

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

DECEMBER 12, 1993

Volume 6, Number 3

HOLIDAY IN THE HEIGHTS

Even as this Gazette arrives at your doorstep, Holiday in the Heights is poised for take-off. This year December 12 is the day when Tower Grove Heights will ring with the sound of carolers and glow with the spirit of Christmas.

The Christmas lighting contest will be judged on Saturday evening December 11 from 7PM to 10PM - so if your lights are not up, all I can say is HURRY!!!!

Once again the festivities will start with lighting of the luminaria. The help of at least 3 people on each side of the block would be wonderful. They will be set out and lit between 3:30 and 4:00pm and will stay lit approximately 6 hours. Please do

not forget to pick them up as soon as possible after the candle burns down. The carolling begins with a brief meeting at the Divine Science Church at 3617 Wyoming. Please arrive at 4:30pm to pick up song sheets and meet the rest of the group for some hot cider. As in the past, the carolers will be collecting canned goods for food baskets for people in our neighborhood. Extra items will be donated to the 5 Church Association Food Pantry. When you hear those familiar songs filling the air, please bring your canned goods to your porch.

At 6:30pm everyone is welcome to meet at the corner of Wyoming and Spring for a neighborhood candle-

light sing. Candles and song sheets will be provided. Come to meet your neighbors and kick off the Christmas spirit with fellowship and fun. At 7:00pm the festivities will move to the Divine Science Church at 3617 Wyoming. Santa and his elves will be there with gifts for the children, and your neighbors will be there with hot cider, coffee and dessert snacks. Winners of the lighting competition will be announced and prizes awarded.

Come to all or any part of the Holiday in the Heights celebration. You are guaranteed to meet new people, have a great time and start the Christmas season with sharing, joy and fellowship.

MORE GRAND HOLIDAYS

By now you have all seen the new lighting decorations that make Grand businesses look even Grand-er. The lights have been shining since the start of the holiday shopping season Nov. 13. That was when special events made Grand Blvd. a festive place indeed. It even FELT like Christmas as soon as you walked into Botanicals on the Park. Trees, trimmings, and wassail did it. What a special holiday place. Then of course, the big book signing at Grand Books, with authors galore, and books, books, books. Cheap Trx opened their new basement department with music and cheer. Faru had lovely music and holiday treats. There was even a belly dancer at the MidEastern Market. (We had a little trouble getting Santa to leave that place...) Soho looked wonder-ful.

And guess what! Even if you missed the fun and shopping on opening day, there are still lots of things to see, lots of things to buy. Try them all.

Botanicals - elegant holiday gifts
Faru - imports, jewelry, beads...
Soho - gifts

Vintage Haberdashery - antique clothes
Futon Xpress - unusual for the home
Star Video - gift certificates
Mekong Rest.- gift certificates
Dickmann's Bakery -pastries
South City Diner - gift certificates
Mangia Cafe- Italian - pasta treats
Kinko's - make your own calendar
Streetside Records - tapes, cd's
Paramount Drugs - holiday cures
King & I Rest. - gift certificates
Cafe de Manila Rest. - gift certif.
Salon St. Louis - gift certificate.
Grandview FootAnkle -gift cert.
Jay Intenatnl. Food - exotic groceries
New Dawn - natural stuff, gift certificate
Watkins Quality Products - gifts
Becker's - German foods and gifts
Just Pictures - prints
Most Anything - most anything
Pho Grand - gift certificates
Cheap Trx - fun gifts
Zips - copying, shipping, wrapping
Grand Books - books and games
S. GrandN Motion - gift certific

Shelton's Hair Salon - gift cert.
Picadilly Antiques - beautiful things
Tan My Restaurant - gift cert.
Shenandoah Coffee - gourmet foods
David's Hair Salon - gift cert.
Golf Shop - golf gear, etc.
Pet Clinic - pet care
Tower Grove Voice and Piano
Winter House - b&b gift certificat
Shoe Warehouse - shoes
Brod Dugan - painter, rehabber gifts
Schnucks - food, gift certificates



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ON GRAND

By Lou Jenneman

19th century Victorian Style is alive and well and residing in your neighborhood. Not exclusively in the gracious homes, but at 3210 South Grand as well. PICCADILLY ANTIQUES specializes in 19th century furnishings, art, and collectibles. Part owner and all operator John Davis admits to being more than fascinated with the Victorian era. He can easily converse about the items available in his store, providing background information on artists, designers, and that odd item that only the 19th century residents knew how to use.

Visiting PICCADILLY ANTIQUES is more than a trip to the local antique shop. There are original artworks, beautiful pieces of silver and porcelain, dolls, furniture, samplers, and coverlets to name only a few. With John to fill in the history, age, and occasionally the previous owner, you not only obtain a piece of history, you will learn something about its origins.

With the Christmas season approaching there will be some more modern additions. Victorian style Christmas cards, wrap, and gift bags are being added. Some of these items will be available throughout the year.

Consignments are accepted and frequent trips to estate sales and auctions are made, so check regularly for new additions. John is pleased that he has reasonably priced items and the varied price range is reflected. Be sure to include PICCADILLY ANTIQUES in your shopping. The trip into another era will be well worth your time.



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INNER SPACES

By Tricia Heliker

By now even the procrastinators are giving some thought to such questions as, what should I buy for Aunt Mildred this year? If the person on your gift list is a collector, and many people are, then by all means add to their collection.

Almost anything falls into the category of a collectible. People collect the things they love. It might be beaded purses, quilts, neon signs, model cars, copper cookware, buttons, dolls, mannequins, or salt and pepper shakers. The possibilities are endless. The dilemma often comes with how to display these collections in the home.

Every design style can be enhanced by collections but care must be taken to safeguard against clutter by tastefully displaying these items.

Develop a habit of choosing select pieces and then alternating other pieces from your collection to keep the display fresh. This keeps the collection from overpowering the design of the room. If the collectibles

are diminutive objects the display will require more pieces to make an impact. The room, by the way, does not have to be the most public room in the house. Try to match the personality of the collection with the room. For example, a collection of old watering cans would be perfect for a solarium. Framed sheet music would be more suitable near the piano than the bathtub unless, of course, you have no piano and you sing in the shower.

If your collection requires shelving or niches, give careful consideration to appropriate lighting that will enhance the collection. Don't overlook the floor as display space. Baskets, books, boxes, and pottery can add interest to a floor space. Curio cabinets are the most obvious display locations but lack creativity. The more unusual the display surface, the more eye-catching the collection. Birdhouses on a rustic garden bench or antique dolls in baby carriages make for a more exciting presentation. Don't overlook patios, hallways, guest rooms or laundry rooms when looking for display space. Old lunch boxes above a coat rack add interest to the mudroom. Old fash-

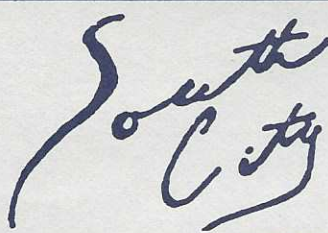
ioned scrub boards add spark to the laundry room and a grouping of hand forged tools makes an interesting display over a workbench in the garage or basement.

The amount of space for display will dictate how and what is displayed in a collection. Keep in mind that antiques of mammoth scale will not enhance an efficiency apartment. Items in a collection must be seen to be enjoyed. A row of cups and saucers cannot be appreciated if displayed above the overhead cabinets in a kitchen.

As with all facets of the interior design of a home, collections should be composed with balance. This is achieved by considering the size and shape of the objects as well as their color, texture and number. Balance the grouping within itself and balance the entire grouping within the room.

If you can't think of anyone on your list who is a collector, you might want to start one for yourself.





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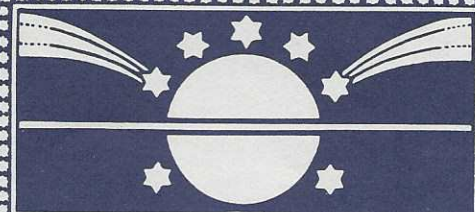
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RENTING TIPS FOR LANDLORDS

You own rental property and you've had a vacancy since November first. Winter's coming, you haven't had many calls about the apartment and you've got an uneasy feeling about the only person that's really interested. What should you do?

First, don't panic. Second, don't ever rent to anyone who gives you the creeps. Winter is tough on landlords. It's easy to drop your guard just to get the place rented but you should always follow the basic rules: NEVER hand out those keys without taking an application and checking it thoroughly. How can you expect the rent to be paid if your applicant doesn't earn enough or has no job at all? Give yourself some breathing room by treating the apartment application like a job application. Explain that you'll be taking applications for 30 days or more before making a final decision. The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association can recommend companies that will review apartment applications including a credit check. This

service costs \$25 per applicant. This may be the best money you ever spend. It is not unusual for prospective tenants to pay \$25 for the application review.

Watch out for someone who flashes the deposit money in your face so they can get the keys and move in. That might be the last money you ever see. I've talked with landlords who were charging \$450 a month and I asked, "That's pretty good rent, are they paying it?" Too often I'll hear, "Nope". You guessed it, the landlord didn't take an application and didn't run a credit check. Now you have a hostile situation. You're not being paid and you need to take action to remove your tenant.

I'm always leery of someone saying they "have to move in 3 days and here's your deposit". People normally know they're moving 30 days prior. They may be "squeezing" you to avoid the application process. Ideally, find someone who fits the apartment. Old world charm tenants will seek that ambiance just as contemporary tenants prefer contemporary. If it's not a match, don't push it. If they do move in

they won't be happy and won't stay long.

I may sound like I'm beating up on prospective tenants but I'm really watching out for your present tenants, your building and your neighbors. You wouldn't believe the number of people who move because they can't stand somebody in their building. You may fill one vacancy only to acquire several others.

Winter is always tough to get through but remember that Tower Grove Heights is also a fantastic rental area. Tower Grove Park, South Grand and an incredibly high percentage of owner occupied properties give tenants more than their money's worth.

If you need help with your property or want to list your apartment with the Tower Grove Heights Referral service (it's FREE), call Jean at 772-5982. The Association also has a landlord packet. And remember, vacancies are the easiest tenants you'll ever have.



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SINCE YOU ASKED

By Don Hardin

What was your favorite or most memorable Christmas gift?

Nancy and Raymond Adkisson: "Our kids surprised us one year with a large console TV. It was beautifully wrapped. The best and largest gift we ever opened."

Herbert Amil: "I can't say that any gift was the best. I have received 84 yrs of wonderful gifts."

Kenneth Ault: "My favorite gift was a brand new 1975 brown Cadillac, even though I received the bill."

Pete Fick: "I received a kit for constructing a dulcimer." According to Funk and Wagnall, a dulcimer is a musical instrument consisting of a shallow, trapezoid-shaped resonance box with wire string stretched across the top. The dulcimer originated in Persia (now Iran).

Mary Jackson: "We gave ourselves the best Christmas gift last year. We completed the renovation of our kitchen."

Norman Henenberg: "My favorite Christmas gift was my first stereo, when I was a kid. I hope this doesn't get me in trouble with my wife."

Trey Moss: "My favorite Christmas gift was a Big Wheel."

ON THE TOWN

By Mary Schoeder
Congratulations to Mari and Peter of the South City Diner, 3141 S. Grand. Congratulations because they've got lots of things going on at their restaurant besides the recent celebration of the anniversary of their first year in business in our neighborhood. The South City Diner now offers an expanded menu, new music, and extended hours.

The menu has increased to serve Mexican foods on Thursdays at lunch and dinner. Mari is the chef for these specials, and can that lady cook! A friend and I ordered the Mexican lunch dishes which we thought tasted remarkably good. I tried soft tacos and got to sample the

pork chop in winter salsa. Tacos made by a true Mexican chef bear no resemblance to those served at franchise chains. These had a much subtler flavor. The pork chop in salsa also had a delicious mellow taste. Even the wheat and the corn chips with salsa did not leave that raw taste mass produced kinds do. Mari's chips are light, the salsa, not too spicy - this made a real "appetizer". Last summer we tried the fresh fruit margaritas...I'll just say I hope they can get fresh fruit all winter, too. Finally, a word about their coffee, which goes with Mexican or any other food. It is one of the best coffees served on Grand, or anywhere - outstanding.

Speaking of coffee, now you can drop by for a cup anytime during South City Diner's extended hours. They are open 24 hours a day every weekend. As a matter of fact, why limit yourself to coffee? You can order any of the good things they serve, a meal, a snack, a dessert, even breakfast. (Big Ed is so excited to try this, he is now falling asleep at 7 or 8 PM so he will wake up at 3 or 4 AM to go there.) If you need more information about the South City Diner, want to know their hours, specials, etc. call 772-6100.



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LOOK WHAT I FOUND

By Tom Booth

Almost 2 years ago, the Gazette asked some residents what kinds of artifacts they had found when rehabbing their homes. A number of intriguing stories were uncovered then, so we felt it was time to fish again and see what we came up with. This time we broadened the question a little to include either "things discovered in or around your home" or "outrageous interior decorating schemes that you found unlivable".

Mike and Leslie Miles found a lot of coins in various places around their house. They also discovered pieces of old wallpaper behind their walls when they were renovating the first floor bathroom. "We also found ... pieces of what looked like it might have been a glass cover to a globe, a gas light", says Leslie, "and ... a piece of a broken china plate, behind the walls" of the first floor bathroom. And Mike says he uncovered "a strange object... a sculpture of the head of a bald headed man that you put grass in to grow hair... in the rafters of the basement." They also found the water mark for the original sub-flooring in the kitchen stating "1896". Leslie says the thing she's still looking for are the pocket doors

which she feels sure are there somewhere.

Don Hardin had some redecorating to do when he moved in. "Oh well yeah... when I redid the third floor it was like a nightmare from the sixties... all the woodwork was painted psychedelic blue and there were peace symbols painted on the wall... and they were painted in some really heavy (paint). I had to scrape them off, I couldn't just paint over them." He says he also pulled up some old linoleum, ... they used to put newspaper under linoleum... I remember my parents used to when they laid linoleum ... like a cushion... and there was an article... about the opening of the Sears on Grand Avenue." When stripping the wallpaper in his dining room, Don says, "when I got down to the bare plaster, there was a handwritten pencil note on the wall that ... must have been from the original workman, that said that he'd gone to the hardware store to get something and would be right back." Don says that to keep up the tradition, when he put up bookshelves in his bedroom, he purposely put a section of a current newspaper behind them as an artifact for some future renovator.

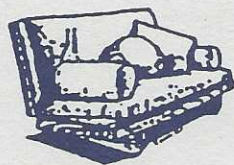
Terry Mayes says that before he moved into his house, a previous owner "had put grey velvet on the walls." Terry says he found a whole roll of it in the basement. "It was just unbelievable... (it was) all through the living room, right through the hallways, the stairways, a couple of the bedrooms... not on the floor, just on the walls." Terry also found a 1930 Buffalo head nickel in his front garden when he was making some changes there; and relates that a former neighbor, Pat Tenschert, found a "Standing Liberty" quarter from the 1800's in her backyard.

The Booth's also had some interesting undecorating to do at their house. Endeavoring to explore beneath the plastic brick pattern on the front of their living room fireplace, they discovered a panel of plywood which had been nailed to the face of (what else) real bricks.

If you have an interesting story about your house, whether it concerns an artifact you uncovered or a decorating decision gone awry, please send it in to the Gazette so we can include it in the next "Look What I Found".

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MY FAVORITE MECHANIC

By Terry Mayes

Holiday Greetings to all of my faithful readers in the neighborhood. I would like to tell you all a couple of stories about people I am friends with and other mechanics that I work with. Things sometimes become funny when dealing with cars and people in everyday life. The names will be changed to protect the ignorant.

I once had to go out and rescue a friend who couldn't get the jack out of his car to change his tire. He first called my wife who was babysitting his children to tell her he would be late because he had a flat tire. An hour later, he called to say he was attempting to get a ride home because he couldn't loosen the wing nut holding his jack in. A half hour later, he called again to see if his wife was home from her evening class. Of course, she was late. When she finally arrived home at 8:30pm, she attempted to load all of the children into her van in their pajamas so she could take him some tools. My wife informed me of their predicament when she came home. Since I was heading downtown anyway, I volunteered my services. When I got there, it took me about two seconds to unscrew the jack from its place of

origin. He hadn't read the instructions printed clearly in his trunk on the proper procedure for removing the jack. I say, when you buy a car, it's a good idea to familiarize yourself with every aspect of your auto. Don't think that professionals don't make these mistakes. They do - and some a lot worse.

For instance, I know this mechanic who once was working on a salt spreader on the back of a dump truck. The engine is nothing more than a gasoline powered lawnmower engine. When these machines are installed, usually at the first snow, they've set throughout the spring, summer and fall. Often the gasoline inside has gone bad by winter. This guy couldn't get the engine to start so he asked me my opinion of what I thought could be wrong. After examining the engine, I told this person (let's call him Dennis) that the gasoline smelled old.

So, Dennis pulled off the fuel line and let the fuel drain all over the spreader and eventually the floor. Earlier in the conversation, I had also told Dennis to take the spark plug wire off about one half of an inch to improve the spark. Well, I was all the way across the garage when I turned and realized Dennis was trying to start the engine with

the spark plug wire off. This in turn ignited the fuel. The whole spreader caught fire, flames reaching the ceiling. Dennis of course jumped back, looking on in shock at what he had done. Flames jumping at him, Dennis, standing dumbfounded, holding a rag in his hand soaked with gasoline, started to put out the fire with the gas-soaked shop towel.

Yes, you guessed it, the towel of course caught fire. While he's waving this rag at the spreader, before his hand started smoking and while I'm laughing so hard I had started to cry, I realized what was coming next. Before I could get the words out of my mouth (NO, DON'T!!!), he had thrown the towel straight into the middle of the pool of gasoline he was standing in. You have never seen anyone dance like this old boy did that day! Legs kicking up to his chin, arms waving! By that time I had gotten to him with a fire extinguisher and had put out the fire. You really had to be there, but trust me, the Stooges don't have a thing on this guy.

Well I've taken up enough of your valuable time so, talk to you later. P.S. Watch out for old fuels, they can be explosive!

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A MESSAGE FROM REP. PAT DOUGHERTY

This time of year offers committees a special chance to take an in-depth look at a number of issues facing Missourians. The Speaker of the House has appointed several such committees. The members will study the following issues: Health Care, Campaign Finance Reform, Welfare Reform, Economic Reform related to work force readiness and job training, and Agricultural Institutions. These will be Joint Committees with the Senate.

The House will investigate homeless veterans, abuse and family violence, drugs, gangs and violence, child abuse/neglect reporting laws, and redlining practices in the insurance industry. Other committees will study hazardous and solid waste landfill issues as well as the structure and operation of the St. Louis Police Department, its pension system and the public defenders office.

Several laws that I sponsored have now gone into effect. These include a new lead poisoning bill aimed at remedying situations where individuals, especially children, have been poisoned by lead. A special program set up within the State Treasurer's office in their Linked-Deposit program will help to increase the number of owner-occupied 2 and 4 family flats. In addition it will increase the number of flats owned by neighborhood residents. An important step in protecting individuals, especially women, was enacted in a new Stalking law. Law enforcement officials who in the past were almost helpless to legally stop a stalker will now have a law to stop stalkers from harassing victims. I hope this law will be able to stop such terrible violence before it happens.

I have initiated a group of legislators to come up with a package of proposals to address youth and violence. We will be addressing several aspects: preventive measures, new facilities to deal with juvenile crime and additional efforts to deal with youth after they have committed a crime. We are preparing this package to be introduced in middle December.

POLICE BEAT

By Ed Schroeder

This month's meeting was held at Police Headquarters, in the Board Hearing Room, 1200 Clark at Tucker. The Board Room is located on the sixth floor.

The meeting was brought to order by vice-chairman Carl Hoffmann III at 7:01 PM. The session opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Captain Reece asked for a moment of silence for our two fallen officers. Treasurer's report was given by Jean Leible. \$549 is in the account. There is \$37.57 in petty cash. Some of this money will be used for the annual Christmas Party on December 9, 1993. The party will be held at Curby Church. at 7 PM. This party is given for the police officers and their families. Everyone who is able, is asked to bring a dessert. Food and drinks will be furnished.

Captain Reece spoke of the prayer service that was held Wednesday evening before we walked the neighborhood around the Curby Church. The police Chaplain led us in prayer for the two officers, Scott Collier and Edward Halvaland who were hurt in the line of duty.

Captain Reece introduced the officer of the month for September. He is officer Tony Crimi. Officer Crimi has been nominated 2 or 3 times by his fellow officers., Tony's wife and child were present as well as his parents. Terry Shoemaker spoke of the meeting minutes being made available to all neighborhood organizations. Bring a disk and Terry will get you a copy.

This month's newsletter has a survey on the back and Terry asked us to complete it and return it to him. Also he has applications to the civilian Police Academy for the Ride With A Cop Program. It lasts for 6 weeks, 2 nights per week.

The December meeting will be held at Curby Church, Texas and Utah on Dec. 9. Starting at 7 PM.

Capt. Reece spoke of the park side South Neighborhood Association holding a Candle light walk Saturday evening Nov 19 t 6 PM.

The walk starts at Lackland and Arsenal Avenues. Bring a candle or flashlight. We are going to take back our streets. We will walk by the site where the two officers were hurt. Get there early. Captain Reece asked for a show of hands of all those present would make the walk. 80% of those in attendance raised their hands.

If your are afraid to walk in your neighborhood, Captain Reece said he will walk with you.

Alderman Geraldine Osborne spoke of the tragedy of the drug bust gone awry. The ministry alliance is holding a prayer service for the two officers. Mobile Patrol is building up to full strength. "We will do whatever is necessary to make our streets safe." said Alderman Osborne.

Everyone present introduced themselves and mentioned there neighborhood association.

The guest speaker for the evening was Sergeant Ralph Toenjes of the Communications Division. Sgt. Toenjes has been a part of the Third for three years and in the communications division for 22 years. His main job is to educate people about the 911 Phone lines. He then showed a 20 minute video tape of the workings of the 911 Communication system. If you call 911 and it just keeps ringing, don't hang-up/ Stay on the line. You will be answered. Call 444-5555 for information only.

A question and answer session followed. The issue raised was that citizens want the 231-1212 phone line back.

The meeting closed at 8:25 PM. Those who wanted to were taken to the Communication Building . There they could watch 911 in action.



STAFF PROFILE

By stephanie Gavin

A relatively new member to the Gazette staff, Stephanie Gavin has been writing for our newsletter for only a year and a half. She and her husband, Stafford and their 18-month old daughter, Claire, have lived in their house on Humphrey for two years. "We lived in an apartment in Tower Grove East for two years before buying here," says Stephanie. Originally from Kansas City, Stephanie knew nothing about St. Louis when she and Stafford married and moved here. "Stafford grew up in Collinsville, so neither of us were very familiar with the area. We decided to just take a chance and try out city living." They enjoy living in the city so much that they decided to buy their first home here.

Becoming active in the neighborhood association was a goal for Stephanie and Stafford as soon as they got moved in and settled. Stafford has recently become a part of the Humphrey "block committee."



As an English teacher in Webster Groves, writing for the Gazette is as active as Stephanie feels she can be for now. "I love writing the articles. Recently I've been doing the residential profiles and it's given me a

great opportunity to meet some really special people in our neighborhood." She also feels that writing for the Gazette helps validate herself as a teacher of writing to her students. "I've taken in copies of our newsletter to my eighth graders so they can see that I really do practice what I preach--to some extent, at least!"

When she's not busy spending time with her family, teaching, or writing for the Gazette, Stephanie enjoys reading novels and going to movies. As a working mother, she tries to spend most of her free time with Claire. "She's growing up so fast that I know every single minute with her is special." Stephanie does plan to continue writing for the Gazette as long as she has the time, which hopefully will be as long as she's living in the neighborhood, which hopefully will be for many more years.



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PRAIRIE WILD FLOWERS IN TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS GARDENS

• By Richard Cinebell

The ancient, eroded Ozark Plateau of Missouri and Arkansas was a largely forested area directly to the South of the Grand Prairies of Illinois, Iowa and northern Missouri. Embedded in these forests on rocky substrates of limestone, dolomite, granite and sandstone, are a special kind of prairie island called glades. It is in Missouri that glades achieve their most diverse and floriferous compartment. The glades are home to several of the state's endangered species, as well as many other botanical rarities largely unknown to most Missourians. Bringing this rich natural heritage home to our neighborhood is the subject of this article. Seed sources of our neighborhood's first glade plants are unprotected limestone glades in Jefferson County, about 50 miles south of St. Louis as the crow flies.

Mead's Sedge (*Carex meadii*). There are about 100 local species of *Carex* in the St. Louis area, making this genus our largest. Grasslike in form, sedges differ from grasses in that the stems of sedges are triangular in cross-section ("sedges have edges"). Along with the next species, this member of the Sedge Family (Cyperaceae) is a major matrix fuel species of the Jefferson County glades. These plants fuel the fires which are essential to kill back juniper and other woody invasion onto glades, thus maintaining the habitat of some of our most spectacular wildflowers.

Mead's Sedge is easy to grow. Virtually all the glade plants come from seed in a mixture of 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 Ozark stream gravel (pea-sized is best) or sand, and 1/3 TGH clay-loam. Pots should be planted in the fall and left outdoors in a sheltered site to freeze and thaw over winter, which breaks down hard seed coats and neutralizes various chemical germination inhibitors. All are best left in the pots until the second spring, by which time their root systems are sturdy enough to plant out in a permanent site.

While the public image of prairie is tall as a man on horseback, and in places it nearly was, the kind of prairie described here tops off at

about two feet in height, thus making these rarities more amenable to traditional urban landscaping than the tall species.

Mead's Sedge leaves top off at about six inches, and a ten inch bloom stalk is a tall one. Thus, Mead's Sedge is the perfect plant for a native lawn. In color it is a rich, dark green, with much yellow over winter. Mead's Sedge follows the C-3 photosynthetic pathway (a cool-season plant, growing best in the cool of spring, fall -- and winter). St. Louis', and probably the world's first Mead's Sedge lawn is currently taking shape at 3820 Hartford Street, but it will take several years to be noticeable.

Northern Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*). This most beautiful and rarest of the native grasses (Family Gramineae) is a perfectly radially symmetrical fountain of narrow dark green leaves about a foot in height that bend over in all directions, thus resembling a sunburst from overhead. It sends up 2-2-1/2 foot seed stalks in late summer. Unlike Mead's Sedge, Dropseed follows C-4 photosynthesis, an adaptation to harvest sunlight into sugar in the scorching heat of drought-prone prairie summers. It turns golden brown in autumn and stays that way until May. The dappled appearance of winter prairies stems from the interdigitation of C-3 and C-4 prairie grasses and sedges, in greens and yellows (C-3) and reds, golds and browns (C-4). Earthtones for days. We have about 4 fruiting clumps and 20 or so seedlings, which are probably the only ones in the city. This is a sad fate for one of nature's greatest aesthetic and architectural triumphs.

Like Mead's Sedge, this grass clumps vegetatively and clumps can be divided yearly in geometric progression -- 4, 8, 16, 32 . . . The most beautiful of the low profile wildflowers grow best when interspersed with Mead's Sedge and Northern Dropseed, hence their key role in a civilized and compassionate landscape. If the anthropogenic genocide of the North American prairie throughout America's heartland is judged, as I

believe it should be, as one of the great environmental disasters of our culture, or of any culture, and if we are to presume to tell others in impoverished tropical countries how to marshall their environmental resources, then I would say that true and meaningful local environmental leadership consists of nothing less and nothing more than propagating massive amounts of these key fuel species upon which everything else in grassland systems depends for life, and integrating these into the human landscape.

Environmentalists should be judged on what they themselves do, not what they say "others" should do, in my view. However, political agendas aside, these species and the companion plants they support are so beautiful that only a governmental or institutional scientific fund-granting agency would require justification for including them in our lives. They represent ancient wisdoms and harmony to which we have become tragically disconnected. (continued next issue)



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COFFEE BREAK

By Elizabeth Braznell

"So," she said. "I haven't seen Coffee Break in the Gazette in a while. I have to know, what's happening with your kitchen?"

For a little over a year, I had been chronicling the insanity of rehabbing our kitchen. I hadn't realized that some of you were following the series that closely, and felt left in the lurch!

And after two years of sweat equity and about \$6,000, I'm proud to say the kitchen is finished! Yes! Finished! Well, not exactly, but almost. We still have to put in the ceiling fan, replace the deadlight window with a pane of fresh glass, and put in the greenhouse window.

Rehabbing is a lot like having a baby. Not that I've ever had a baby, but you know how expecting or new parents can't talk about anything except their baby? Rehabbers can't talk about anything except their current projects. When a bunch of them get together, they spend hours debating the merits of oil-based versus latex paints, the best way to repair plaster, or plastic versus metal electrical boxes. Heady stuff.

Rehabbers share everything: ideas, tools, labor. From Tim and

Anita Barker, we got the idea to open our dining room window into a door to the patio, giving us the bricks we need to shorten the kitchen window opening for the greenhouse window. Don Hardin blessed us with a shoot of his Boston ivy which now graces the front of our house. The tradition of passing on slips of the vine was started by Tricia Heliker.

Tricia also figured out what to do with our service hallway, and Karen Lester helped me choose colors. Karen's formula: don't be in a hurry--live with it white for a while and you'll make the decision intuitively. She's right.

Ben Chu encouraged our gardening attempts and helped move our big tools. The late David Wagner gave us our first pipe cutter and back issues of *Old House Journal*. Joe Moore hooked up our new stove when Jay was out of town. Rich Iezzi gave tons of invaluable practical advice. Mike Kriz gave us a spare heat register and great gardening tips.

Michelle and Tammy Eversole brought us Thanksgiving dinner when we had no kitchen. Jan Booth

fed us and provided a glimpse of sanity. David Blanner helped carry heavy stuff and washed our second-floor windows because I'm chicken on a ladder.

What I'm saying is that Tower Grove Heights is, in the true sense, a neighborhood. People know and care about their neighbors, kids play hockey and ball in the streets in safety, and businesses flourish. In a time of air conditioned homes, cable television, and privacy fences, it's easy to sit inside and ignore what happens around you. That's when drug dealers and crime move in.

Our neighborhood is the envy of many City dwellers: it's safe, clean, and, well, *neighborly*. A lot of that is due to people like Jan and Tom Booth, Jean and Rich Iezzi, and Jan Nesser and Ben Chu, who years ago formed the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association.

Let's keep Tower Grove Heights strong and growing. Join the Association, be a block captain, come to meetings, let your voice be heard. And thanks, neighbor!

RESIDENT PROFILE

By Stephanie Gavin

Virginia and Harold Huskey of 3825 Juniata have lived in Tower Grove Heights for 34 years. So they have seen some changes. For example, when they first moved into their house, the neighborhood was full of young couples with small children. "These houses are meant for young people who can run up and down the steps chasing children," says Virginia. However, they notice more elder residents with grown children living here now. And they were shocked by the recent shootings in the area, but "every neighborhood has hazardous areas," says Harold. They still enjoy the convenience of the nearby parks and convenient public transportation. "Everyone I meet seems real happy they're here," says Virginia.

If you don't know the Huskeys, maybe you know Harold's brother, country music singer, Ferlin Husky. According to Harold, Ferlin changed

the spelling of his name "a long time ago when he used to sign autographs and the e and the y would just run together." The oldest of the two brothers, Harold remembers Ferlin becoming interested in music at a young age when the two were growing up in Irondale, Missouri. He



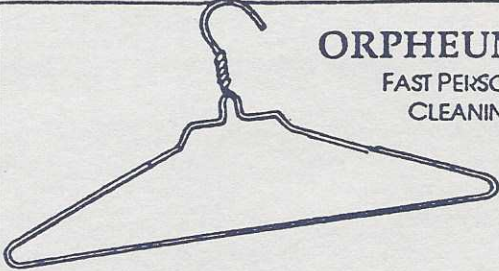
moved on to play at bars in St. Louis on Olive Street and then he played for Roy Queen and his band. "Elvis Presley opened for Ferlin when he was just a kid," says Harold. Ferlin Husky plays frequently in Branson, Missouri now, when he's not at home with his family in Hendersonville, Tennessee. "We're real proud of Ferlin," says Virginia. "But it's some-

times hard to only be known as Ferlin Husky's brother." Harold smiles at that. "Oh I don't mind," he says.

Harold and Virginia have a lot to be proud of besides their famous relative. Before retiring, Virginia was a retail clerk for Schnucks and BettenDorf for over 30 years and Harold worked for MEECO for over 18 years. Now they are able to enjoy their six grandchildren and their six great-grandchildren. Their oldest great-grandchild is 12, and the youngest was just born November 1st and named Jordan Montana after Michael Jordan and Joe Montana. "His daddy's a sports fan," says Harold. Their Longhaired Dachs-hund, Bogie, also gets a lot of attention these days.

Virginia and Harold met over half a century ago (they've been married 52 years). Their first date was a New Year's Eve Treasure Hunt. "We're still hunting the treasure," says Harold, grinning. It seems to me that they found it--and kept it.





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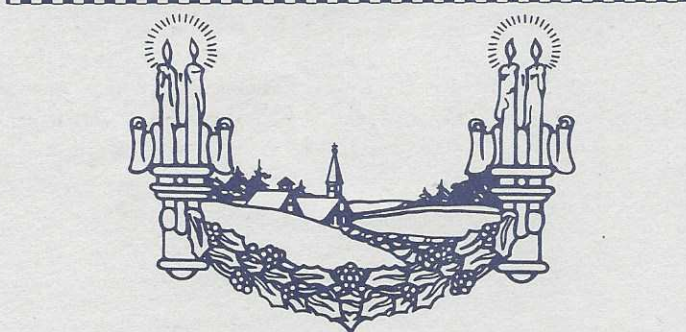
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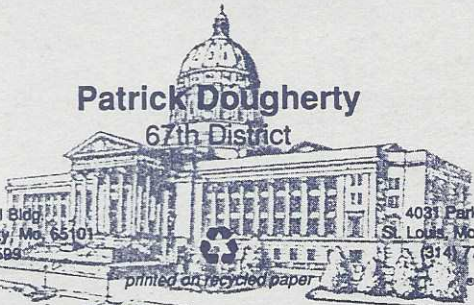
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♠♦♠♦♠♦♠ A VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS - OUR 'FAMILY' TREE ♠♦♠♦♠♦♠

Up and down the streets of Tower Grove Heights, Christmas trees glow and twinkle in the windows of homes and on the lawns. 'Tis the season. During Holiday in the Heights, when we open our homes, some of us show off Christmas trees with ornaments that have become family traditions.

In my background, Christmas trees are not traditional because my family is Jewish. But Jews, perhaps because they hail from a desert climate, can be fanatical about trees--planting them, that is. When a relative or friend dies, often a memorial tree is planted in Israel, or closer to home. Trees represent the continuation of life.

My father died almost two years ago in Cincinnati, my home town. He was in his mid-eighties. For much of his working life he worked at a job he merely tolerated: managing the shipping department of a small factory. But for over fifteen years--from shortly after his retirement until a few years before his death--he worked at a job he really enjoyed: planting and maintaining the grounds of an apartment village where he lived.

Whenever I visited him, he showed off his annuals and perennials, including his prize roses, and his

ornamental shrubs. During our walks on the grounds, he pointed out how much his trees had grown. Residents of the apartments brought him their ailing house plants, and usually he healed them. He became known as The Plant Doctor.

When Dad visited me here in St. Louis, our favorite places to visit included Shaw's Garden and Tower Grove Park. So, when I thought about a suitable memorial for Dad, I decided to plant a tree, not in Israel but here at home where I could watch it grow, here in Tower Grove Park.

This summer I made arrangements with the park to plant a memorial tree. It cost only \$100. Because trees are planted only in the fall and spring, I was told I would be notified when the planting could take place. I would be given some choice of locations and suitable trees.

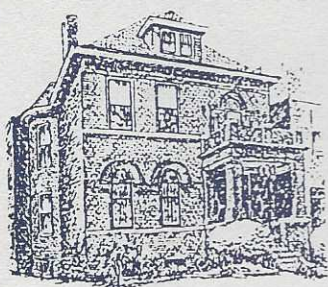
On a surprisingly warm November day, the planting took place. I had chosen a white oak, and a location was found for it near the paved path east of the old gate on Arsenal Street. At the gate I met a horticulturalist who led me to where the one-year-old tree stood in a hole, and I was invited to shovel dirt around the roots. Shortly thereafter, the

tree would be staked, fed, and watered. In a few weeks, I was told, I would receive a notice about the tree and its location in the park. In the park office, a nameplate would be added to the plaque commemorating trees planted by donors.

The horticulturalist offered information about reforestation in Tower Grove Park. Now that the park is a National Historical Landmark, new trees are limited to varieties that Henry Shaw planted in the last century. Still, this allows for nearly 300 kinds, most of them native to Missouri. Every year, the park loses some 150 trees to damage, disease, and old age. To compensate for this loss, the park plants around 300 trees annually, most of them donated by the public.

I have always loved walking in Tower Grove Park in all seasons, but now one of the trees will hold special significance for me. During the winter holidays, my tree will be dormant, but in the spring my white oak will spring to life for everyone to enjoy.

What do you think of that, Dad?



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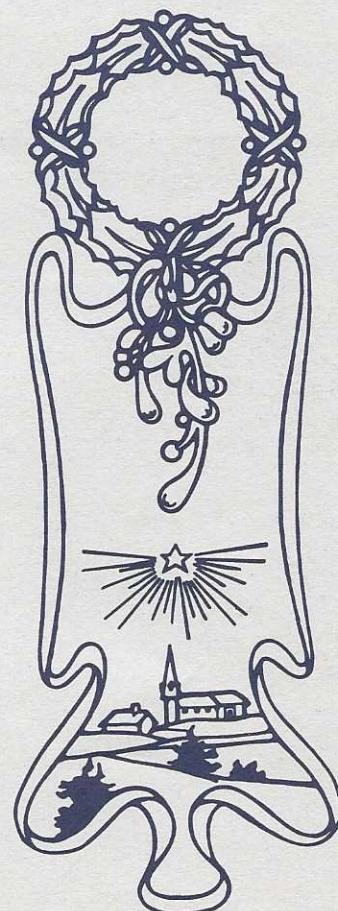


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231 - 1212 IS NO MORE

By Rich Iezzi

As of October 4, 1993, the 231-1212 number for the St. Louis Police Department is no more. On Saturday, October 30th, Jean Iezzi called local news stations about the disappearance of 231-1212. On the following night, Channel 2's Walter Richards carried a 231-1212 news story after a meeting with several neighborhood residents.

231-1212 was the phone number people used to contact police about suspicious characters, ordinance violations, and other non-emergency situations. This number allowed callers to remain anonymous. City residents are now instructed to call 911 for all situations which require police intervention. Landlords out-

side of the city will be transferred to the city police communication station.

The police department says that the removal of 231-1212 was done for efficiency. If you would like the return of 231-1212 call the Police Department at 444-5622 or 444-2969.



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THE MOBIL PATROL GETS ROLLING

By Ed Schroeder

The mobile patrol is a vital part of our neighborhood watch program. They report burned out street lights, alley cave-ins, trash dumpsters without lids, parked cars without license plates, accumulation of trash on private and public property, contractors placing their refuge in city dumpsters, loud music/noise, juvenile hanging out on street corners, suspicious persons, open drinking on the street, and hoping, by their very presents, to discourage undesirables from our neighborhood.

They donate their time, cars, and gasoline, but they need donations to pay the 'phone bill and keep the three mobile telephones in repair.

YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS PROGRAM IS VITAL.

Needed are more volunteers to drive, ride, or start a fund raising committee. they need to be up and running by the time spring weather arrives.

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Teresa Willis is currently heading the M-P.

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BOTANICAL GARDENS HOSTS HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

This holiday season, there are a number of activities taking place in our area that can provide you an opportunity to join with others in enjoying the season. On December 4th from 9 to 11:30 a.m., there was an annual planting by Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts at the Stupp Center in Tower Grove Park. Just as they

did last year, the Scouts planted bulbs donated by the city. Also, participants "Decked the Halls" of the Stupp Center on December 2nd. The highlight of this trimming party was the decoration of a Christmas tree in old fashion Victorian style. Currently, the Missouri Botanical Garden's annual Holiday Flower

Show which began December 4th, will run through January 2nd. The show features 15 different varieties of living Christmas trees, and traditional holiday blooming plants.

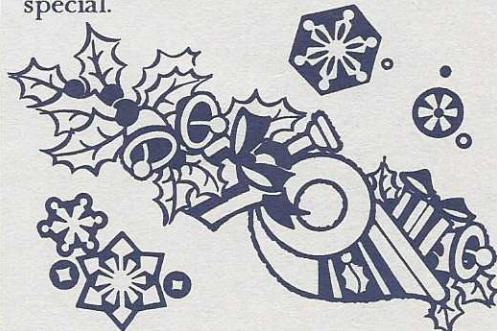
It will be open throughout the holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas.

There is also a holiday wreath display featuring wreaths created by some of the finest floral designers in the St. Louis area. The wreath display began December 1st, and runs until January 2nd. It also is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

Anyone looking for bargains can take advantage of the annual holiday plant and gift sale in the Garden Gate Shop, on Thursday and Friday, December 9th and 10th, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday December 11th from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

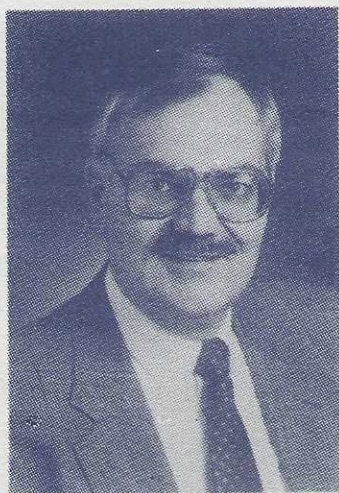
The Botanical Garden is also hosting a Hanukkah celebration on December 12th, in conjunction with the Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA). The celebration which takes place at the Garden from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., will feature traditional Jewish folk dancing and singing, and activities for children such as puppet shows, crafts workshops, and singing sessions. Rabbi Robert Sternberg who recently published a book on Jewish cooking, will be autographing his book and giving 2 cooking demonstrations. In addition, there will be a Menorah exhibit in Monsanto Hall and a traditional Menorah lighting ceremony. The day will end with a Hanukkah choral festival at 4 p.m. sponsored by the St. Louis Circle of Jewish Music. There is a separate admission of \$5 for the concert. Anyone interested in tickets should call the JCCA at 432-5700 and ask for Irene Sokol.

No matter what your religious affiliation, take the time over the holidays to enjoy some of the activities that make this part of the year special.



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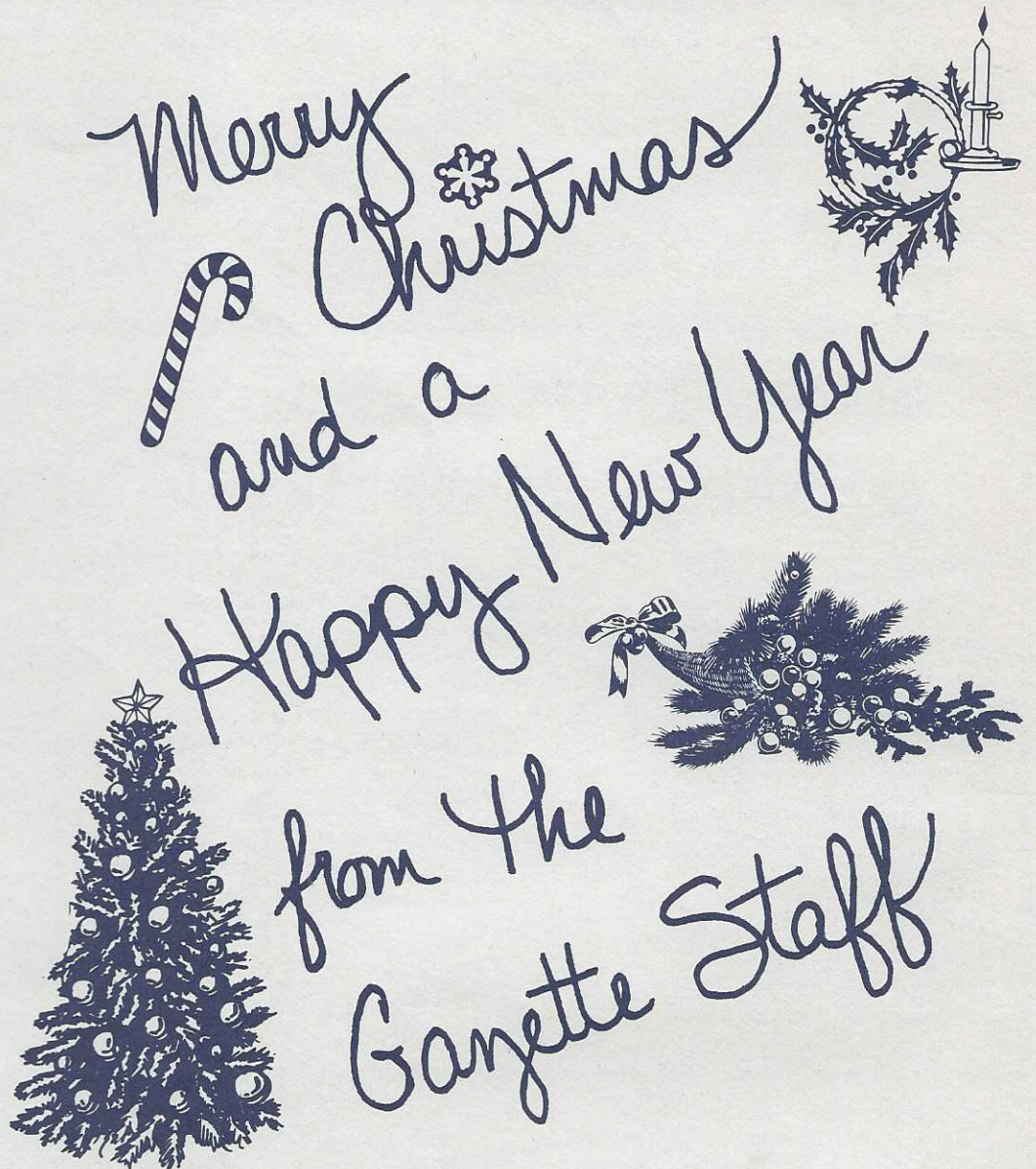
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