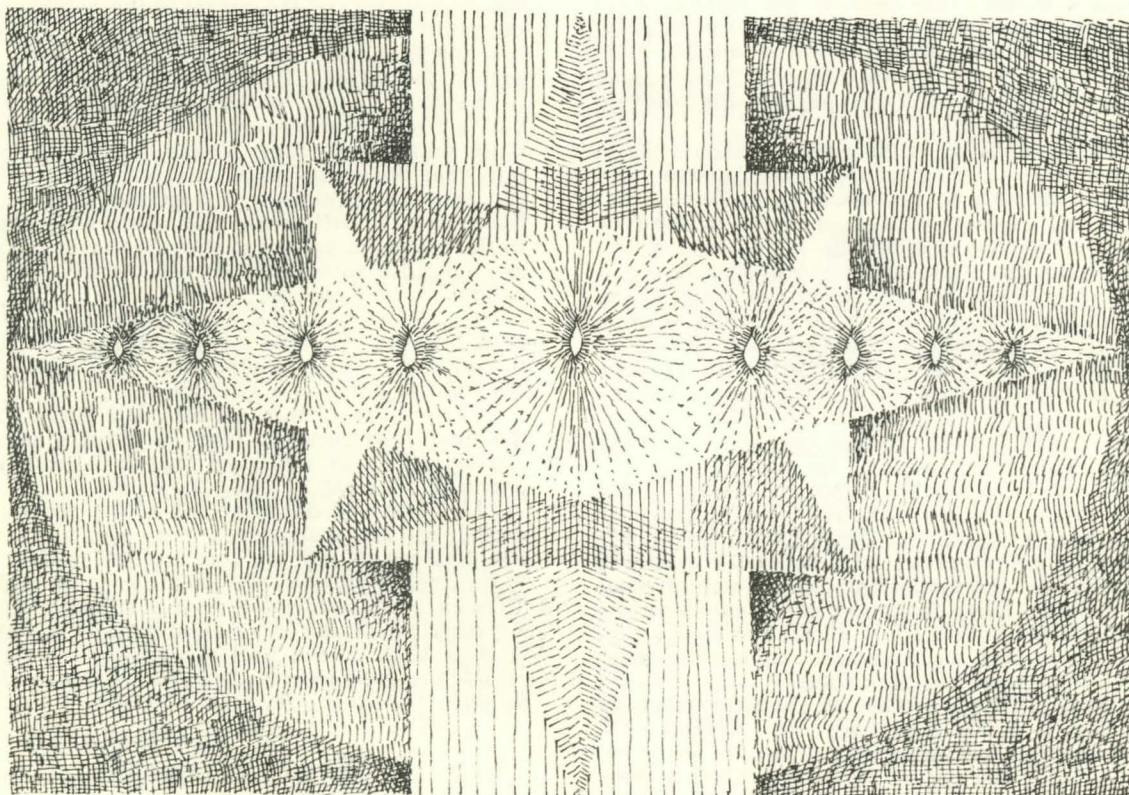


The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association



FELIZ NAVIDAD!

As the city's retailers prepare for the bigger-than-ever Christmas rush and commercialism is increasingly in evidence, most VECAA residents are preparing for the Season in a quieter, more traditional manner. For some reason Christmas in our neighborhood is characterized more by sincere warmth than by tinsel and artificial snow. Maybe the excesses generated by those who profit from the Season are tempered in our neighborhood by an older populace, people who remember the Yule Log and green Christmas trees. Many of the customs currently associated with Christmas are drawn from diverse and often non-Christian origins; even the seasonal celebration itself was present in various forms in pre-Christian eras, the most direct ancestor being the Roman Saturnalia where gift-giving and good deeds were the order of the day. These diverse origins are nurtured by the cosmopolitan air of a community in which the continuance of old world customs are common. To this is added the more reserved ceremonies of the Jewish residents, allowing the VECAA community to maintain more of the original meaning of the day.

Christmas celebrations for many V/E residents will be centered around the church, with each denomination

adding a distinctive touch. Both Little Flower Catholic Church and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal will observe the traditional Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. The Little Flower service will follow a program of Christmas music. The First Lutheran Church will present its traditional candlelight service, while a similar program will take place at McLean Baptist on Christmas Eve.

Many churches will observe communion during this season. Evergreen Presbyterian will observe this sacrament on Christmas Eve at 7:30 and communion will, of course be a central part of Catholic and Episcopalian observances. Nearly all of the community's churches will have Christmas music programs. One of the more elaborate ones will be McLean Baptist's production of "Night of Miracles," and other churches featuring music programs will be Evergreen Presbyterian, Lindsay Memorial Presbyterian and Springdale Methodist where adult, young people and children's choirs will offer songs of praise and celebration. Other pageantry will include a play entitled "The Blue Overall Angel," to be presented Sunday night, Dec. 19 at 7:30 by McLean Baptist. And perhaps the most noteworthy display will be Evergreen Presbyterian's Living Nativity Scene in which church members portray the various characters who visited the stable. This display can be seen on Dec. 22 and 23.

For our Jewish neighbors, the season is Chanukah, or the Festival of Lights. This ceremony commemorates

YOU
are invited to the neighborhood
CHRISTMAS PARTY

MONDAY, 13th DECEMBER 8 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL -- McLEAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Memphis, Tennessee Volume 1, No. 12

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the time in 165 B.C. when Judas Maccabeus entered the city of Jerusalem. Purification of the city was begun and, on the 25th day of Kislev, it was completed and a sacred candle lighted. Since the small candle burned for eight days, the eight days before Dec. 25 are celebrated each year. The season is one of home worship for Jews and study courses take place in several of the neighborhood's homes. On Dec. 15 the various home study groups will meet at the synagogue for a party commemorating the Season. Baron Hirsch is unique, incidentally, as it is one of the few Orthodox synagogues in the nation to display a sign offering Season's Greetings to its Christian neighbors.

In VECAA homes many of the customs originating in the Old World are retained because of the diverse origins of the neighborhood's residents. The German tradition of placing a wreath with a red candle inside it on the door on the first day of Advent is in evidence as one walks through the streets of our neighborhood. Or if you live in the right place you can sometimes smell Greek pastries cooking. Or you may know an older Russian who can still tell fortunes from the way the Christmas candles melt. In many homes special wines are brought out for the occasion and Advent is accorded special recognition.

The families of foreign descent keep close to home for Christmas and among Italians, for example, priests are almost constant guests during the Season. The Chiozzas of 1019 Avalon are perhaps typical of many of the neighborhood's Italian families. They have their wreath blessed by a priest on the first Sunday of Advent and sing "O Come, Emmanuel" at dinner every Sunday during the Season. When Christmas Eve comes they attend Midnight Mass after a ritual before the family crib and on Christmas Day the traditional ravioli dinner is served along with sparkling pink wine.

Among many of those of German ancestry, such as Rosemary Hulshof of 856 Belvedere, the "Christkindl" is celebrated. Each family member draws the name of another and during the period of Advent secretly does good deeds for him. Only on Christmas Day does each person find out who his benefactor was. St. Nicholas Day is also observed among some Germans. On this day the children put their shoes outside their door and their parents fill them with goodies.

During this time of year other celebrations often accompany the observance of Christmas. The Jewish Festival of Lights has already been mentioned and some, Italians and Greeks for example, celebrate Epiphany on Jan. 6. Many of our Italian neighbors leave their Christmas trees up until then, sometimes called "Little Christmas," at which time small gifts are exchanged. For our Greek neighbors Epiphany is observed by a ceremony on the banks of the Mississippi River. A cross is thrown into the water by the Greek Orthodox priest and is retrieved by divers. This ritual commemorates the baptism of Christ.

New Year's Day is also a day of ceremony for many churches. In contrast to the revelry often associated with the day, New Year's for VECAA residents is more a period of quiet optimism for the upcoming year. For our Catholic neighbors New Year's Day has been proclaimed "World Day of Peace," an appropriate observance for these times.

Neighborhood In Court

The "Neighborhood Assembly" in the chapel of McLean Baptist Church, November 9, was attended by a small but distinguished crowd. After introducing each member of the audience by name, Miss Margaret Dichtel, VECAA chairman, gave the floor to Dr. Sells, chairman of the education committee. Dr. Sells explained the reasons for and the extent of the neighborhood association's involvement in the Memphis city school system desegregation suit. VECAA, Dr. Sells said, and with it the entire V/E community, would be represented in the court by Mr. W. Rowlett Scott, not as a plaintiff but "a friend of the court." Mr. Scott was to file a petition with Judge Robert McRae, setting forth our case, i.e. that the white students living in the V/E community, who are assigned to Northside High School, will not be treated differently from white students elsewhere in the Memphis school system, who can attend either a meaningfully integrated school or may transfer to the school of their choice.

Mr. Scott, with the assistance of other neighborhood lawyers, prepared such a petition and filed it with the court. It was accepted, and Mr. Scott was granted the right to argue at a later time.

The results of this petition will not be known until the new desegregation plan for the city schools is revealed. It is at that time that Mr. Scott may want to exercise his right to argue the case.

Mr. Scott is not charging VECAA for his time, and neither are his associates. Yet court costs and expenses may run as high as four hundred dollars. We, the Vollintine/Evergreen residents have to raise this money. All of us, black and white, north and south of the tracks. No contribution is too big, and none is too small, even if it is less than a dollar. Make your checks out to VECAA and send them to Dr. Bruce Sells, 1925 Jackson Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38107.

Star Witness

Of the many witnesses called to testify in the preliminary hearings concerning the integration of the Memphis city schools, the most convincing testimony in support of VECAA's position in regard to Northside High School was given by the chairman of the Real Estate Committee, Joe Hough, a real estate economist and life-long resident of the V/E community.

In his testimony he stated the the one-sided racial composition (98% black, 2% white) motivated many old families to leave the V/E community and dissuaded new families from moving in. Mr. Hough pointed out there were other factors to which some parents objected, such as the location of Northside in a ghetto area, for instance. VECAA, he said, has been working with the school board in trying to find a solution to the Northside problem. He assured Mr. Petree, attorney for the school board, in cross-examination that VECAA wanted no more than fair treatment for the students in this community. VECAA, he said, wanted the V/E students to be in the position to attend integrated schools. He informed the court that VECAA had worked with Vollentine School which now seemed stabilized with a 25% white enrollment.

Mr. Hough succeeded in showing that "white

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WITNESS continued
 flight" in the Vollintine/Evergreen community was due chiefly to the racial imbalance in some of the schools, and not vice versa.

Happenings

-----Art exhibit at Clough-Hanson Gallery, Southwestern, Dec. 1-31. The show, entitled "Structure", contains paintings and sculpture in various media. The artist is Thomas Chaffee.

-----Talent show at Northside High School on Dec. 8. The program is sponsored by the schoolband and is open to the public. Show time is 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$1.

-----Open House at Northside High on Friday night, Dec. 10. The school will be opened at 7:45 p.m. to allow parents, teachers and community members to become acquainted.

-----Masonic Service to be held at Springdale Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 12. The worship program will be conducted in its entirety by Masons.

-----XYZ Club (senior citizens) will meet Dec. 16 at Springdale Methodist. The meeting will include an 11 o'clock pot-luck lunch and feature Christmas music.

-----Evergreen Presbyterian gym to be open during the holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

-----The "Civilization" series narrated by Kenneth Clark is shown each Thursday night at Southwestern. The show starts at 6:30 in the Frazier-Jelke Science Building.

-----The movie "Two on a Guillotine" to be shown Friday night, Jan. 7 at Evergreen Presbyterian at 7:30.

-----College recruiters to visit Northside this month. Participating schools include Memphis Area Vocational School and Lambuth College (Dec. 9), Princeton and Brown (Dec. 19), Shelby State Community College (Dec. 13) and the University of Evansville (Dec. 14).

Attention Tots

A new program for pre-school children begins this week in our neighborhood. The program is managed by the Urban League - Early Child Development and will be held daily at McLean Baptist Church at McLean and Jackson. Mrs. Diane Manning is supervisor and teacher.

Activities for the children are to provide physical and educational development for children from lower-income families. Breakfast and lunch are provided, as well as medical and dental care and transportation to and from home.

Children are eligible if the family income is below certain limits, for example, \$3800 for a family of four or \$5600 for a family of seven. The sponsors are very interested in enrolling white children. For information see Mrs. Manning at the church or call the office at 525-8727.

A Story

by David Bruhwiler, Grade 2, Vollentine School

A horse was alone in a big pasture by a big tree. He liked to smell the flowers. He did not like the rain. When it rained, he would run away. But he did like the sun. Each time the sun came out he would smell the flowers. He also liked the shade, and each time the sun came out, there would be shade under the big tree.

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Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association
 1972 NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP 1972

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 Make checks payable to VECAA.
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Bazaar

The Memphis Academy of Arts opened its 22nd Annual Christmas Bazaar December 3. The Bazaar will remain open to the public through December 23, offering for sale examples of faculty and student work from every department of instruction at the Academy. Besides paintings, sculpture, drawings and pottery, items for sale will include jewelry, Christmas cards, weaving, prints of all kinds and enamelwork. The Bazaar will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, 9 a.m. until noon on Saturdays, and 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

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Sports

The changing leaves and crisp air portend the end of the football season and the start of basketball competition. The football season ended on a happy note for most of the neighborhood's schools. Southwestern finished with a 5-2 record and repeated as co-champions of the College Athletic Conference. It was the third consecutive winning season for the Lynx. In junior high play Cypress and Snowden both finished on top with records of 5-1-1 and 7-1, respectively. Both captured their division titles. The Little Flower junior team was also successful, ending up with four wins against three losses and second place in the parochial league. Northside High School and the Little Flower pee-wee team both posted losing records.

The young basketball season finds most of the neighborhood teams off to a good start. Although losing their first game, the Southwestern Lynx roared back to score 115 points in their second match. They went on to take second place in the Southwestern-sponsored Dixie Tournament. Northside High is again displaying its aptitude for basketball, compiling a 5-2 record in the early weeks of play. Snowden Junior High has won its first two contests while Cypress dropped its opening game. And last week both the girl's and boy's teams fielded by Little

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SPORTS continued

Flower won their opening games.

In a sport relatively new to our neighborhood, boxing, Gypress Junior High has become highly competitive. Its thirty-man team has won 21 of 30 matches so far this season. The students box every Friday night at the Shelby County Building.

The Christmas holidays will bring two special events to the neighborhood. Evergreen Presbyterian will sponsor the Evergreen Invitational Holiday Tournament at its gym Dec. 27-30 for pee-wee and junior teams, while Southwestern's gym will be the site of the Memphis high school Holiday Tournament.

Welcome

November 2 Mrs. Judy Smith gave birth to Walter Christopher (Chris) who weighed 10 lbs. 2 ozs. Mrs. Smith teaches nursing at the Methodist Hospital. Her husband, David, works for Ortho Pharmaceuticals. Chris is the Smiths' first child, and his home is at 1688 Tutwiler.

1027 North Idlewild is the new home of Bill Jones, the director of financial aid at Southwestern. Before coming to Southwestern in 1969, Mr. Jones taught ten years in the county and city school systems. He is an active participant in intramural sports at the college and calls himself a "sometime" golfer. His wife, Rutha, is a public health nurse and the mother of Billy, 9; Linda, 7; and Timothy, 3.

Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Merchant, formerly of the Woodmont Apartments, are now residing at 923 N. Idlewild. Mr. Merchant is retired, after working with the U.S. Corps of Engineers for 32 years.

The large house at 1999 Mignon is the new home of Fred and Judy Wimmer and their three kids, Kate, Dana and Peter. The Wimmers previously lived in Whitehaven, but were attracted by the heterogeneity of the Vollenline/Evergreen community. Mr. Wimmer is vice-president of Wimmer Bros. Printing Co. where he has been employed since getting his degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. Mrs. Wimmer is a member of the Panel of American Women and both belong to the congregation of Little Flower.

Recently moving to our neighborhood from Florence, Alabama, is Susan Patton, of the University Cabanas. Miss Patton has just completed her B.F.A. at the University of Alabama and is employed as an advertising artist with John Malmo, Inc. Her hobbies include outdoor sports and reading.

Last But Not Least

To Mrs. Cornelia Morris' latest appeal for more newspaper carriers only two parties responded. One was Dennis Webb, aged 8, who is now helping Mr. John Appling in his area. The other was the President of Southwestern at Memphis, Dr. William Bowden. Dr. and Mrs. Bowden are now assisting Mrs. Mona Levitch in Hein Park.

Mrs. Morris needs more newspaper carriers, both as regulars and substitutes. Call 274-1278, even if you're not eight years old or a college president!



Meet The Neighbors

Home To Stay

by George Bradfute

This month's featured personality is a lady who is just getting settled in the V-E neighborhood though, in a sense, she's been a resident since 1930. Miss Ruth Ford's career as a missionary nurse is the reason her residence here in the past has been more transitory than it will be in the future. Her field of work has been the Far East--China and Indonesia. She returned last spring and is scheduled for retirement next year from the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist convention.

Miss Ford was a nursing student at Missouri Baptist Hospital in St. Louis when her parents, the W. P. Fords, bought the home at 2080 Jackson. Then it was one of only three or four in the vicinity of University and Jackson, at that time the terminus of the Jackson streetcar line.

Her service in China began in the 30's with assignments in Peking and Kewlin. December 7, 1941, found her in Canton, a prisoner of the Japanese but permitted to work at the Baptist hospital there during her internment. Repatriated, Miss Ford taught nursing in Memphis until 1946 when she returned to Canton. The communist conquest of China forced an end to her mission work there and she returned to Memphis, teaching nursing at Baptist hospital from 1949 to 1953.

Her next overseas assignment was Indonesia. She started a hospital at Kediri on Java and at her retirement this year was director of nursing there. Miss Ford's 18 years in Indonesia saw the rise and fall of Sukarno, the attempted coup of 1965 and the blood bath which followed when communist leaders were liquidated by Moslem terrorists.

Miss Ford has much optimism for the people of Indonesia. She is somewhat guarded in her evaluation of Red China's new role in the UN. She is concerned about the persecution of Christians and doesn't speak the names of the faithful to protect them from reprisals, but she says, "Christianity is not dead in China."

Midtown Action

WILSHIRE PARK CIVIC CLUB has agreed to consider hiring an attorney and working with VECOA to prevent location of the expressway through its area, if the Overton Park route is denied. The Wilshire Park neighborhood adjoins V/E on the east.

MID-MEMPHIS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION is opposing rezoning to commercial of property on the north side of Poplar at Angelus. MMIA has also asked the state for a design hearing on the Lick Creek-to-Claybrook section of I-40. Lawrence Coe is the newly-elected president.

CENTRAL GARDENS AREA ASSOCIATION will try to raise \$10,000 for a comprehensive planning study of that neighborhood, to be conducted by a private consulting firm next year.




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