

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 23 No.2

May 1992

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Skinker-DeBaliviere to be First Neighborhood Featured in History Museum's "Where We Live" Series

by Lana Stein

In June, the History Museum will inaugurate a monthly series featuring neighborhoods in the city, the county, and the east side. As Robert Archibald, Museum president, explained recently, "How one chooses to remember our community has something to do with the community's alternatives for the future." This program, Where We Live, is designed to focus on lesser-known aspects of the greater St. Louis community, namely the history of its neighborhoods. Archibald's hope is that people "will learn about their community and explore portions in ways they hadn't before."

The History Museum is beginning its program in Skinker-DeBaliviere, the neighborhood it borders. Because it is the kick-off neighborhood for the entire series, there will be a parade on the afternoon of June 7. The route will be from the Washington University parking lot at Skinker and Forest Park Parkway, up Skinker to Waterman, east on Waterman to DeBaliviere, and then south on DeBaliviere, to the History Museum. There will be hot air balloons and vintage trolley cars at the Jefferson Memorial for participants and visitors to enjoy.

PARADE ENTRIES ENCOURAGED

The History Museum is seeking parade entries. Entrants should represent schools, churches, or business groups. There has to be a neighborhood theme. Political or partisan entries will not be permitted. Those interested in participating should contact Suzanne Jones Stolar at 454-3150. Prizes will be awarded in several categories: most creative, most beautiful, most representative of the neighborhood.

Local Library Branch to Move in June

After nine years in the Kingsbury Kiosk at the corner of Kingsbury and DesPeres, the St. Louis Public Library is moving to a new home at 356 N. Skinker, the former Elliott Smith Gallery space. The Library considered several possible sites recommended by the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council before determining that the Skinker location offered the best combination of space, patron and staff safety, location within the community, and cost. The

new location is handicapped accessible, with parking available across McPherson behind a service station.

The Library plans to open at the new location on June 2. Hours of service will be the same as those currently available at the Kiosk: Tuesday through Friday 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The new location will offer a browsing collection of contemporary titles in fiction and non-fiction for adults and children and will provide

the neighborhood may choose to visit and explore the area in greater depth and learn about its architecture and special sights. These tours then may also serve as informal marketing opportunities. The Skinker-DeBaliviere walking tour will be available by June 1. The brochure will show the old street car routes and the course of the River DesPeres and how it impacted the neighborhood.

The Museum also is exploring the idea of a photo contest. Children and adult residents (or past residents) of Skinker-DeBaliviere would be encouraged to send in vintage or contemporary exterior and interior shots of the neighborhood. These photos would be displayed at the History Museum during the month that the neighborhood is featured. For information, call 454-3150.

See Page 4 For Other Photos.



Look closely. This building at Skinker and Pershing now houses Talayna's. Occupants then were a florist, a pharmacy, and perhaps a grocery.

Courtesy Missouri Historical Society

MEDIA COVERAGE

KMOX is committed to doing radio spots plugging the kick-off parade. For every neighborhood featured, KMOX will also broadcast four public service spots about the history of the featured neighborhood and its unique aspects.

Similarly, KMOV-TV (Channel 4) will air a public service spot about each featured neighborhood. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch also will do a feature story in its Everyday section.

WALKING TOURS

"Where We Live" will prepare, courtesy of the Post-Dispatch, brochures that point out interesting walking tours of the neighborhood. Several Skinker-DeBaliviere residents currently are consulting with Museum staff to lay out the premiere walking tours. Those reading or hearing about

Another Neighborhood Resident Seeks Office

by Lana Stein



Dee Joyce Hayes

On March 31, Dee Joyce Hayes of the 6100 block of McPherson, filed as a Democratic candidate for Circuit Attorney. Hayes graduated from St. Louis University Law School in 1980 and is a career prosecutor. She has served as St. Louis' First Assistant Circuit Attorney since 1989. She joins a very crowded field of candidates.

Hayes is the first woman to seek the office of circuit attorney in St. Louis. She is also the fourth resident of Skinker-DeBaliviere whose name will appear on the August primary ballot. Vince Schoemehl, of course, is running for governor; Nancy Farmer is seeking to be the 64th district state representative; and Rose Marie Storey is unopposed as candidate for 28th ward Democratic committeewoman.

Information on all candidates who respond will be published in the June issue of The Times.

Letter to the Editor

A Message from a Dog Owner

In the last two issues of The Times, there have been negative articles/warnings to dog owners. I admit it proudly. I am Halftime's owner! I also admit while she almost always escorts me through the neighborhood, she's often not on the leash (though I carry it in case it is needed). Is she a threat? I hope so. That's part of the reason she's with me. Is she vicious? Yes, if you threaten me (of if you are covered head-to-toe in peanut butter). I do agree with the point that if a dog is dangerous, it should be leashed, but as a dog owner, I am a responsible adult. Will Halftime defecate on your lawn? No, she's trained to wait till she gets home, which sometimes means we walk very fast trying to get to the backyard. Should owners of pets that do leave poop about pick it up? Yes, yes, yes. I've taken an unexpected slide or two in my day and there is nothing quite like sitting on the porch steps cleaning your sneaker out with a stick. But please talk to the guilty parties when you see them and quit lumping all dog owners together.

In the meantime, there is a bigger part of this story that has been left out of all these messages and that is CATS. While off the leash, Halftime has been known to chase a cat or two, who by the way were also without leashes, and owners for that matter. For the record, she has only cornered one cat and I'm certain she remembers the slash on her nose from that "vicious" cat. Other cats have been seen throughout the neighborhood with dead birds and squirrels; is that not "vicious"? What about the cats that sit on the other sides of fences taunting fenced-in dogs? What about leash law warnings and cats? For that matter, what about poop and cats? I grew up on 6100 Kingsbury with a gravel front yard. I have cleaned up after more cats than I care to recall. Where's their message? Now I live on 6000 Westminster and I routinely find my flower boxes graced by some feline.

Pets are wonderful. Unfortunately for some pets, their owners are inconsiderate boobies. Let's be responsible for all our pets so everyone can quit ragging.

Elizabeth A. Bender
Dog Owner

Grace Methodist to Hold Annual Junktique

As surely as spring arrives, the Grace United Methodist Church holds its annual Junktique. This year the event is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at 6199 Waterman.

The Junktique is a sale of used-but-usable items including furniture, appliances, linens, and other household goods; clothes and accessories; antiques and collectables; toys and games; books and records; plants; and "white elephants."

Sandwiches and snack foods will be available, and there will be a bake sale of homemade bread, cakes, pies, and cookies. For information, call 863-1992.

Notice to Neighbors

Some residents have reported strangers coming to their door soliciting funds. They generally offer some sort of hard luck story (such as fire) and appeal for funds. These solicitors may well not be legitimate. Advise those soliciting to contact the SDCC office for referrals to appropriate agencies.

Classifieds

FOUND: Pair of young person's eye-glasses near Fina station at Westminster and Skinker. Call 863-0152.

FOR SALE: Dependable Epson MX-80 dot matrix parallel printer with Grafrax. Excellent condition. C-64 interface available. Asking \$125. 863-0152.

MAY

CALENDAR

Neighborhood Events

May 2 Operation Brightside Blitz

May 7 Twenty-Eighth Ward Endorsement Meeting for August primary races with the exception of Circuit Attorney. All ward members who have attended two meetings in the past twelve months are eligible to vote. At Classical Coffee, 313 Belt, 7:00 p.m.

May 9 Junktique, Fellowship Hall, Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman, 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. A sale of used-but-usable items including furniture, household goods, clothing, books, records, plants. Refreshments available. For information, call 863-1992. (See related article, this page.)

May 11 SDCC Board meeting. All neighbors welcome. 6010 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.

May 21 Twenty-Eighth Ward Regular Democrats monthly meeting. Circuit Attorney candidates will speak. New City School, 7:00 p.m.

May 26 Twenty-Eighth Ward Endorsement Meeting. Circuit Attorney candidates. 6010 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.

Nearby Events of Interest

May 2-3 Missouri Heritage Fair, History Museum in Forest Park. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Missouri's rich cultural heritage is celebrated with crafts, music, dance performances and ethnic foods. Free. Saturday, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Salsa street dance.

Now-Oct. 1 "The Dream is Alive" Film about the space shuttle, Science Center.

Now-June 14 "Masterpieces on Paper: Prints and Drawings from the Permanent Collection." Cohen Gallery, St. Louis Art Museum.

May 8-June 27 Exhibition of Woodturned Objects to benefit the Woodworkers Alliance for Rainforest Protection. Craft Alliance, 6640 Delmar.

May 9-Dec.31 "From Carriage Trade to Ready Made: St. Louis Clothing Designers, 1880-1920." A clothing exhibition at the History Museum.

May 10-May 16 Week-Long Arts Festival at Crossroads School. Features local and student artists. For information call 367-8261 or 997-1215.

May 17 Walk of Fame induction at corner of Delmar and Westgate in the University City Loop. Original St. Louis River Critters Jazz Band will entertain at 1:30 p.m.; ceremony at 2:00 p.m.

June 6 Opening of "Soviet Space" exhibit, Science Center.

June 8 COCA introductory classes begin in acting, dance, and art. For information, call Valerie Miller, 725-6555.

June 15 COCA Summer Performing Arts Camp for children begins. For information, call Valerie Miller, 725-6555.

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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

Ray Breun	Katie Kurtz	King Schoenfeld
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Design: The Wednesday Magazines
Printing: Arcade Printing
Clerical Assistance: Eva Grapperhaus

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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 be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned or mailed to 6010 Kingsbury. 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 the data, including times, dates, location and particularly the spelling of names.

Any pictures or illustrations submitted should be black and white.

The Editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Send all correspondence to 6010 Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 15th of the month or call 721-7532.

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Skinker-DeBaliviere Has Wide Range of Housing Prices

by Rob Riggins

Diversity is the hallmark of the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood—and that holds true for its housing values as well. So when you try to determine housing values and increases in value in our neighborhood (for this article, Delmar on the north, DeBaliviere on the east, Lindell on the south, and Skinker on the west), it's a tough task. Why?

First, we don't live in a homogeneous neighborhood such as St. Louis Hills, with a relatively uniform housing stock. From the mansions on Lindell to two-

family flats on McPherson, or various multi-family dwellings, we pack enormous diversity into a small area.

Secondly, most homes in our neighborhood are sixty to eighty years old, so conditions vary widely. The old rule of real estate value—location, location, location—is quickly followed by "condition." For example, in 1988 a home in the 6000 block of McPherson sold for \$58,000 and within six months another home in the same block sold for \$118,000.

And last, rehabilitated properties

increase in value considerably. Examples of rehabbed properties selling for much greater amounts than before rehab abound. A two-family in 5900 McPherson purchased for \$13,000 in 1989 sold a year later for over \$120,000; a single-family in 5800 DeGiverville sold for \$10,000 in 1988 and eight months later for \$62,000.

Another obstacle is the lack of information available. Our information was obtained from the Certificates of Value on file in the City Assessor's Office. These files are incomplete, and only date back to December 1987. Within such a short time period, resales are limited as well, which hinders our ability to determine increases in value.

We had hoped to look at housing values since 1970 in order to assess the changes caused by the neighborhood stabilization and subsequent revitalization. The limited information skews any average statistics, but there are some figures we can determine. The average sales price for a single-family home in 1991 was \$98,811, while the average for the period of December 1987 through February 1992 was \$89,320. Additionally, the average sales price for Kingsbury Square townhouses since 1987 has been \$130,853, and that for DeBaliviere Place West condominiums \$84,446, with an 1991 average of \$89,617.

Average figures for two-family buildings and larger are inconclusive due to the small sampling of information available. Only 22% of the housing units in the area are not single-family homes.

What's in store for the future?

The neighborhood is improving year by year. With the condominium development on Nina, there are no entire blocks of unoccupied structures left in the neighborhood. And, housing bargains in the area can still be found, especially east of Rosedale.

What can you do to help the neighborhood and increase the value of your own home? Maintaining your house, inside and out, pays dividends. First impressions are lasting, so the appearance of our neighborhood to those visiting or driving through is critical.

If you have purchased a home in the neighborhood, the statistics show you have made a wise investment, so rest easy. But don't forget the exterior and interior maintenance.

Median and Average Single-Family Sales Prices by Street

	Median*	Average	Basis
DeGiverville	\$53,500	\$48,350	12
Washington	\$97,250	\$88,771	12
Westminster	\$110,000	\$99,810	15
Waterman	\$55,000	\$51,576	17
Pershing	\$43,401	\$39,338	23
McPherson	\$118,000	\$110,200	11
Kingsbury	\$161,000	\$149,285	7
Lindell	\$447,500	\$460,000	4

Figures are based on the period December 1988 - February 1992.

*Median means that half of all homes sold for more than this value and half sold for less. When the median is higher than the average, the average has been brought down by a few exceedingly low values, such as properties in need in rehab.



Photo By: King Schoenfeld



Black taffeta reception toilette, c. 1904, with bishop sleeves, full skirt, heavily embellished with cut steel beads, sequins, braid and lace insertions. Designer, Girolam Giuseffi, St. Louis.

Missouri Historical Society Opens New Exhibit

"From Carriage Trade to Ready Made: St. Louis Clothing Designers, 1880-1920"

Irish lace and linens, silk, wool and taffeta, fashioned into garments at the turn of the century and now fitted onto more than 30 small-waisted mannequins, will grace the east wing of the Jefferson Memorial Building in the Missouri Historical Society's new exhibition, "From Carriage Trade to Ready-Made: St. Louis Clothing Designers, 1880-1920." The historical clothing, created by ten St. Louis designers, will be on view at the History Museum in Forest Park from May 9 through the end of 1992. The exhibit will be open Tuesdays through Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The work of well-known dressmakers such as the Slater Sisters (Mary and Grace) and tailors such as Girolamo Giuseffi, Samuel Harbison and Ferdinand Svoboda will be included, along with early examples of ready-made items of apparel, all from the collections of the Missouri Historical Society. This is the History Museum's major exhibition for 1992 and is the first to examine regional designs of St. Louis.

Sharon Fivel, the Missouri Historical Society's Bascom curator, spent two years researching this exhibit, organizing it and writing the catalog. She began by looking at the inventory of the MHS costumes collections to identify clothing with labels of dressmakers or ladies' tailors. She then went through the collections, examining more than 100 dresses, suites, jackets and capes to find labels that had not been noted on the inventory. The most significant of these discoveries was a Giuseffi riding habit from the late 1880s, one of the first pieces he designed in St. Louis.

"From this list, we narrowed the selection of garments to those made by ten representative dressmakers," she says. "From Giuseffi we have eight garments that range from walking suits to evening gowns. On the Cummings label, ca. 1907-10, there are three lingerie dresses, worn to outdoor galas and informal evening parties, all embroidered and trimmed with lace or eyelet.

"We are also showing suits, coats and capes, complete with accessories. The period mannequins were designed to show the garment as if it were fitted over a properly corseted figure," says Fivel.



Lavender and cream striped taffeta evening gown, c. 1892, illustrates the short-waisted effect described as the "Josephine" or "Empress."

Photos Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society



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SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING APRIL 13, 1992 MINUTES

Attending the meeting were: Directors, A. Carr, C. Forslund, G. Fox, A. Johnson, R. Johnson, S. Johnson, R. Roncal, L. Stein, A. Webb, Executive Director N. Farmer, Assistant E. Grapperhaus.

Guests at the meeting were M. Stahl, ConServ Officer J. Waits.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

A. Webb moved "That the minutes from the March 9, 1992 meeting be approved"; seconded by L. Stein and approved.

A. Webb moved "That the Treasurer's Report for March be approved"; seconded by G. Fox and approved.

It was suggested that the Board invite New Cote Brillante Church to officially become a member of the Council. It was noted that the Treasurer's Report should be amended to include projected income and expenses.

Beautification C. Forslund reported that the Beautification Committee is acting as the Area Commander for Blitz Day, May 2, 1992. Four Corners is the special project. All thirty+ planters will be prepared and planted by the committee and volunteers with plants donated or purchased by the committee through contributions. A schedule for watering the planters is to be set up.

Commercial District L. Stein reported that the planning committee is holding off on holding a meeting until it learns the details of how recently received grant funds may be used. After this information is received, the next step will be for the committee to meet with business owners/operators on Delmar.

DeGiverville No meeting was held in March due to the death of a leading resident, Mr. William McReynolds. Mr. McReynolds lived with his wife Marie in their home on DeGiverville for thirty years; he was

the first chairman of their block unit.

Housing Corporation There was a fire in 541 Rosedale. No one was injured but one unit was destroyed and the rest of the building had to be vacated. The property is insured.

6025 Westminster—The Housing Corporation has plans for redeveloping this property into a townhouse and a rental unit. The Board wants to market these plans to a private developer or an owner/occupant.

6048 Washington—Farmer and S. Feinberg of the Housing Corporation met with the architects who will form a partnership with the SDCHC, their investors, and the banker involved in the redevelopment of this property as attached townhouses.

Kingsbury Square R. Johnson reported that residents are working on increasing security for the summer.

Nina Place L. Stein reported that no units have been sold. They are planning to plant flowers in tree lawns on Blitz Day. They will also block off the street and hold a BBQ after cleanup and planting.

Parkview Whelan Security is currently under contract with the subdivision. Some residents of Parkview are unhappy that the officer who had patrolled Parkview for several years has resigned from Whelan.

Recycling R. Roncal reported that there was a poor showing at the Composting Seminar co-sponsored by the Council. There will be a committee meeting April 15.

Rosedale R. Roncal is working on finding a location for the general meeting. The agenda will include meeting new neighbors, electing board members and officers, and Blitz Day.

Library Relocation Committee The committee will meet one more time. The library is considering sites at Skinker Place (Skinker at McPherson) and

DeBaliviere Retail Centre. C. Stuart is supporting the DeBaliviere site and is negotiating for the library.

L. Stein commented on the advantages of this site for its access to the elderly at DeBaliviere Place, and the children of Washington Heights. Sharing space with the SDCC is an unlikely alternative for the library unless these other sites cannot be leased.

Director's Report

"Where We Live" There was a meeting Monday, April 13 at the Missouri Historical Society with neighborhood representatives and members of the Historical Society. There is to be a parade through the neighborhood June 7 at 2:00 p.m. The parade will kick off a month-long focus on the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood as the first of the "Where We Live" series. Included in the series will be a self-guided walking tour, an Everyday section cover story in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, p.s.a's on KMOX, and a photo contest.

G. Fox reported that the St. Roch's picnic is scheduled for the same day.

5930 Kingsbury The application for demolition has been temporarily delayed so that a developer can be found for the building. So far there have been no interested parties.

DeBaliviere Retail Centre The application for a building permit was denied as expected due to the zoning of the property. It is now being appealed at the Board of Adjustment.

G. Fox moved "That N. Farmer be authorized to take appropriate action, writing letters or appearing at hearings, to support, with conditions, the application for a building permit for the DeBaliviere Retail Centre as adopted by the Board in a resolution at the February meeting"; seconded by A. Webb and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



"Where We Live" (cont.)

Top: Delmar Airdome, Delmar & Hamilton
Bottom Left: Moll's Grocery Store 1932
Center: Garavelli's 1932. Right: Sherman Apts., at Skinker & McPherson



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Armchair House Tour

by King Schoenfeld

When Rich and Venita Lake decided to remodel the kitchen in their home at 58XX Waterman ten years ago, with the help of a kitchen designer they decided to remove the remains of the back stairway and move the basement stairs to expand the space and to return the "modernized" ceiling to its original height. The oak cabinets with ceramic tile and butcher block tops provide ample storage for Rich's pots and electrical gadgets and Venita's collections of cookbooks and advertising items—tins, cookie jars, recipe boxes, trucks, mugs, etc. The butler's pantry houses a broom closet, a built-in desk, wine racks, and more cabinets and counter space. Radiators were replaced by electric heaters in the cabinet baseboards.



If you have a portion of your house you would like to "show off" to your neighbors, call King Schoenfeld at 863-0152.



REFUSE RAMBLINGS

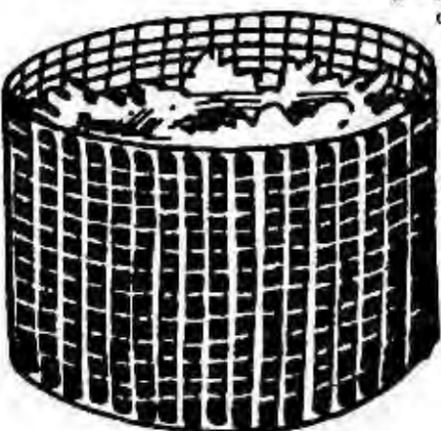
by Rich Lake

Spring seems to have finally arrived. The last few days have brought much rain and warmer temperatures. For those with cool weather lawns (bluegrass and such) this means green grass and frequent mowing. For those with zoysia (myself included), the greening is still some days away but our time will come. All this leads to the topic for this month . . . COMPOST.

What are we going to do with all the grass clippings that result from lush green lawns? There are three possible answers to the question. First, you can cut your lawn frequently and only cut a half inch or so at a time. Leave the clippings on the lawn where they will quickly decay and enrich your lawn—the "Mow it tall, let it fall" method. Second, you can use a bagger attachment on your mower and dump the clippings in the dumpster labeled Yard Waste Only. The third alternative is the one I am going to practice as I have for the past 20 years. I plan to compost grass clippings, leaves and some kitchen scraps as an easy and cheap source of plant and lawn fertilizer. And I would like to encourage others to do the same.

Composting is easy, clean and safe when done properly. All that is needed is a small amount of space and some sort of simple structure to contain the clippings, etc. The container should allow air to circulate through the pile and excess water to drain away. This can be as simple as a three-foot diameter circle of wire fence. In my case I use concrete blocks. My composting operation is against the east side of the garage.

The garage wall forms one side of the bins and the blocks (loosely stacked) form the other three sides. The openings in the blocks provide all the air circulation needed.

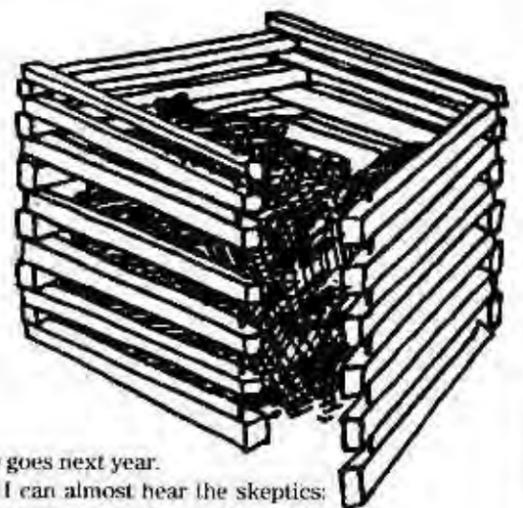


There are two ways to go about composting. One way produces compost quickly and requires a moderate amount of work. With the quick method you build your pile by layering grass clippings two to three inches deep and then add an inch or so of soil, another layer of clippings, another of soil and so on until you run out of clippings. Then slightly dampen the pile. Each time you mow take a spade and turn the pile, thoroughly mixing the contents and then add new layers.

If no new materials are being added to the pile, it should be stirred every five to seven days and dampened if it is drying out. This method will produce compost in 8 weeks or so. The process can be speeded even further by adding a cup of two or high nitrogen fertilizer to each layer of grass and soil.

The second way (and the one I use) is much slower but perfect for the lazy gardener. It may take a full year to produce useable compost but requires almost no labor. When I have grass clippings (meaning I waited too long to cut the grass and can't leave the clippings on the lawn), I dump them in my compost bin. During the spring and summer, vegetable scraps from the kitchen are added to the pile. We just use a hoe to make an opening in the center of the pile and dump the potato peels, lettuce scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds and such into it. Then pull the clippings over to cover the scraps two to three inches deep. I also put the ashes from my barbecue grill in the pile and if we have a long dry spell I water the pile. In the fall, leaves, preferably mulched with the lawn mower, are added. If I am feeling really ambitious, I may use the spade and turn the pile once or twice between June and September. In the spring, I take the top six inches off last year's compost heap (leaves and clippings that haven't fully decomposed) and use that material to start the new operation.

My system requires two compost bins. One contains completed compost ready to be used on the lawn, garden and flower beds. The second one contains the materials I am collecting during the current growing season. By the time the summer ends I have usually used the compost in bin one and that is where the new



pile goes next year.

I can almost hear the skeptics: "A compost pile will smell bad." "It will draw flies, mice and rats." I can only answer on the basis of 15 plus years of composting. I have never had a problem with odor or pests (except for a basset hound who liked to dig for lettuce). If the pile stinks, it is probably too wet. Stir it and put a cover over it. It will not attract pests if some simple do's and don'ts are followed.

- DO:**
- Dampen the pile if it is really dry.
 - Stir or turn the pile over once or twice a summer. Do cover it if it gets too wet.
- DON'T:**
- Use meat scraps, bones, or any vegetable or animal oils. These are the things that will draw pests to the pile.
 - No cat or dog manure. Pet parasites can be a real problem.

One final note. The ultimate test of a healthy compost pile (in my view) is the presence of worms. They are the ultimate compost processors. If I ever need worms to go fishing I know just where to find lots of big, active worms even on a hot summer day. I take my spade and dig down into my compost pile. They always seem to be there waiting for me.

Thai Triumph

by Jo Ann Vatcha



The arrival of the Thai Cafe at 6170 Delmar in the fall of 1991 marked an important new beginning for a long dormant stretch of Delmar east of Skinker. After a few visits to the restaurant, including one quick lunch and one large fixed-menu group dinner, we returned this month for a fourth visit. Here's what we found: consistency, fresh ingredients, an abundance of authentic and tasty, freshly prepared dishes, good service by friendly waitresses, great decor, unique atmosphere. In short, a successful restaurant.

Owner Pat Prapaistilapa is a gracious and careful host, who seats everyone and who clearly knows how to make sure his guests are well tended. He personally designed the restaurant's beautiful interior with fine wood strip paneling and shadow boxes built into the walls to show off pieces of Thai art: graceful statues, miniature houses, musical instruments, heavily jeweled fabric panels. Pat and his family and crew have really managed to take a relatively small commercial space and create a stylish, special world.

Open for lunch on weekdays from 11-3 and for dinner Monday through Saturday from 5-10:30, the Thai Cafe has an extensive menu. Exotic dishes as well as familiar Chinese and Japanese dishes are available.

At lunch, for a reasonable \$ 3.90, you may select two entrees from a list of 10 which changes monthly. You'll find such favorites as sweet and sour pork, stir fried beef and broccoli, and spring rolls, along with other less recognizable choices.

If you wish, authentic seating is available in the "Thai Room," with tables featuring deeply-set space for legs and feet. For a group, it's an atmospheric space, with lovely artifacts to appreciate along with the great meal to come.

Dinner is a busy time, and I suggest reservations on weekends. There is a small waiting area and no bar. However, it's almost a pleasure to wait—considering that it means that lots of

people are visiting the neighborhood to have dinner on Delmar.

Your dinner can be accompanied by a choice of beers, including a Thai beer, wine, soda, or tea. Or just ice water, served in frosty stainless steel glasses for a nifty touch. Soups and salads are available, including several exotic selections like fresh squid salad "Yum Pla Muk" (unfried). Soups range from \$1.95 - \$2.95; salads at \$2.95 and \$3.95.

Appetizers (ranging from \$1.95 to \$5.95) are excellent. On past visits, we tasted tempura, vegetables and shrimp, spring rolls, and "Thai Satay," which is well-marinated beef, chicken or pork, shish-style. All were very good. On our recent trip, two of us shared a large platter of "Mee Krob," made of crispy rice noodles, fried with shrimp and chicken with fresh bean sprouts and green onion, and a faint peanut taste. It was huge and it was outstanding.

Entrees come in several categories: noodles, fried rice, curry, stir-fried, steamed, and BBQ. With such a large assortment and most entrees in the \$5.95 - \$6.95 range, we'll need many more visits to try every category. On this visit, here's what we found:

Fried rice—we had #33, with chicken. It was very attractive, with sliced carrots and peas symmetrically distributed somehow. The Thai fried rice is somewhat milder than Chinese and does not have a soy sauce taste. It was a nice accompaniment to Shrimp Curry.

Curry (from \$5.95 to \$7.95) is an unexpected treat. We tried "Panang", with shrimp, coconut milk, hot pepper and "kafir" leaves. This is apparently an herb, somewhat reminiscent of basil. The shrimp was cooked just right, not tough. Lots of white rice on the side helped temper the curry taste. A cool dish of peanut sauce, remembered from a previous visit, was requested and brought immediately. My companion asked for "hot sauce" and got a bowl of partially liquified red pepper which he loved and I wouldn't touch. However, I

foolishly ate a pretty red strip of pepper decorating the curry—which I thought was a bell pepper piece. Was I ever wrong! Did I ever suffer. The curry itself has an extremely fine taste. For anyone who has ever had an amateur's curry made with uncooked curry powder, this will be an entirely new and tasty experience. We recommend the curry highly.

We plan another visit to try the stir-fried and the steamed fish dishes and the BBQ. At \$6.95 for half a chicken, I have to try that someday. For now, suffice it to say the Thai Cafe is a terrific place for lunch or dinner. We thank Pat for bringing it to Delmar, and for setting such a high standard of quality decor and dining for other new businesses to follow. And we look forward to many more years of fine dining at the Thai Cafe.

NEXT MONTH WE CROSS TO THE NORTH SIDE AND VISIT THE WABASH TRIANGLE CAFE.

St. Roch Preschool Achieves Success

Several years ago, Maggie Hart-Mahon brought to the attention of the St. Roch Parish Council the need for an early childhood center for parish members and neighborhood residents. The Executive Committee agreed and planning began in the spring of 1989.

St. Roch Early Childhood Educational Center opened in the fall of 1990. The center is located at 6040 Waterman in the east building of St. Roch School. The goal of this early childhood center is to provide the best developmentally appropriate activities that meet the young child's social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs.

St. Roch's program encourages hands-on activities. These include arts and crafts, blocks, housekeeping, quiet time, and music. Rose Flynn and Kathy Buckley are the teachers and Roberta Asher, Chris Gifford, and Teri Bryant serve as teachers' aides.

The program has been well-received. Enrollment for the 1992-1993 school year already is closed. Applications for the waiting list and for the 1993-94 school year are being accepted now. For further information, contact the director, Wilma Cantwell, at 726-2830.

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6110 WESTMINSTER - Handsome home (situated on a lot & a half) abounding with beautiful woodwork. Master bedroom w/ separate bath & walk-in closet. Finished lower level w/ large family room, bath, & laundry area. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

6148 McPHERSON - Magnificent woodwork. Oak bookcases w/ leaded windows flank the fireplace. Many original light fixtures. New 1/2 bath on 1st floor. Newer kitchen w/ white cabinets, center island & built-in microwave. 6 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

6061 KINGSBURY - Stylish townhome with great space. Dramatic 2 story family room/bedroom w/ freestanding stove & extra long windows. Beautiful hardwood floors. 3+ bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

431 LAUREL - Large home w/ some stained glass. Corner lot location, light sunny rooms. Under \$70,000. Motivated seller. 6 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

6011 KINGSBURY - 3 family - converted to 5 family. Perfect for owner-occupant. Ready to rehab. Sold "As Is". Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

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6237 McPHERSON - Magnificent Tudor on 1/2 acre of beautifully landscaped grounds w/ built-in pool, and fully functioning carriage house. The living room features mahogany paneling, woodburning fireplace, & recessed lighting. Master suite includes separate bath, adjoining library & walk-in closet. 8 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. A jewel. Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

6214 PERSHING - Charming Parkview home w/ much character. Living room w/ bay window & decorative fireplace. Fabulous 3rd floor, wonderful light, all new windows. Great for an artist studio. 4+ bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

6236 PERSHING - Handsome home with 1st floor family room/study. Living room w/ woodburning fireplace and marble mantel. Wonderful master suite w/ separate bath, sunroom & wall of closets. 6 bedrooms, 4 baths. Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

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Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

As it is our purpose in this column to share the personal news of our neighbors and friends, there are times when that news may be predominantly sad. This month we must report the loss of four of our neighbors. All were longtime residents who had served their community in a variety of ways.

We extend our sympathy to the families of **Alfred Howard** of the 5700 block of Waterman, **William McReynolds** of the 5900 Block of DeGiverville, **Doug Alexander** of the 5700 Block of DeGiverville, and **Richard C. Hart, Jr.**, of the 6000 block of Westminster.

Mr. Howard, a veteran of World War II, and his wife, Angie, were active in the activities of their neighborhood.

Mr. McReynolds was one of the founders of the DeGiverville Block unit, which has been active and effective for many years.

Doug Alexander, a former teacher in the Special School District of St. Louis County, had served for several years as a volunteer coach for neighborhood Little League baseball teams.

Richard Hart provided valued leadership and support for many of the projects of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and other community organizations.

The impact of their service and achievements, as well as their unique personalities, will be felt for a long time to come.

On a happier note, **Barbara Schmidt** of the 6100 block of McPherson has been named chairman of the English department at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Our congratulations to Barbara on her well-earned recognition!

There must be some weddings being planned, some new babies who should be welcomed, some honors to be celebrated, some exciting adventures to be shared. Let us know. Feel free to send in a photo with your news. If we can assure a good quality print result, we'll put it in. Black and white copies work best.

Please call Marj Weir, 863-7558, with your news for Vicissitudes. She has an answering machine that works when she remembers to turn it on.



Crossroads School Student Dan Moore painting at Trinity Church. Dan was participating in a school-wide community service project.



Crossroads School Student Wei Wei Shannon feeds a baby at Stella Maris Day Care Center. Wei Wei was also participating in a school-wide community service project.

"If You Are a Victim of Crime, You have a Right to Be Angry" Says Ed Stout

by Mary Ann Shickman

Ed Stout lives in a charming three-story house on the 6100 block of McPherson with his wife, Mary Bea, and their children, Bea, 23; Daniel, 17; Martin, 19; and Joe, 19. Mary Bea, who is an actor, encourages Ed to participate in neighborhood theaters. Ed plays softball at St. Roch's and fishes. His experience at Kenrick Seminary has left him with a love of singing.

Ed Stout has been the Executive Director of Aid for Victims of Crime, Inc. (AVC) for eleven years. He has had a wide variety of experiences come his way. One victim was an elderly woman in South St. Louis. Stout received a call on the hotline from a paramedic at the scene of the crime. Two men had broken into the woman's house and ransacked it. They tied her up so tightly that it left permanent nerve damage. They did many things to torture her, but it was when they took her dog (her sole companion in life) and said that they had killed it to upset her that she became hysterical.

The victim would not go to the hospital because of the cost. The hotline volunteer explained the state's victim compensation fund that is available to crime victims. The woman then agreed to go to the hospital if someone would watch her dog. Although dog sitting is not a normal service, Aid for Victims of Crime provided it in this case.

Aid for Victims of Crime was the first victim assistance program in the United States. It was founded in 1972 and is an assistance group for crime victims. It offers immediate practical assistance through crises intervention.

The group helps guide victims through the criminal justice process. It also provides help with utilities, employers, and landlords. It helps victims file for state compensation for non-reimbursable hospital costs, lost wages, funeral and counseling expenses. AVC operates a twenty-four hotline for victims of crime in St. Louis and St. Louis County. The hotline number is "OK-BE-MAD" (652-3262). AVC is a not-for-profit organization.

zation and is financed by private contributions and state contracts.

Ed Stout contends that in court, the defendant receives certain rights while the victim has none. For three years, he has co-chaired a campaign to pass a state constitutional amendment that would guarantee victim



Ed Stout

rights. That amendment, which will be on the November 3 ballot, would guarantee these victim's rights:

- To be present at all criminal justice proceedings at which the defendant has the right to be present
- To be informed of and heard at the hearings and sentencing
- Restitution
- Speedy disposition and appellate review of their cases
- Reasonable protection from the defendant
- Information concerning the accused's escape or release
- Information about how the criminal justice system works, the availability of services, and about the crime.

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IN YOUR EAR

by Tom Hoerr

Are you a hard worker? At whatever it is that you do, in an office, home, school, factory, or warehouse, do you work hard? "Of course!" you respond. As surely as there are birds in the sky, you think you work hard. And what about your neighbor? Yep, she thinks she works hard, and so does he, your other neighbor.

I've never met anyone who thinks, or at least would admit, that they have an easy job. Fred may like his job, Suzy may find her job challenging, Pat may even say that work is fun. But no one — repeat NO ONE — says that they have an easy job. And, of course, all of us really believe what we say. We really do think that we work hard.

But do we, all of us, really work hard? Is it possible that everyone works hard? I think not. If everyone worked hard, could we be having the myriad of problems and troubles that we have today? I have to believe that if everyone worked hard (not just you and me; obviously we already work hard), streets would be safer and cleaner, planes would arrive on time, all kids would learn, and we'd never have to wait in line for anything.

And yet I don't think that people are being dishonest when they think they work hard. They really do. Think they work hard, that is. But, of course, this simply doesn't make sense. Have you gone to the Post Office recently and waited and waited and waited in line? No, it's not that they're understaffed. And almost any Post Office will do! How about the last time you were in a restaurant waiting for a glass of water or for your check? Don't forget all those folks who make their living shuffling paper or just talking on the phone; can that be hard work? And then there's the military! Other than Desert Storm, do you think that they work hard? And then there's CONGRESS! And, no, writing bad checks doesn't count as work! Other than working at getting re-elected, do you . . . never mind; I won't even bother finishing asking this one!

Yet each of these folks, if asked, would say, that of course they work hard. So what's the skinny here? What's going on, Ralph? Something doesn't fit.

It's simple. There are two principles operating here. The first is the classic FUZZY MIRROR PRINCIPLE. This principle says that none of us can really view ourselves for what we are. Whenever we see ourselves, it's a distortion due to the fuzzy mirror we're holding. We almost always see ourselves as a little funnier, a bit brighter, a lot nicer, and a much harder worker than is really the case. Quick now: don't you think that you work harder than your peers??? Gotcha, right? The Fuzzy Mirror Principle isn't always bad, mind you. Life would be much more rugged if we had to see ourselves as others do all the day. Thank goodness for fuzzy mirrors! Man's ability to self-deceive makes life much easier. Yes, woman's too.

The second principle here which also causes people to think that they work very hard, harder than others, is a principle called the MOVEMENT = PROGRESS FALLACY. This principle causes problems for lots of folks. It means that we tend to confuse doing something for doing work. As long as we're busy, we figure, we're working hard and getting the job done. So we push paper, we grab a cup of coffee, we fail to prioritize, we do those things we like rather than those things that we should be doing, we make lists and re-make lists, and then, hey, the day is over and BOY ARE WE TIRED!

If you doubt the Movement = Progress Fallacy, look at it this way:

this principle is what we see in kids who say that they spend several hours each night working on homework when, in fact, they're sitting in their room with the stereo blasting, fiddling with their Nintendo and talking on the phone. But if you ask them, they don't see themselves as relaxing or playing or wasting time. They really think that they're working and that the homework took them all of that time. Sound familiar? And then these kids grow up to be adults. The acne leaves but the work habits remain.

Now some people do work hard. Maybe even a few people besides you and me. Just as it can't be reasonable that everyone works hard, it can't be reasonable to think that no one works hard except us. We can argue about whether the percentage of hard workers is 10, 20, or 30 percent (my absolute upper limit), but we have to accept that some folks work hard. OK, now that we've scientifically established that somewhere between 1% and 30% of the population works hard, who are these people?

In the interests of public service, this columnist has surveyed several breakfast companions and higher education professor-types, and come up with the absolute, final, definitive, all-time list of the top ten hard workers. These are the folks who make life acceptable for you and me. Without them society would grind to a stop and our trade deficit

with the Japanese would be even worse than it is. We owe them our eternal gratitude (especially if we don't have to work next to them). Here goes!

The 1992 Top Ten List of Hard Workers

1. *Vice-President Dan Quayle.* Believe it or not, he works really hard at appearing not to work hard. It can't be easy, always playing golf, chairing meetings which have no purpose or outcome, and, and, and, and doing whatever else it is that he does.
2. *Any counter attendant at Ted Drewes.* Always busy and always a good product.
Enough said.
3. *Any dental assistant or hygienist.* Sure, they're not "on" all the time, but given what they do when they do it, it doesn't matter what proportion is actually working versus sitting; would you want this job???
4. *Rex Hudler,* the ultimate Cardinal (baseball not Catholic). Nobody works harder than Rex. He gives 100% on every play, even when he's not playing. Rex's intensity makes Hannibal the Cannibal seem laid-back.
5. *The people who write advertisements for deodorants, hygiene products, and hair spray.* This cannot be easy work.
6. *The homeless.* Seriously. They may not have jobs or homes, but what they do every day, work at staying alive, is anything but easy.
7. *Stephen King.* This guy turns out horror book after horror book, some even written under pseudonyms because he's so prolific. I hear that his fingertips have calluses.

8. *Mick Jagger.* Nobody works harder than the Mick (except maybe Rex). I've seen him perform twice, and each time I went away impressed that anyone can write for that long on stage. While singing, no less! If you see him in action, you know why he's so skinny. He must burn 10,000 to 15,000 calories per performance.

9. *Virvius Jones.* Fighting with everyone can't come easily, one has to work at it. It used to be that Virvius' opponent was Vince. Now it's Vince, but it's also the Police Board, the airport bond issuers, Forest Park Forever, and . . . Virvius has some valid points, and he works all the time at pushing them forward. He's the Rex Hudler of politics.

10. *You and me.* Obviously we work hard, that's why it's so easy for us to recognize everyone else's slothful behavior. So whaddya think? Did I overlook anyone? Do you know any hard workers that I've missed? Here's your chance to nominate them for the HARD WORKERS HALL OF FAME. Send me this coupon with your candidates listed.

<p>I nominate _____ for the HARD WORKERS HALL OF FAME. I do so because this person does _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Your name _____</p> <p>Send nominations to IYE, 6106 Kingsbury, 63112.</p>
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Help Is Available for Medicare Recipients

by Connie Deschamps

Low-income individuals on Medicare may be able to receive help paying their medical expenses from Missouri's Division of Family Services. People eligible for this assistance, called Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries or QMB's, have income below federal poverty levels.

Some Medicare beneficiaries qualify for QMB even if they do not qualify for regular Medical Assistance/Medicaid from the state. Missouri now covers individuals with income below \$552 per month and couples with income below \$740. There are also limits on assets: More than \$4,000 for an individual or

\$6,000 for a couple in bank accounts, stocks, bonds and other liquid assets will disqualify someone from the QMB program.

A benefit of QMB allows people to enroll in Medicare without paying premiums. QMB will pay the premium.

The QMB program also pays for many Medicare deductibles and co-insurance payments (the patient's share of medical expenses that Medicare does not pay). Hospital in-patients usually pay a \$628 deductible per admission before Medicare coverage begins. Patients are also responsible for a \$100

yearly deductible and 20% of the remaining approved charges on out-patient charges. QMB assists with these expenses.

Find out more about QMB even if you have been denied in the past. The rules have changed and more people are now eligible. If you have Medicare and think you might qualify as a QMB, call your local Family Services office at 340-5063.

Note: Deschamps is president of Elder Assist (geriatric care management counseling) and will pass along pertinent information to us periodically.

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