

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

National Night Out Lit Up Our Streets

by Venita and Richard Lake

"National Night Out" was observed throughout the Skinker-DeBaliviere area on August 13 as neighbors turned on their porch lights and went out into a typical St. Louis summer night to help "take a bite out of crime." As part of a national project supported by Operation Safestreet and the SDCC Safety Committee, many blocks in the area planned special activities which became the focus of local news media looking for examples of citizens concerned about neighborhood security and safety.

Residents of the 5900 and 5800 blocks of Pershing and Waterman formed a parade of enthusiastic bicyclists, parents, and babies, led by mounted policeman Don Hall. Bikes, big wheels, and even roller skates were decorated with streamers at the starting point near Pershing and Des Peres as SDCC Executive Director Nancy Farmer inflated and tied dozens of balloons to add to the fifty she had filled with helium, provided by Gregory's Flowers on Pershing, earlier in the day. Excitement mounted as Rose Flynn, the parade organizer, produced the "Love Thy Neighborhood" banner which she had made. The unfurling of the banner coincided with the arrival of television cameras and the parade began. Among the 60-70 participants were Joseph McNeal of the 5900 block of Pershing and his sister Corrine, whose pink and blue tricycle matched her shorts and top, with their mother Kalyn. Ann Decker of 5900 Waterman accompanied son Charlie, who pulled a candlelit shoe box with decorative cutouts, making it the only "float" in the parade. (Ann hopes someday to have a whole parade of shoe boxes.) The parade's youngest participant was six-week-old Caroline Holler of 5800 Waterman who brought her mother Janet and older brother David with her. As the parade ended, participants headed for refreshments provided by Safestreet block captains Christine Smith (5800 Pershing) and Ruby Brown (5900 Waterman).

Other blocks planned events as well. The 6100 block of Westminster arranged to have the block closed between the official National Night Out hours of 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. and grilled hot dogs to accompany soda and beer. The kids took the opportunity to use the "safe street" to race their bikes. On 6100 Kingsbury, residents gathered in front of Tom and Karleen Hoerr's house where they welcomed Dan Shea and Kathleen Williams back from their sabbatical in England and tried to figure out who had lived on the block the longest. Elsewhere, Kingsbury Square's banner and Bill Christman's styrofoam block at 6000 Kingsbury proclaimed "Block Party Night" and participants met for ice cream socials.

Everywhere neighbors relaxed, introduced themselves to newcomers, and generally agreed that keeping outside lights on is a good crime prevention idea especially since it only costs \$1.25 per month. Many felt that their blocks had already been participating in the "Streets of Lights" campaign which encourages turning on porch lights from dusk to daylight.



Photo by King Schoenfeld.

Beagles Baffle Oddsmakers

by Brad Weir and Paul Kurtz

Contrary to popular belief, there really is a St. Roch's Softball Team that on any given Friday can be found in parks all over South St. Louis.

The Battlin' Beagles were founded in 1973 by Steve Vossmeier and our present manager and team guru, Brad Weir. This early conglomeration consisted of such notables as Cal (Stump) Stuart, Brad (Wheels) Weir, Vince Pre-politics-Schoemehl, Tom (Stretch) McPherron, Ed Stout, and others gone but not forgotten.

Having been rejected by the American League in an attempt to establish a franchise, they chose to enter the Muni League noted for its brazen play and total abstinence on the field. This latter note did not sit well as it affected the Beagles ability to win (they never could play sober).

Two years of mounting losses lead team leader Weir to seek greener pastures and rumors of an over 30 Catholic League led Weir to a barroom meeting with aspiring league officials Ed Schmiedeke and Buck Minzer. The 30 year cutoff was created to meet that special need for those semi-competitive enthusiasts and tradition continues with this-sometimes staunch rule.

Drawn by Tyrone Stoval (age 15) of 6100 Washington.



There were eight original teams and through popular demand, the league expanded to ten teams.

Early on it was difficult to field a complete team every game and it has only been the last two seasons that neighborhood participation has peaked. This season, spring began early for player/coach Weir in April with a pre-season elbow-warming party that was filled with optimistic hopes and strategic talks. The opening game was in early May after two weeks of two-a-day practices (if you believe that one—you'd better stop here).

After a tough opening loss to perennial power—St. Margaret's of Scotland, the team went on a three game winning streak featuring some last minute heroics by Al (Sticks) Mense and fine pitching by Brent Clark.

Another tough loss was followed by another solid victory due to a rain out. There followed two disheartening losses which left manager Weir wondering if the American League were still available.

The middle of the season featured a four-game winning streak with great offense and defense from such notables as: Roy Bell, Jay Brennan, Floyd Browley, John Christie, Jerry Klein, Tom Klevorn, Barry Kozloff, Paul Kurtz, Jerry Lawrenz, Steve

Littlejohn, Richard Lowenstein, Marv Nodiff, Larry O'Neil, Hitch Powell, Paul Repetto, and Ed Stout.

Our winning streak was halted with two tough losses to St. James and Epiphany followed by a stellar performance against St. Margaret's.

Late in the season, we had a new recruit—Father Terry who came from Christ the King parish in University City. Terry will amply fill the shoes of the now departed Allan Mense who played out his option and has signed with Reagans Raiders.

Playing on muddy Churchill Downs, the Beagles' stallions were halted in a heart-breaker loss to St. James, but bounced back August 23 with a grand performance by Marv Nodiff whose late game triple scored noted speedster Brad Weir from first base.

The Beagles now take their 10-7 standing into the final game against archrival Immaculate Heart August 30.

The team has appreciated the support of its loyal fans, generous sponsors, and all those people who purchase the fuel that keeps the team running. We would like to mention that next year's tryouts will be in April 1986 and interested prospects should contact manager Weir this winter.

Safety Committee Formed

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council established a Safety Committee at the July board meeting. The charter for this committee includes the following purposes: to maintain a relationship with the Seventh District Police; to organize and support block captains; to operate Operation Safestreet programs in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood; to keep current on criminal activity in the area and report monthly to the SDCC board; and to undertake projects to increase the safety of neighborhood residents.

The first project of this committee is to renew the "Street of Lights" campaign encouraging neighbors to burn front and back porch lights from dusk until dawn. The committee recognized that some residents cannot afford the electricity, light bulbs, or in some cases the repair of broken fixtures to participate in this program. In conjunction with National Night Out, August 13, the committee asked block captains to collect \$1 or a light bulb from their neighbors to establish an assistance fund. Referrals for this assistance should be made to the SDCC office.

Membership of the Safety Committee includes: Neville Vatcha, chairman; Mavrine Wilson; Kathy Wobus; Ginny Klevorn; Karleen Hoerr; Arline Webb; and Eddie Sanders.

To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I want everyone to know my appreciation of about twenty school children from Dewey School, who were waiting at Rose-dale and Washington for their school van on April 18, 1985. I stubbed my right toe and fell with all my weight on my left hip. Although I tried to break the fall, I suffered two broken bones in my hip and muscle damage.

I screamed for help. The school children ran to my aid. This happened at 6048 Washington when I was on my way to the

mail box. I asked the children to tele- phone 911; two boys stayed with me. I was rushed to Charter Hospital by city ambulance and treated in emergency. I was operated on the next day. All Union District police officers and paramedics treated me kindly. I stayed at Charter and got kind and dedicated care.

These children saved my life. I hope to live here as long as I can. We have a "Proud" St. Louis. Thanks again, kids.

—Theresa O'Connell
60xx Washington

Dear Editor:

We are very pleased to see the children enjoying the playground equipment in Lucier Park.

We regret more people were not present for the dedication. Sincere thanks to all who donated to help us reach our goal.

—Beverly Taylor and Committee
5800 DeGiverville Block Unit 1035

Special to The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere August 20, 1985, wee A.M.'s

I heard competing masculine voices out on the street! A riot?? A mugging??

Down went I, creeping slowly to open my front door. Peering out, I saw: some of my favorite young men RUNNING TRACK GAMES! I watched a relay race, and a 100 (or so) yard dash—each with so many false starts that I commented aloud "You need a starter's gun!" To which, waving, they said "We sure do!"

Fun in the (LATE) evening (WHEN NOT SO MANY CARS GO BY) for these young men in the late summer . . . not to mention the giggles of the young women who were watching from neighborhood porches . . . not an un-reasonable desire!

I wonder if we "adults" tried to make this effort maybe a little quieter (when us old folks have to sleep before going to work) and a little open-light and PROUDER, we just might gain some validity with our young people . . . or would we turn them off by trying to alter their generally innocent fun???

Quite frankly, if all they want to do is run a decathlon at midnite on a fair summer night . . . I, for one, will applaud and attend! I LIKE summer nights, too, and I was once (Oh, so long ago!) sixteen!

—Christine Smith
58XX Pershing



The old dry cleaner's building at Pershing and Belt has been undergoing a trans- formation this summer. Read October's issue of *The Times* to see what it will become and what will be in it.

SDCC Activities

by Nancy Farmer, SDCC Executive Director

The Council has enjoyed a busy sum- mer; here's a recap of the past couple of months' activities and programs:

RAGS TO RICHES—Sat., June 8. Rosedale Neighborhood Association net- ted about \$350 profit, primarily from the concession stand and bake sale. Thirty- eight yard sales were registered for the day and it sounds like they were profit- able, too—one neighbor reports she earned over \$200 from her sale.

ROLLER SKATING PARTY— Sat., June 22 at Steinberg Rink. Over 100 people enjoyed skating, live entertain- ment by "Gadget," and light refresh- ments at this fund raiser organized by Bob Dowgwillo. The \$80 profit is shared by SDCC and Friends of Steinberg.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOY- MENT PROGRAM—June 17-19. SDCC contracted with SLATE for eight youths to work as tutors/day care workers at Grace Methodist/Hamilton School's Summer Day Camp. The pro- gram was very successful under the supervision of Faith Smith and Carol Strecker of Grace Methodist, and Rita Navarro of Hamilton School.

SKINKER BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE—Much progress is noted. Parkview treated and reseeded the grass on the west side of Skinker. The City has completed survey work and curb repair for both sides should begin soon. Southwestern Bell and Sinclair have both made major improvements in their facili- ties, and the committee continues to work with other business owners along Skinker to improve appearance and landscaping at their facilities. Money to purchase nine trash cans (\$130 each) from Operation Brightside has been donated by South- western Bell (\$520—four trash cans), Bill Schiller, Colonial Rug; Bill Christman, Christman Studios; the Parkview Agents; SDCC; and Central West End Savings and Loan (\$130 each). The Brightside logo will appear on two sides of the trash cans, Bill Christman is working on a neigh- borhood logo to appear on the other two sides. We need donations for three more before we can place our order.

SAFETY COMMITTEE—this ad hoc committee was established at the July Board meeting. (Additional informa- tion in separate article.)

CDA GRANT—SDCC has a contract with the Community Development Agen- cy effective Aug. 15-Dec. 31. The grant helps pay for rent, office supplies, and staff salaries—including a part-time secre- tary who will be hired soon.

STEP UP ST. LOUIS—SDCC sub- mitted two proposals to this program sponsored by the St. Louis Ambassadors. One is for six park benches and two sets of bleachers for Lucier Park, the other is for 18 trash cans, 24 trees, and 12 flower planters to be distributed throughout the neighborhood. If selected, these proposals will be published in a catalog this fall and circulated among potential donors.

ENDORSEMENTS—The Council en- dorsed Cornerstone's request for CDA funds to develop their buildings in the Nina Place Project as well as another building on Washington; The Skinker DeBaliviere Business Association's re- quest for CDA funds to conduct a devel- opment study for Delmar between Hamil- ton and Skinker; and Waterford Square's request for FSIP funds.

NEW OFFICERS—The Board unanimously approved this slate of of- ficers: Karleen Hoerr, President; Neville Vatcha, Vice-President; Arline Webb, Sec- retary; Kathleen Hamilton, Treasurer.

REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM—SDCC is planning a benefit concert, ten- tatively scheduled for November, to raise money for a revolving loan fund. This pro- gram will make below market rate home improvement loans available for owner and occupied one and two family struc- tures in the S-D neighborhood.

TERRA COTTA ANGEL FIG- URES—These four pieces, donated from the Title Guaranty Building, have been the topic of much discussion and debate the past few months. The SDCC Board would like input from the neighborhood at large: should the Council raise money and put the figures on display, e.g. as part of entrance markers at a major intersection? Or, should the Council try to sell them (the buyer must explain his/her plans for them and the Board must approve)? Please share your opinions/ideas about the terra cotta angels—call the office or send a note, or VISIT THE SDCC BOOTH AT DIGEVERFEST SEPT. 7.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

Ray Bruen	Jane Geer	Venita Lake
Karen Bynum	Tom Hoerr	Ellen Matthews
Robert Dowgwillo	Marcia Kerz	King Schoenfeld
Elizabeth Freeman	Katie Kurtz	Jo Ann Vatcha

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of *The Times* 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 6016 Washington. Deadline: 15th of the month.

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September Calendar

- 1 Special exhibitions at the St. Louis Art Museum: "Bones of Jade, Soul of Ice: The Flowering Plum in Chinese Art," thru 9/8; "Decorative Arts of the Shipbo: An Amazonian View of Beauty," Gallery 111, thru 11/10; Arms and Armor from the Collection, Gallery 120, thru 12/1.
- 3 Preschool Story Hour every Tues., 10 a.m. Cabanne Branch Library 1106 N. Union, 367-0717 (Also Sept. 10, 17, & 24). Free.
- 6 Sharon Harding of the Central West End Social Security Office will answer questions about Social Security benefits and programs, 10:30 a.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free.
James Stewart Retrospective film series—*The Murder Man*, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 7 7th Annual DeGiverfest, 5900 block of DeGiverville, noon to 7:00 p.m. Games, BBQ, fun booths, beverages, dance contest and more.
Children's Films every Saturday at 2 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union (Also Sept. 14, 21 & 28); 367-0717 for information, free.
- 8 "That's The Way I Do It," video-documentary of the life of blues legend Henry Townsend, with live music by Townsend on the piano, his wife Vernell as vocalist, accompanied by Ron Edwards, bottleneck guitarist. Missouri Historical Society Auditorium, Jefferson Memorial Building, Forest Park, 2 p.m., free.
Exhibition of Works by Ellen Bales and Bonnie Murray at University City Public Library, 6701 Delmar. Opening reception 3-5 p.m. On display thru Sept., Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sun., 2-5 p.m., free.
Wall Quilts by Barbara Lau at Left Bank Books, 399 N. Euclid. Opening reception 2-5 p.m. Show through Oct. 6. Hours: Mon, 10-6; Tues-Sat, 10-10; Sun, 11-5. Call 367-6731 for further info., free.
- 9 Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meets, 7:30 p.m. Delmar Baptist Church, 6195 Washington.
- 10 Washington Heights Neighbors meet, 7:30 p.m. Hamilton Community School
"Currents 29: Drawing in St. Louis" opens, Cohen Gallery, St. Louis Art Museum. Thru 11/3. (See related article.)
- 11 Bible Study Groups begin at Grace Methodist Church; theme "Discovering the Kingdom of God," 10:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. Call 863-1992 for information.
Town Hall meeting with Mayor Vincent Schoemehl, 7 p.m. Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union.
- 13 James Stewart Retrospective film series—*You Can't Take It With You*, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
Angel Romero in concert presented by the Classical Guitar Society; Graham Chapel, Washington University, 8 p.m. \$8; \$5 for students & seniors. Also 9/14 at the Ethical Society. (See related article.)
- 15 Lecture "Chinese Export Porcelain" by David S. Howard, noted British collector, author, and dealer. Art Museum Auditorium, 2:30 p.m., free.
- 18 "Crazy Clues and Concoctions." Learn to disguise yourself and your message at a mystery workshop for children; 4 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free.
- 19 Skinker-DeBaliviere Business Association meeting. Call 862-5122 for time and place.
"Henry Shaw the Man," William Barnaby Faherty, S.J., 7:00 p.m. Missouri Historical Society Auditorium in Jefferson Memorial Building, \$5.00.
- 20 James Stewart Retrospective film series—*The Shop Around The Corner*, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 26 Tea Lecture: "Music History a Bore? Not a Chance" by Lois Yopp. By playing music on the cello and piano and narrating stories of the times, Lois Yopp and friends will combine music with slides to show a sample of each period's art, costumes, and furnishings. Talk begins at 1:30 p.m. in Missouri Historical Society auditorium followed by tea and pastries. \$3.00 per person; 361-1424 for reservations.
- 27 James Stewart Retrospective film series—*It's A Wonderful Life*, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 28 Flea Market, St. Roch's Church Hall, 310 Rosedale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. New City School Community Resource Fair & Ice Cream Social, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 5209 Waterman Avenue, call 361-6411 for information. (See related article.)

Kiosk Announces New Hours

The Kingsbury Kiosk Library will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday beginning September 3. The library is located at Kingsbury and Des Peres and, despite its small size, has an excellent selection of books for all ages. If what you need is not there, it can be sent to the Kiosk within a day if it is in the St. Louis Library system.

To get a card, you need to have a current utility bill or recent correspondence with your address on it proving you are a city resident. Stop by and meet Mary Ann Shickman or call her at 726-2653 for more information. We are lucky to have the Kiosk in our neighborhood and we should use it as much as possible.

St. Louis Artists Featured At Art Museum

An exhibition of the drawings of 14 St. Louis area artists goes on view in The Saint Louis Art Museum's Cohen Gallery on Tuesday, September 10. The exhibition, the 29th in the CURRENTS series, is co-curated by Judith C. Weiss, Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs and Michael Shapiro, Curator of 19th and 20th Century Art.

CURRENTS 29: DRAWING IN ST. LOUIS focuses on the art of drawing—the various techniques used and the diverse approaches of artists to the medium.

Each of the 14 artists, selected by the curators from 72 applicants, will be represented by two or three recent works. Included will be drawings in pen and ink, watercolor, pastel, charcoal, oil stick, and graphite. Works exemplify the varied nature and styles of drawing from realism to abstraction and provide an exciting look at drawing in St. Louis today.

The following artists' works will be shown: Kent Addison, Carol Carter, Leila Daw, Deborah Donoghue, William Hawk, Howard Jones, Ron Thomas, William Kohn, Bethany Kriegsmann, Pat Schuchard, Mary Sprague, and Steven Teczar from St. Louis; Robert R. Malone from Edwardsville, Illinois and Denis L. Ringering from Collinsville, Illinois.

CURRENTS 29: DRAWING IN ST. LOUIS remains on view through November 3.

CURRENTS is a series of contemporary art exhibitions at The Saint Louis Art Museum. It is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and funds from the Missouri Arts Council.

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Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

Things have certainly been happening this summer. Lots of folks have been busy moving in and out. This is the issue in which you get the who's who of new neighbors.

We welcome to the world of area homeowners Clare Kerz, 6100 Washington. Clare is not new to the neighborhood or its residents. She is the sister of Marcia Kerz and has been living with Marcia and her husband Marvin Nodiff for the last few years. We're happy to see that she has made Skinker-DeBaliviere her permanent home.

Also on 6100 Washington we welcome Sally and Jim Boggeman and daughter Sarah. Sally is a teacher at New City School.

Neighbors on 6100 Westminster are pleased to welcome to the neighborhood Carol Winter and Joyce Phillips. Carol and Joyce both purchased homes on that block this summer.

On the 6100 block of Kingsbury the new residents are Polly O'Brien and Barrett Toan. Ripley Rasmus and Elizabeth Trueblood are new neighbors on 6000 Kingsbury as well as Lorraine Wilson and her two children.

McPherson boasts a lot of new residents also. In the 6000 block we welcome James Asbury. 6100 McPherson has new residents in three of its homes: Robin Lehr (sister of Ginny Klevorn) and Darrell Stoecklin; Stephen Zenk and Melissa Moutton; and Kate and Mark Robinson with their three children Tom 8, Bess 6 and Danny 3. (Congratulations to Steve and Melissa who were married on August 10.) A very warm welcome to all these new folks.

More neighbors in the news. How many of you saw the Elaine Viets column in a Sunday Post over the summer that featured Ann and John Geers, 6100 Westminster, and their attempts to prepare for their European vacation? The Geers are the proprietors of the Webster Grill on Big Bend.

And when we turned on the 10 o'clock news on channel 4 after the National Night Out (August 13th) there we saw Debbie Warshawski of that station (and also of 6100 Pershing, by the way) interviewing Venita Lake, 5800 Waterman, as she marched in a parade on her block.

And speaking of National Night Out—what a great idea and what fun! It was super to see all those people out meeting and greeting each other. We need those kinds of events more often. Much of the success of that evening was due to the efforts of our local block captains orchestrated by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

Nancy Farmer, the executive director of the Community Council has become a Skinker-DeBaliviere resident over the summer. Nancy has taken up residence in the Rosedale Square Apartments and is thrilled to be a neighbor here as well as having the added convenience of living so close to the office. We welcome her.

Tom and Karleen Hoerr, 6100 Kingsbury, traveled to New York this summer and also spent some time in Atlantic City. Tom reports that he was specially selected (because of his good looks and charm, I'm sure) to participate in a magic trick on stage at Doug Henning's show. Unfortunately, despite his magical wizardry, Doug was unable to make Tom disappear, so he's back to putting things "In Your Ear" again.

Also vacationing in New York this summer were Barbara Joffe Clewell and David Clewell. The Clewells live in 6100 Pershing.

Congratulations to Ed Stout who is among 51 persons from the greater St. Louis area selected to participate in Leadership St. Louis for 1985-86. The program is designed to make people in leadership positions aware of issues and problems facing the St. Louis area, and to



U City Hardware, a long-time institution in the Loop, moved to its new location at 6623 Vernon over the summer. The Grand Opening was held in July. From left are: University City Council members, Larry Lieberman—3rd Ward, Janet Majerus—1st Ward, Paul Schoomer—2nd Ward; owner Bill Buechner; store founders Alvin and Helen Buechner; University City Mayor Joseph Mooney. The store's staff is in the background.

Fun Times At CWE Picnic

by Christine Smith

The Central West End Neighborhood Picnic was held on Sunday, August 11, 1985 in Forest Park.

It was mostly business as usual, ably engineered by Shirley Polk. There were the usual scenes... grown men sitting around schmoozing, babies asleep on blankets under trees, ladies sitting at picnic tables gossiping (OK, OK, just chatting...), daintily upraised fingers clutching barbecued ribs or sizzling hot dogs, forks poised over potato salad, and lots of good, drippy, sweet watermelon (of which more later).

In the "Lucky Picnicer" drawings, O.T. Payne, Sr., 57xx McPherson, won the 10-speed bike (which was a gorgeous red model, incidentally). Sharon Edwards of the 57xx block of McPherson won the 30 lbs. of ribs, and Mark Rogers of the 57xx block of Waterman won the case of Bud Lite. Seems like the winning number was 57xx, doesn't it?

Unusual events for this "as ever" event: somebody taught the kids to fill balloons with water. Neglecting that this technique is better set in a high-rise hotel (watch out below!), the kids had a cooling lot of fun playing catch. Of course, a few moms said, "How on earth did you get so wet/dusty/muddy?", but kids do dry out and dust off!

As to that watermelon: Fred the Blue Roan Horse was in attendance, as he has been for the past several years. This little horse would be a lap dog if he didn't have hooves, and his sweet nature is a tribute to his owner. However, Fred does NOT like carrots. On the other hand, we proved by empirical evidence that Fred (and possibly other horses) likes watermelon... and makes just about as much mess as any other youngster!

As noted, this was very much an "as usual" event, for in the words of the song: THIS WAS A DARN NICE PICNIC, AND WE ALL HAD A WONDERFUL TIME!

train them to take a role in the solutions of these problems. Ed is associated with Aid to Victims of Crime as executive director and lives in the 6100 block of McPherson.

Pleased to see Dan Shea and Kathleen Williams, 6100 Kingsbury, back around the neighborhood. They have recently returned from a year's stay in London and Italy. Hope to see an article here recounting their experiences soon.

Congratulations and best wishes to Pat Kelley and Marion McCarthy as well as Peter Bushbacker and Christine Storey. Both couples were married over the summer. Marion is the daughter of Jim and Anne McCarthy, 6100 Kingsbury. The Kelleys were wed on July 20th. Christine is the daughter of Rose and George Storey, 5700 Waterman. The Bushbacker nuptials took place on August 17th.

Low Interest Loans For Homeowners

Low interest loans are now available to qualifying homeowners in many areas of the City of St. Louis to replace collapsed sewer lines, Neighborhood Housing Services announced today.

A collapsing sewer line frequently represents an unexpected—and large—expense for the homeowner. For the first time there is affordable financing available to the low and moderate income homeowner for this work.

Working with the Plumbing Division of the City of St. Louis, Neighborhood Housing Services will insure that a licensed plumber does the work and will arrange for reinspection prior to payment.

The Neighborhood Housing Services Code Enforcement Revolving Loan Program is funded by the City of St. Louis in conjunction with "Operation Impact," the anti-blight effort being implemented in many St. Louis neighborhoods. Loans are at 6% interest and can be repaid over a four-year period.

According to Program Director Jo Ann Vatcha, low interest loans made through this two year-old program topped One Million Dollars in May. Because it is a revolving loan program, new funds are added each month as repayments are made. The revolving loan program provides a resource to assist eligible homeowners in making their best efforts to maintain their property.

Other eligible repairs which may be financed through the revolving loan program include: painting, porches, concrete work, tuckpointing, guttering, garage demolition or repairs, carpentry work, roofs, new doors and windows, storm windows, fences, and other code-related work.

For more information about how to qualify for a low-interest home repair loan, call Neighborhood Housing Services at 664-1000.

Yours truly is excited to report a new job at New City where I'll be working part time. I'm thrilled to be back there.

What did you do this summer? Vicissitudes would love to report on your exciting, different, unique or simply pleasant and traditional vacation, or whatever else is new in your family. Let us know.

Keep posted for my mystery guest columnist later this year.

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Parkview Perspective

by Ellen Matthews

Joe and Peggy Birchbark had looked at fifty-one houses. They had each house listed on a 3 x 5 card, along with notes such as "tiny yard," "no real spare bedroom," "rooms not big enough." When the Parkview house came on the market, their real estate agent had urged them to see it right away.

Once inside, Peggy groaned. "There are so many stairs. I can't imagine living with three floors and a basement." Pregnant with their third child, she stood catching her breath on the landing.

Joe grinned. "You won't be pregnant forever."

Peggy rolled her eyes and continued up the stairs.

"It needs some repair here and there," Joe told the agent as he ran his hand along the broken floor tiles in the bathroom. "And this toilet needs to be replaced."

Amy and Jason fingered the stained glass window next to the sink.

"I like it," Peggy said. "The house, that is. I think a house with room for five and a half people in the bathroom is terrific."

So they moved. And moved and moved. When the last of the boxes had been brought in, the family collapsed in the living room with Church's chicken.

"This is a great house, Dad," Amy said. "Did you know there's a hole in my closet that looks into your bedroom?"

Joe shook his head. "No. Guess I'll put that on the fix-it list."

Jason looked up. "Can Amy and I try and catch some of the mice in the crawl space? We'd keep them in a cage and take good care of them."

"What mice?" Peggy asked, losing her appetite.

"We saw the droppings," Amy said. She wiped her face. "I'm done. Let's go out, Jason."

The two of them jumped up and ran out the front door. "We'll go around and stay in the backyard," Amy called over her shoulder. "I promise we'll stay out of the poison ivy."

Joe and Peggy looked at each other and then around the room at the boxes.

"Maybe it is too big," she said. "Maybe it's too old. We'll be working on this house for a year."

Joe pulled out his list. "Maybe five years," he said.

The doorbell buzzed and both of them got up.

The woman gave them a smile. "Hello," she said. "I'm Mrs. Toadly and I live next door." She held out a small sack.

"Here's a little present for you. Some wine for you and cookies for the children. By the way, I saw them talking to some kids on the sidewalk. Don't worry about them. No, I can't come in. I know you're tired. My husband and I will invite you over in a couple of days. Welcome to the neighborhood."

Peggy took the bag and the woman hurried away.

"Well," said Joe, pulling out the wine, "the house may be too big and too old, but I think we're going to like the neighborhood."

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Adopt Some Orphans At The Kiosk

Books for Adults
by Mary Ann Schickman

The Cider House Rules by John Irving, Morrow, 1985. (4th on bestseller list) Although the book deals with more than the polemics of abortion, the subject is certainly a theme. Dr. Wilbur Larch, an ascetic doctor who founded an orphanage circa 1890 which lasted into the 1950's has a favorite orphan, Homer Wells. As Homer grows up, Larch teaches him obstetrical and abortion procedures and he becomes very skilled. However, at age twenty, Homer announces that he will not do abortions since he feels it is murder. He leaves the orphanage to work with some wealthy apple growers along the coast of Maine. One might say the apple is a symbol of carnal temptation since Homer with his friends Candy and Wally become a strange kind of threesome in a Jules and Jim sort of way. Homer becomes manager of the orchard business and as the years go by the plot takes many interesting twists and turns.

As in the *World According to Garp* and *The Hotel New Hampshire*, Irving has created a whole new cast of outrageous characters in *Cider House Rules* as well as comical names such as Fuzzy Stone, Snowy Meadows, and Rose Rose. One could observe that Irving is something of a cartoonist in print. As with all his books, I found myself laughing out loud at some of the ludicrous situations. Except for a rather flat ending, the book is highly entertaining and bound to make one think.

Flambards by K.M. Peyton (trilogy) Penguin Books, 1980. Before I read the book, I had seen the Masterpiece Theatre series and it haunted me so much that I had to find the book and read it. The story is set in England before World War I. Christina Parsons had been an orphan since the age of five and lived with one aunt and another in the suburbs of London until her Uncle Russell sent for her to live at Flambards. Christina was to come into a fortune at age twenty-one and since Uncle Russell had two sons Christina's age, he hoped to make a match since Flambards was in terrible disrepair.

Flambards was out in the country, a large and rambling mid-Victorian house with bay windows, and surrounded by a flower garden. Beyond the house were the stables and woods.

The cousins Mark and William were very different. Mark was a horseman who loved hunting. William's passion was flying and through him we learn a great deal about the early days of aviation. As the years go by, Christina is drawn to the slender young man, William and she falls in love and marries him rather than the handsome, robust hunter Mark.

In the last part of the book, Christina returns to Flambards and becomes a mother. She uses her fortune to restore the estate to what it once had been. She also takes an orphan child in named Tizzy and eventually finds the happiness and fulfillment she always sought. The book ends very happily.

Books for Children by Arlene Sandler

Four books about orphans—or almost orphans—for older young readers take you through different kinds of struggles on the way to different kinds of upbeat endings.

In *City Rose*, eleven-year-old Dee has just lost her home and parents in a fire. Forced to move in with relatives in rural North Carolina, Dee has to adjust to a very different life from the one she led in Detroit. Besides the predictable isolation and loneliness, there are mysterious events which Dee finds too compelling to ignore. She tries to figure out what is going on at the deserted old church in the woods and puts herself in great danger. As Dee gets closer to solving the mystery, she also gets closer to feeling more secure.

Who is Carrie? is another book in the series by the Collier brothers that describes what happened to blacks in colonial America. Carrie, a slave in Sam Fraunces' tavern in New York City, is obsessed with finding out who her parents were. Picking up bits of the puzzle from her young friend, Dan, Carrie gets involved in his plan to buy his mother's freedom as she pursues her own investigation. Her curiosity exposes her to possible kidnapping and also to punishment for eavesdropping on President Washington himself. Suspense, history, and colorful characters combine to make a fascinating story.

In *Won't Know Till I Get There*, Steve's parents take in Earl, a foster child with a criminal record. In Earl's thirteen years, he has become surly, uncooperative, and withdrawn. Steve has to find a place for him not only in his room, but in his daily routines. Ironically, Steve gets into trouble with the police himself, and is assigned to service at a senior citizens center. His experience there teaches him respect and understanding for Earl and for others. There are lots of people with problems in this book, but lots of humor as well.

Eleven-year-old Alex has been hiding for months in an abandoned building in the Warsaw ghetto. His father has been taken away by the Nazis and it becomes increasingly harder for Alex to believe that he will ever come back, even though he has promised. *The Island on Bird Street* is a remarkable story of survival based on real experience. The author spent two years hiding from the Nazis with his mother and younger brother. Alex is completely on his own.

The characters in the book are well drawn as is the English countryside. This is a story that would appeal to any age but since it discusses the importance of good and moral values and because it has to do with the lives of young folks, I would also recommend it to young adults.

New Company Started



Marjorie Weir and Marcia Kerz.

Westminster Communications, Inc., a company formed by Marcia Kerz and Marjorie Weir, two West End residents, opened new offices recently at 1001 Bellevue (at Clayton Road) in Richmond Heights.

Their business focuses on building donor bases and contact lists for organizations, campaigns and businesses, developing plans to reach the individuals, and implementing the plans through mail and phonebank programs.

Westminster Communications has special expertise in helping non-profit organizations prospect for new potential donors and, once located, build those new donors into a healthy renewal program. According to Marcia Kerz, president of the company, "Too much time and energy is expended by many organizations with little success in trying to find new donors. What is needed is a well-organized, systematic approach to locating new donors and communicating with past and present donors." Westminster Communications' services include building the plan, identifying appropriate lists, designing the entire mailing package, writing copy for the letter and all enclosures, and assuring

that the package is completed and in the mail in a timely manner.

The firm also offers organizations, campaigns and businesses direct assistance with an important ingredient in any solicitation effort in 1985—how to use computers in their program. The firm has extensive expertise in the use of micro-computers and will assist clients in purchasing computers and software that will meet their needs, and in actual custom software programming for a donor base or contact system.

Both Kerz and Weir have been actively involved in the St. Louis community. Kerz served as Executive Director of the Conference on Education, a non-profit organization based in St. Louis, and most recently as the manager of the 1984 successful campaign of Lieutenant Governor Harriett Woods. Weir's community involvement included serving as a member of the St. Louis Board of Education from 1977 to 1983. She is presently a member of the Botanical Garden Subdistrict Commission and the St. Louis Public Library Board.

For more information about services provided by Westminster Communications, call 314/645-4488.

Thoughts On The New Year

by Venita Lake

Have you written your New Year's resolutions yet? For many of us, the real new year starts not in January, but in September when school starts again. That means it is time for new resolutions: I will pack my lunch the night before. I will complete homework before I watch any TV. I will start reading for the book report when it is assigned instead of waiting till the night before it's due. (Parents substitute "I will see that the kids do all of the above.")

In our family, the back-to-school new year has been observed continuously since I was 4-1/2 and since my husband was 6. (Rick missed kindergarten and, as a result, never learned the proper use of scissors.) We are each the oldest child so never thought about the end of summer till we started going to school. For our children, however, from the time they were born, someone in the family has always been going back to school. When I finished college, I started teaching. Back-to-school no longer meant getting new school shoes, but attending in-service meetings and resolving to make written lesson plans at least a semester, or a month, or more realistically, a week ahead of time, or to grade and return those 100 essays within the week after they had been submitted. By the time I retired from teaching (the first time) to have daughter Beth, Rick was back in school, first going part-time at night at Washington University and UMSL and later—when I returned to teaching—going full time until he earned his bachelor's degree. Two months after "finishing" college, he was back working part-time on a Master's degree in education and teaching in high school.

That was fifteen years ago, and we still live by the school calendar. As I write this to make the deadline for *The Times*, which also takes a summer vacation and starts up again in September, we're gearing up—getting clothes ready, buying shoes and supplies, packing Beth to move back to college, trying to accept the fact that Melissa is starting high school already.

Rick is wondering when his teaching schedule at the junior college will be finalized and I'm wondering what our enrollments will be in University College at Washington U., where I work.

Rick and I are also getting ready to go back to class as students again. We are currently both working toward a Master of Liberal Arts degree at Washington U., a program which I sometimes describe as the chance to take classes in subjects you didn't have time to take as an undergraduate. (For example, last semester I studied *The American City* and Rick, Science and Western Thought from Aristotle to Newton.) The point of all this biographical trivia is not that we are something exceptional. Just the opposite. Many, many people are students of one subject or another all of their lives. For us, the start of another school year is a real measure of time. Taking classes is a way of continuing to grow. Commencements, by definition, invariably draw the question, "What next?"

For those not pursuing a degree or taking credit courses, many people enroll in short non-credit courses and lecture series; classes taught at community schools, junior colleges, universities; lessons in playing piano, knitting, swimming, or flying airplanes. Self-improvement can take the form of physical fitness programs or may be an unexpected reward in volunteering to help others.

Finally, for those not going back to school themselves, there is still a feeling of starting new. Summer is over—forget the 80 degree weather in September. Forget the calendar marked "first day of autumn." When Labor Day comes and school starts, summer is over. Kids are back in school, and everybody knows it even when there are no kids in the immediate household. Then many decide it's time to get back in line, to lose weight, quit smoking, or finish painting the house before winter sets in.

So, to all of us who are going back to school with fresh notebooks, good intentions, and firm resolutions, happy new year!



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Macho Menus: Frank Holmes' Oyster Stew



(Editor's Note: September's chef is Paul Repetto who lives with his wife Paula and son Reeve in the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Although relative newcomers to the neighborhood, Paul and Paula have taken active roles in The Times—they hosted the cookie contest party in November and Paula has helped with layout. The editor, the editor's husband, and photographer King Schoenfeld had the opportunity to test this recipe and all three enthusiastically endorse it.)

by Paul Repetto

Each year when school let out, my father packed up the Pontiac and we left Boston for the summer.

The railway tracks ran on a trestle the full length of Atlantic Avenue then, and the trip began by weaving in and out between the steel posts until we reached South Station, still crowded with soldiers and sailors even as victory over Germany appeared closer. Across a small channel, we passed the Boston Navy Yard where, unknown to me then, Paula's father was fitting out the cruiser Vincennes before sailing to the Philippines and the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The huge Quincy shipyard further South was the last reminder that the war was on.

Thereafter, Route 3 wound slowly through the countryside and occasional small towns. For a boy not yet ten, in other words, it was a dull drive. We amused ourselves, my brother, my sister and I, by playing cats and dogs. Two points for sighting a cat and one for a dog. My mother refereed, though by what method she determined whether one or the other of us had actually seen the dog that "just ran around the corner behind the barn" is unknown. My sister, not yet four, was outgunned anyway.

We often stopped at North River for a fried clam roll. Not the kind served by Howard Johnson, but a soft Sunshine hot-dog roll overflowing with fat clams that still tasted of the mudflat which until that morning had been home. It was the first taste of summer.

Our house was in a small cove known as Rocky Nook on Duxbury Bay, a bit North of the entrance to Plymouth harbor. It stood on pilings just up the hill from the beach. The salt air and sun had weathered the cedar shingles to a deep brown. The trim paint around the windows was white.

A screened porch, on which a variety of rocking chairs waited, extended across the front and around one side.

In the back the grass was always green, fed by an unending supply of nutrients from the cesspool. A ramshackle garage stood just in front of the woods that framed the yard. Spiders that would have given new meaning to Woody Allen's phrase "as big as a Buick" prowled its dark corners. The garage was not a place where one voluntarily spent much time.

The bay was shallow and when the tide went out the mudflats appeared, broken only by narrow boat channels marked with dead trees. You could dig for clams with a rake, which most of the adults did, but we mostly walked barefoot, with the mud over our ankles, looking for the tell-tale squirt that showed where a clam was hiding, then feeling with our toes until we found him. If you were lucky, you could get a dozen or so this way before the tide came in. If you were unlucky, you stepped on a razorback clam, which ended the day's activity, not to mention the next two or three as well.

When the tide was in, we sped around the bay in motorboats. We had a twelve-footer with a 10-horse Johnson motor. My father gave it to my mother for her birthday, but we didn't talk about that much. The most fun of all was to go up the Jones River, a narrow, twisty river fringed by salt marsh where Frank Holmes lived.

At one time there were a number of boatyards on the river, well known for their Jones River skiffs, but those days were long gone. There were only a few houses now, like Frank's, tucked in the trees back of the marsh grass. Just past his house was a crabapple orchard, and we would often pick a bushel or so, load up the motorboats and proceed to have an apple fight out on the river. The apples later washed up on the beach, the tides having had their way, and our apple fights were not looked upon fondly by hardly anyone.

Frank came to our house often and sat on the porch with my mother until just before dark, good company during the week while my father was working in Boston. "Boys been at it again," he'd say. "Throwin' apples." Once in a while my mother would ground us for this infraction, but not often. Mostly she just regretted having birthdays.

This oyster stew recipe came from Frank Holmes. He got it from Captain Barlow, an oldtimer from down in Plymouth. It's straightforward, like Frank.

Frank Holmes' Oyster Stew

1 pt. oysters
1/2 cup clam broth
2 Tbl. butter
Worcestershire sauce
1 qt. milk
1/2 cup light cream
Salt, pepper

Scald milk in double boiler, add salt, pepper and clam broth. Turn down heat. Add oysters and cook until the edges curl. Add warmed cream and a drop or two of Worcestershire. Take care not to let the milk boil. Cornbread goes good with it. Serves 4; more if someone doesn't like oysters.

St. Roch's Flea Market

The Women of St. Roch's will hold their semi-annual Flea Market at St. Roch's Church Hall, 310 Rosedale, on Sat., Sept. 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be a bag sale at the end of the sale, from 2:00 to 3:00. For information, call Betty Burke, 862-2279 or Rita Magyor, 721-0442.

St. Louis Debut Of Angel Romero

Angel Romero will be The Saint Louis Classical Guitar Society's first artist of their 1985-86 Guest Artist Concert Series. The concerts on Sept. 13 and 14 will be the guitarist's St. Louis debut and follow directly the similar debut of his brother Pepe last May. There will be two concerts—one on Sept. 13 at Graham Chapel on the Washington University campus, followed by one at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road on Sept. 14. Both concerts will begin at 8:00 p.m.; admission is \$8; \$5 for students and seniors.

Born in Malaga, Spain, in 1946, Angel is the youngest of the three sons of guitarist Celedonio Romero; he made his professional debut with his family at the age of six, and gave his first solo recital at age seven in Valencia, Spain. When he was twelve the Romeros moved to California, at which time they began concertizing extensively in this country. Together they comprise the Romero Family Guitar Quartet that was so well received at CASA in March of 1984. As a soloist, Angel has emerged as a performer of great personal flair, a brilliant technician who has recently made some noteworthy concerto recordings with conductors Raymond Leppard, Andre Previn, and Neville Marriner on the Angel label. He was the first guitarist to ever perform in California's famed Hollywood Bowl, and has also appeared with John Williams and the Boston Pops on public television. His St. Louis program will be specially highlighted by the appearance of his eldest brother Celin Romero, the two of them performing beautiful duo works by Diabelli, Giuliani, and Granados.

In addition to Angel Romero, the concert series includes performances by Oscar Ghiglia, Michael Newman with Laura Oltman, and the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet. The series consists of eight performances, two by each presented group or soloist on adjoining Friday and Saturday evenings. Friday night concerts will be held at Graham Chapel on the Washington University Campus, Saturday night performances at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road, at 8:00 p.m. each evening. Master classes will be held on Sunday evenings at local universities. Subscriptions of hear each group or soloist are available for \$30 for individuals, \$45 for couples, and \$50 for families, with the choice of attending either Friday or Saturday evening. For further information, please call the Guitar Society at 725-0739.

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Area SafeStreet Award Nominees Sought

Operation SafeStreet, the crime prevention program for the City of St. Louis, is seeking nominees for its new awards program called the "Operation SafeStreet St. Louisian Awards." As the recognition program grows, awards will be given monthly. A ceremony will be held quarterly to announce the winners for the previous three months.

The awards are designed to give special recognition to citizens, police and SafeStreet volunteers who have made outstanding contributions in crime prevention.

Awards are given in three categories:

Outstanding Volunteer is presented to a person who has donated unusual amounts of time and energy to make the neighborhood safer.

Concerned Citizen is awarded to persons who aid police, help a victim or work toward prosecution of an offender.

Police Service award is given to police officers or districts for exceptional police work.

Recipients of the first awards are:

Oscar Farmer for Outstanding Volunteer. Mr. Farmer retired as a St. Louis Police Department lieutenant after thirty-three years. He has been spending an average of fifteen hours a week recruiting volunteers for the SafeStreet program. His efforts had resulted in seventy-two recruited block captains, 718 secured homes and over 800 installed smoke detectors in the Penrose Park area.

Concerned Citizen was awarded to Robert Henderson from the Shaw neighborhood. He was responsible for stopping four crimes in the area and successfully aiding in the conviction of one person. Mr. Henderson spends many hours walking and watching the neighborhood with his canine companion, Kansas.

The **Police Service Award** was presented to two patrolmen from the Third District, Officers Gary Kukla and Robert Heimberger. They were assigned by Third District Captain Charles McCrary to a special detail to try to impact a rash of burglaries in the Tower Grove, Fox Park, Tiffany and Shaw neighborhoods.

Their determination and hard work resulted in the arrest of fourteen individuals for twenty-four crimes in a two-month period.

Tom Mangogna, Chief of Staff for Mayor Schoemehl, presented the awards at a luncheon at the Marriott Hotel. "The strong commitment that these four individuals have shown is a great example of the work being done by citizens, volunteers, and police in making our City a better place to live and work. I want to thank you on behalf of the citizens of St. Louis who have all benefitted from your efforts," Mr. Mangogna said.

Operation SafeStreet was initiated in 1984 by Mayor Schoemehl. It was designed as a cooperative effort between police, City government and the citizens.

There are five program components:

Project Porchlight, where residents are asked to burn their porchlights from dusk to dawn;

Project Home Security, in which home security measures are offered to residents at nominal or no cost;

Project Quiet Street, where streets are closed or redesigned, at Alderman's request to limit traffic to residential use;

Neighborhood Watch, sponsored in cooperation with the St. Louis Police Dept., trains volunteers to be block watchers; and

Operation SafeStreet Newsletter, mailed to all residents in the target areas.

To date, Operation SafeStreet is working in forty-six neighborhoods, with 211,242 residents on 2,643 City blocks. There are 1,475 block captains recruited, trained and working in their areas.

There have been 6,9761 homes secured through Project Home Security, 25,000 smoke detectors sold or installed and 225 Neighborhood Watch meetings held.

One-year crime statistics for the initial Phase I neighborhoods showed a 15.4 per cent decrease in the SafeStreet areas compared to a 6.8 per cent decrease City wide.

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Piggott's Ferry - An Eastside Tie

by Ray Breun

One year ago Congress passed legislation initiating a process to expand Jefferson National Expansion Memorial to the east side of the Mississippi. The Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse make up the oldest national historic site in the National Park Service and the first national monument to Thomas Jefferson. The architectural plans for the national park had always included both sides of the Mississippi—despite the political accident of two states which at one time had been two countries until Jefferson's fortuitous purchase of the western half of the continent in 1803. Curiously, those on the western side of the river know little of the history of "the other side!" Few have ever heard of Captain James Piggott and the first trans-river ferry service at St. Louis.

Originally from Connecticut, James Piggott migrated to Pennsylvania just before the start of the Revolutionary War. Appointed a captain in the Pennsylvania Associators in 1776, he served with distinction as captain of the 8th Pennsylvania brigade in the battles of Brandywine and Saratoga. His health forced him to resign his military position, however, and he moved shortly to Illinois country. He apparently served with George Rogers Clark when the latter went to Kaskaskia. In 1783, he was among those establishing Grand Ruisseau just west of Columbia in Monroe County, Illinois.

The American Bottoms, as the eastern shore of the Mississippi was called by the French, was something of judicial and political battleground as the Americans fought for control in the courts of Kaskaskia and Cahokia. Captain Piggott led a movement against the French domination for which he and some of his cohorts were put in chains for twenty-four hours during the summer of 1787. But the effort paid off and, by October 1787, they were allowed to elect their own judges in the Cahokia Court.

By 1790, the first civil government in Illinois was formed and James Piggott was appointed a militia captain and a justice of the peace at Cahokia. Governor Arthur St. Clair arrived in Kaskaskia on March 5, 1790, to put the territorial government together; in April of that year, St. Clair County was established as the first county jurisdiction on the east side with Cahokia as its seat. Piggott, as judge, held considerable power in the newly formed political entity.

In his position of judicial and political importance, James Piggott got to know the Spanish officials at St. Louis and discussed the sanctioning of a ferry operation between the bottoms and St. Louis. During the winter of 1792/93, he built a couple log cabins across from the Spanish power center. The following year he built a bridge over Cahokia Creek permitting

wheeled vehicles to arrive at the shore of the river directly across from St. Louis after traveling over the new road from Cahokia to the proposed ferry landing—a distance of five miles.

Piggott moved his family to the proposed landing area in 1795 and in 1797 applied for a monopoly permit with the Spanish officials, directing it to Lt. Governor Zenon Trudeau on August 15 of that year. He specifically requested the Spanish to not allow anyone else to transport and set people across the river at St. Louis. He received exclusive ferriage rights between his land and St. Louis only after Trudeau made him a citizen of St. Louis. Piggott erected a ferry house below Market Street on the St. Louis side of the river. His own landing was about where the Peabody Coal facility is now on the east bank.

Captain Piggott died in February 1799. His wife let a man named Campbell run the ferry and he renamed it Campbell's Ferry. The Piggott children eventually sued Campbell and retrieved all their rights but could not cooperate among themselves to operate the business. Five of the seven Piggott heirs sold their interest to the merchants John McKnight and Thomas Brady, early dry goods store owners in St. Louis. The remaining heirs apparently sold out to Samuel Wiggins in March 1820. A wealthy and new arrival from New York, Wiggins bought the rest of the rights from McKnight and Brady in 1821, eventually receiving from the state of Illinois total monopoly of the trade to St. Louis from Illinoistown—the original name of what is now called East St. Louis. Samuel C. Christy bought the ferry operation and its rights from Samuel Wiggins in 1832; Christy's syndicate included William Wiggins, brother of Samuel. The ferry continued to be known as Wiggins ferry—indeed that is the way everyone has referred to the business begun by James Piggott to this day.

Eventually the Christy syndicate, opposed to the bridge of Eads, moved into the railroad orbit and teamed up with William Taussig to form Terminal Railroad Association shortly after Ead's bridge was completed in 1874. The monopoly for ferriage continued into and is still part of the Terminal's hold on transfer of boat and rail merchandise along the St. Louis riverfront. The Revolutionary War hero, Captain James Piggott, began a business which his heirs could not manage and had to sell to a New Yorker who in turn sold to a New Englander until the present situation emerged. There is still a Piggott Street in East St. Louis, but the reason for its name is as lost to the Illinois residents as it appears to be to those of the western shore although it is a part of our common past and heritage.

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

Welcome back, dear reader! No doubt you've survived this typical St. Louis summer by doing whatever is necessary to escape the heat. Other than going to Michigan or Wisconsin or somewhere else where cows outnumber people, typical St. Louis heat aversion measures include frequent trips to Ted Drewes, dips in the backyard pool, and placing one's underwear in the freezer for several hours before wearing it. Well, enough frivolity. **In Your Ear**, is back with a vengeance, serving as your lens to reality.

For lo' these many months yours truly has been the voice in the wilderness, complaining about the lack of cable t.v. in the City. I noted that we were without cable way back when the peanut farmer was president. I complained about a lack of cable before Mayor Schoemehl ever heard of Lean Cuisine. I decried the impoverished cultural wasteland created by a lack of cable even before Tom Zych was indicted! Honestly, I thought that it was part of a deeper conspiracy by our county brethren to keep we Cityfolks from becoming truly cosmopolitan. After all, cable was described as the apotheosis, the finest that mankind had to offer. We might have our St. Louis Centre and Union Station and Doughboys and the Skinker Sinclair station—all unique City institutions—but unless we had *it*, we were little better than the caveman without fire, Sonny without Cher, or Dean without Jerry (oops!).

Well, the battle is over, but I'm not sure who won. I have cable and, let me tell you, I'm more than just a little bit disappointed. Talk about a letdown. I haven't been this disappointed since puberty. No, that's not totally true, I really haven't been this disappointed since either the Vandeventer overpass finally opened and nothing happened or since the football Cardinals seasons of 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, or, thus far, 1985.

I can't believe that this cable television is what I waited so semi-breathlessly for. Whoever called television the "vast wasteland" was certainly watching cable. I feel like the guy who not only said he could see the Emperor's New Clothes, but paid \$29.33 a month to do so. And I ask you, why do I need a remote control unit to see his clothes anyway?

Somehow I naively thought that cable would open up vistas of good, fine television. I believed that I'd spring home from work, ready to sit in front of the tube, Dorritos in one hand, remote unit in the other. I envisioned myself being the center of attention at parties and the office water cooler because I'd be able to talk about the interesting things now available to me on cable. HOO-HAH to that one!

Get a load of the listings available to me on cable: Cisco Kid; Videocountry; Danglermouse; Auto Racing; Northside Baptist; Turkey Television (honest!); Dragnet; Waterskiing; Gong Show; Dancin' U.S.A.; Flipper; Barnburning; and, the ultimate, Regis Philbin's Lifestyles. As Jack Paar used to say, "I kid you not." Now, you may be thinking, "Ah yes, but what about the movies? Doesn't cable have good movies not otherwise available on television?" Well, you're right about the part "not otherwise available on television," but with regard to "good," try these actual titles: The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai; Cannonball Run II; Get Crazy; Police Academy; and Where the Boys Are '84. Need I say more?

I wouldn't go so far as to say that cable television has no value at all (football season isn't here yet so I'm withholding judgement on ESPN), but other than keeping villains off the street and provid-

ing jobs for cable employees, I'm awfully hard pressed to think of anything positive.

I searched in vain for "My Mother, the Car" (remember that one?), but couldn't find it. Otherwise, I haven't seen so many turkeys since I attended a Delta Zeta mixer in college. And it'd be bad enough if all this were free, but, no, I'm actually paying for it! It's not all that cheap either, after all, for almost \$30.00 you could buy 70 packages of Hostess Cupcakes or a box of Thompson's famous Maduro cigars or enough 905 beer to last until Labor Day. What more could a man want (other than a loyal dog to bring his slippers)?

Even the all-day news show, Cablenews, is less than expected. Sure, they do the news 24 hours a day, but they repeat the same show every 30 minutes. What good is it if you can only watch it for a half hour at a time? Besides, Patrick Emory is an anchorman (definitely not an anchorperson) for them, so that immediately raises questions of credibility. Seeing Patrick read the news is a bit like having Jackie Gleason work for Weight Watchers.

Resource Fair At New City School

At New City School kids come first, not only ours but yours as well. On Saturday, September 28 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., New City School will sponsor a Community Resource Fair at the school at 5209 Waterman Avenue. Whether you have an aspiring Picasso, Kathy Rigby or Louis Pasteur, there will be something for you

and your child. Representatives from the Art Museum, Craft Alliance, Missouri Botanical Garden, New Science Center, St. Louis Zoo, Gymnastics Center, Gifted Resource Council, and many other local institutions will be there to explain their offerings for classes and activities.

At the same time, New City School will host an Ice Cream Social in its refurbished theatre lobby. Whether you're an old friend or a new neighbor, New City School invites you to come tour the school and enjoy a free information-packed day.

New City is entering its sixteenth year of quality education in the Central West End. Through those years of growth the common thread of quality and excellence for kids has always been evident. Last year's selection as an A+ School by *Instructor* magazine has served to fuel the fires to continue that growth both within and into the community. Don't waste your opportunity and don't miss your chance. Come to New City School's Community Resource Fair on Saturday, September 28.

For further information call the School at 361-6411.

In reviewing what I've read, though, and in trying to be fair, I should say that for all its flaws, I do find myself spending inordinate amounts of time in front of the cable tube these days. Yeah, it doesn't offer much that is in any way redeeming, but it does have MTV. If cocaine is God's way of telling you that you have too much money, MTV is God's way of telling you that you have too much time on your hands. It's my weakness and I admit it, but until they televise mud wrestling, it's me and MTV all the way. I mean, after a hard day at the job, it's got everything a person could want: vibrant colors, loud discordant music, no plot, writhing bodies, and a sense of youth-lost. Best of all, it's only \$30.00 per month.

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