

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 10, No. 7⁸

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

November 1999



Fast and Frugal

Shopping on Grand Avenue

By Tricia Heliker

With Christmas fast approaching, I decided to devote one afternoon to my gift list. The idea being, finish it today and stay within budget. A one-block walk to Commerce Bank started my spree. With \$500.00 drawn from my savings and list in hand, I was ready.

HOLLYWOOD VIDEO provided me with the movie Babe for \$9.99. Next stop: ST. LOUIS BREAD CO. for two \$10.00 gift certificates for the girls at the office. On to KINKOS for three color enlargements of the new granddaughter. While waiting for the copies I spied a calendar for the computer. 365 Cats for the year 2000 sounded like just the right thing for Diane. \$9.99 for the calendar and \$3.60 for the color copies and I was off to STREETSIDE RECORDS. This is where I broke out of my goal to purchase gifts in the \$10.00 and under range. First a set of four CD's called Classic Kids. The classical music, history and storytelling would be great for Jodie to use with her first grade class. That for \$44.99 and a 200 capacity CD organizer for my son at \$39.99 left me with \$371.44.

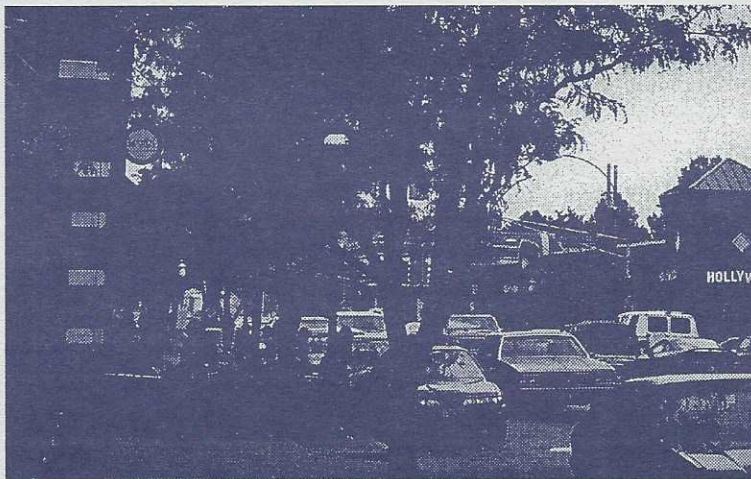
Going straight across Arsenal to ONCE UPON A VINE for two bottles of wine totaling \$28.00, brought the number of gifts to eleven in exactly 40 minutes. A dash around the corner and I was at BOTANICALS ON THE PARK. I needed to browse a bit here with such grand stuff to mull over. First I picked up gift-wrap, a box of Christmas cards and some red candles. This was not part of my gift money but I did part with a chunk of that as well. A darling felt Santa with a fluffy beard to slip over a wine bottle for \$19.00 was the first thing into the basket. One of those for the cheaper bottle of wine for Heide since she was more into wrap than wine. Then I spotted this great plaster lion head plaque for that special Leo on my list. It looked much more expensive than it's price of \$31.00. A Christopher Radko ornament was a must for Lee Ann but, oh so many beauties to choose from. I finally settled on a silver zebra with purple stripes for \$34.00.

Read and green plaid napkins at \$5.00 each and \$4.00 apiece moose napkin rings where oh so cute. My brother and his wife would love these for the twig table on the back porch. Then just as I was checking out I noticed the millennium bug for \$7.00. I just had to have that for the computer programmer at work. It looked too much like him to pass it up.

Now for the other side of Grand to visit CURVE OF THE EARTH. Here I found a couple of fun things including soap that looked like a molded Jell-O salad selling for \$6.00 a slice. I bought one called Watermelon and another called Midnight Moon. Then there was the mercury candleholder that looked like a drop of water splashing. It was adorable for \$12.00. As I was leaving Curve of the Earth I remembered the cute little bamboo lamp with the pierced tin shade for \$29.00 at Botanicals on the Park. I guess I wanted an excuse to go back, so I did. Be sure to allow yourself a few hours here because it's impossible to see it all in one walk through.

I had worked up a bit of an appetite by this time so I stopped at SOUTH CITY DINER for one of their great chocolate shakes. While savoring my shake I remembered that I wanted to pick up my Christmas stamps at the post office, so I made that my next stop. Right next door is RE:GENERATION. I WALKED IN AND WALKED OUT WITH A GREAT Hawaiian shirt for my dad for \$35.00 and a pair of red cowgirl boots for my granddaughter for \$16.00. Crossing the street brought me to CHEAP TRX where I purchased a dainty pair of earrings for \$27.00. Next stop was next door at THE FUTURE ANTIQUES. Here is where I found the chartreuse Russell Wright pitcher for \$69.50. My sister in Colorado is a collector and she will absolutely love it.

I'm done! I'm within budget and I'm only a couple of blocks from home. One trip back to Botanicals with the car to pick up packages when they are nicely boxed and I'm ready to wrap. Isn't city living great!



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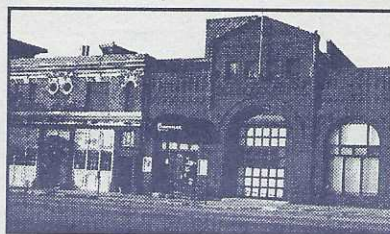
Dining on Grand South Grand

By Tim and Debbie Akin

This month's restaurant is not located on South Grand. However, the owners of the Firehouse are our good friends and neighbors Kaylene and Christian Brewer. The Firehouse is actually an entertainment complex consisting of the Spotted Dog Café and the Inferno Sound Room. It is a great place to go for dinner and an evening of dancing and listening to music. The Inferno Sound Room is host to national musical acts in addition to local and regional artists. The music is varied and sounds great in the high vaulted ceiling of the club which at one time served as a maintenance building for fire equipment. It is worth it just to stop by and see the fantastic remodeling job Kaylene and Christian have done on the interior and exterior of the building.

The Spotted Dog Café is a separate part of the building decorated with a Fire Department theme. A menu that ranges for typical bar food such as appetizers, salads, burgers, pizzas and sandwiches is available for lunch, dinner and a late night snack. We enjoy almost everything off the menu. Our favorite appetizers are the Chicken

Taquitos, the Fried Avocado (proof that anything fried tastes good) and the Chochoyotes Con Hongos which is grilled polenta with mushrooms, bacon and herbs. The sandwiches we order most often are the Grilled Yellowfin Tuna Steak and the



Braised Duck Burrito. The burgers and pizzas are also excellent with a wide variety of tasty toppings.

Lunch and Dinner also feature a number of off menu or menu insert items. These items change periodically but something

good is always cooking. One of our recent favorites is the Roasted Pork Tenderloin stuffed with a black olive tapenade and served with a yellow pepper sauce. The dinner items generally include a soup or salad. We don't have enough room to rave about all of the food at the Cafe but try the corn chowder if it is available. It is one of my favorite soups. If you are in the mood for dessert be sure and ask about the ice cream flavors of the day. Like everything else, the ice cream is made fresh at the Café and is served in generous proportions for a great end to a meal.

The Firehouse is located at 3221 Olive just west of Compton Avenue. For more information call 314-53FLAME.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Tower Grove House
 Candlelight Tours
 November 18
 Reservations required

Annual Holiday
 Floral Exhibition
 November 24 - January 3, 2000

Annual Holiday
 Wreath Exhibition
 November 24 - January 3, 2000



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DECEMBER

Carols in the Garden
 December 2 & 3
 A delightful winter's evening
 at the Garden, as the sound
 of holiday music fills the air.

"Chanukah:
 Festival of Lights"
 December 5

A traditional Jewish holiday celebration.

"Kwanzaa:
 Festival of the First Fruits"
 December 27
 Celebrates the richness of African Culture.

HOLIDAY SALES

Garden Gate Shop
 Pre-Holiday Sale
 November 6 & 7

Garden Gate Shop
 After-Thanksgiving Sale
 November 26 - 28

Garden Gate Shop
 Holiday Sale
 December 4 & 5

Garden Gate Shop
 End-of-Year Sale
 December 19 - 21

For More Information Call (314) 577-9400

Big Bigger Biggest

By Rich Iezzi

You had to wonder what was going in Phil Duckwall's head when he conceived the 'garage' idea. Phil purchased the old 'broom factory' property at 3826 Arsenal and is renovating the former boarding house into a private residence. I think it was all based on weight. There was a huge brick building (the 'broom factory') that took up the back half of the lot but was hidden behind the main residence. This building had to weigh a million pounds and Phil must have wanted to rebalance the lot after the broom factory was torn down. So a garage was planned. But how can you build a garage and still use the yard it takes up? Simple, you bury the garage. That's what directed the entire project and eliminated all building materials but concrete. Phil contacted his friend Paul Sansone, a man of cement, and the garage was put on paper.

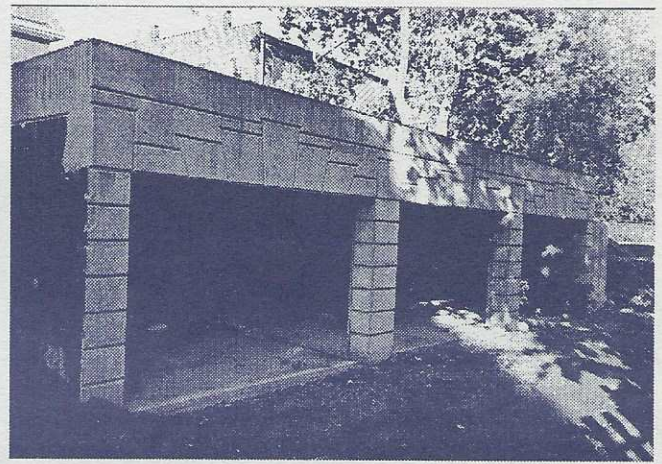
Like we always say, if these projects were simple, anyone could do them. But how could anyone know that prehistoric boulders were sleeping right below the surface where the footings would go? These boulders weighed about 5000 pounds each and were so large that the

backhoe could only roll them around. It was kind of a game to find them on Sunday night after they were rolled away from that weekend's project. A rock splitter finally reduced them to stones so they could be reused for landscaping.

Working off the alley added it's own logistical nightmares. A pump was required for pouring concrete and truck drivers scratched their heads trying to figure out how to unload their supplies. Parking for the workers would have been impossible if the 4 family's owner to the east hadn't volunteered his parking pad.

Another problem was the ghost of the former broom factory's foundation. It seemed that everywhere the back hoe went, the ghost was sure to go, exposing the stately rock walls that supported those million pounds of brick. To achieve a peaceful co existence, the garage was located where the old walls could remain, providing soil stabilization while the new foundation was dug. Unneeded rocks were quickly reincarnated into a large stone planter by Terry, Phil's south neighbor on Hartford.

After hundreds of man hours, one of the largest, (surely the heaviest) garages in Tower Grove Heights has been built. It has spaces for three cars and measures 42



feet long by 24 feet deep and is 10 feet high. Over 700 cubic yards of dirt were removed from the site just to set the footings and floor. 10,000 pounds of steel reinforcing bars (re-bar) were combined with 100 cubic yards of concrete to produce a garage weighing over 410,000 pounds.

Come by sometime and look into those three vertical pools of inky black darkness now buried under 18 inches of dirt. Wait until dusk, then watch the sun turn the wood chamfer detail on the south wall into an illusion of cut stone. It's the eighth wonder of the world. And it's not going anywhere.

Editor's note: If you have renovation plans, check out www.ecodev.state.mo.us/ for news about neighborhood tax credits. Applications accepted Jan. 1,2000.

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STREET BEAT

Saturday afternoon on Grand South Grand

By Don Hardin

I first talked with Rab and Kate who were enjoying their lunch outside of South City Diner. They like the ethnic



diversity of Grand South Grand (GSG). More

specifically the many "types" of people you see there. They enjoy the opportunity for sidewalk dining and said they always see someone from the community - sure enough at the end of our chat they were joined by some friends who were passing by.

Moving along to Mokabees, I met Sam and his dog Foxy. He especially likes Mokabees location because of the view of the Park. He (a fellow renovator from Fox Park) likes the architecture that our neighborhood is known for. He



had stopped at Mokabees "on a lark" - that's part of the magic of city living - everything is so convenient.



It started to rain lightly, so I stopped at TFA to talk with the owner Claude about his expansion of the store. He was previously located in

the Cherokee shopping district and knows he made a wise move to GSG. As we spoke, the sounds of hammers and buzzsaws filled the air - the expansion (double his present space) is

due to open in late October.

On to the Vintage Haberdashery - I met Joilie and Eling who chose GSG because they like being a part of a group of businesses. They were in a more singular location before and also needed more space. They like the added flow and the

overall "togetherness" of their fellow merchants.

While browsing the Haberdashery, I ran into Barb - The cookie Lady, also known as "the Mrs. Fields of rock and roll". As a teenager she started baking cookies and taking them to any rock concerts that were in town. This native South St. Louisian has continued, for the last 18 years, on her sugar coated mission and showed

me a scrap book full of backstage passes and photos of the rock stars she has met. Many of them expect the Cookie Lady when they come to town. This weekend three different

groups are in town - so Barb had to hurry home to start baking, but before she left she gave me a cookie (yummy).



Deco 40's - Rockin' 50's - Groovy 60's

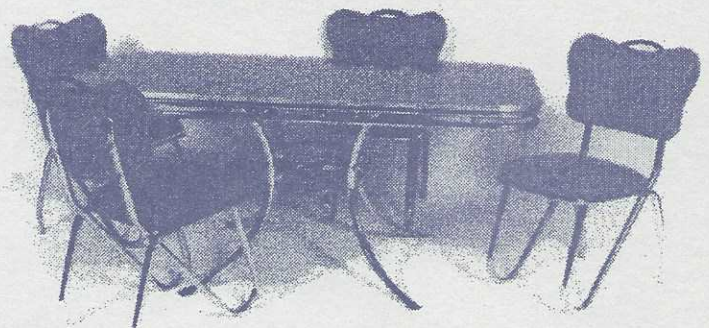
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Visiting Season Calls for Reservations

By Terry Winkelman

No matter what the season—Spring, Summer, Winter or Fall—the place to rest in Tower Grove is the Winter House. Out of town guests will feel right at home ensconced in a private room with bath at Kendall and Sarah Winter's bed and breakfast on Arsenal St.

Most neighborhood residents have heard of the Winter House, a longtime supporter of the Gazette. Walking along Arsenal, just east of Grand, you may have noticed Kendall out on the sidewalk picking up litter or chatting with neighbors. Unassuming on the exterior, the Winter House is a charmer inside.

The two-and-a-half story Victorian was built in 1897 and opened as a B&B nearly a century later, in 1989. Located at 3522 Arsenal, the home features three guest rooms, each outfitted with period fixtures and décor. The Carrie Kimbrell Bedroom features a pineapple poster bed and pressed tin ceiling. Next door, The Alma Culp Suite and Rose Room offer similarly ornate period furnishings. All three rooms were named for friends and family members, including the latter named in honor of Kendall's mother, whose maiden name was Rose.

Rates currently range from \$85 to \$125, based on double occupancy. For single occupancy deduct \$20.00. If guests only stay one night there is a \$20 surcharge but for longer stays there is a

10% reduction after the second night. A third person staying in the room incurs a slight additional charge. Children are welcome and smoking is restricted.

While the Winters are unable to accommodate pets with their travelling companions, guests who are in need of a furry-fix can always visit with Purrrhaps, the resident feline.

Visitors have come from Kansas City, Chicago, Indiana, Italy, The United Kingdom, Australia, Israel and even from St. Louis! "Many of our guests have been in town to attend the symposium at the Botanical Garden," notes Kendall.

In addition to the convenient location and beautifully appointed bedrooms, considerations such as a writing desk, fruit bowl, cut flowers and chocolates in each room make a stay at the Winter House especially cozy. Breakfast is enlivened with the addition of fresh squeezed orange juice and Kendall-specials such as an oven-baked pancake, baked pears or apple flambé. Add to that live piano music, performed by Central West End resident Will Robertson, and the experience is complete.

The Winter House
3522 Arsenal St
St Louis, MO 63118-2004

Hosts: Kendall and Sarah Winter

Telephone: (314) 664-4399
email: kmwinter@swbell.net

RECIPE CORNER

By Audrey Anderson

For the last 15 years I have lived two doors down from Harold and Marie Schaeffer, but I am a newcomer to the neighborhood. The



Schaeffers have been on Utah for the last 48 years, and prior to that, they lived and grew up in the immediate area.

They remember when Grand Avenue and even Spring were filled with stores and shops. They didn't need a car to run all their shopping errands, and they didn't need one for dates either, there were three movie theaters in the immediate area. When Marie was a girl, her best friend's Dad would treat them to Sunday afternoon matinees at the Fox and I was amazed to hear that before the movie was shown, the audience was treated to live performances by major stars. Marie remembers seeing a Mae West show, and big band performances by Jimmy Dorsey, Harry James, Guy Lombardo and Paul Whiteman.

Both Marie and Harold attended St. Pius grade school, and if you are from St. Louis you will want to know where they went to high school - Marie went to Roosevelt, Harold to St. Mary's.

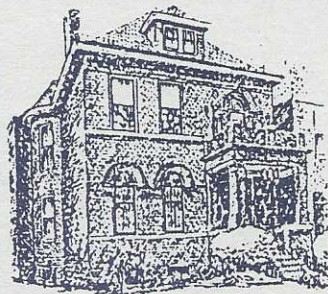
The doctor has told Harold to cut back on his fat intake, and Marie found this salad dressing recipe in a Miss Hullings cookbook. It is tasty and can be used on salad, slaw and cucumbers.

2 Cups cider vinegar
1 1/2 Cups sugar
2 tsp. Pepper Shake. That's it. When you run out, make more.

The doctor didn't say to cut out all fat, and Harold enjoys his sweets, so he occasionally treats himself to Marie's sugar cookies.

1/2 Cup butter
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 Cup oleo
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 Cup confectioner sugar
1/2 tsp. Salt
1/2 Cup granulated sugar
2 1/2 Cup flour
1 large egg

Cream butter and oleo in mixer. Add sugars. Add egg. Add remaining dry ingredients. Form into 1-inch balls. Roll in granulated sugar. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. Press dough with bottom of glass. (Wet the glass to prevent sticking). Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes.



THE WINTER HOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST

Hosts: Kendall & Sarah Winter

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MEMORIES OF HOLIDAYS PAST

By Mark Abbott

I suspect that I am like a lot of other "Tower Grove Heightsians" in that some of my fondest and earliest memories of the neighborhood revolve around the Holidays. Even before we closed on our house on Hartford, a couple of days before New Year's Day, 1990, my wife, Lynn, "suggested" that we attend the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association's Holiday Party at St. John's Church on Arsenal. Even though I was a little dubious about the house (it did not have a functioning bathroom, just to name one of its minor deficiencies), the party convinced me that Lynn was right—this neighborhood was a special place. I could immediately sense that the holidays only magnified what was already there—a real sense of community.

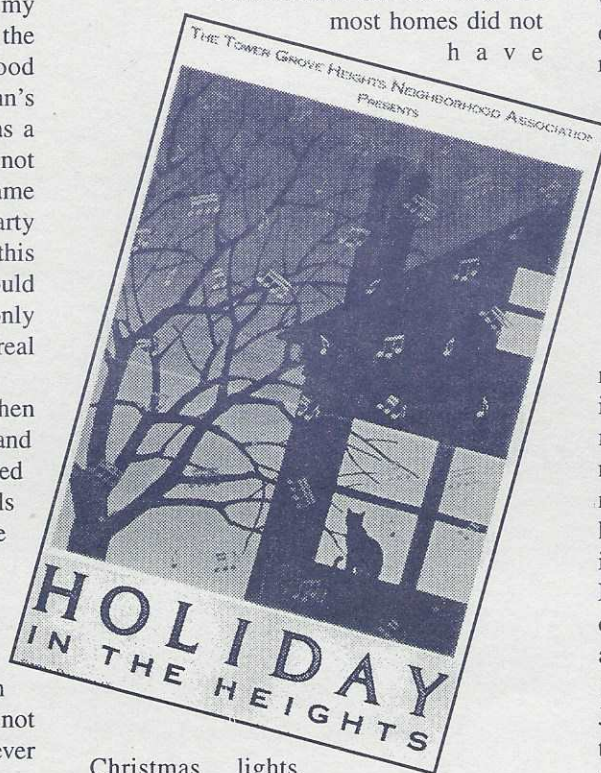
A few weeks later, though, was when my love affair with the neighborhood and the holidays began. We had just closed and we were beginning to move our tools and a few odds and ends over to the house. It had snowed during the day and when we came out at night, it was almost magical. The streetscape was breath taking with the Christmas lights twinkling on the fresh snow. Even after a decade in the neighborhood, I do not think the sensation of that night will ever grow old. So that is why I wanted to know how the Holidays became such a special time in the Heights.

The first person that came to mind to talk to was Susan Barrington. While I am not positive of this, I suspect she is easily the resident who has lived in the neighborhood the longest. Susan has lived in the neighborhood since 1915 and has lived in the same house on Juniata since 1923. She says her first personal memory of the holidays was having a "theory" about Santa Clause when she was six or seven. But the thing she remembers the most about the neighborhood when she was young was that everyone had a Christmas tree. While we take Christmas trees for common now, they were not really a holiday tradition in the United States until the late nineteenth century. The large influx of Germans to St. Louis, however, probably made the Christmas tree a holiday fixture in St. Louis—and especially the southside—somewhat earlier than elsewhere since the Christmas tree, the

weihnachtsbaum, originated in Germany during the sixteenth century.

Trees back then could be purchased up and down Grand with Scotch Pines being a favorite. Unlike today, though, Susan's family put up and decorated the tree the night before Christmas. Another difference

between then and now was that most homes did not have



Christmas lights.

While Christmas lighting was possible even before the twenties, Christmas lights in the neighborhood were not common before WWII. If people wanted to see lights, downtown was the place to go. All of the major department stores had elaborate window displays.

For other longtime Heights residents, the holidays bring back bittersweet memories. Fred Heller, who has lived in the neighborhood on Connecticut since 1940, naturally remembers WWII when the holidays arrive. He was drafted on December 21, 1942 and spent Christmas Eve on a train to California. The Holidays in 1943 found him on an island off of New Guinea. Christmas 1944 was not much better. His unit was preparing for the invasion of the Philippines and what he remembers most is having rats walk across his head while he was trying to sleep at night. But Christmas 1945 has pleasant associations. The war was over and Fred was back in San Francisco.

"Newcomers" like Bill Moore and Catherine Kilker, who both moved into the neighborhood in 1962, have slightly different memories of the holidays. The thing that Bill remembers the most about the holidays in the neighborhood was that he and his wife, Mary, moved into their house on Hartford between Christmas and New Year's Day. Instead of dismantling their tree, they simply moved it—ornaments and all. But the holidays also remind him of their longtime neighbors, Richard and Mary Ann Manley, and all the wonderful holiday gatherings they shared over the years. What Catherine remembers, though, about past holidays in the Heights, is buying her kids chocolate

Santa Clauses at Mavrokos, a candy store that was located between Hartford and Arsenal. She also remembers going to Progressive Dinner parties with her husband throughout the neighborhood and how there was more caroling back then than now.

However, for some long time residents, like Veda Lynn—who has been in the neighborhood since the thirties—maybe the best holidays in the neighborhood have been some of the most recent ones. For her, the nicest holidays have been tied to the Association's Holiday in the Heights started in the early nineties. Initially conceived as a lighting competition between Tower Grove Heights and Tower Grove Place by Cindy Lazzari in 1990, Holiday in the Heights grew under Jan Nesser (1991-1993) to being a winter time festival involving a concert with neighborhood symphony players, a neighborhood sing, a food collection for needy families in the Heights, open houses, and streetside luminaria. But the one activity in Holiday in the Heights Veda has enjoyed the most was when longtime resident, Ed Schroeder, still lived in the neighborhood and Ed would don his Santa suit and Veda et.al. would don their "elf" suits and they would walk the neighborhood distributing candy to the children.

While the Holiday in the Heights has ebbed and flowed in recent years due to time and financial constraints, I feel it still represents that magical essence of the neighborhood—that the Heights is not just a place, but a community. So whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hannukkah, Kwanzaa, or the Winter Solstice, I urge you to join your neighbors in participating in whatever holiday activities take place this year to celebrate living in such a vital community.

ARTS IN THE 'HOOD Features...

Dancer Mary Ann Rund

With this newsletter, Suzanne Rhodenbaugh begins "Arts in the 'Hood," a series on the many people in the arts in Tower Grove Heights and nearby neighborhoods.

Mary Ann Rund calls dance her source of "passionate connectedness." She also calls it "what has sustained me." It's the center of a wheel that extends to modern dance performance, as a member of the Gash/Voigt Dance Theatre, and in association with other dancers and companies; to teaching dance and yoga at Washington University and Mary Institute and Country Day School; to choreography; and to dance review for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Sustenance and connection are not terms she uses lightly. Early on she struggled to find her life's work, eventually exchanging what she'd anticipated would

be medicine-related work for full-time work in dance; and in 1997 she went through cancer treatment at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

A St. Louis native, Mary Ann grew up in a family of nine children in the St. Louis Hills neighborhood. She graduated from Xavier High School, on the St. Louis University campus. In the first years subsequent to high school she traveled and worked in Colorado and California and other points west.

She had begun dance lessons at age four or five and continued until about the eighth grade. Not until she was 25, however, and majoring in biology at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, did an intermittent interest in dance become intense. Then, she says, "my occasional interest in dance

switched places with my interest in biology." She graduated with degrees in both, and went on to complete a Master of Fine Arts in Dance at Florida State University, and do three years of post-graduate studio and performance work in New York.

In 1992 she returned to St. Louis and her longtime partner, Charlie Khan, and his son Nick. (Their household also includes the large canines Basil and Sequia.) Her first five years back in St. Louis she was a member of Suzanne Grace's Burning Feet Dance Company. She's now in her




second season with the Gash/Voigt troupe.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, she'll be through most of a busy fall performance schedule. In September she performed in "Dance Close-up" with other members of the Washington University dance faculty; and at Tower Grove Park with Gash/Voigt in collaboration with River Styx poets and composer/percussionist Ray Castrey. In early October she danced with the Midwest Dance Alliance at Miner's Theatre in Collinsville, Illinois, in a concert to benefit Doorways, a housing assistance program for people living with HIV/AIDS. On October 29 she presented "Harvesting Grace," an evening of her work to benefit the Arts as Healing program of the Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish.

February 18-20 and February 25-27, 2000, Mary Ann and other members of the Gash/Voigt Dance Theatre will perform in "Ancestors," a production to be done in collaboration with dance companies from Greece and Turkey, part of a cultural exchange program funded by the U.S. Information Agency. Those performances will be at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. ***


Suzanne Rhodenbaugh is a poet and Essayist. She and her husband Tom moved to St. Louis in March, and are thoroughly enjoying the folks, artists and otherwise, in the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood. Call her at 772-6587 if you have a suggestion of an actor, dancer, designer, musician, painter, sculptor, writer or other artist she might profile in a future newsletter.



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Resident Profile

By Erin O'Reilly

Jay Diamond married into this neighborhood several years ago when he married me! He is originally from the Catskills area of New York, then lived in Vermont and Montana for many years. He quit college and moved out to Montana to work for the railroad.

While working on the railroad, he lived in a boxcar (which has made for many entertaining stories for our 5-year-old son, Jesse, who loves trains). Jay eventually went back to school for an A.D. degree in forestry and worked for the U.S. Forest service for 3 years. In December of 1978, he hitchhiked through New England with his cross-country skis. This adventure lasted 2 years. He then moved back to Bozeman, Montana where he worked for U.P.S., attended Montana State U. and enjoyed the "Big Sky" country. His experiences eventually sparked an interest in physical therapy and he moved to St. Louis in 1983 for P.T. school at Washington University.

He never thought he'd stay in St. Louis, but first school, then a job with Wash. U. P.T. Department, then ME, and now a family has kept him here for 16 years!!! We met in Tower Grove Park while he was walking his dog and I was walking myself. At that time, he lived on Alfred Street on "the other side" of the park and we would rendezvous in the park.

Jay completed his education in 1989 with a Master's degree in Health Sciences with an emphasis in Physical Therapy. For 10 years, he worked as a supervisor in outpatient orthopedics at the Wash. U., then Barnes, then B.J.C. Physical Therapy department. Then in 10/96 he opened a south city P.T. clinic for a private Physical Therapy practice called PRORehab. This locally owned outpatient, orthopedic clinic is located on south Kingshighway and shares a building with the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. The clinic, which started with Jay and one office person, has now grown to include another full-time physical therapist, a part-time athletic trainer, physical therapy aides, and the office staff. They specialize in outpatient rehabilitation for orthopedic injuries and dysfunction and post-surgical orthopedic rehabilitation. I surmise that Jay's clients must like him because they bring him all sorts of

treats and gifts during the course of their treatment and we have enjoyed several friendships arising from their P.T. with Jay (or maybe they are just trying to bribe him so they won't have to work so hard?!) Jay is also quite involved with the Mo. Physical Therapy Association and has served as the treasurer for the past 4 years.

Jay has found his niche here in TGH now that he has lived here for 6 years. He likes the "small town feel" where people know their neighbors and enjoy socializing, working and having pride in their community. He is glad to be close to Tower Grove Park and the Botanical Garden—it is a token from his rural heritage—and

within walking distance to his favorite restaurants and shops. Weather permitting, he can also ride his bike to work. Another benefit is our son's school-Kennard, which is close by and has LOTS of TGH children enrolled so it overlaps with this community!

Jay ranks the birth of our son, Jesse, high on the scale of life events and is proud to have caught him as I birthed him. He is a very involved father and enjoys fishing, hiking, camping, bread baking, sports, family, community, and school activities with Jesse and me. Jesse and I rank him way up there also—he's a superb husband and father and I'm really glad he joined our family and community



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Grove Heights
Homes

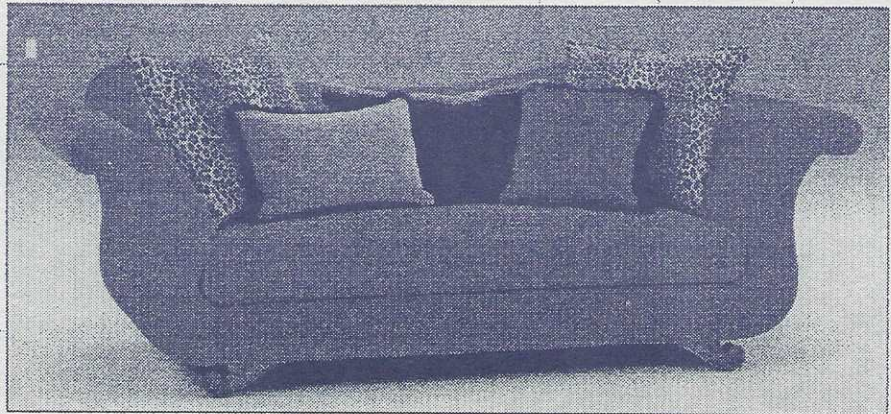
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TREASURES OF TOWER GROVE PARK The Statues

By Don Hardin

Broad avenues, stretching the length of the park, curve around large statues. These statues are focal points during a walk or ride.

The statue of Shakespeare was unveiled on April 23, 1878, the 314th anniversary of the playwright's birth. It was designed and executed by Ferdinand Miller, who later became the Baron von Miller and the first president of the International Exhibition of Art. He had apparently



been recommended to Shaw by Barnett. That fall the statue of the famous naturalist and explorer, Alexander von Humboldt, also executed by Miller, was unveiled. The unveiling was an elaborate ceremony with band music and oratory, with the city's German societies in attendance. Architect Barnett designed the

distinctive pedestals for the Statues.

The cost of each statue delivered to St.

Louis, not including the pedestal and setting up expenses, was \$5,000.

Years of correspondence between Shaw and Miller about the next statue show



(At right): Christopher Columbus, by Ferdinand von Miller. Rocks west from inside the Grand Ave. entrance, is said to be the first bronze statue of Columbus in the U.S.

(At left): Renaissance man Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), also sculpted by von Miller, was perhaps the most widely admired man of the 19th century. More places around the world are named for him than any other scientist.

Shaw's compulsive concern for detail. The benefactor and sculptor argued over whether the statue of Christopher Columbus should have a beard. The heroic bronze of a bearded Columbus was unveiled in 1886, but under Columbus's cloak, there is an engraving disclaiming the sculptor's responsibility for the beard.

Welcome to Tower Grove Heights

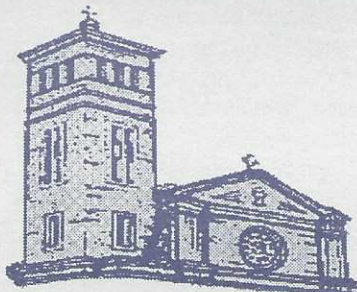
Olivia (born June 21)
daughter of Christy and
Vince Estrada, 3800 Utah

Colin Gilker (born July 1)
son of Curt Gilker and
Sherry Taylor, 3800
Connecticut

Jonathan Leimbach, (born
September 21)
son of Cary and Stacy
Leimbach, 3700 Hartford

Robert II, (born September
27) son of Robert and Opal
Jones, 3800 Hartford

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On The Vine Prepares For Holidays

By Terry Winkelman

Whether for gift giving or serving at a special Holiday get-together, nothing makes choosing a wine simpler and more fun than a visit to Once Upon A Vine.

After years of wishing for our very own wine-shop, the greater Tower Grove neighborhood is now fortunate to be home to Once Upon A Vine and to have Linda Reis-McGovern to introduce us to the wonders of the grape. In recent years, she notes, wines have become more accessible to connoisseurs of all levels. "You can get a good wine from South America, Australia or South Africa at a lower cost (than a French or Italian import)," she says.

But if you're planning on placing velvet-wrapped bottles of American Sparkling wine or French Champagne under someone's Christmas tree this year, Reis-McGovern urges you to "buy it now." "Every time I get a shipment in, it's gone up (in price)," she says.

It's not quite stomping on the grapes, but neophytes can nonetheless get their feet wet with Once Upon A Vine's informal wine tastings on the third Thursday of each month or with a formal wine dinner, scheduled once a month. Informal tastings typically follow a theme, such as October's session which examined "vertical vintages in American Cabernet." The dinners are hosted by Reis-McGovern along with a representative of either a winery or a wine distributor.

The old rule of pairing red wine with red meat, and white wine with white meats, is a less rigid guide these days, she says. "Typically white wines are served with fish, chicken and hors d'oeuvres, but nowadays, it's really whatever your preference is. You might go from a lighter wine to a heavier wine during the course of a meal, but it's not a rule."

"Pinot noir (a red grape) and chardonnay (a white) will both blend with lighter, white meats and seafood," she notes.

For pasta with red sauce, she recommends a Merlot or Red zinfandel. And as for vegetarians and their very light

vegetable-based meals, she suggests a pinot blanc or sauvignon blanc.

"Most people, when they don't know the person's preference, stick with white wine (as a gift)" she observes. Red wines, with their tendency to be drier and heartier than white wines, may take longer to appreciate. Because they also tend to be more complex, reds often appeal to more experienced wine consumers. If you're planning to make a gift of a good bottle of red to a friend who knows wine, Reis-McGovern suggests you start by considering a cabernet, sauvignon or Bordeaux style of red or a pinot noir. But once you settle on the grape, you still have to choose a winery and year. Once Upon the Vine carries Wine Spectator magazine for those in search of a text-based education, but nothing beats personal experience. "Experiment, taste, see what you like," she says.

If you just can't decide, Reis-

McGovern and partner Dan Hill of Botanicals on the Park will choose for you and assemble a gift basket filled with appropriate wine accessories and/or snacks.

Once Upon A Vine
3559 Arsenal
776-2828

Once Upon A Vine will resume its monthly String Quartet Dinner concerts this winter, with a private four-course meal followed by concert on Nov. 14th and 15th. Seating is \$50 per



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Tower Grove Park News

By John Karel

The summer may be over but there is a full calendar of activities still ahead here at Tower Grove Park. Even with the September drought autumn will still be beautiful in the Park, with the leaves turning from green to red and yellow, and the autumn flowers in full bloom. The weather is perfect for picnics and nature walks or family outings. The Park offers soccer fields, softball diamonds and tennis courts for the athletically inclined. For those trying to escape the rush of the world, relax under a pavilion or a century year old tree.

Autumn brings the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra (SLSO) back to Tower Grove as they continue a series of concerts November 9, December 14, March 14, April 11 and May 9 at the Piper Palm House. SLSO in an effort to bring "Music to Everyone!" has created this Tuesday evening series at the Palm House. Come and listen to the sounds of The Magnolia String Quartet, Strings and Reeds or The Tones and enjoy the beauty of the newly renovated Piper Palm House. Concerts begin at 7:00 pm and are followed by a reception at 8:15 pm. For more information and reservations please call 286-4432.

Enjoy the splendor of the park as it was meant to be seen, in a horse drawn carriage. The newest addition to the park staff is "Jimmy Joe", our four-year-old Clydesdale that loves to tour the park. A carriage ride is the perfect touch for weddings, anniversaries or just for fun. For more information call Jim Helton at the Piper Palm House 865-1093.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Braznell

My husband, Jay, and I have an ongoing discussion about whether it is possible to cheat at the card game of Solitaire. He maintains that the object of Solitaire, since you play by yourself, is to have fun. Therefore, there is no such thing as cheating. I maintain that the object of Solitaire is to match wits against the randomness of the cards. If you accept that premise, then anything that disturbs the randomness is cheating.

We both play Solitaire on the computer. He clicks the "Deal" button until he gets a hand he likes. I take whatever hand is dealt. Both of us enjoy playing, so our needs are being met despite our philosophical differences about the purpose of the game.

There are different means to accomplish any given end. People often disagree about the route taken, but if we can agree on a desired outcome, the rest is solvable. Sometimes we just need a little perspective.

When Jay and I were rehabbing the house next door to us, a

neighbor complained about the noise. Jay said, "Well, we can always sell it back to the people who lived here before we bought it!" That helped the neighbor put things in perspective: a bit of short-term noise was a lot better than the cussing, fighting, thievery, and destructiveness that characterized the former inhabitants for ten years! This is a time of taking stock and preparing for the thanksgiving season ahead. Step out on your front porch and look around. Yes, the dumpster across the street is taking up two parking spaces for weeks on end, but when that house is finished and sold or occupied, it will contribute to, rather than detract from, your quality of life. If the two-family next door is a problem, try some different routes to the desired outcome. Talk to the tenants, talk to the owner, or, maybe, buy the property yourself. If the person down the street puts in white replacement windows and you think brown would be better, be happy that they have improved their property rather than begrudge them bad taste.

And let's be thankful that our neighborhood continues to prosper and grow.

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President: Elizabeth Braznell
President Elect: Cheryl Jones
Secretary: Diane Hurwitz
Asst. Secretary: Stacy Leimbach
Treasurer: Patty Schneider
Past President: Mark Abbott

Committee Chairs

Block Representatives: Joe Thele
Fun & Fundraising: Jeffrey Blunt
Gazette: Sara Langan
Membership & Social: Robert Jones
Neighborhood Safety: Need
Representative

Physical Improvements: Mark Abbott
Promotion & Marketing: Amada Doyle

Tenant Committee: Jeff Muse

Block Representatives

3600/3700 Arsenal
J. Andrew Habernern
Margaret Prichard
3800 Arsenal
Elliott Blevins
Fredric Rissover
3600/3700 Hartford
Gretchen Arnold
3800 Hartford
Joe Thele
3600/3700 Juniata
Jane Cochran
Jill Nissen
3800 Juniata
Lucinda McNary
3600/3700 Connecticut
Need Additional Representative
Sarah Griesbach
3800 Connecticut
Curt Gilker/Sherry Taylor
Bill/Noel Shamleffer
3600/3700 Wyoming
Bob Walker
3800 Wyoming
Pat Strawhun
Linda Fick
3600/3700 Humphrey
Sue Clavin
Mary Fazholz
Susan Freedman
3800 Humphrey
Susan Huck
3600/3700 Utah Place
Doug Harding/ Robyn Schrager
Mary Dugan
3800 Utah Place
Susie Gudermuth
Veda Lynn

Upcoming Events

November

- 1 Election Day
- 9 TGH Block Representative Meeting
- 15 Book Discussion Carpenter Library,
"In the Time of Butterflies" 7 PM
- 17 Grand Oak Hill General Meeting
7 PM
- 20 Children's Party Carpenter Library,
1:30-2:30, Ages 6-14
- 23 "Native American Tales" Carpenter
Library 1:30-2:30, Grades 1-5
Elections & General Meeting Tower
Grove Heights Neighborhood Assoc.
7:15 PM
- 25 Thanksgiving

December

- 4 Hanukkah
- 5 Chanukah Festival of Lights
- 11 Carpenter Branch Open House
3-5 PM
- 14 TGH Block Representative Meeting
- 20 Book Discussion Carpenter Library,
"Montana 1948" 7 PM
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Kwanza Festival of the First Fruits

Botanical Garden Free Admission
until noon Wednesdays and
Saturdays

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Look at the mailing label of this Gazette. If you are a member it will tell you when your membership is due for renewal. If you are not a member-join today and you will be mailed all 6 issues of the Gazette. Membership dues raise more funds for the neighborhood than any other activity. Please show your support for your association and your neighborhood by joining today!

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