

# The EVERGREEN NEWS

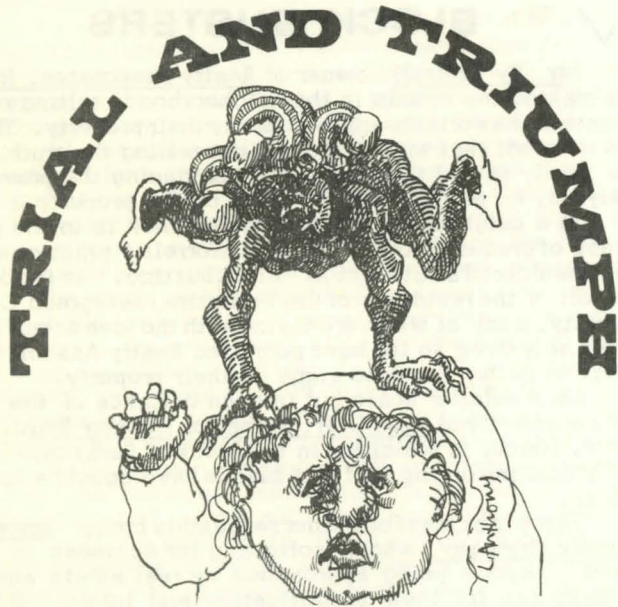
A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

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Of the many communications the Evergreen News has received, perhaps the most significant one in regard to our neighborhood is a story from SOUTH TODAY (Vol. 2, No. 7, March 1971), "White Flight", which tells how the South DeKalb neighborhood in Atlanta succeeded in achieving residential stability.

According to author Betsy Fancher, the South DeKalb neighborhood of 4600 middle income homes had become as recently as 1969 "a symbol of racial dissension in shifting urban housing patterns", "a target area for doomsday white critics", a victim of unscrupulous blockbusting (the use of racial fears to persuade residents to sell) and even a scene for Klan-like cross burnings.

Apparently it all started when a real estate firm moved a Negro mother with four children into an unoccupied house after dark, frightening the poor woman even more than her white neighbors. Immediately, For Sale signs "sprouted on tidy lawns as elderly widows and some residents packed their belongings".

However, one courageous lady, Mrs. Pat Chapman, who loved her home and didn't want to leave it, set out on a one woman campaign to persuade her neighbors not to run. A community organization was formed, South DeKalb Neighbors, who soon took the offensive and sued the blockbusting agents of a real estate firm (State Realty). They won their case, were awarded punitive damages, and the real estate firm was put under injunction by a U.S. District Court not to engage in blockbusting. This ruling was enforced when the FBI and the Georgia Real Estate Commission investigated the tactics of real estate companies in the area.

In addition to unethical realtors, the South DeKalb neighborhood had to put up with burning crosses as well, but these incidences only served to bring the neighborhood closer together. Now, two years later, blacks are not the only people who are moving in, whites are moving in too, apparently in increasing numbers. "Once the specter of race is buried," Miss Fancher concludes,

TRIUMPH continued

"whites may find that stabilized neighborhoods that once had seemed transitional from white to black offer good housing buys, convenient transportation, and a free communicative atmosphere, foreign to both the black ghettos of the inner city and the white ghettos of suburbia."

SOUTH TODAY is published by the Leadership Project of the Southern Regional Council, 5 Forsyth St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga., 30303. The Southern Regional Council, founded in 1944, is a research and information agency devoted to the attainment of equal opportunity for all peoples in the South.

## NEIGHBORHOODS UNITE

It is nice to know that VECAA is only one of many neighborhood associations engaged in building a stable, interracial community. There are associations such as ours across the continent, from Hartford, Connecticut, to Los Angeles, California, and from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Atlanta, Georgia.

Thirty-seven interracial neighborhood associations have recently formed National Neighbors, with headquarters in Philadelphia. Their bi-monthly newsletter, NEIGHBORS, can be obtained by subscription, at \$5.00 for 12 issues (6 a year) from National Neighbors, 5 Longford Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19136.

## NORTH MEMPHIS ORGANIZES

Of interest to residents of the Vollentine/Evergreen community is the creation of the North Memphis Community Action Agency in the Hollywood/Chelsea area. Using St. Mark's Methodist Church as a base for operations, Leo Arnout of the Health and Welfare Planning Council and other neighborhood residents are working to develop an organization similar to VECAA. Representatives to serve in the organization have been elected by the 32,000 people living to the north and east of the Vollentine/Evergreen area.

Like VECAA, this community action agency is seeking to delineate and resolve neighborhood problems. However, unlike VECAA which is attempting to stabilize a community, NMCAA is faced with the much more immediate problems of providing medical care, legal aid and welfare information to the many poor people in the neighborhood. To date, a day care center has been established, and plans are being made to coordinate the activities of all the agencies that provide social services to the neighborhood's residents.

The development of this organization bears watching, as any improvement in the living conditions in adjacent neighborhoods is in the best interest of the Vollentine/Evergreen community.

The next VECAA meeting will take place May 17, 8:00 P.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL, MCLEAN BAPTIST CHURCH; On the agenda are committee reports and an exciting mystery speaker.



## VECAA NEWS

### BRUCE SELLS TO HEAD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

After a ten-month search, VECAA has come up with a chairman for the Education Committee. He is Dr. Bruce Sells, a bio-chemist with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. With a daughter at St. Mary's Academy and three children at Vollentine School, Dr. Sells has a personal stake in the educational facilities of our neighborhood. His committee is working with the Board of Education to tune our schools to the need of our community. Dr. Sells' wife Bernice is president of Faculty Wives and Women of Memphis, an organization which has been instrumental in establishing various educational programs in Memphis schools. The Sells live at 1925 Jackson Avenue.

### REPORT FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

At the April meeting with Dr. Joe Westbrook, Area Assistant Superintendent for the Board of Education, procedures were discussed for improving those neighborhood school conditions which meet with the disapproval of parents. One factor that will have to be taken into account is the new ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court in regard to the desegregation of schools and the directives to that effect to be issued by the local courts.

If you are interested in attending this month's meeting, call Bruce Sells, 274-8510.

### REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

One of the problems in communicating not yet entirely solved is the distribution of the Evergreen News. Apparently some streets are receiving the newspaper late or not at all. As far as the committee can determine, the fault lies with the misunderstanding of distribution area borders rather than with the people involved. Our distribution network is still rather thin, taxing the volunteer distributors very heavily. For greater distribution speed and efficiency, we simply need more people. Anyone able to donate an hour a month to help distribute the paper, please contact Cornelia Morris, 274-1278.

We also need a person with a car to take the appropriate supply of newspapers to the block captains each month. Volunteers please contact Cornelia Morris, 274-1278, or J. Kimbrough Johnson, 278-2137.

### REPORT FROM THE REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

The committee is at present engaged in creating a brochure promoting the neighborhood. This brochure will be distributed to real estate firms but especially to business concerns adjoining the Vollintine/Evergreen area whose employees may find our neighborhood a convenient place to live.

For information regarding real estate, call Fr. Tom Kirk, 276-1412.

### OUR PATRONS ON MCLEAN

**GREAT STAR SUPERMARKET**  
FANCY GROCERIES  
CHOICE MEAT  
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**SOUTHWESTERN PHARMACY**  
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OUR SPECIALTY  
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274-1757

### VECAA continued PANEL DISCUSSION SUCCESS

Five members of VECAA spoke before the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association on April 26. Representatives of the Steering, Education, Communication, and Real Estate Committees and the Newsletter outlined the achievements of VECAA as seen from their respective viewpoints. About 60 members attended the meeting and enthusiastically endorsed VECAA's efforts to develop a bi-racial neighborhood.

## ✓ BLOCK BUSTERS

Mr. Sy Morrell, owner of Realty Associates, Inc., is making the rounds in the neighborhood, telling residents he has clients anxious to buy their property. There is no proof that Mr. Morrell is not telling the truth, but is surely is odd that, instead of producing the promised buyers, he plants For Sale signs on the property.

In a neighborhood such as ours which is in the process of gradual integration, Mr. Morrell's practice must be considered an attempt at "blockbusting." It is to the credit of the residents of the Vollintine/Evergreen Community, many of whom are toying with the idea of moving, that only three so far have permitted Realty Associates, Inc. to put up For Sale signs on their property.

On a smaller scale but in open defiance of the law is the activity of Mrs. L. H. Harber of Dobson-Smith Co. Mrs. Harber is soliciting in the block of Barksdale north of Vollintine on the fact that blacks have bought a house there.

There is at least one other real estate broker, Brignole Realty Company, who is soliciting for business in the area. Anyone being approached by real estate agents please ask for their identification and inform VECAA.

The Real Estate Committee has sent letters of protest to the firms concerned. If this practice continues, stronger measures will be taken. Potential sellers are reminded that there are a great number of ethical agents in town to do business with.

## REZONING REJECTED

A petition was filed to rezone the northwest corner of Jackson Avenue and Auburndale Street from R-3, two family dwelling district, to C-2, commercial district. A public hearing was held by the Memphis & Shelby County Planning Commission on April 15, 1971. VECAA opposed this rezoning petition. After hearing arguments from both sides, the Planning Commission rejected the application for rezoning. The applicant may now appeal that decision to the City Council. In that event, we would have an opportunity to voice our opposition to the proposed rezoning.

## ACCOMMODATIONS WANTED

This September, Southwestern at Memphis may be in need of additional housing facilities for new out-of-town students, especially young ladies. Anyone interested in letting a room or an apartment within walking distance of the college is invited to send a description of the available accommodation (including name, address, telephone number, and rent) to the Office of Student Affairs, Southwestern at Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee, 38112.

# NORTHSIDE GETS TOGETHER

by Rick Thomas

One of the newest and most modern schools in Memphis is in the Vollintine/Evergreen community. Northside High School was opened in 1967 and boasts facilities that compare with any in the city. Its contemporary architectural design has to make it one of the most attractive schools anywhere. It is a school where most of the students apply to college and whose basketball team had one of the best records in the city.

To the outside observer, there is little to indicate that Northside is only now getting itself together. Yet, to the insider, the 1970-71 school year has become a turning point in the school's progress. Like all new schools, Northside found its students carrying old fears and rivalries into a situation where no old rules existed. Students from Humes Junior High distrusted those from Klondike, and many students, formerly in Central's district, resented being sent to a predominantly black school. Further uncertainty was created by the fact that Northside was located in a neighborhood in transition.

The initial enrollment at Northside was 1400, of which about 500 were white. Today, after three years of uneasiness, the white population has dwindled to 35 (although enrollment has risen to 1538). The teacher ratio remains 60% white and 40% black, but race is no longer an issue at the school. This year's principal is black, and 35 white students hardly constitute a viable minority.

Northside was instituted with an emphasis on vocational and technical instruction. It has extensive shop facilities and, along with Tech High School, does virtually all the printing for the Board of Education. Unusual vocation-oriented activities include a Child Development program where senior girls get experience working with nursery-age children and a Tea Room patronized by teachers and guests where students work as cooks, waitresses, and cashiers. Northside was also chosen as the Memphis high school to participate in a federal pilot program entitled Students Planning Ahead Now (SPAN) in which students are given preparation for the business world. Activities include training in filling out job applications, practice interviews, and field trips to local businesses. (On a recent field trip, seven of the fourteen students were hired by one company.)

Despite the school's emphasis on vocational training, Mr. Charles E. Woodward, Northside's new principal, prefers to describe the curriculum as "comprehensive" and hopes to emphasize the academic areas in coming years. A close examination of the courses offered uncovers most standard high school subjects. Only two years of Latin are offered, but Economics is taught at Northside and at a few other schools. In addition, advanced placement (college credit) courses will be offered in English and Biology next year, and Northside will become one of two Memphis schools to offer Russian.

The vocationally-oriented curriculum is not expected to be de-emphasized in the future because school officials feel this is the type of training desired by students in the neighborhood. Most come from lower-middle class homes and do poorly on tests to measure ability and achievement. (Such tests are not taken seriously by the students.) The majority apply to a college and about 30% attend for at least a semester. Even those students in vocational training often enter college.

OUR PATRONS ON JACKSON AT EVERGREEN

For 1971-72, school officials anticipate a quieter, more cohesive school community free from outside adult interference. Because of recent rulings, a substantial increase in the number of white students is expected, but none of the old problems are envisioned. The teacher-student tension of the past has given way to a surprising rapport, which can only help improve the academic environment. Northside is no longer a "new" school, but one with its own traditions and pride.

## WANTED

Unfurnished two- or three-bedroom home in Snowden School area. Young architect and family want in-town location available for July occupancy. Price range \$125-\$150. Call Gerald Dunn evenings at 684-4948.

Fifteen-year old girl desires babysitting. Well qualified. 50¢ before midnight, 75¢ after midnight. Phone: 275-4670

Employed lady to share nice home with couple, air-conditioned room with private entrance, home privileges, near Southwestern, white. 272-3856 743-7971

Electric guitar and amplifier. 272-2668

Studio type piano. 272-2668

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

-----May Procession at Little Flower Church on Sunday, May 9. In honor of Mary parishioners will march to the church garden and hear a sermon by Msgr. Leppert at 5:00 P.M.

-----Missionary speaker at Open Door Bible Church on May 9. Rev. W. Allen Butler, an officer with the Evangelical Mission, will speak about the organization's work in South America.

-----Northside High School Band and Choir Concert on Sunday, May 9. The concert is open to the public and will be in the school auditorium at 5:00 P.M.

-----Art Show at Snowden Junior High on Tuesday, May 11. The show will be in the school library and all works will be for sale.

-----Snowden Elementary String Ensemble will perform for elementary students, Wednesday, May 12. The concert will be at 2:15 in the school auditorium.

-----Snowden Junior High Bake Sale on May 13. The Future Homemakers of America will be selling homemade cakes and pies between 2:30 and 3:30.

-----Northside Vesper Service for graduating seniors will be May 16 in the school auditorium at 5:00 P.M.

-----Snowden Recognition Day on Monday, May 17. Students who have distinguished themselves during the past year will be recognized in an assembly program at 8:45 A.M.

-----Spring Band Festival at Snowden on Wednesday, May 19. The concert is open to the public and will be performed in the school auditorium at 7:00 P.M.

-----Piano Recital by Snowden elementary students on Friday, May 21. This free recital is presented by students of Mrs. Mullette at 7:30 P.M.

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YOUR NEXT NEW PRESCRIPTION  
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275-7568  
**MECHANIC ON DUTY**  
**U-HAUL TRUCKS AND TRAILERS**

NEWS continued

-----Senior Citizens Day at Springdale Methodist Church on Sunday, May 18. In the 10:45 worship service, the neighborhood's older residents will be recognized.

-----Northside High School seniors graduate May 23. The program will be at Ellis Auditorium at 8:00 P.M.

-----Carnival and Midway at Little Flower on Sunday, May 23. Attractions include games of skill, ravioli and spaghetti dinners, and pony rides. Activities will last from 11:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.

-----Little Flower eighth-graders graduate on Wednesday, May 26. Graduating students will be given diplomas at an 8:00 A.M. mass.

-----Southwestern students graduate on Saturday, June 1. The ceremony will be held in Fischer Memorial Gardens at 10:00 A.M. The speaker will be W. Champion Ward, a vice-president of Ford Foundation.

## FOR SALE

Art Exhibit & Sale--pottery, paintings, copper enamels. Saturday, May 15, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 513 Stonewall.

Hand-quilted, cross-stitched double bed quilt with polyester and percale lining. Pink Wreath of Roses design. Never been used. \$40.00. 272-1116

## WELCOME

REV. and MRS. Z. P. BLACKMON moved from Richert Street to 2193 Vollentine. Rev. Blackmon is assistant pastor of Morning Chapel Baptist Church in Cordova.

MR. and MRS. SAMUEL A. FORD of 1005 N. Avalon previously lived on Carpenter Street. He was employed by the Post Office Department before his retirement.

MRS. CHARLES V. YANCEY, SR., lives at 910 Dickenson. Mr. Yancey died January 1, about a month after they moved from 864 Randall.

MR. CHARLES E. DILLE, III, of 1900 Jackson is an architect with Mel O'Brien and Associates. He previously lived in Kimbrough Towers.

MRS. ARNELL CAMPBELL, of 1006 N. Avalon, works at Central Towers at MSU. Her children are Shirley, Roosevelt, and Chester, who was recently discharged from the U.S. Navy.

MR. and MRS. ELDRIDGE MILLER moved from Decatur to 1023 Garland. He works for the City, she for Methodist Hospital. Their children are Wanda Michelle, Eileen, and Eldridge, Jr.

MR. and MRS. RICHARD ECKELS have recently rented the house at 1576 Tutwiler. Having just completed basic training for the Army, Rick is now with the bond department of First National Bank. His wife Laila is a junior at Memphis State.

MR. and MRS. JAMES C. WILLIAMS, JR., and their three school-aged children make their new home on 1005 N. McNeil. Mr. Williams is a Supply Clerk for the First National Bank, and he likes to hunt.

MR. and MRS. ALBERT D. HARMON are renting on 2074 Jackson. They have rented on several streets in the neighborhood since 1945. Mr. Harmon works for J. B. Hunter, and in the summer operates a movie projector.

OUR PATRONS ON JACKSON AT EVERGREEN

ORDER YOUR BIRTHDAY CAKE FROM  
JOHNS BAKERY  
1688 JACKSON AVE.  
276-8431

CARNIVAL  
SUNDAY 23 MAY  
11a.m. to 10p.m.  
PONY RIDES BINGO DINNER  
LITTLE FLOWER CHURCH

Editors: John Bruhwiler, George Bradfute, Rick Thomas. Copy: Nancy Lowe, Warren Lowry. Advertising: Golden Shumaker. Typists: Sallee Bruhwiler, Emma Palmer, Ed Pickle. Cover Picture: Lawrence Anthony.

## MEET THE NEIGHBORS



### FOR THE YOUNG IN HEART

by George Bradfute

Warm weather has brought out all the gardeners, but none of the younger ones is more enthusiastic than Mrs. Maggie Mize of 745 Maury. Mrs. Mize, who celebrated her 90th birthday last November 21, has already cultivated her 21 rose plants and is taking a breather before their next scheduled feeding. Her methods of pursuing her hobby are specific: "Take cottonseed hulls and sawdust and work them in together. Then add plenty of peat moss -- I bought 400 pounds. To fertilize, make a ditch six inches from the plant, measure in the rose food (it's expensive), then cover it and wet it down. I feed them once a month."

Mrs. Mize admitted to getting help for the manual work in her garden. "It's all I can do to get around." And she admitted to bad luck last summer when she put in a vegetable garden. "Tomato plants, turnips, radishes, green onions. But they were no count. The rain came and water stood six inches deep in the beds. You can't be prosperous in everything. The worst part of it was that I neglected my roses and they nearly died."

Mrs. Mize has other flowers but patent roses occupy most of her interest. Of these, she mentioned the Tympani and Peace varieties and two white climbers as her favorites.

A native of Mississippi, Mrs. Mize lives with her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Mize. When interviewed she was visiting with her brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Clements at 3627 Kendrick -- he had celebrated his 89th birthday April 1. In the conversation she revealed an interest beyond her garden. "I say a little prayer every night for the pastor at McLean Baptist Church. I'm living in hopes that his sermons will touch the hearts of those not Christian."

## TEACHER HONORED

Miss Mary Wilkins Riley, who moved to 875 N. Evergreen in 1928 when Vollentine School was Mr. Barham's cow pasture, was honored at a party given May 1 by Miss Alice Brignardello and several other Snowden teachers. Miss Riley is retiring this month after a teaching career of 43 years at Snowden Junior High. Two generations of residents will remember her contributions to their appreciation of English and American History. Citing a list of community leaders, she says "You just don't realize how many wonderful boys and girls have been at Snowden all these years."

Printing courtesy  
Southwestern at Memphis

Address correspondence to: John Bruhwiler, 883 University Street, Memphis, Tenn., 38107.

Send ads prepaid to Golden Shumaker, 1695 Autumn Ave., Memphis, Tenn., 38112. Tel. 276-6553. (Classifieds \$1.00, Business \$4.00)