

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Parkview Designated National Historic District

Recognition of the historical and architectural significance of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood reached new heights last spring when Parkview was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The subdivision, which was platted in 1905, was cited for significance in community planning, landscape architecture, and architecture. The designer of the streets and lots was Julius Pitzman "who laid out over 47 private streets in the St. Louis area in the fifty years following 1867 and whose work was an important influence on other city planners and developers," according to the nomination prepared by the St. Louis County Office of Historic Sites and Preservation.

The designation is both an honor and a measure of protection against any federally funded project which would adversely affect the neighborhood. There are no restrictions and, at the moment, no financial advantages for private homeowners — except that the recognition may increase the interest of potential buyers. The Parkview Agents plan to install a marker on or near the Skinker entry gates making note of the designation.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood has been studying, writing about, publicizing, and making efforts to protect its history since the early seventies. From books and house tours to an ordinance controlling building alterations, the efforts have capitalized on rather than apologized for the area's age.

The first major written history of the neighborhood was locally produced in 1973. Former resident Sue Tepas remembers Richard Hart suggesting the idea at a party. His remark led to the publication of *The Neighborhood*, by Gee Stuart, Sue Tepas, and Kathy Harleman. A true research project, thoroughly documented, the book turned up vast amounts of information about the development and subsequent history of the neighborhood.

In 1972 a book entitled *Anthrophysical Form* by Robert Vickery, a professor in the Washington University School of Architecture and a resident of Parkview, compared two communities, Parkview and Vastrapur, a new town in India, analyzing the effects of their physical layouts on the life patterns of their inhabitants. Vickery's description of Parkview streetscapes, noting the ordering elements (rows of street trees, uniform setbacks, common scale of houses) and the elements of variety (varying styles of architecture, roof shapes, etc.) was important to planners of the local Skinker-DeBaliviere Historic District. Vickery's book also traced the history of the private street system in St. Louis and discussed the importance of deed restrictions in the survival of urban residential areas.

In 1974, Philip Cotton, executive director of the now-defunct Heritage St. Louis, met with Skinker-DeBaliviere residents seeking their assistance in an architectural survey of St. Louis. Volunteers photographed and researched Skinker-DeBaliviere buildings, discovering along the way the *St. Louis Daily Record* and its listing of building permit information. Names of prominent architects — especially for Parkview houses — turned up, increasing interest in the subdivision. At the American Institute of Architects' walking tour of Parkview in 1974, St. Louis architecture buffs were surprised to see residential work of early twentieth century architects they knew only from large commercial and institutional



Pictured above is the 6300 block of Waterman, facing east, taken in 1914 and published in *Genuine Economy in Home Building* by Hydraulic-Press Brick Co.

projects. Parkview's survey committee, under the direction of Gloria Broun, finished its work in 1975.

Much of the interest in Skinker-DeBaliviere history was related to then-alderman John Roach's idea that the designation of the neighborhood as a St. Louis historic district would relate it to Central West End redevelopment efforts and create a large corridor of investment and development extending uninterrupted to the southern subdivisions of University City. Years of planning and meetings, lasting into the period when John was director of CDA and Vince Schoemehl was alderman, culminated in the designation of the Skinker-DeBaliviere / Catlin Tract / Parkview Historic District in 1978.

As Parkview's 75th anniversary approached, Jean Eberle and Judy Little began a book on the history of Parkview, largely at the urging of Kathleen Hamilton. Many people worked on the project, interviewing older residents, collecting old and taking new photographs, drawing maps, reading old city directories. The result was *Urban Oasis*, published in the fall of 1979. In addition to a narrative of the subdivision's history, an appendix listed the building date, architect, and all owners of each house.

University City began a survey project in 1978 with a grant from the State of Missouri. Director John Lindenbusch and Esley Hamilton of the St. Louis County Office of Historic Preservation gave a slide presentation to Parkview residents and trained volunteers to prepare State inventory sheets for the University City portion of Parkview. Volunteers began the survey and Judy Little was hired to complete it in 1980.

Redevelopment in the DeBaliviere area led to the federal certification of the local Skinker-DeBaliviere / Catlin Tract / Parkview Historic District in 1984. Documentation was prepared by Landmarks Association of St. Louis at the request of Pantheon Corporation. Certification, which allows for federal tax credits for developers who meet federal rehabilitation guidelines, also further established the historical significance of the neighborhood.

Continued on page 8

New Synagogue Formed In "The Loop"

by Mary Ellen Moyshin

When the *St. Louis Jewish Light* briefly announced the formation of a new Jewish congregation last November, very few readers realized that new ground was about to be broken in the Jewish community in St. Louis. Not that St. Louis has a shortage of synagogues, on the contrary. But even in a community with a full range of Jewish congregations, from tiny Orthodox shtetlach to very large Conservative synagogues and Reform temples, Etz Hayyim is different.

It is believed to be the only congregation begun as a Conservative group — other Conservative congregations evolved from an Orthodox orientation. In a time when other congregations have left the Central West End and University City areas — historically centers of Jewish life in St. Louis, this group insists that these areas are still viable Jewish communities.

And in a tradition in which women have historically been excluded from many phases of communal and religious life, this congregation insists on equal participation, status, and responsibilities of men and women, with the men apparently as dedicated to the principle as the women.

Etz Hayyim began as the brainchild of Rabbi Jeffrey Cohen and Solon Chervitz. Rabbi Cohen, formerly an associate rabbi at B'nai Amoona, was troubled by the flight of the large congregations of eastern University City to the suburbs — and by the plight of the Jews they left behind, many elderly and with limited financial resources. Mr. Chervitz was equally concerned with the disintegration of the community he had known as a teenager, and both men wondered if the situation were truly inevitable. They resolved to see if a new synagogue were a possibility in the Loop area.

When B'nai Amoona withdrew the last of its activities to the congregation's new facilities on Mason Road last fall, Mr. Chervitz and

Rabbi Cohen felt that the time had come. It was not necessary to line up financial backing to guarantee salaries, since both already held other jobs. (Rabbi Cohen is Director of Pastoral Services at Missouri State Hospital; Mr. Chervitz is at Lindenwood College.) The two incorporated the congregation as a not-for-profit Missouri corporation; arranged to use space in the University City Senior Center for a few weeks, and placed an ad in the *St. Louis Jewish Light* announcing the new synagogue.

They had expected to attract many long-time residents of the area, people who had raised families there, and who had remained in the area after those families grew up. Prevailing wisdom was that the young families were moving west, attracted by newer housing with larger yards. The response was a surprise: young couples with babies as well as older couples.

Continued on page 5

The Council Returns Home

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council
has a new address:

6010a Kingsbury Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63112
Phone: 862-5122

Nancy Farmer, Executive Director
Rebecca Bakeman, Secretary

Skinker DeBaliviere
Community Council



Photo by King Schoenfeld

The Second Annual "Love Thy Neighborhood" Parade, organized by Rose Flynn of 5900 block of Pershing, was the highlight of National Night Out in Skinker-DeBaliviere held on Aug. 12. Other events were held on the 5800/5900 blocks of Pershing and Waterman, 6100 and 6200 blocks of Waterman, and 6100 block of Westminster.

New Associate Pastor At Grace Methodist

The Reverend Charles A. McEowen, a former pastor in the Greater St. Louis Area, has joined the staff of Grace United Methodist Church as Associate Minister. McEowen, who began his duties at Grace on July 1, formerly served as pastor at Normandy, Dr. Fry Memorial and Shaw Avenue United Methodist churches in St. Louis and was Director of Communications for the Missouri Area of the United Methodist Church from 1971 to 1976. Other church experience included pastorates

and a term as district superintendent in Kansas City. He presently serves as chairperson of the Board of Directors of Kingdom House, United Methodist's community and social service center on the near-southside of downtown St. Louis. McEowen was granted the retired relationship at the recent session of the Missouri East Conference of United Methodist churches. He and his wife, Louise, live in University City.

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:

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

Advertising Rates

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 6010a Kingsbury, 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 6010a Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 15th of the month.

August SDCC Meeting

The following is a report of the August 11 meeting of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting which was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Attending were: Karleen Hoerr, Neville Vatcha, Ginny Klevorn, Kathy Wobus, Toni Hayes, Georgie Fox, Paul Kurtz, Bob Dowgwillo, John Reilly, Eddie Sanders, and Nancy Farmer; Kate Hart attended as a guest.

The June minutes and the treasurer's report were approved as submitted. *West End Neighbors Picnic*: Shirley Polk reported that the annual picnic will be held on 8/17. Council approved donating \$40 for 400 lbs. of block ice. *Kate Hart, Neighborhood Liaison Officer (622-4661)*: Ms. Hart was introduced as the new NLO. Projects she is currently working on were discussed as well as what her office can do for the neighborhood, primarily assisting with city services, inspections, etc. A motion was made by P. Kurtz to send a letter to K. Hart listing the addresses of all buildings the Council is currently concerned about, seconded by J. Reilly and approved. General discussion regarding problems with misuse of dumpsters followed. K. Hart will check with refuse division to see if they have flyers explaining proper use of dumpsters. N. Farmer will contact K. Hart on a weekly basis to discuss concerns of residents reported to SDCC office. K. Hart is invited to attend SDCC meeting on a regular basis.

Committees: K. Hoerr made the following committee appointments:

Beautification: S. Littlefield

Safety: P. Repetto

Business Assoc.: C. Stuart

Housing: J. McLeod

Finance: N. Vatcha

Social Welfare: N. Farmer will meet with representatives of the churches who provide direct social services.

Skating Party: B. Dowgwillo reported that about 30 people attended. Heat and a possible lack of communication were cited as probable reasons for the lower turnout. Discussion followed on how to improve attendance: having it earlier or later in the year, and getting publicity out sooner. K. Hoerr stated she felt Board members should support council-sponsored events; if the majority of the Board cannot support an event, the Council should reconsider sponsoring it.

Rags to Riches: SDCC received \$180 in yard sale registrations; expenses totaled \$254. Rosedale cleared \$378 from concession sales and will donate \$300 to the Times. The Book sale sponsored by the Times and the Council raised over \$300.

Home Improvement Loan Program: J. McLeod and N. Farmer are meeting with CitiCorp representatives to discuss SDCC's proposal.

Director's Report: National Night Out is 8/12/86. Not as much publicity or enthusiasm this year. Rose Flynn is organizing the second annual parade. Motion to buy a small tank of helium to fill balloons for the parade was made and approved.

Crime: The Commission on Crime and Law Enforcement, headed by Suzanne Hart, is coordinating an effort to try and get stiffer penalties for chronic offenders. Suzanne Hart requested SDCC write a letter to Judge Hart prior to the sentencing of a resident of our neighborhood who pled guilty to burglary and stealing in Hart's court. N. Farmer was confident of the Board's position on this issue and wrote the letter as requested. This is likely to come up again; N. Farmer asked the Board for authority to write this type of letter on behalf of SDCC when asked by Crime Commission Hart. Motion was made by P. Kurtz, seconded by K. Wobus and approved.

Crime is generally up all over the City, especially homicides and auto thefts. Skinker-DeBaliviere has experienced about a 20 percent increase in auto thefts. Burglaries, however, are down 15 percent or more from last year.

Office Move: As discussed at the Board meeting in June, the second floor apartment at 6010 Kingsbury became available mid-June. The Council will negotiate a 2 or a 3 year lease. The move should take place in mid-August.

West End Beautification: C.W.E. Association has established a committee to address the clean-up and spruce-up of the West End. The first area of concentration is Delmar. They have asked the Council as well as SDBA to work with them in this effort. Their first request is that the Council contact business and property owners and enlist their cooperation and solicit their suggestions. P. Kurtz moved SDCC work with the CWE Association's Beautification Committee. S. Littlefield is the new chairperson of SDCC's Beautification Committee and will act as liaison between the two organizations.

Neighborhood Directory: Rosedale Association, Grace Methodist, and SDBA want to put together a directory. The Council will explore coordinating the three organizations' efforts and report back.

S.L.A.T.E./Day Camp: The program ended August 8. Over 100 children were served in the camp. No problems with SLATE workers or the contract. In addition, SDCC was able to provide variety entertainers through the Parks Dept. every other week; CWE Savings & Loan donated \$200 through the Council to sponsor the River Faces Workshop.

Four Evenings at Four Corners: First concert is The Bosman Twins, Sept. 7; flyers will be distributed throughout the neighborhood in addition to press releases to papers and radio stations.

Art Exposed: October 19; artists who participated last year have been contacted, response has been good. More volunteers are needed.

CDA Program Audit: The Council approved the addition to SDCC's personnel policy statements concerning affirmative action policies which the Council has been operating under but which have not been stated in writing.

Art Exposed Set For Oct. 19

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and the West End Neighborhood Arts Council will sponsor the third annual Arts Exposed, studio-gallery tour and exhibition on Sunday, October 19, 1-4:30 p.m. A Perfect Fifth will perform the final concert in the Four Evenings at Four Corners series that evening, 5-7 p.m.

All plans are not finalized, but to date five area galleries and four studios are scheduled to be open for tour. In addition, two group exhibits will feature work by at least seven West End artists. In addition to A Perfect Fifth's concert, a harp-flute duo, a string quartet, and a classical guitarist are tentatively scheduled to perform at the group shows and galleries. For more information, call 862-5122.

Art Exposed is made possible by a grant from the Regional Arts Commission.

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Who Was St. Roch?

Often depicted with a dog by his side, St. Roch was born in Montpelier, France, at the end of the 13th century. He was canonized for his miraculous cures of plague victims in Italy. Upon becoming ill with the plague himself, St. Roch disappeared into the forest so he would not infect or be a burden on others. Legend has it that his dog brought him bread, sustaining him through the disease. He recovered and returned to France only to be jailed as an Italian spy. St. Roch died in prison after five years. The frieze pictured above is located on the porch of St. Roch's School on Waterman Boulevard.

St. Roch's Is Seventy-Five

by Joan Breun

Sunday, September 14, is the day. Everyone in the neighborhood is invited to 11 o'clock Mass followed by a reception in the newly renovated Church Hall. Archbishop John L. May will lead the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. Roch's Parish. The pastors of Grace Methodist and Delmar Baptist Churches will take part in the ceremonies and the celebration along with as many of their congregations who wish to come.

By the time you read this article you will have already seen the banners along Waterman Avenue announcing the anniversary. The planning has been underway since June. Discussions began with the Alderman and other area leaders a year ago. The Archbishop was contacted last fall to reserve the date on his calendar. The celebration is modest, free, and open to the entire neighborhood.

St. Roch was founded from its neighboring western parish, All Saints, in 1911. The first Mass was celebrated on September 17, 1911, in a small store at 6008 Kingsbury Avenue. There were only eighteen families on the parish roster at that time. The newly appointed pastor, Father George P. Kuhlman, had come to St. Roch's from St. Joseph's Parish in Louisiana, Missouri. When Fr. Kuhlman came, there was no name for the parish. A fund-raising competition was held and the name of St. Roch was the highest bidder. In that way, the parish became one of the few in St. Louis named for a canonized layman.

Ten years after its first Mass, the cornerstone for the church was laid on September 21, 1921. Designed by Lee and Rush, architects who had previously worked on Holy Trinity Church in the Bremen area of North St. Louis, the church is in the Tudor Gothic tradition. More accurately termed Flemish Gothic, its closest analogue is a guild hall in Bruges, Flanders. The chairman of the building committee in 1921 was Luke E. Hart.

The first associate pastor of St. Roch's was Father James Downes, appointed in 1916. In 1918, the school had one hundred and twenty students. Fr. Downes chartered Boy Scout Troop 98 in 1920 and acted as scoutmaster until he left the parish in the spring of 1922. Girl Scout Troop 104 was begun ten years later by Lucille Vehslege, one of the faculty members, and Gerry Jones. Miss Jones later married John Fox and still lives in the parish.

In the summer of 1922, Fr. Kuhlman began to make the arrangements for the dedication of the new church in November. Archbishop Glennon was scheduled to be present. But in

August 1922, Fr. Kuhlman died after a short illness. It was something of a shock to the parish and the neighborhood. The Archbishop named Father John F. Spencer for Sacred Heart Parish in Columbia, Missouri, as the new pastor. He arrived in October and remained until he died in 1950, 38 years later. The dedication went on as scheduled on November 30, 1922. Fr. Joseph Cruse, a cousin of Fr. Kuhlman from Nativity Parish, said the Mass in the presence of the Archbishop; Bishop C.E. Byrne of Galveston, Texas, preached the sermon.

When Msgr. Spencer died in 1950, he was replaced by Father Sylvester Tucker. It was Fr. Tucker who secured the bells for St. Roch's and had the system installed in 1955. Fr. Tucker died of a heart attack in Wichita, Kansas, in 1957. Msgr. Bernard O'Flynn became pastor of St. Roch's in the summer of 1957. He had formerly been pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church. Msgr. O'Flynn secured land east of the school and tore down two apartment buildings to make room for an addition to the school. Before he could start construction, he was moved to Little Flower Parish in 1962. Msgr. Robert M. Peet arrived that same year as the new pastor. Construction of the new school building began in 1963 with a ground breaking presided over in part by Michael Joseph Hart as representative of the Parkview Association. He was the nephew of Luke Hart who chaired the building committee in 1921.

The period of the 1960's saw a dramatic change in the neighborhood and increased involvement by the associate pastors in neighborhood organizations. Both Fr. Russell Kendrick and Fr. Edmund Griesedieck were instrumental in solidifying neighborhood connections. Fr. Griesedieck was particularly important in the founding of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and Westend Town House Corporation. St. Roch continues to support the Council with its annual funding rate unchanged since it pledged to do so.

By the middle of the 1970's, the St. Roch's neighborhood had weathered a substantial change. The number of families in the parish had declined sharply but had reached a certain core level which kept the parish and the neighborhood together. It is impossible to detail this work, and Msgr. Peet deserves a great deal of the credit for the activities of his associates and the parishioners. When he retired in late 1980, he was respected and loved by everyone.

Father Salvatore Polizzi (named a Monsignor this past summer) became pastor in

September Calendar

September

- 1 Continuing at the Missouri Historical Society, Jefferson Memorial Building, Forest Park: "Up the Missouri with Audubon: Quadrupeds of North America," thru Nov.; "Promising the Product: 100 Years of St. Louis Advertising, 1880s to 1980s"; "St. Louis's Baseball Hall of Fame Members, 1905-1935," thru Oct.
- 4 Al-Anon meets at Grace United Methodist Church, Skinker at Waterman, basement; call 645-1572 for info. Also 9/11, 9/18, 9/25 & 10/2.
- 7 Margaret Keller Watercolor Exhibition at the University City Public Library's Gallery (6701 Delmar) opens with reception 3-5 p.m. Exhibit thru 9/30; Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun, 2-5 p.m.
The Bosman Twins, a 6-piece jazz group, in concert at Four Corners, Kingsbury at Des Peres, 4-6 p.m., free. Please bring folding chair.
- 8 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meets, 7:30 p.m., 6010a Kingsbury (PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION).
Cesar Pelli to speak on "Buildings and Thoughts," 8 p.m., Steinberg Auditorium, Washington University, free. Co-sponsored by the School of Architecture and St. Louis Chapter AIA Scholarship Fund/Ralph P. Ranft Foundation.
- 9 Preschool story hour, 10 a.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, 367-0717 for info. Also 9/16, 9/23 & 9/30.
Exhibition opening, "Richard Edward Miller: American Impressionist," Gallery 111, St. Louis Art Museum, thru 10/26.
- 12 "A Tribute to Vincent Price," *Laura*; 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 13 Stan Jackson (singer) and David Miller (keyboard) play rhythm and blues and popular music for young adults, 3 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union.
- 14 St. Roch Church celebrates its 75th Anniversary with 11 a.m. Mass and reception following. (See related article.)
- 16 Exhibition openings at St. Louis Art Museum: "Steps Across a Stream; Selections from the Asian Art Collections," Cohen Gallery, thru Nov. 2; "English Ceramics from the Collection," Gallery 120, thru 11/3.
- 18 Skinker DeBaliviere Business Association luncheon meeting. Call 862-5122 for time and place.
- 19 "A Tribute to Vincent Price," *Leave Her to Heaven*; 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
Guitarist Eliot Fisk in concert, 8 p.m., Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road. Program to include music by J.S. Bach, Domenico Scarlatti & Niccolo Paganini. Tickets: \$8 general; \$5 students and seniors. (Also 9/20; call 725-0739 for info.)
- 20 Workshop on sickle cell anemia by the Sickle Cell Anemia Association, Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union.
- 21 Concert and picnic at Four Corners: MADCO in concert at 4 p.m. with picnic to follow sponsored by the Rosedale Neighborhood Association for the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood. Bring food and a chair; cash bar provided for beer and soda.
"St. Louis Silver," slide-illustrated talk by Karen M. Goering, Schoenberg Curator of Art at the Missouri Historical Society; preview of St. Louis Silver Gallery to open in October. 2 p.m., Emerson Auditorium, free.
- 26 "A Tribute to Vincent Price," *Dragonwyck*; 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 27 Adult Classes at the St. Louis Art Museum begin; see related article for details.
"Snake Saturday," films, stories, and cooking for children, 3 p.m., Cabanne Branch Library, 1106 N. Union, free. *Rikki Tikki Tavi* to be featured film.
- 28 "Immigrants on the Hill: Italian-Americans in St. Louis, 1882-1982," lecture by author Gary Mormino, 2 p.m., Emerson Auditorium, Missouri Historical Society, free.
- 29 Wine auction party, "You Go To My Head," to benefit St. Louis Conservatory and Schools for the Arts (CASA). Cocktail party to begin at 6 p.m. with auction at 7 p.m.; Jimmy's Cabaret, 4915 Delmar. Call 863-3033 for tickets at \$35 per person.

October

- 3 "A Tribute to Vincent Price," *The Tomb of Ligeria*; 1:30, 7 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium, \$2; \$1 for Friends.
- 5 Children's Variety Program at Four Corners, 4 p.m., Des Peres at Kingsbury. Events to include: a story teller, magician, mimes, face painting. SDCC cannot be responsible for children without adult supervision.

early 1981 and began a program of growth and renovation. The number of families has doubled in the past five years. The church and school buildings have been cleaned, painted, replumbed, and rejuvenated. This process is still continuing with the completion of the church hall this September. New boilers and a new heating system are about to be implemented by the building committee under Jack Flynn. The finance committee under Mike Burke instituted a new fiscal year program two years ago which the Archdiocese is imitating beginning this year. The electrical systems are under examination and about to be updated this fall. The church has been carpeted, the pews removed and cleaned and returned to a newly tiled floor, and the vestibule doors have been cleaned and repaired. The marble has been regouted and polished. Msgr. Polizzi has also held two very successful fund raising events in addition to other numerous fund raising efforts. Parishioners are involved in numerous committees and neighborhood programs.

The celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Roch's will bring back to the parish

many of the priests associated here over the years. Father Robert Samson is the present associate. Others not mentioned already were Fathers Michael Campbell, Paul Kaletta, James Holland, Daniel Leahy, William Lyons, Robert Dwyer, Joseph Schejbal, John Phelan, George Lodes, John Flood, James Beggan, and William Glynn. All of the neighborhood is invited to Mass and the reception on Sunday, September 14, 1986, to celebrate these past seventy-five years.

RES-314 863-0220



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Four Evenings At Four Corners



The Bosman Twins, a 6-piece jazz group, will perform on Sept. 7, 4-6 p.m.



The woodwind quintet, "A Perfect Fifth," are the featured artists on Oct. 19, 5-7 p.m.



MADCO (Mid-America Dance Company) will perform on Sept. 21, 4 p.m. with a picnic to follow sponsored by the Rosedale Neighborhood Association.

All concerts will be held at Four Corners at Kingsbury and Des Peres. Please bring your own seating. The series will be rounded out with a Children's Variety Program on October 5, beginning at 4 p.m. Tentatively scheduled are a storyteller, magician, mime, and face painting. Children need to be supervised by an adult as the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council cannot be responsible for children alone. In addition to sponsorship by the Council, other organizations supporting the events are: the Regional Arts Commission, City of St. Louis Parks Department, West End Neighborhood Arts Council, and the Musicians Performance Trust Fund.

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History and Studio Classes For Adults At Art Museum

Classes for adults, 18 years or older, are scheduled to meet from September 27 through November 22, 1986, at the St. Louis Art Museum. Tuition for adult classes is \$32, \$24 for Museum Friends (unless noted otherwise). To register, call 721-0067, extension 65. There will be no classes October 4 in honor of the Jewish New Year holiday.

Drawing Basics

Learn the principals of drawing and design in this eight-week studio course.

Instructor: Bill Kreplin

Dates: Saturdays, September 27 — November 22, 10-12

The Figure

This drawing class follows the changing style and attitudes toward the figure in art history.

Instructor: Ken Worley

Dates: Saturdays, September 27 — November 22, 10-12

Portraiture

Using the Museum's collection and models, students will study the changing ideals and intent in portraiture.

Instructor: Charles Blood

Dates: Tuesdays, September 30 — November 18, 6:30-8:30

Painting

An eight-week studio class focusing on the use of primary colors and techniques used in working with alkyd and acrylic paints.

Instructor: Mark Karayiannis

Dates: Tuesdays, September 30 — November 18, 6:30-8:30

Pyramids to Pop: Art History Survey, Part I

An eight-week lecture course covering major developments and masterworks of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome and early Medieval Europe.

Lecturer: Joni Kinsey

Tuition: \$45 (\$36 for Friends)

Dates: Tuesdays, September 30 — November 18, 6:30-8:30

Lunch Hour Lecture Series:

Literary and Religious Sources of Art

References to literature and religion abound in art. Through this series of lunchtime lectures, we will decipher those images no longer part of our cultural vocabulary. All lunches are specialties of the Cafe Beaux Arts. Price includes a deluxe sandwich, coffee and dessert.

Lecturer: Joyce Schiller

Dates: Tuesdays, October 7, 14, 21 and November 4, 11, 18; 12:10-12:50

Tuition: \$12.50 (with lunch \$42.50), Museum Friends \$10.00 (with lunch \$40.00)

Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

Welcome back, readers, after the long, hot summer. We have quite a number of new neighbors to welcome to the area.

Tom and Jackie Karsten are new on 6100 Washington. Tom runs the construction department at Pantheon. Jackie will be teaching art this year at St. Roch and Christ the King in University City. They and their children, Tom Jr. and Jamie have lived in the area for several years, but this is their first time as city residents.

Also new to 6100 Washington are James Louhr and Karen Prestegard. James is with the geology department at Washington University.

Chuck and Debbie Larsen are new residents in 6100 Kingsbury. They are both professors at U.M.S.L.; Chuck works for the English department and Debbie for the Center for Academic Development. They have lived in the neighborhood prior to the purchase of their new home. Chuck's son Drew Larsen spent much of the summer visiting with Chuck and Debbie.

Jean Chouquette and Jerry Richardson are also new residents on 6100 Kingsbury. They both work for a downtown law firm, Jean as a legal assistant, and Jerry as a labor attorney.

Louisville, Kentucky, is the former home of Sharon and Phil Roberts. The Roberts are renovating a home on 6100 Kingsbury. Phil is an artist who will have a studio in his new home and who does landscape painting on location as well. Sharon is a buyer for Famous Barr. They have a daughter, Annie, who will be three this month.

American Indian Art

A six-week study of the art and culture of the American Indian with special emphasis on the tribes of the Northwest Coast.

Lecturer: Carole Lasky

Tuition: \$32 (\$24 for Museum Friends)

Dates: Saturdays, October 11 — November 15, 10-12

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: Movies as Social Criticism

The Museum and the University of Missouri—St. Louis are cooperating to offer this eight-week series of contemporary American films. Each class session includes a lecture, a film screening and a discussion. The films — *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, *The Wild Bunch*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956), *Blade Runner*, *Kiss Me Deadly*, *Chinatown*, *Eraserhead*, and *Videodrome* — use conventional film genres with menacing or futuristic twists to challenge conventional mores. Call UMSL at 553-5961 for registration information. Registration must be made by September 15.

Instructors: Paul Roth and Gary Burns

Dates: Wednesdays, September 24 — November 1; 6:30 lecture; 7:30 film

Tuition: \$45, \$37 for Museum friends, \$6.50 individual session

New neighbors in Parkview include: Jim and Kathy Merlo, 6300 Westminster; Terry and Rosemary Etter, 6300 Washington; and Kevin and Kate Horrigan, 6300 Pershing. The Horrigan's have two sons, and Kevin is the sports editor for the *Post*.

New neighbors moving in always means that we have lost a few of the "old" familiar faces around the neighborhood. Some of those you won't be seeing anymore include: the Deggendorfs, the Eaker-Lundgrens, the Smythe-Libros, the Baileys, and the Mike Burkes.

Vacations were the news all summer as well. Joan and Ray Breun and sons Ben and John, 6100 McPherson, took a two-week trip following the Sante Fe Trail. Highlights of their trip included Fort Union, Bent's Fort, the missions in San Antonio and Capulan Mountain. They especially enjoyed their visits to San Antonio and Taos, New Mexico.

Rose and Jim Flynn, 5900 Pershing, took a trip at the end of June to Wyoming for the wedding of a friend. They really enjoyed this unexpected vacation without the children.

Sally Boggemann and daughter, Sarah Reading, 6100 Washington, vacationed in Vermont early this summer. They visited Sally's parents who live there.

Barbara and David Clewell, 6100 Pershing, took their annual trip to New York City. There they really enjoyed shopping, and came home with many new treasures to add to their toy, book, and antique advertising collections.

Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, was the vacation spot for Steve, Nita, and Charles Littlejohn, 6100 Kingsbury. Steve's dad has a farm in Dover, so they were able to mix vacation with a family visit.

Janice Kuhl and daughter, Beth, 6100 McPherson, spent their vacation in Michigan, as did Bill, Mary, and Sam Christman, 6000 Kingsbury.

On to more "worldly" travelers. Bill and Pat Kohn have returned to the neighborhood after a year's stay in Spain. The Kohns live in 6100 Kingsbury.

Tom and Karleen Hoerr, 6100 Kingsbury, traveled this summer to Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, as well as Munich and Vienna. Karleen went to Yugoslavia in search of her roots, but unfortunately she was unable to dig far enough.

The Fays were a bit luckier. David and Susan Fay and daughter, Miranda, 6100 Kingsbury, vacationed in England and Scotland with Susan's parents. Mr. Crichton, Susan's dad, was able to meet some of his cousins for the first time in Scotland and actually discovered a village named Crichton in England. This is an especially happy time for the Fays, who will be adding to their family in mid-February.

Congratulations to Ripley Rasmus and Elizabeth Trueblood, 6000 Kingsbury, on the recent addition to their family. Adam Albert Rasmus was born on June 19th weighing nine pounds and ten ounces.

A new offspring is also in the making at the Kurtz household. Our esteemed editor and fearless leader Katie is expecting a baby this winter. Speaking of the Kurtz family, Paul has taken a position as senior claims analyst for Safety Mutual Insurance.

Bill Horner was recently promoted to line haul manager at American Freight System. (That means DAYS, guys!!!) The Horners live at 6100 Westminster.

It was quite the shindig on August 16th for the new Monsignor Polizzi. Parishioners, family, and friends were all on hand for the celebration Mass at St. Roch as well as the superb reception at the Cedars of Lebanon.

Attorney Marvin Nodiff, 6100 Westminster, was sent to Olympia, Washington, early this summer by the Conference on Uniform State Laws. Washington is now considering legislation regulating condominiums similar to that which was enacted by Missouri in 1983. Since Marvin had helped to write the Missouri legislation, he was called as an expert witness to testify before the Washington State Judiciary Committee. Quite an honor!

Congratulations to Bernadette diLorenzo who has recently been awarded her Ph.D. from Washington University. Bernadette lives with her family at 6100 Kingsbury.

Jewish community

Continued from page 1

"We had expected to be the youngest people in the congregation," says Rabbi Cohen. "We were astonished, and very pleased, to find ourselves in the middle of the age range."

Established congregations have been very supportive of the new group, lending prayer books, Bibles, and Torah scrolls.

The congregation has coalesced into a community very quickly, unified by a view of the synagogue as a place for prayer first of all. There are no auxiliary groups, no purely social activities.

The congregation has returned to a traditional model of the rabbi's role in the community as well. The traditional rabbi supported himself and his family through the exercise of a trade or profession, while he served the community as a teacher of the tradition and interpreter of the law. Rabbi Cohen sees himself as a member of the community, and a resource for the community.

Others in the community are responsible for many of the functions that rabbis have in other congregations. These include public relations and fund raising, locating and arranging for physical plant, educational activities, and the mechanics of the worship services. Etz Hayyim is run by a board of directors, but board meetings are open to all members, and the board tends to operate as a committee of the whole. "In a congregation this small," points out one board member, "everybody has to do something, or the work doesn't get done. We all *have* to be machers."

Now, Etz Hayyim is looking forward to its first celebration of the High Holy Days. Plans are incomplete, but all services will be held at University United Methodist Church, where the congregation has been quartered since April.

The congregation has decided to accommodate others who want to join them for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, requesting a donation of \$25 per adult from non-members to help defray expenses. (Call 863-0175 or 991-0832 for more information on High Holy Days services.)

And after that? Rabbi Cohen foresees a congregation of 200 to 250 families, a size that he regards as large enough to be viable, and small enough that the congregation doesn't lose its focus. Members seem to agree that a small congregation in the area can survive, pointing to the rejuvenation of the Loop and the Central West End to bolster their arguments.

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The Grass Isn't Always Greener...

Books for Children by Arlene Sandler

Younger readers will love Pete Seeger's retelling of *Abiyoyo*, a picture book based on a South African folktale and popularized by Seeger as a song. A young boy and his magician father move on, not because they choose to, but because they are driven away. The father's sometimes tactless waving of his magic wand and the boy's noisy ukelele playing have offended too many villagers. The sudden arrival of a hideous giant, Abiyoyo, threatens the whole countryside. Abiyoyo never brushes his teeth or washes his feet. He snatches up cows and sheep as if they were small sandwiches. The boy and his father use their wits and their previously scorned talents to rescue the town. Vivid color pictures help tell a very scary story with a very happy ending.

Middle graders who enjoy reading about England may want to try *Gaffer Sam's Luck*. James' family moves to the Fens, a flat, marshy part of the country. James finds his new life very disappointing. All the young people are members of very well-defined cliques and he doesn't seem to be wanted by any of them. James enjoys the company of Gaffer Sampson, his very old next-door-neighbor, and decides to help him recover a lucky stone hidden away seventy years before. James' attempts to find the stone and to find acceptance are difficult, but he learns a lot along the way.

The Bagthorpes Abroad is part of a funny series of stories about an eccentric English family for whom no day is ordinary. In this one, the Bagthorpes vacation in a haunted house in Wales so that Mr. Bagthorpe can learn about ghosts for a script he is writing. The house is disappointingly primitive and seemingly ghost-free, but by no means trouble-free. When the already crowded household, the Bagthorpes, their four children, their dog Zero, Grandma, Grandpa, and the housekeeper are visited by Uncle Parker, Aunt Celia, five-year-old Daisy and her pet goat, disasters strike.

Books for Adults by Mary Ann Shickman

The Mosquito Coast by Paul Theroux, Houghton Mifflin, 1981, has been compared to *Robinson Crusoe*, *Swiss Family Robinson*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Moby Dick*. In some ways it reminded me of *Heart of Darkness*. It is a brilliant book in its virtuosity.

Allie Fox is an inventor, tinker and all-around handy-man who sees modern American culture as debauched. He rants and raves to his wife and four children about such things as television, Diet Pepsi, aerosol cans, Rice-a-Roni, Twinkies and Kool-Aid. His fourteen-year-old son, Charlie, is narrator of the story and Allie is referred to as "Father." Allie is so fed up with modern life that he takes his family on a banana boat to a wilderness in Honduras, and with the help of some Indians he clears a patch of land and builds a comfortable house. He then invents a giant icemaker which he calls "fat-boy."

Charlie describes their life as follows: "We had defeated the mosquitoes, tamed the river, drained the swamp and irrigated the gardens. We had seen the worst of Honduras weather

— the June floods, the September heat — and we had overcome both. We were organized, Father said. Our drinking water was purified in a distiller that ran from fat-boy's firebox. We had the only ice-making plant in Mosquitia, the only one of its kind in the world, and the capacity, Father said, of making an iceberg."

But Allie was never satisfied and because of this and a long train of events, "fat-boy" blew up and the whole area disintegrated. They had to move downstream and tried to reestablish themselves but the place chosen was so incompatible with stinking mud, rains, darkened skies, and a lack of food that it was impossible. "Mother" (she was called nothing else in the story) and the children began to promote the idea of going back to the United States but "Father" told them that it had been destroyed in a war. He became an Ahab-type figure ranting all the time and the eleven-year-old Jerry began saying he was crazy and that he hated him. Vultures are perched everywhere and the horror rises to a crescendo. I only wish my book reviewing abilities could bring home to you the breadth of this book.

In addition to *Mosquito Coast*, the Kiosk has three other books by Theroux. I just finished *Half Moon Street* which consisted of two short novels. Both are works of great suspense and satire in Theroux's beautiful, low key prose. Another book is a travel book on China called *Sailing Through China* which is very witty and satirical. *Kingdom by the Sea* is like the American Express Card; I never leave home without it and whip it out of my purse whenever I stop for a coffee break and, for a short while, I am walking the coast of England with Paul Theroux.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Mini Zoo At The Kiosk

Jeffrey Schoenfeld watches "Harry," a Mexican red-legged tarantula, lent by neighbors Stephen & Michelle Woods, as part of a day-long exhibit of exotic reptiles and tarantulas at the Kingsbury Kiosk on July 25.

Commercial Expansion Southwest

by Ray Breun

Even today the reconstructed adobe building "appears" like a mirage along the northern bank of the Arkansas River in southwest Colorado. The original "castle" was purposely burned in 1849. Its demise ended one of the major periods of commercial development between St. Louis and the Southwest through its capital, Santa Fe. Bent's Fort was the last outpost on the American side. But we have to start at the beginning.

It was 1817 when the Chouteau-DeMun trading party brought \$30,000 worth of goods and furs into Santa Fe. They had crossed the Arkansas River into what was then Spanish territory near the mouth of the Purgatoire River. They were arrested in Santa Fe by the Spanish authorities and spent the next five years in jail. In 1822 Mexico won its independence from Spain and the Santa Fe trade picked up in earnest, with profits approaching 1000 percent or higher. The trip from St. Louis to Santa Fe was 800 miles, most of it over high plains and desert. The crossing at the Purgatoire meant the trading parties left the United States and entered Mexican lands, lands often full of Indians and devoid of water.

The full name of the Purgatoire, more a creek than a river, is *El Rio de Las Animas Perdidas En Purgatoire*, The River of Lost Souls in Purgatory. Some say putting Bent's

Fort near its conjunction with the Arkansas doomed the Santa Fe trade enterprise from the beginning. The creek was named after the discovery of the old Spanish arms and armor left from soldiers who had deserted the main force of Spanish explorers in the mid-sixteenth century and died along the creek. Even the Indians who first found the remnants of these dead soldiers considered the entire valley of the creek tainted. Nevertheless, Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain decided it was the best place for a commercial fort modeled in operation on the northern fur centers along the Missouri River in Dakota and Montana.

The Bent and St. Vrain partnership brought together the historic French trading interests with the newly arrived American opportunistic style. Charles Bent was the mastermind and leader. St. Vrain was the gregarious trader and master of languages. Charles talked his brother, William, into joining the company because of his friendship with the Indians who considered William more like them than his white brothers. It was William who designed and built the adobe fort while Charles brought the goods from St. Louis and St. Vrain ran the Santa Fe end of the company.

It is difficult for us to imagine the nature of successful trading in the first third of the nineteenth century. The trip from St. Louis to Santa Fe took about one month. The Mexican government did not discourage the trade, but it severely taxed it from the beginning, imposing a duty equivalent to half the profits of the company or four times the St. Louis value of the merchandise. Actually, this full duty was rarely paid. The Mexican customs agents were easily bought and influenced by the traders. In addition, the duty evolved into a wagon tax flat rate. The enterprising St. Louis traders simply made the wagons larger and larger, until the fully developed Murphy Wagon had wooden, spoked wheels seven feet in diameter. Thus, the loads of merchandise grew dramatically while the tax remained the same or was avoided with judicious bribes

and threats.

The difficult part of the trip to Santa Fe was after leaving Bent's Fort. The northern route over Raton Pass meant a very difficult mountain climb and even more difficult descent into the desert and volcanic plains south of the pass. The southern or river route meant crossing the desert east of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, finding the usually dry river bed of the Cimarron River, and turning west along the river to join with the mountain route about 150 miles south of Raton Pass. The southern route was considered the most dangerous because of the Comanche Indians and the lack of water. Jedediah Smith, one of the most literate and experienced traders and hunters of the mountains, took the southern route in 1826 and missed the Cimarron River — it had been dry so long its bed had blended with the surrounding country and he couldn't find it. The Comanche killed him and tried to sell his guns and saddles at Bent's Fort a couple weeks later.

In the middle of the reconstructed Bent's Fort is a large courtyard where the hunters, trappers, and traders gathered to talk and eat. The last time we were there, a bucket of cow brains was sitting on the hide press in the middle of that courtyard. The National Park Service staff was cooking elk recently brought in by a local hunter. A buffalo, long-horn bull, and several horses were eating in the corral at the back of the fort. The Arkansas River was barely visible among the weeds south of the fort. The Purgatoire was all but dried up east of the fort. A couple mule deer grazed in the weeds along the Arkansas. The old wagon routes were plainly visible from the scars in the sandstone. The rooms of the "adobe castle" displayed artifacts and packing boxes from old St. Louis firms like Campbell's Hardware and the trading company of Pratte and Chouteau. When we left the fort and headed over Raton Pass into New Mexico, we saw the many place names reminiscent of old St. Louis families and trading partners.

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Macho Menus: Half-Sour Pickles

(Editor's Note: September's chef is Eli Shuter who, with his wife Renai and four daughters, has lived in Parkview for close to twenty years. Eli is a physician whose hobbies include gardening — especially vegetables and dahlias — and bicycling.)

by Eli Shuter

I started out as a Sunday gardener — a few flowers, a few vegetables. The vegetable patch grew larger and more productive, especially of tomatoes and cucumbers. My wife was willing to deal with the tomatoes but drew the line at pickling mounds of cucumbers.

This recipe is the result of several years experimentation in making crisp, slightly sour pickled cucumbers similar to those found in a bowl on a delicatessen's table, or served with a corned beef sandwich. It has the advantage of being fast, requiring no cooking, special equipment, or exotic ingredients.

You can use this method for any quantity; I have used it to make from one quart to five gallons of pickles. The only disadvantage is that, since the pickles are not sterilized, they have to be kept refrigerated. After three or four weeks they get too soft for my taste. Don't make more than you can eat, or give away in that time.

The pickling can be done in any non-metallic vessel. I usually use a five gallon plastic pail bought at a restaurant supply store. A plastic bucket, a one gallon-wide-mouthed mustard jar cadged from the company cafeteria, or a large plastic or glass mixing bowl are all great.

The most important ingredient is the cucumbers. Usually the smaller the cuke, the fewer the seeds. Use only firm cucumbers. First cut off any remaining stems and blossoms from the ends; these are supposed to contain an enzyme which will cause the pickles to soften rapidly. Scrub the skins. This is done most quickly with a vegetable brush but you can use any type of brush or cloth.

Next cut the cucumbers into pieces or slices. I usually cut small ones in half, and large ones into quarters. If the cucumber is more than five inches long, it is easier to handle if cut in half crosswise.

Prepare the pickling brine by dissolving one-third cup salt in a gallon of tap water. A plastic milk jug is a good vessel for this. Ordinary table salt works well. If you wish, use canning salt which does not contain sodium iodide (placed in table salt to prevent goiter in the Great Lakes region where tap water is deficient in iodide), or calcium chloride (which is a drying agent to keep salt from clumping in the salt shaker). Canning salt, also, gives a clearer solution.

Your cucumber pieces will take up about half the volume of your pickling container; you will need enough brine to fill the other half. For each gallon of brine you will need three tablespoons of pickling spice (a mixture found on the spice shelves of local supermarkets), eight heads of fresh dill, and eight peeled and crushed garlic cloves.

Put half the required amount of pickling spice, dill heads, and garlic on the bottom of the pickling container. Add cucumber pieces nearly to the top, and cover with the rest of the pickling spices, dill heads, and garlic. Fill the container with brine.

You'll need to keep the cucumbers from floating out of the brine. If your container has a top, put it on loosely; some carbon dioxide forms during fermentation and has to escape. If you use a bowl or pail, an old dinner plate works well. If the plate is not heavy enough, a rock, or small jar filled with water, will keep it in place.

Put your container in a corner of your kitchen. Taste the pickles twice a day. When they are not quite as sour as you think would be perfect, pack them in clean jars, or plastic storage boxes. Use a ladle to fill the container to the top with the pickling brine.

Put the containers in the refrigerator. If you did your pickling in a large jar, or small enough bowl or pail, you could put that in the refrigerator without repacking.

I find that the cucumbers turn into pickles in two to three days but during this past hot July the process only took thirty-six hours.

While the pickling is going on, an unappetizing white foam forms on the top. Skim this off daily, or your spouse and children will make unprintable comments; however, this will not prevent them from pigging out on your pickles.



Area Groups Team Up For Successful Program

Three West End groups joined resources during the summer to provide a variety of activities and experiences for children and youth of the community, from June 16 to August 8.

Operating under the theme of "Building A Better You," the summer day camp was sponsored by Hamilton Community School, Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and the Breitmayer Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church. Locale for most of the activities was Grace U.M. Church, with other events held at Hamilton School and Washington University's recreation complex. Field trips were completed to places of interest in St. Louis and surrounding areas.

Activities began at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, and concluded at 4:30 p.m., with breakfast and lunch served each day. Enrollment reached 117 during the six-week program, ages six through 13. The daily schedule included physical activity, quiet reading

time, B.E.S.T. test skill development, all forms of art, crafts, computer training and varied forms of recreation. If the children-youth and their leaders were not in or around Grace Church, they were learning about their city's heritage and resources through field trips and visits to places of interest within the larger community.

Serving as coordinator for all of the 1986 Summer Program was Grace Church's Breitmayer Minister, Carol Strecker; she was assisted by K. Kalimba Kindell of Hamilton Community School and Sheri Williamson, Jacqueline Ambrow, two part-time interns and eight S.L.A.T.E. workers.

On the evening of July 31 a closing celebration shared with family and friends, enabled the youths to demonstrate some of the skills learned during the summer camp, present some of their work and play of the past six weeks, and partake of the food prepared for the Family Night.

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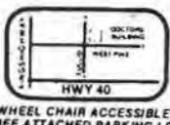
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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

"What's the easiest job in the world?" That's a question that I've been pondering lately. I don't know why I've been thinking about it, maybe because it is the time of the year when my job "heats up"; nevertheless, it has been on my mind and I've been talking to friends about it.

I've been doing some actual research into what is the easiest job. No, not reading *Turkel's Working* or immersing myself into the stacks at the Washington University library. I've been doing research in the fashion of a true social scientist: talking about the topic over numerous dinners and drinks. There's something about the third and fourth Bud Lites that makes my thinking a bit clearer. (Interestingly, it has a short-term effect because the next morning I find that the previous night's thinking is actually quite muddled. At the time it seems cogent though...)

Deciding the easiest job is actually harder than one might think. There are all kinds of variables and limitations that must be set. First, let's base the discussion on the United States and our culture. That rules out Eskimo advertising men, snake charmers, Great Wall of China security guards, and the like. Those could all be very easy jobs, but I really am not sure.

In thinking of our culture, what do we typically mean by easy? Certainly, for me anyway, any job that requires physical labor and perspiration is definitely not easy. My parents didn't pay tuition and I didn't learn the difference between ontology and epistemology so that I could break a sweat to bring home the bacon. (I realize that some muscle-types might disagree and argue that a job of lifting which requires no thought is easy. They're wrong, but that's their problem.)

Parkview Continued

A National Register nomination for Parkview has been discussed for years, but finally got underway in the spring of 1984, following conversations between Alan Wright, then president of the Parkview Agents, and Virginia Stith, director of the St. Louis County Office of Historic Preservation and a Parkview resident. Jean Eberle was hired to complete the survey of the houses in St. Louis providing, together with the accumulated earlier research on the neighborhood, a solid data base for the nomination prepared by V-J Bass of the County office.

Parkview home owners should look upon the National Register designation as both an honor and a responsibility. The subdivision has been recognized nationally as having historical value well beyond its boundaries. Maintenance of common property such as the streets, parks and gates, and of the houses should be seen as a long term responsibility, the goal being the survival of the neighborhood for future generations as both a pleasurable place to live and as a significant historical artifact.

(Editor's Note: The three books mentioned in the above article are available for purchase. Anthropological Form by Robert L. Vickery, Charlottesville, University of Virginia Press, 1972, can be ordered through Paul's Books in the Delmar Loop or any other bookstore. The Neighborhood is available through the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council; copies are limited. Call Nancy Farmer at 862-5122 for price information. Urban Oasis is available from Judy Little, 725-4522, or Paul's Books.)

Now that we've excluded physical labor, what criteria should be set? First, just as there's no physical labor allowed for an easy job (other than breathing and moving one's eyes), mental stress and strain should also be kept to a minimum. That pretty much precludes jobs like nuclear scientist, stock market analyst, and publicist for the Football Cardinals.

Any job that requires the carrying of a gun should be eliminated from consideration. Whether or not you actually shoot anybody or are shot at, the fact that you have to carry a piece should disqualify you from being thought to have an easy job. This, then, rules out cops, security guards, military personnel, crooks, and publicists for the Football Cardinals.

Finally, the job should be one that is routine, requires little or no skill, and is free from scrutiny. This excludes physicians (where a little skill is required), air-traffic controllers (where the job isn't routine), and being Mayor of St. Louis (where there's more than a bit of scrutiny.)

Now before I go any farther, let me point out one thing: selecting the easiest job has a lot in common with determining the color of grass... Your neighbor's is always greener. I mean, after all, who really thinks that they have the easiest job? Don't we all harbor thoughts that the guy or gal next door has a sinecure? They probably leave for work later than we do, come home earlier (looking refreshed!), and make more money. (Oh yes, for the purposes of this argument, money isn't considered. If we factored in salary, physicians would win hands down and that wouldn't be any fun.)

OK., so now that we have all of the criteria and cautions, what is the easiest job? After much research, here is a list of the five easiest jobs, in order, leading to the all-time cush position.

Fifth runner-up: toll taker on a bridge. At two dinners we were unanimous on this one. Imagine sitting or leaning, doing nothing but collecting coins from passing cars while you listen to the radio and gaze over the rolling river. Sure it'd be cold in the winter, but that's why it's only number 5!

Fourth runner-up: elevator operator

on an automatic elevator. This has many of the characteristics of the toll taker, but you wouldn't have the nice view which makes it a bit harder. Besides, you'd get tired of saying "good morning" and making idle chit-chat between floors.

Third runner-up: attorney-at-law. I'm still not sure what these guys do other than talk to one another and collect fees whether they win or lose. This is easier than the elevator operator because attorneys don't have to bother with idle chatter or being polite.

Second runner-up: St. Louis Alderman. These guys and gals do what the lawyers do, only people buy them free drinks. They're not really required to pass any legislation or do anything (Arnold, Missouri, had cable television before St. Louis, for example) other than kiss babies, make a few public pronouncements, and show up semi-sober every so often.

First runner-up: tenured professor. True story: A tenured professor friend of mine and I were talking about jogging together. (Both being of the endomorph variety, we thought we'd provide comfort for one another in our plodding pace.) He asked if I'd like to meet him to run after work in the "late afternoon." "Sure," I replied, "when exactly do you mean?" His response was, "Oh, four or four-thirty." Enough said.

THE EASIEST JOB: **"Wheel of Fortune's" Vana White.***** If you've ever seen this show you know what I mean. All she, Vana, does is stand, smile, clap, and, well, stand, smile, and clap. That's it, honest! She could have an I.Q. of 45 for all we know (in fact, if you've seen the show more than once or twice, you could have an I.Q. of 45 for all we know). Her job is like a combination alderman-tenured professor, only it doesn't have the disadvantages of either: she doesn't have to kiss babies and her six half-hours per week are even a bit less than our tenured friends.

"Well," as Ed McMahon would say, "there you have it." That's the definitive list of easy jobs. I've left off jobs that are only pretty easy (like cashier at an automated gas station or any union official's job). But, in the spirit of stimulating a dialogue and hearing others' perspectives, however screwy they may be, *In Your Ear* welcomes your thoughts about the easiest job. That's right, here's your turn to identify some neighbor's grass!

Simple fill in the form below and return it by October 15. The three responses judged to be the "most original" will receive a \$10 gift certificate for Redel's Restaurant at DeBaliviere and Pershing. All decisions of the judge are final and neatness counts.

Name _____ phone _____

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I think that the easiest job is a _____ because:

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