but concerned that you're too slow or not athletic enough? Here, too, a few simple rule alterations can put you on the bubble-gum cards. First, why not make the bases closer together to reduce the advantage that swift runners now have? Instead of the current ninety feet between bases, let's make them six feet apart. Have trouble turning once you've built up momentum running the six feet between bases? Simple, let's lay out all the bases on a straight line. That still leaves the pitcher with a big advantage, so let's substitute a bowling ball for the baseball! Oh, I know you can't hit it very far, but think how difficult it will be for someone to field a ground bowling ball and throw you out. (Besides, if you ever did hit a fly ball, who would catch it?)

I could go on and on, but I think you get my point. It's high time that we take athletics back from the athletes and give them to the common man. A few rules changes here and there can make you a champion! Finally, if you've followed me this far, it need not stop with athletics. Why should the best and the brightest make the most money and hold high offices? What about us normal klutzes??? In my next column I'll discuss my idea of selecting our President through a nationwide lottery so that we'll all have an equal chance to be President, irrespective of merit. I'm thinking of tying it into the Reader's Digest National Sweepstakes: "You may already be the President of the United States! Just return this envelope by midnight tonight." After all, looking at the people who appear on television to show us their sweepstakes winnings, and considering who's in office now, what have we got to lose?

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