

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 10, Number 2

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

October, 1998



RESTORE

One of 34 shops in the United States and Canada operated by Habitat for Humanity

For any Mr. or Ms. Fix-It who enjoys a bargain, Habitat for Humanity's **Restore** is worth a visit. Restore, which sells used and new building materials, has been open at 1024 S. Vandeventer for more than a year. Their hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

The St. Louis location is one of 34 resale shops in the United States and Canada operated by Habitat for Humanity.

Restore carries a wide variety of building materials, both mundane and unique. Some of the more ordinary items include lumber, paint, electrical fixtures, windows, vanity tops and tools.

But Restore Director Kathleen Schweitzer says the more unusual items are the real finds. "We have had some very cool bargains," she said. One customer recently picked up a 23-piece oak kitchen set for \$2,000. Another recent bargain was a gently used Craftsman riding mower, loaded with features and attachments, for \$500. They occasionally have crystal chandeliers and stained glass windows, too. Restore often receives old tools from estates.

A recent batch of tools came in an old, grubby wooden box. The box turned out to be a very old Tiffany silverware display box, which is going to be turned into a jewelry box by its new owner.

"I wish there was a place like this when I was working on my place," Schweitzer said.

Restore is a good place to find kitchen cabinets, vanity tops, appliances and floor tile, too. Often **Restore** receives paint in quantities that may not complete an entire project.

Schweitzer says that one way to use the small

amounts of paint is to take similar shades, such as eggshell, off-white and ivory, and mix them together for an amount that will accommodate your project.

Restore used this method when painting their own offices.

The proceeds from Restore fund Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that builds and rehabilitates houses with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. The group is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness.

"It's a fun place to shop. We get some really nifty things in here."

—Restore Director Kathleen Schweitzer

In addition to purchasing the house, home-owners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor - "sweat equity" - into building their Habitat house and the houses of others.

Restore is always looking for donations of building materials from individuals and corporations, but does not accept clothing or furniture. Schweitzer said most of their donations come from the general public, but she would love to receive more from area companies. Donations are tax deductible and are accepted from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Restore. They will also pick up large items that people are not able to bring to the store.

In addition to Schweitzer, two part-time employees, Hernado Floritino and Adam Erlich, run the 40,000 square-foot facilities. More than 15 regular volunteers also help out, and more volunteers are always welcome.

"It's a really neat place," Schweitzer said. "It's a fun place to shop. We get some really nifty things in here."

For more information, or to make a donation or volunteer, call **Restore** at 531-4155.

By Briget Moss

The Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Founding Editor: Janice Nesser

Publications Chairperson-Editor: Don Hardin

Graphic Artists: Janice Nesser

Database Managers: Tom Booth, Don Hardin

Business Manager: Colleen Santino

Layout design: Donna Mayes

Typesetting: Don Hardin, Ian Wilkinson

Staff: Mark Abbott, Audrey Anderson, Donna Blanca, Tom Booth, Elizabeth Braznell, Benjamin Chu, Richard Clinebell, Janet Crane, Matthew Fernandes, Sarah Griesbach, Don Hardin, Rich Iezzi, Sarah Langan, Terry Mayes, Bridget Moss, Patrick Murphy, Janice Nesser, Erin O'Reilly, Fredrick Rissover, Jay Rosloff, Colleen Santino, Cinder Wilkinson, Ian Wilkinson

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Your letters and comments are always welcome at the Gazette. Mail them to:

The Gazette/TGHNA

P. O. Box 63002, St. Louis, MO 63163

STAR VIDEO

by Erin O'Reilly

Russel Amerson, A.K.A. "Ty", is the manager of Star Video and has been with the store almost since its beginning in the mid 1980s. He informed me that the shop is owned by two brothers, Randall and Aubrey Terrell, and has been in this neighborhood for 12 years. It was originally located on Arsenal, then on Grand where the futon store is now, then in the store-front now occupied by the Haberdashery, finally landing at its present location on Hartford and Grand six years ago. With each move it has expanded. As Russell puts it, "We're growing along with the neighborhood."

Star Video holds the usual video categories: comedy, horror, new releases, children/family, sci-fi, drama, action and classic. They specialize, however, in foreign films, Japanese animation and hard to find titles. For the kids (and the kid-like adults!) they offer computer games: Play Station, N64, Super Nintendo and Sega. There are 5 day, 3 day or 1 day rental options and, as a new promotion they are including a children's/family video rental at no charge with the rental of a regular movie! As if that were not enough, Star Video has FREE POPCORN!!

Russell boasts that his staff is friendly, helpful and knowledgeable about movies. I know they have always been helpful to me!

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Upcoming Garden Gate Shop Events

Slide Lecture and Booksigning

Wade Davis, ethnobotanist and author of Shadows in the Sun

November 9, 7:00 p.m.

Children's Book Week - November 16 - 22

Readings and 20% discount on all children's books and teacher's guides

After Thanksgiving Sale - November 27 - 29

10 - 30% off on almost all merchandise. No other discounts apply.

Holiday Sale

20% off for members on all four days

December 3 - 4, members only,

December 5 - 6 for everyone

Garden Gate Shop Open Late for Last Minute

Shoppers - December 17 - 19, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

End of the Year Sale - December 26 - 28

10 - 40% off on selected merchandise.

Many other events are happening at the Garden!
Call (314) 577-9400 for information on all upcoming events.

A Self-Serving Proposal

by Sarah Griesbach

Like many people I know I love our Metro Link system but find myself automobiling most of the time. The existing Metro Link line goes to many of my most frequent destinations: Forest Park, Union Station, the U-City Loop... But bussing with my 2 1/2 year old son is no fun at all and by the time I've driven to the Grand Metro Station, I may as well have driven to the Jefferson Memorial. So I always keep an ear open for news of a Metro Link expansion in our direction.

Generally, expansion proposals have been for electric trains running along existing train track. This, of course, would exclude Grand Avenue from making the short list. But I think back to my past life in San Francisco and the aboveline electric trams that run through the center lanes of major streets there. They are less of a traffic nuisance than our gas-run busses as the track does not obstruct traffic (they are street level and cars drive right over them) and their stops are more regular,

predictable and efficient.

So why not Grand? On further thought it seems almost criminal not to create a Metro Link auxiliary line on this major artery through the heart of the city. Think of all of the cultural amenities along this strip that, tragically, exist on urban islands. The Black Rep., Powell Hall, Fox, Grandel Theatre, Earthways Museum, new Pulitzer Museum and hot spots like Dukes and Jazz at the Bistro could all easily be part of a night that begins at The King and I, Once Upon A Vine, Le Petit Cafe or Pho Grand!

The SLU campus, under President Fr. Biondi, has become a St. Louis landmark and it just keeps growing. Unique fountains, beautifully landscaped greenspaces and really weird statues keep popping up all over this once blighted area. I can't imagine a better place for a picnic lunch during a short work break. Besides, to better connect the University and its affluent students (who, if memory serves me, are always in search of a meal that doesn't include Ramen Noodles)

to Grand South Grand could only be good for our business district.

Then we mustn't forget the importance of such a thing to our Grand community to the north. Has anyone toured the newly developing neighborhood just west of N. Grand at Washington? This subdivision is pulling less likely urban pioneers to these strangely suburban, garage-centered homes. Projects like this can only take root and grow if they are taken out of isolation.

It seems quite clear to me. Not just our community but the entire city would benefit from some mass transit action in our neck-of-the-woods. Have I convinced anyone??

100 YEARS YOUNG

Four more "new" members for the 100+ club:

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3825 Hartford - September 7, 1898

3834 Hartford - October 28, 1898

3836 Hartford - October 28, 1898

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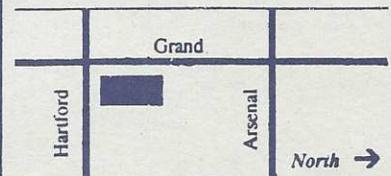
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Wei Hong Bakery and Barbecue

by Patrick Murphy

The newest addition to neighborhood's varied Asian restaurants is **Wei Hong Bakery and Barbecue** located at 3175 S. Grand.

The new restaurant is owner's Jiang Chen's second venture in St. Louis. His first, also named **Wei Hong Bakery**, is located at 8148 Olive Blvd. Chen said he decided to open a second bakery in the neighborhood because of its strong Asian population.

Wei Hong focuses on producing authentic Cantonese cuisine, traditional Chinese baked goods and Chinese barbecue. Items such as barbecue pork buns, Chinese sausage buns and barbecue pork are made to appeal to those with more traditional Chinese tastes, Chen said.

Wei Hong Bakery has been rated highly by reader's polls in *The Riverfront Times*, and the bakery's moon cakes were featured prominently in a St. Louis Post-Dispatch story on the Chinese New Year.

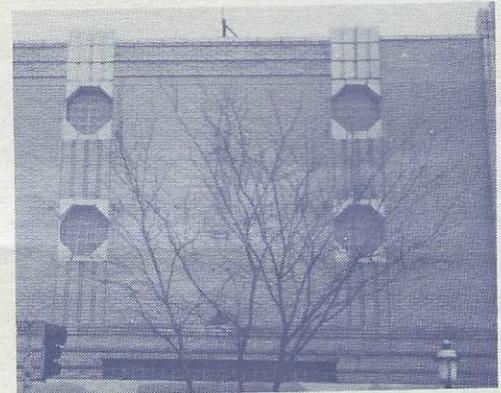
In addition to baked goods and barbecue, Wei Hong also offers a lunch and dinner menu. Chen said the bakery accepts orders for birthday and wedding cakes, but orders should be placed three days to a week in advance.

Chen moved to St. Louis in 1992 and opened his first bakery shortly thereafter. He hopes to move into the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood in the future.

Wei Hong is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, but is closed on Tuesdays.

ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

Beautiful Spanish windows and Art Deco windows; but where are they?



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TGHNA BRIEFS

October General Meeting: October 27th, 7:15 PM, Divine Science Church on Wyoming, "Traffic Calming," Craig Holan of Crawford, Bunte, and Bramaier.

Fall Alley and Street Clean-up, Saturday, November 14th. Tower Grove Heights is participating in a citywide initiative to "tidy up" St. Louis before the Pope John Paul's visit in January.

November General Meeting: November 24th, 7:15 PM, Divine Science Church on Wyoming, "A Panel Discussion on Neighborhood Diversity" + Elections for 1999.

Holiday in the Heights, our annual Holiday Party, will be held in the Stumpp Center (Tower Grove Park), Sunday, December 13th.

HALLOWEEN

Boo! Gack! Roarbazzle! October 31 is just around the corner, and children all over the Heights are excited about going door to door and collecting candy, just like we did when we were children. Here are some tips on keeping Halloween safe and fun for both the kids and you.

- Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Children's visibility should not be obstructed by their costume. Traffic accidents are 4 times higher on this evening than any other of the year,
- Don't eat candy that is not prewrapped. Best to bring it home before eating and let

parents check the candy for tampering (Good time for parents to take out the Snickers and Reese's for themselves.)

•If you drive your children to another neighborhood (and I am not recommending that you do), park your car at the end of the block and wait for the children if you don't accompany them. Don't sit in the middle of the street idling the car. This drives everyone nuts.

•If you do not plan to hand out candy, turn out your porch light. The goblins won't waste their time on a house with the lights out.



OF ILLNESS, FOOD AND DATABASES

by Don Hardin

During my recent illness (details are available upon request), my already enthusiastic opinion of our neighborhood went from a very respectable 9.375 to 9.90. What could cause this? The answer is **FOOD**, lots and lots of **FOOD**.

So many friends and neighbors took the time to prepare wonderful deserts, tasty salads, soups and even complete meals and deliver them to my home - I was overwhelmed. Two of my favorites were an aluminum turkey roasting pan filled to the top with homemade chocolate chip cookies and Ted Drewes (vanilla) with fresh raspberries.

I feel proud that so many people entrusted me with their Tupperware (loss of another's Tupperware is an unforgivable and unforgettable sin). To keep myself free from this particular sin, it was a just a matter of constructing a simple database to track the appropriate variables: Last Name, First Name, type of food, type of container, Tupperware (Yes - No), color of bottom, color of top, date received, date returned, signature of witness.

Caring phone calls, offers of "let me know if there is anything I can do" and cards also helped my healing process.

I was very glad to be able to repay in kind when a neighbor suffered a broken ankle (a horse fell on it (ouch)). I picked up her prescription and did a minor Schnucks run.

Once again I have been reminded what a great neighborhood we live in. We are very lucky! Thanks everybody!

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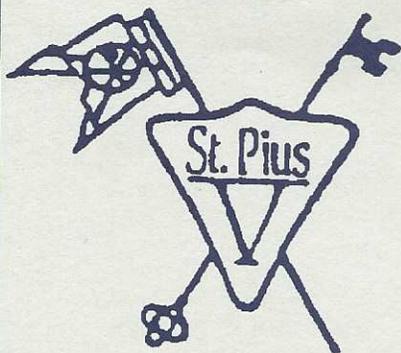
full-time kindergarten

limited tuition assistance

English as a Second Language

government lunch program

Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts



John Karel, Director of Tower Grove Park

by Erin O'Reilly

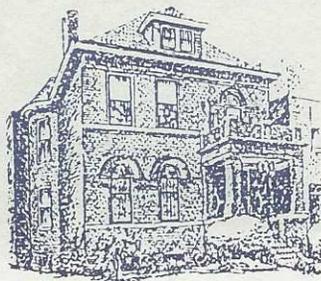
John Karel originally from Louisville, Kentucky, has called our area his home since his family moved here in the 1960s. He attended SLU High School and then earned his BS in American Intellectual History and achieved an MS in Wildlife Management at the University of Missouri at Columbia (Mizzou). Amazingly, he has managed to combine these contrasting interests in history and natural resources in his life's work. John was State Park Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer from 1979-1985. Then after a few years of consulting work with environmental organizations he took the job of Director of Tower Grove Park in October of 1987. Of course, his interest and knowledge of history and natural resources are put to good use in our Victorian walking park! The park is an "urban forest" rich in trees and shrubs numbering more than 8000. Or these, there are more than 350 varieties (not-to-mention the many historic architectural treasures interspersed). John claims that it is the most botanically diverse public park in the US!

John reports to a seven member Board of Commissioners who are appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court. The park's chain of command is unique among public parks. His priorities as director of the park are to raise capital funds for maintenance and improvement, efficiently operate the park and preserve the diversity and health of this "urban forest." His personal focus is on the preservation of all of the park's historic structures as well as to make sure that all reforestation is in keeping with Henry Shaw's original plan. In addition to

preserving the historic aspects of the park, John is always looking toward new uses of the park. He hopes to attract a larger segment of the public with the upcoming chamber music performances at the newly renovated Palm House, a Whitaker Theater with classical drama at the newly renovated playground pavilion, a hot air balloon race, carriage rides and new tree trails with identification markers and a tree guide. The many other uses of the park include the summer children's concerts,

Compton Heights Band concerts, picnics, weddings, photography, walking, running, strolling, rollerblading, bicycling, dog walking, wading and bird watching (and today on my walk I noticed a group doing TV filming!).

John is enthusiastic about the park's many constituents and feels especially committed to its surrounding neighborhoods as they are the foundation of the park. His hard work has kept this wonderful asset, Tower Grove Park, in prime condition for our neighborhood!!



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Proud Resident of Tower Grove Heights

November 1998

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Carpenter Lib. Exhibit Book display for National Diabetes Month	2	3 Election Day! Vote!!!	4 Bot. Garden Free admission until Noon Carpenter Lib. Pre-school storytime 10am	5	6	7 Bot. Garden Free admission until Noon
8	9	10	11 Bot. Garden Free admission until Noon Carpenter Lib. Pre-school storytime 10am	12	13	14 Bot. Garden Free admission until Noon
15	16 Bulk Trash Pickup Week	17 Bot. Garden Children's Book Week	18 Bot. Garden Free admission until Noon Carpenter Lib. "How to create a resume and cover letter" 7pm	19	20	21 Bot. Garden Free admission until Noon
22	23	24	25 Bot. Garden Holiday Flower Show - thru Jan 3 Bot. Garden Free admission until Noon	26 Thanksgiving	27 Bot. Garden Holiday Wreath Exhibit thru Jan 3	28 Bot. Garden Free admission until Noon
29	30					

December

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

October

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December 1998

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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6 Bot. Garden "Festival of Lights" Hanukkah	7 Bulk Trash Pick Up Week	8 Bot. Garden "Holiday Wreath Exhibit" thru Jan 1 Carpenter Lib. "World AIDS Day" Book Display"	9 Bot. Garden free admission until Noon Carpenter Lib. "An evening with Andrew Carnegie" 7pm	10 Full Moon	11 Bot. Garden "Carols in the Garden"	12 Bot. Garden free admission until Noon Carpenter Lib. Holiday Open House
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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			Bot. Garden free admission until Noon	New Year's Eve	Christmas	Bot. Garden free admission until Noon Kwanzaa "Festival of the First Fruits"

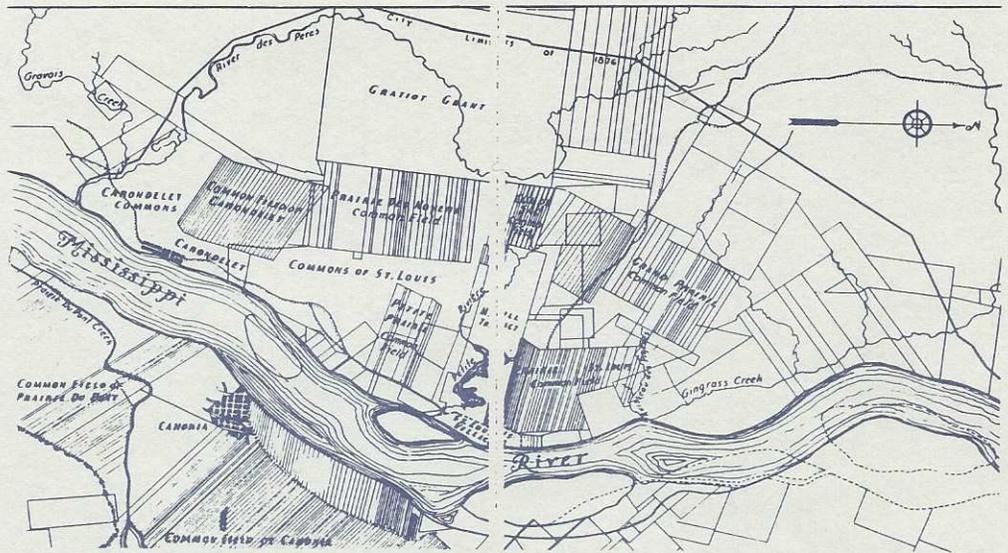
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 31

THE HISTORIAN'S CORNER: "THE HEIGHTS WHEN IT WAS FRENCH (SORT OF)"

by Mark Abbott

The modern story of the Heights begins in August 1763 when Pierre Laclède leaves New Orleans with a small band of Frenchmen to establish a trading fort at the mouth of the Missouri river. Trudging upriver at the agonizing rate of 1-8 miles per day, Laclède and his 13-year-old stepson, Auguste Chouteau, finally reach the future site of St. Louis in December of that year. Convinced that a clearing which sits on a small bluff, 18 miles south of the confluence, was the ideal place for their future fur trading fort, Laclède and Auguste winter at Fort Chartres across the Mississippi in present day Monroe county. The actual founding of St. Louis took place in the spring of 1764. Busy securing supplies and making preparations for the new town, Laclède sent young Auguste with a small party to lay out the streets of the village in February. With much of the physical preparation of the town already accomplished, Laclède joined the party in late Spring and the town quickly became the center of French fur trading in the upper Mississippi and Missouri valleys. But the irony was that even before Laclède and Auguste had left New Orleans, the area around St. Louis and the entirety of French territory west of the Mississippi to the Rockies had been given over to Spain in a secret treaty during the French and Indian War. Whether Laclède and his partner in New Orleans, Colonel Gilbert Antoine de Maxent, knew of this treaty is still a matter of debate, but nonetheless, Laclède quickly issued land grants in the area surrounding St. Louis.

This was when the foundation for the Heights was first laid. Unlike the English, the French settled their colonies in a manner reminiscent of feudal times.



Instead of having individual parcels, the French laid out "common fields" that were divided into long, narrow strips. Although individual St. Louisans were given title to these narrow strips, the fields were cultivated in a communal fashion. What is now Tower Grove Heights was part of one of the common fields, called the Prairie des Noyers, or the "Field of Walnut Trees" — so named, presumably because of an abundance of walnut trees. In terms of present geography, the Prairie des Noyers extended approximately from Chippewa Avenue on the south to the Mill Creek Valley (Manchester) on the north, and from Kingshighway on the west to just east of Grand on the east.

When St. Louis was finally claimed for Spain in 1769 (by a man named O'Reilly!!), the Spanish honored the land claims and the land patterns established by the French. Even though the population of the town greatly expanded after the Spanish arrival, the common fields and the livestock "commons" were maintained until the 1790's due to the need to maintain a compact line of defense against the warlike Osage. They were not broken up

entirely until after the Americans bought St. Louis and the Louisiana Territory in 1803. (Napoleon and the French made a deal with the Spanish in 1800 and reclaimed St. Louis and Louisiana. But that is another story!!)

So the next time you are gardening in the backyard, try to imagine a group of frontier Frenchmen tilling that very soil.

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The Tattler

Many of you have probably noticed the placement of short wooden posts in the ground around certain trees in Tower Grove Park and wondered what was happening. The mystery was cleared up a bit when green plaques were placed on the posts, noting the common and scientific name of the tree along with a number and, on some, an outline of the state of Missouri. To find out more, I spoke to Ted Allison past President of the non-profit agency, Forestry ReLeaf of Missouri. The agency's mission is to educate people about trees and promote the planting of trees on public property.

Tower Grove Park has been selected as the site of the agency's "Discovery Forest". Henry Shaw dreamed of having every species able to grow in St. Louis planted in the Park and succeeded in planting 220 species. The Park currently has over 200 species. Forestry ReLeaf's target is to plant the 327 species which are able to grow in Missouri. The plaques mentioned above are the initial stage of the leaning program, which will be expanded to a series of walks with corresponding maps and fact sheets about the different trees. A memorial program is also being developed.

The first path has thirty-two identified trees. It starts at Stupp Center and goes west to Tower Grove Avenue and then back east along Arsenal. The agency hopes that schools, clubs and people, who are interested in learning more about trees, will use it.

Other programs sponsored by Forestry ReLeaf are The Tree Keepers Program (a six week program on how to identify, plant and maintain trees requiring participants to give back 36 hours of public service), and a state wide Forest Keeper Program (targeted at spotting possible tree-related

problems, diseases and reported to the state conservation agency). Allison stated volunteers and contributors are always welcome- their headquarters are on Lindell Boulevard.

Did you buy Entertainment '99?

If so Mokabees and South City Dinner and the Feasting Fox have coupons. Give them a try! The renovation on Grand Ave. at the site next to Dominoes Pizza is preparing the way for the opening of Good Works, Inc., a home furnishings store which also has a store in the loop on Delmar. A Croatian restaurant is still scheduled to open on the southwest corner of Wyoming and Grand. The old Shoney's Restaurant across from Compton Heights finally has a taker. It is slated to be the headquarters of the American Youth Foundation.

Trash and litter, especially on Grand Avenue continues to be a challenge. Property owners are responsible for the area in front of their businesses. So tell those with clean sidewalks how much you appreciate their attention to detail!

The Landmarks Association of St. Louis and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch selected the South Palm House as one the eleven most enhanced properties in St. Louis and included it in it's Heritage Success Tour on Sunday, September 27. Landmarks has agreed to help Tower Grove Heights seek grants to pursue designation as a Historic District

The Residence of the former Broom Factory is in the process of being returned to its former glory. Phil Duckwall has brought the property and has filled 7 dumpsters with trash at this date. He is restoring it to a single-

Continued on next page.



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family residence complete with entry hall and staircase. Properties continue to sell well-5 new residents have moved into the 36-3700 block of Juniata.

Congratulations to staffers Patrick Murphy and Bridgett Moss who were married on Oct. 17! Additional Block Representatives needed for 3800 Blocks of Arsenal, Humphrey, and Wyoming. Remember if you know any news, contact the Gazette!

A Message from Pat Dougherty

This year the Missouri Legislature focused on three major changes to the tax code. While wide-ranging in nature these changes targeted senior citizens, those with dependents including a new provision of those of us taking care of elderly dependents and on parents with children going to college.

We will increase the number of elderly and disabled Missourians who qualify for the Circuit Breaker tax credit. The Circuit Breaker credit takes the form of state income tax credits and cash refunds for eligible home owners and renters.

The legislation will raise the maximum level of income allowed to qualify for this credit to \$25,000 from the current amount of \$15,000. The bill will also increase the highest income level at which taxpayers receive the maximum amount of credit for property taxes paid. This minimum base will be adjusted from the current level of \$5,900 to \$13,000.

We also wanted to offer additional tax breaks to assist families in taking care of loved ones both young and old. To do

this, the bill will increase the state income tax deduction for dependents for the first time since 1946. Currently, this deduction stands at \$400 for each dependent. The legislation we passed will triple that figure to allow a \$1,200 deduction per dependent.

As the provisions contained in this bill go into effect, Missourians can add another certainty to their list — lower taxes in years to come. The people of this state who have worked so hard to make it a great place to live deserve to keep more of their money in-pocket. This legislation, combined with the tax cuts we've provided in the past, will allow us to be certain that happens.

We passed legislation (HB 1694) this session that will encourage families to save for their children's future educational needs. Under this bill, the Missouri Students Assistance Resource Services (MOSTARS) Higher Education Savings Plan will be established to allow families to place money in savings accounts that take advantage of a federal tax exemption provided under the Federal Tax Payer Relief Act of 1997. The act allows the earnings on investments in state-sponsored higher education plans to be exempt from federal income tax. The MOSTARS Higher Education Savings Plan will also exempt the principal investment in these accounts as well as earnings from state income tax penalties established by the IRS.

Whether it be a vocational-technical school, community college or four-year university, it is crucial that Missourians attend some institution of higher learning after they finish their high school degree. Through the MOSTARS savings plan, Missouri families can begin making sound investments that will bring them the greatest return, a well-educated child.

TAPROOTS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

by Audrey Anderson

The credo of Taproots School is to use art to foster literacy, to encourage creative self-expression and to strengthen communities through building relationships.

When Melanie Daniels moved here from Chicago in 1990, she saw the need for children and adults to have an outlet for their creativity. She purchased an abandoned elementary school at 4021 Iowa and Taproots was born.

During the summer Taproots offers a ten week publishing program for children in the book arts that includes, paper making, bookbinding, pop-ups, paper marbling, letter press printing, and of course, writing. They also have classes in image and map making and photography. Children may enroll in the entire ten week program or select 1, 2, 3, etc. week options. In preparation for making a book, children interview people in the neighborhood and gather stories. So, they also develop social skills and gain confidence, plus the neighbors get acquainted with the children and old fears and stereotypes are replaced with friendships.

During the school year, classes are offered to neighborhood children at the Art Studio Program. The program meets three days a week and runs throughout the school year. Taproots also conducts art classes at other schools during the regular school day.

At this time, adult classes are not set up, but that is something Daniels would like to see happen in the near future. Immediate concerns for the school are funding and getting the windows of the school in shape. If you belong to a church or organization that would like to take on the window project, contact Melanie Daniels at 752-9652. For more information about sending your child to the school call the same number.

Classes are small and the focus is on the creative growth of the individual. Taproots is a great resource for the development of your child. It is nearby and the cost is reasonable. A great neighborhood resource.

Behind the Scenes at the Missouri Botanical Garden

by Richard R. Clinebell II

While the Garden is well-known as a wonderful public display of plants and a repository of famous architecture, such as the Climatron, there is another Garden that is less well-known to the public. This is the research program.

The basic tools of this program are the herbarium and the library. The herbarium is a collection of pressed plants of the world mounted on sheets of heavy, acid-free paper and stored in cabinets according to plant family. The library is one of the finest collections of botanical books in the world. Both are largely closed to the public except for special open houses and tours, but frequently host visiting scholars from all over the world. A third tool is the education program, with which the Garden works with all four of the major local research universities. It is particularly noteworthy that the Garden has educated graduate students from all over the world, especially from tropical America and tropical Africa and Madagascar. Fourthly, there is a large publications department which publishes the work of the Garden's scientists, as well as publishing a major botanical journal, the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden*.

The herbarium is one of the largest in the world, housing upwards of four million specimens. While there are several dozens of Ph.D. level botanists headquartered here in St. Louis, there are also Garden employees who spend most of their time in the tropics collecting plants for the herbarium. One of the major outputs of the Garden are floras of many areas of the world. A flora is a manual of all the plants of a geographic region, and these projects tend to go on for years, even decades, as funding opportunities for each of them wax and wane.

Several of the major floras now in production include the revised flora of Missouri and the flora of North America. The idea in the flora of North America is that it used to be that floras of the United States tended to be at the state or regional level — if a plant exists in, say, both Idaho and Kansas, it often had different names in the two state floras. The flora of Panama and the flora of Mesoamerica have been in process for many years, and a recent major project is the flora of China, for which the garden purchased a large and expensive collection of Chinese plant specimens.

The process is thus of two phases:

- 1) Obtaining the necessary and reasonably complete set of plant specimens for an area, and,
- 2) Describing them in a book which gives their proper scientific names, descriptions, geographic ranges and other information about the plants.

These are truly herculean efforts.

In general, the big projects are multivolume efforts, with the volumes coming out one at a time over many years (decades!).

The Garden emphasizes tropical areas because, unlike the United States, where most plants have broad geographic ranges, plants in the tropics often have very limited ranges, and the extinction rate is staggering. The mission of the Garden is, sadly, to attempt to collect a specimen of as many of these plants as possible, before they are lost to the process of extinction.

The Garden's aggressive graduate training program for young people from tropical countries is motivated by the great need for trained botanists in these countries, and most of them return to their home countries with much-needed scientific skills.

I hope this short essay might lead to a deeper appreciation of the work that goes on behind the scenes at the Garden. It is truly one of the world's great scientific institutions.



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From the internet THE HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans. Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day".

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926

through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all Wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Armistice Day Changed To Honor All Veterans

Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of WW II and Korea, Congress was requested to make this day an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. In 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as

Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1973, a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War, but none was found for several years. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from that conflict was placed alongside the others.

To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, The 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

National Ceremonies Held at Arlington

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.

Every year the President of the United States urges All Americans to honor the commitment of our Veterans through appropriate public ceremonies.

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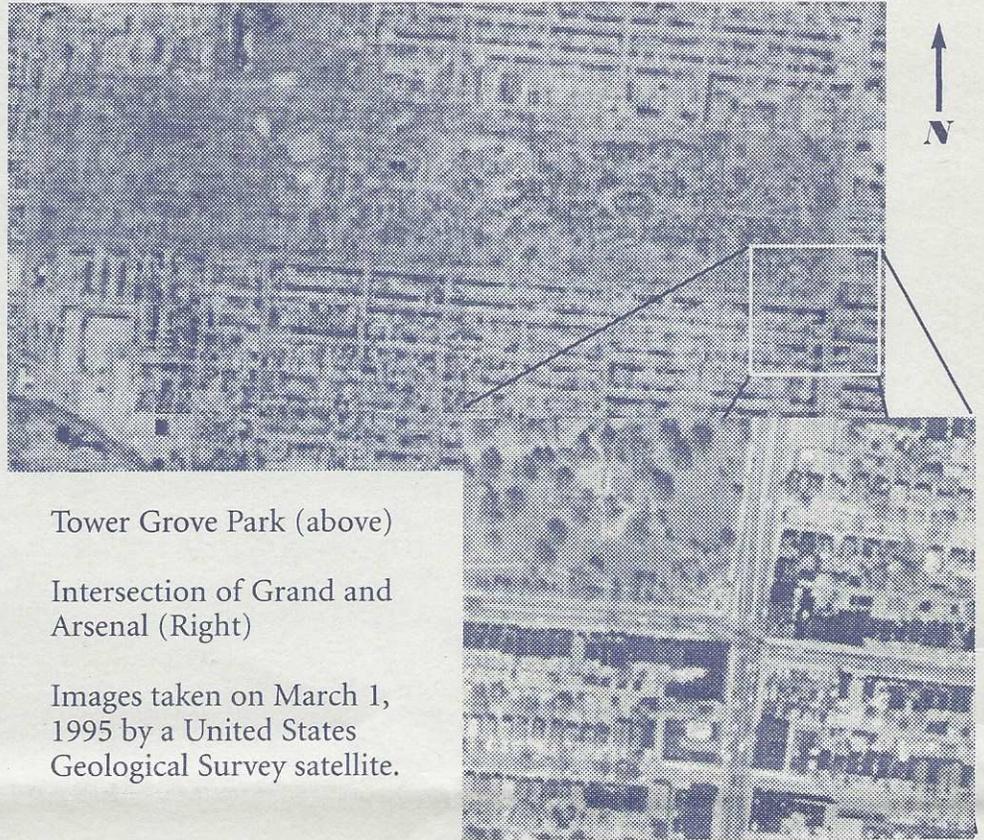
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Satellite Imagery available online

Thanks in part to the Microsoft Corporation, anyone with an internet connection and a few minutes can view satellite imagery from around the world. These images and more can be found at <http://terraserver.microsoft.com>



Tower Grove Park (above)

Intersection of Grand and Arsenal (Right)

Images taken on March 1, 1995 by a United States Geological Survey satellite.



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