

# The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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NOVEMBER, 1990

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

## SDCC Fall Meetings: Housing Conservation District Discussed And Board Membership Changes

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council held regular meeting on August 27, 1990 and October 1, 1990. Following are minutes of these meetings.

### August 1990

In attendance: Directors M. Campbell, C. Forslund, G. Fox, L. Hamilton, P. Kurtz, B. Mahon, R. Roncal, N. Vatcha, K. Wobus, N. Farmer; and guests A. Johnson, R. Johnson, M. Karina, and Ald. D. McGuire.

Mahon and Farmer presented a proposal for realignment of the SDCC board. Generally, the proposal suggests that joint Block Units and resident's associations in Kingsbury Square and Nina Place become members of the SDCC as neighborhood associations and be given seats on the board. Rather than expanding the size of the board, vacated at-large seats would be reassigned to these units/associations.

Directors approved this plan. Farmer will continue to work with these groups and assist them in applying for membership in the SDCC if they resolve to make such applications.

Roncal presented a proposal to establish an SDCC "Friends" group. SDCC needs new sources of revenue and forming such a group now is timely as SDCC will celebrate its 25th anniversary on March 21, 1991. SDCC could produce a commemorative decal for "Friends" who make a minimum contribution to the SDCC. J. McLeod is willing to work with a committee pursuing this. Directors approved a committee to pursue this proposal; Roncal will call a group together.

### Director's Report Modular Housing

Developer Jaffe is still pursuing the plan to develop the lot at the south end of 400 Laurel. He has a site plan, but the sketches of proposed elevations, etc., will not be ready until Wednesday. The plans will be reviewed by adjacent block units, SDCC, Historic District Review Committee, Heritage & Urban Design, and CDA. Farmer recently met with Jaffe, representatives from CDA and the Catholic Commission of Housing. Catholic Commission is likely to screen, qualify, and follow-up with buyers of these properties.

### Delmar Baptist Church

The last service at Delmar Baptist Church at Washington and Skinker was held August 26. Church members seem optimistic that they will sell this building to another church or a school.

### ConServ

A new director of the program has been appointed, Peter Sortino. He seems open to ideas and suggestions, and Farmer anticipates that there will probably be some changes in the ConServ program in the next few months.

### Neighborhood Plan

Don Roe, former director of ConServ, is now the director of planning. Roe will work with ConServ neighborhoods in completing the neighborhood plans.

### Neighborhood Brochure

This project is currently on hold; there is a question about whether or not the city can use federal Block Grant money to fund portions of the city living program including the publication of neighborhood brochures.

*Continued on page 6*

## Wash. U. Seeks Black Applicants For Ervin Scholarships



John B. Ervin

Up to 10 full-tuition scholarships will be awarded to talented college-bound black high school students next year through the John B. Ervin Scholarship Program at Washington University in St. Louis. Washington University is now accepting applications for the program, which was inaugurated in early 1987. To date, 43 Ervin Scholars have enrolled at Washington University.

The application deadline for the 1991-92 academic year is Jan. 15, 1991. Washington

University established the merit-based program in honor of Ervin, a nationally recognized black educator and former dean of the university's School of Continuing Education and Summer School.

Under the scholarship program, 10 black freshmen will receive renewable scholarships of full tuition and an annual stipend of \$2,500 for four years of undergraduate study at Washington University. Tuition for the 1990-91 school year is \$14,800.

The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit and community service. The university will provide further support to recipients who demonstrate additional financial need. The scholarships are renewable each year, provided the students maintain a satisfactory academic record.

To apply for the scholarships, students must: apply for freshman admission to Washington University; submit an Ervin Scholars application; submit two letters of recommendation; and write two original essays. Interested persons may write to James E. McLeod, chairman of the John B. Ervin Scholarship Committee, at Campus Box 1089, Washington University, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130, or call 1-800-638-0700. Those calling from within Missouri may call 1-800-582-0700. St. Louis residents may call 889-6000.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Delmar Baptist Church, closed as of September 2, 1990, held a sale during Rags to Riches on September 8.

The congregation has moved to West County, citing "membership and financial problems." The congregation fell to fewer than 200 members from a high of nearly 1,000 in the 1950's.

Delmar Baptist moved into the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918.

## They Dream A World For Us:

*A Portrait/Essay Project Celebrating Women Who  
Changed The Lives Of Area Children*

In conjunction with the Special Exhibition *I Dream A World: Portraits Of Black Women Who Changed America* by Brian Lanker (November 16, 1990 through January 6, 1991), Southwestern Bell Telephone is sponsoring an essay/portrait project designed for area children.

Portraits and essays submitted by November 16 will be on exhibition at the Museum beginning December 4.

Participants are invited to identify women who made a difference in their lives, write a one-page essay about that person and submit it with a drawing, painting or photograph of her. Museum staff and community leaders will review all entries and select a variety of women to feature in this special children's exhibition. Information about the project is available at the Museum information desk. The project deadline is November 16.

# Wickersham Creates The Missouri River Portfolio

Carrying a folding wooden field camera, a tripod, a box of 4" x 5" film, a lens and another camera into areas accessible only by foot and traveling nearly 30,000 miles by car, John P. Wickersham, Ph.D., explored the Missouri River Basin, shooting thousands of photographs to document the longest river in North America. From its source at Hell Roaring Spring in southwestern Montana to its mouth 2700 miles later at its confluence with the Mississippi at St. Louis, the camera-toting professor has captured images of the rolling river. His odyssey took him to 30 or 40 of the Missouri's 90 tributaries, to lakes, reservoirs, ponds, dams, creeks, springs and towns in ten states and two Canadian provinces.

The Missouri River Portfolio, a portrait of one of the great waterways of the world, will be exhibited at the History Museum in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park from November 16 through March 15, 1991. From his extensive collection of images, Wickersham has selected and printed 100 monochrome 9½ x 11 photographs for the show.

The exhibition will be open during museum hours, 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, and there is no admission charge.

The photographer will introduce the exhibition with a slide-illustrated lecture on Friday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m.

A professor of philosophy at Maryville College for 28 years, Wickersham has studied photography, as an avocation, since high school. In 1981 he created "A Chesterfield Album," in which he showed the transformation of a farming community into a bustling suburb.

"That show was extremely focused and local in interest, Wickersham says, "but because part of Chesterfield is bordered by the Missouri River, it led me to this project. I began photographing the Missouri in the state, but saw the importance of doing the whole river, then the



whole basin and the tributaries. Looking at the geography, I realized it was a daunting project—I have yet to find that anyone else had completed a photographic study of the Missouri River Basin."

The basin ranges in altitude from Colorado's 14,285 foot Mt. Lincoln to the Ozark Plateau and the Great Plains. It ranges in latitude from Saskatchewan's Frenchman River—its northernmost tributary—to Missouri's Boiling Springs in the Big Piney River—its southernmost tributary.

The Missouri River, Yankton, South Dakota, from the Missouri River Portfolio, photographs by John Wickersham. On exhibit at the History Museum in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park, November 16 to March 15, 1991.

Along these rivers occurred most of the storied events which comprise the westward movement of the American People in the 19th century," he says. "The Missouri was the great road into the Indian lands, the pathway of Lewis and Clark, the waterway for the mountain steamboats, the highway of furs, gold, and later, shame and blood."

"So the photographs have a two-fold interest—a documentary survey of the Basin waters, and an expressive response to that landscape. In striving to create an aesthetic series, I was presented with many choices. I have selected images that seem to me to represent the spirit and appearance of the Missouri Basin, from all seasons of the year and from varied geographic points of view."

The photographs will be accompanied by brief narratives explaining the landscape. Detailed maps will also help the viewer place the images in the context of the entire Missouri River Basin.

## Holiday Workshops Offered At Craft Alliance

Beginning November 23, Craft Alliance will offer holiday workshops in a variety of media for children and adults. The workshops being offered include Preschool Paper Fun, Handprinted Holiday Cards, Chanukah Gifts and Games, Holiday Houses of Clay and handmade Wreaths and Ornaments. Some workshops are designed for parents and children to take together. Tuition ranges from \$12 to \$60 for one, two or three session workshops. For further information, please call 725-1177.

## The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editorial Board: Sue Rothschild, 361-0880 or 725-0878  
Katie Kurtz  
King Schoenfeld

Calendar: Sue Rothschild Business Manager: Marjorie Weir, 863-7558

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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Col width, 2¼". Minimum ad size, 2" x 1 col.: \$24/insertion; (10% discount 5 to 8 issues contract; 15% discount 9 issues contract.) For complete list of sizes and rates, write The Times, 6010 Kingsbury, 63112 or call 863-7558.

### 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. Signature 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 20th 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 6010 Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 20th of the month.

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# Calendar

## Continuing

"Sir Aladdin, The Arabian Knight" presented by Theatre Project Company; New City School Theatre, 5209 Waterman. For ticket prices and performance dates call 531-1301. Through Nov. 25.

Elisa S. Forgelman's recent works in The Gallery of the U. City Public Library, 6701 Delmar. Through Nov. 30.

Artist Sandi Shapiro exhibit titled "Wire Mania"—at Composure Gallery, 6509 Delmar. Exhibit will be on display through November.

The St. Louis Art Museum presents a special exhibition of one of its newest acquisitions—an Egyptian mummy. The exhibition will be on display in Gallery 120 through November 25.

## November

- 5 **Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting;** 7:30 p.m., 6010 Kingsbury.
- 8 "Tales of The Lost Formicans" presented by The New Theatre. A story thats touching, truthful and hilarious. Performances at Gateway One on the Mall, 701 Market. More information 531-8330
- "The Dining Room" presented by the Crossroads Players; 7:30 p.m. See related story.
- Environmental Hazards, Eighteenth-Century Style—Gordon S. Wood gives the third annual Vaughan Memorial Lecture. 8 p.m. Free.
- 9 26th Annual Holiday Exhibit opening at Craft Alliance; 6-9 p.m. One of the largest selections of handmade glass and woodturned ornaments. Call 725-1151 for more information. Through Dec. 24.
- "The Dining Room" presented by the Crossroads Players; 7:30 p.m. See related story.
- The Performing Arts Dept. at Washington U. presents "A Flea In Her Ear"; 8 p.m. For information on performance times, dates, and ticket prices please call 889-6543.
- Lincoln High School Combo featured at Friday Nights at the Museum, 6-8 p.m., Griggs Gallery. Free.
- My Favorite Wife (film) with Irene Dunne and Cary Grant, 1:30, 7:00 and 9:15. Art Museum.
- 10 **Seventh Annual Christmas Bazaar** at St. Roch Church, Waterman and Rosedale. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. See related story.
- Classical guitar performance by Scott Tennant at The Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton; 8 p.m. \$12; \$9-seniors and students. Call 725-0739 for more information.
- 11 **Seventh Annual Christmas Bazaar** at St. Roch Church, Waterman and Rosedale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. See related story.
- 13 Synchronia opens its 6th season with a concert at 8 p.m. at The Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton. Tickets are \$10; \$4 for students and senior citizens. Call 664-9313 for information.
- 14 Rafael Puyana, harpsichordist will perform at CASA, 560 Trinity, as part of CASA's great artist series. 8 p.m. For more information and ticket prices call 863-3033.
- 15 Tea Lecture: *St. Louis Clothing Designers: From Carriage Trade To Ready Made*—presented by Sharon Fivel; 1:30 p.m.; History Museum. For reservations call 361-9265.
- 16 The Missouri River Portfolio exhibition will be on view at the History Museum through March 15. See related article.
- The David Hines Ensemble, with Fontella Bass, featured at Friday Nights at the Museum, 6-8 p.m., Griggs Gallery. Free.
- 17 A recital by the Greater St. Louis Adult Concert Band will be held at CASA, 560 Trinity, University City. 2 p.m. performance. Call 863-3033 for more information.
- The Mask Messengers*—a new show by Rob Faust (The Mask Man) who is back by popular demand. Performances 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at COCA, 520 Trinity.
- Children's Program: Pioneer Holidays*—Pioneer celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas; 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. History Museum. Free.
- Exhibition by artist James McGarrell will be held at Randall Gallery, 999 N. 13th, through Dec. 29th. Reception from 6-8 p.m. Contact W. Shearburn 231-4808 if there are any questions.
- 23 Craft Alliance offers holiday workshops in a variety of media for children and adults. Preschool paper fun, handmade wreaths, ornaments and much more. Call 725-1177 for more information.
- Eddie Fritz Quartet featured at Friday Nights at the Museum, 6-8 p.m., Griggs Gallery. Free.
- 25 Slide-illustrated talk by Janice K. Broderick opens exhibit, "Early Harvest: Ozark Photographs of Charles Elliott Gill from 1887 to 1920" History Museum; 2 p.m. Free.
- 28 CASA Recital—"Bach: Serious and Humorous"—The International Wells Ensemble, "Solisti dal Mondo"; performance at 8 p.m. 560 Trinity, U. City. For more information call 863-3033.
- 30 Tea Lecture: *Joyeux Noel: French Holiday Customs and Cuisine* demonstrated by Suzanne Corbett; Jefferson Memorial, Forest Park; 1:30 p.m. Tea and pastries served. \$5. Call 361-9265.
- Kim Portnoy Trio featured at Friday Nights at the Museum, 6-8 p.m., Griggs Gallery. Free.
- The Performing Arts Dept. at Wash U. presents "Connections: An Evening of One Acts" at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday & Sunday. \$7; \$5. For more information call 889-5251.

## December

- 1 *Hold Me*—by Jules Feiffer, Julie Kriekhaus, director; presented at CASA, 560 Trinity, U. City. 7:30 p.m. For information on dates, performances and ticket prices call 863-3033.
- 6 "Black Nativity"—by Langston Hughes, Ron Himes, director. For performance dates, times and ticket prices call St. Louis Black Repertory Company, 534-3807.
- 7 Wash. U's Dance Theatre will present its annual concert at 8 p.m., Dec. 7 and 8 in the university's Edison Theatre, Mallinckrodt Center, 6445 Forsyth. For ticket information call 889-6543.
- Holiday Tree Lighting and Music featured at Friday Nights at the Museum, 6-8 p.m., Griggs Gallery. Free.

## Holiday Bazaar At St. Roch



Photo by King Schoenfeld

**St. Roch Church will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on November 10 and 11. Clare Walsh shows an appliqued Christmas sweater and other items that will be sold.**

The holidays are upon us! St. Roch Church, Waterman & Rosedale Avenues, will hold its Seventh Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 10, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 11, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., in the Church Hall. The largest in their history, this bazaar boasts handcrafted gifts and holiday decorations, home-baked goods, raffles and continental breakfast and lunch. There will be different exhibitors each day to entice you with their specialties.

A unique and favorite part of the bazaar for kids is the "For Children Only" booth, where they can purchase low-cost (\$3.00 and under) Christmas gift items with hard-earned allowance and piggy-bank savings.

And Mrs. Claus will be on hand to greet one and all!

The raffles this year are on a gorgeous, hand-knit Christmas sweater and on an ever-popular Barbie Doll complete with a suite of splendid needlepoint furniture, some wardrobe items and accessories. Also available at the bazaar will be the St. Roch Cooking Classics cookbook, a compilation of favorite recipes from parish family members and friends. It sells for the bargain price of \$1.00!

All proceeds from the bazaar support the activities of the Women of St. Roch, an organization of parish women dedicated to raising funds and providing resources for parish needs. For more information, contact 726-1056.

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# Vicissitudes

by Terry Vanicelli

This year (my journalistic year starts in the fall) I'm leading off with a culinary tip every month. This is being written within a week of the Edible Art Exhibit that the West End Arts Council sponsors every year, so this month's tip stems from that affair.

Those of you that were able to attend may have noticed one of the entrants that featured a giant pretzel in the shape of the Gateway Arch. That was my baby and here's how to make your very own Giant Pretzel, the easy way.

I bought some frozen bread dough at the grocery store. After letting an exposed loaf stand at room temperature for an hour or so, I started rolling it while it was still semi-frozen. That way, I figured it wouldn't rise while I was working with it. Once I had it rolled to about two-thirds of the diameter I wanted, I let it set and rise for an hour or so. In the meantime, I heated the oven to 475 degrees and made up a mixture of one egg white and two tablespoons of water. When the oven was ready, I coated the dough with the egg mixture and sprinkled the pretzel with rock salt (you'll want to use kosher salt). Then I popped it in the oven for ten minutes or so and—voilà! A custom pretzel, suitable for the centerpiece at any special occasion. I hope Gus will forgive me for printing this.

I was fortunate enough to win a prize or two at the Edible Art Exhibit, one of which consisted of a gift certificate at Charlie Gitto's downtown restaurant. I have lived in St. Louis for nine years now, and this is the first Italian restaurant I could find that serves my favorite pasta, gnocchi. I know that doesn't look like a very appetizing word and the pronunciation is even less encouraging, but these miniature pasta dumplings are absolutely delicious and I hope you all have a chance to try them.

I was walking through the television department of a department store a couple of days ago, when I had a Cosmic Insight that I thought I'd like to share with you.

Some Expert on a TV program was declaiming on her particular area of expertise. I never did find out what the subject was, but that's unimportant. She maintained that "We evolved as a species of Hunter-Gatherers. Nature obviously never equipped us to sit in front of a computer console and do 20,000 keystrokes each day."

I guess no one ever told this gal about evolution. Think about it; is it impossible to imagine that, over the course of ten thousand years or so, we could have evolved from a race of Hunter-Gatherers to a race of Hunter-Peckers?

I took the kids down to Forest Park to feed the ducks about three weeks ago. It was fun for about ten minutes, then we noticed that one of the ducks had his head stuck inside of a plastic six-pack retainer. Part of it was jammed inside his bill. Several of us tried to lure the bird into shore where we could help him, but he was too cagy for us and I daresay he's dead by now. The moral's kinda obvious, isn't it?

Bill and Lisa Horner (of 61XX Westminster) are in Belgium, visiting expatriate West Enders Tom and Ginny Klevern, who still own a house on 61XX Washington. They'll be back by the time you read this



Photos by King Schoenfeld

and I hope that Lisa, my predecessor in this column, will have a story for us next issue.

While the Horners are in Europe, we have two charming guests from Hungary staying in our neighborhood for awhile. Both Lilla Vekerdy and Elizabeth Vasbanyai are here from Budapest, attending the Foreign Language Institute. Lilla, who is staying on Waterman, is a university teacher and researcher. Elizabeth, who is on Pershing, is an English teacher. This is a fascinating time to have visitors from Eastern Europe of course; I was shocked to learn that Hungarians were forced to study Russian for 12 years under the old regime. One year was plenty for me.

Kudos for the month go to Bob Mahon of 63XX Washington, who was just recognized by Farmers Insurance as the top homeowners' insurance producer in Eastern Missouri. I talked to him after the recent Earthquake preparedness clinic. Getting earthquake insurance is apparently becoming more difficult, as many companies are getting out of the business. Most insurance companies will not take on new business for a period following a moderate shock, so be warned. It also seems the deductible is increasing. A couple of years ago, you could get an earthquake policy to cover 98% of your loss; today's policies only cover 95%.

# Art Exposed '90



The Edible Art "Best of Show" was "Cream Cheese Pottery" by Carol Eder.

There were fifteen entries in the Edible Art Competition, all worthy of prizes. Shown is "Gateway to the Wurst", winner of one of the "pun" prizes and created by Terry and Monica Vanicelli.

TV star Texas Bruce, right, greets Joe Edwards, owner of Blueberry Hill, after judging the Edible Art entries.



The Arts Council sponsored a "make your own" jack o'lantern booth which these youngsters enjoyed.



Several hundred residents and visitors attended Art Exposed '90 on October 21. One of the crowd pleasers was the Circus Flora acrobatic troop, shown here as one performer makes a flying leap over the other five, picking up a hat along the way.

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# SDCC

Continued from page 1

## Door-to-door inspections

Many code violations that were cited in the spring inspections have been abated or they are in process; many others, where little or no effort has been made, have been referred to housing court. Farmer had hoped to track all properties through the system, but it has proven impossible. She can check the status of any property that is of particular concern.

Three at-large members of the SDCC board will tender their resignations October 1: Randy Bailey, Kathleen Hamilton and Karleen Hoerr. Randy and his family are moving to Iowa. Randy, Nancy, Natalie, Matthew and Clay will be sorely missed.

Kathleen Hamilton is involved with other volunteer organizations, and with these commitments plus family and work, cannot continue to serve on the board. She has been treasurer and a board member of the SDCC for many years.

Karleen Hoerr is president of the Skinker DeBaliviere Housing Corporation board of directors and is also involved with other volunteer organizations. She will continue to work with the SDCHC, but cannot continue on the SDCC board.

## Committee Reports

### Parkview

Mahon reported that some street lights in Parkview are now working. The gates have been repaired but they are not being opened; traffic in Parkview was substantially reduced by closing the gates.

### Rosedale

Roncal reported that RNA's annual yard sale day, Rags to Riches, will be held Sat., Sept. 8, 1990. RNA hopes at least 30 households from throughout the neighborhood will register for yard sales and RNA will sponsor the traditional BBQ and bake sale at the Kingsbury Animal Hospital. RNA has scheduled a general meeting for October 11; the agenda has not been set.

### Housing Conservation District

Ald. McGuire reported that he is working to establish Skinker DeBaliviere as a Conservation District which would require occupancy permits for residential property. In addition to public hearings, McGuire hopes that the board will request a presentation about this program at the October board meeting. Directors agreed that an informational presentation should be on the October agenda.

### Historic District Review

Kurtz reported that SDCC has a Polaroid camera available for loan to neighborhood residents. This will be helpful when neighbors need to submit photos of their property with permit applications. Photos cost \$1 each which covers the price of film.

### Housing Corporation

Farmer reported that SDCHC has acquired two properties, 6029 Washington and 6025 Westminster. The goal is to sell these properties to owner/occupants who can rehab them. Both buildings need major renovation work. SDCHC will schedule inspections and develop a formula for determining selling prices. The garage at 6048 Washington, one of the Rosedale Square buildings, is being repaired and equipped with doors.

## October 1990

Present: Directors M. Campbell, F. Driscoll, M. Fleener, C. Forslund, G. Fox, G. Genung, L. Hamilton, A. Johnson, R. Mahon, S. Polk, and N. Farmer; Guests A. Johnson, R. Johnson, Ald. D. McGuire, L. Morrison, and J.A. Scurlock.

Ald. McGuire explained that the Housing Conservation District program was set up to help neighborhoods maintain minimum housing standards, and that he was soliciting support from Skinker DeBaliviere residents for establishing this neighborhood as a district. If the neighborhood indicates a desire for such a district he will introduce the necessary ordinance. He indicated that the time frame for submission, the necessary public hearings, and other related steps would take approximately a year. He then introduced Mr. Leroy Morrison of the City of St. Louis Building Division.

Morrison distributed copies of Housing Conservation Districts Information Bulletin and a seven page checklist of items checked by District Inspectors. After a 12-minute slide presentation about Conservation Districts, Morrison verbally recapped the information presented in the bulletin and slides and answered questions from the board members and visitors. Specifically discussed were minimum space and conditions requirements for certificates, fees, responsibility for application and repairs. He pointed out that these districts would not work City-wide but were designed to help stable neighborhoods maintain their integrity and vitality. A number of districts have already been established and are operating well. McGuire and Morrison emphasized that the district standards are not as strict as city code or those required for occupancy permits. The certificate of inspection required by the program insures very basic safety.

Following Morrison's presentation, McGuire outlined the proposed boundary for our neighborhood and answered additional questions.

The Board voted to support efforts to include the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood in the City's Housing Conservation Districts Program.

Mahon presented a proposed amendment to the SDCC Bylaws to be voted on at the November meeting of the board.

### Article 4.3

#### Neighborhood Directors: Number, Term of office

a) Each Neighborhood Association member in the SDCC area will have directors according to the following formula: Population 2500 plus or 20 blocks in an area gives five (5) directors; population 2000-2499 or 15 to 19 blocks gives four (4) directors; population 1500-1999 or 10 to 14 blocks gives three (3) directors; population 1000-1499 or 5 to 9 blocks gives two (2) directors; population less than 1000 or fewer than 5 blocks gives one (1) director.

#### Applications for membership

The following applications for membership in SDCC were approved:

Block Units 1331 and 1035, representing the residents of 5800-5900 DeGiverville, 5800 Westminster and 400 Laurel, are accepted jointly as one Neighborhood Association Member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Per the formula for representation on the SDCC Board of Directors as provided in the SDCC's Bylaws, this association shall have one director.



Sellers watch buyers and browsers during Rags to Riches.

Photo by King Schoenfeld

The DeBaliviere Place West Condominium Association, representing the owners/residents on 5800 Nina Place, 5900 McPherson and 5900 Kingsbury, are accepted as a Neighborhood Association member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. Per the formula for representation on the SDCC Board of Directors as provided in the SDCC's Bylaws, this association shall have one director.

### Director's Report

Farmer noted that there has been an increase in ownership transfers, sheriff's sales, etc. of neighborhood property in recent weeks. This is of particular concern as these increases often result in an increase in speculative real estate activity. SDCC is receiving the Daily Record publication and Farmer is tracking this activity. The Housing Corporation is in place and doing all it can with a limited budget.

### Art Exposed

Sunday, October 21, 12:30-4:30 p.m. at Four Corners Plaza. The event, sponsored by the West End Arts Council, will feature the third annual Edible Art Competition, artists' studios open for tour, a group exhibit, food, entertainment and Ald. Dan McGuire as Master of Ceremonies.

### Design Charrette

*Delmar Link: Edges and Connections*, a design charrette sponsored by the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is scheduled Oct. 27-28. The charrette will take place 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. October 27, and a public forum will be held at 2 p.m., Sun. October 28 to review the proposals developed by design teams on Saturday.

### Old Newsboys Day

SDCC's participation was less successful last year than the year before. Polk plans to be out on DeBaliviere at Waterman and would appreciate any volunteers.

## Committee Reports

### Rosedale

Roncal reported that the Rags to Riches sale had been a rousing success and there is to be a general meeting October 11. Ald. McGuire is scheduled to make a presentation on the Housing Conservation Districts and Aldermanic President Tom Villa will discuss the proposed 1/2 cent sales tax increase.

### Nominating

Mahon pointed out that in the past the Executive Committee has served as a nominating committee for officers of the board; he invited anyone interested either in serving on the committee or in being an officer to let him know. Nomination of new officers is scheduled for the November meeting; elections will be held in December.

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## 2nd Annual Neighborhood Dog Show

Photos by Mary Ann Shickman



Bree, owned by Leon Brown, goes nose to nose with Nancy Farmer.



Danny Flynn pets Wendy Crystal Wilson's handsome pooch.

### Animal Rights Team Asks For Supplies

The St. Louis Animal Rights Team is helping to collect items for several animal sanctuaries in the area. They would be grateful for household discards such as:

old blankets	collars
sheets	pet carriers
towels	dog houses
wash cloths	coupons for dog & cat food
washable throw rugs	aluminum pie pans
dog and cat dishes	scrap paper for notes
plastic buckets (feed & water)	used electric can openers
toys	

Dr. Steve Brammeier has generously offered to let the Animal Rights Team put a large brown trash can on his premises at 420 Skinker, on Saturday Nov. 10, until 5 p.m. to collect any items you would like to donate.

For further information on donations, please call Sylvia Stahl at 862-2197.



Both Bender with her English Setters, Pilgrim and Half Time.

## The Carr Decision: The St. Louis Option

by Ray Breun

William C. Carr was one of the most formidable legal minds in St. Louis early in the nineteenth century. Originally from Albemarle County, Virginia (just like Meriwether Lewis), Carr came to St. Louis on March 31, 1804. Just three weeks earlier, on March 9-10, 1804, Captain Amos Stoddard had completed the Louisiana Purchase with the transfer of Upper Louisiana from Spain to France and then to the United States. Carried out on the Place de Publique where the Gateway Arch now stands, that transfer doubled the size of the fledgling United States. A couple months later, May 14, 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition departed for its 28 month trip of discovery into the new frontier after spending the winter of 1803-4 putting supplies together largely from St. Louis merchants.

In short, William C. Carr came to St. Louis at a most exciting time—from our viewpoint. He apparently found St. Louis less than thrilling. Within one month he had decided Ste. Genevieve would be the seat of power and had moved there. He was not even in town when Lewis and Clark left. He married Miss Anna Maria Elliott, daughter of Dr. Aaron Elliott, one of the leaders of the Ste. Genevieve community and active in the effort to bring public education for the Louisiana Territory to that village. It took Carr a full year to realize that St. Louis was really in the better location and would soon outstrip the much older and more-exposed-to-flood community of Ste. Genevieve. He moved back to St. Louis at the same time that the Louisiana Purchase Land Commission was appointed by President Thomas Jefferson—1805. With that appointment, St. Louis became the legal center of the efforts to resolve the land questions left from French and Spanish land grant practices. And with that move, Carr made his final decision that St. Louis would emerge as the economic and political center of the West.

Carr's indecision reflects nearly 100 years of attempts to locate a power center for the opening of the West. The history of the fur trade reveals part of this problem, and it was this earlier history which influenced Carr and other Americans moving into the new frontier along the Mississippi's west bank. The very year that St. Louis was founded, 1764, saw the closing of what was thought originally by many in the French economic and military circles to be the answer to stopping the expansion of the English fur trading efforts west of the Mississippi. Much of the history of the fur trade is the history of conflict among companies of English extraction and between England and France. Over twenty years prior to the founding of St. Louis, on December 18, 1743, plans were drawn for Fort de Cavagnial on the Missouri River about two miles above what is now Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This fort was to be the major western arm of the French fur trading efforts in the West, which efforts were coordinated at Fort de Chartres and Ste. Genevieve, and they were intended to put a stop to English fur success in the West. On April 25, 1746, at the court of Louis XV in Paris, Jean Frederick Phelipeaux, Comte de Maurepas and Minister of Colonies, personally ordered both the completion of Fort de Cavagnial and the appointment of military and commercial leadership for the fort. Fort Cavagnial was to be the center of French efforts to stem the English fur traders, the Northwest and Hudson Bay Companies, coming from the north over the historic voyageur routes originally blazed from Montreal in the seventeenth century.

The hopes for Fort Cavagnial were dependent upon French financial fortunes in Europe. The British were doing their level best to thwart the French, and the result was the Seven Years War in Europe, called the French and Indian War in North

America. With so many military and financial resources going to active war in Europe and along the St. Lawrence and Ohio Rivers, Fort Cavagnial on the Missouri was never able to mature to the expectations of the French imperialists. By 1763, it was all but abandoned. In that year, Pierre Laclède received his monopoly to trade with the Osage Indians on the Missouri River, and this was the final undercutting of potential revenue in not only Fort Cavagnial but also Fort Orleans. Fort Orleans, at the mouth of the Osage River, was likewise falling into disrepair just like Fort Cavagnial. All French interests fell back to the Mississippi line at Fort de Chartres and Ste. Genevieve. As St. Louis was beginning, the French forces on the Missouri River were withdrawing to the east. By 1770, when the Spanish took over the French imperial posts west of the Mississippi, including St. Louis, it was clear the British had carried the day in opening fur hunting areas of the American West. Attempts to stem the British were carried on by Jacques Clamorgan, Manuel Lisa, and Pierre Menard who played to Spanish imperial interests and hatred for England in the West. Only when the Americans came in full force after the Louisiana Purchase were the British really challenged.

It was this knowledge that all the fur trade posts in the West, like St. Louis, were fighting a losing battle with the powerful English companies which William C. Carr shared. He saw St. Louis as just another one of those fur trader forts which would eventually succumb and not amount to anything. What changed that was the appointment of a land commission to be housed at St. Louis along with the movement of the governorship of the Louisiana Territory from Vincennes to St. Louis. William Henry Harrison was replaced by General Wilkinson, and the latter was stationed at St. Louis. Immediately the locus of power and influence moved upriver from Ste. Genevieve.

William Carr moved again also, eventually building the first brick building built solely as a house in St. Louis at the corner of Spruce and First Streets in 1815. When his first wife died in 1826, Carr married Dorcas Bent in 1829, daughter of Silas Bent, Sr., then clerk of the court. William C. Carr became the brother-in-law of Charles and William Bent, the partners of Cyran St. Vrain, and the builders of Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River along the Santa Fe Trail. Thus William Carr married into one of the most active families in the westward expansion of the United States. Not only was he shrewd enough to follow the legal center of the frontier movement; he was also wise enough to choose his family connections and stay in the middle of the westward movement.

Of course, with the founding of the American Fur Company in 1808 by John Jacob Astor, and the movement of the active center of that company to St. Louis by 1821, even the fur trade business in the Rockies was won against the Hudson Bay Company. Astor did it in part by incorporating the Chouteau family into his efforts and by taking over old Northwest Company factors such as Kenneth McKenzie. Astor's second in command, Ramsey Crooks, married into the Chouteau family in 1825, cementing the economic relationship with a substantial personal involvement.

What William C. Carr represents is the image of the pragmatic determination both to live at the center of Westward Expansion and to make sure that that center is active. Carr was never impressed with the importance of river interests. He was impressed by the need to cultivate power and economic ability in a location which should take advantage of any natural assets. River interests and the Riverfront are successful if the political and economic muscle are in place to cultivate them. The rivers were simply a datum to William C. Carr. He knew the significance of effort and connections.

## In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

I don't know when I slipped into middle age. It may have been during the Carter presidency or perhaps while Whitey's teams were winning pennants. Meeting and succumbing to middle age happened rather gradually. I didn't know it happened until after it happened.

This kind of change is unlike most of the other major transitions in my life. Things usually happen fairly quickly, or at least I'm aware of them. Like one November in 1969 when I was a civilian and the next day when I was in the Army, khakis and all. I knew when that happened. Acne attacks, too; I always knew when they'd hit. My face would look like the surface of the moon, craters here, craters there, craters everywhere. The classic was once I was single and then, slam bam, after a night of too much vodka I met the first wife and found myself married. I don't remember the wedding, but she has the pictures and Pablo swears that he was my best man, so the evidence is pretty overwhelming.

I guess I knew that I had reached middle age when I started showing signs of it. Last week, for example, the first wife and I were delighted that it was a Saturday night and we had nothing to do. There we were, on the porch, sitting in our rockers, when I said, "Honey, what are we doing tonight?"

"What?" she said.

"It's Saturday. What are we doing tonight?"

"Who's too tight?" she asked, squinting her eyes at me.

"WHAT ARE WE DOING TONIGHT?" I yelled.

"Oh, nothing," she said, "and you don't have to yell at me." With that, we both sat back and rocked, contented that we didn't have to go anywhere where we'd wind up staying up late. Ah, the simple pleasures.

You want to make my day? Don't talk to me about taxes, tell me that there's a whole weekend coming up and I have no place to go. Actually, I enjoy going to Schnuck's on Saturday night and grinding my own coffee.

My musical tastes have changed. Oh, I still enjoy The Stones, but boy, can't that Frank Sinatra really sing a tune! He sure sounds better as I get older. And KWMU's weekend radio programs are really wonderful. I enjoy using all of my woodsman skill to get a fire going in the old fireplace ("turn on the gas jet, count to three, step back and throw in a lit match"), turning on the radio, and rubbing my sore knees and elbows while I listen to the Jazz shows or "Weekend Edition."

My personal behaviors have changed as well. Light-years ago I had a white '72 MGB convertible. I used to cruise to work with the top down until Thanksgiving, bundling myself in scarves, mufflers, gloves, and skiing goggles before I got on the highway in the mornings. Now I drive a rather sedate four-door sedan and refuse to leave the garage unless everyone's seat belt is fastened. A little more than a year ago I gave up one of my more odious vices, cigar smoking. I used to think that I was immortal, or at least invulnerable to disease, but I couldn't fool myself any longer. So I stopped smoking. To get even, though, I stopped jogging too.

Staying up late is a thing of the past. Staying up normal is even becoming a rarity. I used to pride myself on getting along on less sleep than anyone I knew. Now I pride myself on staying up late enough to see the 10:00 news. I hear the weather in the morning, because I can't last until Bob Richards. Is Johnny Carson still alive?

And boy has my diet changed. True story: All through grade school and high school I used to have a Coke and a package of Hostess Cupcakes for breakfast. I thought that the four basic food groups were Coke, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, and California Do-Nuts.

As a young adult, I lived on sandwiches, baloney sandwiches. When the first wife and I were married, our baloney bill was almost as high as her shoe store bill. Almost. I used to eat baloney for 8 or 9 meals per week; I'd have baloney sandwiches for every lunch and for three or four dinners. (The wife didn't care, she was upstairs counting her shoes and eating pork rinds. She's from Affton.) When I got tired of baloney on white bread with potato chips pressed between the slices, I'd get exotic and add ketchup or even fry the baloney. No more. Today I eat right, no, make that EAT RIGHT. If I were to eat any more grains, I'd start mooing. I skip desserts, try not to drink too much caffeine, and drink bottled water. I haven't had a candy bar since last Halloween.

The worst, though, is last year, when I got my first pair of glasses. I had avoided doing this, but it was getting hard to do my job being unable to read. It is nice to be able to read again. A few years ago I used to envision myself getting glasses and resembling a more bulky, yet attractive, John Lennon; now, however, when I look at myself in the mirror, I see a semi-young Ben Franklin.

Intellectually, I know that middle age is here, but I don't feel any older, except for my parts that move and rub against one another and hurt these days. I'm certainly no more mature, and that's what counts, right? I still like having the window seat in the airplane. When I buy new shoes, I wear them home from the shoe store. And I still like getting surprise presents. You know, I never really enjoyed watching Johnny Carson.

## St. Louis Writers At The Kiosk

by Mary Ann Shickman

There are almost as many St. Louis authors as there are stars in the sky and some of those we mention here, whose books are available at the St. Louis Public Library Kiosk, are even neighbors.

Robert Wiltenburg, Washington University Professor of English, lives just a stone's throw from the Kiosk where he and his family are good patrons. His recently published book is *Ben Jonson and Selflove, the Subtlest Maze of All*. In speaking to Dr. Wiltenburg about his book, we become aware of the brilliance of Jonson, who was a contemporary of Shakespeare and who, as a poet and playwright, equaled Shakespeare in popularity at the time. Wiltenburg said that Jonson was concerned about good and healthy self love and the narcissistic or unhealthy kind at a time when people were just becoming aware of these concepts (17th century). Jonson was a versatile character who was known as an actor, playwright, poet, critic, translator, and scholar.

David Carkeet, who lived until recently in Parkview, has written *I Been There Before*, which tells about Mark Twain's second life when he is returned to earth in 1985 by Haley's Comet. Carkeet has also written *Double Negative*, *The Greatest Slump of All Times*, and *The Silent Treatment*.

Other neighborhood residents whose prose is carried at the Kiosk are Stanley Elkin, William Gass, and Margaret Hermes.

St. Louisan Glen Saven's book *White Palace*, recently released as a major motion picture, has been one of the most popular books the Kiosk owns. It is the story of a young, rich, Jewish advertising man who becomes sexually and emotionally involved with a poor, older woman who lives in "Dogtown" and works at the White Palace (White Castle). It is not a book for those who are squeamish about four-letter words or sexually explicit descriptions. Various parts of St. Louis—south St. Louis, Dogtown, Clayton, U. City, etc., are highlighted.

John Lutz lives in Webster Groves and writes mysteries set in the St. Louis area. One such book is *Dancer's Debt*. This tells about a private detective called "Nudger" who is hired by Helen Crane, the beautiful girlfriend of a Vietnam vet who has reached rock bottom. As Nudger's investigation unfolds, bodies come floating up the Mississippi to Laclede's Landing in a plot that twists and turns before the mystery is resolved. The Kiosk has several Lutz mysteries.

Jan Greenburg, a Clayton writer with three daughters, has written several teenage books. *A Season in Between* is about a thirteen-year-old girl whose father is being treated at the Mayo Clinic for cancer and whose mother is accompanying him. The girl is left at home feeling alone and isolated, especially as she is the only Jewish girl in her class at school. This book is emotionally engaging and has a very satisfactory ending.

Patricia McKissack lives in University City and writes books for children. Her book *Nettie Jo's Friends* tells about a young girl who is invited to be in a wedding but will not go without her rag doll who needs a new dress. She is without a needle so she sets out to find one. Scott Cook, the illustrator, uses beautiful, painterly earth colors which work well with the story.

The St. Louis Public Library Kiosk salutes St. Louis writers and encourages our patrons to discover them.

## Crossroads Players Open At Performing Arts Center

The Crossroads Players will be presenting "The Dining Room" by A. R. Gurney on November 8 & 9 at 7:30 pm. This is a heartwarming play about family relationships. This play will be directed by Victoria Churchill, and is the first play

to be presented at Crossroads School's new Performing Arts center located at 500 DeBalviere.

Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$4 at the door. For more information please call 367-8085.



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