

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Grand to Gustine

Arsenal to Utah Place

February 26, 1994

Volume 6, Number 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Margie Meyer

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For those of you who are meeting me for the first time, I want to say hello and that I look forward to meeting each of you. It's a New Year for the TGH Board and Committees and I think it's going to be a good one. Many of the activities that we will be engaging in have been done before and some are new. What I would like to stress first is "Why we do what we do."

The Association has Four Main Goals and each activity is meant to help accomplish them. The goals are:

To encourage more block cohesiveness,

To educate and assist in safety consciousness,

To promote the neighborhood, and

To motivate and activate the membership.

There is much to be done, and good reason to do it. We live here. We have a good neighborhood and intend to keep it that way. We have history here, with many of us investing years raising our families and rehabbing our homes, inside and out. Our friends are here. It's convenient -to our work, to the park, to the library, to the corner stores and taverns and churches and shopping on Grand. Our homes give us a lot of square footage for the money as well as charm and history. **We've been spoiled by the easy living.**

We cannot afford to become complacent. We've got a lot of good but we have some problems, too. Some have been around for years, and some are new. Some are limited to just us, and some are sweeping the nation. None are insurmountable. We have areas of concern, so let's be concerned enough to do

something. **Getting together means a little effort by each of us equals enormous results for all of us.** This is your neighborhood. It's been good to you, and with a little consideration, will continue to be so.

The rest of the Gazette will provide you with the information on the events coming up soon and during the year. We will be emphasizing education on issues of safety and crime prevention because "knowledge is power". There will be opportunities provided to get to know folks because **good neighbors make safe neighborhoods.** We will be forming block committees to handle the work of the block captains because many hands make light work and because there is strength in numbers.

Many of you have never considered the Neighborhood Association as relevant to your life and many of you who have supported us financially have left all of the work to the few. This year, I ask that you reconsider.

The Association provides the information as well as the structure. But it's up to you to place a value on the benefits of city living and to do something to protect your investment and lifestyle. Be willing to be aware of what's going on outside your window, get to know your neighbor, become informed and act on it. Decide what's important to you and be willing to do your part to make it happen. Volunteer for something, join a committee, or show for some meetings. You will not be acting alone and your actions will join with others and become part of the whole. There are all types of **activities**, many of them **fun**, and all sorts of help, much of it **free**. We all know the quote, "You're either part of the problem or part of the solution." Get involved. **We're looking forward to meeting you.**

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS

By Jean Iezzi

In the spirit of recognizing the really wonderful folks who live in Tower Grove Heights, we are initiating a Good Neighbor Award.

Good Neighbors are all of the folks who make living here the worthwhile place that it is.

We are asking you to nominate all of those who qualify, including those who: regularly clean the debris in the alley, watch our children at the bus stops, take you to the doctor, shovel the snow off of your sidewalk, as well as those who have volunteered their time or services for block parties, or alley clean up, or cookies for cops, or any of the other many good deeds that have been performed by the members of our community.

This award is a way that we as friends and neighbors can show our appreciation to those who have made this community a better place to live.

You might say that with all of the good folks that have contributed to this community over the years, that this awards ceremony will be quite a party. You are right!

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Tower Grove Heights Gazette

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ON GRAND by Lou Jenneman

Has the gray weather and lack of sunshine made you wish Florida was closer? The Shelton Davis Salon on Grand South Grand can bring some spice into your life. Recently named one the ten best salons in St. Louis by the Riverfront Times, the Shelton Davis Salon is committed to helping you look and feel like a million.

Almost five years ago the Salon started as one of the first new storefronts of the reviving business district on Grand. Dan Shelton states that since that time business has climbed. Recently the Salon has expanded its size and services to accommodate the needs of their growing clientele.

Hairstyling is the backbone of their services. With five stylists available, appointments can sometimes be made the same day. This is great when you make that sudden decision to change your image!! Call a day or two ahead and you can arrange for manicures, pedicures, facials, and therapeutic body massage. Have you ever thought about that perfect makeup job? At Shelton Davis you can have make up professionally applied that will fit with your clothes and occasion.

While someone else is taking care of you, relax and listen to the music, enjoy the art shows that are changed every three months, and visit with your neighbors. What a great way to spend a day!



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Meet The Press

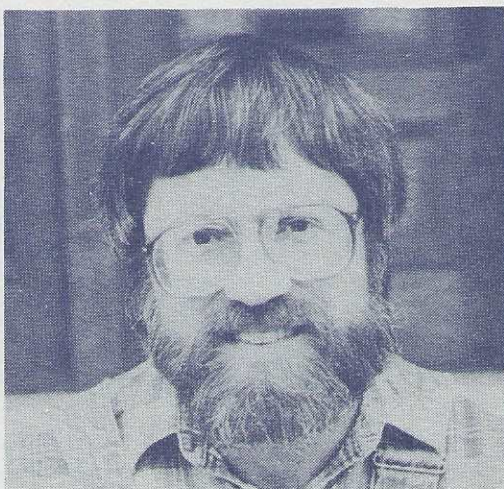
By Stephanie Gavin

Many of you probably already know Rich Iezzi. After all, he's lived at 3809 Hartford for 12 years, and owned the building for 15. Maybe he's your landlord--he owns a total of seven properties in Tower Grove Heights, four more in other areas of the city. You might have met his wife a time or two, Jean Iezzi, president-elect of the TGH neighborhood association. And his daughters, Carolyn and Christa, two very pretty sandy blonde gals, are easy to sight. But in case you don't know Rich, or even if you do, he's a heck-of-a-guy!

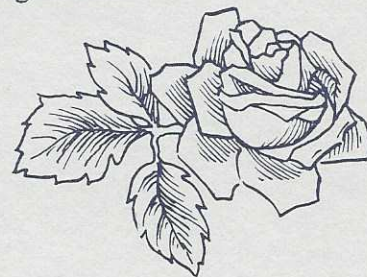
In addition to writing for the Gazette, keeping his many properties in top shape, and working as an engineer at Southwestern Bell, Rich also finds time to collect pipe organs, rehab, read in his favorite chair, go on Sunday drives and take neighborhood strolls. He also enjoys walking around downtown during work breaks, "I love old architecture and sneaking in basements to look around." He always discovers new things on his walks, as opposed to what he would see

strolling in the suburbs, "I can't imagine walking by the same type of house over and over--how boring!"

What Rich doesn't find time to do is watch TV., which gives him four hours of time to work each night. "I like to go to bed and really feel like I've accomplished something for the day," says Rich about his fast-paced days and nights. "I like taking care of people--I think that's what I was put here to do." And by limiting TV. time to the bare minimum, Rich is able to help, rehab, read, write...it's enough to keep him busy.



In addition to the beautiful architecture of our neighborhood, Rich enjoys living close to people and the feeling that neighbors up and down the street are there to care and help out. "It's always reminded me of Bedford Falls in 'It's a Wonderful Life.' And we have great parties!" As a long-time resident of Tower Grove Heights, Rich believes the neighborhood and South Grand have "never been better! Just five years ago walking on Grand was depressing! There was nothing there--except Woolworth's, which I actually still miss." He also believes he has better renters than ever, "Things are just great right now!" Rich's enthusiasm is catching. As the happy, helpful, exciting, and inspiring man that he is, the Gazette benefits from Rich Iezzi's energy--as does the neighborhood!



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PRAIRIE WILDFLOWERS IN TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS

(Continued from the December issue of the Gazette)

By Richard Clinebell

Prairie Gentian (*Gentiana puberula*). These clusters of deep purple, iridescent, upright chalice filigreed with intricate nectar guides (purple stripes at the base of the chalice to guide pollinators to the goodies) are, in my view, the most beautiful entity that exists in the St. Louis area. Actually, it barely exists here. I have found seven unprotected plants in Jefferson County, though two were destroyed in cable TV cable installation two years ago. This leaves five, plus the 40-odd yearlings from seed of these plants that I nervously shepherd under the lath frame that Don (Hardin) built for their nurturing. They have lived with us nearly 18 months, and hopes are high for their successful permanent placement about 6-8 inches from the edge of a Northern Dropseed tussock, about the only place in nature that they show much enthusiasm for consenting to grow and bloom.



It has been one of the great joys of my life to show these plants to people when they are in full bloom in latest October. It is fun to see normal, sedate adult people reduced to childlike wonder and awe, and it is my sincere hope that the successful return of the Prairie Gentian to TGH will result in more people being able to see it. Don and I have collected seed of a second population (of 5 plants) in Marion County, Illinois on black prairie loam. Additionally, my brother has sent us seed of the Bottle Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*) from a population restored from seed on the family farm in Stark County, Illinois. These bottles came from seed collected on the last natural prairie there, which was destroyed in 1986. I have not found the Bottle Gentian in the St. Louis area, although historical records exist for St. Louis County. Bottles are much easier to grow than Prairies and just as gorgeous. Barring disaster, I believe it is not too early to claim that the Bottle Gentian has also returned to St. Louis County and to TGH.

Fremont's Leatherleaf (*Clematis fremontii* variety *riehlii*). This member of the Buttercup Family (*Ranunculaceae*) is one of the state's most famous endemics (endemic meaning it grows only in a highly restricted range, in this case being only on limestone glades in a few counties from Jefferson to Ste. Genevieve and nowhere else in the world). Because of the continuing destruction of glades from development and from juniper invasion which shades the glade and kills all the glade plants, Fremont's Leatherleaf is on the state's Watch List, a plant which may

become threatened in the near future, if current trends continue.

The leathery leaves of this miniature 1-foot tall "shrub" become lacelike in fall, with only the veins of the leaves remaining. Virtually everyone who has seen it has, or has had, a vase of these incredible dried leaves repositied in a focal position in their house, and while most prairie plants have huge geographic ranges spanning many states, Fremont's Leatherleaf is ours and ours alone. It grows nowhere else in the world.

It is easy to grow and care for, and bloomed well in its slight "range extension" into TGH in the summer of 1993. Because of its beauty, history and precarious status, this is another plant I would like to see more of in the urban landscape.

Finally, I would like to say that it is seldom, if ever, appropriate to dig plants from the wild. Still, it is possible and appropriate to landscape a Victorian townhouse in TGH with native grasses and wildflowers harmonious to the tenor and comportment of the neighborhood by using low stature species as described here, and propagating these from seed. It is not often that citizens have an opportunity to contribute to the cause of healing the wounds mankind has inflicted upon nature. Growing native plants in our yards is one thing that we can do. These efforts will continue to grow in importance as more and more local natural areas fall victim to our short-sighted, rapacious and self-destructive land use practices.

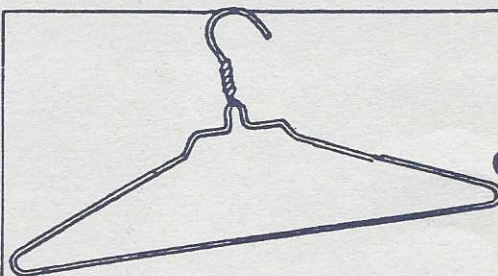
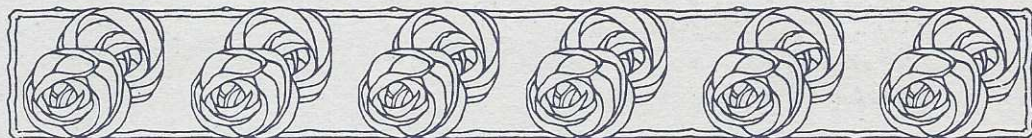
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◆◆◆ PRIDE IN PLACE WITH OUR GOOD NEIGHBORS ◆◆◆

By Jean Iezzi

A celebration of pride took place at the November 21st Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood general meeting. The Pride in Place awards were presented to over 70 well deserving neighbors who have taken pride in their residence.

Criteria for recognition covered exterior achievements which delight the eyes of residents and visitors to Tower Grove Heights. These endeavors had to be completed by the present owners and during the existence of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association (the last 6 years). This year's awards highlighted alley gardens, flattering exterior paint choices, beautiful front or back yard landscaping, lovely new front porches and back decks, and the overall impression of that unblemished Southside appearance. Recipients of the award included owners, tenants, and landlords.

As the recipients received their awards, they also received vigorous applause from the audience which clearly demonstrated the neighborhood's gratitude and admiration to the winners of the 1993 Pride in Place Award.

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association recognized the following for exhibiting their Pride in Place:

ARSENAL: 3640, 3644, 3646, 3650, 3720, 3802, 3830, 3850

HARTFORD: 3627, 3631, 3632, 3648, 3656, 3664, 3700, 3701, 3705, 3720, 3722, 3726, 3734, 3735, 3802, 3817, 3832, 3845, 3879

JUNIATA: 3639, 3640, 3726, 3730, 3806, 3824, 3848, 3863, 3865, 3885

CONNECTICUT: 3625, 3618, 3624, 3627, 3643, 3811, 3818, 3822, 3823, 3860, 3881

WYOMING: 3655, 3650-52, 3656, 3718, 3724, 3816, 3818, 3852, 3862, 3876, 3879,

HUMPHREY: 3618-20, 3807, 3822, 3834, 3838, 3855, 3859,

UTAH: 3626, 3636, 3661, 3724, 3735, 3832, 3834, 3880, 3888.

Recognition was also given to the Tower Grove South Housing Corporation for their development in the 3100 block of South Spring (between Juniata and Hartford).

Should you like to nominate someone for Pride in Place or the Good Neighbor award or if you would like to help with the next party, please call Jean Iezzi at 772-4987 or Margie Meyer at 776-8388.

TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS DESSERT RECIPE BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

In each issue of the Gazette, we plan to print one of the many taste tempting recipes that can be yours in the Tower Grove Heights Dessert Recipe Book. Profits benefit the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. Call 772-5982 to place your order.


DOUBLE DELICIOUS COOKIE BARS

Diane Hurwitz
Arsenal

- 1/2 cup margarine
- 14 oz. sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1 pkg. (12 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup peanut butter chips
- 1 1/2 tsp. shortening

In a 13x9 pan, melt margarine. Sprinkle graham cracker crumbs evenly over margarine. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over crumbs. Reserving 1 cup chocolate chips, sprinkle both peanut butter and chocolate chips on top; press down firmly.

Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned. When cool, drizzle with melted cup of reserved chocolate chips mixed with shortening.



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POLICE BEAT

by
Edward Schroeder

This month's meeting was hosted by the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association. It was held at the First Divine Science Church, 3617 Wyoming St.

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Chick Poe at 7:05 PM.

Chuck introduced the guest speaker of the evening, Patricia M. Doherty, Supervising U.S. Probation Officer, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Missouri. She spoke to us concerning "House Arrests" where their clients wear ankle bracelets to monitor their activity while under the control of the Probation Office. This is the Federal Program, not the state or local programs. All of the people in this program have been found guilty of a non-violent, usually, white collar crime. The judge chooses to sentence the criminal to home-confinement rather than to send him or her to prison. Most of these offenders have been stable to begin with. The criminal must have a suitable home, and must have a phone to be able to use the ankle bracelet.

Terry Shoemaker- The next meeting will be held on Feb. 10th, 1994, hosted by the Soulard Neighborhood, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1809 South 8th street. The meeting starts at 7:00 P.M. If your neighborhood would like to be a host for one of our meetings, please contact Terry or Candice Orlando.

Ed Schroeder welcomed us to the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood. He also welcomed us to the First Divine Science Church. This is where TGHNA holds its meetings. He told us to help ourselves to hot coffee, cake and cookies. He then introduced Margie Meyer, president of the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association.

Alderman Geraldine Osborne welcomed all to TGH, Grand Oak Hill, Tower Grove South, and the 15th Ward. She told of the mobile patrol in the area and how they are raising money to pay the phone bills for their mobile phones. They are raising money by having a raffle every month. On January 18th, there will be a mobile patrol training meeting at Grand-Oak Hill. On Feb. 9th, Holy

Family, 4137 Hartford, will hold a gang awareness seminar at 7 P.M..

Capt. Reece said Officers Haviland and Scott are home for the holidays. Officer Scott announced his upcoming wedding. The Police Academy is going at full capacity, 9 more officers in the 3rd district, 2 of these are Spanish American. And we have the first Vietnamese American officer. Next month we will get 12 more police officers, and in April, 10 more. Gambling boats are hiring our senior police officers away. We lost the neighborhoods' police liaison officer, Sgt. Tom Daly. He is retiring from the force and going to work for the President Casino(The old Admiral). The third district lost 4 sergeants and 3 police officers this way. Maryland Heights, St. Charles, Kimmswick, and Arnold will have casinos within the next 18 months and they are looking at our senior officers. Normally we lose 6 Officers a month. Now, it's 9 to 10 a month. We now have 20 officers in training. There is a minimum of 12 weeks training, then one year probation after they graduate from the police academy. By the end of this year we should be up to full strength in the police dept. Then we can get 100 additional officers, 30 will be beat officers, 10 will be in the third district, 20 will be funded by federal money. In 1972, the police department got 172 additional officers, they were 200 behind because of the Vietnam War. They hired 300 to 400 officers in a 2 year period. Those officers now have 20-25 years in the force and are retiring. This recent class was the first in 5 years where the entire class made it through all the courses to graduation. We are doing something right. Police held a meeting for 20 -30 business people in the third district. They are going to form a business association to help police and to establish some rapport, to address their common problems.

Next month, or the following one, we want to use at least one hour of this meeting for problem solving: a workshop for problems you are now having. Get into groups (there will be additional officers here) and discuss these things, things like vacant housing, gang activity. Then present your discussions back to the whole group. We need to have a

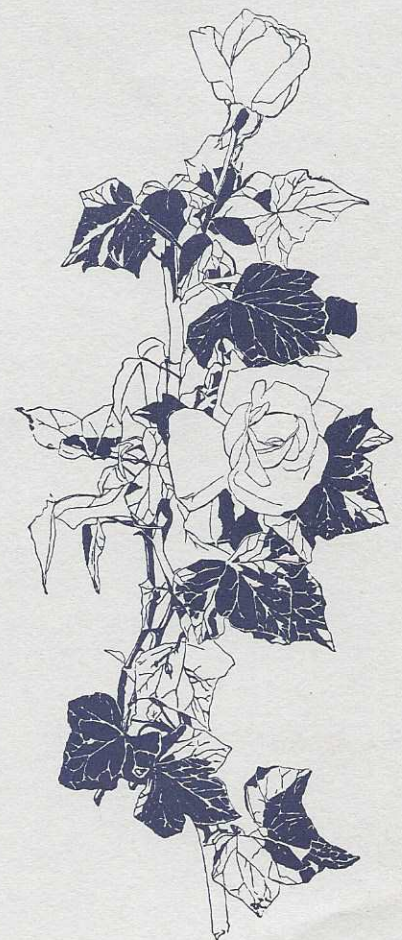
schedule to go to each of the neighborhoods with problem solving training. This will show you what you have to do to stop crime, to get our streets back. Go to the Gang Awareness Seminar, it is most important. If you know of any one passing out "hate" literature, let the captain know. We had 5-6 carjackings, 6 arrests were made, all the players were from East St. Louis, they caught the Metro Link to St. Louis, and randomly looked for cars to take. One victim was shot because he had a stick-shift and the carjacker did not know how to drive it.

Chief Harmon wants to get tougher with guns on the street. 7000 guns have been picked up off the streets. On New Year's Eve between 4:30 PM and 2:00 AM there had been 109 priority calls, shots fired. When this happens, first call the police, then call your neighbors to make sure they are OK.

Application forms for the citizen Police Academy are available. Police encourage everyone to join this academy, it is the pioneer Academy in the USA.

We will have shorter Public Affairs meetings so that there will be more time to talk to the officers who are present.

The meeting ended at 8:30.



Social Circles

By Jean Iezzi

The Promotion and Marketing Committee will begin an "in neighborhood" promotional campaign. The committee believes it is time to promote the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood from within. It knows that the strength of a neighborhood is in the happiness of the residents. When residents can recognize each other, or wave to an alley neighbor, or call a block neighbor to borrow a stick of butter or a shovel, a neighborly spirit grows. Tower Grove Heights has this spirit and it is time to nurture that feeling.

To strengthen the neighborhood energy, residents will be invited to attend a daytime social circle on their block. These social circles will be held in neighbors' homes where a continental breakfast will be served. While drinking coffee and munching on donuts, neighbors will have the opportunity to rekindle old friendships, meet new neighbors and generally catch up on the neighborhood news.

The first gathering of residents will be on the 3800 block of Connecticut,

March 18th at 9:30 a.m. Residents on the block will receive an invitation giving the location of the first Tower Grove Heights social circle.

Why morning social circles? A day-time get together reaches many residents who are unable to attend the evening general meetings. The Neighborhood Association wants to reach as many people as possible.

More social circles will be planned on different blocks. If you're interested in hosting a gathering on your block, call Laura Stadelman at 842-0517.

Cookies For Cops

By Jean Iezzi

Cookies for Cops was the brainchild of a Tower Grove Heights resident. She and several other people on the 36-3700 block of Connecticut wanted to do something extra for some police officers who helped eliminate problem tenants on that block. VOILA! The Cookies for Cops program was born.

Now, each holiday, Tower Grove Heights residents donate baked goods, fresh fruit, candy and gun to the 3rd District Police Department. This is a simple

yet effective way to let the police know that their efforts are appreciated and supported by the Tower Grove Heights residents.

The goodies are accompanied by a very large Thank You card when they are delivered to the super station. The name and address of each resident who contributed food are prominently featured on the card.

Cookies for Cops is a concept which has been noticed. KTVI Channel 2 ran a story on this innovative idea and 3rd District captains have written letters to the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association praising the program. Some of the most satisfying recognition comes from 3rd District officers when they tell a resident, "Oh, you live in the neighborhood where the Cookies for Cops program started. "Thanks". Although the program refers to "cops", the firefighters that serve Tower Grove Heights have been cookie recipients also.

The next two holidays when donations will be collected are St. Patrick's Day and Easter. If you would like to be involved in the Cookies for Cops program, call Jean Iezzi at 772-4987.



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A MESSAGE FROM REP. PAT DOUGHERTY

This upcoming legislative session promises to be one of the most interesting. Major issues to be discussed will include at least three major "reforms": Welfare Reform, Campaign Finance Reform and Health Care Reform. Issues of juvenile crime, punishment and prevention will also be key issues.

I will be filing two bills to deal with juveniles. One focuses on the need to make changes in our juvenile code. Some of the provisions include: new procedures for juvenile and adult courts to work more closely so juveniles don't fall through the cracks; revising the parental financial responsibility law; establishing a special first-time offender program in corrections for juveniles; increasing the jurisdiction of our Division of Youth Services to age 21; opening more juvenile records so records really follow the individual from one system

to the other; making it a crime to intentionally give a juvenile a concealable weapon; making it a crime to use kids in the commission of crimes.

There are many other juvenile bills filed to address other concerns and I expect many more to be filed as well.

The other bill will be a major effort to address some of the needs of our youth who are not in trouble. Over the last two decades we have reduced the number of opportunities our young people have for positive activities in the community. I will be filing the Youth Opportunities and Violence Prevention Act. It will promote, via business tax credits and grants, programs that provide jobs, educational and recreational opportunities; which are designed to generate self-reliance and self-esteem; and which also will help to prevent violence.

If you would like copies of these or other pieces of legislation, do not hesitate to contact me either in Jefferson City at 1-751-3599 or home at 772-1948.



INNER SPACES

By Tricia Heliker

Using paint to imitate natural materials is an art that is currently enjoying a renaissance. We've all experienced it somewhere over the years. Many St. Louisans have stood in awe at the wood-graining expertise of the Tichacek family. Several front entries in our neighborhood were grained by Mr. Tichacek. Wood-graining is but one example of the fabulous fakes that can be achieved with paint, a few simple tools, and a little know how. The know how is what I was looking for in Scottsdale, Arizona when I registered for five days of classes at the American Academy of Decorative Arts. Not knowing what to expect, I was slightly apprehensive. This was offset dramatically by thoughts of temperatures in the 70's, blue sky, and sunshine from dawn to dusk. I was not disappointed by the class or the weather as both were fantastic.

The instructor, Nella Opperman, was both delightful and talented. Her London accent sprinkled with terms of "lovey", "cotton bob", and "dust bin" gave a European flair to the learning experience. Her way of describing paint that was not flush to the surface was to say it "stands proud." Believe me our class of five "stood proud" by our sample boards on Friday.

We each left with a portfolio of the basic finishes in ragging, sponging, dragging, flogging, stippling, mottling, and leather. Our stone boards looked like granite, fossil stone, tortoise shell, lapis, marble, malachite, and porphyry. We also left with samples of mahogany, bird's eye maple, pine, oak, and burl walnut. Obviously we wasted little time during the week. If the week was busy the weekend was a whirlwind of activity part of which included exploring display and model homes in the area. It was fascinating to see the finishes I had spent the week learning, being used everywhere. Many walls and ceilings were ragged or mottled. Floors were all or partially faux granite or marble. Doors and furniture were grained, tables had faux tops, columns were marbleized, and arches were turned to stone with imitation grout lines and very real looking texture. The plane ride home was spent visually painting

everything in my home. Floors, fireplace tiles, baseboards, walls, tabletops, all succumbed to the imagination of a faux finish fanatic. But is this "fake" stuff what you would want in your home? It seems to be what many who could well afford the real thing want in their homes. As Nella would say, part of the charm of faux finishes is in the fooling of the eye. Prince Charles chose mahogany graining on recently constructed built in closets because they could be perfectly matched to existing wood in the room. The royal family in Holland used imitation crown molding which Nella marbleized to match the baseboards. Some of her clients simply enjoy the amazement of friends when they are let in on the secret that a finish is not "real".

So if you have always wanted to add a crown molding or beamed ceiling, consider adding it in polystyrene which is light and inexpensive. Then choose your finish and make a magical change to your room. Maybe just a dado is all you need to change the proportions of the room. How about changing the look of kitchen cabinets rather than replacing them? Walls and floors are of course the obvious and lend themselves to your imagination. Let's not forget about furniture. Drawer fronts in bird's eye maple can spark up a plain looking bureau and a granite top on a weathered wash stand can give it new life.

If you don't want to hire your finishes done, then check out a few books on the subject from Carpenter Library. If you still aren't feeling confident, just remember, Arizona is a great place to be in January. Classes are taught year round. Anyone interested in the schedule for this year, call me at 773-7130.



A VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

by The Private Eye

"Fighting Back"

As city neighborhoods go, Tower Grove Heights enjoys a relatively low crime rate. And yet...

I remember the evening in December when police car after police car raced up Arsenal Street toward Alfred, not far from The Heights, to break up a gang of drug dealers--an action that resulted in the shooting of two police officers.

On an early Sunday morning in January, some of our neighbors in The Heights heard gunshots and later found bullet damage to their fences and garages. Other neighbors have found graffiti on fences and garages, indicating that gangs are trying to stake out territory.

According to a police printout I was shown, during one month (November, 1993) Tower Grove South (15th Ward) reported ten highway robberies, seven commercial robberies, five aggravated assaults, thirteen residential burglaries (seven during the day), ten thefts from cars, twenty-two instances of stolen car parts, and twenty-five unrecovered thefts of cars and trucks!

I learned these crime statistics when I went to a meeting at the Grand-Oak Hill Community Center. The subject was the Tower Grove South Mobile Patrol. I

discovered that members of the community, like us, can volunteer a few hours a month to drive in teams of two to four through the streets and alleys of our neighborhood. If we observe or suspect illegal activity, we notify the police on mobile phones we pick up before we begin our patrol, and we fill out a police activity form. The patrol also helps the neighborhood by reporting to our alderperson instances of graffiti, trash accumulation, tipped or damaged dumpsters, broken or defective street lights, and pot-holes or sinkholes in streets and alleys.

A week after the Mobile Patrol meeting, I attended my first meeting of Tower Grove Heights block captains. These good neighbors, I found out, do more than host block parties and distribute the Tower Groves Heights Gazette. They serve as general community contact persons, and they encourage neighbors to get to know one another and help each other look out for, report, and prevent crimes where we live.

After attending these meetings, I decided I wanted to help. Now I have my very own Mobile Patrol I.D. badge. And I have begun serving as a co-captain on my block. My first job was helping to distribute fliers announcing a Gang Awareness Workshop in February, conducted by Sergeant Michael Nichols of the St. Louis Police Department Gang Squad. It was sponsored by the Grand-Oak Hill Block Associations.

If you are concerned about crime in our neighborhood, join the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association and the Grand-Oak Hill Community Corporation. Read the Gazette and the Newsletter, including Ed Schroeder's "Police Beat." For information about the Mobile Patrol program, phone Teresa Willis at 776-8087 or Darlene Rich at 865-5530.

To help prevent neighborhood crime, especially burglaries, take a few precautions:

1. Make your house secure. For inexpensive help from Operation SafeStreet, phone 622-3444.

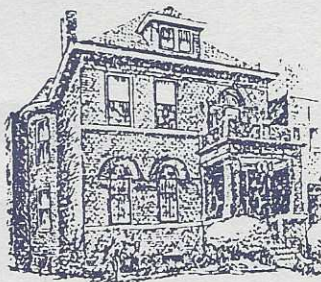
2. Keep your house and yard well lighted.

3. Be sure your address is clearly visible from both the street and the alley.

4. Don't hesitate to phone the police if you see or hear anything suspicious. And be sure to report any crime of which you have been a victim.

5. Most important, get to know your neighbors and your block captains. Exchange addresses and phone numbers. Ask them to phone 911 if they observe anybody or anything suspicious around your home, and you do the same for them.

Tower Grove Heights is not crime-free, but I have learned that it enjoys a relatively low crime rate because the people who live here care enough to fight back. Together we make a difference.



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Christmas 1943 -

As Charles Dickens said, It was the best of times... it was the worst of times... Every one was employed... Money was plentiful... But there was nothing to buy... Price and wage controls were in force... Toilet tissue was a nickel a roll, but there was none to be had.

The War to End All Wars was two years old. Things were awfully hard to come by here at home. Everything that was manufactured went for the war effort. Everything was rationed and in short supply. Pennies were minted in steel and zinc plated. Bread was no longer sliced because some part in the slicing machines was made of rubber and there was no rubber to make a replacement part. Meatless Tuesdays were the patriotic thing to do. At our house, being Catholic, we did not eat meat on Friday either. However, if you were ill or elderly, the Church allowed you to eat meat any day. If you could find it. Butter was scarce. So someone invented oleomargarine. It was white and looked a lot like lard. You were to let it warm to room temperature and add yellow dye to it and knead it, and shape it until it looked like a pound of butter. Our family would not eat oleo, so every Saturday morning my uncle Joe would bring us a pound of butter from a farmer. This farmer was related to Uncle Joe's deceased wife and had a stand at Soular Market. We always had butter until the farmer was arrested for passing oleo off as butter. To buy real butter you needed rationing coupons, oleo did not require

coupons.

Santa always came to my house on Christmas morning. I would wake up and run into the living room. There would be a freshly cut pine balsam tree covered with tinsel and lights, glass ornaments (made in Japan - of course these had been in our family for years) and an angel on top. There was always a Nativity scene underneath the tree. None of this had been there the night before. For some reason, our living room was always closed off during the winter months, probably to save heat. Pocket doors were pulled shut, and the door from the hall was always closed. The heat register was also closed. It stayed closed and cold until we had company. Christmas morning I did not notice the cold.

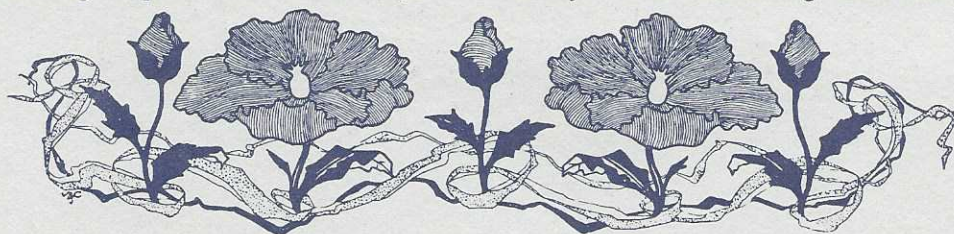
Being a boy of ten, I had no idea how bad times were. I always had toast, a glass of milk and Quakers Oats or Cream of Wheat for breakfast. That was plenty for me. Of course, Christmas morning I was way too excited to eat. Besides, we were going to Mass and Communion. You had to fast from any food or drink from Midnight the night before Mass in order to receive Communion. So Christmas morning there was no breakfast until after church. But even then it was toast, a glass of milk and Quakers Oats or Cream of Wheat. For lunch and supper, we were always invited to one of my Uncles' homes. After all, I had seven uncles. Though I do remember my grandmother cleaning a goose on the kitchen table once.

1943 was a lean year. There were no toys. Even Lincoln logs and Tinker

Toys weren't available. Glass Christmas tree ornaments were replaced by paper glow in the dark cutouts. Christmas tree light bulbs were in short supply. so the tree was decorated with lights. but would only be lite for a short period of time. They could not buy board games like Monopoly or Parcheesi, and chinese checkers were not to be had.

Well, to get to the point, Christmas morning 1943, I got up, ran to the living room opened the door and sure enough, there was the tree, lit up with an angel at the top, covered with tinsel and glass ornaments. Under the tree, near the nativity scene were two presents. I couldn't wait to rip off the wrapping paper from the larger one. Maybe it was filled with an army of little lead soldiers. But no such luck, It was a book - The Lives of the Presidents of the United States from Washington to FDR. I put it down and started ripping the wrapping from the other one. It was a cardboard punch out of a train and train station. It might be an understatement to say I was disappointed. My mother said "You can blame the Japanese and Germans for this Christmas."

This year I put the old glass ornaments on our tree again, my eyes fogged up, I got a lump in my throat, and thought about that Christmas in 1943. Fifty years ago - Is it possible---fifty years?



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SINCE YOU ASKED

By Don Hardin

What would you like to say) to your Valentine (belatedly?)

D to V: "Thanks for 12 wonderful years. I love you."

K to T: "It's still a honeymoon. Thanks for all your patience and love."

B to M: "I remember the first time a saw you. Do you? I Love you."



P to S: "I'm glad you changed your mind and said 'YES'. I hope you are too."

J to M: "It's been sixteen years since we met. It seems like just one. When I met you my mind was set. It's been wonderful fun."

W to G: "To my wonderful wife - I love you just the same. No, more than ever."

T to P: "Remind me to say I love you more often. I owe you a lot of I love yous."

C to S: "Thanks for 23 years of kindness, patience, and fun. I love you."

L to J: "Remember our dates at Chuck-a-Burger? Let's go again this weekend."

H to W: "You're still my captain of the football team."

G to S: "Thanks for all your hard work, kindness, and gentleness. You're a wonderful husband, father, and your my best friend."



AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

by Mary K. Schroeder

Congratulations to Jan Nesser, who had photographs exhibited at the Center for Photography, 4729 McPherson. The show there was sponsored by the gallery and the St. Louis Women's Caucus for Art. It ran from January 14 to February 20, 1994.

A picture of Felicia Foland graced the front page of the Southtown Word newspaper January 13, '94. The accompanying article told something about her decision to live in our area and about her position as bassoonist with the St. Louis Symphony.

Grand Books, 3200 South Grand hosted a book signing on Friday, February 11, 1994 from 7 to 9. St. Louis author, Eileen Dreyer, a mystery writer was the "star attraction" that evening. Grand Books is the first place where her third and latest novel, Nothing Personal, will appear for sale. Her earlier mysteries are A Man to Die For and If Looks Could Kill. Two books are set in St. Louis, and the third is set in Ironton, Missouri. Autographed books are still available. If you are interested in finding out more about this author, call Shawn Scott at Grand Books, 664-5511. You may want to call the shop to see how

you can be put on their mailing list to get information on more upcoming events there.

If anyone knows good news about a TGH neighbor, even if it is just an important birthday or a stay in the hospital, tell me. If you know of an event that will be happening in our area for both residents or businesses, call Mary Schroeder, 773-7717. I'll include whatever I can. Remember, information needs to be given about two months before the newsletter is printed.



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My Favorite Mechanic

Hello to all of my faithful readers. I hope everyone had a great Holiday season. As much as I hope people pay attention to these articles, I know that is not always going to happen. For example, keeping up with simple preventative maintenance on your vehicle. Tune up your vehicle twice a year, change the oil and make sure the temperature drop on your antifreeze is at least 25 - 30 degrees below zero. It may cost a few bucks for this maintenance, but it will save you big bucks in the long run.

Just consider a tow bill plus all of the other charges that might be tacked on. What if you're out of town and something happens? Out in the middle of nowhere on some highway, broken down and your car is overheating. Number one, who knows who's going to pull up and stop to help you? A cellular phone would be nice, but if you can't handle preventative maintenance on your car, you probably can't afford a cellular phone. Well, let's say you're lucky and here comes a tow truck. He stops to help. You're ten miles from the nearest gas station with service and this guy wants to tow you out of your way even more so to his station. He tells you he will give you a good deal on any repairs he makes to your vehicle. So, you agree to go to his place. What he didn't tell you was that you're not getting a discount on the tow charges and just the hook-up to your car was \$50 and an additional \$1 per mile for, say, 20 miles. All of a sudden that discount doesn't seem so good anymore.. You've got a \$70 tow bill plus repair charges.

Maybe all you needed was a radiator hose and a couple gallons of antifreeze. Supposing this fellow is honest and charges you \$25 for the hose, \$20 for the antifreeze and \$30 labor. Oh yeah, now for your "good deal", a ten % discount on parts. Let's see, that's \$5.50 off the total bill of \$145 which comes to \$139.50. Wow, that's a really good deal for a silly radiator hose! If you would have taken care of everything before you left, your bill for a hose may have gone as high as \$50 total. These prices are not

exact, of course. They are comparable to prices I've learned of from other people's experiences.

So, for all of you car criminals and auto masochists bearing license numbers -----noooooooo! I'm not going to tell you, you know who you are. If not, give me a call. If anyone should have questions about their car, please call me at 664-5449. Maybe we can use your problem for my next article.



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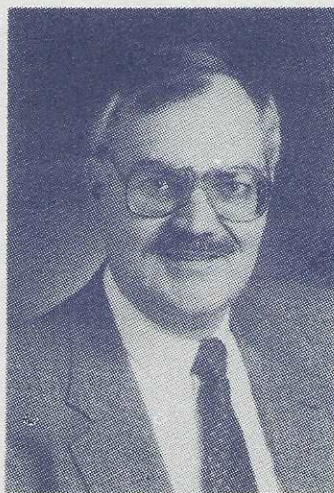
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BLOCK CAPTAIN CORNER

By Lou Jenneman

Look out your window the next time your dog barks, and you may see your dedicated block captains trudging down the streets delivering flyers and Gazettes. Although this is by no means the only job, it is the biggest. What a great way to get exercise!

Block captains meet monthly to discuss neighborhood events, issues, and

problems. Each block is represented by at least one person, so there are a lot of ideas flying around. One of the goals of the Block Captains for this year is to identify people on each block that would be willing to help occasionally with special events or distribution of flyers on their block. This is a great way to get to know your neighbors. City living is sometimes a challenge and it's always

nice to know the people that are sharing it with you.

Anyone is welcome to attend block captain meetings and find out what is cooking in the neighborhood. They are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Call 664-9180 or 776-5354 for more information, or contact your block captain. Names and addresses are included in the Gazette.



By Stephanie Gavin

Officer Arnold Theobold is a different sort of resident to profile this issue. In fact, he doesn't actually live in our neighborhood at all; however, he may influence positive direction for our area more than any single resident can. Officer Theobold, along with Stephan Smitkins, Ronald Dandack, and Steven Gori, are policemen who patrol South Grand nightly from 5:30 until 10:30.

Hired by the South Grand Business Association, Officer Theobold, and the

other three policemen who share his duty, are there to be highly visible and to address any problems or potential problems that come up on the busy street. "I've seen very little problems since I've started patrolling," says Theobold. "I see a lot of people standing in lines for the restaurants, though," he says with a laugh.

Although Officer Theobold finds the business owners on Grand friendly--his time to visit is minimal. "We're here to make the people in the business and residential community feel safe--so we pretty

much stay outside." The track of monitored distance stems from McDonald to just north of Arsenal at Botanicals on the Park. "We're to just walk up and down Grand." And if it gets too cold? "We're here to keep the public safe--even if it's cold."

He can't speak for the others, of course, but Officer Theobold thoroughly enjoys his second job as "rent-a-cop," as he humorously calls it. "I hope I get to do this a long time. This is a wonderful area. I enjoy it and the people are very lovely."



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Past President: Jay Rosloff

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Block Captains: Marilyn Abbott, Lou Jenneman

Fundraising:

Neighborhood Imp: Joe Thele

Promo. & Marketing:

Publications: Don Hardin

BLOCK CAPTAINS

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Diane Hurwitz (3640)

3800 Arsenal

Jean Iezzi (3809 Hartford)

3600/3700 Hartford

Marilyn Abbott (3648)

Carol Hoffmeister (3656)

3800 Hartford

Jodie Heliker (3802)

Donna Mayes (3825)

Bill Wright (3836)

Jan Booth (3807)

3600/3700 Juniata

Paul Ladensack (3650)

3800 Juniata

Anita Barker (3818)

Pam Blanner (3810)

Shauna Feely (3871)

Tod Flak (3850)

3600/3700 Connecticut

Tom Corriel (3618)

Chris & Rich Jamison (3625)

Micky Schultz (3618)

3800 Connecticut

Margie Meyer (3860A)

3600/3700 Wyoming

Paddy McPhillips (3668)

Betsy Vanderheyden (3656)

3800 Wyoming

Linda & Peter Fick (3879)

3600/3700 Humphrey

Joe Sueme (3728)

Laura Neuman (3729)

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3800 Humphrey

Annette Latham (3814)

Patricia Goddard (3840)

3600/3700 Utah Place

Lou & Tom Jenneman (3735)

Michele Kerr (3636)

3800 Utah Place

Susie Gudermuth (3834)

Veda Lynn (3855)



Lighting Contest Winners

by Tom Booth

Considering how long Christmas lasts every year, with decorations in the stores right after Halloween, it seems cruel to try to extend it any longer. However, with the amount of effort residents put forth to decorate their homes this past holiday season, we felt the winners of the Christmas lighting competition deserved recognition. Herewith are the winners and second place finishers of the 1993 Christmas Lighting Competition in our neighborhood.

Best Outdoor Tree

1st Place: 3809 Hartford

2nd Place: 3720 Hartford

Best Door Entry

1st Place: 3716 Hartford

Best Use of Most Lights

1st Place: 3817 Hartford

2nd Place: 3621 Utah

Best Use of One Color

1st Place: 3806 Hartford

Best Religious Theme

1st Place: 3650 Utah

Best Victorian (TIE)

1st Place: 3731 Hartford &

3627 Hartford

2nd Place: 3850 Arsenal

Most Comical

1st Place: 3842 Utah

2nd Place: 3618 Connecticut

Most Original or Unusual

1st Place: 3860 Connecticut

2nd Place: 3625 Connecticut

Best Overall

1st Place: 3805 Hartford

Judges Choice

1st Place: 3721 Hartford

2nd Place: 3885 Juniata

To all the winners, we offer our congratulations for the excellent way you all made the Heights stand out as a warm, festive area in which to live.

Special thanks to Joe Curtis and Commerce Bank for underwriting "Holiday in the Heights." Thanks to all those whose time and effort made "Holiday in the Heights" happen, in particular Misella and Andy Kress, Diane Hurwitz, Lou Jenneman, and Margie Meyer. Also thanks to the over 40 residents who braved the wind and cold to light the luminaria-A beautiful way to end the year!

Tower Grove Heights *Gazette*
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