

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 16, NO. 9

MARCH 1986

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

A Vital Daily Presence: Twenty Years Of The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council

by Brad Weir

Twenty years ago this month a new and unique organization, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, was created in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. Funded by the area institutions — Washington University and the three largest neighborhood churches, St. Roch's, Grace Methodist and Delmar Baptist — it was set up to do what neither they nor the Rosedale and Washington Heights groups were prepared to do individually: provide a permanent, paid, full-time staff to work on any and all problems affecting the neighborhood. The staff was to furnish, on behalf of these institutions and groups, a continuing daily presence in the neighborhood, which over the years proved to be a more important contribution than any particular problem it was able to solve.

The idea for the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, like so many ideas and projects in the neighborhood, came out of a series of meetings. Lots of meetings. Often held at Grace Methodist church, the meetings were attended by people who represented the local churches and the neighborhood organizations. Usually in attendance were such people as Dr. Hager of Grace Methodist, Father Griesedieck of St. Roch's, Dr. Loughhead of Delmar Baptist, Bob Blackburn from Washington University, Jim L'Ecuyer from Rosedale-Skinker (the forerunner of the present Rosedale Neighborhood Association), and Joe Botz from Washington Heights. A number of others were present from time to time, but this was the main group. The topic for discussion was the neighborhood itself.

Skinker-DeBaliviere in 1965 was beginning to show signs of wear. Some houses which formerly were well-kept were becoming run-down. A growing number were vacant and



From left: Skip Coburn, Jim L'Ecuyer, and Cal Stuart.

staying vacant for a longer time. Some apartment buildings were becoming shabby. The 5700 blocks of McPherson, Kingsbury and Westminster, running west from DeBaliviere, had a number of these. Their height and close spacing gave them the appearance of the tenements more familiar in certain cities on the East Coast. These blocks were sometimes called "the canyons" by local people.

DeBaliviere Boulevard itself was becoming seedier and the ambience was "late Gaslight Square." While the Apollo Theatre was operating as an art house, showing quality foreign films, the Stardust Lounge did steady business as a strip joint, featuring the ec-dysiast Evelyn West and her heavily underwritten if not supported bustline. There were some vacant store fronts on "The Strip" and

some fires of suspicious origin.

Neighborhood appearance issues weren't the only things on the minds of the people at the Grace church meetings. Crimes such as petty theft, burglary, and stealing from automobiles seemed to be on the increase. Street crimes like purse snatching, virtually unheard of years before, began to occur. Then too, the neighborhood seemed to be getting short changed on services from the City for dealing with these problems and political representation seemed dormant if not comatose.

The neighborhood, as it began to integrate, was being beset by some of the sleazier tactics of unsavory real estate dealers. People were steered to certain blocks only. Residents on some blocks were getting scare calls from agents telling them that if they didn't sell soon they would surely see their investment drop. Federal housing agencies' programs were being abused by some agents who placed people in houses they could not possibly afford to maintain, since their entire subsidies were being consumed in house payments. Other real estate agents were starting to pull back from doing business in the neighborhood.

The local public schools were overcrowded and rundown. Many neighborhood people felt that the school administration wasn't sufficiently concerned about local problems.

All of these issues were part of the agendas of those who attended the meetings at Grace Methodist church. Clearly, some new approach was needed in working on these neighborhood problems because they weren't being solved by the old methods. But the meetings, as is often the case with such things, usually ended inconclusively. A number of ideas were proposed, but for a while nothing much happened. Finally, attorney Richard Hart of the 6000 block of Westminster proposed that what was needed was some sort of funding to hire a full-time person who would work on problems affecting the neighborhood. It was this idea which led to the formation of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.

The concept was that the three churches, Washington University, and the two neighborhood organizations would join together to form a not-for-profit corporation. The board of

directors would consist of one representative from each of these groups (this was to change in later years). Dick Hart filed the incorporation papers and helped write the first bylaws.

The four funding institutions contributed a budget total of about \$14,000. Washington University put in \$5,000 and the three churches put in \$3,000 each. With this money in place, the Council hired its first executive director, Jim L'Ecuyer, now of the 5700 block of De-Giverville. Prior to that time, Jim has been president of the Rosedale-Skinker Improvement Association. It was Jim who opened the Council's first office in space donated by Delmar Baptist church on the second floor of a building at 5858A Delmar.

Thus established, the Council needed to define itself to the neighborhood, to pick its goals, and to select the problems on which it was going to work. Some in the area totally misunderstood the Council. Jim L'Ecuyer remembers, "They wanted me immediately, within two or three weeks, to stop the trend of integration in the neighborhood." The Council, itself integrated from the beginning, was determined to proceed in the opposite direction. "We were going to promote integration at any costs. I mean, integration was going to work here or it wouldn't work at all," L'Ecuyer said recently.

The Council embarked upon a period of trying things, experimenting with approaches, seeing what would work in helping the neighborhood. In so doing, it began to establish, through its director, a permanent daily presence in the neighborhood which proved to be so vital in years to come. In coming together in the Council, the neighborhood groups and the institutions could talk frankly and freely among themselves and could present a united front to outside groups, City agencies, and federal agencies when it was needed. It was needed when the St. Louis Public Schools decided to build Hamilton Branch III. Without consulting the neighborhood, the school system decided that a good location would be the 5900 block of Pershing. Recalls L'Ecuyer, "They were actually going to buy the side that

Meet Capt. Page



Capt. Everett E. Page became commander of the 7th Police District on Feb. 17. He succeeded Capt. Alphin who had been commander for three years. A reception honoring both men will be held in late March. Watch the next issue for more information of Capt. Page.

Cont. to page 6

Social Security Seminar For The Public

The Social Security Administration has long been known for its service to the public. In particular, the CENTRAL WEST END SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE strives to provide the best possible service to the community.

As part of its community effort, the public is invited to attend a Pre-Retirement Seminar to be held on *March 26* at the St. Louis Public Library — Cabanne Branch, 1106 N. Union, St. Louis.

Topics of discussion will include:

- When to Apply, How Soon To Apply, Where to Apply
- Insured Status
- Children's Benefits
- Reduced Benefits
- Widow(er)'s Benefits (Effect of GPO)
- Delayed Retirement Credits
- What Evidence to Bring
- Taxation of Benefits
- Payment Amount
- Spouse's Benefits
- How Work Affects Payments
- Medicare
- Questions and Answers

There is *no charge* for the Pre-Retirement Seminar; however, it is necessary to pre-register. To do so, call 679-7800 to obtain a registration form. It must be returned to the Central West End office by March 17.



Approximately 150 people turned out for the Council's 3rd Annual Evening on Ice held Feb. 22 at Steinberg Skating Rink in Forest Park. The weather was perfect and the evening was a tremendous success.

Book Sale Planned As Fund Raiser

The Times and SDCC will sponsor a book sale in conjunction with Rosedale's annual "Rags to Riches" yard sale day in early June. Please keep us in mind when you're cleaning out bookshelves the next few months.

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:

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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.

Grace Pre-School: A Neighborhood Tradition

Grace Pre-School has been a school serving the needs of little people for 25 years. It has served the community with a non-hurried, half-day program that allows a child to be a child. But the school still has a curriculum that stimulates and nurtures the cognitive development of the growing child. We take children between the ages of 3 and 5.

Grace Pre-School is staffed by two aides and two teachers with degrees. We have limit-

ed openings and if you think this type of program is something you and your child would benefit from please give us a call. You are welcome to come and visit. We open our doors between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., Mondays through Fridays. Our school schedule follows the schedule of the St. Louis School District.

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March Calendar

- 1 Gena Scott, "Cafe Society Series," exhibition at Left Bank Books, 399 N. Euclid, reception 5-7 p.m. (thru 3/31).
Oscar Ghiglia, guitarist in concert, Ethical Society Concert Hall, 9001 Clayton Rd., 8 p.m. \$8; \$5 for students.
Continuing at the St. Louis Art Museum: "Treasures of Irish Silver," Gallery 120 (thru 4/27).
- 2 Master Class with Oscar Ghiglia, Washington University, 1-3 p.m., call 725-0739 for info.
Washington University Chamber Winds present the New Music Circle Awards Program, 3 p.m., Mo. Hist. Society, Lionberger Gallery, free.
- 3 Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meets, 7:30 p.m., Delmar Baptist Church, 6195 Washington.
"Male Heroes and Male Mythology," public forum presented by St. Louis Organization for Changing Men, 7:30 p.m., 6665 Delmar, #302. \$2 donation requested; call 725-6116 for info.
- 4 Preschool story hour, 10 a.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union. (Also 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25). Free.
Violinist Jamie Laredo conducts a Master Class at CASA, 10 a.m., \$6; \$4 for students & senior citizens. 863-3033 for ticket info.
Opening reception for "The Creative Company," an exhibition of local painters, sculptors, graphic designers & photographers, 5 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union. (Exhibit thru 3/31).
St. Louis Conservatory Early Music Ensemble in concert, 8 p.m., CASA, 560 Trinity, free.
- 6 "Tying the Knot: Bridal Fashion Show," benefit presented by the Costumes Guild of the Missouri Historical Society, 1 p.m. followed by wedding tea with cake & champagne, Jefferson Memorial. Tickets, \$25 and \$15 per person; 361-1424 for reservation.
- 7 Marilyn Monroe's "Niagara," St. Louis Art Museum Auditorium, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 8 FREE INCOME TAX SERVICES, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, every Sat. thru 4/12, call 367-0717 for info.
Children's program, "Heroes & Holidays" — Philippine Duchesne and Her Frontier School, 10:30 a.m., Mo. Hist. Soc., Jefferson Memorial Bldg., free.
Grace & Peace Fellowship will hold an open house at 7:30 p.m. in honor of their move to 5574 Delmar. Call 367-8959 for info.
- 9 "Mulatto," by Langston Hughes, performed by the Vivian Womble Players, 2 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free.
- 13 "Currents 32: Peter Marcus," exhibition opens at St. Louis Art Museum, Gallery 111, thru 4/27.
Tea Lecture, "Stitched with Love: Christening Dresses of Two Centuries," 1:30 p.m., Mo. Hist. Society, Emerson auditorium, \$3 per person.
- 14 Marilyn Monroe's "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," St. Louis Art Museum Auditorium, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m. \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 15 St. Patrick's Day corned beef & cabbage dinner at St. Roch's gym. \$12 per person. 5:30 p.m. Mass, 6:30 appetizers, 7:00 dinner; cash bar. Call Mary Agnes & Murray O'Malley, 721-3780, Ginny & Tom Klevorn, 726-1944 or St. Roch's, 721-6340. Deadline for reservations, 3/12.
- 17 Cellist Yo-Yo Ma in concert, 8 p.m., Main auditorium at CASA, 560 Trinity. Tickets from \$25 (incl. valet parking) to \$8. Call CASA box office, 863-3033.
- 19 "Crazy Easter Bonnets," stories and crafts for children, 4 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union.
- 20 St. Louis Conservatory Orchestra, directed by Richard Holmes, in concert, 8 p.m. CASA, 560 Trinity, free.
Skinker-DeBaliviere Business Association luncheon meeting, time and place to be announced. Call 862-5122 for further info.
- 21 Marilyn Monroe's "How To Marry A Millionaire," St. Louis Art Museum Auditorium, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 23 Honoring Women's History Month, Missouri Historical Society presents *She's Nobody's Baby*, a film hosted by Marlo Thomas and Alan Alda. 2 p.m., Emerson auditorium, Jefferson Memorial Bldg., free.
- 25 "Great Drawings from the Art Institute of Chicago: The Harold Joachim Years" exhibition opens in Cohen Gallery, St. Louis Art Museum, thru 5/4.
- 28 Marilyn Monroe's "The Seven Year Itch," St. Louis Art Museum Auditorium, 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 29 Children's Program, "Heroes & Holidays" — History Hike of Civil War Heroes, with trek through Forest Park to view statues and monuments commemorating heroes of the North and South, 10:30 a.m., Mo. Hist. Society, free.

February Council Report

by Karen Bynum

At February's SDCC meeting, the main pieces of business were letters of support. This may not sound very fascinating, but it is one of the major functions of the council. Almost every grant, whether governmental or private, requires evidence of neighborhood support. One hopes that this is due to an awareness of the ineffectiveness of "imposed" solutions to neighborhood situations. When outside agencies decide to sponsor an activity or program, it seems only logical to first determine the reception that the activity or program will receive. SDCC with its composition of both institutional and elected representatives is the ideal place to "pass" on these grant requests. Several were voted upon at this month's session.

People's Clinic needed a letter of support to file with their proposal for federal funding. It was decided to send one.

Pantheon requested a letter for the Council's support for the continued redevelopment rights to Kingsbury Square. It was granted.

Bob Salisbury, a former resident, wanted the Council's backing for a redevelopment plan for 6111 Pershing. He and his partner, Ted Dearing, also a former resident, are attempting to gain ownership and begin a rehab project for this derelict building currently owned by Rosedale Living Inc., Michael Bearden president. As this would be an adversary acquisition and involve a grant through the Housing Implementation Program as well as a tax abatement, evidence of neighborhood support is essential. After much discussion, the Council decided to send such a letter but voted to include a proviso that some members felt would keep them from liability.

There was a presentation from the new director of Hamilton Community School, Kalimba Kindell. She is eagerly beginning her tenure in this area and expressed a desire that the community school truly reflect the needs of the neighborhood. She is aware of the enormous diversity in race, economic status, and

cultural identity of the Hamilton area population and she hopes to design content, activities, and services that reflect this diversity.

Several grant applications and possible grant applications were also topics for discussion and decision. The program of revolving loans for low-interest home repairs is moving along. The Council's application for authority under the Neighborhood Assistance Act has been temporarily approved. This authority will allow the Council to raise money from private sources who will be granted a 50 percent tax credit. Money raised in this manner will be added to the \$5,200 raised from the Carlin concert.

The executive director, Nancy Farmer, is continuing to work on a grant application from the Arts Commission for a series of neighborhood art activities: studio tours, outdoor concerts are among the offerings.

S.L.A.T.E. (St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment) has recommended for refunding eight teen-agers to be daycare workers and tutors at Grace Methodist in the summer of '86. A proven success record was instrumental in gaining this contract.

Georgi Fox presented a new opportunity to the Council. Union Electric has grants available for community-based groups (churches, for example) to help residents make their homes more energy efficient. SDCC decided to begin planning for the winter of 1986-87. A suggestion was made to co-operate with Hamilton Community School in this effort.

The business of the Council seems mainly to be that of garnering funds for the worthy endeavors of area residents and institutions. There is a lot of money involved in not-for-profit activities.

Island of Honor

by Ray Breun

The resolution of differences has always been a challenge. The rule of force, whether a gun, a spear, or a bomb, implies a final solution rather than a resolution. There was a time that sort of solution was sought by the upper class in St. Louis. Duels were even then illegal. An island in the Mississippi provided "neutral" territory where affairs of honor could be played out to their final solution.

The eastern end of Eads Bridge stands on the southern end of what was once called Bloody Island. Before 1800, the Illinois shore opposite St. Louis had the configuration it has now. Above St. Louis silt islands formed which directed the force of the current of the Mississippi toward the Illinois shore across from what is now called the Ashley Street Power Place north of Laclede's Landing. The western side of the river slackened as a result of the surge on the eastern side, and a silt island, called Duncan's Island, began to form just about where the Poplar Street Bridge leaves the Missouri shore. These two actions of the river, the eastern surge and the formation of an island on the western shore south of the surge, combined to move the main current of the Mississippi further to the east. As the river broadened and directed its force eastward, it cut through the Illinois shore and reached Cahokia Creek. Bloody Island grew as the western current slackened even more with time. By 1830, the evidence was clear the Mississippi would soon flow east of Illinois-town, leaving St. Louis at least a mile west of the river.

Neither Illinois nor Missouri claimed jurisdiction over Bloody Island. It was a place where no law was enforced, particularly regarding affairs of honor. During the first third of the nineteenth century, a number of final solutions were carried out and gave the island its name. The three most famous duels on Bloody Island were those between Thomas Hart Benton and Charles Lucas in 1817, Thomas Rector and Joshua Barton in 1823, and Spencer Pettis and Thomas Biddle in 1830. Of the six men listed, Benton and Rector survived. The other four died of gunshot wounds received during the duels. In one case, Benton and Lucas, it took two duels to kill one of the contenders because Lucas recovered from wounds the first time to seek honor a second time.

By 1850 a series of dikes modified the course of the Mississippi in front of the St. Louis harbor. Duncan's Island was washed away and Bloody Island became part of the American Bottoms as it was before 1800. Robert E. Lee, better known for his leadership of the southern armies during the Civil War, designed the dike system which kept the Mississippi flowing by St. Louis and not a mile or more to the east. In so doing he dissolved the island of final solutions.

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Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

It was great to see so many of you at the annual St. Roch's Progressive Dinner, January 25th. Arline Webb, 6100 Pershing, and Mary Schmit, 6100 McPherson, did a marvelous job of co-chairing the event. The highlight of the evening, as always, is the luscious dessert and coffee at the church hall, hosted by Father Polizzi and Father Samson (but where were the cannolis?). This year, in a departure from past Progressive Dinners, the lights remained on in the hall. Father Polizzi wanted everyone to get a last look before the hall undergoes refurbishing. It was especially nice to see Karen and George Brown, former residents, who returned for the affair.

Mayor Schoemehl made it official. He declared Sunday, February 9, Betty Klinefelter Day with a proclamation presented to her. This was part of a special Mass and reception honoring Betty that day at St. Roch's.

Betty had just recently returned from a month in New Mexico. She had spent January at Ghost Ranch, a Presbyterian Educational Center there. The ranch utilizes the New Mexico Community Colleges and the January term offered courses in such things as pottery, photography, creative writing, and paleontology. Betty took a course in Southwestern Spanish weaving, and says she came home with some beautiful rugs. In her free time she got to know students from all over the country and spent some time climbing and exploring. She plans to return in August and again next January.

Congratulations to Barrett Toan and Polly O'Brien, 6100 Kingsbury, on the birth of their son, Elliott Fitzgerald. Elliott was born on Christmas Eve and weighed eight pounds, two ounces.

Some of our neighbors have been vacationing this winter. Mary Powell, 6100 Westminster, spent a week combining skiing with business meetings in Park City, Utah, recently.

Paul and Paula Repetto, 6100 Kingsbury, just returned from sailing the British Virgin Islands, enjoying the sights, the sun and the snorkeling. Along with two other couples, they chartered a sailboat complete with captain and cook. Their traveling companions were former neighbors from the Oxford Condos.

Gabrielle DiLorenzo is leaving Honduras after working with the Peace Corps there. Those of you who have heard about or seen the beautiful clay necklaces she sent her mother from Honduras will be glad to hear that Bernadette does have a few necklaces as well as nativity figures left. If you haven't seen them, they're worth a look. Gabrielle will be traveling around Central America for a while, but her future plans are indefinite. Meanwhile, her mother Bernadette DiLorenzo, 6100 Kingsbury, is completing her Ph.D. in comparative literature — French and English.

Our deepest condolences to Joe and Marlene Mestres, 6100 Kingsbury, on the recent death of their son, Dan. Our most sincere sympathy to the entire family.



Macho Menus: Just In Time For St. Patrick's Day

by Dan McGuire

I don't think it was an accident that the editors asked me, good son of County Mayo that I am, to contribute a recipe for this month's *Times*. I'm certainly no cook, much less a chef or gourmet, so I know that isn't the reason. It must be that March 17th is the feast day of St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, and for that I am greatly honored.

We all know that St. Patrick's Day is a fine and wonderful festival, but have you ever wondered why it's not a national holiday? There certainly isn't much work done on March 17th, so it really wouldn't hurt our national productivity. When you think of some of the people we do honor with national holidays, it really makes you stop and think.

Take Columbus Day for example (sorry Father Sal). If it wasn't for the Irish, Columbus would have never got here in the first place, and as a matter of fact, it was my kinsman, Patrick Maguire, and not Columbus, who first set foot on American soil. As related in Seamus MacManus' scholarly tome, *The Story of the Irish Race*:

"It is a well known fact," avers the Rev. D. O'Donoghue in his learned work, "St. Brendan the Voyager," "that Columbus while maturing his plans for his great expedition, visited Ireland as well as Iceland in quest of information bearing on his theories. He was

assisted in his researches by an Irish gentleman named Patrick Maguire, who accompanied him also on his great voyage of discovery. There are other Irish names on the roster of the ship's crew, preserved in the archives of Madrid; but by Father Tornitori, an Italian priest, in the seventeenth century it is specially recorded that Patrick Maguire was the first to set foot on American soil. He says that on that eventful morning of the landing the boats bearing Columbus and some of his crew were launched; but approaching the land, the water shallowed, and Patrick Maguire jumped out to lighten the boat, and then waded ashore."

So there you have it, the truth at last as told by an Italian priest! Write your Congressman! If we can't have a national holiday for St. Patrick, let's at least give the Irish their due through his namesake and replace Columbus Day with Patrick Maguire Day!

Oh well, back to the kitchen where, alas, my culinary skills aren't quite up to my knowledge of history. I can prepare all types of frozen foods as long as they include microwave instructions; an Irish seven course dinner; an outstanding taco casserole (my true specialty); and on rare occasions an acceptable Irish soda bread. Anyone over seven years of age can do the frozen food bit with no help from me; the recipe for the Irish seven course dinner is too short to fill the column (all you need is a six-pack and a boiled potato); and taco casserole is inappropriate for the season; so that leaves us with Irish soda bread.

Soda bread is truly a hearty food. You could live for quite a long time on only this bread and Guinness, although some get along quite well on Guinness alone, thank you. I have two recipes. My Grandmother Ann Conboy McGuire's is my favorite, but is a simple everyday bread. She came from County Mayo, just down the road from the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock. My Aunt Rose Storey's mother's recipe is a little fancier and a favorite of Monsignor Peet, so for St. Patrick's Day, I'll share with you Grandma Mimi Cahillane of Belfast's Irish soda bread.

For the newcomers, the late Pat and Mimi Cahillane were long time residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere and St. Roch Parish. Their daughters, Peggy O'Brien and Rose Storey have raised their families here and their son, Bob, pays us a visit when he can. I always smile when I think about Grandpa Pat and Grandma Mimi. If you try the bread and enjoy it, say a little prayer for them. If you don't like it, curse me . . . I must have left something out!

GRANDMA MIMI'S IRISH SODA BREAD

Ingredients

- 6 cups sifted all purpose flour
- 1 Tsp baking soda
- 2 Tsp baking powder
- 1 Tsp salt (omit if using salted butter)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick butter (melted)
- 4 Tbs caraway seeds
- 1½ cups buttermilk or 1½ cups milk with 3 Tbs vinegar added
- ¾ cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- 2 cups raisins (dark)
- 4 eggs

Preheat oven to 350°. Boil raisins, drain, set aside. Sift flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt in a large bowl. Add sugar, caraway seeds and nuts; toss together. Add eggs, milk, melted butter and raisins; mix together. Knead entire amount on a table with a handful of flour. Bake in a large frying pan, which has been greased, for about one hour. (If you wish you may divide dough into 6 round loaves and bake on cookie sheets) Test by inserting knife which upon removal is free of dough. (Cooking time is less for smaller loaves.)

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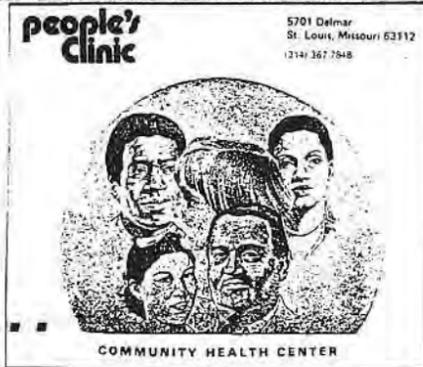
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You Need To Know . . .

(Editor's Note: People's Clinic, INC, 5701 Delmar, will feature a monthly health care column in The Times entitled "You Need to Know . . ." People's Clinic is a federally funded, non-profit, full service health care facility.

People's Clinic has come a long way from its beginning as a volunteer evening clinic. With continued community support and dedicated staff members, People's Clinic has developed into one of the top Primary Care Programs in the United States. Expansion projects recently included the opening of another health care site, Community Health Center, at 7319 Manchester in Maplewood, MO.

Executive Director Betty Kerr explains, "The main focus of our health care column is to encourage preventative health care as a means of reducing total health care expenses. We welcome input from the community, and will keep you abreast of the latest health care trends and developments.")

Q. If I suffer a foot or ankle injury, should I immediately soak it in hot water?

A. Absolutely not! If you do this within the first 24 hours of the injury, the surrounding blood vessels will open wider in the hot water, and blood will rush into the injured area more quickly. This will cause more swelling; extreme pressure on nerves; and more pain. I recommend applying a cool compress or an ice bag wrapped in a cloth to the area. This method causes blood vessels to contract and helps prevent discomfort and swelling. See a podiatrist or a health care professional as soon as possible to determine if a strain, sprain, or fracture has occurred.

Dr. Michael Chavis
Podiatrist

People's Clinic welcomes inquires from readers. Address questions to Andrea Armstead, People's Clinic, INC, 5701 Delmar, St. Louis, MO 63112. Deadline: 1st of every month.

Historical Society Seeks Donations For Flea Market

No one looks forward to spring cleaning, but the Missouri Historical Society's Flea Market can make the job easier. The Historical Society is currently seeking contributions of furniture, sporting goods, china, and other household items.

The Flea Market offers free pick-up of donated goods, which, when received, are appraised and listed on a form approved by the Internal Revenue Service for deductions and designed to satisfy present and proposed tax laws. The phone number for the pick-up service is 361-1424.

The Flea Market will be held in the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park, Friday, May 16 through Sunday, May 18.

The Missouri Historical Society, a privately supported cultural institution operating a museum, library and archives in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park, receives no direct tax support for its programs of education and service but is funded by memberships, gifts, and grants. The museum, offering 15 galleries and a free audio-visual show of the history of St. Louis is open with no admission charge, Tuesdays through Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WESTMINSTER PLACE AT TAYLOR A CHALLENGING PLACE TO BE

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Morning Worship—11:00 a.m.

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Senior Pastor

Mr. Stephen D. McKersie
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Rev. Karen L. Blanchard
Associate Pastor

Reading Recollections At The Kiosk

Books for Children
by Arlene Sandler

A little girl's quilt made with patches from outgrown, beloved garments covers her first grown-up bed. The quilt's intricate patterns and colors suggest and create a dream world which she enters to search for her stuffed dog, Sally. In the morning, they both find themselves tangled up in the quilt on the floor. Ann Jonas' *The Quilt* is a fantasy for preschool age children that is beautifully illustrated and simply told. The little girl's parents have sewed old memories and love into a charming keepsake and picture book.

The very old, of course, have the most to remember because they have lived the longest. Two stories for middle grade readers eloquently describe how great a treasure their memories can be for the young.

In *The Hundred Penny Box*, Michael's great-great Aunt Dew is a hundred years old and has lovingly stored away in a battered old box a penny for every year of her life. She has recently come to live with Michael and his parents, and while Aunt Dew is somewhat of a burden to Michael's mother, she is a delight to Michael who is fascinated by her stories, told as the pennies are counted out. Michael's mother wants to throw out the old penny box, but Michael understands what Aunt Dew means when she says, "Anybody takes my hundred penny box, takes me."

The Lucky Stone is a series of stories told by Mrs. Elzie Free Pickens to her great-granddaughter Tee about a small stone that has brought good luck to its owners since the 1860s when it saved the life of a young runaway slave girl. Colorful characters and incidents bring an old woman's past to life as part of black history and as part of a strong, loving family. In the last story, Tee discovers that she is not the only lucky one as she inherits the lucky stone.

If you could live forever, wouldn't you have a lot of memories! One of the most unforgettable books for older children, *Tuck Everlasting*, tells how eleven-year-old Winnie Foster accidentally uncovers a fateful secret in the woods near her home. She meets the Tucks, a family that has not aged a minute after drinking from a magic spring eighty-seven years ago. They wander the countryside, afraid to linger anywhere too long because people soon come to believe that they have sold their souls to the devil. Winnie is enchanted by the Tucks, especially by seventeen-year-old Jesse, who is really one hundred and four. They are all very different from her own strict, conventional family. Mysterious music, kidnapping, and pursuit by an evil man in a yellow suit are all part of the many adventures Winnie becomes involved in because of the Tucks. Jesse leaves Winnie with a momentous decision and a small vial of spring water. When she is seventeen should she choose eternal life with him and a family she has come to love?

Books for Adults
by Mary Ann Shickman

Two Mrs. Grenvilles by Dominic Dunne is a book you will hate yourself for liking. It is excellent sleaze!

The book is based, I am told, on an actual happening in New York during the 1950s. It is about a small town girl who goes off to the big city to become a nightclub dancer and, because of her remarkable beauty, is able to capture the heart of a handsome, young millionaire.

So, Urse Mertens changes her name to Ann Arden, and schemes and manipulates the situation so that she marries Billy Grenville. Alice Grenville, Billy's mother, is able to see through Ann and is appalled when they marry. However, Alice grudgingly accepts her and Ann becomes a part of this upper-crust family. Two children arrive as time marches on and gradually the marriage sours to the point where both parties begin to have affairs on the sly. Finally, Billy wants a divorce but Ann is unwilling to give up her position in society into which she has clawed her way.

Billy, with the help of a private eye, finds out things about Ann's past which could bring about an annulment. But before he has the chance to act on this information, Ann shoots him with a double-barrel shotgun; afterwards, she claims she thought he was a prowler.

At this point, the fates of the two Mrs. Grenvilles are sealed. Alice helps cover up the crime in order to save the family from scandal and the two women are bound together in an uneasy truce. Ann leads a useless, empty life globe-trotting but rather than say too much let me finish with the observation that I have heard favorable comments from everyone who has read it and I personally found it to be a page turner.

E.L. Docterow's *World's Fair* appealed to me because it promised a lovely walk down memory lane. If you grew up during the 1930s, if you remember the Depression, or if you happen to be from the Bronx, or any other New York borough this will be a heart warmer for you. I had read Docterow's *The Book of Daniel* which is based upon the lives of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg who died in the electric chair for alleged spying. His book *Ragtime* was set in the period before World War I and had such exotic figures in it as Evelyn Nesbett and dealt with such serious subjects as racism.

World's Fair is set in the period leading up to the 1939 World's Fair and the central character is a young Jewish boy who wins an essay contest on the All-American boy which went like this: "He roots for his home team in football and baseball but also plays sports himself. He reads all the time. It's all right for him to like comic books so long as he knows they are junk. Also, radio programs and movies may be enjoyed but not at the expense of important things. In music he appreciates both swing and symphony. In women he appreciates them all. He does not waste time daydreaming when he is doing his homework. He is kind. He cooperates with his parents. He knows the value of a dollar. He looks death in the face." I cannot help but add — and someday he will write best-selling books.

As stated above, this is a nice heart-warming novel and you don't have to be a Jewish boy from the Bronx who grew up during the Depression to enjoy it.

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A Vital Daily Presence: Twenty Years Of The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council

Council, cont. from p.1

faced the highway, tear it all down and put the school there. And they were doing it... It was just done... They were shocked that we were questioning it." The director and neighborhood people began a campaign of phone calling and letter writing to stop this. They pushed and pushed to get the school located on the site of a vacant auto parts store at Des Peres and Westminster and they were eventually successful.

The Council tried a few other things which weren't as successful. They opened a youth club, which was called Kingsbury House, in an abandoned delicatessen at Kingsbury and DeBaliviere. This was at a time when the Council was being pushed to become a social services agency of sorts. The debate over whether the Council should be oriented toward delivering social services or whether it should be a real estate advocacy group or just what it should be would go on for years, but Kingsbury House didn't seem to have much effect on juvenile delinquency in the area and it was eventually closed down.

In about 1968 the Council decided that it must deal with the rapidly deteriorating building conditions in the so-called "triangle" area, the 5900 blocks of McPherson, Kingsbury, and Westminster. It decided to go directly into housing redevelopment. The Council formed Kingsbury Redevelopment Corporation and got some help from Washington University's architecture school in making a redevelopment plan for the three block area. The money to carry out such a plan was not available, but the Council did come up with enough cash to buy three six-family apartment buildings in the 5700 block of Westminster.

Next, the local office of HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) was approached for money to accomplish the rehabilitation under a federal program then in existence, 221D3 rent supplement. The money was granted, an architect and contractor were hired, and the buildings were completely rehabilitated. It was the first "gut rehab" in the area and the first use of 221D3 in the city.

The 18 units, as they became known in Council lore, were an initial success but an ultimate failure. They were a success in that their rehabilitation was undertaken and completed by a group with no previous experience or track record in the field. But the surrounding area was never redeveloped under Kingsbury's plan at that time. FHA (the Federal Housing Authority) had shown early interest in the plans, but in the end they would not come in. The deterioration and blight around the 18 units continued unchecked. The units were sometimes vandalized even while they were fully occupied. In one instance, all the copper plumbing was stolen out of the basement, leaving the tenants without water. The buildings became a constant problem for the Council's staff. Ultimately, the Council would deed the 18 units back to HUD and leave the real estate management business to others, a business for which it was not suited.

The early Council worked on getting recognition for itself from the neighborhood at large and from the various agencies outside

the neighborhood. The Council then was not as broadly based in representation as it later became. There was only one representative on the Council's board from Rosedale and Washington Heights and Parkview. Thus, the neighborhood often wasn't aware of or involved in the issues the Council was working on. Efforts were duplicated as individual neighborhood groups were working on the same problems. The Council, as it moved into the 1970s, needed to get everyone working on the same problems in the same direction.

Nineteen seventy was an extremely significant year in the Council's and the whole neighborhood's history. In that year the Council expanded its board of directors to include four additional members from the Rosedale-Skinker group and six additional members from the Washington Heights group. This gave them a total of five and seven representatives, respectively, while Parkview retained one. The action meant that the funding agencies had given control of the Council to the neighborhood, something virtually unheard of in human events. How often do the people with the money cede control to others? It happened here in April 1970.

It was also in April 1970, that this journal was first printed, then called simply, *The Paper*. An independent publication, *The Paper* was to play a large role in spreading awareness of the Council and its issues.

In 1970, too, the Skinker-DeBaliviere Residential Service was formed to provide real estate services, which were sorely lacking from many existing real estate firms, and to counter some of the unethical practices coming from other firms which were quite willing to operate in the neighborhood on their own terms. Formed by neighborhood women volunteers and co-chaired by Susie Roach and Pat Kohn, the Service originally concentrated on activities which would discourage real estate agents who were inclined to engage in block busting, speculation, etc. At the same time the Residential Service worked on projects to improve the neighborhood such as beautification and sanitation. The Residential Service soon began working out of the Council's own office. Eventually, some of the volunteers obtained real estate licenses and assisted in selling houses in the area. Again, this was to fill a void left by established agents who refused to do business in the neighborhood.

It was in April 1970, that the late Philip Lucier, then president of Continental Telephone Corporation, announced the formation of West End Townhouse, Inc. with an initial capitalization of \$150,000. The new corporation would invest in rehabilitation of apartments and single family houses for rental or resale. While there was no direct connection between West End Townhouse and the Council, they pursued similar goals and some of the same people were in each organization.

Thus, in 1970, the Council and the neighborhood were preparing a general assault on the problems bedeviling the area. The Council, through its director, had established a daily presence in the area. By expanding its board, it got area residents more concerned about its

affairs and provided the forum for talking about them. There was plenty to talk about, much to plan for, much still to do.

In the fall of 1970, Jim L'Ecuyer resigned as executive director after nearly five years of strenuous efforts in the Council's behalf. The Council turned to Calvin B. Stuart in January 1971, to be its new director. Cal Stuart, now of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, had been the Council's president and a representative from Rosedale, where he was also chairman. By this time the Council was in the office most familiar to neighborhood people at 6008 Kingsbury. It had moved from a store front at 404 DeBaliviere which it occupied after being burned out of 433 DeBaliviere in March, 1970.

Housing problems in the area became a major focus of the Council. While the Council in the period of the early 1970s withdrew from direct real estate management, it did not pull back from dealing with real estate problems in the neighborhood. On certain blocks a deadly sequence threatened certain houses and apartments. It was foreclosure followed by abandonment followed by demolition. It was desirable to head off the sequence entirely, but it was absolutely essential to stop it before step three.

Foreclosures in that period were usually started by one of the federal agencies having to do with housing: HUD (Housing and Urban Development, FHA (Federal Housing Authority), or VA (Veterans' Administration). Banks rarely foreclosed because they rarely made loans in the first place.

Remembers Stuart, "The HUD policy for foreclosures, nationally, was to tear them down, that they were uninhabitable, not worth a dime, and better cleared." This policy, if left to operate in the area would have devastated some blocks. Working with newly elected Alderman John G. Roach, Stuart and the Council sought to fend off demolitions. Roach approached HUD with the idea that if they would stop tearing down buildings, the Council would get the buildings rehabbed and then find buyers and find loans for the buyers. The marketing would be done through the Residential Service.

This was all enormously difficult and time-consuming in the early 70s, but little by little it was accomplished. Stuart recently recalled that, not counting the "triangle" redevelopment area, the neighborhood only lost three houses to HUD demolition. At one time, said Cal Stuart, "There were twelve houses in the 5800 and 5900 blocks of Waterman almost gone!"

A Crime Watcher program was developed and the network it created fed good information to the police. They began to respect the information they were getting from the neighborhood and hence to respect the people here.

Team Policing was started in the area in 1976, with strong support by the Council. This was the concept of assigning a specific group of officers to a specific area to handle all aspects of crime in the area. The concept met with great support in Skinker-DeBaliviere and among the officers themselves as they became familiar with the neighborhood.

The Council was always working on every

aspect of neighborhood life. It was the Council which obtained Community Block Grant funds through CDA to build the Four Corners project at Kingsbury and Des Peres in 1976. It was the Council which obtained funding from the same source to start the Community School at Hamilton School, and at one time or another, helped *The Paper* with money, The People's Clinic with volunteers and money, encouraged Grace and Peace Fellowship to come into the neighborhood, and worked with the churches on their summer programs.

All of this work and activity over the years did pay off, and in many ways. It attracted many people to the area who found that there was a genuine sense of neighborhood here that didn't seem to exist elsewhere in the City or County. It resulted in property values moving upward from the trough they had been in the early 70s, slowly at first, but then more rapidly later. It gave the neighborhood a good reputation far beyond its borders and throughout city government. It made us proud of ourselves.

We were so proud of ourselves that we proposed making Skinker-DeBaliviere an Historic District in 1975 and a neighborhood committee worked on the project, with much Council support, for the next year. There was much lively discussion over the next several years about the merits of this issue. Eventually we became a City Historic District in 1978. Said Cal Stuart recently, "There were reasons to do the historic thing in terms of stability and there were reasons to do it so it wouldn't hurt anybody, and it also turned out that for investment, the historic district was important."

In January 1979, Cal Stuart resigned as Council director, effective April 1979. The Council, for the first time, turned to someone not living in the neighborhood and hired Richmond (Skip) Coburn. Skip came from a position in University City's Department of Planning.

So much had been put into place, so many programs were underway in the Council from the past 13 years that Coburn's first duties were simply to carry on and to learn the neighborhood.

The Council was once again preparing to get involved in a redevelopment effort. This time the proposed redevelopment area was Nina Place. The blocks under consideration were the 5900 blocks of Kingsbury and McPherson, the 5800 and 5900 blocks of Nina Place and two buildings at 5803 and 5817 Waterman. *Cont. to page 7*

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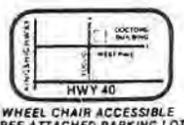
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Cont. from p. 6

In 1972, the Council once again tried its hand at redevelopment of the 5700 blocks of McPherson, Kingsbury, and Westminster and nearby areas in the "triangle." Working with Team Four, Inc., an urban planning group, the Council created a redevelopment plan for the area which was approved by the City Plan Commission. The Council re-established Kingsbury Redevelopment Corporation and applied for Chapter 353 redevelopment rights. After a noisy hearing at City Hall in February 1972, the plan was approved by the Board of Aldermen in May 1972. The work was to be completed in 18 months.

The Council's corporation, KRC, got to work and hired an attorney, planning firm, architect, and developer. But the Council was never able to raise enough money to get the project going. A freeze had been put on federal housing funds and private money wasn't available to a not-for-profit corporation. KRC applied for and received several extensions of the 18-month deadline, but was still unable to raise the money.

In 1975, Pantheon Corporation expressed an interest in acquiring Kingsbury redevelopment Corporation's 353 rights in the area. Pantheon was itself planning a major redevelopment in 353 areas from Union to De-Baliviere and from Pershing to Delmar. After a lengthy meeting in May 1975, at which Leon Strauss presented Pantheon's redevelopment plan for the area to the Council and members of the public, the Council voted to sell KRC's redevelopment rights to Pantheon. At the same time the Council proposed the formation of a Redevelopment Advisory Committee which would represent Skinker-DeBaliviere's interest to Pantheon. The proposal was accepted by Pantheon and the committee was subsequently formed and began meeting with Pantheon representatives.

The Council, though not successful in general redevelopment, was successful in promoting the upgrading of properties through a combination of code enforcement activities and finding sources of home repair loans. The Council always emphasized these activities because, as Cal Stuart recently remarked, "The Council's focus was always on the physical well-being of the neighborhood with the strong feeling that if there are no people here, it doesn't matter what kind of programs you have."

Throughout this period the Council's office was a source of information about all aspects of the neighborhood and it frequently was the first place visited by people new to the neighborhood. People were attracted by the variety of topics on which the Council had materials as well as housing and real estate information.

The Council worked hard to maintain good relations with all the area schools. Members, in particular, sought improvement in the local public schools, Hamilton and Hamilton Branch III. Meetings were held with the principals, the district superintendent, even the Superintendent of Schools himself, all with a view toward reducing overcrowding and upgrading the programs so that a more integrated group of pupils could be attracted.

The Council worked hard, too, on crime problems in the neighborhood. The Council's Crime Committee, headed by Jack Wright, who was also Council president for many years, developed statistics which, on the one hand, would pinpoint trouble spots, and on the other, would squash rumors and fear based on bad information.

The Council had begun discussing Nina Place in the fall of 1978 when the then 28th Ward Alderman Vince Schoemehl and Jim L'Ecuyer approached the Council with the idea of applying for some money from CDA to do some rehabilitation in the area. Schoemehl believed that if the Council could put in an application before the end of that year, it stood a good chance of getting some money for a rehab effort. As it turned out, the present 28th Ward Alderman Dan McGuire was still dealing with the Nina Place issue six years later. Nothing happens quickly in Nina Place.

By late 1978, the Council had formed a committee to study what should be done in Nina Place and had received a \$21,500 grant from CDA to have a planning firm assist with a study of the area. Team Four was again retained. In early 1979, the Nina Place committee was expanded to 18 members to include residents and property owners in the Nina Place area.

Throughout 1979, the Council discussed procedural matters concerning formation of another redevelopment corporation to implement the redevelopment of Nina Place. It was finally agreed to form a corporation whose board of directors would consist of seven members appointed by the Council and six members selected by the newly formed Nina Place Block Association.

In February 1980, the Nina Place Block Association pulled out of the Council's proposed redevelopment corporation with a view toward forming their own redevelopment corporation. The Council decided to proceed with forming a corporation of its own. These actions led to the existence, by late 1980, of two redevelopment corporations: the Nina-McPherson-Kingsbury Redevelopment Corporation — sponsored by the Council, and the Nina Place Redevelopment Corporation — sponsored by the Nina Place Block Club. Both groups submitted plans to CDA for redevelopment of the area by early 1981.

In this same period the Council attempted to deal constructively with the most important change in the St. Louis Public Schools since the Council was formed: the Metropolitan Desegregation Plan. Under the plan there was a transfer of some students from the Skinker-DeBaliviere area to the Dewey and Roe schools just south of Forest Park and a similar transfer of students from the south side to Hamilton School. The Council formed a Parents Committee to assist in the situation. "Pairing" meetings were held with Dewey/Roe parents and Hamilton Parents. On the first day of school under the desegregation plan, Director Coburn and a number of neighborhood people were at Hamilton School with doughnuts and coffee to meet the South Side parents. They were very impressed.



Dress rehearsal from a mid-1970s dinner-theatre production.

Dinner Theatre Still Has Openings

Last month we asked everyone interested in participating in SDCC's dinner-theatre to call the office and add their names to the mailing list. The response has been great. Our mailing list is now over 30 names.

The dinner-theatre is scheduled for May 17. As the name implies the event includes a cocktail party, theatre production, and dinner. We are concentrating on the theatre production now, but if you can't participate in the play,

we need your talents as cooks, servers, or bartenders the night of the event.

As we assess the talents and interests of our theatre crew we are missing a crucial person — a pianist. If you tickle (tackle, plunk, or pound) the ivories, please lend your talent for a special neighborhood event. And, even with a mailing list of 30, we still need actors and actresses, set designers-and builders, light operators, etc., etc. Call the SDCC office, 862-5122, if you can help.

By this time the director was no longer having to deal with almost daily housing crises in the area. Foreclosures were way down, housing prices were climbing, and real estate firms which had never been seen in the area in the last sixties and early seventies were seeking listings.

The director and the Council could work on projects such as bringing evening concerts to the Four Corners or having a poster created which publicized the neighborhood. The neighborhood was more stable and was attracting ever more new residents.

In November 1981, Skip Coburn resigned to take a position as executive director of the Land Reutilization Authority. This led to the hiring of Ron Laboe in January 1982. Mr. Laboe resigned suddenly in September 1982. The Council scarcely got to know him.

After this episode, the Council decided to turn to someone living in the neighborhood, in fact, upstairs from the Council itself. In November 1982, the Council hired Ann FitzGibbons as executive director, who, with artist-husband Bill FitzGibbons, happened to own the building housing the Council's office. Ann was at that time the executive director of West End Neighborhood Arts Council.

The new director was immediately faced with the first major change in the Council since it was formed. In December 1982, the Washington Heights Neighbors group voted to leave the Council, citing as its reasons opposition to the way the director was chosen and a belief that the Council was not pursuing policies helpful to Washington Heights. The Washington Heights area was thus left without representation on the Council. (The Council was later to accept some at-large members from the Washington Heights area.)

Prior to the selection of Ms. FitzGibbons, the NMKR Corp. withdrew from active involvement in the Nina Place area. Redevelopment continued to be stalled. As things turned out, Pantheon Corporation obtained redevelopment rights in the area and expects to begin work on the project in the spring of 1986.

The Council with Ms. FitzGibbons as director turned to a number of projects to enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood. There was an emphasis on bringing the arts to the neighborhood. There were more concerts at the Four Corners, the start of the "Art Exposed" tours, and scholarships for low-

income youngsters to go to the Art Museum.

The Council, in this period, also established a Community Assistance Office to help those in the neighborhood with economic difficulties by providing information on the kinds of help available and how to apply for it. The CAO sought to provide help with funding, food, clothing, emergency housing, transportation to job, home weatherization, and the like.

The Council continued to work on familiar problems. Block watchers were recruited once again and a fundraiser was held to aid victims of crime. Efforts were made to keep blocks organized to assist with the City's Operation SafeStreet. The Crime Committee proposed to assist with buying and installing porch lights.

The Council found itself faced with housing problems stemming, in part, from the past spectacular success in the area. The few vacant buildings in the neighborhood became that way not because there were no willing buyers or no money available, but because the owners would, and will, not sell at any economically sensible price. Also, new developers have been attracted and have undertaken projects which have resulted in tenant evictions. This had led the Council to become active in helping define tenant's rights.

In the beginning of 1985 Ann FitzGibbons resigned as director as of the end of February. The Council hired Nancy Farmer, its present Executive Director in April 1985. The Council also moved from its long familiar location at 6008 Kingsbury to an office in Delmar Baptist Church at 6195 Washington, after the Kingsbury building was sold. Thus, in twenty years the Council went from an office provided by Delmar Baptist to an office provided by Delmar Baptist.

About the time the Council was being planned those twenty years ago, someone at Washington University's School of Architecture predicted that the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood would be abandoned and demolished by 1970. He was wildly, spectacularly wrong. He was wrong because he didn't pay attention to the kind of people who stayed here in those early days and to the kind of people who joined them. He didn't note their ability to organize a Council, for which there was no model, and to make it work. The Council, ultimately *was* the people and the people have made all the difference.

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

I remember Bob. I remember him even though I haven't seen him for many years now. The truth is, Bob's been dead for six or seven years, but I remember him just like I'd seen him yesterday.

Bob and I grew up together. I guess I was ten or eleven when I first met him and we spent most of my high school and college years as the best of buddies. Friendships come and go, but Bob was always there, you could count on it.

The last time I saw Bob was, in so many ways, like every other time that I saw Bob. He was friendly and full of energy, always doing what he could to make someone smile. When I think about him, I think about his disposition. Truly, he never seemed to have a bad day. Now I'm sure that if you really could get him to open up or get inside his brain, you'd find that he had the same kinds of worries and concerns as the rest of us, but it never showed on Bob.

Once, in fact, I remember we were playing ball and he hurt his leg kind of bad. It wasn't anything serious, but it was one of those injuries that hurt a lot anyway. Well, Bob and I both knew he was hurt and we went to the doctor who gave him a shot and wrapped his leg in a bandage. The whole ordeal was kind of scary and painful. No sooner were we leaving the doctor's office, though, when we were both entertained by something he had done. He was like that.

Bob had a serious side, too. My grandmother used to live with us for weeks at a time in those days. She was, I guess, in her late seventies then and, to be honest, she wasn't always pleasant to be with. She didn't intentionally do anything to bother me, but

with her memory and all, well, she wasn't fun to be around. Nothing was ever right for her and no matter what I seemed to do, she found something to complain about. Well, Bob didn't see her often, but there were days when he and I would be playing and she'd be at the house and it would wind up that he'd spend a lot of time with Grandma. Somehow she never seemed to complain about Bob and he didn't seem to mind at all keeping her company. A couple of times, and I don't feel real good about this now, I'd have my fill of Grandma and I'd just leave for a while, saying I was going to the store when actually I'd go outside and play. I'd go to the corner lot to chew the fat with the guys or, if no one was there, to just sit and look at the river. When I'd get back, if Bob had been with Grandma, she wouldn't have missed me. Bob? Oh, he knew that I was gone, but it never seemed to bother him and he was just fine when I returned.

Just about everybody liked Bob. He was pretty quiet and sometimes you could almost forget that he was around, but then something would happen and Bob would be right there, standing with you and you wouldn't even know where he had come from. I used to think about, compare, Bob and myself at times. He had a gift for getting along with people and I wished that I had one too. There were days when I always seemed to be in hot water of some kind, generally deserved, and Bob always seemed to be outside of the fray. I never resented it, I just wished, many a time, that he and I could trade places.

Bob's death was hard on me. I guess death always is, but it's harder, I think anyway, when it's unexpected. None of us were prepared for Bob to die. He wasn't that old and was in rela-

tively good health.

I was sitting at the kitchen table. I don't remember what the book was that I was holding, but I remember a book being in my hand. As I think about it, it was very quiet. In real life I'm sure that I had the radio on, but memory is funny sometimes and all I remember is silence and the screeching of the car.

Bob used to run in the street. In his younger years he used to chase cars, but we broke him of that habit by tying him to the fence. Anyway, he still would run in the street. Sometimes he seemed so wise and would actually wait for a car to pass or for a break in the traffic. At other times, though, he'd dart out chasing a ball or a rabbit or a shadow. Until that day he had always been lucky. There were lots of kids in our neighborhood, so I guess that the motorists drove more slowly or something.

I heard the scream of the wheels and the cry of an injured dog and I knew it was Bob. I remember running outside and falling down the last step in my hurry to get to him. Funny, when I think of this I always see myself from somewhere else like I'm watching an old movie with me in it. Anyway, when I got to him he was on the side of the road, barely breathing and covered with blood. I held him and called to him, but he didn't respond at all.

There will never be another Bob as far as I'm concerned. He was a pet, sure, but he was more than that. He was a friend and although he was just, as they say, an animal, he taught me a lot about life and friendship and loyalty. I meet lots of people and I often think how I wish that Bob's qualities were present in more of them. He was remarkable and I think about him often. In so many ways he is still with me.

Art Classes To Be Held In Spring

Saturday classes for young people in kindergarten through 8th grade are offered March 15 through April 29. Students will study the Museum's collections, experiment with the elements of art and design, and create their own art works.

Classes for preschoolers, ages 4 and 5, are offered in a four-week session, March 15 through April 12. Preschoolers will look at works of art in the collections and develop their skills in visual perception, communication, fine motor control and problem solving.

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