

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

VOL. 17, NO. 2

MAY 1986

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Alleys, Lucier Park To Be Major Focus Of Brightside

by Nancy Farmer

If you have toured the alleys of our neighborhood recently, you are aware of their deplorable condition (some back yards and garages fall squarely in this category as well). Fortunately, our Operation Brightside Blitz day is just a few days away — Saturday, May 10.

Set aside a few hours Saturday and take advantage of large sturdy garbage bags, rakes, brooms, and shovels provided by Brightside and clean up your alley. Enjoy a hot dog and soda for lunch also provided by Brightside. They will be cooked and served at Four Corners.

It is appropriate here to refer to the BOCA Basic Property Maintenance Code, Premises Conditions section: PM-301.1 which reads "Sanitation: All exterior property areas and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage." You are responsible for the sidewalk and public property in front of your home and the alley behind you. If you own a corner lot, you are responsible for the public property on both sides of your property and the alley. Maintenance Code PM-301.5 reads "Public Areas: All sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and similar paved areas for public use shall be kept in a proper state of repair and free of all snow, ice, mud and other debris." (These are City codes; violations are punishable with fines from \$5.00-\$500.00.)

We have asked the City not to issue citations prior to Blitz Day. We know they are planning inspections and codes will be enforced. Furthermore, Ordinance 59860 gives the City power to abate violations that involve excessive growth of vegetation and/or the accumulation of debris and to bill the property owner for the cost of the abatement. In other words, if the weeds and/or grass in the backyard get seven inches high, the City can cut it and send you a bill; or if the yard is full of lumber, appliances, etc., the City can haul it away and send you a bill. Blitz Day is not the day to clean out your basement or attic, but it is a great opportunity to get your back yard, garage and especially your alley cleaned out and up to code.

A list of block captains accompanies this article. The captain of each block will pick up tools and bags from the area headquarters at 6010 Kingsbury (28th Ward Democratic Headquarters) for his/her block. You get your materials from the captain of your block. If there is no one listed for your block, please consider volunteering. A minimal investment of your time and responsibility yields a great return for the neighborhood. Call Nancy Farmer (862-5122) or Sam Green (428-3200) for more

information about serving as block captain. If you have special problems or questions, talk to your block captain, area commander Sam Green, or regional chairpersons Bruce Yampolsky and Nancy Farmer.)

In addition to clean up, Area A is submitting a beautification project for Lucier Park. Tentative plans include planting trees and flowers as well as some clean up of surrounding areas. If you or your group are interested in working on this project, call Sam Green.

In conjunction with Blitz Day, the SDCC safety committee is kicking off a "visible address" campaign. Police officers from Seventh District frequently respond to calls through alleys and they are frustrated by the lack of clearly marked addresses. With monies from the crime prevention fund, SDCC will purchase number stencils and paint to be used for marking addresses in our alleys. Call SDCC if you are interested in having your address painted on your garage, fence, etc. or if you are willing to help with this project.

Brightside Block Captains

5700 DeGiverville	Shirley Polk
5800 DeGiverville	
5900 DeGiverville	Eddie Sanders
300 Des Peres	
500 Des Peres	
5700 Kingsbury	Frances Duffy
5900 Kingsbury	Ruth Beckloff
6000 Kingsbury	Bill Christman
6100 Kingsbury	Mary Gioia
300 Laurel	
400 Laurel	Christopher Farmer
5700 McPherson	Edward Jones
5900 McPherson	
6000 McPherson	Loretta Lloyd
6100 McPherson	
6200 McPherson	Reni Shuter
5800 Nina Place	
5700 Pershing	Baby R. Webber
5800 Pershing	Christine Smith
5900 Pershing	Rose Flynn
6000 Pershing	George Dennis
6100 Pershing	Bob Dowgwillo
6200 Pershing	
300 Rosedale	
500 Rosedale	Dan Hudspeth
5800 Washington	Helen Jones
6000 Washington	Paul Kurtz
6100 Washington	Ginny Klevorn
6200 Washington	Sandy Rothschild
5700 Waterman	
5800 Waterman	Venita Lake
5900 Waterman	Ruby Brown
6000 Waterman	
6100 Waterman	Mark Gorman
6200 Waterman	Sarah Newton
5800 Westminster	Vivienne Dobbs
6000 Westminster	Gail Farwell
6100 Westminster	Lisa Horner



Lucier Park, located on Westminster directly west of Hamilton School, will be the Beautification Project for Operation Brightside on May 10.

Photo by King Schoenfeld

Laurel Avenue To Be Closed

Laurel Avenue, between Delmar and Washington, will be TEMPORARILY closed for a period of two weeks, the Street Department recently announced. This closure is necessary to complete the construction of the new Bi-State bus garage and street improvements.

Book Sale To Highlight Rags To Riches Sale

The Rosedale Rags to Riches 1986 edition will take place on June 14. A new twist this year will feature a book sale co-sponsored by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and *The Times*.

As in past years, there will be the Men's Liberation Bake Sale and the traditional barbecue. The real show, however, will be the numerous yard sales throughout the neighborhood featuring treasures in search of new homes.

Profits from the book sale will be donated to *The Times* by SDCC and it is tentatively planned that the sale will be expanded to encompass records and magazines. On Saturday, June 7, donations may be brought to the

parking lot at Kingsbury and Des Peres from 9 a.m. to noon. Pick up is also available for large quantities. For more information call Katie Kurtz at 727-6377.

Final details have not been worked out completely as we go to press. However, Frank Burke is the chairman of the event. He may be reached during the evening at 862-2279; Nancy Farmer will be able to provide details during the day at 862-5122. Paul Kurtz will chair the Bake Sale; call 727-6377 to volunteer to bake or work the day of the sale.

Remember to mark your calendar for June 14 and plan on spending the day in the friendly confines of Skinker-DeBaliviere and becoming involved in another fine neighborhood tradition.

Forest Park To Be Site Of Annual Flea Market

The Missouri Historical Society's 29th Annual Flea Market, coming to the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park on May 16-18, will offer bargain hunters an array of treasures ranging from antiques, furniture, and household items to sporting goods and toys.

Free parking will be available on the upper Munny lot, with air-conditioned shuttles to bring shoppers to and from the Pavilion. The St. Louis Police Department will be providing around the clock security for all areas of the sale.

The Flea Market, which will capture the spirit of the 1904 World's Fair through its concessions and entertainment, begins at 3 p.m. sharp at the Pavilion, which is opposite the east border of the St. Louis Zoo. For this day only, there will be a \$3 admission

charge. The Flea Market will continue on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with no admission charge.

Dillard's and the Wetterau Corporation are the sponsors of the event.

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 educational and service programs but is funded by memberships, gifts, and grants. The museum, offering 15 galleries and a free audio-visual show of St. Louis history, is open with no admission charge, Tuesdays through Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.



Scene from last year's Flea Market at the World's Fair Pavilion, Forest Park.

April Council Meeting

by Karen Bynum

The April 7 meeting of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council consisted primarily of receiving reports of various committees. Some were summaries of past events and some contained announcements of future projects.

Accomplishments for the preceding month included distribution of 550 pounds of grass seen in conjunction with the Urban League; a Safety Committee article published in *The Times*; the selection of SDCC as an honorary corporate member of The Friends of Steinberg with the appropriate designation on a plaque at the rink; and a 20th anniversary

reception attended by about 185 current and former Council members. This final item was followed by a round of applause for Nancy Farmer's organizing and "hostessing" abilities.

Coming up are the Dinner Theatre production on May 17 which still needs volunteers as waiters and waitresses; a reception for the two police captains of the 7th District; the hiring of eight neighborhood teen-agers to work at the Grace Methodist Summer Day Camp; and finally the planning for the dedication of Lucier Park which is tentatively scheduled for late in June.

Recent Contributions To The Times

The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere would like to thank the following for their generous contributions: Karleen & Tom Hoerr and Cal & Gee Stuart in honor of the marriage of Rita Hoerr and Chet Curtis; and Georgia Kahrhoff. We appreciate the support!!

Washington U. To Host Antique Sale

Thirty-four exhibitors from 16 states will participate in the St. Louis Antiques Show and Sale that will take place at Washington University's new Athletic Complex from Thursday, May 22 through Saturday, May 24. The event, which will benefit The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, will preview on Wednesday, May 21 with a gala party from 6 to 9 p.m. The St. Louis Antiques Show and Sale is sponsored by The Backers Board and the board of directors of The Rep.

The exhibitors, representing some of the best shops from coast to coast (New Hampshire to California), will all have elegant booths replete with American, English, and French antiques. Ceramic, metal, silver, rug, print and painting dealers will join with those presenting formal and country furniture in offering a marvelous cornucopia of selections for discriminating collectors and homemakers.

During the three-day event, two well-known authorities on interior design will lecture. Clement E. Conger, curator of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, Department of State, of Blair House and The White House, will give an illustrated talk on "The White House and Its Collections" on Thursday, May 22 at 11 a.m. The next day (Friday, May 23), Mario Buatta, celebrated New York designer

who is popularly known as "The Prince of Chintz," will speak at 11 a.m. on "Decorating with Antiques." Both addresses will be delivered in the auditorium of the new John E. Simon Hall, School of Business, Washington University.

The St. Louis Antiques Show and Sale will also feature two special exhibits. They are: Miniature Furniture provided by the Missouri Historical Society from its collections; and Designer Vignettes with settings with antiques by leading St. Louis interior designers.

Refreshments will be sold during all show hours, including luncheon, English tea and supper. A cash bar will also be open. Show and sale hours are: Thursday and Friday, May 22 and 23, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A ticket for continuous admission to the show and sale is \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance. The lectures are priced separately. Each costs \$8 in advance, or \$10 at the door. Advance tickets for both lectures are \$15 (\$10 at the door). All checks should be made payable to St. Louis Antiques Show and Sale, c/o The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, P.O. Box 28030, 130 Edgar Road, St. Louis, MO 63119. For more information, please call (314) 968-7340, and ask for Barbara.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Katie Kurtz, 727-6377
Business Manager: Jane Geer, 721-8584

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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Display Advertising: col. width, 2½". Minimum ad size, 1" x 1 col. 2" x 1 col.: \$22/insertion; (10% discount 5 to 8 issues contract; 15% discount 9 issues contract). For complete list of sizes and rates, write *The Times* c/o 6016 Washington, 63112, or call 727-6377.

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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May Calendar

- 1 Continuing at the Missouri Historical Society: "Jewish Life in America," thru 6/29; "St. Louis' Baseball Hall of Fame Members, 1905-1935," thru Oct., Jefferson Memorial Building, Forest Park. Tues-Sun, 9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m., free.
- 3 Children's Films, "The Fish from Japan" & "Eye of the Octopus," 2 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free. 367-0717 for info.
- 4 ADL Presents "Stories from a Jewish Heritage Trunk" by Shirley Johnson, 2 p.m., Missouri Historical Society.
Bel Canto Chorus with Orchestra's spring concert, 7:30 p.m., St. Roch's Church, 6052 Waterman, to feature Faure's *Requiem Mass*. Tickets \$4 general admission; call 725-2334 or 727-9553 for senior citizen and student rates.
- 5 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting, 7:30 p.m., Delmar Baptist Church 6195 Washington.
Chamber Music St. Louis concert with works by Wm. Schuman, Bartok, Michael Haydn, Dvorak. 8 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church, Waterman at Skinker. Tickets \$6; students \$3.50.
- 6 Preschool Story Hour, 10 a.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free. (Also 5/13, 5/20 & 5/27.)
"Stories from a Jewish Heritage Trunk," by Shirley Johnson, Missouri Historical Society, Emerson Auditorium, 10:30 a.m., free. (Also 5/8.)
Exhibition opening, "New Vistas: American Art Pottery from the Cooper-Hewitt Museum," Gallery 120, St. Louis Art Museum (thru 6/15).
- 7 "Investment Alternatives," talk by Phillip E. Gray, New York Life Insurance Co., 7 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union.
- 8 Jewish Film Series: European Roots — "Image Before My Eyes" & "Golem," 7-10 p.m., Emerson Auditorium, Missouri Historical Society, \$2 per person includes refreshments.
- 9 James Mason in "Bigger Than Life," 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 10 Operation Brightside's Blitz Day for Skinker-DeBaliviere & Parkview (see related article).
2nd Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale sponsored by 28th Ward Democrats, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Kingsbury Animal Hospital parking lot, Kingsbury & Skinker.
Children's Films, "New Friends" & "The Ugly Duckling," 2 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free.
- 11 5th Annual Clean Air Run, Forest Park, 8 a.m. Call 645-5505 or 727-0600 for info. (See related article.)
- 13 Exhibition opening, "Maya Textile: Legacy from the Past," Gallery 111, St. Louis Art Museum.
- 15 Skinker DeBaliviere Business Association lunch and meeting, noon. Call 862-5122 for further details.
Jewish Film Series: Becoming American — "Hester Street," 7-10 p.m., Emerson Auditorium, Missouri Historical Society, \$2 per person includes refreshments.
- 16 James Mason in "The Desert Fox," 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
29th Annual Flea Market benefitting the Missouri Historical Society, World's Fair Pavilion, Forest Park, thru 5/18. (See related article.)

- 17 Children's Films, "Cannonball" & "Sand Song," 2 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free.
"Penelope: The Pride of the Pickle Factory," highlights dinner-theatre production to celebrate SDCC's 20th Anniversary, 6:15 p.m., New City School. (See related article and advertisement.)
- 20 Exhibition opening, "Durer and his Circle," Cohen Gallery, St. Louis Art Museum, thru 6/29.
- 22 St. Louis Antiques Show and Sale to benefit The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Washington University's new Athletic Complex. Hours: 5/22 & 5/23, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; 5/24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (See related article.)
Tea Lecture: "Jewish Women of St. Louis, Their Contributions over 150 Years," coordinated by Claire Medol Hyman, 1:30 p.m., Missouri Historical Society, \$3 includes refreshments. Reservations 361-1424.
- 23 James Mason in "Five Fingers," 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 24 Children's Films, "Star Trek: The Trouble with Tribbles," 2 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free.
JUMPROPE: JINGLE CONTEST, invent a jumprope rhyme about a book or a story. Public "performance" at 3 p.m. (2 age groups: grades 1-4 & grades 5-8). Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free.
Midwest Morris Ale, festival of traditional English Ceremonial & Ritual Dance to be held at various St. Louis sites 5/24 & 5/25. (See related article.)
- 25 HANDS ACROSS AMERICA will go through Clayton and University City, down Forsyth thru Washington U. to Skinker and down Lindell. Anyone who would like to volunteer, should call 721-8880. For \$10 one will have a place in line and a certificate. Higher donations have additional prizes.
"Down Memory Lane: Roots of St. Louis Jewish Heritage" — slide lecture by Marilyn Heldman and Walter Erlich, 2 p.m., Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 29 Jewish Community Relations Council presents: "Immigration and Acculturation in Jewish St. Louis," coordinated by Ben Fireman, 7:30 p.m., Emerson Auditorium, Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 30 James Mason and Judy Garland in "A Star Is Born," Art Museum Auditorium, 5/30 & 5/31, 1:30 & 7 p.m. Also 6/1, 4 & 8 p.m. \$2; \$1 for Friends.

Capt. Alphin Honored By SDCC



At a reception on April 9, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council honored Capt. Charles Alphin for his three years of dedicated service to the neighborhood as commander of the 7th Police District. Pictured above from left are: Capt. Alphin; Nancy Farmer, executive director of the Council; and Capt. Everett Page, the 7th District's new commander.

After 10 years . . .

Dinner Theatre Returns to Skinker DeBaliviere

LIVE! The classic melodrama, "Penelope, Pride of the Pickle Factory," will be directed by RITA SWEETS. This special evening honors the 20th anniversary of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, featuring talent exclusively from our neighborhood, plus a fabulous STEAK DINNER! The modest \$12.50 admission includes one complimentary drink and is tax deductible.

New City School

Saturday, May 17, 1986

cocktail hour: 6:15-7:15

curtain: 7:15 dinner: 9:00

Limited seating. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call the SDCC office at 862-5122. VISA and MasterCard accepted.

Flowers And Plants Available For Mother's Day

The 28th Ward Democrats will conduct their annual flower sale on Saturday, May 10, just in time for Mother's Day and Operation Blitz. The sale will be at Dr. Brammeier's Kingsbury Animal Hospital, at Kingsbury and Skinker, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Everyone is invited to stop by and pick up a Mother's Day corsage or hanging plant, or bedding plants, geraniums, and flowers

to add that finishing touch to your yard after Operation Blitz. Many other flowers and plants will also be available at the same reasonable prices.

The flower committee includes Democratic Committeewoman Dee Suda, and neighborhood leaders, Helen Sanders, Christine Smith, Eva Tagger, and Rose Storey.

Come early for the best selection!

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Church School—10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship—11:00 a.m.

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Mr. Stephen D. McKersie
Minister of Music, Organist

Rev. Karen L. Blanchard
Associate Pastor

From The Alderman: Housing Conservation District Proposal

by Dan McGuire, 28th Ward Alderman

At the end of our last session, the Board of Aldermen passed enabling legislation which allows for the creation of Housing Conservation Districts within the City. If such a district is created in the Skinker-DeBaliviere area, an interior and exterior city inspection would be required at the sale of all single and two-family buildings, or with a change of tenants in a building with more than two dwelling units. The owners would then have to comply with various minimum standards before they would be issued a Certificate of Residency allowing them to occupy or rent the building.

This has been a very controversial issue through the years, so I would like to explain this legislation so that we may intelligently discuss the matter during the next few months. Be assured that I will work with the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and other community groups, and conduct neighborhood meetings to determine if we want to adopt this program for our area.

No district can be implemented for at least one year. It must be created by a separate ordinance, after the completion of a feasibility study by the City Building Commissioner and a formal public hearing conducted by the Board of Aldermen. There must be a minimum of 500 housing units in the district.

Residential buildings in a Conservation District must meet the exterior requirements in the City's Building Code, but the interior only must meet *minimum* health and safety standards as described in the enabling ordinance. The residency requirements also include a maximum number of people that can occupy a unit. (A copy of these standards is included at the end of this article.) These interior standards are much less restrictive than the Minimum Property Maintenance Code. If the building does not meet standards, the owner may apply for a Temporary Certificate of Residency and occupy the building for a period as long as six months, depending on the size of the building. The building must then meet the minimum standards for residential occupancy or the Building Commissioner has the authority to condemn the property for occupancy.

In order to monitor a district for compliance, Union Electric and Laclede Gas will notify the Building Commissioner on any change of service. This notification will trigger awareness by the Building Division of a potential need for a building inspection and Certificate of Residency. However, it will be the owner's responsibility to notify the city of any pending sale or change of occupancy. Failure to comply can result in condemnation, fine and/or imprisonment.

It is also important to note that this occupancy permit requirement does not apply to any licensed residential building or to lawful occupancies at the time an ordinance goes into effect, it only applies at a future change of occupancy. Nor does it apply to any future change of ownership within a family (such as an estate) as long as there is no change of occupancy. Also, if an owner provides the Building Commissioner with a notarized statement that it is his or her intention to have the building demolished within six months, or if there is a change of ownership and/or occupancy of a unit within 12 months of the issuance of a Certificate of Residency for that unit, no new inspection shall be required.

In addition, the owner of an apartment building may choose to have all units within a building inspected annually, all at one time, rather than have inspections on each rental unit at each change of occupancy.

I'm certain that this short article does not answer all your questions, but I hope it does provide enough information to enable us to begin our neighborhood discussion on whether or not Skinker-DeBaliviere should take advantage of this powerful tool to ensure the future of our housing stock.

MINIMUM INTERIOR STANDARDS FOR BUILDINGS IN HOUSING CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. TRASH
Public Areas
Dwelling Unit
Basement</p> <p>2. WALLS & CEILINGS
Plaster Missing
Repair or replace for fire resistance</p> <p>3. DOORS
Security locks on entry door
Door latches properly for privacy
Fire rated entry door</p> <p>4. STRUCTURAL
Floors missing/rotten
Joints missing/rotten</p> <p>5. SAFETY
Insufficient exits
Stairs missing/rotten
Handrails missing/rotten
Rodent/insect infested
Exits inoperable
Storage of flammable materials
Excessive extension cords
Smoke Detectors</p> <p>6. PLUMBING FIXTURES
Fixtures missing/inoperable
Fixtures/plumbing leaking
Hot water heater required
Hot water heater missing/inoperable
Hot water heater improperly vented
Hot water heater relief valve</p> <p>7. ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
Cover plates missing
Switches/outlets inoperable
Fuses/Circuit breakers improperly sized</p> | <p>Lighting fixtures defective</p> <p>8. MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
Heating unit inoperable
Furnace improperly vented
Unvented space heaters</p> <p>9. SPACE REQUIREMENTS —
Occupant Loading to be limited by:</p> <p>a. Minimum habitable gross floor area of 150 square feet first occupant, plus 100 square feet for each additional occupant; or</p> <p>b. Sleeping room area of a minimum of 70 square feet for first occupant, 50 square feet for additional occupants. Living room, dining room, kitchen required in Table 404.3 of the Basic Property Maintenance Code of the City of St. Louis shall not be included in sleeping area calculations.</p> |
|---|--|

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CORRECTION: An unexplained mix-up occurred with photographs in the April issue of *The Times*. Above is Tom Hoerr a/k/a James (Jim) Shorts with two students from New City School. Our apologies for the confusion.

Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

A neighborhood welcome to Ken Anderson and Kate Rosenbloom. They are artists who purchased the building which formerly housed Grace and Peace Fellowship at Kingsbury and Des Peres. Kate and Ken are rehabbing and plan to use the first floor as an art studio beginning this month. They will reside in one of the upstairs apartments. Ken is not new to the neighborhood, having rented space from Bill Kohn for a number of years. He shows his work at B.Z. Wagman Gallery and Kate shows at Locus Gallery downtown.

The Lloyds of 6100 Westminster have begun a new venture. They have a unique collection of jewelry which they have recently begun selling at Union Station. Mary Schmit, 6100 McPherson, was seen sporting a gorgeous necklace which she purchased from Carol Lloyd, who also teaches at Normandy School District.

Dan Schesch, 6000 McPherson, is also venturing into a new area. He has begun a Masters program at S.I.U. in Management Information Systems.

Speaking of Dan, he was one of the neighborhood notables among those 450 in attendance at the ten-year anniversary celebration of Leadership St. Louis at the Adam's Mark last month. Quite a few other neighborhood folks were there who had been selected over those ten years to participate in the Leadership program; Jill McGuire, Marj Weir, Tom Hoerr, and Marcia Kerz. Lou Green and Cal Stuart have also participated in the program.

Congratulations to Venita Lake, 5800 Waterman, who was recently selected as one of 12 to participate in CORO Foundations Public Affairs Training Course for Neighborhood Leaders. Venita's neighborhood involvement is well known to area residents, especially her ten years of service on the *Times*.

Marcia Kerz, 6100 Westminster, spent a long weekend on Kee Waydin off the coast of Florida, where she was a guest presenter at a conference of the Association of Child Advocates. Marcia was asked to give a presentation on fund raising by direct mail. Marcia is the president of Westminster Communications.

Turning to neighbors in the news, David Fay, 6100 Kingsbury, was the subject of the cover story in the LIVE section of the April 9 issue of the *Riverfront Times*. David is the executive director of the Fox Theater.

Double congratulations to the family of Jim and Clare McLeod. In April they became the proud parents of a baby girl — Sarah. The McLeods have also just moved from 6100 Waterman to their new home in 6100 McPherson. Jim is a member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council representing Washington University.

Well, it was white lace and promises on April 5 for Rita Hoerr and Chet Curtis. Rita is the mother of Tom Hoerr. The nuptials took place at Tom and Karleen's home, 6100 Kingsbury, and were officiated by the Reverend Cal Stuart. Cleo and Tokar were festive for the occasion with beautiful bows to match Rita's dress. Congratulations and best wishes to the Curtis's. Congrats also to Karleen Hoerr who was named top salesperson at Feinberg Real Estate for 1985.

Neville Vatcha, 6100 Westminster, recently returned from a business trip to London. JoAnn Vatcha has been traveling quite a bit too. In March she presented at a conference on Lowering the Cost of Rehab and New Housing which was held in San Francisco. She's planning another business trip to Santa Fe soon, but she seems most excited about being the executive producer of a video documentary on the Hyde Park Project. This is a project she has been working on very hard as the executive director of Neighborhood Housing Service of St. Louis, Inc.

The Vatcha's and Sam and Lou Green, 6100 Westminster, did seem to find some time to get away from it all in February. The two couples took a cruise on the *Song of Norway* for a week, visiting places in Mexico and Jamaica.

Hope you're planning to attend New City School's Highlights II Auction on May 3 at New City. It's billed as a gala evening of dining and dancing.

Don't forget May 17 is the Skinker DeBaliviere Twentieth Anniversary Dinner Theater. Make your reservations soon, for a fun evening. Don't miss this chance to see some of your neighbors in their most talented moments. Rumor has it that Steve Radecke will be tinkling the ivories. See you there.

Also — start saving your junk, unusables, tossables, collectibles, and never-used wedding gifts. Rags to Riches is — literally — right around the corner on June 14. You could make your fortune!

From The Mayor's Desk: Quick Routes For Complaints

by Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl, Jr.

The Citizens' Service Bureau had handled over 40,000 calls since it began a computerized complaint handling system on July 24, 1985. During an average week almost 1,200 calls are received.

The Citizens' Service Bureau phone number is 622-4800. The Bureau also has a special number for the hearing impaired. The Tele-Communication for the Deaf (TCD) number is 622-3692. The Citizens' Service Bureau is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except City holidays.

The centralized complaint system was established last year to make it easier for citizens to report problems. Instead of calling individual departments, a citizen can now call one number to report any complaint.

In addition to making it easier for residents to report problems, the computerized system enjoys several other advantages. It allows us to compile comprehensive data on the volume and nature of complaints, and also enables us to monitor the resolution of those complaints.

The ten operators who operate the system were transferred from other City departments when the system began. By relieving individual departments of complaint-taking responsibilities, we were able to assemble the personnel to staff our system. Thus, we were able to improve service without adding additional employees to the City payroll.

When a complaint is received by a Citizens' Service Bureau operator, it is entered into the computer. Three times a day work orders generated from the complaints are printed out by the computer. The work orders are picked up

by each department and scheduled for follow-up. The citizen who reported the problem then receives an acknowledgement letter telling what action will be taken. The names of all citizens reporting complaints are kept confidential.

After the problem is investigated by the appropriate City department, the work order is returned to the Citizens' Service Bureau stating what action was taken to abate the problem. This information is then entered into the computer for future reference.

If a completed work order is not returned within a designated time period, an overdue notice is sent to the department which received the original order. This process prevents problems from being overlooked or "falling through the cracks." The time allotted for completing a work order varies according to the nature of the problem. For example, a trash collection work order must be completed within three days, while five days is the limit for building and sanitation complaints. Some services, such as street repair, are given longer periods to complete work orders and may be delayed by weather conditions.

In addition to printing work orders, acknowledgement letters and overdue notices, the computer also provides daily summaries of work orders by department and daily reports by ward of complaints received and problems solved.

This information can be a useful tool for City managers and elected officials alike in determining service priorities and resource allocations.

Date Nears For Dinner/Theatre Gala



Cast members at a recent rehearsal.

Plans have been finalized for the upcoming Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council's production of "Penelope: Pride of the Pickle Factory," to be held on Saturday, May 17, at New City School. Some of the individuals lending their talents for the production include: Rita Sweets, director; Steven Radecke, music director; Susan Fay, choreographer; Bill Christman, set designer; Arline Webbe, props and costumes; Dan Shea, Kathleen Williams, Rich Lake, Venita Lake, Paul Kurtz, Karen Kelsey, Roy Bell, Tina Offner, Peggy Peters, Al Nerviani, Betty Nerviani, and the

President and founder of Scotch Lovers of America United, plus many others, cast. Gastronomes Neville Vatcha, Sam Green, and Karleen Hoerr are heading up a food committee which will prepare and serve a steak dinner following the play.

You would expect to pay \$13 for such a gala evening, but this dinner/theatre package is available for only \$12.50 per person. Tickets are available from members of the SDCC board, or call the office 862-5122. No tickets will be sold at the door. (See ad in this issue for more details.)

tricia woo
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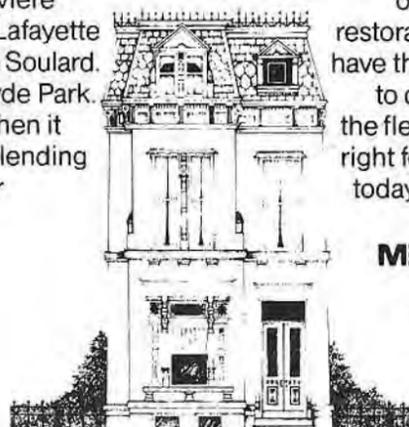
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Mother's Day Run For Mom, Apple Pie & Clean Air

The mother of the 1980's is as likely to be committed to clean air as to apple pie, believe the American Lung Association of Eastern Missouri and the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. The two organizations, along with DeBaliviere Place Apartments and other sponsors, are putting together the 5th Annual Clean Air Run on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 11.

The Run begins at 8 a.m. near the Lindell Field House in Forest Park and follows a 3K and an 8K course through the park and DeBaliviere Place. The first 900 entrants will receive T-shirts bearing a whimsical design created by noted local artist Mary Engelbreit, and prizes will be awarded for the fastest time in each race achieved by male and female runners, and for the first five men and women in each age category. To encourage companion contests, finishing times will be provided for ten or more runners from the same workplace or organization.

Al Wiman, KMOX-TV Medical and Science Editor, will be a special guest participant in the Clean Air Run, and drawings will be held for prizes donated by area sponsors including O'Connell's Pub, Redel's, Tricia Woo, SchmieZing's, and West End Wines. Refreshments, including apple pie for all finishers, will be provided by National Food Stores and McDonald's. All female finishers, mothers or not, will receive flowers. Additional sponsors are South Side Bank, Lindell Trust, Abbott Ambulance, Central West End Savings and Loan, American Cleaners, Arctic Ice, and Center Bank.

Registration for the Clean Air Run is \$5 (\$6 after May 7). Forms may be obtained from the American Lung Association of Eastern Missouri, 1118 Hampton Avenue, or the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, 6267 Delmar. For information call 645-5505 or 727-0600.



The BEL CANTO CHORUS with Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Bruce Vantine, will present a spring concert on Sunday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Roch's Catholic Church, 6052 Waterman. The featured work on the program will be Gabriel Faure's *Requiem Mass*. Handel's *Coronation Anthem No. 4* and several folk songs will round out the program. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$4, general admission.

6th Annual Midwest Morris Ale To Be Held In St. Louis

by John B. Shewmaker

"Morris Dancers Make a Maid Aware, Every Eye that Glances Finds Her Fair."

A festival of traditional English Ceremonial & Ritual Dance — known as the Midwest Morris Ale — will be held in and about the City of St. Louis on Memorial Day weekend, May 24 & 25, 1986. The dances are Spring dances, and are claimed to promote fertility of the soil, animals and, especially, the people. The Puritans tried to suppress these dances, without much success.

Twenty-two teams of Morris Dancers — over 250 dancers — will perform for the public various dance traditions of England, including Cotswold Morris, Garland Dances, Rapper, Longsword, and Northwest Morris. This is the first time that this annual festival — this is the sixth annual — has been held in St. Louis.

Cotswold Morris dancers typically dress in white, colorfully bedecked with ribbons and flowers and ridiculous hats, assisted by dancing clowns and hobbyanimals of various sorts, and dance with bells on the lower legs, to accompany the musicians playing fiddles, concertinas, whistles and recorders, accordions and drums, and an occasional non-traditional instrument, such as a bass trombone or Sousaphone. The Cotswold Morris features stick and handkerchief dances in sets of six dancers. The traditional music has been occasionally appropriated by various composers for symphony orchestra, most notably by Gustav Holst for his English "Folk Song Suite."

Serving as host teams are St. Louis' Capering Roisters Morris and Pierremont Morris. The Capering Roisters, led by yours truly, makes its home in the Central West End. The Pierremont Morris is a school team from Parkway School District's Pierremont School. It is one of only four school teams in the United States performing these ancient dances. The Pierremont Morris and Garland is led by Cora Lippi, a resident of Parkview.

The oldest forms of these dances date from the 16th Century, and perhaps earlier: one of the most notable of the dancers of that era was a fellow actor of Shakespeare's, William Kemp, who danced with Morris from London to Norwich, over 120 miles then as now, in nine days, and was known in his own time as the Nine Days' Wonder.

The various teams will perform at the Missouri Botanical Garden to help celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the English Woodland Garden on Saturday, May 24, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Sunday, May 25, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

During the same hours that dancers will perform at the Missouri Botanical Garden, there will be teams of the dancers performing at Union Station, at Laclede's Landing (at First and Lucas Streets), and at the Riverfront Stage, near the north entrance to the St. Louis Zoo, and in Tower Grove Park, at the Turkish Pavilion, or at the Bandstand.

A spectacular massed dance, with all the teams participating, will be held at Washington University, on the lawn at Skinker and Millbrook, on Saturday, May 24, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A second spectacular massed dance will be held under the Arch, weather permitting, on Sunday, May 25, beginning at 3:15 p.m. The dancers will perform regardless of all but the most torrential downpours.

All performances, except those at the Missouri Botanical Garden, are free and without any admission charge. The Garden charges its usual admission fee.

While in St. Louis, the dancers will be camped near Hillsboro, in Jefferson County, and will be conducting workshops in various dance traditions on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. at Camp Don Bosco. Persons wishing more information about the performance and workshop schedules, or with fertility problems with their gardens and/or livestock that do not yield to conventional treatments, should call 367-9017 or 367-9079. No results are guaranteed, except that of a happier Spring.

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

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Breast cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths among women, affecting one out of every eleven women. The American Cancer Society currently recommends an annual mammogram for all women fifty and older; but recent evidence suggests that cancer deaths may be reduced even further if yearly mammograms are begun at age 40.

Dr. Gina Michael
Internist

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Montana — The St. Louis Outpost

by Ray Breun

Every summer a great number of St. Louisans go north to Michigan and Wisconsin. If just half of them went to Montana, they would find more home town names than they will ever find east of the Mississippi. In the halcyon days of Indian traders, Montana was the center of business. Later, when gold and silver were found in the Bitterroots and the ranges around the Judith Basin east of the continental divide, St. Louis mercantilists sent tons of cargo to the miners just as they had done earlier to the fur trappers. It's all there in the names on the map.

The Interstate between Great Falls and Helena passes through a town named "Agust Choteau." The name is not spelled correctly, but it is clear to anyone acquainted with St. Louis history. A little north and some distance west of Great Falls is the town of Choteau. The oldest county in Montana, with Fort Benton as the county seat, is Chouteau County — this time spelled as St. Louisans are used to seeing it. Fort Benton is, of course, named for one of the leading lawyers of St. Louis, a friend of the old French families, who became the most important senator for the West in the nineteenth century, Thomas Hart Benton.

A name not well known around St. Louis is Bozeman. The city of Bozeman in Montana is at the end of the Bozeman Trail. Red Cloud, the Sioux chief who led the great uprising of 1864 when the Bozeman Trail was opened through Yellowstone country, hated that name and the family that bore it. Not surprisingly, there are still Bozemans in the St. Louis area, although many of them are on the Illinois side. The purpose of the trail was to shorten the overland distance between St. Louis and the precious metal mines in Montana. The railroads finally closed that distance and made

both the steamboats to Fort Benton and the wagon route through Yellowstone unnecessary.

The first old St. Louis names occur on towns such as Augusta and Pierre, the two oldest Chouteau brothers whose sons inherited their fathers' names. After all, it is the Missouri which formed one of the three major reasons Laclede picked the site of St. Louis in 1764 to establish his fur trading post. The headwaters of the Missouri are just south of Helena and a little north of the small town of Jefferson City. This "three rivers country" gets its name from the work of Lewis and Clark. They named the three small streams which form the Missouri: the Jefferson River, the Gallatin River, and the Madison River. The heart of the traditional Blackfoot territory, the three rivers country was renowned as the most dangerous fur trapping area until the late 1830's when disease virtually destroyed the tribes living in the area.

A trip to Montana is not complete without time spent in Judith Basin. The great artist, Charlie Russell, lived in Great Falls, the largest city in the basin. Russell Boulevard is named for the road which ran from one Russell farm to the other in what is now near south St. Louis. Born in 1864, Charles M. Russell left St. Louis at the age of sixteen and became the Montana Artist. His work is clearly among the best of the western artists of the nineteenth century. That he came from St. Louis is not well known here. People in Montana know it; they still think of St. Louis as the largest city in the western part of the east.

A trip to Montana is like a journey into the history of St. Louis. Not enough St. Louisans drive up the Missouri River and into the historic French and British trapping zone which is now one of the largest states in the Union. The population of Montana is small; the land is immense. The trip is well worth it.

Free Paint To Meet City Code

Applications for the exterior paint program are now being accepted by the Urban League. Code abatement is the priority for this year's program, according to Adrienne Wheters of the League.

Anyone with a citation from the City related to exterior paint qualifies for free paint through this program. The paint will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis.

Interested individuals should call Adrienne Wheters at the Urban League, 534-8222, as soon as possible.

CWE Savings & Loan Profit Up 153%

Central West End Savings and Loan Association reported a net earnings of \$234,808 in 1985 which represents a 153 percent increase over 1984 earnings of \$92,758.

Total assets jumped 32 percent, from \$25 million to \$33 million. Savings deposits were up 30 percent to \$27.9 million from \$21.4 million in 1984.

Per share income rose from 45 cents in 1984 to \$1.14 in 1985.

Central West End Savings and Loan, 415 DeBaliviere, which celebrates its seventh anniversary in June, became a stock institution in 1984.

Seafaring Books At The Kiosk

Books for Adults

by Mary Ann Shickman

Mountbatten, by Philip Ziegler, is the definitive, official biography of Lord Mountbatten published in 1985, six years after his death. The handsome Mountbatten was a cousin of George IV and a very favored grandson of Queen Victoria. His life-long ambition had been to become First Sea Lord, the top Navy position. His father had been denied the post at the time of World War I because he had been born in Germany and his name, Prince Louis of Battenberg, was too Teutonic for the times. Mountbatten became Supreme Allied Commander of South East Asia at age forty-three and conducted a campaign that eventually got Burma back from Japan. Under his leadership, stability was restored in the region that stretched from French Indochina to India's eastern border.

Lord Mountbatten was a man who felt he could not fail at anything he undertook to do, so it was his tremendous self-confidence and natural buoyancy that kept him going when he took the job in 1947 as Britain's last viceroy in India. "Dickie," as his friends called him, had to be the one to end two centuries of British rule in India by June of the following year.

Internal religious conflicts complicated the challenge of orchestrating the vast colony's emergence as an independent country. Gandhi's dream was a free and united India for which the Indian national Congress had struggled for fifty years. But Muslim leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah demanded that the subcontinent's 90 million Muslims be awarded their own nation to be called Pakistan (Land of the Pure). Over the issue, thousands of Hindus and Muslims died in riots; after much anguish and more killings, Pakistan became a reality. On June 4th of the year, everyone was stunned when Mountbatten announced that the British would withdraw in ten weeks and that the bankers and lawyers should get busy and roll up their business. Some historians feel that a more gradual approach would have reduced the horrors that followed.

During the period the Mountbattens were in India, his beautiful wife, Edwina, became involved in a love affair with Nehru. Mountbatten was not upset about this nor any of the affairs of Lady Mountbatten. It is the "ex-cathedra" opinion of Mr. Ziegler that Mountbatten was not much interested in sex. The couple were devoted to each other throughout their lives.

After he left India, Mountbatten went back to the Navy and in 1955 he reached his life-long ambition to become First Sea Lord. He served until 1965 and retired from the Navy. Five years later Edwina died.

During his retirement he starred in a TV series about himself and, in his spare time he planned two different versions of his own state funeral. No one ever saw him read a

Books for Children by Arlene Sandler

Little mariners can make their own tiny boats with *Boats That Float*, one of the few craft books for the very young child. Clear directions are given for eleven simple boats made out of easily available materials. Large pictures illustrate the steps involved in making boats that float, propel themselves, or sail.

In *Duck Goes Fishing*, for younger readers, Fox and Owl suspect that their peaceful fishing day may be ruined when they invite accident-prone Duck to come along. Prepared for every emergency, Duck stuffs their little boat to overflowing with suntan oil, an umbrella, a banjo, a camera, an inflatable raft, and an enormous lunch basket. There is a happy ending, even though the oars disappear, the bottom of the boat is covered with worms, and everyone's fur and feathers are unpleasantly stuck together with oil.

Daniel Pinkwater is known for his far-fetched adventures for middle grades. Jolly Roger, part Chinese Chow-Chow, part Alaskan Husky, was the son of the toughest dog in Fairbanks. He became the pet of Texas Ted, the toughest sailor on the Matilda Magoo, so it is no surprise that he ended up the toughest dog on the docks of Hoboken, New Jersey. In *Jolly Roger*, zany dialogue, improbable names, characters like Marvin the Ape, and unusual drawings bring another far-fetched adventure to life.

In *No Safe Harbors*, sixteen-year-old Amanda, daughter of the mayor of a small city on the Ohio River, believes that her family life is almost perfect. Capable, attractive, and confident, she is shaken by the arrival of an arrogant young man and by the news that her father has been indicted for taking a bribe. Amanda and her younger brother unwisely take a boat ride that almost ends in tragedy.

Virginia Hamilton again mixes the heritage of black Americans with memorable characters and a compelling plot in *Junius Over Far*. When Junius' grandfather sends a peculiar letter about pirates and kidnapping from his Caribbean island home, Junius and his father fly there to investigate. They discover not only a disoriented, sick and lonely old man, but racism and crime as well. The text, laced with dialect and beautiful description makes both new and old island culture come alive. This is an exciting story for older readers about an unusual teenager and his very special family.

book during his life except his own genealogy which he poured over at great length. On August 29, 1979, Lord Mountbatten was killed by an I.R.A. bomb while sailing on the Irish coast.

The book seems to be impeccably researched and very thorough. It is about a period in history with which I am intrigued and I think those who feel as I do would enjoy the book, too.

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

There are some who would say that I am preoccupied with death. I think about it, I wonder about it, I anticipate it. But I don't think that I'm preoccupied with it. On the other hand, how could you not be preoccupied with the one truly inescapable thing which will remove all of us from everything we know today?

Death is, after all, the end. I won't use this space to discuss arguments about afterlife or death as the beginning. Let's just say that for this discussion, you are or you aren't; alive, that is.

I've often wondered what I'll miss most when I'm gone. Actually, each time I think this I remember that I won't miss anything because I won't be around to miss. If life were taken now, though, what would I anticipate missing? Well, first I'd miss people. My wife. My friends. People I work with. My pets — people of sorts to me anyway.

You know what else I'd miss? I'd miss the news. I suspect that may sound a bit silly or even morbid, given that the news is usually filled with disasters of one sort or another, but I would miss hearing what's happening. Part of me really, I mean really, really, just wants to know what is going to happen. How is all of this going to turn out?

At one level, sure, I want to know if the Football Cardinals will be playing here in the year 2000 and whether or not the new coach at Mizzou will develop a winning team and if Whitey Herzog will be able to maintain his fine track record. Those things, irrelevant as they are in relation to the total cosmos, are important to me now and there's no reason to think that they'd be less important in the future. I once said that if I could simply get the *Sporting News* delivered to my coffin or have "Sports Open Line" played daily into my crypt, it would make leaving a lot easier. The people that I know and love and care about, those same folks that I mentioned in the preceding paragraph, would get older and sickly and die. Three hundred years from now, though, when all the folks that I now know are simply memories, there will always be an England and a *Sporting News*.

At another, much more important level, I want to know how we're going to turn out. That is "we" as in human race. I mean, will we blow ourselves up? (Or, given recent events, when exactly will we blow ourselves up?) I think I'd trade life for the knowledge of what really will happen whenever and, for that matter, how we really all got here. I read how we now know that our galaxy is located in a certain part of the universe and how everything is all moving apart at thousands of miles per hour, and I think . . . what's around us? If we are — the universe — moving apart, then in what are we moving? The issues are so complex and, yet, vague, that it's hard to pose the question. That knowledge might, indeed, be worth life itself. (Note: I did read *The Year The Yankees Lost The Pennant*, and if "YOU" are out there, this is not a definite offer!)

In death I'll miss a lot of the little things too. As I get older, and the life clock is ticking as each stiff joint reminds me, sunrises and sunsets and calming rains are more important. Nature is nice, but I think I'm even more appreciative of people and common courtesies. An article that makes me think, a person who stops to help another, a fine performance or an A+ for effort, these are the things that really make life worthwhile. These transcend money (although it does help, make no mistake!) and are centered around being aware of the little things that make the difference. The big things are there, but it's the little things that really count. The people who don't appreciate life, the rude and nasty people, I'm convinced, just aren't aware of all of the little things that make it all worthwhile.

"How to die?" is a question worth considering. We really don't have much choice in the "how," but it's interesting nonetheless. Most of us, I agree, would want something quick and painless. Going while asleep is always a favorite choice. Going while asleep often allows a smile to naturally be on one's face, making the embalmer's job easier, anyhow. How about altruism, though? Throwing one's body on

ahand grenade or in front of a bullet intended for a president can't be easy, but it does have its virtues. All of us, after all, want to be remembered, and what better way to go than to go down with all guns firing and the flag waving in the breeze? Horseback statues of generals, did you know, are often done with a kind of artists' code which will tell you how the general died. If the horse has two legs off the ground and is rearing on hind legs, the general died an honorable death in battle. If one leg is off the ground, he died a normal death while awake. If, however, the horse is standing with all four legs on the ground, that means the general died in his sleep.

I've read quite a few accounts by people who clinically showed signs of death for a few seconds, or even minutes, before they were revived. Almost always they describe a feeling of calm, a sense of green around them, and some distant and fuzzy light toward which they seem to be moving. I don't know, but I'll bet that all these accounts are of people who come from our society. I'd be curious what a native in some South American jungle would see under similar conditions. I'm sure it would be different, but I don't know how.

When you think about it, leaving one's mark is awfully difficult. If you go back even a hundred years, how many people are really

notable enough to be remembered? How many of those will be remembered in an eon or two? Other than those fortunate enough to be in a position to shape or change society or the world, generally artists, statesmen, military folk, and scientists, most of the rest of us will need to be content with making our mark in a subtle manner. That's o.k. I think of children and how we influence them in so many unknown ways. Take my wife, for example (no, not like Henny Youngman would say, "Take my wife"). I mean, consider my wife. She is, above all else, a good human being. Now because she's good, she'll have a positive influence on just about everyone she meets. Her niece, for example, will be shaped and molded, to a degree anyway, by Karleen and what Karleen believes about the world. Beth will carry a thread of that to her children and, presumably, they'll pass on a touch to their children. And who, primarily, shaped Karleen? Her parents, of course. So while neither of them are, as they say, "of this world" any longer, they both have left a mark which, if they were here, would justly cause them to be proud.

Children are our hope for the future. In a sense, then, they are also our only escape from death. Through them, we have the opportunity to leave a little of ourselves that can always live. Somehow this makes all those

precious moments, those incidental times of sitting on laps and reading, of chatting aimlessly while driving to the store, of touching and holding, more significant.

I think that maybe being preoccupied with death causes one to be preoccupied with life. That's kind of nice.

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