

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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April-May 1999

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Independent and all volunteer-run since 1970

Rebuilding Communities Bill Goes to Senate

by JoAnn Vatcha

An important legislative initiative, the "Rebuilding Communities" bill, House bill 246, is currently under consideration by the State Senate, which will vote during the session ending May 15. This law is designed to build on the state historic credit that became law in January of 1998, which is already having tangible effects on rehab in many historic neighborhoods, including Skinker-DeBaliviere.

The new law also builds on the 1998 "Rebuilding Communities Law", which gives incentives to certain types of businesses to locate in distressed communities (defined to include the entire City of St. Louis). Businesses which start up or locate in the City obtain 3 years of state tax credits, more than offsetting the city earnings tax for the company and its employees. These businesses can offer investors substantial tax credits and other benefits. The law has been called the best in the United States for revitalizing distressed communities.

Attorney Jerry Schlichter, who initiated these pieces of legislation and who has played an active role in obtaining passage of the earlier legislation, has furnished the following information about how the legislation will work. According to Schlichter, it is very important for anyone interested to write or call Governor Carnahan (573-751-3222), speaker of the House Steve Gaw (573-751-2135) and Senate President Ed Quick (573-751-4524) with your support of the upcoming vote in the Senate session ending May 15. Our 4th District State Senator Lacy Clay can be reached locally at 367-2596.

The Rebuilding Communities bill now pending would create strong incentives for development of owner-occupied, market rate houses in distressed communities, which includes, like the former bill, the entire city of St. Louis, including Skinker-DeBaliviere. It would do the following:

1. Provide a tax credit of 35% of the cost of rehab to a developer or homeowner who substantially rehabilitates (spends over half the cost) a home for owner occupancy — if the home is over 50 years old and located in a distressed community (anywhere in the city);

2. Provide a tax credit of 15% of the construction cost to a developer or homeowner who builds a new market rate owner-occupied home in a distressed community (anywhere in the city);

3. Provide a tax credit of 25% of the cost of modest renovation (above \$5,000) to the owner of a home over 50 years old in a distressed community or a broader range of communities (which in this area would include many of the older inner ring of suburbs) up to a maximum of \$20,000 in tax credit for a single home.

The bill has a cap of \$10 million for the whole state. Project funding will be on a first-come first-served basis requiring the approval of the state Department of Economic Development (which also approves the state historic tax credit.)

The tax credits can be sold so a homeowner or developer can go back

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Joe Edwards Hopes to Spread His Magic East of Skinker

Joe Edwards, neighborhood resident and highly successful entrepreneur in the University City Loop, hopes to help redevelop the 6100 block of Delmar.

Edwards, owner of Blueberry Hill and the Tivoli, along with partner Pat Hagin, wants to develop a concert hall/night club at 6161 Delmar. This is on the north side of the street where the Wabash Triangle Cafe once stood. The venue will be called the Pageant. The name is taken from a movie theatre that used to stand a short distance east on Delmar from the proposed site.

Edwards and Hagin, who is a talent buyer for Blueberry Hill and other clubs, want to feature all types of music at their new concert hall from blues to folk, from reggae to rock. They plan to have a variable capacity of from 750 to 1,500 people.

Their building will contain two retail shops at store level and two floors of offices. Plans for their development include new lighting and they are exploring ways of augmenting parking in the area. Their development is very close to the Delmar MetroLink parking facility.

Edwards and Hagin presented their plans to the Commercial Development Committee and the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council in March. Both bodies were eager to work to make this development possible. Commercial Chair JoAnn Vatcha noted that those working on Delmar redevelopment had long hoped for some spark to set the process in motion. Many saw this as such a spark. Edwards remarked that his concert facility could stimulate greater interest in development on Delmar and draw new retail and restaurants. It would put more people back on the street, fostering increased safety.

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FREE CONCERT AT FOUR CORNERS, APRIL 17

The West End Arts Council is sponsoring a special evening of song and togetherness at Four Corners (Kingsbury and DesPeres) on Saturday evening, April 17, from 6-10 p.m. The opening act is The Little Foxes, featuring Mimi and Tina Renard along with Don Muckerman. The Renards grew up in the neighborhood on 62xx McPherson. Certainly many friends and acquaintances will be interested in seeing the Renard daughters perform.

The headline act is from Chicago. Switchback is described as having "Celtic Rockabilly with Red-Hot Guitar." At their various gigs, their music is decidedly contemporary. The group founders are Marty McCormack and Brian FitzGerald. McCormack and

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NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE SET FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 17

The fourth annual St. Louis Neighborhood Conference, organized and sponsored by SLACO (St. Louis Association of Community Organizations) and St. Louis Community College at Forest Park will be held Saturday, April 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the College. The morning keynote address will be given by Ray Suarez, host of NPR's "Talk of the Nation" and author of "The Old Neighborhood."

The conference is designed to bring together a wide variety of individuals who share a common interest in improving the living conditions in the neighborhoods of St. Louis. If you are committed to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Skinker DeBaliviere, you should plan to attend.

Topics covered in a variety of "how to" workshops and programs include Organizational Effectiveness, Youth

Continued on page 3



MetroLink Meeting

Skinker DeBaliviere residents have possibly their last chance to hear the plans for the MetroLink expansion to Clayton and to voice their feelings about these plans. The consultants to East-West Gateway Coordinating Council have 3 possible scenarios. One includes having a train run at grade level from DeBaliviere past our neighborhood on Forest Park Parkway and across Skinker. Another scenario mentioned submerging Skinker at the Parkway. In either case, these plans raise questions about neighbors' access to Skinker, traffic congestion, and noise.

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In our 30th Year of Publication

**The METROLINK Extension
IS COMING
to Skinker DeBaliviere**

**SkinkerDeBaliviere Community Council
and its Transportation Committee
Parkview Agents and
The Catlin Tract Trustees**

**invite neighborhood residents to join us
for a presentation of three final design alternatives for the
MetroLink route along Forest Part Parkway:
Monday, April 26th
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Grace Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
(Use the door at the circle drive on Waterman)

In addition to representatives of East West Gateway Coordinating Council, the Community Engagement Team Consultants, and Parsons Transportation Group, the engineering consultants for the project, the following elected officials have committed to be in attendance:

Mayor Clarence Harmon
Voting member, East-West Gateway - Board of Directors

Francis Slay, President - Board of Alderman
Voting member, East-West Gateway - Board of Directors

Lyda Krewson, 28th Ward Alderman
*Learn - Be Informed - Ask Questions
Voice your preferences
Express your concerns*

You can make a difference!
For further information contact the
Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council at 862-5122

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

Spring has long been my favorite season of the year, allergies notwithstanding. This spring is a special one because it marks a reawakening at the Times. Thanks to JoAnn Vatcha, we have a millenium project—namely the tracing of our own neighborhood history. I am very grateful to JoAnn for this fine idea and also to Marj Weir who has worked so hard on the production. As the weeks go by, we will seek the assistance of a number of people to help make our own history take root. If anyone has photos of the neighborhood from a previous era, please let me know. This year was an unusual one because I flew to Florida for spring break. I was able to stay by the Gulf of Mexico and I loved the beach and a lot of good seafood. I did notice however that the Tampa area is even more dependent on cars than we are. It seems like you drive forever to go anywhere and you see endless strip malls, one after the other. Ocean notwithstanding, the comforts of home looked more appealing. I'm grateful I went though. It made me much more eager to enjoy our burgeoning flowers and spring temperatures.

As a final note, graduation season is fast upon us. If you would like mention of a son or daughter's milestone in the Times please call 721-7532. We'd also love to hear about any other family events you'd like to share with your neighbors through our newspaper.

The Times wants to thank Karen Goering, Executive Vice President of the Missouri Historical Society, and the Society, for making possible the reproduction of a number of photographs of our neighborhood. The expansion of the History Museum will be ready for public inspection in February 2000.

With this issue the Times begins its 30th year of publication. Those of us most involved with its production thank our loyal readers for their past and future support

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein
Business Manager: Lois Schoemehl
Production Manager: Marj Weir

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents. All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Copy may be submitted on computer diskette if the diskette is in DOS format or on high density Macintosh diskettes. Submissions on diskette should be accompanied by a printout of the article, the name of the word processing software in which it is written, and the full name and address of the party to whom the diskette should be returned. The signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned in to the editor at 721-7532, or mailed to 5855 Nina Place, 63112.

The deadline for all copy is the 18th of the month.
The writer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, including times, dates, locations, and particularly the spelling of names.
Pictures or illustrations should be in black and white. Color photographs often do not reproduce well.
The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Calendar

Neighborhood Events and Meetings

- 4/5 Transportation Committee, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- 4/7 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon
- 4/10 Block Captain and helpers, Planning meeting for Blitz Day, 6008 Kingsbury, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/12 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury 7:00 p.m.
- 4/17 Free Concert, Food, Fun "Switchback" at Four Corners Park. Sponsored by West End Art Council, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
- 4/21 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing, Corporation, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon
- 4/26 Neighborhood Wide Meeting about MetroLink, Grace Methodist Church 6199 Waterman, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/1 BrightSide Blitz Day. Office open at 8:00 a.m., Hot dogs ready by 11:30 a.m. All are welcome.
- 5/3 Transportation Committee, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.
- 5/5 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Housing Corporation, 6008 Kingsbury, 12:00 noon
- 5/10 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:00 p.m.



Other Events of Interest

- Now- 5/4 Marlene Katz will speak at noon at Grace United Methodist Church on first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. This talk is free and open to all. The Missouri Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities help to make it possible. Call 85-4094 for information.
- 5/9 "Beckmann and Paris," nationally touted exhibition of paintings of Max Beckmann, Matisse, Picasso, Braque, Leger, and others. At the Saint Louis Art Museum.
- 4/8- 4/25 TNT (The New Theatre) presents Wendy MacLeod's play "The Water Children" at the New City School Theatre. Call 531-8330 for tickets.
- 4/13 Grace United Methodist Church presents a lecture by Carol Diaz-Granados on "Digging Up the 1904 World's Fair" at 1pm. Program is free and open to all. For information call 863-1992.
- 4/16- 18 Washington University Performing Arts Dept. presents "Alice in Wonderland" at the Edison Theatre. \$10. Call 935-6543 for tickets.
- 4/16- 5/2 Missouri Historical Society's HISTORYonics Theatre presents "Eleanor: The People's First Lady" at the Library and Research Center, 225 S. Skinker. Call 746-4445 for tickets.
- 4/26 A. Scott Berg will discuss his new biography, "Lindbergh," at the MO History Museum Library and Research Center, 225 S. Skinker, from 7-9pm. Free and open to the public.
- 4/30- 5/2 Edison Theatre and Dance St. Louis present JAZZDANCE. Tickets are \$23. Call 935-6543 for availability.



TAX CREDITS

Continued from page 1

and apply the credit to each of the last 3 years' income and go forward 4 years, entirely eliminating state taxes for seven years.

In addition, for single family homes, the credit can piggy-back on the state historic tax credit so that in a historic neighborhood such as Benton Park the two can be used together for, get this, a 60% tax credit for substantial rehabilitation of a home!

Here's how this can work for you: Assume a couple making \$50,000 per year buys a house for \$50,000 and spends \$60,000 rehabbing it. That produces a credit of \$21,000. Missouri taxes on their income are 6% for a total of \$3,000 per year. They take the credit in the current year and go back 3 years for a total of \$12,000 in tax credit taken. They can also go forward three more years and take another \$9,000 in credit, eliminating their state income taxes for seven years.

Joe Edwards

Continued from page 1

Edwards and Hagin are now supervising work on the final plans for the development. The Times will reproduce renderings in its next issue and they will be available for inspection at the SDCC office.

Edwards and Hagin are seeking a variance from the master plan and a 3am liquor license to accommodate the appearance of major national acts on weekends. They are working closely with Alderman Krewson and the relevant city boards about their plans. Any hearings that are necessary will be open to the public.

Edwards will hold informational meetings in the Piano Room at Blueberry Hill for both residents and Delmar business owners. The residents' meeting will take place on Monday, April 19, at 7:30pm. All Skinker DeBaliviere residents are invited to attend to learn more about this development and to ask any questions they may have. The business owners' meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30pm also in the Piano Room at Blueberry Hill.

EDWARDS HONORED FOR THE WALK OF FAME

The Walk of Fame, honoring famous St. Louisans from many occupations, occupies a significant place in the neighboring Loop. On March 25, 1999, Commerce Bank and the William T. Kemper Foundation presented Joe Edwards, owner of Blueberry Hill and the Tivoli and creator of the Walk of Fame, with a Community Service Award. Edwards began the Walk in 1988. Currently, eighty plaques have been placed along Delmar. Each year in mid-May, additional stars are added to the Walk and the public is welcome to attend the induction ceremony. This year a donation from the William T. Kemper and Commerce Bancshares Foundations will support the costs of the ceremony and the publishing of a commemorative book.

Vicissitudes

Again, it is our sad duty to report the passing of another longtime neighbor and friend—Mary Bea Stout. She passed away on March 26 after a long battle with cancer. It will be hard to replace her energy and her effervescence. Mary Bea leaves her husband and Ed and four children. The Stouts have resided on 61xx McPherson for almost three decades. Mary Bea was active in her church, St. Roch, and performed with several different theatrical companies in the St. Louis area. She loved acting and appeared as Prometheus in a Skinker DeBaliviere dinner theater. She shared her husband's concerns for the victims of crime and also worked for other progressive causes. Even while fighting her last fight, she remained active and participated in neighborhood activities.

Times columnist Billy Handmaker and his wife Betul Osmat have welcomed their second child, another boy. Simon's new brother is Lev, named for his grandmother who was born in 1899 and able to visit the hospital and hold her namesake.

George and Rose Storey enjoy eight children and sixteen grandchildren. Their youngest son, Matthew, a recent immigrant to southern California, will marry Denise Foley in mid-summer. One of their daughters-in-law, Pam Storey, a nurse-practitioner, is now director of health services at St. Patrick Center.

Switchback Concert

Continued from page 1

FitzGerald see themselves as having Celtic, jazz and blues roots. Their instruments are bass guitar and mandolin complementing an Irish tenor. Switchback has also shared its music with those not able to get to a concert. They have brought music to those in nursing homes and have helped to raise funds for a hospice. They adjust their music to their audience.

Switchback appeared a few months ago at the City Museum's "Beatnik Bob's." Bill Christman, the man behind the beatnik, was very impressed with their performance and was happy

to be able to bring them to our neighborhood for a special evening.

The Arts Council makes this event possible with funding from the Regional Arts Commission and support from the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. In addition, the Playground Committee of the SDCC is putting on a barbecue and selling beverages to benefit the play lot they wish to see built adjacent to Four Corners. They'll be selling some tasty items and some Schlafly. The Committee has worked very hard this year to raise funds for the playground and the proceeds from the food and drink here will help them get closer to their goal.

As the final frosting on the cake, some of the artists' studios at Four Corners will be open the evening of the concert. It will give people an unusual opportunity to see the calibre of art produced so close to home. Everyone is welcome—residents, friends, colleagues, acquaintances. Enjoy the food and drink, the very special music performed by old friends as well as a very special group from Chicago with its unique sound, and sample the art. For questions about the event, call Laure Porterfield at 862-5122.

Neighborhood Conference

Continued from page 1

and School Issues, Housing Issues, Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Safety, Community Economic Development and "New American" Issues.

The \$10.00 registration fee includes a box lunch and Continuing Education Credits if requested. To obtain a registration form and brochure, contact the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office at 862-5122.

Many Skinker DeBaliviere residents have participated in this conference in past years, both as presenters and attendees. We look forward once again to your active involvement.

MetroLink

Continued from page 1

Come to the meeting on MONDAY, APRIL 26 AT 7:00 P.M. AT GRACE METHODIST CHURCH, WATERMAN AT SKINKER. (Enter the social hall from the Waterman entrance.) Our elected officials will be there to listen to our concerns: Mayor Clarence Harmon, Aldermanic President Francis Slay, Comptroller Darlene Green, Alderman Lyda Krewson.

At previous meetings, the neighborhood has indicated that it favors a cut and cover approach to lessen congestion and noise. Interested parties from University City and Clayton also support this approach. A significant area of concern is the effect on traffic in the area of Skinker. Already, traffic on Skinker backs up at rush hours. If there is a train running at grade every few minutes, what effect will that have on access to the neighborhood?

The major parties concerned including St. Louis elected officials will be at this meeting. The SDCC hopes all interested residents will attend. For more information, call the SDCC office at 862-5122.



SWITCHBACK

Marty McCormack
Brian Fitzgerald



**Check On Out
Ain't Going Back**



U. City Loop

T
I
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I

WALK to the theatre that shows the best new independent films!

★ ★ ★ ★

Classic Cinema Series!
Great Concessions!
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**6350 Delmar
862-1100**

Blueberry Hill

HAMBURGERS



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**6504 Delmar
727-0880**

Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Fund Raiser Is Coming

by Debbie Hall

Attention neighbors...lend a hand to keep Skinker-Debaliviere Community Council afloat. The SDCC is in need of financial help. It has a \$4,000 deficit. The Council is too important to our neighborhood to ignore its need for our help.

The SDCC serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate neighborhood stabilization issues such as enforcing codes, making sure homes meet city requirements, and bringing programs to the neighborhood. The SDCC addresses safety issues and sponsors National Night Out. The council participates in beautification programs such as Operation Brightside. The Council gathers and disseminates information on projects that affect the neighborhood like Metro Link expansion and the revitalization of Delmar Boulevard. There is no doubt that the Council serves the neighborhood in various ways. It is a valuable resource to our community.

Several good citizens in the neighborhood have answered the call to help raise the needed funds. So far, the list of volunteers includes: Julie Schoemehl, Gwen LaZard, Lara Doyle, Lana Stein, Shirley Polk, Jane and Joe Geller, Andy Cross, Ruth Beckloff, Ann Smith-Carr, Ronie Halburton, Susan Littlefield, Greg Freeman, Trent Mitchell, Glenda Underwood, Bruce Shipman, Mary Clare King, Joan Miller, Joe Hogan and Teresa King.

The committee has planned several fund raising events. Dates have been tentatively set for the following events:

Walk-A-Thon Kick-off	May 22, 1999 at 8:00 a.m.
Garden Tour	July 10, 1999
*Rags to Riches	August 21, 1999
*Booth at Balloon Races	September 18, 1999
*Trivial Pursuits Night	October 9, 1999

We are still looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: Debbie Hall 862-7537. Let's keep our neighborhood vital!

*Projects shared by Rosedale Neighborhood Association and *The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere*

Notes from the Gardens

by Andy Cross

The Block Unit 1035 Community Garden and McPherson Community Garden have begun their new growing season. Work crews have turned over the soil, replenished the raised beds and planted cool weather crops. Some new gardeners have joined us and new projects have begun.

Gateway Greening has supplied both gardens with more soil and woodchips, seeds, and technical advice and later will provide us with seedlings, flowers, and more. The Block Unit 1035 Garden received an octagonal picnic table from Gateway Greening, which they placed in a quiet spot under the tall shade trees at the West end of the garden.

Johnathan Watt, a professional Master Gardener who gives countless volunteer hours to Gateway Greening, has adopted the McPherson garden. He will offer his vast garden knowledge, guidance, and direction to everyone at our community gardens. Johnathan has helped us in the past, dealing with garden pests, unhealthy plants, covercrops, selections of plants, and other planting and growing advice. He has already been a big influence on the success of our gardens. We look forward to another great year and great crops at our community gardens.



PLAYGROUND REPORT

by Katrina Stierholtz

The Playground project continues to move forward. We have raised over \$10,000 from the community during this fall's fundraising campaign. Many letters were sent, and we received contributions from all over the neighborhood. Over 120 people gave money. All money donated to the project goes towards

Fundraising Thermometer



our the playground. We have recently submitted grant applications to the St. Louis Rams Foundation and to the Enterprise Leasing Foundation. We should hear from them sometime in May. We expect that we will have one more request for contributions from the community in June or July, and then we hope to begin construction in late summer. The Playground sponsored an Ice Skating Party at Steinberg Rink on February 12th. Over 100 people attended and had a great, if somewhat chilly, time. Altogether, we have raised over \$25,000 in cash and commitments plus a \$4,000 in-kind donation. That brings us to the half-way point—the cost of constructing the first phase of the playground is \$55,000. That will provide equipment (half of the total design), a fence, a sidewalk designed with tricycles in mind, and a few special touches provided by Andy Cross.

Volunteers Needed for Times Delivery

The Times is placed at area institutions and businesses, but our tradition has called for delivery to each door in the neighborhood. There are some blocks where we have not been able to fulfill that intention.

Please consider helping us to get these blocks covered.

- 5700 Kingsbury
- 5800 Kingsbury
- 5900 Kingsbury
- 5700 McPherson
- 6000 Pershing
- 5800 Waterman
- Kingsbury Square

COLONIAL RUG COMPANY
6191 Delmar
Complete Floor Service
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Bill Schiller
726-3281

OFF. 721-5600
RES. 862-5071

R
BROKER & ASSOCIATE

KARLEEN O. HOERR
LIFE MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR CLUB
MEMBER MULTIMILLION DOLLAR CLUB

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ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

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THE FORSYTHE DENTAL GROUP

HARVEY W. SMALL, D.M.D.
VALERIE PARIS O'BANNON, D.M.D.

The Dorchester
665 S. Skinker
St. Louis, MO 63105
725-0988

Neighborhood Chronicles

The Times Revisits and Updates the History of Skinker DeBaliviere

by Jo Ann Vatcha

THE TIMES OF SKINKER DEBALIVIERE, which has sought for over 29 years to reflect the vicissitudes of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood, is pleased to introduce with this issue a very special series of articles that will celebrate our neighborhood as we enter the new millennium. This account of the neighborhood's first 100 years begins with the first chapter of the detailed historical account of our area, published in 1973, called *The Neighborhood, A History of Skinker-DeBaliviere*.

Each of the next several issues of THE TIMES will feature, in chronological order, a portion of the text of the previously published book. Accompanying the text will be photos and maps, along with selected sidebar articles from previous issues of THE TIMES (called THE PAPER between April, 1970, and June, 1984). In addition, there will be new articles expanding on some of the most important events, organizations, and people mentioned in the 1973 book.

As the year goes on, our plan is more ambitious. THE TIMES' all-volunteer staff will be researching and writing the follow-up history of the neighborhood, from 1973 to the end of the century. Several TIMES board members and other neighbors will be involved, and their names will be added to the credits. As we enter the year 2000, we will have brought the history of our community to the present day. The completed history will then be published in book form. More information about that (and our fundraising to make it possible) will be forthcoming.

The Neighborhood—A History of Skinker-DeBaliviere is reprinted by permission of co-authors Georgiana B. Stuart, Kathleen M. (Harleman) Krueger, and Susan K. Tepas. Kathy Krueger is a teacher at St. Pius V School in the South Grand Area, another St. Louis urban success story. Kathy particularly enjoys the challenge of the diverse international student

body. Susan Tepas now lives in a very rural setting in Mansfield Center, Connecticut. She found the home of the father of "our" James Kingsbury. More about that "new" information later.

Gee Stuart, and husband Cal Stuart, who for many years was Executive Director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, now live in The Hill Neighborhood. Gee is Executive Director of Operation Impact and the Real Estate Department of the St. Louis Development Corporation of the City of St. Louis. She has played a large role in the revitalization of many St. Louis neighborhoods, especially in the production of renovated and new housing. We thank the authors for permission to reprint their fine work.

Our sincere thanks to all those who are scouring their "archives" to share photos and other information about life in Skinker-DeBaliviere through the nearly ten decades it has

existed as a neighborhood. We look forward in the coming months to sharing those memories with the rest of our friends and neighbors.

From the World's Fair in 1904 to the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1999, historic events, great and small, have touched our neighborhood. Even more important are the many generations of residents who have built on these traditions a strong community that attracts newcomers every year and has stood the test of time. We are justly proud of our diversity. We have endured and, in fact, prospered. In contrast, many other urban neighborhoods—all over the country—have faltered. The history and accomplishments of Skinker-DeBaliviere deserve attention.

And what a rich history it is, beginning as it does with the very start of St. Louis itself. This month, we proudly begin ... **NEIGHBORHOOD CHRONICLES.**



1902: Looking East from Skinker at Lindell

The NEIGHBORHOOD A History of Skinker de Baliviere

by Kathleen M. Harleman

Georgiana B. Stuart

Susan K. Tepas

"Dedicated to all our neighbors of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood, the reason we live here and like it."
May, 1973

See Footnote - Bibliography on page 4 of this insert. The original Foreword is also printed on page 4.

THE EARLIEST OWNERS OF OUR LAND

The area now known as the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood has a history of owners with well-known St. Louis names. From the original land grant in 1789 until the 20th century, the ground was involved in many confusing real estate transactions. All of it was once a portion of the land owned by Marie Louise Chouteau Papin (sister of one of the founders of St. Louis), and by 1834 had become divided into three principal sections.



Mrs. Jean Pierre (Julie Gratiot) and grand-children Mary Virginia Kingsbury (Countess A. Robert De Givenville) Adèle Louise Kingsbury (Mrs. A. M. Waterman) Jules Cabanne Kingsbury

Our research concerned itself with one section, the one bounded by DeBaliviere Avenue and the Parkview Subdivision on the east and west, by the northern side of Forest Park Parkway on the south and the southern side of Kingsbury Avenue on the north. We chose to concentrate on this section because it was once part of the Kingsbury Farm; because the Kingsburys were descendants of the original owners, the Papins; because

1973 is the 100th anniversary of the subdividing of the Kingsbury Farm; and because many of the streets in our neighborhood carry the heritage of the names of the Kingsbury Family.

Our history begins not long after Auguste Chouteau and Pierre Laclède Ligeste founded St. Louis on February 15, 1764. There are varied opinions as to whether or not Pierre Laclède and Marie Therese Bourgeois Chouteau, mother of Auguste Chouteau, lived as man and wife and whether or not he was the father of the four younger children of Madame Chouteau (Pierre, Pelagie, Marie Louise and Victoire). (6, pp. 23-24) What ever the truth, it did not detract from the respect and admiration the people of the village of St. Louis had for Madame Chouteau, known as "La mere de Saint Louis". (6, p. 209) Our history concerns itself with Marie Louise Chouteau Papin, fourth child of Madame Chouteau and sister of Auguste Chouteau. Marie Louise married Joseph Marie Papin in 1779.

In 1796, Madame Papin was granted a tract of land by the Acting French Lieutenant Governor of the Spanish Territory, Zenon Trudeau. (9, p. 1692) The land became known as Survey 378 and contained approximately 3,200 arpens or 2,720 acres. Generally its boundaries were Maple Avenue on the north, Art Hill in Forest Park on the south, Union Boulevard on the east and Hanley Road on the west. Madame Papin requested Lieutenant Governor Trudeau to give her a farm "on the banks of the River Des Peres, which her slaves might cultivate to provide food for her increasing family." (6, p. 255) Her husband, Joseph Papin, was born in



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Montreal in 1741 and educated in France. His father brought him to St. Louis where the elder Papin had bought some ground about the time that Laclede and Chouteau founded the village. When his father died in 1772, Joseph Marie received a large inheritance. He and his brother-in-law, Sylvester Labbadie (husband of Pelagie Chouteau, third child of Madame Chouteau), were involved in trading with the Indians. (1, p. 105) The business went moderately well for some years. Eventually, along with some minor problems, the loss of a sizable cargo of furs prompted his decision to move to his farm, Survey 378. Up until the move to the farm on the River Des Peres, the Papin family home was on the corner of Main and Chestnut Streets, now a part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. Papin sold

United States in 1803, with quite a bit of money. He first lived in Charleston, South Carolina, then moved to New Orleans. In 1806, he came to St. Louis and went into the fur trade business with several men; two of these men were Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Antoine Chenie (a son-in-law of Madame Papin). Apparently John Cabanne was civic-minded as well as wealthy. He was a member of the first Public School Board of St. Louis and one of the incorporators of the city. (9, p. 289)

On November 7, 1833, Cabanne sold the two tracts of land he had bought from the Papins to Pierre Chouteau, Jr., his business partner and brother-in-law. Chouteau had married Julie Gratiot Cabanne's sister Emilie. At this same time Cabanne also sold Pierre Chouteau a tract of land "allotted to

32 years old and unmarried, so no male heir of this line remained to carry on the Kingsbury name. Mary Virginia's life seems to have been happier. She married Armond Francois Robert, Count DeGiverville, in 1865. Count DeGiverville was born in 1823 in Normandy, France. He spent some time in the French navy and was incidentally wealthy after inheriting his father's estates. (14, p. 315) After their marriage the Count and Countess lived both in France and St. Louis. Both died in St. Louis in 1889.

The happiness of Adele's life is questionable. She married Alfred Morgan Waterman in 1855. Waterman was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1826. When he finished school he worked for E. D. Morgan and Co. in New York until 1848. He came to St. Louis and headed Waterman and Ryan, a wholesale grocery firm. In 1862 he moved to Warsaw, Illinois and directed the firm of Waterman and Wagley, which operated a distillery. Poor health caused him to retire from an active business life in 1864, when he moved back to New York. In 1867 he returned to St. Louis where he lived on the Kingsbury homestead on Union Avenue. He moved to 3327 Pine Street in 1885, and died there that same year. (9, p. 2453) We assume Adele stayed in St. Louis or considered it her home during all of Alfred's moves.

Deeds found for this period state that her residence was the County of St. Louis, though ten Waterman children were born between 1856 and 1870. These same deeds also state that Frederick A. Churchill is acting as trustee for Adele L. Waterman, and whenever Adele bought land, the deed states that the property is "for the sole and separate use and benefit of Adele L. Waterman apart from control of her husband." (58, Book 223, p. 454) From the above facts, one could question the happiness of the Waterman marriage. When Adele died in St. Louis in 1898, only four of the ten Waterman children were living.

James Kingsbury died June 25, 1853. His will, dated June 10, 1853, begins, "In the name of God, Amen. I James W. Kingsbury of St. Louis, Missouri . . . being sick and feeble in body, but in full possession of my mind and affections . . ." (58, Book R, p. 372) Because he was so ill, he was staying in the home of John B. Sarpy, his brother-in-law, when his will was written. Executors of the will were John B. Sarpy; his brother T.H.C. Kingsbury of Franklin, Connecticut; and Robert Forsythe, his friend and neighbor. Sarpy was also named guardian of Kingsbury's two minor children, Adele and Jules. His tract of land consisted of 500 arpens or about 425 acres, and was bounded by what would now be, on the east Union Boulevard, on the south by the Forest Park Parkway, on the west by Hanley Road and on the north by Kingsbury Boulevard.

"This tract of land (exclusive of the homestead of forty acres) I do not wish to go to my children nor to be devised among them until the end of twenty years from my death. And in the mean time I empower and direct my Executors at their discretion to rent or lease out the said land (exclusive of the homestead of forty acres) in convenient parcels so as to make an income for the better support and advancement of my children . . . At the end of said term of twenty years the whole of said tract of land including the farm and homestead to go to my said children and their heirs in absolute property under the first article of this will." (58, Book R, p. 372)

The real estate transactions involving the Kingsbury Farm during the twenty years following James Kingsbury's death are most confusing. An interesting deed, dated September 9, 1857, shows Alfred Waterman selling "all property wherever situated which belonged to the late John P. Cabanne or the late Julia G. Cabanne or the late James W. Kingsbury . . ." (58, Book 186, p. 488) to Robert Forsythe for \$10,000. This could be why in future deeds Adele stated that her property is "apart from control of her husband." During these twenty years Jules Kingsbury sold part of the land to T.H.C. Kingsbury (58, Book 201, p. 123) and Adele bought some back from him. (58, Book 230, p. 28) Adele also bought back some of the land Alfred sold to Forsythe and gave it to Henry Waterman, Alfred's father, to hold for her. (58, Book 223, p. 454) Henry sold the land back to Adele for \$5,000. (58, Book 246, p. 119) By July 15, 1873, twenty years and twenty days after James Kingsbury's death, the

whole of the farm was back in the hands of the two surviving Kingsbury children, Adele and Mary Virginia, and the Kingsbury Farm was subdivided.

How the Kingsbury girls divided the land and laid out certain avenues and streets can best be seen by looking at a map which accompanied the deed, dated July 15, 1873 (see Figure 2). The deed is a deed of partition "by and between Armond Francois Robert Comte de Giverville and Mary Virginia, Comtesse de Giverville, his wife of Eure, France . . . and Frederick A. Churchill, Trustee of Adele L. Kingsbury Waterman, wife of Alfred M. Waterman." After County Surveyor Julius Pitzman had surveyed and subdivided the Kingsbury Farm, the resulting subdivision was named Kingsbury Place. Not included in the subdivision were about eleven acres, the Kingsbury Homestead, bounded on the north by Kingsbury Boulevard, the east by Union Avenue, the south by Waterman Avenue and the west by Alfred Avenue (now Belt Avenue). (58, Book 490, p. 137) Since the DeGivervilles lived mostly in France, the Watermans lived at the Homestead and it became known as the Waterman house.

When describing the area as it was in 1875, Gill states "along Union Avenue . . . the Watermans lived in a house with a square tower near the present street of that name." (6, p. 123) Union Avenue at this time was considered way out in the country. The method of transportation for people who lived out as far as the Watermans was a family surrey or the Narrow Gauge Railroad, a steam railroad which acquired its name because there was only a three foot gauge between the rails. It had small engines and cars to match the small gauge. The little railroad began at Grand and Olive and traveled to Florissant along what became the Hodiadmont street-car line. From Grand and Olive to downtown, or downtown to Grand and Olive, passengers traveled by the Olive Street horse car. (6, p. 257-258)

In contrast to this detailed information about the section of our area which was the Kingsbury Farm, we know little about the other two tracts which eventually became the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood. One of these sections we know little about was the property of Robert Forsythe and is part of what was and is known as the Catlin Tract. The boundaries of the Catlin Tract today are the northern boundary of Forest Park on the south, the north side of the Forest Park Parkway on the north, Union on the east and Skinker on the west. The section of the Catlin Tract with which we are concerned, that between DeBaliviere and Skinker, contains 60 acres and was leased from the Parkview Realty and Improvement Company in 1903 by the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company. This is where the con-

cession area or "The Pike" was located during the 1904 World's Fair. (28, p. 35) There were no homes along this part of Lindell Boulevard, then called Lindell Drive.

The Catlin Tract was named for Daniel Catlin. Catlin took over his father's prosperous St. Louis tobacco business in 1859, incorporated it and became president in 1876. He sold it to the American Tobacco Company in 1898. His land in St. Louis was valued at \$2,356,430 in 1915. Although the Catlins had a prestigious address (21 Vandeventer Place), they were finishing a new home at 53 Westmoreland Place when he died in 1916, at the age of 79. (26) The Catlin house on Westmoreland was owned by Mayor and Mrs. Alphonso J. Cervantes during the 1960s. (4, p. 171)

Another section we know little about can today be outlined by DeBaliviere and the Parkview Subdivision on the east and west, respectively, by the southern side of Delmar Boulevard on the north and the northern side of Kingsbury Avenue on the south. This section was once part of the land known as the Deaver tract. Larkin Deaver, in 1842, was a clothing merchant; his business was located at Vine and First and his residence was on Olive between Fifth and Sixth streets. (11, p. 33) On August 14, 1832, he married Francis Papin, daughter of Alexander Papin and granddaughter of Marie Louise Chouteau Papin. (20) A plat with the deed showing the subdividing of the Kingsbury Farm in 1873 shows this land to be owned by Julia Chouteau Maffitt, Sophia Deaver and Maria F. Parker (see map, Figure 2).

Our knowledge of the owners of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Area from 1873 to 1901 is rather sketchy. A plat for the dedication of DeBaliviere Avenue, between Delmar and the proposed Kingsbury Boulevard was filed and recorded July 18, 1892. It states that the owners of the 80 foot strip that became DeBaliviere Avenue were Culvin F. Collins and Studie Y. Collins. They dedicated this strip of land for public use forever. The owners of the land to the west from Kingsbury Boulevard to 210 feet south of Delmar are J. Johnson, W. S. Fleming, et. al. The owner of the 210 feet south of Delmar is listed as A. K. Steward,

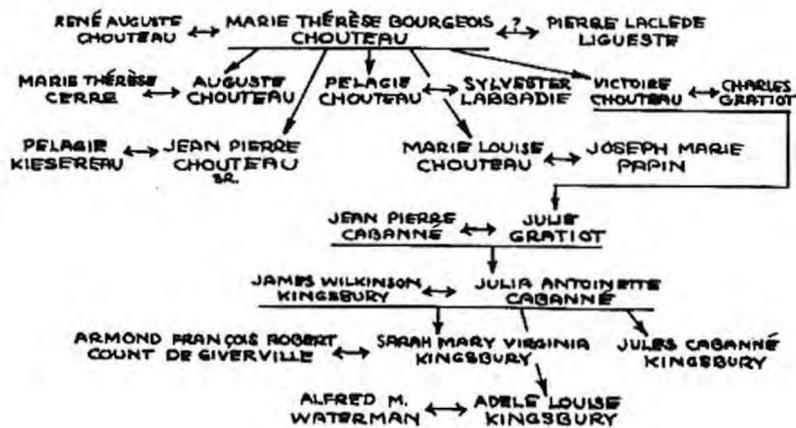
Trustee. (59, Book 14, p. 122) In 1894 a group of men, William B. Thompson, Cornelius Van der Voet, Lawrence Bruce, Thomas Bayley and Charles V. B. Slade gave the city the right to build and maintain sewers on their land bounded by Delmar on the north, Kingsbury Boulevard on the south, the River Des Peres on the west and the eastern property line of Maria Deaver on the east. Maria Deaver's property line was halfway between the present Hamilton Avenue and Goodfellow Boulevard. (58, Book 1635, p. 18)

In 1901, we come upon some surprising real estate transactions. Courtland B. Van Sicker purchased almost all of the land bounded by Skinker on the west, the Forest Park Parkway on the south, DeBaliviere on the east and Delmar on the north. He purchased 3/64 interest in the land mentioned above from Lawrence Bruce. He purchased the now 6100 block of Pershing and the Forest Park Parkway from Irwin Z. Smith. Almost all of the rest of the land in this area he purchased from Caroline McCorkle of St. Louis and Caroline E. Bates of Washington, D.C. How these people selling the land became owners of part of the Kingsbury Farm we do not yet know. Van Sicker remains somewhat of a mystery also. The question can be raised whether or not he was a "straw party" in all these transactions, since he was a clerk at the Carleton Dry Goods Company in 1903 (8), and it seems impossible that he would have so much money of his own to invest.

In 1905, we find George L. Faulhaber selling the land that Van Sicker bought in 1901 to West End Realty Company (58, Book 1915, p. 18) How Faulhaber obtained the land Van Sicker bought in 1901, we do not know.

Figure 1

THE KINGSBURY GENEALOGY



this house to another brother-in-law, Charles Gratiot, who had married Victoire Chouteau (fifth child of Madame Chouteau). (9, pp. 1691-1692) Papin died in 1811 (9, p. 1692) and Madame Papin died in 1817. (15, p. 60)

Deeds found at The Recorder of Deeds of the City of St. Louis show that on August 29, 1808, three years before Joseph Marie's death, he and Marie Louise sold all of Survey 378 to their children, except one portion. This was sold to Pierre Chouteau, Sr. (brother of Madame Papin and second child of Madame Chouteau). (58, Book B, pp. 118, 120, 127, 128, 144, 145, 150, 156, 166, 167, 175, 187) These deeds are in French and the boundaries are given in terms of property owners. For instance, the land sold to Alexander Papin (third child of Joseph Marie and Marie Louise) is described as being bounded on the north by the land of Pierre Didier Papin, on the east by the land of Charles Gratiot, on the south by the land of Emilie Papin, and on the west by vacant land. By tracing deeds both forward and backward in time, we have determined that two of the sections of land in these 1808 transactions became the Kingsbury Farm. One section is that described above, owned by Alexander Papin. The other was directly south of Alexander's and was owned by Emilie Papin (eleventh child of Joseph Marie and Marie Louise).

Within eight years, John P. Cabanne (Alexander's and Emilie's cousin by marriage) owned the above two sections of land. In 1812, Alexander Papin sold his land to his uncle, Sylvester Labbadie, for \$400. (58, Book D, p. 61) Labbadie, in 1814, sold it to his nephew by marriage, John P. Cabanne, for \$400. (58, Book M, p. 260) Cabanne had married Julie Gratiot, daughter of Charles Gratiot and Victoire Chouteau. In 1816, Emilie Papin sold her tract of land to Cabanne. (58, Book E, p. 524)

John P. Cabanne was born in 1773, in Pau, France. Educated in France, he came to the

John P. Cabanne on petition for partition between John Pierre Cabanne, Charles S. Hempstead and Joseph Klunk . . ." (58, Book T, p. 192) Cabanne sold these three tracts of land to Chouteau for \$3,000, to hold in trust for his daughter Julia Cabanne Kingsbury.

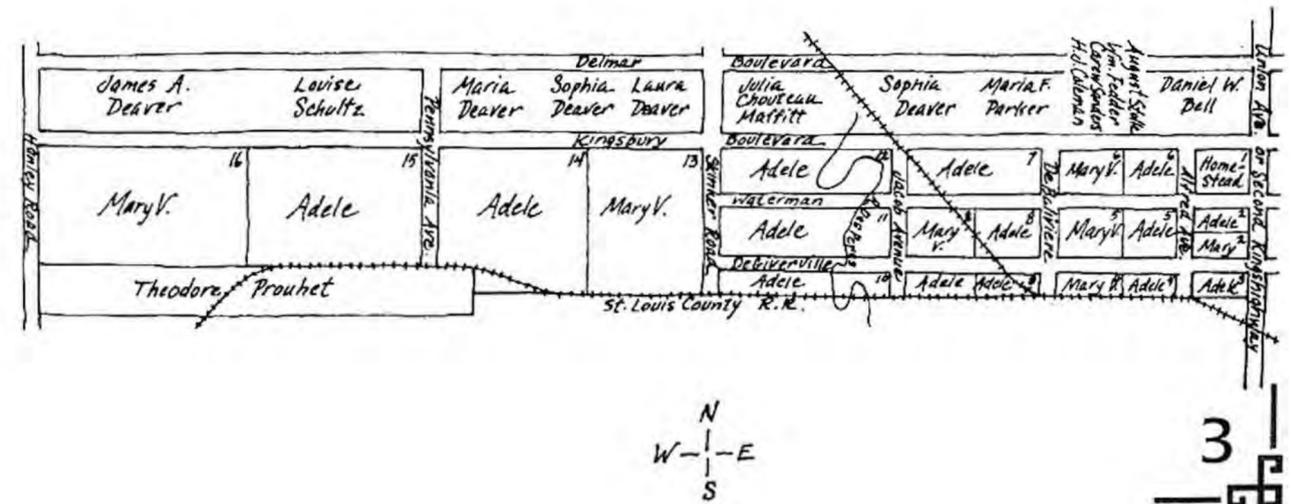
On May 1, 1834, less than a year after Cabanne sold Chouteau the three tracts of land, Cabanne bought them back from Chouteau for the same price. (58, Book V, p. 386) The next day, May 2, 1834, Cabanne sold the land to his son-in-law James Wilkinson Kingsbury for \$3,000. (58, Book V, p. 387)

Captain James Wilkinson Kingsbury was born in Franklin, Connecticut in 1801. His father, Jacob Kingsbury, was in the Continental Army and was picked by the Marquis de Lafayette to march to Virginia for the southern campaign of the Revolutionary War. James W. Kingsbury graduated from West Point in 1823. He was in command of the troops on the steamer Warrior during the Black Hawk War. (10, p. 256) His military career brought him to St. Louis, an important military post in the 1830s. Army officers were frequently good friends with the leading families: "Officers of the army have a proverbial aptitude for choosing well among the ornaments of society of whom indeed they have the pick, and it is a compliment to the ladies that so many of them have wedded our officers." (12, p. 315) Kingsbury chose one of the "ornaments of society" when he married Julia Antoinette Cabanne in 1830. Two years after he bought the land from Cabanne and the year his wife died, 1836, Kingsbury resigned his commission and became the keeper of the military stores in St. Louis. (10, p. 256) When Julia died after only six years of marriage, James was left with three small children: Sarah Mary Virginia, age four; Adele Louise, age two; and Jules Cabanne, age one. Presumably, he resigned his army commission to provide a more stable home for his children.

Part of the story of James Kingsbury's family is tragic, for not only did his wife die young, but Jules was struck by lightning and killed in 1876. He was

Kingsbury Place

Figure 2 The subdividing of the Kingsbury Farm Surveyed June, 1873, by Julius Pitzman



In our next issue:
 "The History of Our Landmarks" and
 "Subdividing for Residential Living" from The Neighborhood
 A History of Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Neighborhood Chronicles

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EXCERPT FROM ORIGINAL FOREWORD

For many years residents of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood have heard that this area was once part of the old Kingsbury Farm. A chance remark by Richard C. Hart, a lifetime resident, that 1973 was the 100th anniversary of the subdividing of the Kingsbury Farm whetted out curiosity and finally led to this effort. Dick Hart provided us with a copy of the original deed of the subdivision.

When we began, we found very little factual information readily available. We had heard many rumors, stories and anecdotes about the neighborhood, but felt it necessary to establish sound factual data in order to separate fact from fiction. So, we began digging and digging and digging. We are not historians, and we offer the results of our research in the hope that residents and friends may find it interesting. Perhaps others will be stimulated to add additional information and research, anecdotes and facts. These may be directed to us at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office ...

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Times appreciates the special help and material provided by the Missouri Historical Society both in the preparation of the original neighborhood history and in our current effort.

Bethel School "Casa Bambino"

AT ONE-NIGHT-ONLY RESTAURANT, SERVICE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

It's not every day that parents get to ask their children what's for dinner. But for the parents of students at Bethel School in University City, a recent Friday night brought the opportunity to ask their kids what was on the menu, and to enjoy the attentive service of waiters and waitresses from grades four through seven. The school's dining room had been transformed into "Casa Bambino," a one-night-only Italian restaurant complete with checkered tablecloths, candles and a maitre d'.

This is the third year that Bethel School has hosted "Casa Bambino." It was the brainchild of Arlene Itzi, the

Carmel Walker, President of the Parent Teacher League and parent of Bethel fourth grader Joi Walker, says the PTL sponsors the event, as well as a Thanksgiving lunch. "It's nice if the parents don't always have to pay for things," Walker says.

Mary Johnson, who teaches grades three through five, says it's helpful for parents and teachers to have time to talk in a relaxed atmosphere. Johnson, who is in her seventh year at Bethel, enjoys the diversity and sense of community that is fostered there. "We all think of each other as family," she says.

Johnson says the school's creative programs are also a strong point. Bethel's small size allows greater flexibility to try new things, she says. As an example, for the last three years students have studied one country — including its food, games, family life and customs throughout the school year. This year, Korea has been the designated country.

Bethel also offers Second Step, a conflict resolution program. Incidents of hostility are not common at Bethel, Johnson says, but they do occasionally happen. Also, because the school attracts students from various parts of

the St. Louis area, the program can help children in their own neighborhoods. "Here, they're nurtured," Johnson says. "Out there, they're going to have to learn to take care of themselves."

Tonight, though, the students are taking care of others first, and then themselves. After everyone at "Casa Bambino" has been served and had a crack at those all-important second helpings. The students have a chance to enjoy the spaghetti which gets two thumbs up. Anita Sloan, a sixth-grader, doesn't think her future lies in waitressing. "Your legs get so tired," she says, "and you get hungry looking at everyone's food." Leanna Itzi, a third-grader, makes it clear she wants to be a doctor when she grows up. And fourth-grader Lucy Schroeder already has a head start on a career in creative writing. But for the moment, big plans for the future will have to wait, and the parents are allowed to linger at the dinner table. Because tonight, it's the kids' turn to do the dishes.



Left: Parent volunteer as cook, Arlene Itzi, and Judy Sloan, Tim Sloan, Becky Wachsmuth, Dan Wachsmuth and Isaac Wachsmuth

Middle: Anita Sloan, Lucy Schroeder, Lizzie Schroeder, Candyce Clines, Kelsey Jones, Claire Flesch, Kimberly Kolander, Joi Walker, Jared Veal, Eddie Meyer, Emil Itzi

Bottom: Madeline, Michael, Heidi Ottsen with baby brother Matthew, teacher Mary Johnson, Leanna Itzi, and Bill Meyer



mother of two former and two current students at the school. Itzi puts her background in home economics to good use with Bethel students. In the past, she has taught wool-spinning and has helped make imitation Play-Doh. As part of the "Casa Bambino" project, the students who participate learn appropriate food handling, how to set a table and proper serving technique.

As guests begin to arrive, Itzi prepares her wait staff with final instructions as she fills serving bowls with pasta con broccoli from an enormous pan. Like any self-respecting chef or hostess, she encourages the servers to make sure that all guests have a chance at second helpings.

"What if they don't want seconds?" one young waitress asks.

"Well, you can't make people eat, but you can make sure they don't go hungry," Itzi replies amid the hubbub.

"Casa Bambino is a much anticipated event in the school year," says Sandy Kalin, Principal at Bethel. "It's really something for them to anticipate," she says. "They really like it for the leadership and responsibility that it requires of them. They know it's not just picking something up and throwing it on the table."

The work surrounding the dinner — decorating, cooking, serving, cleaning up — is also a good way for them to put into practice the school's emphasis on serving others, Kalin adds. Service is such an important component of Bethel's philosophy that starting in first grade, students are required to give service hours equal to their grade. For example, a seventh grader must give seven hours of service to either the school or to Bethel Church, which shares space with the school. Throughout the year, students can earn their hours.

Another purpose of the "Casa Bambino" evening is to foster fellowship among parents, staff and students at the school.



Views of the City

by Billy Handmaker

Well, at last spring has arrived. Although this year's winter seemed to be pretty mild, except for those ridiculous snowstorms, it still quickens the step and lightens the mood when the signs of an urban spring come. (As a school administrator it feels great if for no other reason than the moment approaches when we give your sons and daughters back to you and say "now, you figure out what to do with them for three months.")

Now what are the particularly urban signs of spring? I could first point out that we no longer see snow plows on the roads, but that would presuppose that we saw them when it actually snowed this winter. (That's a cheap shot I know—especially since my car was plowed into its parking space three times back in January.) Or I could say that there are no more college basketball games this year at the Arena, but well, never mind. One sign of spring surely must be the people on my street who are out everyday now washing or waxing their cars (don't they ever get the temptation to do my car?) One sign our son loves is the

street cleaner with its huge brushes doing more sweeping in one day on our block than I will ever do in our kitchen. Another sign that warm weather is on the way comes from the hammering and sawing that signifies that the season of home improvements is here for good. This can only mean that I have another year of feeling guilty and inadequate when after months of prodding, I finally agree to do something major like fixing a door knob. As I emerge bloodied and hoarse from screaming, but full of testosterone and feeling like Bob Vila from putting two new screws in, I witness my neighbor putting in a new deck or doing some job so extensive that I feel overwhelmed thinking of how many hours I would need to spend at Smith Hardware to understand everything. An aural sign of spring is that now everyone feels comfortable sharing the music from their car stereos with the immediate world; every year I know that I am getting older as the cacophony seems to grate on my nerves more. What once was

charming now is just downright annoying as we try to put our son down for the night, and our windows literally shake from the emanations of a car stereo.

An aural indicator I love though comes in the conversations that one can overhear as the porch culture emerges. Surely one of the most inviting and enticing elements of city living comes when driving down the street in the evening and seeing people on their front porches just hanging out or visiting with their neighbors. When people live out on their stoops and communicate with their neighbors, when we come down from our porches to converse with the friend walking the dog, we engage in the breaking down barriers that may prevent us from reaching our potential in a highly mechanized society. (Although this may be overstating the fact, doing no more than running from our car into our front door and back out again in the morning begins to resemble a futuristic dystopia where we get sucked through clear plastic tubes from work to house like those tubes where we deposit our money when we go through the automobile lines at the bank.) We have taken on a new identity as a neighbor rather than as a co-worker, or a harassed shopper or an enraged driver. In doing so, we have momentarily forged a connection with someone close to us in proximity, if not in emotion.

Porch life can also be one of the clearest signs of safety in our neighborhoods. A street with a vibrant porch or stoop culture may affirm that people don't have air conditioning or that people are just so sick of each other than one person had to get out of the house. However, it also demonstrates that people feel secure enough to be out there, and in this way shows that threats to physical safety are not so great as to preclude our using this crucial component of our house.

I can remember the resentment and anger I felt two years ago when on a sunny weekday afternoon, one car after another sped down our block, and in the rear car a man leaned out the window and shot at the driver of the lead car. I had come home from work for a couple of hours to see my family before returning to school for an evening event. I was sitting on the front porch doing some paper work and my wife and son had arrived two minutes earlier and had come in from the car. As she carried the snoring lad on her shoulder, I thought that like the old beer commercial, it does not get any better than this. However, my domestic bliss was to be short lived as the gun fight broke out directly in front of our porch no more than two minutes after my wife and son had returned home. None of us was injured, but all of us were hurt. Was this really happening on our block at this time of day? This kind of thing occurs in

other neighborhoods to other people, but not here.

Like other times when we put back on our shields so we can exist in an age of senseless violence, we went on, and the fear developed into a scar-always there, but not too noticeable. However, for me what may have been most damaging was the sense that I had to be careful sitting on my porch or stoop in case a random bullet went awry. During the summers, I ride my bike through Forest Park every morning and return to drink my iced coffee and read the paper on the front step.

After this incident, I was angry and defiant—how dare someone attempt to take my morning and evening ritual away. This event brought home to me that one of the most damaging elements of urban crime is its ability to rob a neighborhood of its porch culture. At this point, a street becomes nothing more than a thoroughfare or a way to move from one point to another without stopping. The sense of community that holds a neighborhood together disappears as people live in their fortresses isolated from one another. "As long as whatever happens outside does not affect me, then I don't really care about it" becomes the mode of thought that eventually culminates in people leaving the neighborhood for other places safer or more communal.

I visit friends in suburbs named Plainview or Bucolic Bliss or City Flight Estates (ok, so the last two names aren't real), and I feel sad as I drive down the winding streets past houses that all look alike. Granted, they have big houses with huge front yards, (and I hate mowing my front yard), but there are no sidewalks and no porches. The facades are solid and statuesque; with their front doors and four windows, they resemble the houses we drew in grade school. However, unless individuals are out working on their yards, one would have no idea that people actually live here. The houses and cars are full of people, but there is no life.

Whether it's our desire to feel like we live in a small town where everyone knows one another, or the almost tangible malaise in our rootless society, it seems like more and more people wish to communicate with other people. As we spend more time on email, shopping via the web, and separating ourselves from others, we look for a way to experience what Norm did every time he entered the bar on Cheers and people greeted him. We wish to be in a place where everyone knows our name, and spending time on our porches and front steps enables us to have this opportunity for connecting with others and being recognized. It's one of the ways that a city becomes like a small town, and we learn to feel like we belong.

For this reason, it is imperative that we continue to fight street crime whenever and wherever it occurs. In addition to the property or human damage that accompanies crime, we cannot allow ourselves to be psychically robbed of our ability to forge ties with others. We cannot permit our streets to become a line, that is the path of a moving point thought of as having length but not breadth. If we want to live in a one-dimensional space where there is no life, the Plainviews beckon us; I will take my front porch anyway.

CAT'S PAUSE

by Pinkerton ("Pinky") Geiler

Reader! I have been ill! Hospitalized! Rushed in the middle of the night by Her and the Mister to the Animal Emergency Clinic in Kirkwood because They failed earlier to believe how serious was my malaise! So . . . just like "Animal Planet" . . . I am now a \$500.00 cat. (Pumrrr . . .) I know you're thinking just what Debbie Hall said when she was told I was at hospital: "Not the Columnist Cat!" But it's true. Even a celebrity feline like myself was stricken in my prime with a cat malady (feline lower urinary tract disease) that left me piteous and imperiled—potentially really needing a ghost writer. But I am climbing back. I have had a cat-theter, an IV, an x-ray, blood work, antibiotics, steroids, a two day hospital stay and three emergency room visits, my gorgeous furs shaved from throat and leg so doctors could get to my innards and pull out some of my fluids and dump in some more. I was so pathetic for a while that "Vana", a "house cat" at the ER, had to be told not to hiss at me! Ordinarily I'd have curled her arrogant whiskers.



A cat-veat to my human readers: Save yourself the \$50.00 walk-in fee at the ER by taking your own darling puss to see Dr. Steve up at Kingsbury Animal Hospital at the first sign of trouble instead of waiting until midnight when his life is on the line. FLUTD occurs more often in male cats. My symptoms were frequent trips to the cat box, straining, urinating outside the cat box, laying around and throwing up. Vomiting can be a sign, but doesn't have to be. The doctors at the Emergency Clinic said I would have died if the Mister hadn't decided to bring me in and that cats can suffer kidney damage if the condition is untreated for too long.

A word to cats: Find a home where they notice if you're not feeling good and where they're willing to get out the check book. Be real nice on the way to the veterinarian to insure that your humans come to visit you in the hospital and to take you back home when it's time. Don't let yourself get in the position I was in where you're just not sure how things are going to work out until they are over. I let Her kiss on me now whenever she wants and cuddle me and give me pills all day long and I'm not complaining. The Mister said I might get a little humiliation from this experience and I tell you, I have.

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Guideon Richeson

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Minutes

JANUARY 11, 1999

In attendance: President, Gary L. Hayes, Directors Ann Smith Carr, Peggy Droege, Greg Freeman, Jane Geller, Steve Givens, Ronie Haliburton, Gwen Lazard, Susan Littlefield, Miki Merrit, Shirley Polk, Dan Schesch, Lana Stein. Guests: Karen Alexander, Andy Cross (Beautification Committee Chair), Sgt. Don Frenzel (7th District), Paul Hohmann (Transportation Committee Chair), John Hook, Larry Isom (Neighborhood Stabilization Officer), Lyda Krewson (Alderman, 28th Ward), P.O. Terry Kowalczyk (7th District), Jerda Riley, Mary Ann Rudloff, Les Thomas (USPS Gwen P. Giles Station). Staff: Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator), Laure Porterfield (SDCC Executive Director).

Absent: Maggie Hart-Mahon, Ruth Johnson, Julie Schoemehl, Paula Sigman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Gary L. Hayes, President.

I. Approval of Minutes. Minutes were read, correction to attendance was made and approved.

II. Special Guest. Les Thompson of the U. S. Postal Service spoke about the problem of delivering mail in this zip code. Forms available to report problems, complaints or compliments.

III. Security Report. Several car break-ins in Parkview. Crimes against persons are down. Crimes against property are up, with total crime up 3%. Briefing by

Sgt. Frenzel on anticipated problems caused by street closings and parking restrictions during the papal visit.

IV. Residential Committee. Lana Stein, Chair. January meeting was cancelled. In December, Chancellor Mark Wrighton toured the neighborhood with Lana Stein, Gary L. Hayes, Steve Givens and Laure Porterfield. He pledged that Washington University will continue to communicate. Questions remain about Arthur Building. Washington University bought a two family in the 6000 block of McPherson.

V. Transportation Committee. Paul Hohmann, Chair. January meeting cancelled. Next meeting Monday, February 1.

VI. Dr. King Commemoration. Greg Freeman, Chair. Program will be held January 17 at 3:00 p.m. at Grace & Peace Fellowship. All are urged to attend. Special thanks to New Cote Brillante Church of God for their participation and their financial support.

VII. Beautification Committee. Andy Cross, Chair. Barricades on Rosedale have been damaged by weather-related accidents; repairs this spring. A better-defined curb would provide some protection as well as a deterrent for those driving over them.

VIII. Playground Committee. Katrina Stierholz, Chair. Laure reported in Katrina's absence. Fund raising continues. They are approximately half way to their goal. An Ice Skating Party is planning for Friday, February 12th at Steinberg Rink.

IX. New Business. Mary Ann Rudloff, Treasurer, spoke. Rosedale Neighbor's main concerns are events and neighborhood amenities. Major fundraising is Rags to Riches sale. It hasn't been as successful as in the past. Need to redesign - suggestions welcome.

X. Financial Report. Lana Stein, Treasurer. Discussed actual proposed budget. Surplus is declining; need to have fundraiser and make budget cuts; otherwise could have a shortfall. It was moved and seconded that the report submitted be approved. Motion passed.

XI. Election of Officer. The following were elected as officers for 1999:

Gary L. Hayes, President
Greg Freeman, Vice President
Lara Doyle, Secretary
Lana Stein, Treasurer

XIV. Executive Directors Report. A written report was attached. Further discussion points included:

A. CDA Contract was discussed. It was moved and seconded that Laure Porterfield be empowered to accept and sign the contract for 1999. Motion passed.

B. New mailing policy. Effort will be made to reduce paper and postage; use E-mail, fax.

C. Housing Corporation Report... Gary Boehnke provided an update on this building and a written report on his activity.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Passed.

FEBRUARY 8, 1999

In Attendance: Vice President Greg Freeman, presiding; Directors Ann Smith Carr, Lara Doyle, Peggy Droege, Jane Geller, Ronie Haliburton, Shashi Kara, Maggie Hart-Mahon, Gwen Lazard, Susan Littlefield, Shirley Polk, Dan Schesch, Lana Stein. Guests: Andy Cross (Beautification Committee Chair), Deborah Hall, Paul Hohmann (Transportation Committee Chair), Terry Kowalczyk (7th District), Lyda Krewson (Alderman, 28th Ward). Staff: Gary Boehnke (Housing Corporation Project Administrator), Laure Porterfield (SDCC Executive Director).

Absent: Steve Givens, Gary L. Hayes, Rev. Miki Merritt, Julie Schoemehl, Paula Sigman, Ruth Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Greg Freeman, Vice President.

Shashi Kara introduced as new Washington University student representative.

I. Approval of minutes: Minutes were read, corrections were made and approved.

II. Financial Report: Lana Stein, Treasurer. It was moved and approved to postpone financial report until next month. Discussed fund raising, meeting dates are 2/5 at 7:00 p.m. at Jane Geller's house and 3/3 at 7:00 p.m. at Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office.

III. Security Report: Several car break-ins and license plate tabs stolen; arrests have been made. There were two armed robberies at Kingsbury and DesPeres. An arrest was made. Special Olympic tee shirts are on sale (\$10.00). Thanks for the support.

IV. Executive Director's Report: A written report was attached. Further discussion included:

A. Site visit from CDA on February 9th, new program monitor is Bill Hall.

B. Ice skating party for playground fundraising.

C. Housing Corporation Report... Gary Boehnke. In addition to the written report, there is a contract with NationsBank to purchase this building.

V. Committee and Neighborhood Updates/Reports:

A. Residential Committee... Lana Stein, Chair. Demolition began on the Kingsbury site. Heritage approved plans, construction to begin this spring. Final plans will be available in Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office. Washington University purchased Lewis Place (in the U-City Loop on Kingland). There will be a meeting to discuss reconfiguring street parking on Waterman; Washington University to be notified of meeting. Shirley Polk reported closing of McDonalds on Delmar and asked if anyone could explain why. It was noted that two other McDonalds owned by the same person had also closed.

B. Transportation Committee. Paul Hohmann, Chair. The Community Work

Group continues to meet. The January 15th meeting was to address environmental issues. February 1st is the next regularly scheduled meeting: Catlin Tract to propose the use of the alley for cut and cover tunnel. Consultant team for East West Gateway to hold a public meeting in late March. Drawings of three alternative alignments not yet received. Next working group meeting is February 18th. Dan Schesch video and status to be discussed after this meeting. Also, Parkview MetroLink survey results are available.

C. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration: Greg Freeman, Chair. Held at Grace & Peace Church; nice turnout. Keynote speaker was Bonita Cornute. Tribute to Jack Wright was moving and well received by family and friends. Greg asked for a vote of acclamation to thank the committee.

D. Beautification Committee: Andy Cross, Chair. Plans for Blitz Day and the Community Garden are on the agenda for meeting on February 27. Gateway Greening may get city water for the McPherson Garden. Work dates are planned for Saturdays in March. Trash pile behind garden will be removed. Bulletin board to be ready soon for installation at Four Corners.

E. Playground Committee: Katrina Steirholz, Chair. Did not get grant from Anheuser Busch; still waiting to hear from others. Have raised approximately \$10,000 from the neighborhood. Skate Party at Steinberg February 12th. Please come!

F. New Business: Signal lights on Skinker out of sync. The problem is being worked on. Several streetlights on Skinker reported out. Could we have crosswalks and warning stripes painted on traffic island to help pedestrians?

9:01 p.m. adjourn.

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In Your Ear

Continued from page 12

y'know, BodyPartsUSA. You and your doc will be able to go in (or maybe you'll do it over the 'net) and order a replacement knee or kidney or heart. Surgery, if it is still used, will be a piece of cake. Or maybe they'll just put in a new circuit board. Then society will have to deal with the question of what to do when people just get older and stay around. I mean, what happens if you retire at 62 and live until 144? Alas, my guess is that's a generation or two away. So for now, for me, like my car, my body shows more and more signs of age. It's painful, literally, figuratively, and internal combustionably.

Usually writing this friendly column is a bit renewing and invigorating. Odd, and I'm not sure why, but this one doesn't feel that way. I'm not sure what to make of the car-body metaphor but let's just say that I plan to avoid going any where near a junkyard.

In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Q. Hoerr

My body is like an old car. How's that for a story-starter? For some time I've been aware of my body, aware of how it's changing, how it's — how I am — growing older. Now before I get too maudlin or cynical, let me point out that getting older is definitely better than the alternative. It's not a pleasant subject, but because I'm not old yet (old is always 20 years older than you are) I'm struck by the obituaries I read of people younger, sometimes much younger, than I. So getting old or even getting middle-age is good, considering the options.

But getting old, I mean getting middle-aged, isn't easy. That's why, unfortunately, the old car metaphor works. You see, I have an old car. In many ways, it reminds me of myself. (I wonder if somewhere in *Carworld* my car is composing a story of how I remind it of it?) Anyway, my car is a gray Volvo. An aging gray Volvo. Like myself, then, because it's a Volvo that means one worry about aging isn't relevant: my car never has to worry about going out of style because it never was in style. The same holds true of its owner. Oh sure, I was fash-

ionable and wore the best plaid Nehru jackets back in the early 70's and my bell-bottom jeans shook like a wet dog when I boogied to "Saturday Night Fever." But just as Volvos aren't esteemed because of their looks, I was never a fashion-plate.

But, dear reader, to be shockingly honest, there was a time when I was somewhat of a fashion trend-setter. The youthful of you may smile or even roll your eyes, but wild, wide, patterned, bold ties were not always in style. No, indeed. This is a fashion movement that I personally started way back in the early 70's. My first wife and I would go to the fabric store and select material to be made into ties. Back then my ties were considered fashion statements, outrageous cravats of how a man-on-the-move should look. I was even featured in Lands' End. (Ok, to be fair, I wrote a letter about ties that they published in a catalogue, but still, my name was there.) Today my wild and crazy ties, as Steve Martin used to say, are found in every hum-drum clothing store imaginable. I broke the mold and was subsumed by it. But as with any true role model, one act does not define a career. So it's only fair to point out that I am also

the trend-setter who originated the wear-your-safety-pin-in-your-sock-so-they-stay-together-in-the-dryer-and-the-drawer routine. Still, no, despite defining what is considered a snazzy tie and despite changing the way millions now affix their socks each evening, fashion never was something for which I was known. Like my Volvo, I'm functional more than decorative, ties and safety pins aside.

But my Volvo, like its owner, is showing signs of age and wear. The trim on the sides, for example, looks natural. But if you get close you'll see that it's a replacement, plastic strips that appears the same as the original honest metal molding but isn't. Well, that's nothing compared to my teeth. More of my pearlies originated in a dental lab than in my gene-pool. I have more bridges in my mouth than span the Mississippi in downtown St. Louis. After my last dental implant the dentist told me that I now have so much porcelain in my mouth, that he wasn't sure whether I should brush or use Drain-O (and, no, that does not refer to my vocabulary).

My coat pocket that used to hold a comb now has my eyeglasses in it. It's not that my vision has deteriorated,

it's just that all the printers in the world have conspired to make the letters fuzzy. And my hair! Rather, and what's left of my hair! Back when I had lots of hair I often kept it long, a "Prince Valiant" cut, at least that's what the first wife called it. Now when I keep it long I look like an unkempt wacky professor (or is that redundant?). And my Volvo's gray color is more and more relevant to my hair. The only good aspect of this is that no hair means that I need to wear hats when it's hot or cold or in-between. Consequently, I have a marvelous selection of caps and can mix and match them to correspond with my ties. My Chicago Bulls cap, for example, goes well with paisley whereas my Bugs Bunny cap brings out check patterns.

My car doesn't have hair but it's losing its counterpart. The cloth that used to be appended tightly to the inside of the roof of my car now hangs loosely. If I drive with the windows down — something I like to do on the 3 days of spring and 4 of fall that we get each year — the material billows back and forth, waving as if a flag in a windstorm. I don't know whether to staple what's left to the roof or start putting Rogaine in the upholstery cleaner.

And then there are my knees. I've gone through three or four sets of tires because it seems that the potholes play tag with my tires and the tires lose. Then there's that curb in front of the house, the one that is never quite in the same place so that I always wind up against or on top of it. So yes, the tires, all of them, have quite a bit of wear and tear and so do my knees. But my knees, unlike the tires or my teeth, are originals.

It's not just the years that have taken their toll on my knees, it's how they've been used. First, in all fairness to the knees, they have had to deal with — carry — more than what they might be fairly expected to support. In fact, if you multiply my average body weight by years and then divide by what my average body weight should be times years, the extra burden means that my knees have already put in 217 years. That doesn't count the additional pain from trudging to a third-floor bedroom each night, playing basketball twice a week, and running less than I should but more often than I like. So the knees, God love 'em, like the tires, are in revolt. I've been to Dobbs twice to fix a tire recently but have thus far resisted visiting a knee-doctor.

Close to the knees, just as the hub-caps also show wear, my left ankle is killing me as I write. I know what happened, a week ago I made a shot a 3 point shot and came down on fouling Ed's foot. I've done that before but it never took this long to feel good. Injury recovery time is now measured in lunar cycles, not days. Maybe I should soak my ankle in Rust-O-Leum.

And oh yeah, my one ear is clogged too. Don't know how it happened but it feels like there's something in it that shouldn't be there. My hearing has been getting worse over the years, the result of too many Rolling Stones concerts, so this latest development doesn't help. By the way, the stereo in the car is down to mono now. One speaker simply isn't working and when I put the radio on AM, there is always static. What did you say?

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