

September 1982

Vol. 14, No. 1

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PAPER

Published by the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere

The Paper Adds Home Delivery to DeBaliviere, New Staff, Features

With this issue The Paper has begun distribution to the DeBaliviere Place and Pershing-Waterman areas of our neighborhood to provide this service to the people settling in that area and to welcome them to the "West End." A large portion of this area is encompassed in the newly redistricted 28th Ward, and common political interests will, no doubt, increase the bonds of our neighbors to the near east.

The effects of expanded distribution on advertising in The Paper are expected to be substantial, and a new advertising manager will be recruited to solicit and maintain this important source of revenue.

Other income to continue publication of The Paper will be sought, including some fund-raisers, increased contributions by individuals and area associations, and other ideas which will be discussed in later issues.

One new feature we welcome is a regular report from 28th Ward Alderman Dan McGuire. Dan will keep us up-to-date on City Hall and developments in our area.

Another new feature will be major articles on topics of practical concern to many of you, for which we are asking ideas and information from our readers. Next month's feature: Day Care in Skinker-DeBaliviere. (See box, this page.)



The DeBaliviere area, conspicuous in its attractive rebirth, now receives home delivery of The Paper. Above, the 5600 block of

Pershing, where condominiums face a plaza fountain adjacent to the Nautilus CWE fitness center.

An editorial board has replaced the former one-person position. This board consists of King Schoenfeld, Venita Lake and Jo Ann Vatcha. Jointly their responsibilities include collecting and editing, assigning story areas and determining over-all style and content of the publication.

The names of the others responsible for helping publish The Paper this year are given on page 2.

For appropriate submission of stories, news and calendar items as well as advertisements, see information box, p. 2.

Paper Political Poll: Primary vs. Real People

by Ed Stout

Well, it's all over! The voting booths have been put to bed. All those left over and now useless leaflets and placards have become filler for next fall's paper drive.

If you are a follower of political play-making in St. Louis, you probably have read those complex analyses by Jack Flach, Kevin Horrigan and Les Pearson (they now are stacked in the garage, too, along with the leaflets and placards), . . . how Joseph P. Roddy was defeated by Freeman "Teek" Bosley, Jr. . . . and Thomas A. Connelly . . . and Clara "Jo," . . . how the Webbe-Aboussie-Slay coalition will affect the future of political life in our hometown, . . . about the last minute comeback by labor in the "toughest race of his career" (if you have to ask whose career, ask also for your vote

back), . . . and how the greatest single influence in the Aug. 3 primary was a "Fat Man" on television who taught us a lesson: "The Voting Isn't Over Till the Fat Man Eats."

By now, you probably think (or wish) you've heard all there is to hear about the Aug. 3 primary! Well, there's more. Jack and Kevin and Les forgot to check in with the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere. After reading this column, one will marvel at their foresight.

The Paper, realizing that Jack and Kevin and Les had overlooked S-D neighbors in their measure of the impact of the primary on the lives of St. Louisans, commissioned a special survey to seek out and synthesize the gut-level feelings of "real" citizens, . . . people who work for a living and raise a

family and go to church and to see "E.T." The Paper instructed this writer to reach out and solicit the opinions of "real" people, excluding all those in the community whose opinions might be tempered by their close involvement with any one candidate or proposition or amendment or by familial relationship with the same. Having reduced the eligible list of participants by such criteria, the remaining sixteen (16) residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere were then contacted.

First, to seek out political motivations for voting, each person was asked if s/he agreed with the "Better World Theory of Politics": "When you go into the polls on election day, do you vote for or against a candidate or proposition or amendment because you believe somehow that your

Coming Next Month

The Paper will feature "day-care in the Skinker-DeBaliviere area."

If you currently provide or use day-care services in the neighborhood of the following types, drop us a note (or call 727-7378):

- Private home (up to 5 children)
- Licensed day-care
- Church-run day-care center
- Privately owned day-care facility
- Other

We will be as comprehensive as possible but must rely on readers to provide information about the type of day-care they presently use. Do let us know by Sept. 15.

CASA Awarded \$700,000 in Challenge

In response to a \$700,000 challenge grant, the board of directors of the Saint Louis Conservatory and Schools for the Arts (CASA), 560 Trinity, University City, voted June 16 to end merger talks with Webster College.

The anonymous gift from two donors is contingent on a match of \$300,000 by Dec. 31. Ben H. Wells has been named chairman of the special funds drive with George J. Bude, attorney of the firm Ziercher, Hocker, Human, Michenfelder, Nations, and Jones, as co-chairman.

CASA goes into the drive with \$150,000 pledged by the board and a commitment for a five-year financial plan to begin soon. The CASA Auxiliary is planning several special projects to help reach the \$300,000 goal.

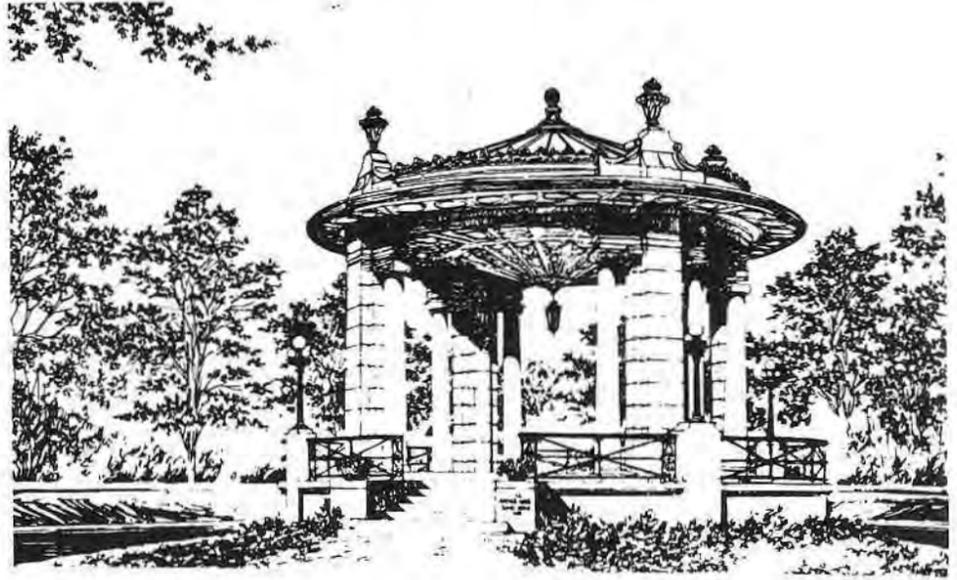
The \$218,525 Mae M. Whitaker Competition in Strings, Piano and Voice will further enhance CASA's reputation and enrich St. Louis' musical life by bringing many of the most promising young artists from all parts of the world here to perform and

compete for professional recognition and significant cash prizes.

In eight years since its formation, CASA has grown remarkably. Enrollment in the Schools for the Arts has ballooned from 500 to 2,000. The Conservatory, officially accredited, has about 120 students who study for bachelor and master degrees in music performance.

The concert program includes the Great Artist Series, which brings to St. Louis the world's outstanding performers, and chamber music, faculty recitals, and student ensembles. More than 20,000 St. Louisans attended these concerts last year.

CASA is a private, independent institution devoted to education in music and the arts. It consists of the Saint Louis Conservatory of Music, located at 560 Trinity Ave. at Delmar, and five schools for the Arts located in midtown St. Louis, University City, Webster Groves, West County at Maryville College, and in south St. Louis. The Schools for the Arts offer instruction in music, theater, visual arts, ceramics and dance to all ages, preschool through senior citizen.



The Nathan Frank Bandstand located in front of the Muni in Forest Park is seen by thousands of St. Louisans and tourists on their way to the Muni, the Zoo and Forest Park attractions. Built in 1926, it had been deteriorating since the early 1960s.

In 1981 the Central West End Charitable Trust began rehabbing the bandstand with the financial support of the Central West End Associations House Tours and Flea Markets. Pantheon Corporation has been

overseeing all of the construction.

Donations are now being sought to continue the final phase of rehabilitation which involves replacing the decorative, acoustical ceiling. When completed, it will look as it did in 1926 when the architectural firm of Helfensteller, Hirsch and Watson designed it. Tax deductible contributions to the bandstand project can be made through the Central West End Charitable Trust, 393 N. Euclid, St. Louis, Missouri 63108.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PAPER THE NEIGHBORHOOD PAPER THE NEIGHBORHOOD PAPER

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Advertising Rates

The Paper is an all-volunteer, non-profit newspaper published by the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

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Classified Advertising: provided without charge to residents of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood.

Display Advertising: col. width, 2 1/2". Minimum ad size, 1" x 1 col. 2" x 1 col.: \$17/insertion; (10% discount for 5 or more issues). 2" x 1 col. repeated 9 issues without changes, \$11/insertion. For complete list of sizes and rates, write The Paper, c/o 6124 Westminster, 63112, or call 727-7378.

Guidelines for Submitting 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 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.

Send all correspondence to 6124 Westminster. Deadline: 15th of the month.

CONTACT-St. Louis Needs Volunteers for Deaf Phone Service



Did you know that a deaf person cannot use the telephone without special equipment and/or special help?

CONTACT-St. Louis is seeking volunteers for its Telecommunications Service for the Deaf. This volunteer-operated telephone ministry serves the St. Louis community by providing a means of communication between deaf and hearing persons.

This service enables deaf persons to be independent and maintain their privacy by not having to rely on hearing friends and relatives to place calls for them. A deaf person with teletype equipment can communicate with others who have similar equipment, but most hearing people and businesses are

not so equipped. CONTACT volunteers serve as go-betweens, communicating with the deaf person by teletype and the hearing person by voice until the conversation is completed.

CONTACT's Telecommunications Service for the Deaf has been in operation since 1974 and is the only service of its kind in the St. Louis area. More than 2,500 calls are facilitated by CONTACT volunteers each month. After a 10-hour training period, volunteers are asked to serve 8 hours per month. For more information, please call 314-725-5719 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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September Calendar



- 1-5 "A Chorus Line." Muny Opera.
- 2 St. Louis Metro NOW Chapter meeting. 6665 Delmar, Room 303. 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Men's Choices: A Men's Forum. Sponsored by RAVEN, 6665 Delmar, Suite 302. 7:30 p.m.
- 7 New City School opens.
- 10 Rosedale Regatta: Riverboat Ride and Dinner on the Huck Finn. Riverfront. 6:30-10 p.m. \$17.50 per person.
- 10-12 St. Louis Zoo celebration: opening of new south entrance. Regular zoo hours.
- 12 Grace Methodist Church schedule changes in effect: 9:30 a.m. Church School; 11:00 Worship Service.
- 13 Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council Meeting. CWE Savings & Loan office, DeBaliviere at Waterman. 7:30 p.m.
- 17 CASA: Cellist Leslie Parnas holding a master class in cello, CASA auditorium. 10 a.m. Tickets \$6, \$4 students and senior citizens.
- 19 Yoga Center vegetarian dinner. Call 727-5133 for details.
- 25-26 St. Louis New World's Fair. Steinberg Rink in Forest Park. 10-6, Sat., 11-5, Sun. Workshops, displays.
- 28 CASA: Violinist Nathan Milstein in recital. CASA main auditorium. 8 p.m. Tickets \$25, \$15, \$9, \$6.

Volunteer for a Rewarding Experience

The Meals-on-Wheels program of Church Women United, for the Northeast-City area, needs volunteer drivers and partners (male or female), to deliver meals to disabled or senior shut-ins one day a week—about two

hours a day. This is a very rewarding experience, and if interested or you would like further information, please call Blanch Reel, 361-5778.



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Politics

continued from p. 1

world will be a better place, . . . if the election results coincide with the way you vote."

Responses: Yes, 11; No, 3; Sometimes, 1; No Response, 1.

Respondents who disagreed with the theory were then asked why they did not agree. Answers ranged from "I vote because it is my civic duty to keep things from becoming worse (the 'left unchecked, power corrupts' theory)" to "I voted for someone I wanted to win because I wanted that person to lose in the primary" to "Hey, that's a loaded question!"

Respondents who agreed with the theory were then asked if they felt, as a result of the primary, that their world was actually going to be a better place, a worse place or about the same in which to live. Without any computer breakdown, the results are in:

Better, 9%; Worse, 27%; Same, 64%.

Those who felt that their world was going to be worse did so because they generally felt that St. Louisans had lost a chance to better their community by failing to pass the sales tax proposition or because they saw no improvement in the people representing them in government. Those who saw their world as about the same—the majority—did so for a variety of (colorful) reasons:

" . . . I would like to see things change for the better, but, let's face it, it is the rare person or proposition that will make some substantial difference."

" . . . Because nothing really changed . . . we have the same rep, the same senator, same congressional representation. The tax and school propositions—which would have brought about change if passed—failed. The property tax—which, in effect, was designed to keep things the same—passed. An exercise in mediocrity—but that's not necessarily bad."

" . . . we did not win anything."

Several who felt that nothing really changed were asked how they could justify their evaluation in light of the Roddy defeat and Bosley victory. One respondent summarized the responses in this way: "In reality, there's a change in characters, but not in the play or the stage props or scenery." (HMMMMMMMM!)

The one optimist felt that there would be no reason to vote, if you felt things were not going to get better. This respondent added that Bill Clay's election provided minority representation and "that's important to me!"

Each respondent was then asked to define "politics." After the laughter died down, the responses rarely approached the theoretical beauty of Aristotle's Politics, but did provide some insight into the "real" thinking of "real" people in Skinker-DeBaliviere:

" . . . the art of trying to amass and maintain power."

" . . . the process of compromising various principles to govern society."

" . . . ideally, the art of effectively motivating people to pursue a common goal (guess I felt guilty about my previous answers.)"

" . . . a dirty game, not really democratic, but it is all we have to achieve representation."

" . . . the art of the possible."
" . . . the art of doing nothing."
" . . . a nice way of doing what you want to do without being questioned."
"That's impossible!"

Finally each respondent was asked: "Can we use your name in The Paper?" The results: Yes, 63%; No, 37%. Perhaps, the only general conclusion one can draw here is that 37% of the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere still rank "friendship" high on their list of priorities.

In conclusion, you are probably asking what all this means anyway. Well, here are two thoughts to ponder:

One. Judging from the responses above, you might conclude that people in our neighborhood are cynical idealists when it comes to politics. This is not the contradiction in terms it might appear to be at first glance. Rather, it's a sign of the eminent good sense of at least the respondents to this survey (which the writer feels might be extended to the whole community). Which is to say, the people of S-D being fully aware that politics is every bit the blood sport it is accused of being, are also deeply aware that it is the only game in town whose goal is representative government, and not to play is the greatest foul ever.

Two. Realizing that The Paper had commissioned this survey to seek out the "real" opinions of "real" people about the Aug. 3 primary, I have come to the conclusion that the survey results have far more significance than The Paper could ever have envisioned, when it began its search for a fool who would attempt to write an objective analysis of the election in this very political neighborhood. Like Diogenes, this fool found the one wise man in our whole neighborhood—remember that one person who refused to participate and gave no answer to this survey? Well, I'll never reveal his identity.

(Survey assistance to this reluctant writer provided by Mary Bea Stout.)

SLU Film Series

St. Louis University's Student Government Association presents their film series at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in Kelley Auditorium, 3511 Laclede Ave. Prices are \$1.50 and \$1 with valid SLU I.D.

September

- 7-8 "The Lady Vanishes"
- 8 "North by Northwest"
- 10-11 "Chariots of Fire," \$2, Students, \$1.50.
- 14-15 "Lili Marlene"
- 17-18 "On Golden Pond," \$2, Students, \$1.50.
- 21-22 "Casino Royale" and "Dr. No"
- 24-25 "Star Wars," \$2, Students, \$1.50.

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Dr. Doggett Replaces Rev. Gordon at Grace Methodist



On June 11, Dr. John N. Doggett, Jr., became the 14th pastor of Grace United Methodist Church. He and his wife Juanita and their son, Kenneth Riddick, will live in the Grace parsonage.

Leaving Grace after 12 years is the Rev. Robert Gordon. He and Mrs. Gordon have moved to Kirksville, Mo., to a position with another church.

Dr. Doggett comes to Grace after a six-year term as Superintendent of the St. Louis North District. Prior to that time he had a twelve-year pastorate at Union Memorial United Methodist Church in St. Louis and three pastorates in California.

He was born in Philadelphia and attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania as a Senatorial Scholarship Student, graduating from there in May, 1942, magna cum laude. He then attended Union Theological Seminary in New York and earned the Master of Divinity Degree in 1945. From St. Louis University he earned the Master of Education

Degree in 1969 and the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Education in 1971. Also, he received the honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1948 from Bethany School of Religion.

In St. Louis he has been a lecturer for both Eden and Concordia Theological Seminaries and is a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

In the Missouri East Conference, John chaired the Jurisdictional Conference Delegation and the General Conference Delegation in 1972. In 1967 he was a delegate to the World Methodist Conference.

Juanita T. Doggett was born in Sedalia and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Stowe Teacher's College and the Master of Arts from New York City College. She has been an Elementary Teacher, a Career Training Specialist and Principal of the Hodgen, King Middle and Sherman Schools, and presently is Principal at Sherman School for the second time.

Neighborhood Assistance Committee Established

by Ron Laboe

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood Assistance Committee has been established for the research and development of programs to assist residents in the area of housing and property maintenance.

The Committee's efforts have resulted in a proposed interest buy-down program for home improvement loans to Skinker-DeBaliviere resident homeowners. The program would provide loans at reduced rates, the amount of interest reduction (currently planned to vary from 3 to 12 percent) depending on the family income of the homeowner.

To assist in the establishment of this program, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council has applied to the state of Missouri for participation in the Neighborhood As-

sistance Program. If approved, the Council would be empowered to offer tax credits to private sector corporations which would provide financial or material support to the programs. The application is pending and final work is expected later this month.

Also, as a result of research on this program, it has been learned that Skinker-DeBaliviere resident homeowners can apply for interest reduced home improvement loans (3-4 percent below market rate) at Visitation Credit Union. There are no specific requirements for participation in the Visitation program other than those necessary to qualify for a regular home improvement loan. Interested neighborhood resident homeowners should contact Visitation Credit Union Loan Officer, Jack Marsh at 367-8069.

Summer Youth Program Employs 52

by Ron Laboe

Did you know that the 1982 Skinker-DeBaliviere Summer Youth Program provided summer employment for 52 teenagers?

The SLATE summer youth provided jobs for 48 youth in four areas: Home Maintenance, where 17 teenagers, supervised by Ann McKerrow Fitzgibbons and Jeffrey Moore, performed duties such as yard work, cleaning, interior painting, and working alongside the beautification crews. The Beautification crews, 17 teenagers supervised by Chris Grady and Damon Cross, cleaned alleys, cleared vacant lots, and did weed control work. Also, in the last week of the program, the beautification crews paint-

ed alley addresses in the Rosedale area. The 10 Summer Youth participants assigned as tutors were supervised by Faith Smith and tutored younger children in math, language and the arts.

The other four SDCC summer employment slots were funded by a Summer Jobs Program Grant from Ralston Purina and provided clerical jobs for high school seniors at St. Roch, Hamilton Community School, Grace United Methodist Church, and the SDCC office. Congratulations to Lisa Netter, LaMonte Kenneybrew, Sandra Webber and Devore Williams who all performed admirably.

Want Ads

LOST or sold in error: 3 books on American literature, at Grace Methodist Church. May have been sold at spring Junk-tique. Includes Letters of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Spiller, Literary History of the U.S. Willing to repurchase. Name in front. Call Venita Lake, 727-7378.

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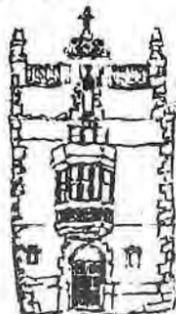
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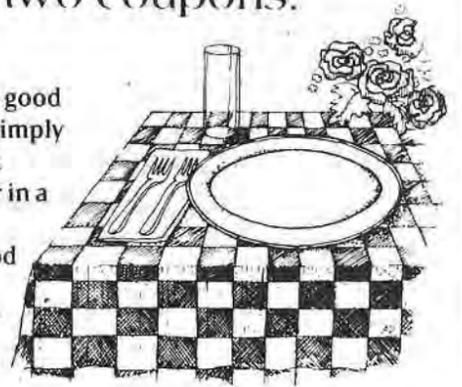
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| Cafe des Beaux Arts, The Art Museum | Fortune Cookie Restaurant | Nitty-Gritty Natural Foods | Zorba the Greek |
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CWEL Central West End Savings and Loan
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Report from the Alderman

by Dan McGuire



I would like to thank the editors of The Paper for this opportunity to report on what is going on around the neighborhood. Hopefully this column will keep you informed about area concerns and provide a public forum to answer any questions you might have concerning city government. If you need my assistance, please feel free to contact me at home, 6185 Westminster Place, 862-7470, or at the Board of Aldermen, Room 230, City Hall, 622-3287.

DES PERES LIBRARY

We will have a new library very soon! Due to a successful lobbying effort by myself and several neighborhood leaders and residents, the Library Board has decided to continue to provide on-site library service to our neighborhood. An experimental structure containing 7,000 to 9,000 volumes will be placed on the site of the old library building. The new glass-enclosed "Porta-Kiosk" should be in place by Dec. 1, 1982. This will be the first such facility in the St. Louis area, although their use has proved successful in several cities on the east coast. At a recent meeting with architect Jeff Krewson of Mackey & Associates, several neighborhood leaders expressed their interest in the facility and provided ideas on the landscaping of the surrounding area at Four Corners. Present were Harold Williams, president of Washington Heights Neighbors; Cal Stuart, president of The Friends of the Library; Bill FitzGibbons of the West End Neighborhood Arts Council; Frank Burke, president of the SDCC; Ron LaBoe, executive director of the SDCC; Joan Breun, Bill Chrisman, and myself.



Site of the future, first and only "Porta-Kiosk" library in St. Louis. The former Des Peres Branch Library, which burned on this site late last year, was leveled in a matter of days recently. Site preparation for the new library will include landscaping and pouring of a concrete slab, according to public library sources.

LUCIER PARK

At a recent meeting, Bi-State Executive Director Manuel De La O shared the agency's plans for the development of the new garage at DeBaliviere and Delmar. Plans call for a huge, one-building garage which would provide service and storage for about 180 buses. All maintenance and storage will be done *inside* the structure, eliminating the current noise and pollution problems, as well as screening the unsightly storage of buses from public view. Plans also call for the conservation and rehabilitation of the historic building on the corner of DeBaliviere and Delmar. Construction should begin in the fall of next year. The Bi-State Commission has authorized the expenditure of \$2.4 million in reserve funds to begin preliminary work on the project. This money will cover part of the \$4.6 million needed to match a federal grant for the new garage expected to cost about \$23 million. The remainder of the \$4.6 million will come from a portion of the Missouri transportation sales tax reserves for capital improvements.



Rosedale Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

It's been a long, hot summer and personally we're happy to see autumn just around the corner. Many Rosedale residents have had interesting vacations, only a few of which are reported here.

Mary and Peter Schmit, 6100 McPherson, spent some time visiting relatives and sailing in northern Indiana, also stopping off in Chicago. Joan and Ray Breun, 6100 McPherson, went to Cobblestone at the Lake of the Ozarks with their two boys. Keith and Deborah Boehlke, and their daughter Jena, 6000 Westminster, traveled to Miami, Florida, for vacationing and to visit Deborah's parents. A week of sunning and gambling in Freeport, Grand Bahama, was enjoyed by Steve and Diane Niewohner, 6100 Westminster. Hope more of you will let us know about exciting vacations so that we can report them here.

We have three new families in Rosedale to report this month. The 6100 block of Westminster regrets the departure of Jack and Mary Alumbaugh, longtime residents. In their place, however, we are fortunate to have Don Richardson and Linda Kulla. Don is employed by Pioneer Stereo and Linda works at Fontbonne College in the Adult Education Department.

New to 6100 McPherson are Linda and John Nunley and their son Boyd. Linda is an artist and John is curator of Meso-American, Oceanic and African Art at the St. Louis Art Museum. Bob and Candace Wiltenburg and their two daughters, Mary and Katherine, are new residents in 6100 Kingsbury. Bob is an assistant professor, director of freshman composition in the English department of Washington University.

Congratulations are very much in order for three neighborhood residents who were recently selected for the Danforth Leadership Program. They are: Marj Weir, 6100 Westminster; Jim Templeton, 6000 Kingsbury; and Tom Hoerr, 6100 Kingsbury.

Skip Coburn, formerly of 6100 McPherson, was married July 24 to Leslie Geller. They are now living out of the neighborhood, but rumor has it that this is only temporary. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Coburn.

The Rosedale Rags to Riches day, June 12, was a huge success. While some made their fortunes by selling their old "rags," others simply enjoyed a few beers and burritos with friends and neighbors. Remember to save that old "junk" for next year's event.

Those who met them certainly enjoyed having Mary Clare Kerz, sister of Marcia Kerz, and their niece Mary Beth as temporary residents this summer. Unfortunately they both had to return to school, Mary Beth as a student in Mobile, Ala., and Mary Clare as a special education teacher in Illinois.

The hottest news off the wire this month is that the St. Roch's Friday night Battling Beagles are into a winning streak (five games, as of this writing!). Keep up the great playing, guys.



Mr. James Perry (right) recently presented a generous donation to Ms. Ann FitzGibbons, Director of the West End Neighborhood Arts Council, for its Young People's

Scholarship Fund. Mr. Perry owns and operates the McDonald's Restaurant, located at Delmar and Goodfellow, which made the contribution.

Parkview Perspective

by Susan Krasniewski

Everyone complains about the weather in St. Louis so I decided to take an informal survey of neighborhood residents and ask them what they thought was good about the local weather. One long-time resident said she loves the variety, never knowing whether it will be cold when it's supposed to be, or hot when it should be.

Another person thought it was convenient not to have to store your winter clothes. After all, she said, you might need that sweater in the middle of August. As a result, she just keeps her clothes in the closets year round and doesn't bother rotating them.

One man said that betting on the St. Louis weather is much more exciting than Bingo. He contends that you don't even have to be the betting sort. Every morning you take your chances when you get up and guess what the climate will be outdoors. His wife attends regular Bingo sessions, but he claims that over the long haul he has won more money than she. Unfortunately, it's not financially lucrative because he only bets against himself on paper; he's never found anyone willing to bet against him on a regular basis.

One resident thought that the best part of living here is experiencing autumn. He recalled growing up in Kansas and not even noticing when the leaves began to turn. In Parkview, however, that's a different story. The riot of color is beautiful in September and October. The drawback is that the leaves do fall.

The real asset of St. Louis weather, one visitor said, is that you can talk about it. In California, where she hails from, you can't really talk about endlessly sunny days with blue skies and temperatures in the 70s. She said people often can't remember the last time it rained. Of course, she did admit that mudslides and earthquakes are not unheard of, but they occur so rarely that they can't be discussed in daily conversation. Here it's entirely different. Each day is a surprise. Where else, she marveled, could you spend two weeks and have the temperature go from 98 to 50? She thought that certainly helped make her stay here more interesting. She could also return to the west coast with a bonanza of weather conversation.

The last person I talked to said the best aspect of St. Louis weather was the relief you felt when you got out of the summer heat and into the air conditioning. Such weather makes you truly grateful and aware of modern technology. She suggested that if it were not for St. Louis heat, air conditioning might never have been invented, and then what would all those temperature-cooled computers do?

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

"Snap, Crackle, Pop!" No, those aren't the familiar breakfast cereal sounds from your childhood; rather, they're the sounds emanating from one of those backyard blue-light electric bug killers. That's right, the sounds result from an insect being attracted by the light, drawn to the blue glow, and then, ZAP! It's all over and presumably the insect goes to that big exposed thigh in the sky, insect heaven.

I recently attended a party where one of these big blue zappers was in operation, and the reaction was, well, amazing. First, logically enough, the insects were not at all pleased with the presence of the zapper. Even though we nicknamed the zapper "Frank" to make him more human, the insects were very unhappy and picketed Frank zapper. (The insects' picketing ploy failed though; seems that the "Buy American" movement caused folks to be less than sympathetic to their little line of beetles and other foreign bugs. They would've been much better off to picket in Fords or Chryslers.) Somehow I feel a little sorry for the insects. They really can't help their attraction to the big zapper. It's kind of as if someone had attached a 200 volt battery to my cache of Hershey bars in the refrigerator. I'd be zapped too.

While the bugs were united against (and, ultimately, to) the zapper, other reactions were mixed. Union Electric loves the zapper. Remember, though, that UE is the concern that pushes electric toothbrushes and electric ashtrays while telling you to conserve electricity (and then charges you more per kwh when you do conserve, because they need to get an "ample" return on investment). A minority of party-goers, while admiring the efficiency of the zapper, said that the odor of the protein frying made them question whether or not they were really up for barbecued steak.

The most interesting reactions, however, centered around the sounds that the zapper made as it did its work. Just about everyone felt that the noise was objectionable; some found it disconcerting, others found it irritating, and still others found it almost nauseating. (My first thought was to have ear plugs available at the party, but Dr. Steve Brammeier, our resident vet, tells me that it would be impossible to find one size ear plug which would fit all insects' ears.) The task, then, is obvious: find an alternate solution to the bug problem!

My initial remedy dealt with flypaper. Rolled up tightly into a cone-shaped rod, flypaper can be jammed up your nostril, causing a great deal of pain. The zapper will still be doing its dirty decibeled deed, but you'll be in such anguish that you will hardly hear the cacophony of critters cascading to cadaverland.

If your nose is sensitive, try filling shallow pans with sand and alcohol. The insects will land in the pans, become intoxicated from the alcohol, and begin throwing the sand at one another. To the insects, the sand is boulder size, so you'll soon be rid of the bugs (except for the survivors who will have hernias and won't be able to bother anybody anyway).

If neither of these options appeal to you, let's try another by considering what attracts bugs: exposed human flesh. I recommend that each neighborhood subsidize a nudist colony—preferably one with its membership tied to the weight watchers club. Bugs would view this area as a heaven on earth, ignoring you and your backyard activities. (We could also have a neighborhood fund raiser by establishing a tanning booth just outside the entrance to the nudist colony.)

If you can't see the nudist colony idea, if flypaper up the old snoot doesn't appeal to you, and if other mundane solutions like smokepots, window fans, and underarm deodorant don't appeal to you, then there's really only one alternative to the big zapper. The best solution to the bug problem is per-



It Didn't Happen That Way, But Did It?

by Ray Breun

Those of us who fancy ourselves custodians of history must now and again unburden ourselves of our conceits and discuss what didn't happen as well as what did. Some have defined history as a trick played on the past by the present—and in many respects that is true. Let me give you three examples of what I mean from the "history" of the Old Courthouse.

In the basement of the east wing of the Old Courthouse are rooms with bars on the doors. A number of books about St. Louis speak of the jail in the basement of the building, and many people are certain that slaves were held behind the bars in the rooms in that east wing basement.

The fact is those bars were installed late in 1866, fully a year after the Civil War was over—fully a year after slavery was removed by force of arms from the United States. In addition, those rooms were designated the storeroom of the clerk of the court and held the records of the court until the Missouri Historical Society began to use them as storage for their collection late in the 1860s. In other words, the bars were on the doors to keep people out, not in. Yet people come to the building regularly looking for the bars which show where slaves were kept in jail. Such a story is as much an artifact of history as what actually happened.

In the basement of the north wing of the Old Courthouse is the entrance to a tunnel going from that location under Fourth Street to the Pierce Building across the street. The myth is that slaves escaping from the east wing of the Old Courthouse escaped through that tunnel to freedom. We already know

haps the simplest. Each household should obtain one frog. Frogs feast on insects, using their lightning-like tongue to zap them soundlessly. In no time at all our insect problem will be gone without the use of any electronic zappers and their irritating sound. Nature, in her infinite wisdom, has once again given us a simple solution to a complex problem.

Next month my column will deal with how to get rid of warts. It seems that there's this new electronic device that dissolves warts with no pain or bother except for a sound that goes "Snap, crackle, pop. . ."

there was no jail in the east wing. The tunnel from the Old Courthouse was built in the late 1870s, and in it was a conveyor built to take books to the legal library of the court housed across the street. The tunnel currently ends in the middle of the street and the conveyor has been removed. But it was a tunnel only a book could use as an escape, particularly since it was constructed long after the Civil War.

Nevertheless, visitors to the Old Courthouse insist there is a tunnel slaves used when escaping from the clutches of the jailors in the basement of the building. Such a story is again an artifact as much as the tunnel is, and many of those who believe in the story cannot be persuaded otherwise, despite documentary evidence.

The third story from the mythic past of the Old Courthouse concerns the auctioning of the slaves held in the jail in the basement who could not manage to escape in the tunnel. Regular slave auctions were held on the Old Courthouse steps—so says the storyteller. There is a painting in the collection of the Missouri Historical Society from the era of the Dred Scott case before the Civil War showing slaves being sold on the steps of the Old Courthouse. Surely, given the evidence of the jail, the tunnel and the painting, slaves must have been sold at auction on the steps.

In fact, the only non-court related business of a commercial nature ever associated with the Old Courthouse was a pottery concern (brick selling), which was in the basement of the north wing during the time when City Hall operated that entire wing, and then for only a period of less than two years.

No public sales of any commercial kind other than brick sales ever happened at the Old Courthouse. The painting is a political statement, akin to the cartoon seen in newspapers today and is a product of the abolitionist movement before the War Between the States. Settlements of court cases often ended with the euphemism, "to be sold on the Courthouse steps." Such settlements happen today. Property is auctioned in settlement of court cases, and before the Civil War such settlements would have included purchases of people. But the Old Courthouse steps were never a slave auction site.

The Lynch slave pens, the largest such operation in St. Louis, were located south of Sixth and Clark Streets in the vicinity of what is part of the Busch Stadium complex. But the property settlements exercised "on the Courthouse steps" were legal transactions, not commercial ventures in human flesh.

Three stories intertwine to make a mythic scenario which is believed by a great number of people in St. Louis. Because it is believed so strongly by so many people, the Old Courthouse is often used as an example of the horror of slavery.

Slavery was not just. The Old Courthouse was the temple of justice for most of the West for much of the nineteenth century. In a way it is fitting to use it to show the injustice of slavery—even if for the wrong reasons.

In this case history is a trick played on the present by the present. Obviously the past had nothing to do with much of what we call history. The historian's task, then, is to separate not only fact from fiction but present from past and present from present.

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