

Tower Grove Heights Gazette

Volume 1, Number 3

December 30, 1988



Presidential Award

TOWER GROVE HEIGHTS FAMILY RECOGNIZED

The holiday season is traditionally a time of family. James and Ethel Lee have lived in Tower Grove Heights for 14 years, and head an extraordinary family which personifies the sharing and loving that defines a family unit.

26 years ago Jim (originally from St. Genevieve, MO.) and Ethel (originally from Kenyon MN.) met at a church conference for the visually handicapped in St. Louis. Despite "good advice"

from friends and family, they were married. Others thought that their handicap would be too big a burden on any relationship. Time has proven them wrong.

James and Ethel have four children: Christopher 25, Aundrayah (Bunny) 18, Melodee 16, and Cecilia 13, who is also visually handicapped. Cecilia attends a local "Magnet School" because the visually handicapped schools do not offer the accelerated learning challenge she

requires. Other children have experienced James' and Ethel's caring concern. Over the past 26 years they have been foster parents for 52 children. Now, as Ethel said, "We are foster parents to adults instead of children".

James has been employed at the Missouri School for the Blind for the past 33 years. He teaches piano tuning, and can play any keyboard instrument. He

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Letter from the Editors

Welcome to the holiday issue of the Gazette. The staff has put in many long hours on it, and hopes that you will enjoy it. This issue contains an array of articles from a look at Operation Conserv to ideas for last minute Christmas gifts to a visit with a very special family in the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood, the Lees. We also have the premiere of a very fascinating column that will appear in all subsequent issues, entitled the Historic Heights.

It's been a good year for the Gazette. We came out with our first issue in August to rave reviews. But, it's also been a great year for the neighborhood. So much has happened, we thought we might digress from our regular routine and mention a few events.

1. The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association had its first open house. It was a great success with many residents turning out to show support and meet their neighbors.
2. The Housing Conservation District went into effect. Its goal is to maintain and preserve the quality of housing for people renting or buying homes in our area.
3. Operation Brightside was a huge success. Over 50 of our residents turned out to clean their alleys and streets. The residents on Utah place planted flowers on the median. They won a third place prize in the name of the TGHNA.
4. The pony and carriage rides returned to Tower Grove Park after many years of absence.
5. Lenita Moore was appointed to manage the South Grand Business District. And she's doing a great job!
6. The South Grand Business District was given a facelift. Over 200 Shade Master Honey Locust trees were planted on Grand. And many merchants installed new awnings.
7. Construction began on a new Schnucks store on Grand. It promises to be the biggest in the city. And a convenience to all residents.
8. Operation Conserv went into effect. And as a result, the Tower Grove South Housing corporation was formed. Its board consists of members from the Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association and Grand Oak Hill.

9. Through the TGHNA, residents have become more informed to the many avenues that are open to them, such as, the 50-50 sidewalk plan, tree plantings, daffodil days, etc.

and last, but most important,

10. The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association celebrated its first year in existence on November 9, 1988!

Its been a productive year. But it could have never happened without the hard work and concern of all the residents in Tower Grove Heights. You made it happen! And will continue to make it happen in the new year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the entire staff at the Gazette. And a special thank you from its editors.

Janice Nesser

Janice Nesser

Tom Booth

Tom Booth

**The Tower Grove Heights
Gazette**

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Letters and comments should be mailed to:

The *Gazette*
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P.O. Box 22174
St. Louis, MO 63116

ON GRAND

In each issue of the Gazette, this column will include information about current events on Grand South Grand and a highlight of one of the businesses.

Christmas is in full swing ON GRAND. You're sure to find just what you need in the large variety of stores located so close to home. Grand South Grand is just perfect for that last minute shopping.

In September of 1985, two brothers: Aubrey and Randall Terrell opened their third Star Video store just "OFF GRAND" on Arsenal. Three years later, searching for more space to house an expanding business, Star Video moved "ON GRAND. The other two Star Video stores are located at Stonegate Plaza in Valley Park, and on Lemay Ferry Road in Lemay. I spoke with the manager, Paul Christopher, who has managed the store since it's opening. Star Video offers over 3800 tapes. The main priority is to keep abreast of all the current releases now available. A complete line of video accessories including connecting cables and head cleaning tapes are sold. Pre-viewed movies are specially priced if you have a favorite movie that you would like to add to your personal video library. VCR players are available for rent and popcorn and candy are also sold to complete the "movie house" atmosphere. A wide variety of movies are available, including: family, westerns, childrens, science fiction, classics, horror, comedy, and foreign films. Frequently, special promotions for a new major video release are run. Star Video is located at 3117 Grand, just south of Arsenal. The decor includes exposed brick walls, original tin ceiling, and is decorated in gray and cobalt blue for a loft apartment, hi-tech look. Star Video is open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, and Sunday from noon to 9:00 pm.



Missouri Botanical Garden

Everyday is special at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Floral displays, concerts, films, lectures, festivals, exhibits, performances and more are planned for your education and enjoyment. Call 577-5125 for information and schedules.

The all-american family

(continued from page 1)

is past president of the Lion's Club and chairman of the Ministerial Blind Alliance - Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church, an organization which publishes braille hymnals and maintains a braille library for the blind. Ethel is a Girl Scout leader. Both donate their "free" time to the New Life Evangelistic Center, helping the homeless and disadvantaged. Two beautiful guide dogs complete this remarkable family. Oreo, a 3 1/2 year old black labrador, and Fritz, a 5 year old golden retriever. The dogs were obtained from Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Yorktown Heights, New York.

1988 has been a special year for the Lee's. Early in the year they were notified that, because of their service to the community and their personal sharing and caring through foster parenting, the St. Louis Underwriters Life Insurance Company had nominated them for a Presidential award that each year is given to six of the most outstanding families in the United States. Each year, 250 families throughout the country are nominated. Soon the Lee's were notified that they were in the top 100 families being considered for the award. In May, they learned that they were one of

the 16 finalists. Then, on July 3rd, a call came from Washington D.C. to say that they were one of the six families who would receive the award. In August, James and Ethel Lee, their daughter Bunny, and their sponsor Ms. Hazel Kohring were off to D.C. to the Capitol Hilton. A reception was held for the six families. The next day, in the East Room of the White House, Mrs. Rea-

gan presented each family with a plaque and a flag that had been flown over the White House.

Through the good and bad times that life presents to all of us, the Lees have survived and flourished. Ethel's personal guideline have been: "It's OK to be different.", "It's OK to have old fashion standards and stick to them." and "Give away all the love you can, more will come back than you gave."

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Some tips for keeping your holidays happy and safe:

TREES:

Before buying, make sure a cut tree is fresh. Bounce the trunk on the ground, if a lot of needles fall off, the tree's past its prime. The butt of the trunk should still be sticky with resin. A tree that is not fresh will be dry and can be a fire hazard.

LIGHTS:

Indoors or out, use only safety-tested lights, look for the "UL" (Underwriters Laboratories) label. Don't use indoor lights outside. They are not waterproof or temperature resistant. Moisture and extremes of temperature can deteriorate insulation, causing danger of electrical shock or fire. Before installing lights,

examine each set. Discard any with frayed wires or damaged sockets. Don't leave lights on when you go to bed or if you won't be home for an extended period of time.

FIRES:

Be sure your fireplace flue is open when lighting a fire. Keep a screen in front of all fires. Move all greens and paper decorations away from heat sources, including candles and lights.

HOLLY:

Both the leaves and berries of the holly plant are poisonous. Symptoms include, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. If you suspect poisoning, call you local poison control center, the American Red Cross or a hospital emergency room.

THE BLACK THORN

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Wednesday is
Dollar Day

New Releases
Weekly

HEARTY, HEALTHY HOLIDAY FARE

Get an early start on a resolution for a healthy life-style in the new year through sensible holiday eating. Learning simple substitution tricks will allow you to prepare and enjoy many of those traditional Yuletide favorites while watching and reducing you caloric and fat intake.

Recipes which call for sour cream, like the ubiquitous party dip, can be made more healthful by substituting low-fat, or even better, non-fat plain yogurt. Many who claim to have an aversion to the cultured stuff are surprised to discover that the dip (or other dish) they are requesting the recipe for, contains the dreaded milk product.

Another dairy case decision which can save you the new year battle of the bulge and reduce you intake of saturated fat is the cottage cheese vs. cream cheese choice. Dry curd cottage cheese whipped with a good polyunsaturated margarine could fool even Julia Child in a fancy cheesecake or other other holiday dessert.

Other smart decisions include reaching for a can of evaporated skim milk when the recipe calls for heavy cream, and using only the whites or a commercial egg substitute instead of whole eggs. Two egg whites may be used in most

recipes in place of each whole egg. The additional cost will reward you in long-term benefits.

If there is a chocolate dessert in your holiday menu planning consider this substitute, cocoa plus a little vegetable oil will do the trick.

Your grocery shelves are, more than ever, becoming havens for healthy substitutes as the food industry begins to respond to the demands of a more health conscious American. You may find many reduced calorie and fat items if you take the time to read the labels and to compare. Examples are: part skim cheeses and light mayonnaise.

Making a conscious decision to adopt a low-fat, healthful eating plan is like making an investment in your future. It will make it easier for you to control your weight, and if you are overweight, loose those extra pounds. And most importantly it will help you keep you heart healthy by maintaining low blood levels of cholesterol and fat.

For more information on smart diets for healthy living, call St. Louis University Health Tapes at 531-7859 and ask to hear tapes number 1451 and 1453. You may also call the St. Louis chapter of the American Heart Association at (314)

45-HEART.

Try this low-fat treat for your holiday table:

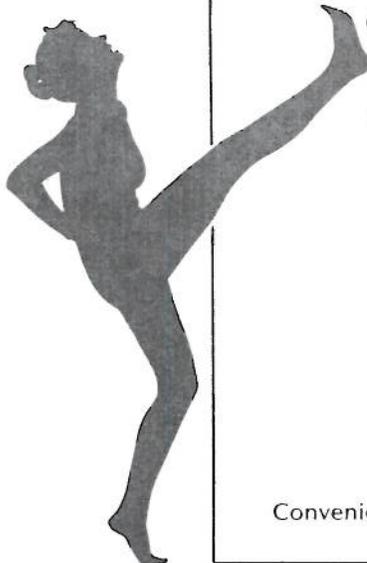
Cranberry Bread

- 1 cup whole-wheat flour
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ to 2/3 cup sugar to taste
- 1-½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt (you won't miss it if you forget it)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 teaspoons grated orange peel
- ¾ cup orange juice
- 2 egg whites or commercial substitute equivalent to 1 egg
- 1-1/3 cups fresh cranberries, sliced in half or coarsely chopped
- ½ cup chopped nuts

1. In a large bowl, stir together the whole wheat and the all-purpose flours, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together the oil, orange peel, orange juice, and egg whites. Add to flour mixture. Fold in cranberries and nuts, and pour the batter into a lightly oiled 9x5x3 inch pan.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. For best results, let stand overnight before slicing.

recipe by David Wagner

If you wear out your body . . . Where are you going to live?



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THE KIDS PAGE

SIMPLE HOMEMADE GIFTS

Dough Ornaments

4 cups flour
1 cup salt

1 - 1/2 cups water

Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Knead dough 5 to 10 minutes. Roll out dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut with decorative cookie cutters. Make a hole at the top. Bake at 250 degrees for 2 hours or until hard. When cool, paint and then spray with clear varnish.

Christmas Tree Ornaments

Make a Christmas tree out of green tag board. If tag board is not available, make Christmas tree out of thin cardboard and color it green. Decorate both sides by gluing on colored popcorn (shake the popcorn in dry tempera paint to color), macaroni sequins, fruit loops, etc. Punch a hole in the top for a string. You can make other ornament shapes (bells, stars, wreaths, etc.).

Macaroni Wreath

Cut a round hole in the middle of a paper plate. Glue different shapes of pasta onto the ring. Fill the entire ring with pasta. Spray with gold or green spray paint and hang when dry.

Christmas Cards and Wrapping Paper

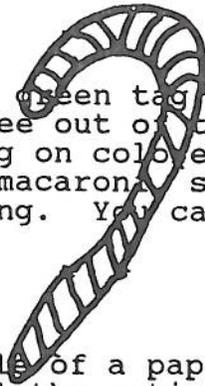
Cut Christmas shapes out of sponges (Christmas trees, candy canes, stars and bells). Dip in tempera paint and print paper using the sponges. To make cards use a piece of construction paper folded in half. To make wrapping paper, use paper grocery bags.

Gingerbread People

3/4 cup vegetable shortening, soft
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1 egg
1/4 cup dark molasses
2 - 1/4 cups sifted flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt

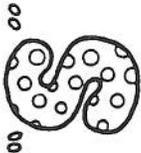
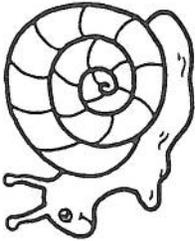
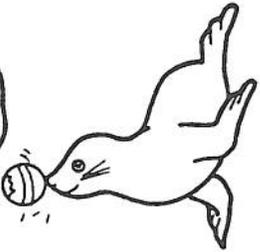
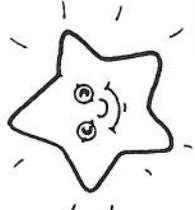
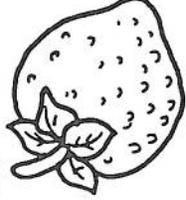
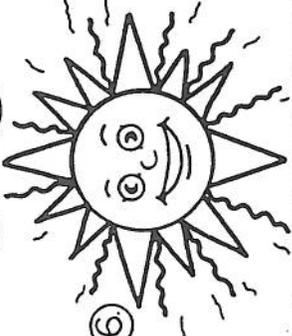
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon allspice
sprinkles
red hots
decorating gel
powdered sugar

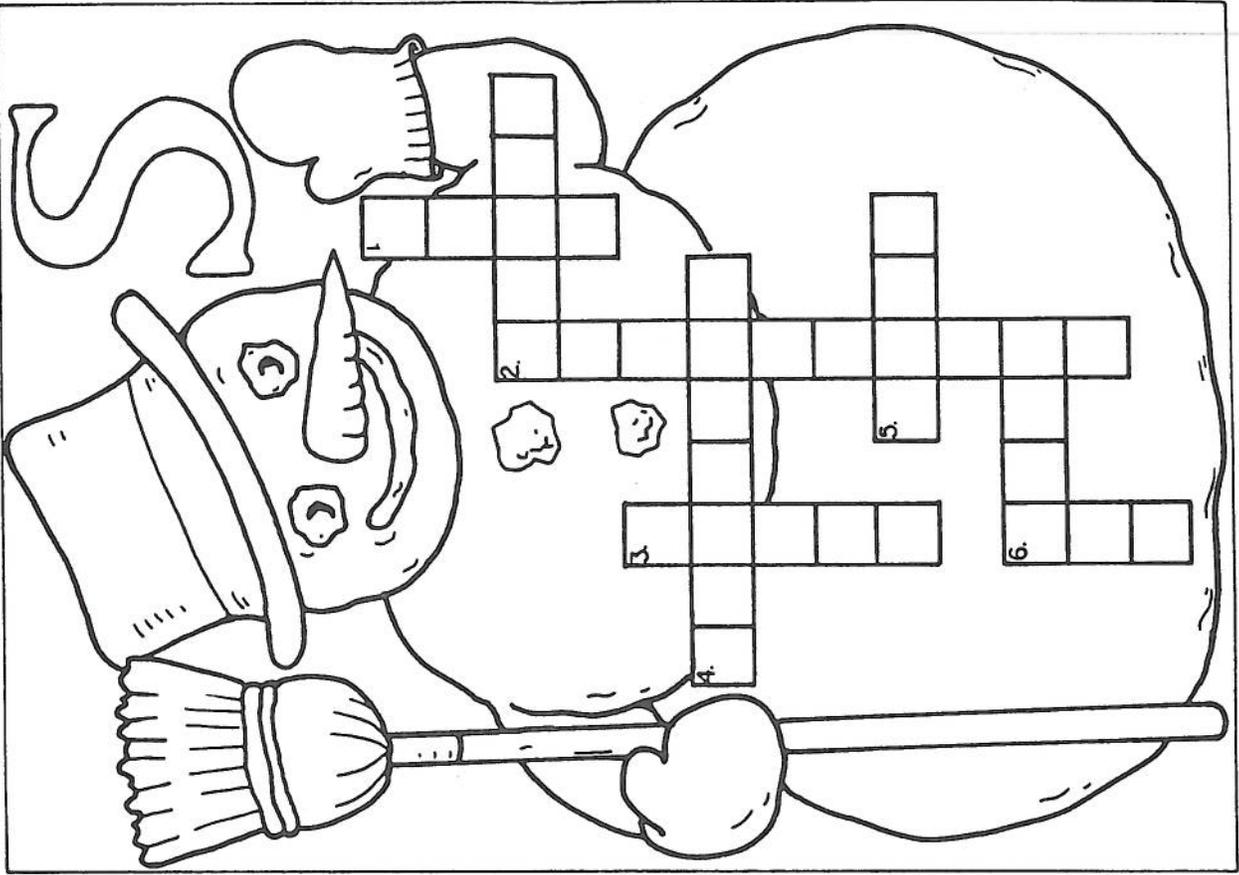
Thoroughly mix shortening, brown sugar, egg, and molasses. Sift together and stir into creamed mixture the flour, baking soda, salt, cloves, cinnamon, ginger and allspice. Chill dough and roll very thin on foil, using powdered sugar rather than flour to keep dough from sticking. Cut out large gingerbread people and decorate with red hots, sprinkles, and decorating gel. Place cookies, still on foil, on cookie sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes.



HOLIDAY CROSSWORD FUN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE
 ALL THESE PICTURES BEGIN WITH THE LETTER "S"

ACROSS	DOWN
 ②  ④  ⑤  ⑥	 ①  ②  ③  ⑥



THE HISTORIC HEIGHTS

Tower Grove Heights - Under Three Flags

The land on which we live in the Tower Grove Heights area has been owned by Saint Louisans during the French, Spanish and American eras.

Actually, before Laclède founded his village on the riverfront in 1764, the land west of the Mississippi had already been ceded to King of France. The first Spanish governor arrived here in March 1766; however, life here generally followed the customs of the French Creoles.

In 1769, our area was part of the "prairie des Noyers". It was some five miles from the riverfront village. In that same year, five Spanish land grants were issued to citizens of the village. The land was surveyed by the French Canadian standard of measurement, the arpent. The arpent is equal to 192.5 feet. The land was allotted by one to two arpents in width to 40 arpents in length. The size of the allotment depended upon the ability of the person to utilize his "strip." So, a single strip would be 192.5 feet from north to south and 1.4 miles from east to west. In present day language, the five Spanish land grants

covered roughly: Grand to Kingshighway and Arsenal to Utah.

The largest of these grants was awarded to the Widow Charleville. She was a "contemporary and associate of the Widow Chouteau"; both women were French Creoles. Charleville was also the grandmother to Kate Chopin, celebrated St. Louis authoress. Charleville owned 43 acres in the area that today is Utah Street.

With the change to American ownership in 1804, this land was immediately purchased because of its excellence.

McDonald Street

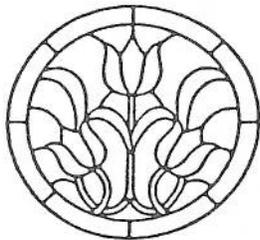
McDonald Street is the only remaining street name that recalls ownership of over 150 years ago. John D. McDonald owned 213.47 acres, according to a map drawn by William Russell. (Russell was a "surveyor, Indian fighter and land speculator extraordinaire!") McDonald's holdings were bounded by present day Grand, Arsenal, Gustine and Chippewa. John McDonald also owned, on the east side of Grand (near Utah St. today)

a 3 x 3 arpent of land which looked eastwardly down the hill to a large spring fed lake.

In 1856 (one year after St. Louis city boundaries had been extended 660 feet west of Grand to present day Spring Ave., then called Morrow St.), William J. McDonald had his country estate on Grand Ave. Its boundaries were present day Juniata, Wyoming and Gustine. (The 432 acre estate of James Russell and his heirs was adjacent to McDonald's property at what is present day Gustine). Wm. McDonald was a steamboat captain who piloted the Missouri during the great steamboat era. During his lifetime he compiled awesome statistics of sunken and wrecked cargo on the Missouri River.

Today's McDonald street is a permanent reminder that our neighborhood was the most "choice" land in the entire St. Louis area. This area was chosen in the early 1800's by enterprising Americans who knew what they wanted and how to get it!

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A MESSAGE FROM ALDERMAN GERALDINE OSBORN

One of the advantages of City living is the availability of the kinds of businesses which serve neighborhood residents. Residents of the Tower Grove Heights neighborhood are especially fortunate because of the proximity of the South Grand business district. It is very convenient to live within easy walking distance of a bakery, a bank, a barber shop and a butcher shop. It is convenient to be only a few minutes away from a cleaners, a drug store, a dermatologist, a florist, a furniture store, an optometrist, a pharmacist, a post office and a shoe repair shop.

The South Grand business district offers eating establishments that vary from a delightful ice cream shop to fragrant, spicy delicatessens; ethnic restaurants ranging from Italian to Phillippine to Thai; everything from casual, family style cafes to really excellent, first-class restaurants.

Our neighborhood businesses offer other advantages besides convenience and variety. Many of the owners, managers and employees of these businesses are our friends and neighbors. It is enjoyable to patronize local businesses where people know you and appreciate your support. You don't get that kind of personal attention in the impersonal, "plastic" shopping malls in the middle of the sterile suburbs.

Admittedly, there may be problems when businesses abut on residential neighborhoods. Traffic, parking, noise and litter problems may result from some business operation. However, most of these problems can be resolved by mutual consideration and cooperation. Local residents and local businesses have a common interest in the future of our neighborhood.

Geraldine (Gerry) Osborn
773-8416 (Home) 622-3287 (Work)

GRAND BUSINESSES

Gift Ideas

Alright . . . you've done it again! It's December 20 and you still aren't finished with your holiday shopping. Well, lucky for you that you live in a neighborhood with a wealth of little shops full of great gift ideas.

Tower Grove Heights' business district is minutes away on South Grand. You can park your car once and stroll between a wide variety of shops and restaurants whose merchandise will please anyone on your gift list. Just be sure to bring a large shopping bag!

Dickmann's Bakery carries a large variety of holiday goodies, many of which are thoughtful hostess gifts. Honeycake houses, yule log cakes, decorated cookies and old fashioned German style springerle cookies are just a sampling of the many different items you'll find. At \$15.00, the honeycake house is a real bargain and would brighten any child's eyes (or adults, for that matter!).

If you find pizza lovers on your shopping list, no problem. *Domino's Pizza* has gift certificates available in \$5.00 denominations.

Shenandoah Coffee Company carries a veritable smorgasboard of coffee, tea, and other gourmet goodies. They have a coffee or tea of the month package which can be sent 4, 8 or 12 times per year to a friend or business associate with a gift card reminding them of it's giver. These range from \$28.00 to \$85.00. Also available are gift boxes with an assortment of coffee, a coffee scoop, and candy for about \$15.00.

Ideal Card and Gift Shop is the place to go if you're looking for hand-made or artistic gifts. Paintings, kitchen decoration, and ornaments are some of the many things you will find. A large variety of mugs are available with themes such as relatives, teachers, and diets. There are many stocking stuffers to be found for children and adults in all price ranges.

Star Video stocks a variety of used and new movies for sale. Gift certificates may be purchased in \$5.00 and \$10.00 denominations and can be used for movie rentals, which range from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per movie.

Mangia Italiano has a large stock of Italian gourmet cooking items as well as gift certificates. You will find Italian wines, such as Valpolicella Classico (\$4.89) and Pescevino (in a bottle you've got to see to appreciate—\$5.89), or for the gourmet cook in your life, how about a one-liter bottle of Castelvetro Extra Virgin Olive Oil for \$12.99?

New Dawn Natural Foods is the place for health-food, natural cosmetics, cookbooks, and many other items. You'll find subliminal persuasion tapes to help your friends stop smoking, learn how to take exams, bone up on time management, and improve their memory. If you'd like to drop a hint to an acquaintance with potential, buy them a bar of Greek *Kiss My Face* soap (\$2.25). A Celestial Teas sampler box is \$8.95. Custom arrangements can be made to your specifications in any price range.

Becker's Delicatessen has a huge assortment of German and other imported gifts. They carry a large assortment of Hummel figurines from \$50.00. A wide variety of Delft china may be found starting at \$4.50. Handmade German dolls, sausages and cheeses, candles, imported beers and wines are also in great abundance. You can buy old-world style nutcrackers ranging from \$30.00 to \$90.00. Decorative steins are available from \$15.00 to over \$100.00—real collector's items. You may purchase marzipan pigs and chimney sweeps, as well as the usual fruit-shaped confections. The pigs and chimney sweeps are traditionally exchanged with friends on New Year's Eve as a token of good luck for the year to come.

At *Comic Kingdom* you can find DC and Marvel comics, baseball cards, posters, and rare comics. If your gift list includes a comic collector, this is the shop for you.

At *The Fingerhut Shopp*, you'll find many unique knick-knacks, including an alabaster backgammon set (\$28.00), three sizes of onyx chess sets (\$25.00-\$75.00), and all sizes and types of animal figurines. The lighted ceramic Christmas houses in different sizes (\$20.00-\$48.00) are enchanting. Many pieces of unique jewelry can be found, or for the naturalist, colorful papier-machetropical birds in different sizes are \$2.50-\$20.00.

If you're shopping for someone who

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

enjoys decorating, stop by *Grand Furniture Mart*. You'll find hat racks, flower arrangements, lamps, pictures, and other accessories for the home. Of course, a large selection of furniture is available in case you're going all out!

David's Hair and Skin Care can help you with a gift to pamper the one you love. Gift certificates for facials (\$35.00), manicures (\$10.00), a make-up lesson (\$25.00), and solar nails (\$30.00) would delight many. You'll find great stocking stuffers, too.

For a large selection of quality toys, Kay Firshing of *Discovery Toys* (772-5508) can help you out. Kay has an inventory of toys in her home, so you don't have to worry about getting your order in early. Some of the items she has includes Marble Works, which is a track for marbles you can assemble in many different ways with lots of built-in "bells and whistles" for \$25.00. Many different types of books, board games, and stocking stuffers are available. Items range in price from \$3.00 to \$25.00.

The *Missouri Botanical Gardens Gift Shop* is the place to go for a gift for the nature-lover. Nature books, plants, bird feeders, ceramic animal figurines, and science kits are just a sampling of the many items available. Christmas orna-

ments, children's books, mugs, sweat-suits with a nature motif, and assorted jewelry can also be found.

For a truly unique gift, call Dee at *Tower Grove Stable House* at 776-0518. Gift certificates are available for 25-minute carriage rides for \$5.00 per adult and \$2.50 per child. A one-hour carriage ride is available for \$50.00 for up to four people. These certificates are "good forever", so the recipient can choose to wait until springtime if they so desire!

For your last-minute gift-wrapping, tree decorating, and stocking stuffer needs, go to *Woolworth's*. You'll also be able to pick up batteries there, as many of us have realized we need on December 24!

Last but not least, you can outfit your family and friends in Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association t-shirts. These shirts come in three adult sizes—medium, large, and extra large—and are heavy duty material. They are white with a very attractive blue screen-print of Tower Grove Heights homes and cost \$8.00. Contact Jean at 772-4987 or purchase them at Ideal Card and Gift Shop.

If you're a professional procrastinator or simply need to find just the right gift for good old Uncle Caleb, browse through some of the shops we've menti-

oned. They're right around the corner, and you're bound to find something for the special people on your holiday gift list.



Four Million Dollars Worth of City Homes Sold in 1988!

Jim and Kate Potterfield

Broker - Sales Associates Members Million Dollar Club

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ECLECTIC

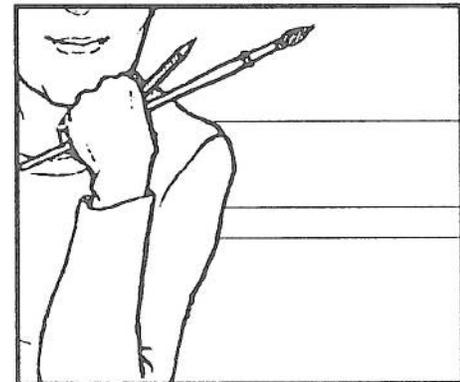
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WIRING

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CEILING FAN INSTALLATION

DON HARDIN 772-9151



Mary Kubiak Schroeder
Painting, Drawing
Portraits

3835 McDonald
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OPERATION CON-SERV: HOW WILL IT AFFECT US?

On September 18, 1988, Milt Svetanics, Executive Director for Development and member of Operation Con-Serv, met with members of Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association at their general meeting. Mr. Svetanics discussed Operation Con-Serv, a dramatic new program designed to enhance the livability of St. Louis neighborhoods. Operation Con-Serv stands for Concentrated Services and it promises to change many of St. Louis' neighborhoods.

Operation Con-Serv is a controversial program. Its very existence suggests that St. Louis neighborhoods need to be improved. In early August 1988, city officials selected a target area bounded by Chippewa and Kingshighway Avenues and by Interstates 44 and 55. Then, beginning in mid-August 1988, city inspectors systematically identified buildings and houses in violation of long-neglected housing, sanitation, and zoning codes. Cited owners of neglected rental and commercial property, and ticketed more than 1500 abandoned motor-vehicle. Property owners had 30 days and vehicle owners had 7 days to remedy

code violations. In some cases, extensions were granted.

Residents of South-City had experienced inspections in the past but they had not experienced anything as broad as the door-to-door property inspections that were the cornerstone of Operation Con-Serv. After many years of neglect, civic officials finally recognized that a major problem existed in the target area.

In contrast to the ongoing positive efforts of many homeowners and landlords to protect residents and preserve a unique architectural heritage, some property owners had taken advantage of the city's non-enforcement of building codes and made little or no effort to maintain their property.

In direct response to poor management, substandard tenant living conditions, and the neglect of rental and commercial property, the City Courts actively pursued property owners following the initial citations. Reorganization of the Building Division and City Courts meant much less time between the first inspection and subsequent prosecution.

Just how serious is the situation fac-

ing St. Louis' neighborhoods? To answer this question, one need only realize that almost every major city service from the Police, Building Division, City Courts, Parks and Forestry, Streets and Alleys to Trash Hauling, and Automobile Towing is represented by Operation Con-Serv, which is headed by Susan Feinberg, Special Assistant to the Mayor. Based on the number of city councils involved, and on the level of administrative authority, it should be evident that the degree of neighborhood deterioration is, in some cases, very serious.

As anyone who attended the October 16 meeting of TGHNA will tell you, members were visibly frustrated. Once again, it looked as if conscientious property-owners were suffering for the excesses of a few rotten apples. However, members of Tower Grove Heights, who received citations from the City Building Division, should understand that the primary role of Operation Con-Serv is first and foremost to provide essential services to the public. These services

(continued on page 9)

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Christmas '88

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OPERATION CON-SERV: HOW WILL IT AFFECT US?

(continued from page 8)

include, but are not limited to: crime prevention (high on the list of TGHNA priorities), maintenance and repair of deteriorated sidewalks, curbs, streets, and alleys, beautification of parks, landscapes, and commercial property, removal of trash and derelict cars, and foremost on the list of TGHNA priorities, enforcement of property upkeep.

The perception that nothing can be done about abandoned and neglected property discourages new residents, undermines citizen pride, and disintegrates a neighborhood.

In an ambitious attempt to speed up the restoration of abandoned and neglected property, whether commercial or residential, Operation Con-Serv has sought to establish neighborhood-based housing corporations. Two such corporations currently exist in the Shaw and DeSalles areas. One more has been newly formed.

Tower Grove South Housing Corporation is made up in part of members of our neighborhood association. The housing corporation will seek to acquire and develop property in the 15th Ward, an area bounded by Grand, Kingshighway, Gravois, and Arsenal Avenues.

Of immediate concern to the housing corporation are those buildings that are abandoned. The City of St. Louis will provide the funds required to purchase such property with the understanding that the main goals of the housing corporation are to renovate vacant buildings and encourage owner-occupancy of rehabbed flats and apartments. Attainment of these goals will hopefully result in improved upkeep of the renewed property.

In order to assure the success of the new housing corporation, the City of St. Louis will make available two-hundred thousand dollars in working capital to be used for purchasing unoccupied properties. Real estate, legal, architectural, marketing, and management services will also be provide.

It is especially encouraging that since its formation this fall, Tower Grove South Housing Corporation has been

highly visible and has already researched twenty-one potential properties. Negotiations are currently underway to secure ownership of one or two from among the twenty-one. As buildings are rehabbed and equity is built into them, they should yield a return which can then be made available for additional investments.

Tower Grove South Housing Corporation is one of the first in line to be considered by the City of St. Louis for development funds. This leading edge also brings with it a great deal of responsibility. Tower Grove South Housing Corporation must find a way to integrate the City of St. Louis' commitment to provide essential services with the top priorities of our neighborhood organization. Through the effective use of public and private resources, the livability of St. Louis neighborhoods will be enhanced.



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REPORT FROM REP. PAT DOUGHERTY

One of the most urgent needs of our society and of Missouri in particular is the inability to get good medical care. Some attempts have been made over the last couple of years to come to grips with this vexing problem. One such attempt came before the voters of this state on November 8 in the form of an Amendment to the Missouri Constitution, called Amendment 8 or "Medassist". This amendment for whatever reasons was defeated by the voters. Yet the problem of health care remains.

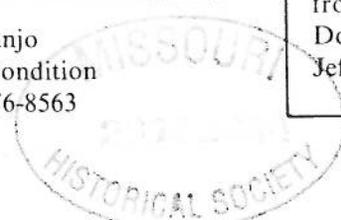
The question I am asking is what do we do now? Where do we go from here and how do we pay for it? One thing to remember is that whatever real solution is put forth, it will have to be arrived at by a consensus.

Some of the urgent problems that need to be addressed are the following:

- those who have lost their job and have no insurance
- those who cannot get insurance because of a serious disease
- those who make a very low wage and whose employer does not offer insurance
- those who are young and disabled and are currently not able to get Medicaid.
- finding the funds to pay for a senior homestead exemption so that a couple doesn't have to become impoverished and sell their home in order to put a loved one in a nursing facility.

These may be considered as problems to be solved, but in reality they are people like ourselves who are hurting and who need medical care.

A society is often judged by how it treats those who are in need. What do we do and how do we as a society try to help? I'd like to hear from you. Write to me, Rep. Pat Dougherty, State Capitol Bldg., Jefferson City, MO 65101.



LIGHT DISPLAYS TO BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season is upon us and soon we will be entering a new year. But the remaining weeks of 1988, offers us many spectacular holiday lighting displays to enjoy. Even within our neighborhood there are many who have created their own works of art with Christmas lights.

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association along with the Tower Grove Place/Alfred Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a "friendly" light competition. The 35, 37, and 3800 blocks of Hartford will participate in the competition. Judging will take place on Monday, December 19.

Outside of our neighborhood, a beautifully decorated 65 foot tall Douglas fir can be seen at the Anheuser-Busch brewery. The brewery and Pestalozzi street are lined with bright lights during the season. Another annual light exhibit is the Salvation Army tree of Lights located in Kiener Plaza. The erection of the 50 foot tall tree kicked off their annual fund drive. A second tree of lights is on display in the South Plaza of Union Station.

"Christmas in St. Louis" is another dazzling light exhibit that runs through December 31. The breathtaking lighting ceremony on November 25, turned on

one million lights extending from the riverfront to Union Station.

For those of you who don't mind driving a bit further, there are three dazzling holiday light exhibits on display that are especially worth viewing. The first is located at Tilles Park at McKnight and Litzinger roads in Ladue. "Winter Wonderland" hosts more than half a million lights illumination dozens of trees and building. The display runs through Dec. 31. Viewing hours are from 5:30 to 10:30 nightly. There is a \$3.00 admission per car. All money is donated to charity. The second display is located in Belleville, Illinois at The Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows.

About 150,000 lights can be seen along this 1-1/2 mile route. There is also a life size nativity scene. The Visitors Center that is located mid-way along the route offers 6 puppet shows nightly for the children along with an international Christmas tree display. Admission is free. The exhibit is open from 5:00 to 10:00 pm nightly. Thirdly, you won't want to miss the 5th annual "Festival of Trees" at the old Schnucks building in Northwest Plaza. There are over 200 decorated Christmas Trees. Children can visit a "secret" store and an arts and craft area. Everything at the display is on sale. All proceeds go to the Judvine Center for Autistic Children.

FOR A SAFE DRIVE HOME

Here are two recipes for nonalcoholic drinks that taste as good as they look:

THIN N TONIC

3/4 cup quinine water
Ice cubes
Lime slice

Pour quinine water over ice cubes. Squeeze juice from lime slice into drink: add lime slice. 1 serving

CRANBERRY FIZZ

1 quart cranberry juice cocktail
1 cup grapefruit juice
1 cup orange juice
1/2 cup sugar
2 cups ginger ale, chilled

Combine juices and sugar; chill. Just before serving, add ginger ale. 16 servings.



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HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT COUNT

With the holiday season upon us (or very nearly so), it seemed somehow appropriate that we pull together a list of Food and Clothing banks and collection points. Some of the agencies mentioned are United Way sponsored, while others are independent. And, for those who would like to do a little something extra at this time of year for the very young people around us, we've added to our list a couple of toy donation programs. With our readership in mind, we've pared the lists down to include only those collection points relatively close to our area.

Food Banks - Canned goods & other nonperishable food items:

Human Development Corporation
South Side Grand Branch
3626 South Grand
St. Louis, Missouri 63118
(314) 771-4800

South Side Baptist Church
3514 Oregon
St. Louis, Missouri 63118
(314) 771-0157

Joint Neighborhood Ministries
2911 McNair

St. Louis, Missouri 63118
(314) 771-3987

Hosea House
2652 Iowa
St. Louis, Missouri 63118
(314) 773-9027

St. Pius V Church
3310 South Grand
St. Louis, Missouri 63118
(314) 772-1525

St. John's Episcopal Church
3664 Arsenal
St. Louis, Missouri 63116
(314) 772-3970

New Harmony Baptist Church
3502 Grace (at Potomac)
St. Louis, Missouri 63116
(314) 773-6659

Five Church Association
2149 South Grand
St. Louis, Missouri 63104
(314) 776-1416

Clothing Donations

St. Louis City Firehouse
314 South Tucker
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

South Side Y
2231 South Grand
St. Louis, Missouri 63104

Christy Memorial United Methodist Church
4601 Morganford Road (& Chippewa)
St. Louis, Missouri 63116
(Neosho Street entrance)

Toys

KTVI - Channel 2 Toy Drive
Co-sponsored by:
National Supermarkets
Rax Restaurants Central Hardware

New Unwrapped Toys Only
Program runs from Nov. 28 thru Dec. 22
Collection points located at all area Rax Restaurants, National Supermarkets, and Central Hardware stores. In addition, numerous other area retailers will have collection containers. Toys will be distributed by the United Way of Greater St. Louis

Toys of Tots
Sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corp.

Toys may be donated at any KMART store, any Coldwell Banker or Gundaker Realty office, any Dierbergs, the KMOV - Channel 4 offices (#1 Memorial Drive), and the Marine Corp. Reserve office (Natural Bridge Road - 263-6204.

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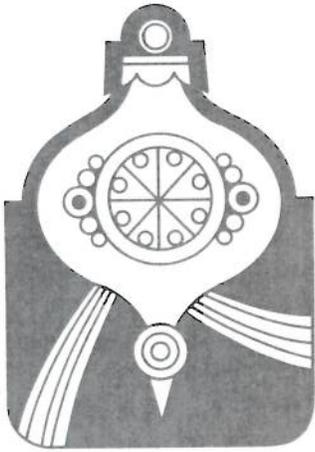
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TGHNA CHRISTMAS PARTY ... A New Tradition

The first annual Tower Grove Heights Christmas Party was held Sunday, December 11 from 2-4:30 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church. It was a great success! Santa Claus made a special appearance. He posed with area children for polaroid snapshots.

Entertainment was provided by Catherine Booth (mother of TGHNA member Tom Booth). She astounded every one with her repertoire of popular and classic Christmas tunes on the piano. There was plenty of food and drink, as well as, some lively conversation.

At the end of the party, the children decorated the tree with the handsome and unusual ornaments they had made with the help of TGHNA president Jean Iezzi. Rev. Bell thanked every one for their generous contributions to the food basket for the needy and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. It was a great get-together for the neighborhood, and enjoyed by all!

NEIGHBORHOOD UPKEEP: Focus of October and November Meetings.

Members of the TGH Neighborhood Association met at St. John's Episcopal Church on October 16 and again on November 20.

The October meeting, Operation Con-Serv was discussed. We were all made aware of this through the "blitz" of derelict cars and building code violations that occurred in September. This program will also allow THG to be able to form a housing corporation. We have joined with the Grand Oak Hill area to form the Tower Grove South Housing Corporation. The corporation papers have been filed. This group is meeting to discuss how the housing corporation will operate. More information will be available as the corporation progresses with their plans.

At the November meeting, Ray Voigt and Anthony Kidd from the Division of Building and Inspection discussed the Housing Conservation District. Mr. Kidd, an inspector, explained how the program works and answered questions. He also brought us up to date about any problem properties in our area. Mr. Kidd stated that the direction of the Housing Conservation District is to preserve what we already have. Since April 1, 1988, 106 applications have been made. 60 have been issued with violations and 45 without violations. There has been only one condemnation.

In addition to answering questions about the Housing Conservation District, Mr. Voigt addressed questions about Operation Con-Serv. 12,000 to 13,000 exterior inspections were made. 5,600 violations were found. 2,000 of these have made the required repairs. There are 540 court cases pending and

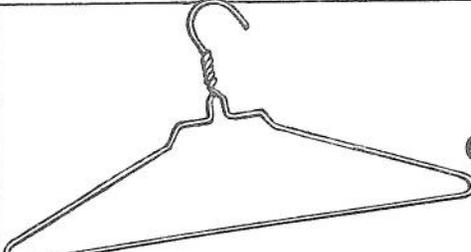
another 250 are still being processed. Mr. Voigt said that they hope to make the inspections every 3 to 4 years.

President Jean Iezzi told the TGH Association members that Tower Grove Park has received a Federal grant of \$13,500.00 to put in a new playground. This playground would be just north of Center Drive near Grand Blvd. John Carroll, director of Tower Grove Park spoke with Jean Iezzi about matching funds for the grant. TGE, Messiah Lutheran Church, and the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation have already contributed funds. The question was put on the floor as to whether TGH should contribute to the fund. A motion was made and seconded, after which a vote was called. The members agreed to donate \$100.00 to Tower Grove Park for the new playground. Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held Spring, 1989.

Committee Reports followed. The skill and barter committee requests that you return the surveys given out in the August Newsletter. The promotion and marketing committee has made arrangements with Tower Grove Place for a Christmas Light competition to take place on December 19. Judges will be from area businesses. The 3800 block of Hartford is participating from TGH. During the judging, we will be caroling around the neighborhood. Meet on Hartford at 6:30 if you would like to take part. The promotion and marketing committee is also preparing a promotional packet to be used in marketing our neighborhood. They plan to visit realtors to discuss the neighborhood. In addition, the tenant/buyer referral will be marketing our neighborhood to corporations.

All committees could use more members. A chairperson is needed for the neighborhood improvement committee. A block captain is also needed for the 3800 block of Arsenal. If you are interested, contact Jean Iezzi at 772-4987.

There will be no meeting in January. We will resume meeting in February on the 3rd Sunday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church.



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CALENDAR



December, January and February 1988

December 9 - January 1

Holiday Flower Show at Missouri Botanical Garden in Orthwein Floral Hall. The display appeals to the young-at-heart and includes a gingerbread house, elves, and more.

December 11 - February 19

Carribbean Festival Arts on display at St. Louis Art Museum. Display combines elaborate costuming, sounds and motion of Carribbean festivals.

December 17

Santa Lucia Celebration at Missouri Botanical Garden in Ridgeway Center. Festivities honor the Swedish Saint Lucia who brings light, hope and peace to all. Activities include carolers, folk-dancing and a candlelight procession.

December 19

Christmas Light Competition - Judging will take place between 6:30 and 7:30 in competition between TGH and TG Place on the best Christmas light display. Hartford is representing TGH. Join us for Christmas caroling at 6:30.

December 25

Merry Christmas!

December 26 - December 30

Registration for classes beginning January 3 at Southside YMCA.

January 1

Happy New Year!

January 24 - February 6

Operation Brightside/Project Paper-chase Poster Contest Winners at Missouri Botanical Garden. A display of 32 award-winning posters created by metropolitan K-12 children will be in the Ridgeway Center in a contest sponsored by St. Louis' anti-litter program.

January 28 - February 26

Orchid Show on display at Missouri Botanical Garden in Orthwein Floral Hall.

January 28 - February 26

Birds in Art at Missouri Botanical Garden in Ridgeway Center. Will feature a display of paintings and sculptures from the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum.

February 19

TGH Neighborhood Association General Meeting - 7:00 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church.

The Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association

President: Jean Iezzi

Vice-President: Rich Iezzi

Second Vice-President: Jan Booth

Secretary: Leslie Coriell

Asst. Secretary: Jack Hurov

Treasurer: Steve Telford

Block Captains:

3600/3700

UTAH

Theresa & Steve Telford

HUMPHREY

Dana & Jack Winter

WYOMING

Betsy Brielmaier & Barb Vanta

CONNECTICUT

Kay Lynn Firsching

& Ruth Schnurbusch

JUNIATA

Leslie Coriell

HARTFORD

Joyce & Ken Mellow

ARSENAL

Martha Raky

3800

UTAH

Susy Gudermuth

HUMPHREY

Patricia Goddard

& Chris Ackerman

WYOMING

Paul & Cindy Lazzari

CONNECTICUT

Janice Nesser & Benjamin Chu

JUNIATA

Needs a block captain

HARTFORD

Jean Iezzi & Bill Wright

ARSENAL

Needs a block captain. Call Jean at 772-4987, if you are interested.

The TGHNA Gazette
P.O. Box 22174
St. Louis, MO 63116